

# THE NEW ENLIGHTENMENT

A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Peaceful American Revolution



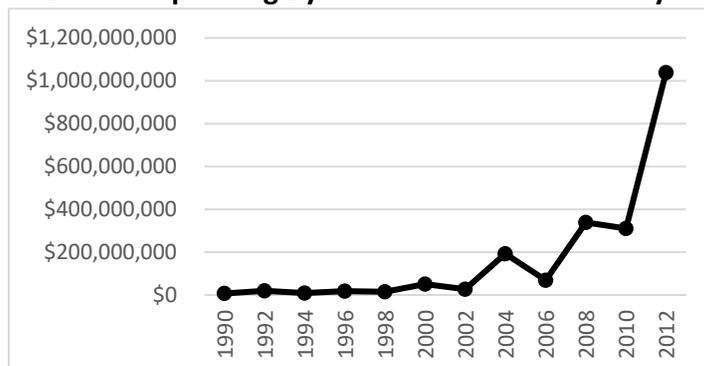
The Citizen's Union

The Book



## DEMOCRACY LOST

Election Spending By Non-Candidate Non-Party Groups



- Before the 2010 “Citizen’s United” Supreme Court decision the huge financial resources of corporations and extremely wealthy individuals were a serious corrupting influence on our democracy. The trend shown in the above chart indicates one reason all remnants of a meaningful democracy are disappearing.
- The Koch Brothers network alone will spend \$889 million on the 2016 presidential elections. This is about the amount each of the two major parties will spend.
- The U.S. Congress has a 9% approval rating, now reaching an historic low, as it has several times over the past 5 years, yet in 2012 and 2014 over 90% were reelected. Clearly we live in a country with a failed political system.
- Many have lost hope that the political system will serve their interests, even to the point of not bothering to vote. Why bother to vote if your interests will not be served whoever wins? In 2014, 36% of all eligible voters voted. This is the lowest voter participation rate in the developed world by far.
- Ex-President Carter whose Carter Center has monitored 96 election in 38 countries said *“We have one of the worst election processes in the world right in the United States, and its almost entirely because of the excessive influx of money.”*
- In a Gallup poll on Oct. 11, 2013, 60 percent of Americans, the highest Gallup has measured in the 10-year history of this question, said the Republican and Democratic parties *“do such a poor job that a major third party is needed”* Despite the urgent need to address this issue our political system and media make it almost impossible for a third party candidate to be elected to national office.
- [In 2016, 0.53% of Americans supplied 67.8% of the campaign contributions.](#)
- [In 2016, corporations spent \\$3.15 billion using 11,167 people to lobby Congress and federal agencies.](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: THE NEW ENLIGHTENMENT,  
PART 1, “NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE NEW ENLIGHTENMENT”

FOR SOLUTIONS: PART 2, “THE WAY TO PROSPERITY FOR ALL” &  
PART 3, “THE WAY TO A GOVERNMENT OF, FOR, AND BY THE PEOPLE”

PART 4, ADDITIONAL “SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND  
COMPELLING ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING POLICIES”

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