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—Contributor..... Robert Fritz  
—Contributor email..... robert\_fritz@robertfritz.com  
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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

Hi, Robert. Thanks for sending. —All the best, Jeff



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 The path of least resistance is the path of most resistance

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 There is little one can do until election time. That is why  
3 mass protests are essential.

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 ONE PRINCIPLE from physics is the “path of least  
6 resistance,” which observes that energy flows along the path of  
7 least resistance, with the underlying structure determining that  
8 path. In other words, the structure of anything will determine its  
9 behavior.

10            Sometimes the path of least resistance leads to difficulties  
11 that, while challenging, is where the energy is easiest to go. And  
12 the underlying structure will determine that path.

13            Right now, in the United States, the Trump administration  
14 is attempting to change the underlying structure of our  
15 Constitution and our way of life. The goal is to assert executive  
16 power over every aspect of American life.

17            There are dimensions and levels of this assault on our  
18 values and system. With a weak Congress and politically biased  
19 Supreme Court, many of the formative structural principles of the  
20 founding of the nation have been ignored — or, in some cases,  
21 violated.

22            Structural change is the goal. In the end, if Trump and his  
23 allies have their way, the president’s approach will limit true  
24 democracy, assuring that the majority does not rule. Then power  
25 will be centralized in the hands of a small group of  
26 authoritarians.

27            Some of this is done in the name of Christian  
28 Nationalism, the idea that the state should enforce a  
29 fundamentalist view on politics, culture, and civil society. This  
30 rationale is simply a way of trying to justify tyranny, as if you are  
31 doing it in the name of the Lord. And some zealots are gullible to  
32 this rationale.

33            But the true motivation has little to do with religious  
34 extremism. It is simply a power grab.

35            \* \* \*

36            WITH THE thuggish behavior of federal immigration  
37 agents’ invasions of cities run by Democrats, the strategy was to  
38 divide ethnic groups into us-against-them. Immigrants, either  
39 legal or not, were to be seen as the enemy. The subtext of white  
40 supremacy was never far away.

41            Perhaps if the majority saw the agents from ICE, CBP, and  
42 other Department of Homeland Security agencies as the  
43 champions of a race war, the power grab could have worked.

44           The majority would accept the assertion of authority, and  
45 one major step in the endeavor to establish central authority  
46 would be set in place as a foundation for other critical steps in  
47 restructuring the U.S. Constitution.

48           But the scheme didn't work. The majority did not fall  
49 prey to subtext of racism.

50           There is something in the American spirit that deplores a  
51 bully. That instinctively wants fairness and justice. That rejects  
52 brutality. Yet, there is little one can do until election time comes  
53 around.

54           That is why protests are essential in mass numbers. There  
55 is a point where even the most authoritarian governments are  
56 subject to the will of the masses.

57           Meanwhile, Trump's predisposition has always been to  
58 push harder, never retreat, never apologize, never back down.  
59 Instead, to double down, become more tenacious, force the  
60 issue.

61           \* \* \*

62           SO TWO MAJOR FORCES are in play and in conflict: the  
63 quest for authoritarian takeover, against the salvation of  
64 beautifully designed democratic structure of the Constitution.

65           The term that has come to oppose oppression is "resist."  
66 And much like the French resistance during World War II, it is a  
67 noble cause.

68           It has been inspiring to see ordinary people face cold  
69 weather, tear gas, and smoke bombs from federal agents wearing  
70 masks to hide their identity while they carry assault weapons that  
71 they point at the protestors.

72           At its best, democracy is a collective creative process.  
73 But it is only possible within the right structure.

74           For the protesters, given the underlying structure, the  
75 path of least resistance is the path of most resistance to Trump  
76 and his followers.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

77       **ROBERT FRITZ** ([robertfritz.com](http://robertfritz.com)) works as an author,  
78 composer, filmmaker, and management consultant. Among his  
79 books is *The Path of Least Resistance: Learning to Become the*  
80 *Creative Force in Your Own Life.*

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

81       0

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LINKS:

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####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

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####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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84

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