



Transactional Musings

George Washington — “Father of His Country”

George Washington

Born February 22 [February 11, Old Style], 1732, Westmoreland County, Virginia, U.S. Died December 14, 1799, Mount Vernon, Virginia, U.S. ["Washington, George." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica 2009 Deluxe Edition. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2009.]

What follows are a few highlights from the article from the Encyclopædia Britannica.

American general and commander in chief of the colonial armies in the American Revolution (1775–83) and subsequently first president of the United States (1789–97).

He was a farmer, land owner, surveyor, entrepreneur, military man, statesman, a man of letters, President of the United States.



His formal education was “irregular”, but he learned reading, writing, mathematics, and many other skills in his early years. *The copybook in which he transcribed at 14 a set of moral pre-*



cepts, or Rules of Civility and Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation, was carefully preserved. His best training, however, was given him by practical men and outdoor occupations, not by books. He mastered tobacco growing and stock raising, and early in his teens he was sufficiently familiar with surveying to plot the fields about him.

When he was a member of the Continental Congress in 1774 he was known as a radical rather than as a moderate. ... *in several letters of the time he opposed a continuance of petitions to the British crown, declaring that they would inevitably meet with a humiliating rejection. “Shall we after this whine and cry for relief when we have already tried it in vain?” he wrote. ... His letters of the period show that, while still utterly opposed to the idea of independence, he was determined never to submit “to the loss of*

those valuable rights and privileges, which are essential to the happiness of every free State, and without which life, liberty, and property are rendered totally insecure.”

The American Revolution

It is unquestionable that Washington's strength of character, his ability to hold the confidence of army and people and to diffuse his own courage among them, his unremitting activity, and his strong common sense constituted the chief factors in achieving American victory. ... One element of Washington's strength was his sternness as a disciplinarian.

Washington remained during the winter of 1781–82 with the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, exhorting it to maintain its exertions for liberty and to settle the army's claims for pay. He continued these exhortations after he joined his command at Newburgh on the Hudson in April 1782. He was astounded and angered when some loose camp suggestions found expression in a letter from Colonel Lewis Nicola offering a plan by which he should use the army to make himself king. He blasted the proposal with fierce con-

Volume 3, Issue 2

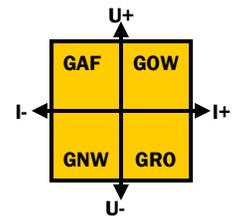
February 14, 2012

Special points of Interest:

George Washington “regarded himself as standing aloof from party divisions ... ”

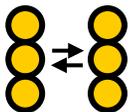
On many occasions I have wondered why broadcast TV and “news” outlets are ignoring President George Washington.

Who's Listening? A Handbook of the Transactional Analysis of the Listening Activity.



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Washington arrived in Philadelphia on May 13, 1787, the day before the opening of the [Constitutional Convention](#), and as soon as a quorum was obtained he was unanimously chosen its president. For four months he presided over the convention, breaking his silence only once upon a minor question of congressional apportionment. Although he said little in debate, no one did more outside the hall to insist on stern measures. “My wish is,” he wrote, “that the convention may adopt no temporizing expedients, but probe the defects of the Constitution to the bottom, and provide a radical cure.”

..... He received and personally circulated copies of [The Federalist](#).

demnation. When the discontent of his unpaid men came to a head in the circulation of the “Newburgh Address” (an anonymously written grievance) early in 1783, he issued a general order censuring the paper and at a meeting of officers on March 15 read a speech admonishing the army to obey Congress and promising his best efforts for a redress of grievances.

Leading up to the Constitutional Convention, Washington is described as: ... despite long hesitations, he earnestly supported the proposal for a federal impost, warning the states that their policy must decide “whether the Revolution must ultimately be considered a blessing or a curse.” And his numerous letters to the leading men of the country assisted greatly to form a sentiment favourable to a more perfect union.

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unknown. But his support gave it victory in Virginia, where he sent copies to [Patrick Henry](#) and other leaders with a hint that the alternative to adoption was anarchy, declaring that “it or disunion is before us to chuse from.” He received and personally circulated copies of [The Federalist](#). When ratification was obtained, he wrote to leaders in the various states urging that men staunchly favourable to it be elected to Congress.

The Washington administration

Washington's administration of the government in the next eight years was marked by the caution, the methodical precision, and the sober judgment that had always characterized him. He regarded himself as standing aloof from party divisions and emphasized his position as president of the whole country by touring first through the Northern states and later through the Southern. A painstaking inquiry into all the problems confronting the new nation laid the basis for a series of judicious recommendations to Congress in his first message. In selecting the four members of his first cabinet—Thomas Jefferson as secretary of state, Alexander Hamilton as secretary of treasury, Henry Knox as secretary of war, and Edmund Randolph as attorney general—Washington balanced the two parties evenly.

... But when war was declared between France and England in 1793, he took Hamilton's view that the United States should completely disregard the treaty of alliance with France and pursue a course of strict neutrality, while he acted

decisively to stop the improper operations of the French minister, Edmond-Charles Genet. He had a firm belief that the United States must insist on its national identity, strength, and dignity. His object, he wrote, was to keep the country “free from political connections with every other country, to see them independent of all, and under the influence of none. In a word, I want an American character that the powers of Europe may be convinced that we act for ourselves, and not for others.”

Many references are given at the conclusion of the article. A few are listed here: Thomas G. Frothingham, [Washington, Commander in Chief](#) (1930); Forrest McDonald, [The Presidency of George Washington](#) (1974, reissued 1988), a study of the political and economic aspects of his administration; Frank T. Reuter, [Trials and Triumphs: George Washington's Foreign Policy](#) (1983), a useful introductory study; and Richard Norton Smith, [Patriarch: George Washington and the New American Nation](#) (1993), a detailed treatment of Washington's presidential days. Washington's role in determining the focus and development of the U.S. Constitution is discussed in John Corbin, [The Unknown Washington](#) (1930, reprinted 1972); and Glenn A. Phelps, [George Washington and American Constitutionalism](#) (1993).



TV Tabloids, Talk Shows, News and “news”

Instead of honoring the “Father of His Country”, George Washington has been ignored for several decades. If he were president today he would probably be criticized, dissected, and reviled as an isolationist, libertarian, and other.

Television “news” appears to be struggling. Much better information can be obtained by reading, going onto the internet, and email. And much of broadcast television has devolved into sex, exercise, violence, food, jewelry, “public broadcasting”, quiz shows,

etc. Movies and entertainment have devolved, too. Even “the news” has devolved into talk shows, tabloids, editorial “segments” of argument, opinion, criticism.

There is a lot of so called debate, and there appears to be a lack of straightforward presentation without editor content. Specific broadcast organizations are pushing their obvious agendas, presenting their editorial views and stylish “news.” Their styles tend to get in the way of real news. However, I’m thankful for the variety and choices, even the

“news” from Moscow, Russia.

Why though, do broadcast networks in North America dramatize their “news” presentations with lots of editorial content (and lots of commercial time)? And why do viewers pay twice for viewing. Initially, cable TV was touted to be commercial free? Now viewers pay for the cable hardware, commercial time, and utility taxes. And the extended political season has become a gold rush for TV vendors. And they peddle a lot of opinions, fights, and influence, too.



George Washington's image appears on the dollar bill. The Federal Reserve is devaluing the dollar over time. And the US Senate is considering banning the paper dollar.

Manipulating Listeners — Who’s Listening ?

The following is from “Who’s Listening? A Handbook of the Transactional Analysis of the Listening Activity” by FH Ernst Jr., M.D. Continued from page 98, the end of Section 2A “Courtesy and Politeness Rules.”

Quipster would then come back and offer to bet a cigarette or a candy bar on the "one little thing" multiplying like a pair of rabbits and that several more than one thing would be brought up. On occasion he even invited others in the group to participate Quipster would then come back and offer to bet a cigarette or a candy bar on the "one little thing" multiplying like a pair of rabbits and that several more than one thing would be brought up. On occasion he even invited others in the group to participate in a pool on how many items would be introduced by "lil ole me" before this "minor" disruptive incursion into affairs at hand would come to an end.

2B. *"I was just wondering if..." "Has it ever occurred to*

you..." A salesman uses these phrases to literally get his foot inside the door to sell unwanted merchandise.
2C. *"Syllable bumping" – simultaneous initiation of syllables by two persons.*

With this maneuver, one person will persist about one-half syllable less than the other. "Mr. Politernu-Ar" will then with seeming deference and politeness stop his own words. The person who goes ahead, "Mr. Override," may assume that Mr. Politernu-Ar is listening. Indeed he is – for the next break in the conversation for his own chance to gain the floor.

Mr. Override proceeds to "try to get my point across" to Mr. P; however, Mr. P is not at all concerned with Mr. O's point. Mr. P. intently concentrating on his own point – he has his own point securely locked in place in his mind and is heeding only for the moment that Mr. O. relinquishes the floor.

Is Mr. P. listening? Yes, he is listening – listening for

Mr. O. to stop. When it does come his turn, he will be able to start running his own counter-point which he has carefully sharpened and held tightly in his mental grasp. The point of this is that Mr. P. does not listen to the speaker's content; he is instead listening for the other person to stop. If he stops moving, then he is not listening. He holds onto his own words, stores up his own words, waiting for the moment it will be his turn to then get his point across.

"Syllable bumpers" live for the moments when it gets to be their turn to get their sharpened points (harpoons) across (and into the other person). They experience the events of an extended silencing because of politeness considerations as almost invalidating of the meaningfulness of their existence. They will politely give up "the floor" for a while, but their turn for "the floor" has to come or life's meaning is

Contention Breeding Strategems

- A. **"Throw-out" comments.**
- B. **"I hate to say this, but..." – Hate merchant.**
- C. **"I don't see anything wrong with that (what he just said)."**
- D. **"Stick by your guns!"**
"Stand up for yourself!"
"Don't let them push you around!"
- E. **"Like I said before ..."**



Addresso'Set Publications

Transactional Musings
Franklin "Harry" Ernst III, Editor
P. O. Box 3009
Vallejo, California 94590 USA

Phone: 707/643-5100
Fax: 707/644-6358
Email: harrysternst@ao3news.cnc.net

"Mastery of the universe is proportional to the symbols man has by which to represent his universe."

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lost – lost unless vigorously defended (as with the so-called "Free Speech Movement").

"Syllable bumping" is similar to, in fact is, "duet talking." Stutterers are the classic "syllable bumpers," even bumping into their own syllables, let alone anyone else's syllables who might "try to help them" or ignore them.

CONTENTION BREEDING STRATAGEMS

The CBSs

3A. "Throw-out" comments.

1. "I just want to throw out my thoughts on the matter."

2. "I have a comment I want to throw in to the group as a whole (for some feedback)..." "Throw-out" or "throw-in," these comments are regularly "throw-up" comments, aimed at causing (psychological) vomiting or a sick stomach in two or more of those who were "thrown-up" on. A "throw-out" is a "throw-up" and is, therefore, something for others to clean-up (later).

3B. "I hate to say this, but..." – Hate merchant.

3C. "I don't see anything wrong with that (what he just said)."

This is often said to the "upperdog" by a third person ("arbitrator"). It is implying that the leader intended criticism and harm to the second person who has just been spoken to. The intent is to invite the person just-spoken-to to view the leader's just-

concluded comments as criticism, as an unwarranted calling-down on the part of the leader (treater).

This Contention-Breeding-Strategist is seeming to be siding with Just-Spoken-To. Implication is that the latter was "treated like a dawg" and that "arbitrator" is "for the underdog" and "against the upperdog taking unfair advantage of poor lil-ole-underdawg." This siding with one person and against another is to invite the Just-Spoken-To (Dawg) to look for some hidden, mischievous, critical, maligning motive in the preceding talker's comments. This "protectiveness" has the aim of becoming a "protection racket." Also, the "protectionist," by implying wrong-doing, is encouraging "Dawg" to "stand-up-for-your-rights - Man!" This CBS here has the aim of alienating one person from another in the group, of turning "underdog" against "upperdog" so that CBS eventually becomes "top dog."

Carrie persisted in the use of this tactic even after every member of the group had discontinued responsive transactions to this stimulus except for an infrequent, "Oh, come on, Carrie?" or "Thanks very much for your best piece-mealing peacemaking (peacemaking)." Her so-litigious Parent was remaining fixated on "attempting to set the record straight," making the correction of an injustice. She meticulously watched for any group

member to "wince" while being treated for something he had come to get-well-of. Even in the face of the distressed winter calling her on her "interfering tactic," she often would continue. Her "I felt I just had to help him out!" came to be seen as Carrie's Parental protection for "taking a second helping," protection for her "snacking-and-second" operation (she was obese).

3D. "Stick by your guns!" "Stand up for yourself!" "Don't let them push you around!" "Stand up for your rights (beliefs or what you believe in)."

These are rather straight forward immoral encouragements by fight promoters to "underdawg" to go out and risk losing his own blood fighting in order to be right and praiseworthy. Thoughtful responses such as "I want to think on it first" will usually be jeered.

3E. "Like I said before..." This class of before-sayer has a different order of business in mind compared to the "as-I-said-before" before-sayer. Sometimes shortened to "Like I said" this phrase is diagnostic of the user's design for promoting contention. It is also used by persons with a wrath racket.

"Like-I-Said-Before." Bret was heard using "like I said before" over six times in the first ten minutes of his first session.

To be continued