

# Why New York?

## A Look at Ground Zero -The Founding of America

**Excerpted from: "Engaging the Divine Energies for Economic, Social and Military Success or "In God We Trust".**

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Alexis de Tocqueville in his treatise *Democracy in America* states that: *"If we carefully examine the social and political state of America, after having studied its history, we shall remain perfectly convinced that not an opinion, not a custom, not a law, I may even say not an event is upon record which the origin of that people will not explain."*

A trust in the Divine permeated the philosophical founding of America, brought to these shores by the Mayflower Pilgrims, attested to in the original document of democracy, The Mayflower Compact and implemented in that great blueprint of freedom, The U.S. Constitution. So did a doubt-based line of thinking take hold in our economic realms. Trust and doubt walked hand-in-hand. Doubt leads to a desire to be in control, to arm oneself in the battle for survival against nature and other men and create a safeguard against a rainy day, create security for self and future generations. A natural desire for wealth and power develops. *"If I was to be called upon to draw upon a picture of the times and of men from what I have seen, heard, and in part know, I should in one word say that idleness, dissipation, and extravagance seems to have laid fast hold of most of them; that speculation, speculation, and an insatiable thirst for riches seems to have got the better of every other consideration and almost of every order of men."* George Washington: On the Lack of a National Spirit taken from a letter to Benjamin Harrison December 30, 1778. (19) "At no time during the Revolution was there unity of public mind or purpose in America." (20) *"...its soul, its climate, its equality, liberty, laws, people and manners. My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of and which no other people on earth enjoy!"* Thomas Jefferson in a letter to Monroe June 17, 1785. (21) Jefferson, Franklin, Washington among many others kept their eye on the heart, the high ideals of the human potential. *"...To establish fraternal love and harmony through the whole empire, and that these may continue to the latest ages of time, is the fervent prayer of all British America."* Thomas Jefferson: A Summary View of the Rights of British America 1775. (22)

New York, the first capitol of the new nation, became the proving ground of divergent thought.

New York was not founded by visionaries seeking religious freedom, it was valued by the Dutch for its enormous potential as the biggest and best harbor in the world where human forces were unleashed and the bottom line became paramount, other ideals taking a back seat. "The more money you had the closer you were to God." It was a business proposition from the start for the Dutch East India Trading Company. There was not a church built for 17 years. Modern capitalism was invented. (24)

The Native American Indian was eliminated from the island of Manhattan, as was the natural landscape with the imposition of the grid system. The entire human and natural landscape was replaced. New York was built on the exploitation of slave labor. The French and Indian War demonstrated the importance of war to the well-being of capitalism. Money poured into New York. Trade was big, war was bigger. The trouble with war was peace. (25).

Another great American ideal was born-the ability of anyone to rise and become something new through the acquisition of wealth. Alexander Hamilton, a brilliant 16-year-old bastard from the West Indies, championed this idea. He wanted war (the Revolution), for it was in war that a man makes his reputation. A powerful orator, Hamilton was a man to be feared for his vision for the development of the country. (26)

With George Washington as President of the new nation, Thomas Jefferson as Secretary of State and Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury, trust in the Divine and belief in the power of man met head-to-head. At 33, Hamilton went right to work building a new kind of nation, a nation based on commerce, built on immigrant toil, where through banking- money from the many, in the hands of a few, created industry. Hamilton kicked into life the most powerful economic force in the world. He was not interested in real democracy; he did not care about the political voice of the people. Meritocracy was his version of democracy - a combination of capitalism and democracy where there were no barriers to rising. (27) The great American Dream became etched upon the consciousness of the world.

Thomas Jefferson loathed New York and all it stood for. He stated "*The mob of the great cities add just so much to the support of pure government as sores do to the strength of the human body.*" Jefferson hated all things commercial, never understood money. (28) There came a split in American life. Hamilton and Jefferson negotiated a truce - The political capitol of the United States would move to a swamp on the banks of the Potomac. New York would be bailed out by the federal government (from its war debt) and would become the cultural, economic and creative capitol of the new nation. (28)

Washington, DC came to embody the high ideals engendered by the vision of the highest human potential with its monuments, parks and Native American symbolism. Washington became the symbol of all the things we hoped to be. Many great words and many great men (what about the women?) are enshrined there, while the powerful influences of money and power continue to court the attention and senses of the people throughout America and the world.

The idea that man was all-powerful and superior to God in his ability to create a world of comfort, material possessions and health, to serve his desired ends of endless power and wealth, became the dominant driving force that permeated all aspects of human life in the developed world. It reached its apex in 1912 when a combination of events led to the greatest single disaster to plague man's drive to master the Universe: The sinking of Titanic. On April 15, 1912 a new consciousness was born in the heart of modern man. (29)

The lofty ideals of our founding fathers became a longed-for but seemingly impossible achievement, however, and matters of the heart were relegated to accomplishments of a few great men and women and to our classic literature.

I believe we can combine the two dominant founding dreams of America: The Pilgrim/Jeffersonian dream of unity and equality serving the common good, and the Hamiltonian dream of abundance for all and classless upward mobility. We can rise up to become the model to humanity the world is waiting for us to become.

George Washington expressed his vision for the new nation:

*"I now make it my earnest prayer that God would have you, and the state over which you preside in, in His holy protection; that he would incline the hearts of the citizens to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example we can never hope to have a happy nation."* George Washington: On Disbanding the Army (40)

"We must not confuse the American Revolution with the War for Independence. Nothing but the first act of a great drama has been played out. The American Revolution is not over." (41) We shall become this great vision.

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