

POEM: To the Tea-Party Patriots: A Berkeley Professor says Hello!

By [Prof Peter Dale Scott](#)

Global Research, November 02, 2010

2 November 2010

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [History](#)

To the Tea-Party Patriots

A Berkeley Professor says Hello!

And you from the rural states

who object to the Wall Street bailouts

and flood my inbox with complaints

about private banks under cover

of the so-called Federal Reserve

being given the right to create money

which they then lend to the government

at interest

I recall a long friendly conversation

about restoring American values

with people much like you

at a Birch Society table surrounded

by exhibits of pickled tomatoes

and blossoms made from old nylons and copper wire *Scott War Conspiracy 37*

at the Nevada County Fair

where each year on Constitution Day

to the music of the Ophir Prison Marching Kazoo Band

they reenact with authentic uniforms

and noisy puffs of cannon smoke

Civil War battles

Your placards call for LIMITED GOVERNMENT

which could not be more timely -

there is a bill in Congress

S.3804

to censor the Internet

that will probably pass

Gillmor Salon 9/28/10

Here is a common agenda

for freedom-loving Americans

let us all preserve the First Amendment

so you can keep the Second

or TWO PARTIES SAME RESULT

exactly my frustration

when it comes to our twin afflictions

of Wall Street dominance and Asian wars

so like you I invoke

Madison in the Federalist Papers

against *the accumulation of all power*

in the same hands

Madison Federalist Papers

I have just read *The Ruling Class*

carefully designed to be your handbook

by Angelo Codevilla

guest of the Mother Lode Tea Party

and late of the Hoover Institution

the brains trust for the millionaires

who meet each summer in the Bohemian Grove

It is published by *The American Spectator*

published by billionaires like Richard Mellon Scaife

It attacks *The Ruling Class*

blaming them as do you and I

for the collusion of both parties

in financing the bailout of Goldman Sachs

Codevilla 31

the apparently endless series of wars

in which our Ruling Class has embroiled America

Codevilla 23

and it defends as would you and I

the right of families to home schooling

Codevilla 60-61

and of localities to control their schools

Codevilla 71

but whereas for me the rulers

are those top-level millionaires

who have paid for both political parties

while seeing their own incomes

rise almost fivefold in thirty years

Scott Road to 9/11 2-3

for Codevilla the Ruling Class

consists not of the wealthy

but of those bureaucrats

who would tax them

and indeed of all those with

as David Frum puts it

more education than money

Frum

who oppress the *Country Class*

Americans like yourselves

who think it is *just*

to spend the money they earn

to satisfy their private desires

Codevilla 34

It seems that I

because I believe in evolution

Codevilla 49

am part of the Ruling Class

along with trade unions

and those who believe in global warming

Codevilla 24

while the Country Class

includes not just you

but corporations and banks

forced by politicians to make loans for houses

Codevilla 31

and even Fox News

Codevilla 59

(owned by the mogul Rupert Murdoch

whose personal wealth in 2007

was estimated at over \$340 million)

Encyclopedia of World Biography

Attributing to *progressives*

a ridiculous and hateful ideology

(such people cannot believe

that a Christian might be

their intellectual and moral equal)

Codevilla 22

Codevilla seeks to deflect your anger

on to people like me

which is perhaps what we should expect

from a fellow of the Hoover Institution

and the Claremont Institute

funded by the usual

millionaires' foundations

like that of Sarah Scaife

You are out in the streets

as members of what are billed

as *spontaneous tea parties*

but are you aware

that an Internet domain name

ChicagoTeaParty.com

was registered in August 2008

Ames and Levine Exposing

long before the convening

of any of your grass-roots events?

As for your being *grass roots*

do you know that you were organized

under umbrellas called Samspheres

by the Americans for Prosperity Foundation

Phillips

which meticulously hid

Ames and Levine Exposing

its links to the ultra-rich

Koch brothers

Mayer Covert Operations

worth a combined \$32 billion

as owners of the largest

private oil company in America

Ames and Levine Tea Party

with good reason

to dislike government scrutiny

For which Keith Olbermann on MSNBC

has called you an *Astroturf party*

MSNBC August 25,2010

the way Glenn Beck on Fox News

has sneered at America's progressives

both ignoring the real pain

we all share at our loss of freedom

and our politics gone awry
Why does the Tea Party invite
a speaker like Ken Timmerman
to attack Big Government
at the same time he advocates
a US blockade of Iran

Bovard Tea Party

or John Yoo who denounces
the *supersized executive*
while still defending his memos
on *enhanced interrogation*
(or what most would call torture)
which even the Bush Administration
in the end found *incorrect*
or highly questionable

Newsweek, February 18, 2010

All this makes you the heirs
of the Moral Majority
a movement designed by six men
(one of whom was launched
with money from Sun Myung Moon)
and funded by the Coors family
which raised a fuss about abortion
in order to split the democratic vote
elect Reagan
and thus maintain the global US system
of 761 military bases
at the cost of the budget deficit

Scott American War Machine 266n19

you are now so worried about
You want what all of us should want
a more limited government
will you then help force Congress
to do what the law requires — namely
review the state of emergency
we have had since 9/11
which has restricted *habeas corpus*
suspended the Posse Comitatus Acts
introduced permanent military surveillance
and provided for warrantless detention?

From Barney Frank, on the left,

to Ron Paul, on the right

there is a growing *belief*

that unrestrained military spending

is a danger to the budget

Green

In a land of barren ridges
while I was writing this
a small detachment of US troops
took fire from all four directions
on their way back from a village
whose radioed request for help
in digging a canal
turned out to have been only
a set-up for an ambush
in a land where we are not welcome

CBS 60 Minutes Sept. 26 2010

while General Petraeus has said
tacitly correcting his Commander-in-Chief

*This is the kind of fight we're in
for the rest of our lives*

and probably our kids' lives

Woodward Obama's Wars

So while it is right to declare
that America is in crisis
and in need of a people's politics
let us not be guided
by those who are profiting from
our loss of freedoms
and wars our country cannot afford
above all as we turn
to America's most urgent priority
the defense of the constitution
let us be certain
as Confucius advised millennia ago
*to call things
by their right names*

Peter Dale Scott's latest book of poems, Mosaic Orpheus, appeared in 2009 from McGill-Queen's University Press. It [can be ordered from Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). His other chief poetry books are the three volumes of his trilogy Seculum: Coming to Jakarta: A Poem About Terror (1989), Listening to the Candle: A Poem on Impulse (1992), and Minding the Darkness: A Poem for the Year 2000. In addition he has published Crossing Borders: Selected Shorter Poems (1994), published in Canada as Murmur of the Stars. In November 2002 he was awarded the Lannan Poetry Award.

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