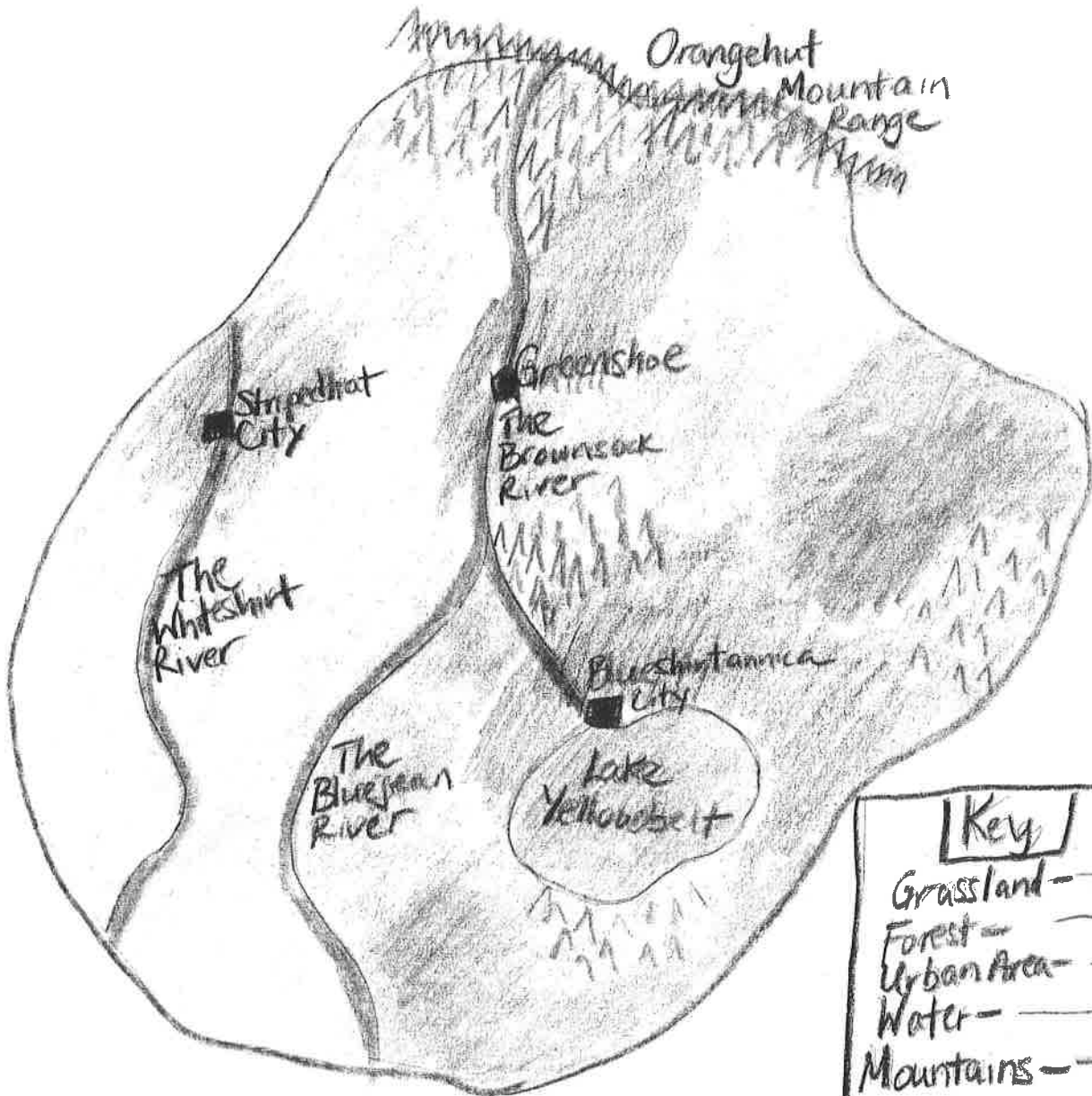


# An Address to the

# Nation of Blueshirtannica

By: [REDACTED]



Key	
Grassland -	_____
Forest -	_____
Urban Area -	_____
Water -	_____
Mountains -	_____

Dear Major Arbiter,

I would like to congratulate you on your success in forming a new nation. I know this has always been your dream. Blueshirtannica certainly has a promising future with you as Senior Major Arbiter. You now head one of the strongest nations in the world, with a thriving industry and a strong scientific community. Unfortunately, Blueshirtannica is not a very large nation, having 100 Million people spread out over an area roughly the size of France. Regardless, I have little doubt that you will be ruling one of the premier world powers in no time. To achieve these goals, I have a plan for your government that will succeed without a doubt.

All successful governments achieve their goals, no matter what they may be. This is what success truly is. Many nations achieve their goals through strong morals and strict enforcement of the law. In almost all governments, the goals generally include supporting a strong, thriving industry, protecting itself and its citizens, and supporting the acceptance of all cultures. In order for a nation to be successful, it needs to have a prosperous industry and needs to also be able to protect itself in times of need. While being culturally accepting is preferable, it is certainly not necessary. This is why, as a humble diplomat from Swaggington to your wonderful nation, I recommend that you model the government of Blueshirtannica after ours.

Many nations have succeeded over the course of history. These nations include the Roman Empire, England, United States and France. However, just as many have failed. This raises the question of, what makes the difference between the failures and those who succeed? One can always claim that superior leaders are the reason for a nation's success, but this is only one factor.

There are other aspects which also affect a nation's success. One of the most important of these aspects is the moral strength upon which the nation was founded. A successful nation acts with strong morals and ensures equality for all. Having these as the foundation of a nation's government can work to prevent many things. If all are treated equally and justly there is much less of a chance for terrible

events to occur. For example, the American Civil War would likely never have happened if there was no unjust treatment and prejudice. Or, if the French had treated all citizens equally, there would have been no rebellion because Toussaint L'Ouverture would have felt no need to form a rebellion (Toussaint L'Ouverture Online lecture). Examples such as this show how crucial mere morality can be upon a nation's success or failure. So, I am asking you to make moral values the foundation of your new government.

### The Rights of the Individual

As you make decisions on how you wish your government to be run, I recommend you start with the subject of individual rights. A certain balance needs to be maintained between these rights and the power of the government. If the balance begins to tip too far one way, all things begin to fall. If the rights of the individual are too well protected, the nation becomes too weak to protect itself. However, if the rights of the individual are not sufficiently protected, the people become unwilling to support their government. Both are important, and a balance must be struck to provide for a stable government.

For this very reason I recommend that you neither overpower the citizens, nor remove all rights they possess. As the United States sets forth in its Bill of Rights, I suggest you protect the rights of your individual citizens, and put those rights in writing. "The ten amendments known as the Bill of Rights . . . protected such basic rights as freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion." (Beck 645). By putting this in writing, you will "establish the idea that all free citizens have a right to the protection of the law." (Beck 156).

In the area of whether one should have rights to wield weapons, I also suggest that you do not ban them outright, nor should you give citizens the right to bear arms without restrictions. Obviously you must outlaw any weapons made illegal by the Geneva Conventions. You should also make illegal any weapons not made for hunting and other pastimes. There is no productive purpose for these weapons other than the harm of others.

While I strongly recommend restricting rights when it comes to weaponry, freedom of speech is

a right that no man should take away. The United States government allows all individuals to speak what they believe, and this is exactly what I recommend to you (Bill of Rights). Censoring what is said or written can result in nothing but anger and war. To control what is said is like controlling what one thinks. Not only is it nearly impossible, it infringes on rights which all humans deserve. No man should ever have the power or ability to prevent one from harboring their own beliefs, just as no man should ever have the power to prevent one from expressing these beliefs. An exception to this may be made when one man expressing his beliefs infringes on another man's attempt to do the same. In general, any man has a right to do as he wishes under the conditions that he does not prohibit another man's beliefs or practices.

### Government Structures

All successful nations need a strong government structure. There are many different forms of government, each of which has benefits and problems. You must be careful in choosing what form of government your nation will run. Make sure to take all factors into account.

You could choose to have a democracy, believing that the people have a right to rule. Athens was a democracy, and even the common people were given a part in the government (Athens Doc Video). Giving the people control over your nation is a great way to keep the majority happy. But there are downsides too. If you choose to be a direct democracy, “where citizens rule directly and not through representatives. . .” , you can expect the taxes to be ridiculously low and for the central government to be almost nonexistent. (Beck 135). While this plan satisfies most, it often leaves a nation defenseless without revenue from taxes or the ability to draft soldiers for the military.

Because of these weaknesses, the government structure I would recommend would be a democratic republic. While it allows the people a say in a good deal of important matters, it still retains the strength of the government. The United States used this type of government and they altered their constitution as they, “recognized the need for a strong national government” (Beck 644). I recommend you take note of this, as we all could learn from their experiences.

A democratic republic gives the power to choose who makes the decisions to the people, but does not actually give the right to make the actual decisions to the people. It gives the people the power to elect officials who, in turn, make the decisions. I view this as the best way to run things, as it still gives the people a good deal of power in their government but still allows the central government to truly make the decisions. A democratic republic not only protects the rights of the people, but the rights of the government, allowing the government to declare war and create taxes as it sees fit. This is why I view a democratic republic as the best system of government.

As for how your elected officials have a place in the decision making process, I suggest a system with multiple houses. Giving each of the houses power over the other houses prevents any one of the houses from controlling the entire nation. This creates a system of, “checks and balances, with each branch checking the actions of the others” (Beck 645). This works to form a well balanced government that does not allow any one political faction from taking power.

Although I believe a democracy with multiple houses is the best option for a nation, there are still a good deal of other options. Regardless of what you finally decide best suits your nation, I highly recommend protecting the power of the central government. However, I am sure you will make a fine decision in this matter so I have nothing else to say of this.

### Leaders

As you can tell from my previous statements, I believe all leaders should be elected by the general populace. They should be chosen for honesty, loyalty to the nation, and strong decision making ability. Without these three characteristics, they do not have the makings of a strong leader and will do nothing but bring shame to a nation.

Honest and loyal leaders will keep a nation strong and healthy. If a leader is in his position because he is hungry for power, rather than out of his loyalty to the nation he can bring ruin to the nation. Napoleon is a great example of this, although his want for power had taken him far, “the same love of power had led him to his doom” (Beck 668). Along with ruining him, his need of power had

brought down France from the mighty pedestal upon which it was planted so firmly.

Without honesty or loyalty, one might accept bribes or be associated with other illegal actions. If a well known leader has been associated with illegal actions, not only is he endorsing such activities, he is ruining the reputation of the nation he is representing. If he is known to have taken bribes, it not only ruins his nation's reputation, it also sends a wave of doubt throughout the nation. Reasons such as this are why honesty is such a crucial quality to leaders.

Decision making is perhaps the most crucial part of being a strong leader. Without good decision making skills, a leader is likely to cause many problems. They could make the wrong diplomatic decision and send his nation into a war. They could also pass a bill that sends his country spiraling into despair. This is why strong decisions can make or break a nation.

In the end there are no qualities more important to a leader than those three mentioned above. Honesty and loyalty to a nation are some of the most highly valued virtues in a leader for a good reason. Without those two things a leader is likely to make choices which benefits themselves rather than what benefits the nation. Napoleon himself was well aware of this, as he, "took steps to end corruption and inefficiency" in France's government (Beck 664). Without any of these three values a leader may be as dangerous to his nation as his enemies.

### Military

The military is one of the most powerful tools a nation possesses. Rome was stronger than every other nation, mostly because every Roman had military duties (Roman Power and Glory Video). A military can help bring peace between warring nations, or it can provoke anger and violence throughout the world. For these reasons I strongly suggest that you have a well armed and powerful military.

Although it can be costly to maintain a strong military, you will find in most cases it will be extremely helpful. There will hopefully never be a time when this is necessary for your nation, but even the Japanese knew that sometimes the best way to create peace is through conflict (Japanese Constitution).

How does this relate to the Japanese Const?

There are many cases where a powerful military helps to prevent warfare. After all, the United

States mentioned both the common defense and the general warfare in their preamble for a reason (US Constitution's Preamble). There are very few people in the world who willingly enter conflict without believing they will win. For this reason merely having a powerful military is often the best way to prevent conflict. Only if one is willing to take major losses of life and resources will they ever enter into armed conflict with any nation they do not see themselves vastly superior to.

In order to adequately supply your military I recommend that you maintain the right to draft soldiers if necessary. I also suggest that you reserve the right to pass certain taxes and put in place rations of food and other resources vital to a military. Obviously these powers should be used only in times of national crisis, as to not annoy the people with constant rations and drafts in times of peace.

One of the problems one might encounter in trying to keep a powerful standing military is the cost of employing such a large amount of people. Britain faced this problem back in the 1700s when it "expected the colonists to help pay the costs of the war," and "passed the Stamp Act." (Beck 641).

Unfortunately you also might also need to have taxes above what your citizens might expect. As much as I am sure you dislike doing this, there are few other reasonable ways to approach this problem. *→ subjective word*

You might notice that funding a large standing army is a costly thing, but if you think about all that I have said in the above paragraphs I am sure you will understand. While costly, a nation with a powerful army is far less likely to be forced into any form of armed conflict. For these reasons I highly recommend having a powerful military, not only as a way to protect your nation and its citizens, but as a way to save lives around the world.

### Equality

One of the most controversial topics in the world today is equality. For the reason of plain morality I suggest that in your nation you treat all people fairly, regardless of gender, race, religion, or social class. You should strive to differentiate your government from the Napoleonic Codes of France of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Rather than forcing women to receive permission from their husbands before trading, I recommend you allow women the same rights as men (Napoleonic Code). Not only is this

the safest path to follow, but morally it is the correct way to go. The Spartans recognized this gender equality as far back as 600 B.C.

Also, do not follow the example of South Africa which had a government with severe racial conflict. Under South Africa's policy of apartheid, where there was complete separation of the races, the "minority government banned social contacts between whites and blacks" and there were "segregated schools, hospitals, and neighborhoods." (Beck 143). South Africa experienced a revolt and the apartheid laws were eventually revoked. "In 1996, after much debate South African lawmakers passed a new, more democratic constitution. It guaranteed equal rights for all citizens." (Beck 1044).

If one is the subject of discrimination due to their gender or their race, they are being deprived of a right all people should have. As even the South African government stated in its preamble to the Constitution, all should be united by their diversity (South Africa's Constitution's Preamble). By discriminating against someone based upon their ethnicity, one is taking away their fundamental right to be themselves. They are saying that they are above all others.

I recommend that you provide an environment in your nation where people of all ethnicities are supported equally. Not only is this in line with keeping the values you hopefully have based your nation upon, it works to prevent any and all conflict. For these reasons, if not merely for morality, I recommend that you treat all as equals in your government.

### Class Divisions

I believe that people should be honored for what they have done in their lives, rather than what their background may be. I recommend that you base your government upon ideals such as these. Rather than a man being a high ranking official based upon what his father had done, take into account his moral character and his own actions and reward him accordingly. People should be honored for their own actions, not their families actions. As Socrates encouraged the Greeks to "question themselves and their moral character," I encourage you to include moral character in your government. (Beck 138).



No man or woman deserves to be idolized for their family's wealth or prestige. Instead they should be idolized for what they have done to improve their nation. They should be rewarded for virtues such as hard work and honesty much like ancient Romans and Early Americans (A Return to the Plow). If one is an honest person who helps others in their time of need, they deserve to be rewarded greater than one who would rather take credit for their father's merits. This is much like how the Ottoman Empire chose their government officials, based upon one's character and good will (Busbecq's Opinions). All people should be judged upon their actions rather than the actions of those before them. For this reason I highly recommend that rather than judge one by their parent's actions, you reward them based upon their own actions and merits.

In all, I recommend that you treat all equally, regardless of gender or ethnicity, and reward all based upon their actions. You should do the same with your leaders, and encourage the people to choose them based upon their honesty, loyalty, and ability to decide what is best for the nation. While I believe that a democracy with multiple houses, much like the United States, should be put in place do not feel pressured to do so. Although I recommend that you sustain a large military, if you feel that all would be easier through diplomacy please do. I am in no way trying to force you into any of these decisions, I instead am merely suggesting what I feel would be best for your nation. Regardless of what you finally decide upon, I am sure that your nation will prosper under your rule.

With Love,

A thick black horizontal bar redacting the signature of the author.