

# Unbalanced Powers in America

[Article 3 of the Nehemiah Articles]

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There are “Five Realms of Power” in America (or in any country, organization, club or household). We have already introduced two powers (Economics and Governance) and have shown how Democracy and Capitalism are out of balance in America, with money influencing voting.

The powers are ideally separate, but intertwined as societal forces. All five powers are always present, but not with equal strength. The powers and their predominant manifestations in America are:

1. **Governance** (Decision making): Democracy (not Dictatorship, etc.)
2. **Economics** (Financial structure): Capitalism (not Socialism, etc.)
3. **Religion** (Faith): Christianity (with several types, but none are official)
4. **Justice** (Legal enforcement): Written laws (not Anarchy, Scriptural, etc.)
5. **Love** (Caring systems): Service to others (not Self-service, Hate, Jealousy, etc.)

Note: **Physical power** is NOT named because the use of force could be commanded by any of the five realms, depending on circumstances. For example, five types of military forces could be units that are national, mercenary (hired), Jihadist or Crusader, UN peace-keeper, or disaster-rescue.

**Religion:** The power of religion is through its influence upon the believers of whatever “faith” they profess. “Believers” or “the faithful” answer to a “higher power” (generally called “God”). Their influence can increase by converting others to believe the same way, or through prayers.

Faith’s influences upon the other four realms of power are through voting, financial expenditures/donations, seeking laws that reflect scriptural teachings, or by providing service to others. All such influence is legal and appropriate in America, where the power of religion has seen both high and low periods for influencing governance and economics.

However, America’s separation of Church and State requires that Faith uses its power **indirectly** through influence on the other four realms to be compliant with religious values. Those values typically emphasize patriotism/duty-to-vote, hard work with no stealing/cheating, obedience to just laws, and ethical values that show love and caring. Difficulties can arise when specific “faiths” (brands of religion) have different interpretations of values (e.g., Pro-Life).

**Justice:** America is a nation governed by laws. Sometimes issues of “fairness” and “allowed behavior” require enforcement or recourse for review and correction, as specified by our legal system.

Police are employed to uphold the laws (and not overstep their authority). Motorists drive vehicles reasonably within the speed limits or face the consequences. Laws about deportation of illegal immigrants and about drug trafficking are subject to political debates and budget-controlled enforcement.

However, Justice (fairness) can be distorted when laws favor wealth accumulation by those who are already extremely rich and powerful. Justice is not served when governance (such as the elected U.S. Senate) can simply decline to do its appointed functions (such as reviewing nominations for a Supreme Court Justice vacancy).

American laws specify that a person can “have his day in court” for possible rectification of injustices. However, our laws do not guarantee a favorable solution. People with deeper pockets can more easily prevail in courts of law, showing the unbalance between economic power (money) and the power of Justice for fairness.

**Love:** The power of love is everywhere. There are countless songs about it. Wonderful examples of caring occur and sometimes are heralded in the media.

Love and caring interact with and influence the other four realms of power in several ways. Expressed as “caring for justice”, love influences how and what American laws are written. The sense of fairness eventually gathered sufficient votes (governance) with constitutional amendments and laws (legal actions) to overcome the dark times of open segregation.

But financial inequalities within current American Conservative Capitalist activities (economics) reveal some need for more caring (love) and more justice by laws for everyone. Issues include equal pay for women, changes in the graduated income tax rates, and aspects of health care and education.

**The unbalances** between the Five Realms of Power in America are primarily evident in the overpowering influence of money, the tool of relatively unrestrained economic Capitalism. To accomplish more balance against the power of excessive money, American voters (Governance) can choose to have laws (Justice) to implement more caring (Love) within the society.

The above comments can be documented. What we need are serious actions that can help remedy the unbalances. Please consider the context and merits of the following.

It is proposed that America utilize “compulsory national service” as a tool to assist society and all individuals. Service to the nation can be service to others (Caring) with many beneficial results.

America prides itself on service (Love/Care/Volunteer/Donate) through patriotism (governance), giving to charities (economics), fairness of laws (justice), and its embrace of the fundamentals of Christian faith. But there is one overshadowing problem: service contributions are voluntary, inequitably preformed, and poorly rewarded.

Military service is voluntary, involves very few people, and the ranks are typically filled by lower- and middle-class citizens. Also, social service jobs and even teaching are relatively poorly paid professions that are strongly impacted by budget cuts.

Financially, vast numbers of Americans donate to churches and charities, but amounts are generally sporadic, small, and very influenced by marketing. For example, Veterans Organizations and Police Officer Associations use telemarketing to pay for what taxpayers are unwilling to provide.

Many people abuse the legal system if (or as long as) they can get away with it. That is why those in banking and hedge fund trading in America do not want government regulation or monitoring. And others want to reduce or eliminate government services (less government intervention) ranging

from food inspection and social safety to audits of tax evaders and environmental protection. History repeatedly shows that fairness and quality control cannot be left to self-monitoring.

Even service-minded entities (churches, charities, etc.) often fail at self-monitoring by paying high executive salaries, diverting services and funds to preferred beneficiaries, and doing more “preaching of their faith” (using tax-deductible donations) than actually providing services to the needy.

ALL of the above mentioned deficiencies could be largely resolved with a program of compulsory national service. (See next article.)

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