



Figure 1 Photograph by Wayne L Staley

Welcome to Competitive America

Business consulting gives opportunities to travel, providing numerous worldwide photographic chances to document natural and industrial systems. Along with profound beauty, there are hard and unpleasant

lessons learned. One critical message is how lucky we are to live in America and how rare and fragile our human state and opportunity are.

Another lesson learned is how fast circumstances change, jeopardizing freedoms, lifestyle, and life.

Sadly, one unpleasant lesson is how little appreciation the average American has for this uniqueness.

The American flag is the symbol of our freedoms, the greatness of America, and its core values.

The flag in the banner flies over Gettysburg National cemetery.

During the civil war, Gettysburg was a major battleground. Approximately 50,000 casualties occurred as soldiers from the North and South paid the ultimate, bloody price for their beliefs. Of these, 3500 were Union soldiers, testimony to the human desire for freedom written in blood.

Today, Americans are perilously close to losing the freedoms many generations fought to perpetuate. Additionally, the constant drain of competitive international power jeopardizes the great unique American experiment.

This website promotes responsible government and condemns actions contrary to the Bill of Rights, Constitution, and the rule of law. In the early stages of the republic, the founders rejected elitism, placing the future in the hands of the people.

The targets on this website may be Republicans or Democrats, and often both. Their actions and the metrics of their performance determine response.

Following are other lessons learned.



Figure 2 Photograph by Wayne L Staley

This brown bear survives a synthetic reality in an Alaskan wildlife sanctuary, begging tourists for handouts. Keepers provide care while the system determines its future.

The disintegration of democracy starts with socialism and morphs into dystopia.

At each step, people lose significant rights. They adjust to freedoms lost, setting them up for the next attack.



Figure 3 Photograph by Wayne L Staley

The second bear is wild and fishing for sockeye salmon, and it is free, living without directions from controllers.

The lesson learned is the similarity between people and other animals. People can exist in

controlled environments or be free to worship or self-actuate. Freedom has value, and people must decide if it is worth the fight. For us, the answer is YES.



Figure 4 Chinese factory-Photograph by Wayne L Staley

Workers worldwide are concerned about supporting their families. Competitors work and study under demanding circumstances to achieve their objectives. Americans must obtain new skills and then work hard for jobs or survive like the first bear.



Figure 5 Capital-Photograph by Wayne L Staley

Exciting and beautiful, our politicians want us to believe that Washington, DC, represents the real America. But unfortunately, visiting Washington, clothed in beautiful cherry blossoms, makes it easy to buy into this false narrative.



Figure 6 After the hurricane-Photograph by Wayne L Staley

Plaquemine Parish in New Orleans, flooded by hurricane Katina, provides an entirely different image. It remains unrepaired mainly because the people are poor, black, and lack political power. Juxtapose this image next to the one of Washington, DC.



Figure 7 Tornado-Joplin, MO-Photograph-Wayne L Staley

A tornado ripped through Joplin, Mo, delivering a core message, humans are not in control. Events do not go as planned. Nature is beautiful but sometimes unforgiving and cruel - not by intent but through the randomness of events.



Figure 8 Egypt -Great Pyramids - Photograph by Wayne L Staley

Once the world's most powerful, dynamic center, Egypt is now a third-world country struggling to sustain the welfare of its people.



Figure 9 Cairo Downtown-Photograph by Wayne L Staley

This Cairo resident dumps garbage next to an empty container. When economies collapse, the net sum game is operational, and necessity trumps essential environmental preservation. Americans foolishly believe it could never happen here.

Look around at the empty factories, and

drive through the inter-city. Serve at a food kitchen and see how people are living without jobs. Look at all the homeless, camped in parks and along sidewalks. When done, listen to the rhetoric about how things are getting better. Think about political correctness. Consider the constant reshaping and programming that result from a corrupt political, press, and education system.

Ask why our factory system fled the county. Ask why the greatest country ever on this planet cannot fill necessary jobs, educate its children, preserve its environment, and lead its citizens to a higher human state.

Extend the examination process into the factory and workplace. ERP programs that marginally work and Lean programs existing in name only. There is a constant intellectually dishonest rehash of concepts without relentlessly exposing and fixing the root causes for failure.

Why? Where are the entrepreneurs,

innovation, and the fire of free enterprise? So many Americans have lost it, and millions buy into the myth that capitalism is evil. We at Affinity Systems have not.

This website is about fighting back against versions of false reality and priorities. We need to rebuild our factory system, provide good jobs for our fellow citizens, clean up the environment, restore supply chains and sustain our freedoms.

There is a plethora of books and information on ERP and process improvement. But, if the given information is accurate and complete, why do many programs fail? We are angry that academia, political correctness, or fear of economic consequences prevents publishing the real reasons for failures. The list of causes is long and includes failure to perform due diligence, false tradeoffs, a history of project failure, distorted process improvement, how the world of nature works, and our role in the ecosystem of business and the social environment.

We confront these issues using research, publications, and photography. One initiative is a new process improvement method labeled ACTION, e-books on collaboration, and setup reduction.

"The New Great Wall of China," written eight years ago, will be updated and available only on this website. Global competitors, however, are of secondary focus. Our most significant competitor is self-complacency and confused priorities by government, industry, and individuals. These are the targets for Competitive America.

Sun Tzu was correct, " Know your enemy and know yourself, and you can fight a hundred battles without disaster."

The power of photography provides the ability to tell stories and honestly use them to discover the truth. But unfortunately, images also show the dark side, such as propaganda, used to program people into false or distorted views.

Dozens of images accompany each of our presentations. If readers desire more photos and less verbiage, please tell us.



"Old soldiers never die; they just fade away" is a ballad and a quote used by General MacArthur.

Unlike some old soldiers, this one is fighting to the end for God, family, and country. America must be as great for our children and grandchildren as for prior generations.

Citizens deserve freedom from prejudice, stereotyping, and unnecessary governmental regulation. All need inclusion, equality, and the liberty to pursue opportunities.

Freedom has never meant abdicating responsibility. We are stewards of our environment, resources, liberties, and each other. The privilege of freedom is not free. It is hard work, the intelligent use of time, resources, and personal values. It actually or metaphorically supports our neighbors, military, law enforcement, firefighters, and those with us in the trench, including our neighbors.

It will take all of us to rebuild a Competitive America, and it starts by innovating the fifth-industrial age, green and resource-effective, led by American businesses.



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