



A Free Press

The Focused Fire Newsletter - Copyright © Affinity Systems LLC, April 2019, Issue 71

The disruptive beat of propaganda from the media, the "fourth estate" or branch of government, is disconcerting and distracting. Perhaps we all need refreshed perspectives.

The Bill of Rights established the freedom of the press and granted it special privileges. Their job was finding facts and turning them into unbiased information for public consumption. The founders believed that given accurate information, we would elect and provide guidance to officials, who in turn would take fact-based action.

The professional newspapers are now obsolete, replaced by multi-media corporations focused on the high-yield high-interest content that consumers want in one page summarized increments. These mixed media consortiums, many directly linked to political parties, continue to enjoy and abuse the privileges granted by the Constitution.

The painful aspect is recognizing that we reap the consequences of our inaction. I want to put all of the blame on the politicians, but we voted them into power. As a child, I often read "Pogo," the comic strip by Walt Kelly. In one cartoon, Pogo and a friend overlook a world covered with litter. Pogo makes his classic comment, "We has met the enemy, and he is us."

Some things never change, and today's litter is our long list of legislative needs, mostly ignored.

We, a divided people, suffer from self-inflicted agony. One side wants our present government to win. Some elitist members of the opposition, entrenched in the dogma that overthrowing the elected government is more important than preserving the republic, are willing to scorch the earth to get their way and damn the consequences. But then again, they are more intelligent and knowledgeable than the majority that voted against them-or, so they tell us, and who are we to argue.

Best regards,



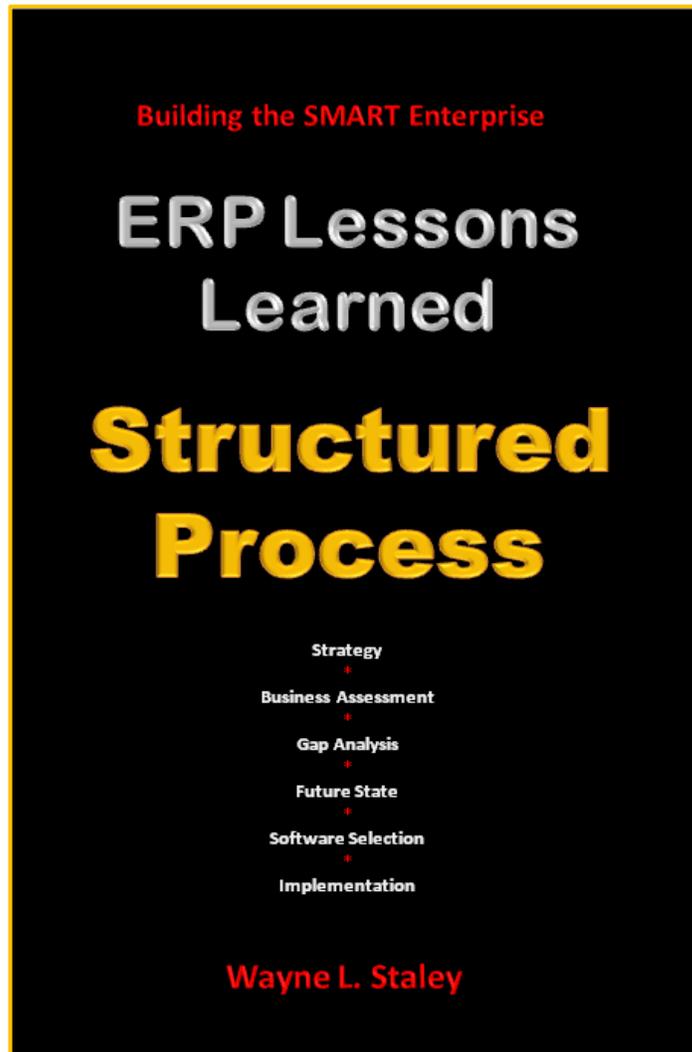
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