

## Table of Contents

<b>Title Search</b> .....	578
➤ Staking Your Claim .....	578
<b>The Power That Preserves</b> .....	579
➤ The Singleton .....	579
➤ Associates & Acquaintances (optional rule) .....	580
<b>AI Nanny</b> .....	580
<b>Forming a Government</b> .....	582
➤ Gone With The Wind .....	582
➤ Alien Governments .....	583
<b>An Unlimited Term</b> .....	584
➤ The Duality.....	584
Endnotes.....	584

*See Appendix PAT1 – Power Activations Tables 1 – Power Activation Costs*  
*See Appendix PAT2 – Power Activations Tables 2 – Normal Sequence of Power Activations*  
*See Appendix PAT3 – Power Activations Tables 3 – Scenes, Planets & Stars*  
*See Appendix IP – Interventions Reference Sheet*

*“What is government itself but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.” – James Madison, Federalist Papers No. 51 (1788) <sup>1</sup>*

**Title Search:** “Title” in English usage has two primary senses. A title can be what something is called (a book). Title is also ownership of a thing, and all of the bundle of ownership rights that accompany ownership of a land or chattel. In sort of a combination of the first two, a title can also be given to or inherited by a person, or merely used as a matter of formal courtesy, indicating their position or preeminence or office in society. Such titles are often used to indicate adulthood, household position, nobility, knowledge, certification, or elected, inherited or appointed office. A title may also be earned, won, for example, a batting title in baseball or a boxing title.

Title in any sense, inherently indicates an inequality. If you own it, you have the right to exclude others from using it. If something is called by a title, then that thing is identified solely with that title, and no other can (or should) have the same identity. If someone earns a title, as through competition, they are the best, better than the rest. If someone is called by a title, or given a title, such a title indicates a distinction or superiority (especially when capitalized or preceded with “the,” such as the Concierge) socially and institutionally over someone who does not have that same title. Occasionally titles are given in derision. In any form, titles are about power, socially sanctioned and recognized power in distinction, exclusivity, status, peerage, honors, infamy.

- **Staking Your Claim:** The concept of GGDM Government Titles is not merely an exercise in abstract theory; think for a moment of what you claim to be in our world, what takes up the significant part of your waking time? Are you a student, professional, parent, spouse, son, brother, sister, charity worker, sports fan, animal friend, philanthropist, ‘blue collar man,’ ‘workaholic,’ drunk, felon, junkie, movie critic, geek, evangelist, activist ... these are your personal titles that externally define your place in our society and the structure of your life. And they carry with them certain external and internal legitimacy requirements; can someone claim to be a drunk (or be called a drunk) when they haven’t drank any alcohol in ten years (notice that AA always says, “recovering alcoholic”)? Presumably a student is actively engaged in receiving formal education (thus collegiate athletes must (theoretically) actually be students in good standing at the institution to which the team belongs) and a parent cares for children, and a spouse has a spouse with whom they carry on their primary intimate relationships, all of which suggest a required pattern of behavior maintaining their legitimacy.

Government Titles are for convenience in the game, an artifice like inactive Constructural Elements. It’s all a bit relative depending on which way you want to slice the cake. For example, the people of the Middle Ages did not think of themselves as living in the Middle Ages; the term was invented by Renaissance thinkers to describe the middle period between the end of the Western Roman Empire (i.e. the end of classic antiquity) and their own time. We have been stuck with the term since then. Similarly it has been pointed out that the concept of the ‘feudal system’ is a later invention of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century to retroactively describe (some claim inaccurately) the relationships and society of Medieval Europe (‘feudal’ first appeared in in English in 1602 according to Merriam-Webster online dictionary, is thus, retroactive).

- ✓ Most nations that have ‘democratic’ in their title are not (e.g., Democratic People’s Republic of Korea); in Babylon 5, the Centauri Republic was ruled by the Emperor.

*“Member worlds of the Imperium agree to pay taxes and obey a few fundamental laws which the Imperium promulgates, known as the High Laws.... In return, the Imperium agrees to patrol the space between the worlds, to protect interstellar trade, to encourage travel and commerce, and to arbitrate diplomatic relations between worlds. Beyond this, individual worlds are left to their own devices so long as they acknowledge the power of the Imperium to rule the stars.”*

– Traveller RPG Wiki, “Third Imperium,” captured June 10, 2018

**The Power That Preserves:** Governments, by whatever means they are constituted, secure authority over a territory, define the state’s borders, and represent the authority of the state to act. A nation without a centrally constituted authority (that is, a state) is like a body without a head. Inevitably, for reasons good or ill, someone or some group gathers the power to themselves, imposes their will upon others, and is eventually forced to assume the mantle of the state, if only to protect their own selfish interests.<sup>2</sup> In this game, the mantle of central authority is represented by the sole and unique ability of Government Titles to activate the vital Powers; lacking any undisrupted Government Titles, a position cannot activate any Powers, and is thus unable to act.

- ✓ “The central planets formed the Alliance and decided that all worlds should unite under their rule. There was some disagreement on that point... After the Unification War, many of the Independents who had fought and lost drifted to the edges of the system, far from Alliance control.” – part of Firefly opening narration.
- ✓ The Power that Preserves (1979) is the title of the third book in the Chronicles of Thomas Covenant, the Unbeliever by Stephen R. Donaldson.
- The Singleton: The presentation of Government Titles in the game for the purposes of Power Activations and other game functions is an illusion of unity necessary for the function of the game position. That is, it is vaguely assumed that each position enters the game with a global government (possibly what Nick Bostrom calls a ‘singleton,’ *ut infra*) or a binding arrangement between sovereign authorities that functions as a centralized command.<sup>3</sup>
  - ✓ **Kate:** The incursion protocols have been agreed internationally. In the event of full-scale invasion, an Earth President is inducted immediately, with complete authority over every nation state. There was only one practical candidate.
  - ✓ **Dr. Who:** That’s your answer for everything, isn’t it? Vote for an idiot.
  - ✓ **Kate:** If you say so, Mister President. So long as you’re on this plane, you’re the Commander in Chief of every army on Earth. Every world leader is currently awaiting your instructions. You are the Chief Executive Officer of the human race. Any questions? – Dr. Who, “Death in Heaven” (2014).

In no case is government considered to be *monolithic structures* even for purely game functions; there is always room for entropy, mischief between competing political factions, cultures, social strata, classes. Thus, *Intervention Potentials* are generated each Regular Turn.

- ✓ [Host David S.] “It is easy to then fall into the trap that from that point to the fall of the Berlin Wall 40 years later, that all members of East German society were firm and loyal supporters of the Communist SED government. Or, at least, that there wasn’t tremendous opposition to the SED.” – from “East German Rebellion 1953 – COLD WAR DOCUMENTARY,” YouTube Cold War Channel, February 1, 2020.

- ✓ The common impression of Middle Ages Europe was a uniform, though slightly variable feudal arrangement, for at least 500 years. And that may be represented by one or more Government Titles in GGDM. But there were areas that understood what was happening and resisted, for example, the independent peasant’s Republic of Dithmarschen resisted conquest and feudal imposition before succumbing late in the period. When the Fourth Crusade conquered Constantinople, the Latin Empire immediately weakened itself by dividing into a Western feudal arrangement which was represented by the new subjects and immediately fell into the usual petty feudal bickering.
  - ✓ “It is high-minded, self-deluding fatuousness to claim that any race has one immutable spiritual trait, and that race acts with one mind as one unified body.” – Dave Nil- sen, “When Empires Fall II,” Challenge Magazine, Issue 69, February 1993.
- Associates & Acquaintances: At the bottom of each Social or Estate Government Title are a list of one to three Vital Powers associated with that title. Any Vital Power – except Census – that is not associated with a currently *undisrupted* Social or Estate Title *will cost one more Act* to activate. This direct association of Social and Estate Titles with Vital Powers serves as a defining focus for the Titles and positions overall. It should not be difficult for balanced positions to have Social and Estate Titles covering all or most of the Vital Powers.
- ✓ The additional cost of one Act significantly changes the sequence in which Power Activations are processed during the Regular Turn. See Clockwork Universe, 3 The Streams of Time, p. 90, *supra*. This is a tricky issue requiring consideration; a position’s processing sequence can be changed by Government Title disruption.
  - ✓ If one Act is added to Commerce Power activations, the special rule allowing Cargo Ships to Unload RPs before Construction Power Activations sharing a Scene is abrogated, see Material Handling, 1 Construction, p. 664, *supra*.

The association rule may be considered an *optional rule* if participants desire, but it should be decided *before* choosing Government Titles during set up. Instead, undisrupted Social and Estate Titles with duplicate Vital Power associations should be considered insurance in case of loss of legitimacy of one of the Titles.

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*“From this point of view, the history of institutions is the most pathetic of all records. Man has conquered the wild beasts; he has conquered his fellow man; he has conquered nature, but, collectively, he has never succeeded in governing himself. A good government remains the greatest of human blessings, and no nation has ever enjoyed it. There is no ruler, says Plato, who would be **unjustly** condemned by his subjects.”*

– Dean William Ralph Inge, “Democracy and the Future,” Atlantic Monthly, Vol. 129, March 1922, p. 290 (emphasis in original) (free on Google Books)

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**AI Nanny:** Although Plato was speaking about rulers, it surely must have occurred to him that he might just as well be speaking of parents – the rulers of our age of minority who first brought us into existence without our consent (anti-natalism existed in ancient times too): There are no parents who would be unjustly condemned by their children.

GGDM deals directly with the topic of interstellar governments, and indirectly with planetary governments. Earth has never had a planetary government, whether by conquest or any other means. It is possible that global technology and global problems will lead a drift toward an

eventual planetary government, but right now, it's hard to imagine how or by what process (short of heavy-handed external pressure) a planetary government could be achieved on Earth (e.g., Twilight Zone, "A Small Talent for War" (1986)). How much corruption, carelessness and incompetence do we witness on a daily basis in administration of businesses and tasks much less complex than a planetary, in-system or interstellar government would be? This, participants should keep in mind in imagining the complexity and logistics of an interstellar government.

Would Nick Bostrom's "Singleton" (2006) be better?

- ✓ "A singleton has both potential risks and potential benefits. Notably, a suitable singleton could solve world coordination problems that would not otherwise be solvable, opening up otherwise unavailable developmental trajectories for civilization. For example, Ben Goertzel, an AGI researcher, suggests humans may instead decide to create an 'AI Nanny' with 'mildly superhuman intelligence and surveillance powers,' to protect the human race from existential risks like nanotechnology and to delay the development of other (unfriendly) artificial intelligences until and unless the safety issues are solved. Furthermore, Bostrom suggests that a singleton could hold Darwinian evolutionary pressures in check, preventing agents interested only in reproduction from coming to dominate. Yet Bostrom also regards the possibility of a stable, repressive, totalitarian global regime as a serious existential risk." – from Wikipedia article, "Singleton," February 6, 2019.

Nick Bostrom seems to have appropriated a word – I know something about that! Merriam-Webster online dictionary at *singleton*: **1**: a card that is the only one of its suit originally dealt to a player. Merriam-Webster does not include Bostrom's use nor does it mention set theory:

- ✓ "In set theory, a singleton is a set with only one member, but as I introduced the notion, the term refers to a world order in which there is a single decision-making agency at the highest level. Among its powers would be (1) the ability to prevent any threats (internal or external) to its own existence and supremacy, and (2) the ability to exert effective control over major features of its domain (including taxation and territorial allocation). Many singletons could co-exist in the universe if they were dispersed at sufficient distances to be out of causal contact with one another. But a terrestrial world government would not count as a singleton if there were independent space colonies or alien civilizations within reach of Earth." – Nick Bostrom, "What is a Singleton," (2005) (available on his website).

'AI Nanny' is a theme that has appeared in many notable science-fiction works, for example, Kurt Vonnegut's The Player Piano (1952) where a large supercomputer functions exactly as described above (echoed in the backstories of other post-Singularity, post-apocalyptic works such as the board game Ogre (1977), the background stories of the movie franchises The Matrix (1999) and Terminator (1984)), and Isaac Asimov's Robot Eternals who decided that humans would only be happy in an all-human galaxy (The End of Eternity (1955), Foundation's Edge (1982)). It is no intellectual accident that opponents of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (commonly known as "Obamacare") used the term 'nanny nation' to refer to 'big government' social safety nets.

- ✓ In a cute turn on the term, I heard 'singleton' used in a video to describe a single, usually orphaned kitten who may suffer from lack of socialization with other cats due to a lack of a mother and litter playmates, and may be a difficult pet if not socialized.

- ✓ **Rhetorical Question:** Would you be willing to be ruled by a ‘Deep Learning’ AI government, as in Buck Rogers in the 25<sup>th</sup> Century? Is that the solution? You saw this one coming! See The AI Problem excerpts, Corporations, *infra*.

*“Avoid overly pretentious job titles such as ‘Lord of the Realm, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India’ or ‘Director of Corporate Planning.’”*

– Anonymous

**Forming a Government:** During the setup process, positions obtain their initial Government Titles, which must include one, and only one, Structural Title, and two to four other Social and Estate Titles. See The Power to Choose, 5 Beginnings, p. 50, *supra*. Thereafter, any *voluntary act* relating to restoring, abandoning, adding, or changing Government Titles, must be done by activation of the Order Power for the purpose of Government Formation. Any alteration in the government is a very serious matter that consumes the attention of society during the process, as groups struggle to achieve their agendas, place, or to gain power, therefore, activation of the Order Power for purposes of Government Formation requires two Acts and a Scene on the Capital Colony or three Acts *when and only if* the position currently does not have a Capital Colony.

- ✓ Positions should avoid Government Titles that conflict with ***Fundamental Realities***.
- **Gone With The Wind:** The Concierge will not allow a position to exist for a long period of time without at least one undisrupted Government Title (unless the position is extinct and/or all players have dropped, or as part of the story arc, e.g., Somalia in the 1990s). A position which has no undisrupted Government Titles is a collapsing position, and a helpless position, e.g., a nation without a state, like Somalia in the 1990s, the Palestinians, or the modern Kurds, the largest nation in the world without a sovereign state. All three of these are ongoing ‘trouble-spots’ in our times. Somalia became the epitome of 1990s ‘failed state’ debates.

Each situation will be judged and acted upon independently by the Concierge, however, when a position has no undisrupted Government Titles, the Concierge *may do whatever is necessary* (not, ‘necessary and fair’) including taking Acts and Scenes from other places, shifting RPs, and blocking News Events, to restore the position to at least one undisrupted Government Title so that the position may activate a power to try to restore legitimacy and stabilize the situation. It is quite likely that such a situation will generate tremendous amounts of entropy in the game as well, and losses of resources, colonies, etc. Whenever this occurs, the situation will be posted by the Concierge as a Special Bulletin.

There are three options which could solve this ‘problem’ if participants prefer:

- ✓ The rule could be changed so that each position receives a number of Power Activations equal to the number of undisrupted Government Titles plus one, meaning that any position that has no undisrupted Government Titles will still have one Power Activation. This also means that with five undisrupted Government Titles, a position may (if it has sufficient Acts and Scenes) activate six Powers per Regular Turn.
- ✓ The second option includes the foregoing except that the number of Power Activations per turn is capped at five. In this case, a position is unaffected by the first disruption of a Government Title, making legitimacy less pressing. But the cap also preserves the scarcity restraints imposed by the normal Power Activation rules.



Neither option would grant more Acts and Scenes per Regular Turn as those are received based on undisrupted Government Titles, and thus a position may still have one Power Activation per turn but is receiving no Acts or Scenes. Likely such a position will still have some Acts and Scenes on the Power Strip.

As Power Activations, Acts and Scenes in GGDM represent the ‘scarcity of means’ (see Shoestring Production, 3 The Sidereal Stage, p. 122, *supra*, also Player Piano, 2 Eras, p. 770, *infra*), participants should be extremely careful and cognizant of any changes that increase the overall availability of any of those three in the game. It creates the same sort of problem as a Monty Haul role-playing campaign.

- ✓ Third, an Expose’ is also an attractive option to attempt to retrieve the situation *as no Power Activation is required* for an Expose’ (see In a Trice, 4 Writs, p. 448, *supra*). In game story terms, this may be most preferable and an Expose’ could be made a requirement whenever a position has no remaining undisrupted Government Titles.

Any of these options would alleviate the need for emergency Concierge action to artificially restore the position to minimum functionality. If any of these optional rules are preferred, they should be invoked before the beginning of the game.

- Alien Governments: A position’s Government Titles (and the Foresight) are secret, unknown to other positions, unless someone chooses to tell them. However, clever players may be able to see a silhouette profile of your position’s government (*Mens rea*) by observing acts (*Actus reus*) taken in the game – which, incidentally, describes the phenomenology of most relationships between humans, such that the exception is notable. Thus, a game of GGDM might be described as a bunch of people in the middle of an open field (i.e. the Galactic Space).

- ✓ This is why criminal law has found it necessary to develop the concepts of *Mens rea* (i.e. “the guilty mind”) and *Actus reus* (i.e. “the guilty act”) to establish criminal liability. However, these are *simply natural extensions* of what hunters and tribal warriors knew in prehistoric times – that the mind or intent of a creature can be determined *by observing acts and demeanor* (this may be the source of anthropomorphism, see also mythopoeic thinking, see discussion in 1 Temporal Technology, *infra*) – and people of classical antiquity applied these concepts to more complex relations with people. Strict liability laws are those that establish culpability on *Actus reus* alone.
- ✓ As James Baldwin might say, most people have guilty minds; “A reasonably sensible man is satisfied with thinking.” It is the guilty act + the guilty mind that is criminal. Thinking – whether in conformity or non-conformity – is not criminal.

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*“Our democracy is but a name. We vote? What does that mean? It means that we choose between two bodies of real, though not avowed, autocrats. We choose between Tweedledum and Tweedledee.”*

– Helen Keller, quoted by Howard Zinn, [A People’s History of the United States](#), (2005), p. 345

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**An Unlimited Term:** The term ‘government title’ has two meanings at any given moment. First, it is what the form of government is called, such as a republic, democracy, oligarchy, etc., and at the very same time, it is also the rights of ownership of power in that government, the rights (i.e. legitimacy, sovereignty) by which the governors claim to govern. Thus, the title is both the name and the right of the Government Title.

- ✓ **Rhetorical Questions:** What is the difference or relationship between rights and legitimacy; can the concepts be separated in any meaningful way? Do rights exist without legitimacy? Are legal ‘rights’ connected to morally *right*? Are freedom and sovereignty established (and synonymous) by rights or *vice versa*?
- **The Duality:** A Social or Estate Government Title within the game consists of two parts. Part of the Government Title is placed in the Public Space (i.e. occupies Monads), and will occupy a significant amount of the Public Space. The second part of the Government Title is called the Magna Carta,<sup>4</sup> which describes legitimacy requirements and Conflict Checks.

Dualism and duality have long been a part of at least Western civilization (cf. holism), possibly the center of it (e.g., the mind-body division of the Platonic philosophers that was ported to Christianity, or the pristine heavens vs. filthy, flawed Earth); consider the following:

- ✓ “In 1707 Pope Clement XI declared the Chinese rites idolatrous and ordered the Jesuits to repudiate them. [Manchu Emperor] Kangxi was infuriated that Europeans who could not even read Chinese characters were condemning practices the he himself considered to be civil, not religious, customs.... By now, however, the Chinese themselves were questioning the compatibility of Catholic orthodoxy with their traditions. They recalled that even some Jesuits had once depicted them as unimportant minor descendants of Old Testament Hebrews. Moreover, the dualism of Christian theology was unintelligible to them; the exclusiveness of Western religion was repugnant; its glorification of poverty presented a danger to society. Even China’s earlier receptivity to European technology and the fruits of inductive reasoning waned, and the country turned its back on Western-style modernization.” – Raymond Birn, Crisis, Absolutism, Revolution: Europe 1648 to 1789 (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 1992), p. 170.

Dominance of dualism in religion, politics, and all areas (and later, reductionism, positivism) of human cognition is the reason we now argue about holism as a view. Pristine heavens and the dirty Earth, inside my head, outside my head, mind vs. body, us and them. If *holism* dominated the worldview, would we be arguing now about a philosophy of dualism? Are both necessary?

*“No serious sociologist any longer believes that the voice of the people expresses any divine or specially wise and lofty idea. The voice of the people expresses the mind of the people, and that mind is made up for it by the group leaders in whom it believes and by those persons who understand the manipulation of public opinion. It is composed of inherited prejudices and symbols and clichés and verbal formulas supplied to them by the leaders.”*

– Edward Bernays, Propaganda (1928)<sup>5</sup>

Endnotes.

<sup>1</sup> **Commentary:** The Federalist Papers are all available for free online, e.g., The Avalon Project, Yale Law School.



<sup>2</sup> Citation: Star Trek fans may be reminded of the ST:OS “A Piece of the Action” episode (1968).

<sup>3</sup> Commentary & Citation: Stephen R. Donaldson explores one possible arrangement at in his Gap Cycle books:

- ✓ “All humans are citizens of one federal democracy, but that state has no military or police force equipped to operate in space. Instead, they delegated human interests in space to the UMCP. Although the United Mining Companies Police is a wholly owned subsidiary of a for-profit corporation, their charter grants them full police powers anywhere in open space. However, each space station has maintained its own security force with jurisdiction over the station itself. ... This seeming incompetence provoked widespread outrage and destroyed public confidence in local security. The legislature responds by passing the ‘Preempt Act,’ giving the UMCP the power to override station security essentially at will. The truth about the theft is that Warden Dios, the director of UMCP, and his boss Holt Fasner, CEO of the UMC, engineered the crisis in order to get the Preempt Act past the legislature. ... Rather than continue to allow Fasner to rule space through his private police, Warden wants the government to nationalize the UMCP, making them answerable to the state. Fasner’s political influence is so great that Warden doesn’t think the government can be persuaded by ordinary activism, and he fears that Fasner will have him killed if he supports a reform movement openly. Warden believes the only thing that could persuade the government to reform the police would be a scandal so devastating that it utterly discredits their moral authority and implicates the CEO, Fasner, and so Warden has decided to make that happen. His plan is to manipulate Fasner into using the police for a variety of heinous crimes – such as bribing station security, working with pirates, or murdering witnesses – and then deliberately fail the cover-up, without allowing Fasner to realize that he is trying to fail.” – from Wikipedia article, “The Gap Cycle,” (series of books by Stephen R. Donaldson).
- Basically, what happens when you send someone else to do your dirty work; the servant CEO Fasner was slowly making himself the master (i.e. *de jure* dictator) through control of the UMCP. As repugnant as this situation appears to us, it is, to Mr. Donaldson’s credit, not implausible:
  - First, it may have been the *de facto* situation already that a major corporation controlled all space traffic, domestic shipping, shipbuilding, technology, and trade and that corporation virtually ruled the Earth or exerted enough political pull to prevent Earth government from exercising sovereignty by forming interstellar police and military forces. Thus, it was easy for Earth government to simply charter the UMCP to do the job.
  - Second, the arrangement makes Earth and the colonies essentially a captive market of United Mining Corporation, a captive market – humanity – which it has a vested and existential interest in protecting. A civil war splitting sovereignty and creating competing military and police powers would be a disaster for that corporation.
  - And third, the human population does not pay taxes to support police and military forces (and what would democratic politicians campaign about if they couldn’t promise to lower taxes?), they do so instead by supporting UMC’s sovereign market monopoly. Recent history has shown the folly of the belief that by contracting out public services to private corporations, the public and politicians can get something for nothing; see the Carillion Collapse, Gross Domestic Product, 1 Construction, p. 662-663, *supra*. But this goes much, much further than that.
  - Finally, taking a page from history, by passing the Preempt Act, the Earth legislature, like the Reichstag’s passage of the Enabling Act in 1933, effectively voted itself impotent; and since it is past history, it is plausible future history in science-fiction literature.

✓ See also discussion of citizenship, Civis Sum, 3 Order, p. 559, *supra*.

<sup>4</sup> Commentary: The Magna Carta is an actual historical document dating from some centuries before the first UFO was shot down by United Earth Forces over Roswell, however, its literal meaning is “great charter” and it is in that sense that it is used here as part of a Government Title.

<sup>5</sup> Commentary: Consider the preceding in light of the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election, or, for that matter, every Presidential and major election in U.S. history. Words written in 1928 are revalidated by recent living memory. Three more U.S. Presidential Elections will occur to prove the point before these words are 100 years old.