

"*License to Loot!* is a passionate political science tract that argues for changing government welfare programs to better reflect an idealized work ethic. In its late turn toward evangelism, the book achieves a close that is powerful in its sense of conviction."

— Foreword Clarion

License to Loot!

How Racial Injustice,
Able-bodied Americans,
Illegal Immigrants,
and the Opioid Epidemic
Split America



PASCALE BATIEUFAYE

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This book is based on actual events based on the author's present recollections of experiences over time. Some names and identifying characteristics have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals or locations—for example, the names used for the casino, its buildings and restaurants, and its governing tribe are all pseudonyms. Some events have been compressed, and some dialogue has been re-created.

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*I dedicate this book to all the hardworking citizens who have
a genuine ethos to bestow to their nation's economy so that it is left
on more solid footing for their children and grandchildren.*

Acknowledgments

I was mentored by three great leaders, whom I'll call by their initials: Mr. V, Dr. G, and PT. My earlier mentor, PT, once told me that everything happens for a reason, because God has plans for you.

In other words, what he was saying was that the Almighty tests all of us, all the time, on how resilient we can be, and we should weather the storms. In essence, he was advising me not to prematurely throw in the towel because the timing couldn't be more perfect if I pushed for some long-awaited answers.

My second advisor is Dr. G; I could tell he was running out of patience with me when I took too long to have “demonstrability in optimism” rather than dreading the worst. He even once said to me in front of my nephew Alain, “No poisonous dialogue or difference of opinion with your tongue.” He scolded me this way: As an independent business owner, we shouldn't be negative in front of anybody. Instead, lead your followers by example. “It'll come if the right components are in place.”

My third advice-giver, Mr. V, always emphasized this quote in his Friday basement pep talks with his terrific family: “Get it done and fire your boss; don't take forever to become an overachiever. I believe in you; I know you can do it.” His audacious affirmations about the definition of resilience sank into my mind, intuitively striking a chord. Common sense is minimizing your weaknesses to a large degree until they disappear,

maximizing urgency with manual or mental strength. I must say, this is a recollection of a similar remark he made as he spoke to PT while driving a rental vehicle on the way home from a conference as I sat quietly in the back seat observing their conversation. I recall that he used these four words—weaknesses, strengths, minimizing, and maximizing—when he phrased it, perhaps not precisely as above.

I would like to reinforce his advice in the following manner: Tapping into our maximum means and abilities is within our capabilities.

Introduction

In this book on economics and current events, I argue that too many people rely on welfare programs to survive and that they should instead rely on their own wits to succeed.

As it stands, I intend to discuss a few themes—indolent Americans wrapped up in the overcapacity of the welfare system, illegal immigrants, and drug dependence. It's all connected with the growing cataclysm that has been the subject of drug seizures at the US border. Looking at it in a nonjudgmental crystal ball is not necessary. Perhaps one could call it “tough malfeasance” since both topics fall under the same entrenched umbrella. Does anybody buy such window dressing, or is it time to reevaluate the welfare system? Electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards and US-born kids from illegal migrants are linked like a brotherhood that has been sailing on the same wavelength. The conjugal doctrines of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and downtrodden border upheaval are rooted in working immigrants and nonworking American households deeply rooted in poverty, violence, meager wages, and income inequality.

Free food comes to them via EBTs; they're given checks; if they feign illness convincingly enough, the welfare office will provide for them.

Throughout *License to Loot! How Able-bodied Americans Split America*, I take a close look at the ways in which this reliance on the hard work of other people and refusal to provide for themselves corrodes the soul and conditions the welfare recipient to a life of endless stagnation.

SNAP should be a last resort for survival or a temporary way to supplement low wages. I don't blame people who must get on it for short periods of time because of an unforeseen disaster and having emergency funds to avoid just such a disruption in the future. I give you an alternative to reliance on welfare. It looks closely at exemplary business leaders and successful entrepreneurs who can show the way to success via honest labor and smart financial strategies. I urge readers to pursue stable work, and in the name of resilience and self-reliance, I implore them to cease their avoidance of strenuous effort.

The devastation at the southern border and the mushrooming problem of food stamps idealizes a discourse in far-off industrialized nations about America. I want to clarify the full context after reviewing what I reference as the ceaselessly maltreated 70 percent of the population, since 90 percent of America's wealth is owned by billionaires and multimillionaires.

I'm speaking to the people who are at risk of becoming stuck on welfare if they make uninformed decisions, whether they choose to stay on too long or don't know any better. The government is doing more harm than good by allowing them to become stuck in such a downplayed handout system. In the process, no credit is due to all these dispensed commodities that a large portion of the population has been paying for decades. The word *reward* is ironically redefined whenever something is handed out without an ounce of merit; that's why I vehemently insist again and again that such welfare fraud exists.

This pandemonium is long overdue to be phased out. I call it a "gamesmanship augmentation" caused by the backslapping snollygosters in Washington, DC, who aren't doing much to fix this problem.

Understand that I'll veer into areas that include politics and criticism. The chapters on politics, former Presidents Donald Trump's and Barack Obama's administrations, and current president Joe Biden, the 2020 election, the wall, and illegal immigrants somewhat relate to the border crisis and overuse of (Supplemental Nutrition Program) benefits. There are secondary sources of information that supplement my argument that the system is being abused and that support my reasons why those who can work should be doing so.

Further, the book contains an explanation about how EBT "indoc-trination" was related to previous administrations. Among the topics I'll discuss is how welfare ballooned during the Obama administration and how Trump had reduced it before the pandemic, so the discussions about their policies and current politics are relevant to my thesis.

Taking a hands-off approach toward the politics that caused it would mean ignoring the policies that revolve around a restrictive wealth gap.

I'm against working hard to increase everything you own only to have someone else hand over part of it to others who do nothing. I presume most people in this situation feel as I do. Your choice to build your own independent career doesn't have to be belittled or criticized. This will only restrict your inclination to try harder, and you might end up achieving nothing. How long should it be okay for most law-abiding citizens to work hard, only to have the government redistribute their money to fund EBTs, health benefits, and so on? Whether they are American-born citizens or crossed the border is irrelevant.

Nothing should demoralize the will to fight eroding economic shakiness, even while submerged up to the neck in debt. I would be willing to do all I can to support and invest in some of these low-income people. To the best of my ability, I will gather what resources I can and help where I can.

In the following chapters, we'll find out about the divide created by overdrawn welfare and racism. The subject is timely. I'll present a wealth of news reports, studies, and other sources to support my thoughts on how public assistance for asylum seekers is a ruination for the national debt and keeping recipients locked in a dead-end cycle.

I try to express my viewpoint in a passionate manner while also recognizing that people in the workforce can't be faulted for utilizing government benefits when they aren't earning a living wage. The text focuses on how abuse of EBTs is transforming us into a slovenly society, and how it's ruining the USA.

As an intermediary, I relate my stated goal of helping those who receive government benefits in both camps (low-income Americans and immigrants) to change their lives through gainful employment when their feelings of pride have been cut short by starvation wages. This, in return, shall result in fewer do-nothing takers who discharge their living expenses to the government, as if Uncle Sam is also their mom and pop who puts clothes on their backs and feeds them throughout their lives.

I'll go back and forth between the issues in some chapters and what can be done to minimize the negative side. To both Democrats and Republicans: allowing able-bodied scammers to drain EBTs must stop. Deal bluntly with it.

What I wish my readers to take from this book is a way toward a better life that would serve an obvious purpose. I will focus on dreams and aspirations, motivational aspects of the natural ways of stopping overmedicating with opioids and antidepressants, and the importance of religion and nutrition.

I will shift back and forth between the SNAP conundrum and the adjacent crisis of border lawbreakers.

I promise not to oversimplify or to sound too intricate, although just so everyone knows up-front how dire the EBT situation is, know that

this is not a myth but a reality. If you want to verify any statistics quoted in this book, you will find links in the Resource section to appropriate sites where these statistics can be found.

I hope that my personal story will inspire others to find the strength of character to succeed in pulling themselves out of the rut they're in. I want to help others discover these same talents within themselves and, with any luck, help them rise above their current circumstances. You cannot blame yourself when imagination gets the best of you; I call it therapy—writing to inspire others to excel.

Do I need to present persuasive arguments to prove the sincerity of this book? I think not, because it doesn't matter how many well-written words I use to make my case valid. It won't have any effect if there is no substantial proof to back it up. I will let everyone be the judge of whether this is the real deal.

There is nothing in this world that can persuade me that the people who abused the system will one day get up and admit it. I could make a million arguments; it won't mean a thing if I don't have any evidence to back it up. But it's about time they realize there is an elephant in the room.

I'm aware of some obstinate elected officials who may find this stance to be disparaging. Corrosive schoolyard divisiveness cannot stand in any democratic nation, let alone America. Juggling a basketball with feet. Any volunteers? Juggling different characters to pull off a narrative with points of view is something I've never done before. I am clearly on a mission to make my writing effective. Will my words draw the opposing side in? The direct language and humor I use throughout this book could perhaps also be endearing to them. Some questions we should think about include:

- Is America heading to an authoritarian rule with the vaccine mandate?

- Can we label these people as “illegals” even when many were brought by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or the border patrol to welcome centers who then assist them with clothing, food, and connecting with their families in USA by getting them to airport or bus stations?
- Why do the Republicans claim we have an open border while Democrats say we don’t because immigrants and refugees can only get into the USA if they have sponsoring families?
- Is the “welfare state” ruining our country?
- Who really created the opioid crisis?

I will provide my answers to these five questions in this book.

Everyone can reach their highest potential if we lessen our dependence on government and politicians to solve our problems. Expect no fiction, as this is a work of stark reality! People who abuse welfare stick it to modest income earners to bear the brunt of the cycle of financial struggles. Whatever happened to one hand washes the other in taking responsibility instead of relying on food stamps? Whatever happened to civil liberties and work being worth a living wage of at least a \$15-per-hour starting rate? Being indebted to society is fine, but whatever happened to earning an authentic living instead of leading a lifestyle without working a single hour? Isn’t it time they realized that this is the wrong way, on so many levels, to go about eradicating poverty? Isn’t it like jaywalking while taking a step back for every two steps forward?

Part 1:
The Problems
Our Country Faces

Chapter One: The Opioid Epidemic

Where will the prevalent opioid epidemic go from here if it's not cured soon? Why is overmedication and drug use happening today, and how can we identify it? It's happening because the drug dispenser is bribing its affiliated physicians and druggists with upmarket perks to scale up the number of prescriptions on unsuspecting patients.

I will begin by looking at the well-engineered enterprise behind heroin and anti-anxiety tablets, which I refer to as masters of charades in the lucrative drug industry, pushed by these drug companies. Let's take a closer look at where Big Pharma stands in this money-spinning equation:

1. A model exists to stop at nothing to spur the next big blowout campaign to get more medicines sold to the masses.
2. The painkiller architects probably are not concerned that there is a chance that people already "hooked" will abstain from taking these sedatives, which would end up reducing their revenue.
3. Advertisements are amplified to lure more people to hop on the already full opioid and antidepressant bandwagon.

4. People are guided to a path of restoring sanity, which turns out to be only half-truths.

This is becoming an epidemic that is getting out of hand rather than receding. They jockey their expenses onto the unsuspecting consumers.

A *Business Insider* report also shows that nearly 60 percent of Americans—the highest percentage ever—are taking such medications. That means that more than half of Americans are taking some type of psychiatric drug—mostly antidepressants. The study also found that twice as many white people take those drugs as do African Americans or other minorities, and fewer than five percent of Asian Americans take these drugs.

I'm not saying that all drugs are bad or that doctors should not treat people. All I'm saying is that there should be a limit to what you put in your body as far as opioids or any other pills go. Neither should one call alternative medicine “holistic crap” until you try it for a short period and rethink taking too many meds prescribed by bribed docs (in some cases). Medication isn't the answer for everything and is not meant to cure all ailments. Big Pharma looks out for their profit more than caring for your health. Some meds cure, but it's juvenile thinking to rely on these drugs when a need to balance them and alternative healing is indispensable. The drug companies make billions as fast as cheese melts on the grill.

Further studies show that the drug companies' profits soared 34 percent. Obama failed when he had ample time to fix the problem of prescription drug abuse, which is now the number-one public health poser in America. Trump didn't fix the problem either; nor has Biden shown any progress so far in defeating this problem. It is time to recognize this problem as a killer epidemic that should've been put front and center. Overdoses were responsible for nearly 47,055 deaths in 2014.

Can you believe that prescription drugs are now a bigger killer of Americans than guns and car accidents?

Some doctors receive incentives from drug manufacturers whose annual corporate profits multiply to epic proportions, and quite a few are in it to fill specific prescriptions that will make their bank accounts mushroom. These doctors are paid in advance while prescribing even more drugs for the millions of overmedicated and stressed folks, while the drug companies inflate drug prices by 400 percent.

Isn't it time to be sensible and ditch opioids commanded by the drug companies, whose mission is to overeagerly sway everybody that their drug is the best cure, when all along it is principally all about accruing profit? Instead, think of other joys and strengths to make your life calmer—the simpler, the better—to reduce stress and get away from defeatist attitude until you find a way out of your ditches.

I'll share an example with respect to the above. I was renting my out-of-state single-family house until it went into foreclosure after the tenants jerked me around for three straight months. They didn't pay their rent, which compelled me to use my savings to cover the \$2,500 mortgage for the unpaid months, pending their eviction after court proceedings. There were six renters: twin brothers in their early twenties who were married to two younger, unemployed twin sisters whose middle-aged mother also lived with them, along with a cute toddler. As forward-looking people, they later accumulated more occupants who they claimed were visitors. This turned out not to be the case since a short stay became permanent. They admitted they were boarders after I noticed a bed, along with other things, in the garage. Giving them a washer and a dryer in the basement wasn't enough; they bought a gigantic inflatable pool that they put in the big yard during the summer, which jacked up my water bill. This breached the lease that they signed on day one. Having people living in the house who weren't on the lease was also considered a breach.

I made it clear to them to please not consider my home to be a public, rent-free house. I foolishly added \$1,000 of my own money every

month to cover the \$2,500 mortgage, along with the \$1,500 collected rent payment, because I failed to take the advice of a clever friend named Lulu, who encouraged me to sell the house for some profit shortly after I bought it.

I knew from these dwellers' references that one brother had worked at the post office for a few years. His other male sibling who was left out regularly received disability checks. I was taken by surprise when his family told me that the one who was supposedly disabled got caught with cocaine, which he had intended to sell. His car was found to contain a box with large bills in an amount totaling \$25,000 in cash. Such an undisclosed malevolent drug habit alone, which was being quietly plotted, would've disqualified them from renting my house if I had known about it sooner.

The State of Pharmaceuticals in America

I'm stating in this chapter the urgency of conducting a philosophical revision, consisting of incrementally taming the current out-of-control American pharmaceutical nightmare.

One of the most dominant spheres of influence is expertly organized to overtake the market and is aimed at the most likely clients: future patients. It's like these drug advocates want most of us to fall into their trap because they are in cahoots with the dispensing chemists and medics, like a *ménage à trois*, just to fill their pockets with extra pay. How can this be allowed to go on, with signs of more Americans taking antidepressants than any other citizens in the industrialized world, while most political lobbyists within the pharmaceutical world are lining the pockets of politicians who are either unaware or don't care about the crisis this country is in.

It's easier to believe in the benefits of prescription drugs when depression is coupled with extreme substance abuse or some cerebral problem. Only then would these depression capsules, along with closely monitored

rehabilitation/detoxification sessions, come in handy, a most urgent relief to temporarily help anyone, poor or rich, in such calamitous situations. Otherwise, I'm convinced that the overmedicating of Americans is getting out of hand. The populace is hooked on such tempting solutions to cure despair, and the pharmaceutical companies are set up to fill the prescriptions of record-breaking numbers of people.

These exhaustive treatments commercially cater to people of all ages—over the age of twelve all the way up to senior citizens. I suggest that we redirect to a fresh avenue of uplifting treatments: improving true-to-life cheerfulness ought to be brought up for discussion to divert this epidemic. All those medication-plagued regulars are still, after decades, expressly riding the uninterrupted night train, where they are permanently earmarked to remain on a perceived track to healing.

This cycle of drug dependency tends to have no end, no cure in sight. It is usually recommended that the pills are taken for a lifetime, rarely on a transitory basis.