CHAPTER 15

The 1933 Entrenchment

The Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917 gave the President authority to regulate commerce with foreign enemies — foreign nationals, foreign banks, foreign property.

In 1933, Congress amended it. Here is exactly what changed:

	1917 ORIGINAL (40 Stat. 411)	**1933 AMENDMENT (48 Stat. 1)**
WHO did it apply to?	"enemy, or ally of enemy"	"any person"
WHEN did it apply?	"during the present war"	"during time of war or during any other period of national emergency"
WHERE did it apply?	"between the United States and any foreign country"	NO GEOGRAPHIC LIMITATION
DOMESTIC PROTECTION?	"(other than credits relating solely to transactions to be executed wholly within the United States)"	REMOVED

Source: 40 Stat. 415 (October 6, 1917), Section 5(b); 48 Stat. 1 (March 9, 1933), Section 2.

"Any person." That means you.

With one amendment, wartime powers designed for foreign enemies were turned against American citizens. The U.S. person became "the enemy" — not in the emotional sense, but in the legal sense.

To be precise: the amendment didn't declare Americans enemies by name. It extended to Americans the same regulatory treatment previously reserved for foreign enemies during wartime. The practical effect — seizure of property, control of transactions, suspension of normal rights — became identical. Whether you call that "enemy status" or "emergency jurisdiction" is semantics. The power is the same. Your property could be seized.

Your money could be controlled. Your rights could be suspended. Your legal identity could be reclassified.

When the Trading with the Enemy Act classifies you as an "enemy," it is not making a moral judgment.

It is assigning a *jurisdictional address.*

Think of it like a ZIP code. Your ZIP code doesn't mean you're good or bad. It means mail sent to that code arrives at your door. You're within that jurisdiction.

"Enemy" under 12 U.S.C. § 95 works the same way.

It doesn't mean the government hates you. It means you're within a jurisdiction where certain powers apply — seizure, regulation, control, suspension of normal rights.

The moment you understand this, everything changes:

• You stop feeling like a victim

• You stop being angry at "them"

• You start asking: *How did I end up in this jurisdiction?*

• You start asking: *What agreements placed me here?*

• You start asking: *Can I change my address?*

Enemy is not an insult. It's an address. And addresses can be changed.

Why would Congress do this?

Because the federal government was bankrupt.

The Nation Was Declared Insolvent

In March 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt announced that the United States no longer had enough gold to redeem its obligations.

In plain English: the federal government was bankrupt.

This didn't mean lights-out or collapse. It meant the government could no longer function under the original constitutional financial framework. Under that framework, gold and silver were money. Congress controlled the value of currency. The government could not seize private property without due process.

All of that was about to change.

Bankruptcy meant the government needed emergency powers, operational control over money, authority to regulate everything, and a mechanism to claim obligations from the people.

So Roosevelt did what Lincoln had done seventy years earlier. He declared an emergency. And once again, the Constitution stepped aside.

Executive Order 6102: The Government Seizes the People's Money

On April 5, 1933, Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6102: "Forbidding the Hoarding of Gold Coin, Gold Bullion, and Gold Certificates."

The order required all persons to deliver their gold to a Federal Reserve Bank by May 1, 1933. Failure to comply carried penalties of up to $10,000 in fines and ten years in prison.

Think about what happened. The government declared itself insolvent. Then it took control of the money supply. Then it made it illegal for the people to possess the very thing the government ran out of.

You were required — under penalty of prison — to turn your gold over at $20.67 per ounce. Shortly after, the government revalued gold to $35 per ounce. The people who complied lost nearly half the value of their gold overnight.

This was not constitutional authority. This was emergency power.

House Joint Resolution 192: The Final Break

Two months later, on June 5, 1933, Congress passed House Joint Resolution 192.

The resolution declared that any provision in any contract requiring payment in gold was "against public policy." It stated that every obligation "shall be discharged upon payment, dollar for dollar, in any coin or currency which at the time of payment is legal tender."

This directly violated Article I, Section 10 of the Constitution: "No State shall... make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts."

Here's what most people miss: the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 created debt money. But there was still an exit. You could still demand payment in gold. You could still redeem your notes for something real.

HJR 192 closed the exit.

By declaring gold clauses "against public policy," Congress eliminated the escape hatch. You could no longer demand real money. You were locked into the debt system with no way out.

The Federal Reserve created the trap. HJR 192 locked the door.

Once gold was seized, money was detached from the Constitution. Currency became credit. Credit became debt. Debt became the new money. And the people became the collateral.

The Bankruptcy They Don't Want You to Understand

Before we go further, you need to understand how bankruptcy law works. This isn't theory. This is black-letter commercial law — taught in every law school, applied in every bankruptcy court.

The Core Principles

When a debtor declares bankruptcy, not all creditors are equal. Secured creditors — those whose claims are backed by collateral — are paid first. The Bankruptcy Code is explicit: secured creditors are entitled to be paid in full before other creditors receive anything.

If your assets are used as collateral for someone else's debt, you don't become the debtor. The party who used your assets to secure their debt — they're the debtor. They owe you.

Apply This to 1933

In 1933, the federal government declared what functionally amounted to bankruptcy. The Emergency Banking Act. Executive Order 6102. House Joint Resolution 192. These were instruments of corporate restructuring.

But here's what they never told you:

As documented in Chapter 8, the constitutional government was suspended in 1861. Congress adjourned sine die on March 27, 1861, and was never lawfully reconvened. The District of Columbia was incorporated in 1871 — "constituted a body corporate." Everything since has operated under emergency powers and corporate administration.

What seized the gold in 1933 was not a constitutional government. It was a corporation.

A Corporation Cannot Seize Private Property

A corporation has no authority to confiscate private property. General Motors can't seize your car. Amazon can't take your house. No matter what documents they file, no matter what "laws" they pass internally — a corporation cannot exercise governmental powers over free men and women.

Only a lawful government, operating under constitutional authority, can exercise eminent domain.

The entity that seized American gold in 1933 was a corporation masquerading as a government. That means the gold seizure wasn't lawful confiscation.

It was theft.

The Debt Flows the Opposite Direction

Under commercial law, if you steal my property and use it to secure your debts, you don't gain clear title. You owe me.

In 1933, the federal corporation:

• Took the American people's gold without lawful authority

• Converted that property to their own use

• Pledged the people's labor as additional collateral through the tax system

• Issued debt instruments backed by seized assets and coerced labor

• Built an entire monetary system on that foundation

Every Treasury bond issued since 1933 was backed by seized collateral. Every Federal Reserve Note created was built on that foundation. Every dollar of the national debt was accumulated against the American people's productivity — without their consent, without lawful authority.

The American people have been paying interest on their own collateral.

They've been treated as debtors when they are, under black-letter commercial law, the secured creditors with first priority claim.

Why No Court Will Hear This

The legal establishment will say: "If this argument had merit, a court would have recognized it."

Let me explain why that will never happen.

Think about the word "Federal." It doesn't mean "constitutional." It means corporate.

A federal judge is no different than an administrator for Federal Express. "Federal" is just a corporate name. The FedEx manager doesn't dispense justice — he administers company policy. He follows the corporate handbook. He enforces the company's rules within the company's system.

Both operate under corporate charters, both answer to corporate authority, and both are bound by the rules of the entity that employs them — not by the rights of the people who walk through their doors.

That's what a federal judge does. He administers the corporation's rules. He's not there to dispense justice under natural law. He's there to manage cases within the corporation's jurisdiction.

The absence of court recognition doesn't mean the argument is wrong. It means the system is designed to prevent the argument from ever being heard.

If this were frivolous, they would let it into court and demolish it. Instead, they keep it out. They dismiss on procedural grounds. They deny standing. They refuse to hear evidence.

Because they know what the evidence shows.

The Guarantee Behind the Debt

As established in Chapter 7, the 14th Amendment created federal citizenship as a primary status. But Section 4 contains language most Americans have never read:

"The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law... shall not be questioned."

Anyone who is "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States — anyone who claims 14th Amendment citizenship — is bound by Section 4. They cannot question the validity of the public debt. Their labor, their productivity, their future earnings become the collateral backing the debt instruments the government issues.

This is how the bankruptcy was managed.

The 14th Amendment made every U.S. person liable for the debt of a federal corporation.

The Emergency That Never Ended

The most important fact about 1933 is simple:

The emergency declared in 1933 has never ended.

Senate Report 93-549, published in 1973, confirmed this: "Since March 9, 1933, the United States has been in a state of declared national emergency."

That was forty years after the emergency was declared. Congress reviews it, renews it, extends it, and expands it. Presidents add to it. Courts uphold it. Agencies enforce it.

Once emergency rule became normal, everything changed:

• Administrative agencies became the real power

• Federal codes replaced constitutional law

• Executive orders replaced congressional authority

• Statutes replaced rights

• Americans became "U.S. persons" under federal jurisdiction

This is why the IRS controls your income. This is why agencies regulate your property. This is why banks report your transactions. This is why courts defer to administrative rules.

None of this exists in the Constitution. All of it exists under emergency authority.

Why This Chapter Matters

1933 is the missing puzzle piece.

Without it, you can't understand why your rights feel conditional — because under emergency powers, they are conditional. You can't understand why the federal government acts without limits — because the limits were suspended. You can't understand why agencies have more power than Congress — because Congress delegated that power under emergency authority. You can't understand why money is debt — because Federal Reserve Act made it that way.

1933 didn't create an emergency state. It finished it. Lincoln built the structure. Roosevelt activated the machinery.

And the machine never shut down.

Why This Matters

This chapter does not argue that 1933 was a coup or a conspiracy.

It establishes one fact:

In 1933, Congress codified emergency powers that removed the legal distinction between citizens and enemies — and those powers were never terminated.

That fact alone explains patterns that otherwise make no sense.

If gold became illegal to hold, what replaced it as money.

If money became debt, the next question is who holds the debt.

If citizens became subject to enemy classifications, the next question is who operates that jurisdiction.

If Roosevelt acted under emergency authority, the next question is whether any president since has ever left it.

Those questions have documented answers — answers that lead directly to the machinery that actually governs.

The next question isn't whether the emergency exists.

The next question is who operates it.