

Revitalizing America



01.

REVITALIZING AMERICA'S THESIS

Backstory and Problem Statement





PROBLEM

American politics is broken.

At the heart of the complete lack of results is a failure of methodology.

SOLUTION

Based on the complexity of the 21st Century, we need a new way of solving our problems. Revitalizing America presents a vision for the future of politics.

A POLITICS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (WITHOUT THE POLITICS)

Fundamental Method of Progress: humans beings asking the right questions and then getting the right people to work on them in the right way...

The RA methodology internalizes this, and can be summarized as follows:

Step 0: Ask Interesting Questions

Step 1: Identify the landscape of Smart Answers to these questions

Step 2: Do Good Politics on top of this basis

RA's ambitious mission is to produce an end-to-end detailed "American Playbook": an ever-updating *Library of Law* of answers to our fundamental problems (think Wikipedia meets GitHub).

We believe this growing solution library will serve as the basis of a much more meaningful, productive, and healthy politics.

To build the *Library of Law*, we've composed a program of (1) Domestic & (2) International matters (inspired by the precedent of David Hilbert's 1900+ approach).

SOLUTION: OPEN-SOURCING POLITICS

Scalable

Well-defined solutions fuel a growing Library of Law, serving as America's North Star and the basis of a smarter politics.



Non-Partisan

Regardless of the party in charge, our politics is only as effective as our finalized solutions to fundamental problems.

Necessary

The scale, complexity, and interdependence of our problems requires a well organized fixture for the public intelligentsia.

THE PROBLEMS OF OUR TIME: A PROGRAM → RA INITIATIVE

To the Ambitious Reader,

A stark truth: There's much that needs to be done, & we only have a small window to get back on track. **We need a bold new approach** for our Nation and our people to find the health, wealth and happiness we deserve this 21st century. It's time to start the process of Revitalizing America (RA).

We've composed this list of (1) Domestic + (2) International matters with the intention of helping America find its North Star for the 21st Century: an **open-source** & ever-growing policy library of well-defined solutions to our most fundamental problems (**Library of Law**).

This vision for 21st Century problem solving is **non-partisan** because no matter the political party in charge American politics can only be as good as our actionable and finalized ideas. We believe the best ideas are scattered around the World, & that we need all hands on deck in building tomorrow.

In the form of contributors, advisers, and other civically-minded participants, the RA Program seeks to leverage the power of our at-large intelligentsia at this inflection point in history. We're creating this new fixture for the public space because it is a **necessary technology to the future of politics**.



THE RA INITIATIVE SEEKS TWO BIG ANSWERS:

(1) WHERE ARE WE GOING AS A NATION?

(2) HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THERE?

DOMESTIC QUESTION SAMPLER

ON MEANING

In an age of increasing nihilism, how do we find purpose & optimism in the future?

REGAINING TRUST

How can the Government re-earn the respect & trust of the people?

HEALTHCARE

How can we redesign healthcare and insurance to make it truly universal?

EDUCATION

How should we be educating our population for the 21st century?

INTERNATIONAL QUESTION SAMPLER

COVID-19

Present a wholesome domestic and international plan of action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

AI

How can we ensure that AI is working in our best interest?

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Is there an alternative doctrine to Mutually Assured Destruction?

CLIMATE

What is the ideal global energy stack for the next 5/10/20 years?

02. THE RA ORIGIN STORY

The thinking originally driving the RA initiative



SEEKING INSPIRATION: A HISTORICAL PRECEDENT

In 1900 CE, a great mathematician named David Hilbert put together a program of 23 open questions he wanted the field to focus on (while he also added Q's as time went on).

Being influential as he was, Hilbert's well-organized challenge captivated a generation of up & coming thinkers and mathematicians-- focusing their well placed attention on the most pressing problems of their time.

Among the inspired of the next-generation was Alan Turing. His work product not only was critical to resolving one of these problems, but it also was the cornerstone to the (digital) computing revolution at the heart of 20th Century advancement: culminating in trillions of dollars of valuable resources that power our World today. Perhaps no recent story better captures the golden sequence.

We recognize that this story exemplifies a general truth: **the fundamental method of Progress** is humans beings asking the right questions and then getting the right people to work on them together in the right way...

THE GOLDEN SEQUENCE

(AKA The Golden Process)

SCIENCE → TECHNOLOGY → ECONOMY

ASSOC. { (New) Knowledge
WORDS { (New) Discovery



(New) Method
(New) Invention



(New) Products
(New) Infrastructure

PROBLEM: TODAY'S "METHOD" OF SOLVING PROBLEMS

Juxtaposed against the triumphant 20th Century story of Hilbert-- *and having seen the same things discussed for 20+ years without meaningful improvement* -- we came to realize **our model** of doing politics is broken...

Our non-methodology is not capable of dealing with the scale, complexity & pace of the 21st Century; particularly given our large backlog of existing problems, and as we anticipate what comes next. As a handful of examples:

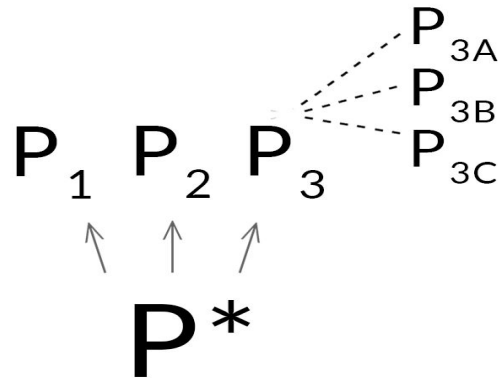
- 1) **We aren't solving problems in the right way:** All of the problems we are working on need to be solved together because of their *interdependence* (re: there's 1 World!).
- 2) **There's no cumulative approach:** We constantly change what problems we're working on: rather than focusing resources until a problem is solved, our methodology is chaotic & reactive. So, instead of an ever-improving work product, we are living in and as an etch-o-sketch of ideas.
- 3) **We aren't channeling the power of our best & brightest:** There isn't a well organized fixture for the at-large intelligentsia, while running for office is terrifying.
- 4) **We aren't specifying our solutions in well-defined language:** We instead check the boxes of a vague party platform, and then kick the can down the road...

A FOCUS ON FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS

The Revitalizing America Program proposes a set of fundamental problems we need to solve as soon as possible.

By “fundamental,” we refer to the underlying root issues (P^* 's) that best capture the bulk of our important emergent problems (P_1, P_2, P_3).

Unless you resolve the relevant P^* (root) of a problem, you will not solve that problem. In fact, it will likely fester and worsen over time (P_{3A}, P_{3B}, P_{3C})...



WHY WE NEED A LANGUAGE FOR POLITICS?

What does it mean to “answer” a question or to “solve” a problem? Specifically, it means to generate a map or graph which traverses ‘A to Z’, where “A” is the relevant initial condition (t0) of the problem, and where “Z” is the proposed solution (i.e. the end configuration). This data structure, a finite DAG, is built of well-defined enough *paths* (chains of sufficient conditions) & *points* (packages of necessary conditions); going from “A to Z”.

But, why is this necessary? We struggle with mutual understanding by the lack of a commonly transparent language (our private languages are insufficient!). This is incredibly burdensome when it comes to collaboration, efficiency of resources, and productivity.

As the example originating this insight: “Are you for universal healthcare?” When asked that question at a panel event, I realized the proper response (while “Y!”) was “which one?” because there actually is a double infinity invoked by the question: making it incredibly ill-defined, and impossible to expect to coherently discuss ideas towards building solutions.

The 1st infinity is the “**which Z_n problem?**” That is, by “universal healthcare” do you mean this solution or that solution or that solution-- out of an infinity of possible Z’s (different end points)! **The 2nd infinity** exists in the form of “**which paths ($p_n - p_n$) are you proposing?**” to arrive at your preferred Z_n from the A_n initial conditions that we share?

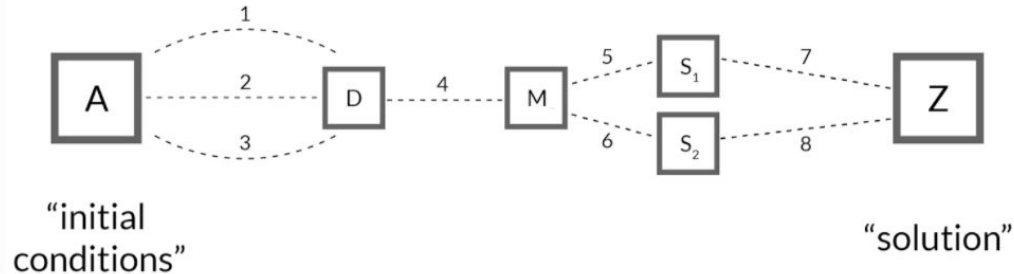
To summarize this with two striking statements: **(1) 99% of the time we aren’t saying the same thing** & **(2) 99% of the time we aren’t saying anything** (talking about self-coherent, wholesome structures). The future of law will correct both of these shortcomings...

THE FUTURE OF LAW: OF PATHS & POINTS

Solution Structure (the language): a map or graph for implementation. As repurposed from the field of computer science, a proposed “acceptable solution” a finite well-defined enough (e.g. reasonable person standard) Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) built of paths (chains of sufficient conditions) & points (packages of necessary conditions). It’s a pictorial representation everyone can mutually understand.

Paths: 1,2,3,4 ... = (ordered) chains of **sufficient** conditions

Points: “A-Z” ... = packages of **necessary** conditions





BE A PART OF TOMORROW

Get Involved With The RA Initiative Today