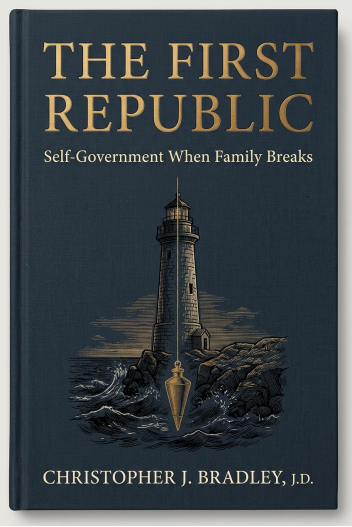
LIBERTY'S PRINCIPLES MEDIA · ADVANCE BOOK & MEDIA PACKAGING DOSSIER

THE FIRST REPUBLIC: Self-Government When Family Breaks

By **Christopher J. Bradley, J.D.** · Author of *Zen and the Art of Citizenship* · christopherjbradley.com



The Governing Thesis: Jurisdiction Over the Self

The family is civilization's first sovereign republic. Long before a child hears the words *constitution*, *due process*, or *separation of powers*, they learn at the kitchen table how authority is exercised, whether rules apply evenly, and whether human error ends in mercy or banishment.

Sociological surveys such as Dr. Karl Pillemer's Cornell Reconciliation Project confirm that roughly one in four American adults is actively estranged from an immediate relative. When a domestic republic fractures, modern culture hands the wounded two defective toolsets: the adversarial mindset of the courtroom (running a 3:00 AM "Invisible Docket" of exhibits), or the weaponized diagnostic labels of discard culture (*"toxic," "narcissist," "brainwashed," "ungrateful"*).

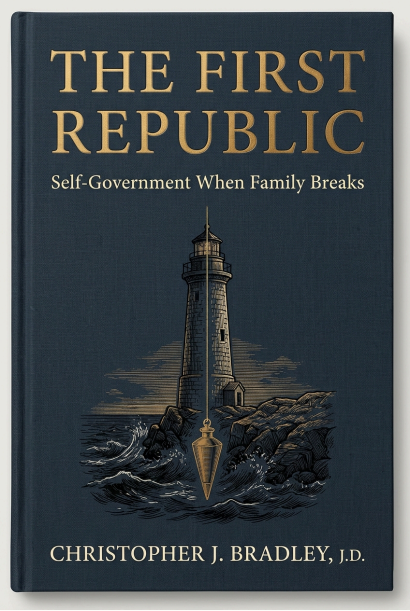
The First Republic offers a third path grounded in constitutional philosophy, fourteen years inside the legal system, and lived physical stewardship: **peace begins the morning you surrender command jurisdiction over lives you do not own and start governing the one jurisdiction that answers to your hand—yourself.**

Format & Imprint: Hardcover / Trade Paperback / eBook · 6" × 9" · 3 Parts, 10 Chapters + Appendices A & B · Liberty's Principles Media (IngramSpark Account #2019003) · Category: Family & Relationships / Philosophy

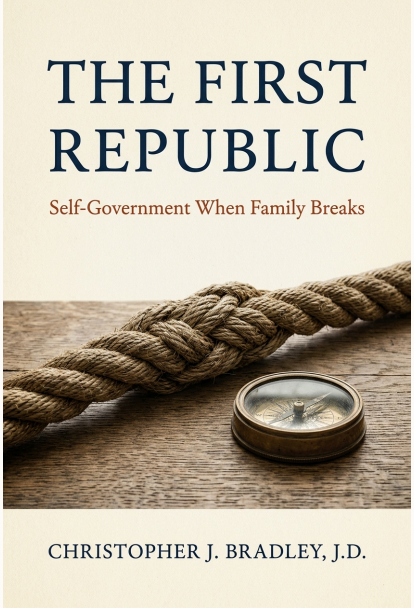
---

Three Cover Directions & Wraparound Dust Jacket Spread

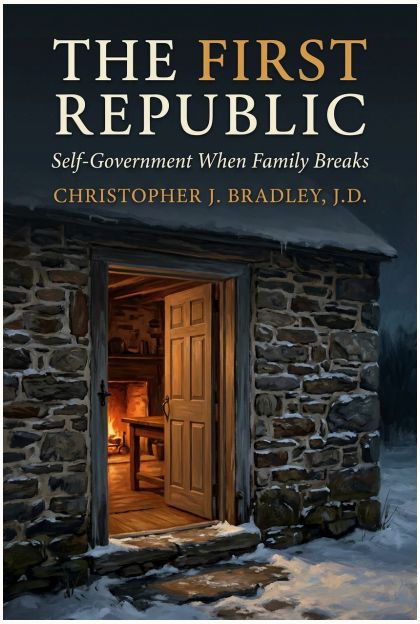
Each cover concept visualizes a concrete physical anchor from the manuscript without resorting to sensational or grievance imagery:



Concept I (Flagship): The Ch. 5 Harbor Lighthouse ("love without access") aligned with the Ch. 10 Brass Plumb Bob ("true vertical never negotiates with leaning walls").



Concept II (Tactile Craft): The Ch. 8 five-tuck mariner's short splice on a three-strand hawser across an oak kitchen table beside *Elegant Lady*'s brass compass.



Concept III (Memoir Narrative): The Ch. 9 Pennsylvania fieldstone homestead in January dusk—hearth fire tended inside, storm latch left unbolted.

Complete 10-Chapter Blueprint & Lived Manuscript Anchors

Part & Chapter	Core Argument & Lived Opening Scene	Physical Anchor	Parental Alienation Arc
Ch. 1: The Smallest Nation (Part I)	Duty and mercy are learned at the kitchen table. *Scene:* Sheetrocking the last bare basement wall in the 55-year-old Beach Lake, PA homestead.	Three foundations: New England granite (Concord) vs. a crooked Texas slab.	**Introduced:** Family split into rival governments; the child caught at the border.
Ch. 2: The Adversarial Trap (Part I)	Legal thinking colonizes family life. *Scene:* $50M Peru mercury settlement at AIG vs. a 50/50 kitchen-table compact incinerated by litigation.	The 3:00 AM "Invisible Docket" & entering an order of *Nolle Prosequi*.	**Context:** Custody litigation where alienation is built—and where the claim is weaponized.
Ch. 3: The Lexicon of Exile (Part I)	Safety walls are vital, but clinical labels become weapons. *Scene:* 8th-grade Branchville protective boundary & indigent legal aid files.	The Siege vs. Plain Speech ("toxic/narcissist" vs. "ungrateful/brainwashed").	**Named & Examined:** Siege by proxy described by behavior (not DSM); child as casualty.

Part & Chapter	Core Argument & Lived Opening Scene	Physical Anchor	Parental Alienation Arc
Ch. 4: Jurisdiction Over the Self (Part II)	Surrender command over foreign lives. *Scene:* Paddling a kayak into Boggy Bayou chop ahead of Hurricane Michael to save a dragging vessel.	The Line at the Helm: what answers to your hand vs. what belongs to the weather.	**Limit:** Surrendering defensive pursuit and policing of the child's narrative.
Ch. 5: Love Without Access (Part II)	Love does not require reciprocity or proximity. *Scene:* Wednesday steakhouse dinners in Destin & flipping burgers at the high school band grill.	The Harbor Lighthouse casting a steady beam from solid rock without chasing ships.	**Core Discipline:** The light stays on; the child is never the enemy or the evidence.
Ch. 6: Boundaries Without Banishment (Part II)	Protect integrity without punishing. *Scene:* Tracing an illegal "foreign load" wire in State College & sitting beside Ann at Sunday Mass.	The 12-Volt Marine Circuit Breaker: tripping the switch without dynamiting the hull.	**Discipline:** No counter-alienation; absorb the voltage and never return it.
Ch. 7: Mechanics of the Ordinary (Part III)	Dignity rebuilt through tactile stewardship. *Scene:* Arriving in Florida with $22 & rebuilding a Kubota D1105 diesel with Dad on speakerphone.	The Dreidel Valve Spin Test & draw-filing the cast-iron engine deck dead flat.	*Core Practice:* Submitting the ruminating mind to objective physical tolerances.
Ch. 8: The Long Winter (Part III)	Living well without a Hollywood third-act reunion. *Scene:* Raising *Elegant Lady* on New Year's Day 2023, saving her oak wheel, and sailing *Cracker Jack*.	The Mariner's Five-Tuck Short Splice: tension squeezes the visible mend tighter.	**Grief:** Ambiguous loss—mourning a child who is alive and absent without bitterness.
Ch. 9: The Open Door (Part III)	Concrete rules for the calendar. *Scene:* Final call with Dad 4 hours before his passing; the physics of a farmhouse door in a January blizzard.	The Weather-Stripped Threshold & Unbolted Latch; a stalled engine catching.	**Return:** Amnesty at the threshold—never ask a returning child to testify.
Ch. 10: Citizens of the Unbroken Republic (Part III)	Self-government at home stabilizes the neighborhood. *Scene:* 7th-grade Royal typewriter interview of Henry & running for City Council.	The Brass Plumb Bob & "Where does the white go when the snow melts?"	*Civic Payoff:* Acting as an emotional step-down transformer across generations.

Comparative Market Positioning & Legal/Empirical Grounding

Comparable / Reference	Core Contribution	How *The First Republic* Differentiates
Rules of Estrangement Joshua Coleman, Ph.D.	Clinical psychology framework helping estranged parents understand cultural shifts and make therapeutic amends.	Replaces clinical therapy and unilateral parental self-erasure with **constitutional jurisdiction**, symmetric plain speech, and circuit-breaker boundaries.
Fault Lines Karl Pillemer, Ph.D.	Sociological survey data from the Cornell Reconciliation Project mapping how rifts form and how reconcilers mend them.	Answers the hardest question left open when reconciliation is unavailable: how to live an honorable, joyful life during "The Long Winter" via **Love Without Access**.
Troxel v. Granville 530 U.S. 57 (2000)	U.S. Supreme Court precedent affirming fit parents' fundamental Fourteenth Amendment right to direct the care and custody of children.	Chapter 9 translates constitutional precedent directly for grieving grandparents, explaining why suing an adult child for visitation is Chapter 2's adversarial trap in its purest form.



About the Author & Companion Ecosystem

Christopher J. Bradley, J.D. grew up in Beach Lake, Pennsylvania, and served as an M1A1 Abrams tank driver in the 1st Cavalry Division during Operation Desert Storm. He holds a B.S. in Administration of Justice from Penn State and earned his Juris Doctor and Master of Intellectual Property from the University of New Hampshire School of Law (formerly Franklin Pierce Law Center). After practicing law for fourteen years across indigent legal services, New England electric utilities, and complex New York insurance litigation, he weathered divorce and family estrangement, rebuilt a 1972 thirty-six-foot Cascade sailboat from rock bottom in the Florida Panhandle, and authored *Zen and the Art of Citizenship*.

Reader & Media Hub: christopherjbradley.com · YouTube: **@christopherjosephbradley** · Includes Appendix A (*The Protocol of the Ordinary*), Appendix B (*The Plain-Speech Phrasebook*), and the free 5-lesson companion course (*While You Wait*).