

“We’re Out of Here”:

A Discussion of the Concept of Secession in the United States

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Abstract

This study investigates the likelihood of the formation of a new country while the thrust of the study is an investigation of secession in the United States, it would be far from complete if a very brief discussion of the secession movement in Scotland were not addressed. It should NOT be inferred that the author is advocating that any political secession be attempted (either in the United States or the United Kingdom) but rather is seeking to begin a discussion of the considerations that must be faced. As a student of both history and political movements this study concentrates on the principal issues that would be faced in as a result of dissolution.

After a brief update on Scotland this work will consider secession both from a historical and contemporary viewpoint in the United States of America, briefly analyzing some of the current secession movements, as well as the secession of the Southern States in the eighteen sixties.

Since the charge of “segregationist” is not infrequently levied against those who attempt to discuss the subject of secession in an open manner, the author wishes to “go on the record” that he has no interest in returning to any form of racial segregation such as that which once existed in this Country. Further, the author should point out that among his relatives is a great granduncle who’s life was lost in the Battle of Gettysburg fighting for the State of Illinois.

To further explain the preceding paragraph allow me to quote from The Los Angeles Times article of November 29th 2012 by David Horsey who in his article *Some rules for Texas secessionists before they depart from us* characterizes the 100,000 Texans who signed a petition to depart from the Union both “peacefully and amicably” as being “unhinged” and infers that they are “pro slavery (in the 21st Century)”, that they are “paranoid fruitcakes who equate the EPA with the KGB.” Horsey opines that if he “could put all of them [the signers of the petition] all in one place and let them go it would be a day of jubilee.” He demands that Texas must pay its share of the national debt, (an subject addressed in this paper). He makes further demands, “Texas must provide safe passage to all the Texas liberals who may want out.” Horsey, like many others, refuses to subject any possible discussion of secession to rigorous analysis, instead making a trite collection of quips ending with the idea that Mexico would reunite with Texas and the Texans should take their “grievances” to Mexico City.

It is the belief by this author that the level of contention of the Presidential election of 2012 has created (and in this author’s opinion would have created the same level of contention had the results been reversed) so that a seemingly insignificant event could trigger a possible collapse. James Rickards in his work *Currency Wars* postulates that a population can be caused to react when their individual tipping point is reached. He uses an analogy of a crowded theater which has been set ablaze: he states some will run at the first sign of trouble, others will “sit nervously but will not move until most the audience has already begun to run.” It is his contention that some of the theater goers will lead the movement to the exits, whilst others will wait until the initial leaders are joined by a critical mass – this interesting observation made by Rickards is that the number of initial evacuees it takes to trigger a general panic can be rather small. Considering the US as a totality he postulates that a few number of people could become a critical mass somewhat analogous to a “chain reaction” in physics.

Assuming that Rickards theory holds, a “critical mass” could be close at hand and could be triggered by the addition of just a few additional people. In

discussing the confidence in the US Dollar Rickards suggests that if four hundred individuals lost confidence, there would be no mass consequence however if that number hit five hundred a “chain reaction” could ensue causing a general panic of thousands, which could blossom into millions people losing confidence all with great rapidity. However Rickards theorizes that if the critical mass was five hundred people and only four hundred people called for action, the critical threshold would not have been reached and the entire incident would be a random event of little importance.

As stated before this author is not advocating any specific course of action on the subject of secession, but is attempting to clarify significant points:

1. That the author believes the nation is near a tipping point.
2. The change tipping point could be triggered at any time or perhaps never.
3. That the subject of secession must be considered seriously, and not dismissed in a contemptuous manner as “paranoid fruitcakes”
4. It is imperative that the subject of states leaving the Union be considered with a “check list” of items that need to be addressed. It is historically understood that when a group wishes to leave a country, and the details are not carefully considered and generally resolved, a bloody battle generally ensues. One can see this reaction in the War Between the States in this County, or Biafran – Nigerian War of the late 1960’s. However the Velvet Revolution in the late 1980’s brought about the states of Slovakia and the Czech Republic with no loss of blood.

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Scotland and the United Kingdom

Alex Salmond, the First Minister of Scotland who earned his Masters in Economics from the University of Saint Andrews has been active in the Scottish National Party (SNP) for the more than two decades. An agreement of October 15, 2012 executed on behalf of the Crown provided for a referendum on, among other issues the secession of Scotland from the United Kingdom. Salmond, as quoted in an official pamphlet entitled *Choice: A Historic Opportunity for our Nation* states that Scotland “...can choose a can choose a different and better path. Independence is based on a simple truth. It is fundamentally better for all of us if decisions about Scotland’s future are taken by the people who care most

about Scotland - that is by the people of Scotland. It is the people who live here who will do the best job of making our nation a fairer and more successful place.”

This is the cry of freedom first espoused by William Wallace in Scotland in the late Thirteenth and early Fourteenth centuries. A cry for independence both from colonist powers, India and Pakistan come to mind, and a “divorce” if you will between forced or voluntary amalgamations such as Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. These four nations as well as much of Africa and Asia gained their freedom in the last seventy years – the cry for freedom and independence is clearly heard in Salmond’s statement.

The Election on Scottish independence is to be in the autumn of 2014, and if passed by a simple majority of Scottish voters “the Scottish Government will begin discussion with Westminster [Her Majesty’s Government]” to begin “...the transfer of responsibilities and management of functions from London to Scotland. This will ensure a smooth transition to independence. The Scottish election in 2016 will be to elect the first independent parliament.” (Choice).

The position of the SNP is somewhat analogous to the birth announcement of the United States read on the 4th day of July 1776.

Today, we have a Tory government in Westminster that most of us did not vote for, and yet that government is able to take decisions that cause real harm to families and communities in Scotland. With independence we will always get the government Scotland chooses – a government that will take forward policies designed to meet the needs of people in Scotland. We can elect the government we think cares most about Scotland – a government that will look after the interests of people living here.

Scotland then continues to develop an overview of significant policies that the SNP believes to be a basis of independence. These include the belief that Scotland is paying “an extra 1500 in pound sterling more than is returned by the

UK. This figure is partly based on Scotland no longer paying for services that the SNP deems no longer necessary (such as the UK's nuclear arsenal).

It is the position of the SNP that "We will keep the Queen as our Head of State and the pound as our currency. There will continue to be close links with the rest of the UK." However there is no indication that the UK in fact agrees. This author questions the wisdom, based on the recent history of the Euro that a sovereign nation would wish to not have control over their currency. The SNP also bases their argument for independence, on Scotland's maintaining their membership in the European Union. According to Nigel Morris writing for *The Independent* (December 6, 2012) a committee of the House of Lords concluded that, "If a territory of a member state ceases to be part of that member state because it has become an independent state then the treaties would cease to apply to that territory." Morris submits, "it is likely that countries such as Spain, which has vigorous nationalist movements in Catalonia and the Basque region, would be hostile to a Scottish [independence]" and a decision of the EU must be unanimous.

In conclusion the most striking foundation of Scottish independence, is that the issue is being intelligently discussed, and while not all, either in either Edinburgh or London, favor Scottish independence, all seem to be making intelligent arguments, considering the financial and logistical considerations. Discussion as the ownership of the North Sea oil and natural gas fields, the composition of the British military as it relates to Scottish nationals, the delivery of health care are just a few of the unresolved areas of contention. The timetable for Scottish independence calls for the introduction of the Referendum Bill to the Scottish Parliament in early 2013. Thereafter a publication of a "White Paper on Independence" authored by the SNP would precede a vote in the autumn of 2014 for Scottish independence. The SNP envisions the first independent parliament would be elected in 2016.

This is most unlike what happened in the United States in 1860, in which the government of South Carolina unilaterally passed an act of secession.

Secession in the United States Introductory Remarks

The legality of secession is unclear. Article VII of the Constitution of the United States (Constitution) describes how the nation was to be formed, while Article IV Section 3 states how Congress is to admit new States to the Union. There is nothing in the US Constitution that discusses how a state would terminate its relationship with the United States.

According to Jack Kenny, writing in *The New American*:

... [A]t the time of its ratification [the Constitution of the United States], there was widespread belief in both North and South that the states retained their sovereignty when freely delegating certain powers to the newly created federal government. Samuel Adams of Massachusetts asserted: "That each state retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power, jurisdiction and right which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States." South Carolina's ratification included this provision: "This convention doth declare that no section or paragraph of the said Constitution warrants a construction that the states do not retain every power not expressly relinquished by them and vested in the general government of the Union." Virginia, in its ratification, insisted that "the powers granted under the Constitution, being derived from the people of the United States, may be resumed by them, whensoever the same shall be perverted to their injury or oppression, and that every power granted thereby remains with them, and at their will."

The first serious discussion of secession from the United States was triggered in New England, as a result of opposition to the War of 1812. This move for secession resulted in the Hartford Secession Convention of 1814 which convened in mid December (of 1814) – however the Treaty of Ghent, ending the state of war between Great Britain and the US (which had been under secret negotiation for some time) was signed less than two weeks after the opening of convention, making the entire exercise pointless.

As any reader of this work will immediately recognize, the concept of American secession is looked upon as a Southern issue, which is historically intertwined with slavery, states rights, competing economic systems, railway routes, manufacturing and tariffs, all of which contributed to The War Between the States (resulting in almost one-half of the total combat deaths of all of the nation's conflicts).

Before going further on this subject, allow me to explain why I use the term War Between the States as opposed to "The American Civil War" to define the war of 1861-1865 between the Confederate States of America and the Union (United States of America). My reason for this selection of nomenclature is that the political subdivisions (states, counties, cities) of the seceding states did, in fact, maintain their governments in a manner substantially unchanged prior to and after the formation of the Confederacy. This is most unlike a "Civil War" wherein various factions commit to a war to obtain the power and the seat of government, the English War of the Roses, the French or Russian Revolutions come to mind as real civil wars. The United States "Civil War" was fought by and between established state governments, several of which were, in fact, older than the Union that they fought.

When South Carolina elected to leave the Union their resolution of secession reads:

We, the people of the State of South Carolina, in convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained, That the ordinance adopted by us in convention on the twenty-third day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was ratified, and also all acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly of this State ratifying amendments of the said Constitution, are hereby repealed; and that the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States, under the name of the "United States of America," is hereby dissolved. (USHistory.org)

Note that the resolution commences with South Carolina's ratification of the Constitution of the United States in 1788, and then elects to repeal its ratification by stating that the union between South Carolina and the United States of America is hereby dissolved.

During the several months between South Carolina's secession (the 20th of December) and the attack Fort Sumter (the following 12th of April) Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas joined South Carolina and formed the Confederate States of America. The CSA became the only new government that was established by or in the seven states. The governments of the states, their counties or parishes and cities continued as before, as part of the new country.

Until the shots in Charleston were fired, one of the most illustrious generals of the Confederacy, "Stonewall" Jackson held out hope that war would not be the result of the secession of the seven states that formed the Confederacy.

I am much gratified to see a strong Union feeling in my portion of the state [Virginia]... ***For my own part I intend to vote for the Union candidate for the convention and I desire to see every honorable means used for peace***, [emphasis added] and I believe that Providence will bless such means with the fruits of peace. (*Redding*)

It was only after the firing on Fort Sumter and President Lincoln's call on the states to supply 75,000 men to put down the "Southern" rebellion that Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas joined the Confederacy rather than have the citizens of their states become involved in what they saw as an offensive military action against their neighbors. Many in the South refer to The War Between the States as The War of Northern Aggression.

Why Then Was War the Result of Secession?

Most would agree that the shelling of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor in April of 1861 by General P. G. T. Beauregard's forces marked the beginning of the War Between the States. Prior to President Elect Lincoln assuming office on the fourth of March 1861, the Executive branch of government was under the direction of President James Buchanan (from Pennsylvania). It was apparent to most that Buchanan was not about to have a war start under his watch. He had declared that States had no right to leave the Union, but stated that he had no authority to stop them. Fort Sumter became the symbol of Union control over South Carolina. The Union was not going to surrender the fort, as that would be a de-facto admission of the secession whilst South Carolina could not leave the fort being occupied by a foreign power in the middle of their principal harbor. Buchanan's cabinet split along regional lines with the Northerner's pushing to reinforce the fort, while Southerners wanted to see the fort ceded to South Carolina. A compromise was attempted when Buchanan asked Senator Jefferson Davis for his ideas. Davis had suggested that "if federal forts in the South remained in caretaker status, the state would respect federal property rights (Kenney)." This was the unofficial position of the parties until a change in Governorship of South Carolina from William Gist to Francis Pickens. Pickens sent a demand to Buchanan that South Carolina should be allowed to occupy the fort without further delay. By then Governor Pickens had already occupied various federal properties in Charleston. As a counter measure Major Robert Anderson, in command of the Army garrison relocated his soldiers to the Fort.

While many historians believe that Lincoln was always prepared to go to war, as has been the case many times both before and after, Lincoln wanted to insure that the "record" reflected that he did not start the hostilities, but rather acted in defense based on a clear provocation. Lincoln's position was not only that the forts were to be held by the United States, but also that the custom duties levied by the Congress would be collected by the United States on items shipped into and from the Confederate ports. Lincoln reminded the seceding

states in his Inaugural Address: "In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you.... You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it (Lincoln)."

According to Kenny "Efforts by the Confederates to negotiate a purchase and transfer of the federal installations were rebuffed." The hardened position of the North may have been based on the fact that import and export duties represented a substantial portion of federal revenues. Eventually other ways of funding the federal government included The Legal Tender Act ... passed in February 1862, that authorized the issue of \$150 million in Treasury notes, known as Greenbacks, and the Internal Revenue Act of 1862, which in addition to an income tax placed excise taxes on just about everything." The Confederates generally financed their wartime debts by borrowing and eventually by just printing currency (Tax Analysts Organization).

The extent that the revenue from duties figured into the decision not to negotiate the sale of the forts is not known; however, it appears in hindsight that if the forts were transferred to the Confederate States, and if the Union would have been adequately compensated – war could have been avoided.

Some may consider that if such an undertaking were successful that Lincoln would have been the first President to be impeached. It is of note that there was talk of an impeachment of Buchanan for standing by whilst the crisis developed. However, as reported by Kenny;

Northerners, including Horace Greeley, the influential editor of the New York Tribune, were of a mind to "let the erring sisters go in peace." Abolitionists like Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison... argued against trying to enforce the kind of union "where one section is pinned to the residue by bayonets." Northern businessmen, hoping to continue

commerce with the Southern states, were loath to see their trade cut off by war.

The War Between the States, which “saved the Union” not only cost well over six hundred thousand casualties (2% of the total population in 1860), but laid economic waste to the South for generations to come. Perhaps this war and its aftermath could have been avoided if provocative action was replaced by thoughtful well thought out negotiations, prior to resorting to shelling.

Secession in the 21st Century

New Hampshire:

There is an active secessionist movement in New Hampshire that led, in 2009, to a bill known as HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 6 duly passed by both houses of the legislature that reads:

That any Act by the Congress of the United States, Executive Order of the President of the United States of America or Judicial Order by the Judicatories of the United States of America which assumes a power not delegated to the government of United States of America by the Constitution for the United States of America and which serves to diminish the liberty of the any of the several States or their citizens shall constitute a nullification of the Constitution for the United States of America by the government of the United States of America. Acts which would cause such a nullification include, but are not limited to: [six specific grievances are listed] ... That should any such act of Congress become law or Executive Order or Judicial Order be put into force, all powers previously delegated to the United States of America by the Constitution for the United States shall revert to the several States individually.

While New Hampshire motto is “Live Free or Die” given the location, size and economy of New Hampshire, it this author’s opinion that such an action will not amount to much. There appears to be no plan for secession other than a statement contained in the resolution and the author could neither find nor envision a definitive plan to allow New Hampshire to independently separate from the Union. In short New Hampshire is an integral part New England and

whist it is more conservative than its neighbors it is unlikely to separate or be viable.

Hawaii:

Hawaii also has more than one active secession movement. One of them is the Free Hawaii Movement (<http://www.freehawaii.org/>) that calls for complete independence of Hawaii and the restoration of the Kamehameha line as a constitutional monarchy. Another group the Hawaii Nation (<http://www.hawaii-nation.org/>) has the tacit bipartisan support of both Democratic Governor Ben Cayetano and Republican Governor Linda Lingle however; neither governor actually seemed to support independence. Tomas Alex Tizon of the Los Angeles Times discusses a “stand off” of sorts between a group of “Hawaiian Nationals” and the State government over land use. Nothing that this author found, led to any coherent plan for secession. Hawaii as an independent nation of 1.3 million souls located in the mid Pacific noted for international tourism may be economically viable; it appears as if their secession movement is just a romantic notion by a small few.

Alaska:

Geographically larger than any single country in Western Europe ha a population of 722,718 in 2011 as estimated by the US Census Bureau. Slightly more than half of the citizens of Alaska reside in greater Anchorage. The largest three metropolitan areas are: Anchorage (380,821), Fairbanks (97,581) and Juneau (31,275) these three metropolitan areas comprise over 70% of the state's population.

History of Secession:

Alaska, like Hawaii, has an independence movement of sorts – the Alaskan Independence Party (<http://www.akip.org/>). The AIP believes that the

“statehood” election of 1958 should not have been an “up or down vote” on statehood but should have had additional choices to statehood namely the right to become a Commonwealth (somewhat similar to Puerto Rico) or to become a separate and independent nation like the Philippines. Unlike the movement in Hawaii, the AIP has been active as the third largest political party in Alaska. The AIP is self-described as:

... [A] hybrid of conservative Republicanism, populism and libertarianism. Among the issues advocated by the party: the direct popular election of the state attorney general and all judges, the right to keep and bear arms, the privatization of government services, the right to home schooling by parents, and a constitutional amendment to ban property taxes... [and the AIP is generally] opposed to environmental regulations and actively promotes the private ownership and widespread development of Alaskan land...

The AIP’s candidate for Governor, Wally Hickel was elected and held office from 1990-1994, joining Jesse Ventura (Reform Party 1999-2003) and Lowell Weicker (Connecticut Party 1991-1995) as the only individuals being elected representing a named third party in the last 70 years in the United States. Hickel’s election was a first in this twentieth or twenty-first century of a candidate, whose political party, considered secession, though many Alaskans believe that Hickel was considered the GOP candidate running as the AIP candidate, a situation somewhat similar to Senator Lieberman’s in 2006.

Selected Criteria for Secession:

Among the criteria for a state to secede and become independent are the following:

1. The state should not be landlocked, especially if it is surrounded by single country (however Berlin was totally surrounded by the German Democratic Republic – East Germany for more than two generations). Ocean shipping ports would be very desirable. Alaska is remote with

no contiguous border to the United States; its only land border being with Canada in a very remote portion of both Canada and Alaska.

2. The state must have a homogenous political system of beliefs. Dennis Prager in *Still the Best Hope: Why the World Needs American Values to Triumph* suggests the "American Trinity": "Liberty," "In God We Trust," and "E Pluribus Unum," which he rightly observes are all displayed on American coinage. While no research, to the best of my knowledge, has been conducted to determine if Alaskans share a belief in the so called American Trinity, this author would not be surprised if they do, perhaps more so than the United States as a whole.
3. The industries, farms or tourist destinations which are situated in the state must be able to create "product(s)" that are in demand in the outside world. If there are only a few customers for these "product(s)" the independence of the nation is in peril.
4. The state must either be quite powerful or quite weak. It must either have the power to project military might or a unique strategic position that allows it to generate allies who will support its independence. Some countries are not believed to be worth the effort to conquer or hold (the Irish model of independence) wherein "London" finally thought it no longer worth the blood and treasure to hold "Dublin". A second way that a weak country may maintain her independence is to balance between larger powers such as that the Swiss have traditionally employed. This balancing act can be augmented by providing a service desired by all parties such as in banking in Switzerland, or by providing a "buffer" between larger neighbors or by providing certain raw materials to various parties so that no single party wants to assume the risk of doing without the specific raw material or incur the wrath of the other parties by interfering with the independence of the smaller nation.

5. The citizens of the state either directly or through their representatives would need to vote for a secession of their relationship with the United States Government. This is a key, in California where the local secession movements are hampered by the fact that they must win in essence two elections. The first election is to convince the residents in the area that wishes to secede to declare their independence while at the same time a case must be made to cause the voters in the remaining area to vote affirmatively to the plan for secession (Hogen-Esch pg 58), luckily the only popular vote would be held in Alaska.

A lesson inferred from the War Between the States is that a state that is attempting secession must make arrangements to disentangle itself from its parent country prior to asserting its independence in any provocative manner.

New Hampshire, having twice the population of Alaska, and sharing a somewhat similar secession movement lacks the physical geographic separation that would easily allow a successful secession. In is this author's opinion that only Alaska among the smaller states (by population), meets the criteria to seek independence.

How could such a "divorce" be accomplished? Obviously a nation of 700,000 could never think of itself as a military power. Alaska's strategic geopolitical location was of prime importance to the United States during the "Cold War" however its geopolitical importance has been lessened in the twenty-first century. In order for Alaska to leave the United States it will need to balance its strategic alliances on a knife-edge. The United States must look at the cost to maintain Alaska as the 49th State as being very expensive; while believing that most of the advantages that Alaska historically provided would be maintained with an independent Alaska. In addition, Alaska would be well served to make an economic separation arrangement with the United States that would be advantageous to the United States.

Purchase of Assets and Assumption of the United States Debt:

I would suggest Alaska assume a portion of the National Debt (Alaska would argue that its percentage should be based on population and Federal Assets that were being transferred). The population of the entire state of Alaska is equal to 0.23% of the US (about half the size of greater Milwaukee metropolitan area). The United States National Debt as of this writing is about \$15,900,000,000,000 Alaska's share would be \$36,000,000,000 or around \$50,000 per person. I would suggest that Alaska pay this US debt by giving the United States Treasury a sovereign mortgage bond, denominated in US Dollars (In the event of US Dollar inflation Alaska would be repaying this debt in inflated currency). This liability would be repaid by selling assets acquired in the transaction and/or a special tax upon Alaska citizens and residents that would fully amortize this debt over the term of the bond. The United States Treasury would immediately replace \$36 Billion of Liabilities with \$36 Billion of Assets (a swing of \$72 Billion). For this sum Alaska would receive title to all real property owned by US government regardless of agency (Interior, Defense or the like). According to some the federal government owns around sixty-nine percent of the total landmass of Alaska (DeMar). Alaska would acquire all chattel property owned by the United States Government located in Alaska (except for certain high-tech military assets of the United States Army and Air Force).

Alaska would sell, joint venture or lease certain of these real or chattel properties to private parties using the funds exclusively to repay the \$36 Billion of new debt setting aside surplus funds to establish a sinking fund for the assumed unfunded liabilities.

Unfunded Liabilities resulting from "Entitlements":

Alaska could assume the responsibility for some of the unfunded liabilities of the United States due as entitlement to the citizens of Alaska. The Entitlement

unfunded liabilities of the United States have been estimated by The Ohio Free Press to be some \$114 Trillion Dollars. Using the population base of Alaska, which is about 0.23% of the total population of the United States, would result in an unfunded Alaska liability of \$234 Billion dollars (about \$367,000 per person) a figure perhaps too high to assume.

Under current US law Social Security is paid to the recipient if he/she resides in a country designated as Country List 1. If the recipient is a citizen of a country listed on Country List 3 he/she would still be eligible for the receipt of Social Security benefits if residing in a country designated as Country List 1. Much of Europe, Canada, Israel, Japan and Korea are on both lists. Therefore the entitlement for Social Security could continue if Alaska was listed on Country List 3 for new Alaskan Citizens. If Alaska were only included on List 1, the Alaskan Citizen would forgo his/her right to collect Social Security, while a resident would be entitled to collect his/her social security benefits. It should be noted that employees after the separation would no longer be contributing to social security and may not accumulate sufficient credits to qualify for benefits. Of course, Alaska could by bi-lateral treaty place themselves on neither of the Social Security Country Lists, and terminate their citizens or residents (or specific groups of them by say age) from Social Security benefits.

Medicare is generally not paid to providers who are located outside the United States; hence the citizens and residents of Alaska would not by their place of residence be eligible for Medicare services and by becoming citizens of a sovereign Alaska these individuals would forgo any eligibility by surrendering their Medicare insurance cards. Some determination as to a medical insurance system for those individuals that had been covered by Medicare would need to be determined by the Alaskan Government. As Medicaid is a combined state and federal program, the State of Alaska after independence would receive no additional funding from the US Treasury. Alaskan "Medicaid" would be modified to become economically viable. Alaska would greatly reduce their unfunded

claim on the US Treasury perhaps as much as \$200 Billion in just Medicare and Medicaid alone.

For Alaskans under the age of 55 the free market would be fully integrated into retirement and health insurance, perhaps with a catastrophic coverage subsidized by government and private insurance to cover other costs. Some form of savings for retirement would be required by Alaska; this could be either public or private or a combination of both.

Sources of Revenue:

As stated before Alaska would sell, joint venture or lease certain properties acquired from the assumption of debt using the funds exclusively to repay the \$36 Billion and establish a sinking fund for the assumed unfunded liabilities. It is envisioned that the Alaska Government would not sell or lease all of the property immediately, maintaining these assets until needed so as not to “glut” the market.

Other sources of revenue available to an independent Alaska would be natural resource severance fees payable to the government, for such things as hydrocarbons, metals, fish, and grazing rights. Additional taxation, if required, could be a business tax based on gross receipts (much less contentious to calculate than income tax) for all entities requiring a business license. I would submit that income taxes be avoided if possible, as history has shown that the taxation of income, is somewhat unreliable, and can be fraught with favoritism in terms of the definitions of what is included and excluded from taxable income. The municipalities would continue to rely upon sales and property taxes as they currently do.

Additional Expenses:

Other than the principal and interest on the \$36 Billion and the payment of selected assumed “entitlements” the cash outflow and expenses of an independent Alaska should not be much greater than its expenses as a state. Alaska would need a national government, but no overlap would need to exist between national and current state functions such as with the case of a “federal” form of government. Other than defense, national taxation and international relations an increase would be required in state personnel to assume those services performed by both the state and federal government; for example current federal park rangers would become state rangers etc.

However it should be pointed out no state in the U.S. received more money per person from the federal government than Alaska (nbcnews.com). Alaska on a per resident basis received \$15,197 more in federal funds than it paid in federal income tax. Of this \$7,338 was the per person share spent in Alaska for military and defense. Hence the US government would save approximately \$11 billion dollars per year in not subsidizing Alaska.

Alaska Defense Force, the US Army & Air Force:

Alaska would require their own defense force, other than protection of their offshore resources by using a “coast guard” (the assets of which were obtained in the \$36 Billion package) the Alaska National Guard would be increased from its current complement of approximately 2000 soldiers to perhaps four to ten times that amount (the United States Military has in excess of 30,000 soldiers and airmen stationed in Alaska). It would also be likely that in addition to the National Guard, which would be more of a full time force than currently constituted, a universal citizen armed force modeled roughly on the Swiss militia, comprised of all able-bodied citizens between 18-50 years of ages be established. According to Demographic Statistics Alaska, this citizen force would be more than 250,000 strong, contrast this to Australia – population 21.8 million with an active military including reserves of 103,000. This group of citizen soldiers would be deployed in the event of natural disasters, and of course in the

event of invasion, they would not be utilized outside of Alaska and generally not outside their own region of the state.

The subject of existing United States military bases in Alaska must be addressed. Other than the three Coast Guard Facilities located in Juneau, Valdez and Kodiak, which would be transferred in total (including all equipment real and chattel) there are currently six United States Army and Air Force Bases in Alaska. They are:

1. Clear Air Force Station – this is primarily an early warning radar facility staffed by less than 400 personnel.
2. Eielson a smaller AFB base East of Fairbanks, used primarily for training purposes.
3. Elmendorf AFB together with Fort Richardson US Army with a total of about 23,000 military personnel, contractors and dependents is located in the greater Anchorage metropolitan area.
4. Fort Richardson US Army (see above)
5. Fort Greeley a testing site for new weapons systems located South of Fairbanks
6. Fort Wainwright is a US Army training center in the Fairbanks metropolitan area, currently staffed by about 7500 soldiers plus dependents.

Most of these bases are probably less important to the US Army and Air Force than they are to the cities of Alaska. Fairbanks with a population of slightly less than 100,000 would be hard hit with the closure of Fort Wainwright. Anchorage with its greater population would perhaps be more able to suffer from the closure of Elmendorf – Richardson, but would still experience some economic hardships. It would be assumed that the US Government would be responsible for toxic waste cleanup as it is the case when the US military peacefully abandons a military base in other countries.

While it would be possible to allow the United States to maintain all six US Army/Air Force sites it would make diplomatic relations with the other nations more difficult. It may be that some of these bases may be closed while some are leased to the United States Army and Air Force.

International relations and Monetary Policy:

In order to maintain its somewhat precarious neutrality, Alaska would as a minimum require diplomatic relations with Russia, China, Japan, Canada, the United States and perhaps (South) Korea. I believe that little is gained by any multilateral memberships such as the UN, and it is doubtful if official diplomatic relations would be required with any other world powers or nations.

Alaska would need its own monetary policy, as one of the reasons to leave the Union would be to remove their economy from the possibility of a collapse of the US Dollar. Alaska could conceivably base their currency on hard assets: oil, metals etc. however, this could result in a rapid currency flight of Alaska Dollars if the world assumes the Alaskan Dollar is a safe haven of value. This would leave an independent Alaska without the required level of currency to allow her economy to function. A solution could be by backing the Alaskan Dollar with a weighted basket of currencies, specifically the Yen, Ruble, Yuan, US and Canadian Dollars. This basket would be weighted based on the trade percentages perhaps with some hard assets incorporated into the mix. The independent Alaskan monetary policy would attempt to maintain the value of the currency allowing such growth in the money supply to facilitate trade and combat inflation caused by any single of their trading partners.

Some form of FDIC (insurance against bank failure) would be required for Alaskan banks as they would no longer be part of the US banking system. US banks would still operate in an independent Alaska in a manner similar to their operations in other independent countries. As Alaska is still a tourist location, it is assumed that U.S. and Canadian Dollars would be still a significant medium of exchange in tourist attractions.

Policy on Immigrants and Emigrants:

It would be envisioned that for a period of two years that there should be relatively open immigration from the United States (and possibly Canada), and that Alaskans could freely immigrate to the United States. One benefit from the standpoint of the United States would be that Alaska would function as a safety valve in allowing dissidents to immigrate to Alaska and remove themselves from the United States.

After the period of time for free movement, the policy would be revisited. One reason for this emigration from Alaska would be the maintenance of entitlements such as Medicare and the like which could be lost if one accepted Alaskan citizenship, or was physically residing outside the United States; on the other hand immigration to Alaska would be based on Alaska's lower tax rates and less regulations.

While Alaska would be desirous of population; I believe that after the "initial sorting out time" Alaska would seek to limit their citizenship to those immigrants who are skilled and would add to the economic, cultural and or academic fabric of an independent Alaska. New Zealand generally excludes immigration from those over 55, unless the immigrant is making a significant economic investment (<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/>). However, New Zealand does have a "European like" welfare state that may not be replicated in Alaska, and may be less concerned with immigrants whose primary motivation is free medical care.

Legal Foundation:

Generally most of the current laws of Alaska would be unchanged. Some changes may be made when laws were "forced upon Alaska" by the United States Government. Generally independent Alaska would need to add to their

legal system functions previously under the control of the United States Government: such as international relations, defense and the like. The executive branch of government may require revisions; perhaps the title of the governor would be changed to president. An independent Alaska would not need to establish a new level of government upon its existing state. Unlike a "federal" system that would require a new government, the state of Alaska would merely assume certain additional responsibilities.

Texas:

The Population of Texas is 25,674,681 or about 35 times that of Alaska as estimated by the US Census Bureau. The largest metropolitan areas of Texas are: Dallas-Fort Worth with a population of 6,526,548, Houston 6,086,538, San Antonio 2,194,927 Austin 1,783,519, El Paso 820,790, and McAllen 797,810. Each of these metropolitan areas is larger than Alaska's total population of 722,718.

A stand-alone Texas would be a sizable country (47th in the world by population) and economic powerhouse with a GDP of \$1.2 Trillion Dollars that would place Texas slightly behind Australia as the world's 14th largest economy.

Greater Texas:

In the event of the secession of Texas, other states may elect to join her. Assuming that the "tipping point" of a state considering leaving the Union was a 55% percent vote for the losing Presidential candidate in 2012 the Republic of Greater Texas would consist of a contiguous landmass consisting of: Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming. In addition to its border with the United States Greater Texas would have two international borders (Canada and Mexico) and have a major presence on the Gulf of Mexico. The population of this Greater Texas (68.8 million) would be seventeenth in the world following Germany. The Gross

Domestic Product (\$3.1 trillion) would be fifth in the world also following Germany. The portion of the current United States becoming Greater Texas would be 21 per cent of the existing US by GDP and 22.3% of the population.

If the four Southern states and Indiana that voted for the Republican Presidential Nominee (Georgia (53.4%), Missouri (53.9%), North Carolina (50.6%), South Carolina (54.6%) and Indiana (54.1%)) were added to Greater Texas the new nation would have a substantial presence on the Atlantic and her population would grow to 105.1 million just behind Mexico becoming the 12th largest country while its GDP would move it above Germany to become the fourth largest economic power in the world. As a reference this would make Greater Texas 34% of the current US population and it would have a GDP of 32.1% of the current US GDP.

Rivers especially the Mississippi (also a concern to the US Army Corps of Engineers) would be bifurcated between the upper and lower reaches. Assuming Missouri was a part of Greater Texas, the Mississippi would be a dividing line between the Missouri and Illinois. Currently Iowa and to a lesser extent Illinois and Minnesota are "Blue" States that rely on the Mississippi to ship farm product to the world via the Mississippi. The ramifications of the transfer of the Mississippi while great may not be as contentious as that of the Ohio that borders West Virginia and Kentucky on the South and Ohio, Indiana (a "Red" state), and Illinois on the North.

I have not included Arizona into Greater Texas for some purely arbitrary reasons. While Arizona did vote for the Republican Presidential nominee by 54.8%, the issue of water between California and Arizona would be very difficult to resolve if they were each part of an independent nation. The Arizona/Mexican border is about ½ the length of the Texas/Mexican border – California and New Mexico's borders with Mexico are much smaller. If Arizona would join Greater Texas it would leave New Mexico and Colorado as a part of the US totally

surrounded by Red States (and Mexico). Depending on the election of the three Atlantic "Red" States, Florida would be cut off from the rest of the nation or included if Highway 95 continued south through the Carolinas and Georgia.

However regardless of the inclusion or exclusion of these five or six states that voted for the Republican nominee with less than 55% the fact remains that the United States would be bifurcated, as Greater Texas would run from Canada to Mexico. However in 1860 California and Oregon were separated by about a thousand miles from the balance of the country by various territories.

While much of the discussion of the secession of Alaska would be relevant to Greater Texas and many of the suggestions have application, the sheer magnitude of Greater Texas creates an uncertainty of its own.

Military Power:

A stand-alone independent Texas would not be considered a weak state. Greater Texas would be a super power and as such would probably possess a military that would be the approximate equal to the remaining United States. There are more than 100 military bases located in the states comprising Greater Texas; these bases range in size from small to huge. While none of the 10 US Navy aircraft carriers are home ported in Greater Texas, a re-alignment of forces based on the desires of Greater Texas and the balance of the United States would be required. The issue of offshore facilities would need to be addressed – perhaps neither the US or Greater Texas would have the desire to project military power in all of the world theaters currently covered by the United States Military. This realignment would be most significant to Europe and Japan who for many generations have structured their economy on the basis that the US military would always be there to protect them.

While the subject of military basis in Alaska is rather simple the only major concern being the Early Warning located at the Clear Air Force Base, the military

bases in Greater Texas have been an integral part of the United States for centuries.

If Greater Texas demanded its one-third of all current US military assets including the Air Force's Strategic Missile's and Aircraft, the Navy's Aircraft Carriers and ballistic submarines and of course nuclear weapons, it would be a world super power being counted among the top military powers in the world. The implications would be most significant; as this growth would be instantaneous and at the expense of the United States. It would be assumed that a significant number of officers (both commissioned and non-commissioned would elect to transfer from the US Military to the Greater Texas Military).

Economic Power

In terms of Economic power, as previously stated, the states comprising Greater Texas would be the fourth or fifth largest economy in the world, and as such would create a new world currency. The size of its economy would probably make the use of a gold backed currency impractical. It would be highly unlikely that Greater Texas would wish to maintain exposure to the US Dollar. Hence a new Bank of Greater Texas and a National Treasury system would be required. This new system would more than likely be a direct part of the government and not a quasi-independent private entity like the Federal Reserve System.

How the bifurcation of the United States would impact the use of the US Dollar as the de-facto standard world currency is unknown, however it is doubtful if the outcome would be pleasant. Many may argue that it is only a matter of time until the US Dollar is "dethroned" given its current accumulation of debt. It could be that a "collapse" in the US Dollar would be the triggering device causing the birth of Greater Texas or perhaps the other way around.

Political, Economic and Frontier Considerations

If Texas is joined by other states a new federal government would be required; this paper has referred to this new government as Greater Texas. Unlike Alaska (which need only add certain new departments and responsibilities to their current state government), Greater Texas would need to establish a new government to replace the United States. It would be assumed based on the experience of that of the Confederate States of America that Greater Texas would liberally borrow from the founding documents of the United States. Many believe that the Confederates saw themselves as the rightful successor to the American Revolution. If Greater Texas accepted the founding documents as written (and amended) and assumed all of the current federal statutes and legal opinions – the sorting out of these as to what would stay and what would be eliminated would be horrific. If Greater Texas assumed only the founding documents as written and did not transport any current federal laws (including judicial and administrative rulings), years of uncertainty would exist. In the mind of the author there is no “good solution” for this problem. Unlike Alaska where few additional responsibilities and duties are added to an existing government to form independent Alaska; Greater Texas must form an entirely new government, made of the seceding states to replace the government of United States of America. Further since the United States Government Code has been broadened over the last several decades to include regulations on the height of mirrors in public restrooms, the type of food acceptable to be fed to children in public schools, type of light bulbs allowed, number of gallons used to flush toilets, to say nothing of the so called “ObamaCare” it will be difficult for a the government of Greater Texas to address these regulations and arrive at a consensus as to what should or should not be included in a new governmental arrangement. Another political concern would be which, if any, of the treaty obligations of the United States; would be honored by Greater Texas?

The amount of the public debt assumed by Greater Texas would be in the neighborhood of \$3.4 to \$5.4 trillion dollars as a proportionate share of the \$15.9

trillion dollars in the United States. This would be slightly less than 120% of GDP of Greater Texas, high, but not totally unmanageable assuming it would be capped and the spending (save for the indebtedness to the US Government) would be less than the sum collected for governmental operations. As would be the case with Alaska; Greater Texas would assume the debt by issuing a note in favor of the United States Government thereby reducing the US deficit by a quarter to a third.

We could assume a population transfer similar to that outlined in the section on Alaska, however as the two nations would be contiguous, there would be a question of control exercised by Greater Texas and the United States on their frontiers. Unlike Alaska that does not share a border with the United States, Texas (or Greater Texas) would share a significant frontier that could stretch for thousands of miles. In the event that Greater Texas was comprised of additional states so as to extend to the Canadian border and thus bifurcate the United States; a method somewhat like the "Berlin Corridor" would need to exist so that the Eastern United States would have a "land bridge" to the Western United States. A similar issue would be raised if non-contiguous states joined Greater Texas.

While it is true that Texas Governor Rick Perry has never publically supported Texas secession from the United States he is reported to have stated:

"There's a lot of different scenarios," Perry said. "We've got a great union. There's absolutely no reason to dissolve it. But if Washington continues to thumb their nose at the American people, you know, who knows what might come out of that. But Texas is a very unique place, and we're a pretty independent lot to boot. (Huffington Post) "

It would seem to this writer that the secession of Texas or Greater Texas while possible and unlike the secession of Alaska creates a multitude of concerns and problems. These problems while not insurmountable are vastly

more complex than a simple statement such as that made by South Carolina in the late fall of 1860 dissolving their ties with the mother country.

Conclusion

Therefore it appears to this writer that while secession may be discussed as a viable alternative in New Hampshire, it is unlikely that when facing reality, this action it is secession will proceed. Likewise Hawaii may discuss secession but it is more posturing by certain elements in the state and very unlikely to come to fruition.

Several individuals have voiced a desire that Texas lead the political "right" (AKA the "Red" States) out of the United States, leaving the US to muddle on with its movement toward a more centralized government. This paper briefly reviews the possibility of such secession and finds really no true methodology has been developed of dealing with the multitude of problems of a bifurcation of the United States. While it is not the position of this author that Texas could not successfully secede from the Union, it is the author's position that the secession of Texas or Greater Texas' is much more complicated than its proponents have addressed. It involves much more than saying "we're out of here." In the event of the secession of Texas or Greater Texas the United States of America would cease to exist as it currently does. The combined foreign policy of both the New United States and Greater Texas would be radically changed, it is doubtful if either of these nations would attempt to project power on a worldwide basis as the United States has done since the beginning and certainly the latter part of the twentieth century. As pointed out above the military umbrella that the United States has provided over Western Europe, Japan and Taiwan (Republic of China) would more than likely be severely decreased. Without the United States guarantee to maintain the independence of Taiwan I would wonder how much time would exist prior to the annexation of the "renegade province" by China. It is this author's opinion that the secession of Greater Texas would be the most significant international geopolitical event since the Second World War. I leave it

to later studies to opine as to the actual details of the world in a post American era caused by the secession of Greater Texas.

Alaska is however a totally different situation. Even though Alaska is larger (in landmass) than any Western European nation Alaska's leaving the Union would not change the United States or significantly diminish the US status as a world power. Starting with Alaska's geography, and the fact it shares no land border with the "Lower 48" eliminates the problem of the frontier. Alaska meets most of the criteria for secession. Alaska does have a reasonable method of dealing with the assumption of US liabilities, has a stable source of national revenue and, in my opinion, would maintain a rather low level of new national expenses. Since Alaska would rely on power balancing between their neighbors and not attempt to project power the most significant military issue is the economic dislocation from the closing of military bases in the two largest cities of the state. In short if any state would or could individually leave the Union it would be Alaska.

Perhaps the secession of Alaska could be more analogous to that of the Philippines in the twentieth century than that of South Carolina in the nineteenth. A few notes on the Philippine Independence effort in the first half of the twentieth century are in order. In March of 1934 the Tydings-McDuffie Act was passed by the Congress and signed into law by President Roosevelt. While some think that economic considerations caused by the "great depression" and the importation of agricultural crops, especially sugar from the Philippines and latent American racism may have been considerations behind the granting of Philippine Independence the wheels were set in motion for an independent Philippine nation.

The Tydings-McDuffie Act called for the US government of the grant the Philippines a Commonwealth status leading to independence ten years later (rather a similar arrangement to that proposed by Scotland). The Constitution of

the Philippines was to contain certain guarantees, and was subject to the approval of the President of the United States. Eventually (interrupted by the Japanese occupation in the Second World War) the Philippines became independent. The independence did have restrictions on immigration from the Philippines to the United States (50 per year), and the establishment of and granting the United States Military the Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Force Base (returned to the Philippine Government in 1992).

Other than the granting of the above cited military bases, and the Filipino Repatriation Act of 1935 (over turned by the US Supreme Court in 1940) that reclassified all Filipino Nationals to aliens and offered a one way transport to return such aliens to the Philippine Islands at the expense of the US Government this author could find no offer for remuneration to the United States Government by the Philippine government for their independence. On 4 July 1946 Philippines joined the world community as a new and separate nation (incidentally the date of 12 June is currently recognized as Philippine Independence Day as it was the day that the Philippines became free from the Spanish Crown in 1898).

Will Alaska seek independence? The Alaskans themselves will answer this question. Would Alaskan independence be a significant geopolitical event in the magnitude of a secession of Greater Texas I should think not. Alaska could employ a model successfully used by the Philippines as a road to independence. I have suggested that Alaska would pay for their independence by assumption of a prorated share of the US national debt in payment of the purchase of assets owned by the United States Government, and the elimination of the payments by the United States to Alaska in excess of the federal taxes collected. I have suggested, unlike the Philippine experience that other than early warning posts all United States Military bases in Alaska be closed. Unlike Greater Texas, Alaska's leaving would go more or less unnoticed by the bulk of the citizens in the lower 48. Alaska's leaving would save the US Government \$330 Billion over 30 years, switch \$36 Billion of Debt to an Asset and earn the US Government

about \$29 Billion in interest (at 4%) over the same 30 years – just under \$400 Billion increase in the funds of the United States Treasury.

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Author's Biography

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Reapportionment –first computerized reapportionment, Vice President's Election Staff 1964.

Other Writings: *"We don't need no badges": The Use of Governmentally Instituted Civil Litigation to Establish Public Policy and Control Business* (2002 which lead to Federal legislation passed in 2005 and signed into law by the President), *Accounting for the Construction and Development Industry* (1990), *Financing Real Estate Development and Construction* (1999), *An In-depth Analysis of Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977* (1980), *A Military History of the First 30 Years of Islam* (1980), *Financial Security through Reverse Mortgage Secure Living* (1992), *Developing Your First Rental Property Apartment Age* (June 1991).

Boards of directors XARM (current), Fan-Tech Corporation (1980-1983) and Pepperdine University Alumni Board 1992-1996 – member of executive committee. Member Leadership Committee (2006-2007) of 60,000+- member Institute of Management Accountants.

Awards Recipient of Saint Margaret's Center - Certificate (1998), American Red Cross - Manager's Challenge Award (1989 & 1990).

Some rules for Texas secessionists before they depart from us



Texas secessionists have so much to whine about (David Horsey / Los Angeles Times / November 29, 2012)

By David Horsey

November 29, 2012, 10:59 p.m.

There may be secessionists in all 50 states, but Texas can boast of the biggest cohort of independent-minded (unhinged?) folks who want to cast off the "tyranny" of the federal government and go it alone.

Well over 100,000 Texans have signed a petition to the president of the United States requesting that he let the Lone Star State depart from the Union peacefully and amicably. The last time Texas and 10 other states tried this, of course, a rather nasty fight ensued — the 150th anniversary of which the nation is observing right now.

[Abraham Lincoln](#) was not keen on letting the slave states go. He sent armies south to bring them back into the fold and that should have settled the issue. But one secessionist website insists otherwise: "The South's rejoining the Union at the point of a bayonet in the late 1860s didn't prove secession is 'not an option' or unlawful. It only affirmed that

violent coercion can be used, even by governments (if unrestrained), to rob men of their very lives, liberty, and property."

These folks now warn that the government in Washington has grown so oppressive that the U.S. is on the verge of becoming just like Stalin's Soviet Union or Mao's China. Thus, secession is the only option.

Now, the prospect of moving ahead in this country without having to put up with paranoid fruitcakes who equate the [EPA](#) with the KGB and [President Obama](#) with Hitler is alluring. If we could put them all in one place and let them go, it would be a day of jubilee. But, even in states such as Louisiana, Alabama and South Carolina where tens of thousands of people have also signed petitions to secede, there are too many other good folks who should not be cast adrift. In particular, it is doubtful the black Americans in those states would be especially anxious to return to some sort of rebooted Confederacy. That did not work too well for their ancestors the last time around.

Still, if we want to say Lincoln was wrong and secession is an open alternative, Texas looks like the best place to give it a whirl. After all, the state was an independent country before joining the Union, so Texans have been there before. Additionally, Texas standing alone would be the 15th biggest economy in the world. Unlike Alabama and most other red states, it could get along fine without an inflow of tax dollars from the blue states.

However, there have to be some guidelines to this deal. Texans cannot just get up from the table and leave a bill for somebody else to pay. Texas must pay its share of the national [debt](#). It was a former governor of Texas who racked up the major part of that bill by giving his rich friends a huge tax cut and then buying two wars and a [prescription drug plan on credit](#).

Also, the new Republic of Texas must provide safe passage to all the Texas liberals who may want out. We do not want to see Austin become another West Berlin isolated in a vast, hostile territory.

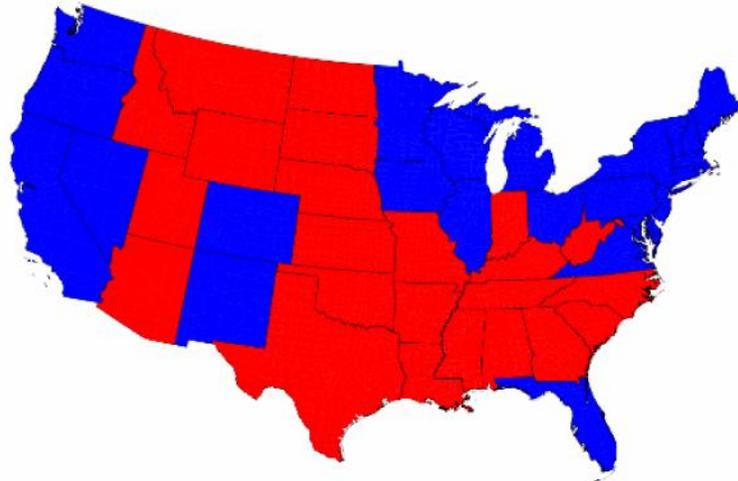
The next thing: Texas does not get to have nukes. We do not need Texans, with their famously itchy trigger fingers, fingering a nuclear button.

And one more stipulation: When the Latino population finally reaches a majority in Texas and decides to head a little further back into history by reuniting Texas with [Mexico](#), all you secessionists cannot come crying to us, pleading to be taken back into the United States.

By then, we will be done messing with Texas. If you are upset, take your grievances to [Mexico City](#).

2012 Presidential Election

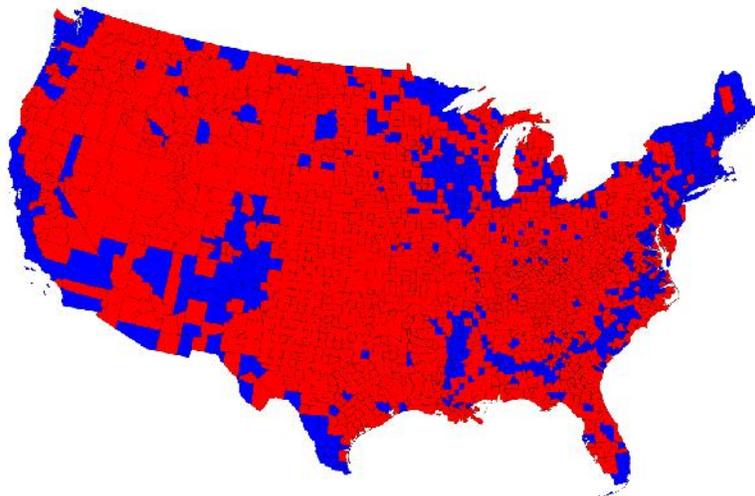
48 Contiguous States on a State-by-State basis



Non Contiguous States: Alaska voted Republican, Hawaii voted Democratic

Of the “Red” States all voted for the Republican Presidential candidate by 55% (or more) except Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Missouri, Indiana and Arizona.

The 48 Contiguous States on a County-by-County basis



Maps courtesy of [Mark Newman](#), Department of Physics and Center for the Study of Complex Systems, University of Michigan

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