

## His Majesty's Constitution -- A Few Gentle Thoughts

Larry Moffitt  
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I think everyone's opinion on the biggest shortcoming of King Hyung Jin Nim's Constitution of the United States of Cheon Il Guk will be that it cannot be amended. Not one word of it, not ever, not for any reason. Governing a theocratic, libertarian, monarchy is fraught with complexity, and is not something anyone can expect to get right without some tweaking. An constitution that is unamendable from the git-go will hurt the republic.

In his words, "immutable and unchangeable." We all know there will be situations in the future that we have no way to foresee at this time, and which an unchangeable governing document cannot address at this time. For example, how many of us predicted the severity of the current Unification Church schism?

Under this constitution the King is ruler for life. Idi Amin (Uganda), Ferdinand Marcos (Philippines) and Kim Jung-un (North Korea), come to mind as behavioral models for being lifetime rulers. Of course there's Queen Elizabeth. But her powers are severely limited by their constitution. She's mostly ceremonial these days. (Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl but she doesn't have a lot to say.)

In Hyung Jin Nim's monarchy the King is very hands-on. There are a few checks on his power (the Senate ratifies the King's judicial appointments and there is a President who seems sort of caretaker-ish and who reports to the King. Presidents come and go every four years or so, but the King is there for life. Also the King gets his marching orders from God, so you know that when that push comes to shove, it will be the King who calls the shots.

Hyung Jin Nim names which of his sons will get the crown after him. This may be a bit premature, since there is no way to know whether that son will be suitable for the role or even willing to take it on. There is no way to know in what kind of shape he will emerge from adolescence and enter adulthood. But his ascension to the throne is now set in stone.

I really hope Hyung Jin Nim's successors are all good people. Historical reality is that you will have some kings who are less capable than others. You will invariably get someone, somewhere along the line, who is tyrannical by nature, cruel, who sexually abuses his power or who is outright crazy. And if there is no way to change the top leader, short of armed revolution, well...

What this means is that the worse the King, the larger will be his budget for an entrenched, omniscient secret police to keep tabs on things. That all-seeing, all-powerful police power will be the natural evolution of the Office of Inspector General, created by Hyung Jin Nim, which will have "unrestricted access to all documents and data within the government of Cheon Il Guk, and will carry out the function of investigating and bring prosecution against any individual working in the government of Cheon Il Guk, including bringing impeachment proceedings against the President or prosecution against individuals being contracted by the government of Cheon Il Guk. This office is given to Moon Kook Jin and to his heirs. The inheritance will be from father to son or closest male next of kin..."

The office of the chief enforcer is hereditary, a family dynasty, and with broad and unconstrained powers. Furthermore it's family, so any crimes committed by an Inspector General have little hope of being exposed by his son, or grandson.

Hyung Jin Nim's constitution contains not a single check on the power of the King or his Inspector General, or their family dynasties. The amount of transparency and accountability into their inner workings will be only that which they will allow. If you happen to get a bad apple in either one of those positions anytime in the coming century or so, The United States of Cheon Il Guk will be up that special creek.

Hyung Jin Nim continues, "In times of national emergency, when the President is under impeachment proceedings, or has been impeached, the King may issue decrees." What makes a national emergency? If the King says there's one.

In the Judiciary, the Supreme Court will have twelve justices. Hyung Jin Nim may want to consider making that an odd number (11 or 13) to prevent tie votes. It will make it easier to get rulings passed.

All crimes will be tried by jury. He may want to re-think this as well. True Father tried to get a bench trial (by the judge), because there was no way he could get a fair trial by a jury amid all the negative publicity. The prosecution fought to deny him a bench trial, and they succeeded, forcing it into the hands of an uneducated jury. It's seen as the main reason True Father went to Danbury Prison. Sometimes bench trials prevent legalized lynchings.

A jury can nullify an "unjust" or unconstitutional law. A jury? Really? How many jurors out there are schooled in constitutional law?

A bi-cameral legislature is organized like in the U.S. A member of the House or Senate has to be an "inhabitant" of the state in which he runs. "Legal resident" is probably a better term. An habitant is

someone who checks into the Motel 6 the night before.

The house has the power of impeachment, of the President I presume. But isn't that power also granted to the Inspector General? There may not be a problem here, but the wording is not clear.

Here's my wish-list item. I wish they would take this opportunity, at the formation of their government, to give the President a line-item veto. Partisan politics keep preventing this from happening in the U.S., but it is needed to prevent Congress from piling irrelevant crap onto unrelated legislation. For fair government the President of both parties needs a line-item veto power.

AND... no income tax! Hooray!! Don't know if that will work in the real world, but I do like the spirit behind it. Texas has no income tax, but they have huge property taxes to compensate, and tons of other government fees to make ends meet. Might as well have an income tax. Maybe a flat tax to keep it simple.

There will be no paid professional standing army. State militias will defend the nation. No funds will be allocated for military expenses for a period longer than two years. Wow. The shortcomings in the defense structure are significant, and possibly ruinous for national security. This may be where the first amendment to the constitution is enacted. Or would be, except that not one word of this thing can be changed.

All laws passed by Congress will expire ten years after they are passed. All laws? Why? Seriously, all laws go poof after ten years? Keeping track of all this will be a bureaucratic nightmare and a source of major confusion for the average Joe sixpack.

There will be no government help at all for the impoverished, uneducated and sick. The elderly will become an important source of protein for the poor.

"Congress is prohibited from establishing a national police force or investigative agency of the people." Such an agency, does exist however, in the form of Inspector General Kook Jin Nim's national investigative agency.

Congress is prohibited from passing any laws to protect the environment. I'm can start burning leaves in the back yard again and take that ridiculous catalytic converter off my car.

Congress is prohibited from regulating the internet.

The government may not pass any laws licensing any individual for any occupation. Not even the medical professions? What about airline pilots?

There are situations and circumstances lying waiting for us in the future that nobody alive today has the ability to predict. That's just the way things are. Hyung Jin Nim gives the future of the world, his corner of it anyway, an irremovable, permanent tattoo with his words, "I hereby declare the following immutable and unchangeable Constitution of Cheon Il Guk that shall never be abridged or added to in their enumerations."

A constitution that cannot ever, ever be amended is dead on arrival.

Here's a thought. Why not declare Sunday's announcement to be a "soft launch." And then do some reviewing and tweaking before the hard opening. Hyung Jin Nim is a man of personal integrity, which is why my criticisms of him are about his actions and thinking, but not about his soul. Back up and field-test the document. At least put it through its paces before a committee of jaundiced eyes.

We're family, even still, and we'll all go along with his constitution's reexamination. The bigger man and the better King is the one unafraid to said, hey, for the good of humankind, let's just take some time to make sure we get it right. Even True Father, who is thought of as perfected by both sides in this schism, had erasers on his pencils.

The document begins with a cut-and-paste of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights. Excellent start. Those first ten amendments are battle-tested and, to me, are ninety percent of what needs to be in a constitution.

In our Maryland and Virginia church communities we have worthy attorney's, self-schooled constitutionalists (who were all over True Mother's constitution with suggestions), and a general assortment of nitpicking, grumpy old people who have much knowledge of history and institutions. I would be thrilled to loan them to you for as long as you like. Starting with a certain brother-in-law. I will ask them to be constructive and helpful.

We can put the hostilities on hold as long as we need to. After they finish helping you create a beautiful constitutional document that is truly ready for prime time, they can return home and we can all go back to our lovely little war.