



SPOTLIGHT

The Truth About Birthright Citizenship

Following the Civil War, Congress passed a trio of amendments to the U.S. Constitution that were subsequently ratified by the required three-fourths of the existing states. The first such amendment was the 13th, which in a single sentence abolished slavery throughout the United States. It was submitted to the states on February 1, 1865, under President Abraham Lincoln and ratified on December 6, 1865, under President Andrew Johnson.

Next in line was the 14th Amendment, which was divided into five sections. The first section reads as follows: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

Did you catch that? The words "All persons born or naturalized in the United States" are followed by a caveat "and subject to the jurisdiction thereof..." In other words, you had to be legally residing in a particular state in order for "birthright citizenship" to apply to you.

We will return to that subject in a minute.

The 15th Amendment, which was passed by Congress on
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Why the Federal Income Tax Should Be Abolished ASAP

Glenn Beck hates Woodrow Wilson with a passion... and I'm not very fond of him either. After all, the man who got us into World War I and signed the federal income tax into law was either so power-hungry or hen-pecked (take your pick) that he allowed his second wife Edith to serve as de facto President for the final 18 months of his second term while he languished in bed following a debilitating stroke. Despite being physically – and perhaps mentally – incapacitated, Wilson then had the audacity to seek a third term in office but thankfully, cooler heads in the Democrat Party prevailed and he was denied the nomination in 1920.

Wilson, the only President who lived as a subject of the Confederacy, was also an avowed racist who packed his cabinet with segregationists and defended that abhorrent practice as "a rational, scientific policy". In private, Wilson was also known to tell racist jokes about black Americans.

Sounds like a pretty despicable human being to me!

Let's revisit Wilson's support of a federal income tax for a moment and see how he - and his Progressive counterparts in both parties including Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft - are largely responsible for setting in motion a policy of fiscal

confiscation by the federal government that has since taken on a life of its own.

First, we must consider previous taxes levied against American citizens and before them, American colonists. (Disclaimer: if you want to be spared the historical details, just skip down to the passage of the 16th Amendment in 1913.)

The Molasses Act of 1733 imposed a tax of 6 pence per gallon (equal to £5.24 today) on foreign molasses imported into British colonies. The purpose of the Molasses Act was not to raise revenue, but rather to make foreign molasses so expensive that it effectively created a monopoly for molasses imported from the British West Indies.

Unfortunately for the Brits, the colonists - demonstrating the same independent streak that led to the American Revolution - circumvented the molasses tax by smuggling the product from other countries and by bribing British officials.

The Sugar Act of 1764 reduced the molasses tax to 3 pence per gallon (equal to £2.24 today) in the hope that the lower rate would increase compliance and thus increase the amount of tax collected. However, all it did was anger the colonists even more.

The final straw was the Stamp Act of 1765, which required a British stamp on everything from real estate deeds

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to law licenses. Playing cards (a shilling per deck), dice (10 shillings per set), and newspapers and pamphlets (a penny per page) were also taxed. The uproar against the Stamp Act - along with the Townshend Acts of 1767 and the Tea Act of 1773 - stoked the revolutionary fires that led to the Revolutionary War.

That brings us to the Revenue Act of 1861, which was designed to help fund the Civil War at a time when the United States was still recovering from the Panic of 1857, the result of which was a \$40 million budget deficit. The bill's three-prong approach included raising certain import tariffs, implementing a newly instituted property tax, and levying a 3% flat tax on annual incomes over \$800 (the equivalent of \$27,129 in 2023). It was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln but a year later, Congress passed the Revenue Act of 1862 which repealed the 3% flat income tax and replaced it with a progressive income tax that started at 3% for annual incomes over \$600 (the equivalent of \$18,312 in 2023) and maxed out at 5% for annual incomes over \$10,000 (\$305,200 in 2023 dollars).

The Revenue Act of 1862 also called for excise taxes on "luxury and sin" items including, but not limited to liquor, tobacco, playing cards, gunpowder, feathers, telegrams, iron, leather, pianos, yachts, carriages, billiard tables, and jewelry. Other taxed items included patented medicines, newspaper advertisements, stamp

taxes, inheritance taxes, taxes on licenses for all services and professions (with the exception of clergy), and value added taxes (VAT) on manufactured goods and processed meats.

Regrettably, the Revenue Act of 1862 also established the Office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the predecessor of today's IRS.

Either the Civil War was becoming more expensive or the federal government was getting (and liking) its first taste of a guaranteed funding source... or both. What is readily apparent however, is that Washington's craving for more and more income to satisfy its insatiable bureaucratic appetite was just beginning.

Just two years later, Congress passed - and President Lincoln signed - the Revenue Act of 1864 which raised income tax rates to the following levels: 5% on annual incomes from \$600 to \$5,000; 7.5% from \$5,000 to \$10,000; and 10% on annual incomes of \$10,000 or more. The act also imposed stamp taxes (yes, the same kind that led to the American Revolution) on such items as matches and photographs.

Do you see where this is going? It's like a snowball rolling downhill, gathering up as much additional mass as possible until it obliterates everyone and everything in its path.

Because the public considered the Revenue Act of 1864 to be an emergency measure enacted during war-time, it was allowed to expire in 1873. However, buoyed by the Supreme Court's 1881 ruling in *Springer v. United States* that upheld the constitutionality of a federal income tax, Congress passed

the Revenue Act of 1894 (also known as the Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act), which slightly reduced tariff rates but imposed a 2% income tax on annual incomes over \$4,000.

A year later, SCOTUS modified its *Springer* decision in *Pollock v. Farmers' Loan & Trust Company*, striking down the Wilson-Gorman Act because it was an unapportioned direct tax that violated the Taxing Clause in Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

That remained the law of the land until, following the ratification of the 16th Amendment in February 1913, Congress pounced and quickly passed the Revenue Act of 1913 just eight months later... and the aforementioned President Wilson signed it into law.

And thus it has been and thus it shall ever be - unless and until Americans stand up and speak out about the tyranny of a progressive income tax and the prolific (and wasteful) spending it creates by overfeeding an already bloated federal government.

For the first 85 years of American history, our federal government was funded mainly by tariffs, which had the dual benefits of protecting U.S. business interests while limiting the size and power of a centralized government. However, once the Supreme Court signed off on the legality of a federal income tax with no restrictions, it was "Katie, bar the door".

And that, my friends, is why I believe we need to abolish the federal income tax "tout de suite", which is French for immediately. Or as they say in my home state of New Jersey, "a week ago Tuesday".

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Yes, I realize that the federal government needs a constant and reliable source of revenue to fund our military, maintain our infrastructure, and meet our contractual obligations to seniors. However, I am 100% convinced that Uncle Sam has become a gluttonous boor who needs to be put on a crash diet for his benefit and ours.

In that spirit, I am calling for abol-

ishing the federal income tax and enacting a FAIR Tax (otherwise known as a consumption tax) that simply taxes citizens when they spend money and doesn't tax them when they don't. Logically, wealthy people will spend more and consequently, they will be taxed more heavily. To ensure that the "little guy" isn't hurt by this new tax structure, we can exempt certain necessities such as groceries, basic transportation, and energy costs.

Buy a loaf of bread and there is no tax. Buy a luxury car, a yacht, an RV, or a vacation home and you owe Uncle Sam a percentage of the purchase price.

A second alternative would be a Flat Tax that would collect a set percentage of a person's annual income. No exceptions and no exemptions. Because 10% of \$500,000 is more than 10% of \$50,000; people with higher incomes would pay substantially more.

Best of all, since there would be no deductions or refunds, there would be no need for the IRS to have 90,000 employees and a \$15 billion budget. Just hire a few hundred people to process the money as it comes in... period.

I think our Founding Fathers would like that idea very much.

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February 26, 1869, and ratified by the states on February 3, 1870, granted the right to vote to all black men in one simple sentence...

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Lump Amendments 13-15 together and they convey a unified message: black Americans, including former slaves, have the same rights as white Americans or those of any other race. That was the underlying theme for these three amendments that were passed and ratified during the Reconstruction period.

Fast forward to 2025 and President Donald Trump. On the first day of his second term, President Trump

issued an executive order titled, "Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship". In the order, President Trump correctly cited the premise for the 14th Amendment, which was to overturn and invalidate the Dred Scott decision. (Dred Scott v. Sandford was an 1857 case in which the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the Constitution and its enumerated rights did not apply to African Americans.)

President Trump also logically asserted that the invaluable right of U.S. citizenship did not automatically extend to children born on American soil whose parents were not U.S. citizens themselves or here legally. For the purpose of the order, foreign nationals here on a temporary student, worker, or tourist visa are not considered legal residents.

Personally - and as a student of American history - I agree 100% with President Trump's executive order and the historical precedents on which it rests. There is simply no

way that you can convince me that multiple presidents, the Congress of the United States, and three-fourths of our state legislatures meant to allow someone to enter the U.S. illegally, give birth to a child, and expect that child to be granted immediate citizenship. On the contrary, most historians - amateur and otherwise - have concluded that the 14th Amendment was written with former slaves and their progeny in mind... period. To misconstrue it otherwise is an affront to African Americans and the terrible hardships they faced.

From the days of the Apostle Paul (see Acts 22:22-29), citizenship has been considered something to be highly cherished and not easily granted. Let us not make the mistake of breaking that centuries old understanding and appreciation by granting birthright citizenship to the children of illegal immigrants who just happen to have been born on this side of the Rio Grande or the St. Lawrence River.

The Ins and Outs of the Trump Presidency

There is a new sheriff in town and his name is Donald J. Trump.

When he rode into Washington D.C. on January 20th and took his rightful seat behind the Resolute Desk, President Trump made it abundantly clear that he planned to shake things up inside the Beltway, across the country, and around the world. By righting the wrongs of the Biden administration - which he pointedly and accurately accused of betraying the American people - President Trump launched an ambitious crusade to restore common sense and American values.

Here is a short list of people and policies that are either out or in under the new administration...

Out - political correctness...
In - common sense

Out - DEI... In - meritocracy

Out - Transgenderism... In - Two biological sexes

Out - Men competing against women in sports... In - Women competing against women in sports

Out - Climate change as an existential threat... In - China as an existential threat

Out - Mandatory Covid vaccines...
In - Voluntary Covid vaccines

Out - A woke military... In - Military preparedness

Out - American shame...
In - American pride

Out - Critical race theory...
In - American exceptionalism

Out - Chuck Schumer...
In - John Thune

Out - Dr. Anthony Fauci...
In - Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Out - Gen. Mark Milley...
In - Pete Hegseth

Out - Alejandro Mayorkas...
In - Kristi Noem

Out - Antony Blinken...
In - Marco Rubio

Out - Globalism and endless wars...
In - America first policy

Out - Social media fact checkers...
In - Free speech

Out - Beyonce and Lady Gaga...
In - Carrie Underwood and Christopher Macchio

Out - Oprah Winfrey...
In - Joe Rogan

Out - The View... In - The Five

Out - Hollywood... In - America's Heartland

Out - Electric car mandates...
In - Consumer freedom

Out - The Green New Deal and offshore windfarms...
In - Energy independence and drill, baby, drill

Out - Socialism... In - Capitalism

Out - George Soros...
In - Elon Musk

Out - Lawfare... In - Equal justice under the law

Out - Open borders... In - Border wall

Out - Illegal immigration...
In - Legal immigration

Out - Catch and release...
In - Remain in Mexico

Out - The Gulf of Mexico...
In - The Gulf of America

Out - Denali... In - Mount McKinley

Out - Jill Biden and Doug Emhoff...
In - Melania Trump and Usha Vance

Out - Joe Biden and Kamala Harris...
In - Donald Trump and J.D. Vance

Feel free to add a few of your own!



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