

Masiello shares his reeducation on critical topics in American history that were overlooked or absent from his schooling. These insights form the core of American Solidarity 2026. A Message from History: A Call to Action.

American Solidarity 2026 - A Message from History: A Call to Action

By Matthew G. Masiello MD MPH

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AMERICAN SOLIDARITY 2026

A MESSAGE FROM HISTORY,
A CALL TO ACTION

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT, INDIA
U.S CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF THE '60s & '70s
THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT
THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT
BLACK LIVES MATTER
FRIDAY'S FOR FUTURE / CLIMATE STRIKES
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INDIGENOUS LAND RIGHTS MOVEMENT
WOMEN'S ICELANDIC DAY
DOCTORS AGAINST GENOCIDE

MATTHEW G. MASIELLO M.D., MPH

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A Path Forward – Summary Part 2

So, where will the 21st century take us? What path will we choose? How much of an activist will you, I or we become? The violence and crimes against humanity documented in our U.S. history clearly indicate that we are once again on the perilous path of national chaos, upheaval, and the destabilization of our 250-year-old democracy. In a 2004 edition of *Common Sense*, Diana Gabaldon, the author of *Outlander*, a popular book series, was invited to write the Foreword. She described Paine's many qualities and flaws, highlighting one: "He 'thought' – probably as remarkable an action in his day as in ours." I have tried to do the same with this document. I thought about my ignorance, tried to correct it, and am now speaking up for a call-to-action.

Gabaldon eloquently compares Paine's role to a rain cloud: "He was the ice crystals and particles, the nucleus, to the amorphous water vapor surrounding that nucleus. He initiated a downpour with a vengeance." In a small way, I hope the readers of this pamphlet pause and reflect on the significance of our origins as a country. Consider the brilliance, debate, arguments, and, yes, the violence and wars that have shaped our history. Our political leaders owe it to our past to now engage in intelligent discussions and understand our history. If they do not—

and continue to believe their interpretation of history is correct and thus proper—if we allow this, we have all failed. Americans, acting in solidarity, can be those ice crystals, propagating a movement 'with a vengeance.'

The United States' Constitution is a masterpiece. Honestly, I can only say this after years of re-learning. This historic document resulted from years of discussion, debate, and argument among individuals with no political ties, as there were no established political parties at that time (1775–1783). These individuals came together to create a document that has been, or should be, the foundation of our existence as a democratic, free society that defends human rights and the right to live free from fear of religious and racial bigotry.

The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were drafted eleven years apart. Imagine a country coming together, fighting for independence, and enduring another eleven years with only a de facto national government and no president, yet uniting in a debate of heroic proportions to establish a government. The Declaration of Independence proclaimed our freedom from the monarchy of Great Britain. The Constitution and Bill of Rights were established to support our country's unity when it falters, when our freedoms are denied, and when the population needs assistance to uphold the ideals set forth by the Founding Fathers.⁹⁵

Thomas Paine was a religious man who opposed organized religion, calling it a “tool for the divine right of kings.” Paine quoted Giacinto Dragonetti, an Italian lawyer and author of *A Treatise on Virtues and Rewards*, who wrote, “The science of the politician consists in fixing the true point of happiness and freedom. Those men who deserve the gratitude of ages should discover a mode of government that contains the greatest sum of individual happiness with the least national expense.”

Even though total unity eludes us, we can still find a sense of solidarity. It should be our divine mission as we approach the 250th anniversary of our country. The collective ‘we’ who adhere to the ideals written in our historical documents must stand firm against those who do not; stand firm against individuals who believe their religion is superior to others; stand firm against those who think, even today, that some people should have less freedom than others. Stand firm and without fear against those who believe that genocide and population displacement are a rational approach to coexisting on this one planet.

A better humanity described as neither democratic nor republican, liberal nor conservative, and not defined by my religion versus your religion, must be the future of this country. The alternative is a future plagued by fear, authoritarianism, ongoing racism, and bigotry. The 2026 *National Solidarity Movement* will open a new frontier

for us. It has long been the unknown frontier that Americans have faced with courage and determination over the decades. This goal of solidarity must be approached with virtue, high ethics, and honesty, and above all, a clear sense of who we are as Americans—individuals who work hard and sacrifice to be part of this Nation. I raise the flag for a revolution of solidarity. The year 2026, our 250th anniversary, should mark the beginning of true solidarity when people worldwide, in peaceful unity, speak out and march to reclaim freedom, happiness, and equal justice for all.

"THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country, but he that stands by it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered, yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods, and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated."

-Thomas Paine, 1776

What path will we take? Who will emerge as the great leaders to guide this solidarity movement in 2026 and beyond? It's time to change the course of current events.

The plan must start now. Celebrate this 250th anniversary if we believe in compassionate capitalism; celebrate if we wish to regain respect from our former allies and adversaries; celebrate if we aspire to create the most successful technological society to ever exist on this planet; celebrate if we are dedicated to educating, feeding, and ensuring the health of our children in this great country and beyond to other nations in need; celebrate if we desire an immigration policy that reflects the lessons learned from our successes and failures of the past. Let us celebrate a renewed respect for our Native American citizens, celebrate all religions while keeping politics free of religion. Celebrate the wealthy paying their fair share to reduce poverty, feed our children, build our roads and highways, and lastly, celebrate peace over war and genocide.

It will not be easy. We are a nation shaped by both numerous failures and significant successes. Yet, we are different and can continue to be different, strong, and democratic. Brave individuals came together 250 years ago to create something new, distinct, and essential. We can do it again. The foundation is there. We need remarkable leaders to stand and speak for America, all of America, and humanity itself. Let the people choose them, not the wealthy, powerful, or the bully ideologues now in control of our government. The 20th and 21st centuries have witnessed numerous solidarity movements

in the United States - the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, the Anti-Apartheid Movement, the Women's Suffrage Movement, Black Lives Matter⁹⁶, Fridays for Future/Climate Strikes, the #MeToo Movement, and Occupy Wall Street. All these movements demonstrate the lasting will and moral strength of concerned individuals for our country, for our freedoms, and for our human rights. The American Solidarity Movement of 2026 will identify exceptional leaders and diminish the influence of those who propagate fear, ignorance, meanness, and divisive rhetoric.⁹⁷

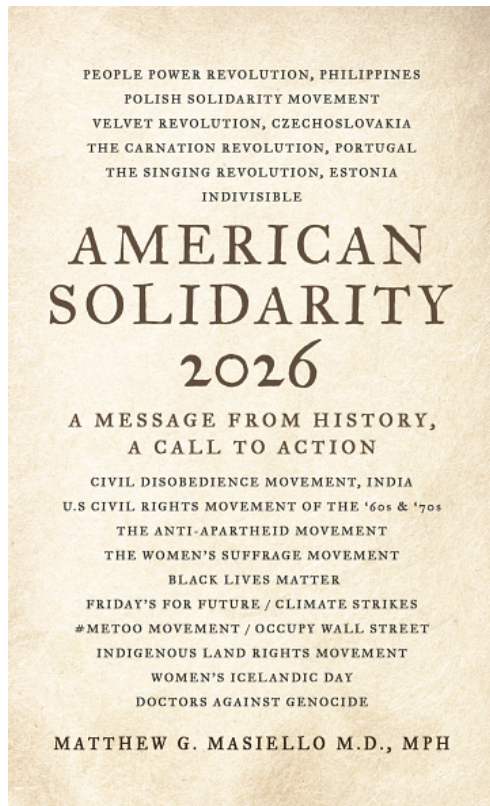
Racism did not begin, nor will it end, in the United States. Genocide has a long global history. Despite our significant failures, we have experienced moments of self-improvement throughout our history. Now is the moment, in national solidarity, to push further, dig deeper, and shine brighter to reinforce this nation's 250-year-old foundation and start anew.

Leaders will emerge when ordinary people, from the ground up, create a momentum of action that makes leadership evident. Peaceful protests and large gatherings are highly effective.⁹⁸ History has proven this. Erica Chenoweth⁹⁹, Professor of Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School, tells us that from 1900 to 2006, nonviolent civil resistance was twice as successful as violent protests. This is known as the "3.5% rule", which

states that no government can withstand a challenge from 3.5% of its population. Governments are compelled to comply with massive, peaceful challenges. With the 2025 U.S. population of approximately 343,600,404, twelve (12) million Americans would need to step up for democracy. We have a modern precedent; during 2020, the Black Lives Matter protests reached this number. For our 250th anniversary, in July 2026, we must orchestrate a week that mobilizes that 3.5%. Undecided politicians, morally weak politicians, and potential future leaders will be encouraged or compelled to make decisions—decisions that benefit America. A National Solidarity Movement will take us there. It will shape the future of the country we call the United States of America.

The March of Providence is so slow, and our desires so impatient; the work of progress is so immense and our means of aiding it so feeble; the life of humanity is so long, that of the individual so brief, that we often see only the ebb of the advancing wave and are thus discouraged. It is history that teaches us hope.”

- Robert E. Lee¹⁰⁰



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