

American Freedom

a primer

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I. TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. INTRODUCTION

B. PART I - THE POWER OF IDEAS

1. UNDERSTANDING HOW IDEAS AFFECT OUR LIVES
2. IDEAS ABOUT GOD, MAN AND GOVERNMENT
3. THE SEEDS OF SOCIALISM
4. SEEDS OF CHRISTIAN REPUBLICANISM
5. THE CONFLICT OF IDEAS AND THEIR FRUITS

C. PART II - THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

6. THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN FREEDOM
7. THE ORIGINAL PLAN FOR PRESERVING FREEDOM
8. THE GROWTH OF SOCIALISM IN AMERICA
9. THE SYSTEMATIC DISMANTLING OF THE CONSTITUTION

D. PART III - THE NATION'S CONSCIENCE

10. THE INDIVIDUAL CONSCIENCE
11. HOW TO ENSLAVE A NATION
12. COMFORTS AND PLEASURES
13. WE HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW TO THINK
14. YOUR CONSCIENCE

E. CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

In 1973 I obtained my first real job, the kind where you have to sit at a desk eight hours a day and listen to somebody tell you what to do. Shortly thereafter, I heard through the grapevine that the boss had said, "I don't mind you guys talking, just don't talk about religion or politics." It seemed like a reasonable enough request at the time. As the years have passed, however, I've come to realize that religion and politics are the only two things that really matter, for it is religion which governs our internal world and politics which governs our external world. Government then is an inescapable fact of life. It is not a question of whether we will be governed but how we will be governed.

Every detail of our lives is governed by something. Space does not permit me to substantiate this statement but common sense demonstrates its truthfulness. Bob Dylan spoke of the inevitability of government when he wrote, "You gotta serve somebody." Jesus Christ described it well when He said, "No man can serve two masters." Government is inevitable.

This booklet is about government; actually, about God, man, and government. It is meant to be a primer, a means of presenting ideas in a capsulized form to prime you into further consideration of this subject. I am fully convinced that religion and politics are the most important issues in life. I also remain confident that they (religion and politics) are inseparable. After reading this booklet and considering its contents, you too will understand not only why they are inseparable but that it is a nation's religion which ultimately determines a nation's politics. (The term religion when used in this context is not the Christian religion -- although it could be -- but rather any belief system held by an individual or body of people. Any belief system will contain ideas about God and man.)

The government of any nation is ultimately a reflection of that nation's view of man (i.e.,

who or what he is). A nation's view of man is derived from a nation's view of its god (whoever or whatever that may be). This booklet will explain how ideas of God, man, and government affect our lives.

Key Questions:

- What is Government?
- What is the root of the American Political System?
- How does your perception of God affect your perception fo yourself?
- How does your perception of man (you and everyone else) affect your perception of government?

PART I - THE POWER OF IDEAS

CHAPTER 1 UNDERSTANDING HOW IDEAS AFFECT OUR LIVES

IDEAS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

To have a foundation of understanding for this subject, it is critical that we first comprehend that ideas possess power. I have, therefore, included below several ideas from the past and their consequences.

Ideas have consequences. Consider the Wright Brothers who in 1903 were the first to fly. Although the idea of flight did not originate with them, they conceived of the design which made it possible. Only sixty-six years later man had made it to the moon and back, and today commercial airlines carry passengers millions of miles a year all across the globe.

Ideas have consequences. When our nation was initially formed (1787-1789), slavery was almost dead in the South. Tobacco was losing its importance in the southern economy. In 1793, Eli Whitney (1765-1825) invented the cotton gin. Cotton became king and slavery continued for 70 more years resulting in the Civil War.

Ideas have consequences. Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) conceived of a plan to connect two voices by wire. Today, the entire civilized world is tied together with a massive communications network.

Another example of how ideas have consequences can be drawn from my own personal life. In early 1985 my family learned that we would have to move from the home we were renting in Fairfax, Virginia. We decided that we wanted to own our own home. We chose to move to the City of Manassas about 20 miles west of Fairfax. The house we elected to purchase was an older home (built in 1948) in need of some improvement and expansion but with "great potential." Our first year in this home provided many opportunities for frayed nerves, with an overall increase in

tension created by things like drywall and sawdust on the living room floor.

Our relocation afforded us a chance to become part of a different church, make new friends and establish new relationships. The relationships have brought fresh perspectives and new ideas as well as many challenging opportunities into our lives.

This process of change began when our landlord in Fairfax decided in 1984 that he wanted to retire and move to New Hampshire. His idea of retirement led him to sell his house, thus setting in motion the events described above, the consequences of which will continue for the rest of our lives.

IDEAS SHAPE OUR LIVES

What started as a tiny seed of an idea in each of the stories above, with the exception of the last story, has affected millions of lives. At every turn, we in America today are impacted by someone's ideas. For example, this small booklet is a byproduct of my idea. Somehow it will affect you. Our homes, cars, jobs, and schools each embody the substance of a multitude of ideas. Everything our senses perceive was at one time an idea -- even the ground on which we stand ("In the beginning, God created...").

IDEAS OF WHO WE ARE

Who are you? You have a perception of who you are though it may not be in a clear, conscious form. Your actions, your decisions, and even your thoughts are determined by your idea of who you are and what it will take to meet your needs.

We are all conscious of ourselves. Our views vary greatly, however. Some of us think more highly of ourselves than we ought. Others of us are constantly berating or putting ourselves down. Some have a

balanced perspective. Some believe we were created by God. Others believe we are descendants of lower life forms. Whatever your view may be, however, one thing is certain—your ideas (about yourself) have consequences.

Key Questions:

- Is there anything in existence that was not at one time an idea?
- How have the ideas of others impacted you?

CHAPTER 2 IDEAS ABOUT GOD, MAN, AND GOVERNMENT

Since time began, man has been on a search for truth -- to discover who he is (religion) and how he should relate to the world around him (politics). This primer tells the story of the development and consequences of two ideas about God, man, and government. The story begins with the end of the Middle Ages and moves forward to the present day.

The end of the Middle Ages was caused by a stirring in the heart of man to again know and understand truth. There had been, in the Western World, a millennium of darkness dominated by the Catholic church. Out of this climate, void of light, there arose two streams of thought (ideas), each holding promise for revitalizing culture and each espousing different ideas of God, man, and government. Both rejected the Catholic Church as the source of truth or ultimate authority. This age clearly produced three ideas of authority. They are:

I. TRADITIONAL VIEW: Authority rests in the church. It is the source of truth.

II. RENAISSANCE/ENLIGHTENMENT VIEW: Authority rests in human reason. It is the source of truth.

III. REFORMATION VIEW: Authority rests in the Holy Scriptures. They are the source of truth.

Both movements sought a return to earlier ideas. The Renaissance was fueled by a desire to rediscover classic literature and thought (Greek and Roman). The Reformation was built on the Hebrew heritage, and the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul as recorded in the Bible.

Chapters 3 and 4 provide a brief summary of individuals and events in both streams of ideas.

Key Questions:

- What is the source of truth?
- What is the basis of authority?
- Is there such a thing as usurped or illegitimate authority?

CHAPTER 3 THE SEEDS OF SOCIALISM

Consider how the ideas of the numerous figures from the Renaissance, the Enlightenment and the rise of Socialism have had long term consequences:

THE RENAISSANCE

The Renaissance is a period of history accentuated by a return to classical ideas. It is considered a revival or rebirth of the perspective of the Greeks and Romans affecting all areas of life and focusing on human reason as the means of achieving all knowledge.

- Petrarch (1304-1374), a scholar, poet, and man of letters, is considered the link between the middle Ages and the Renaissance period. His thoughts and writings sought a blending of classical culture and Christianity. He is known as the founder of European Humanism because his ideas helped to foster the rise of Humanism in the 15th and 16th centuries.

- Machiavelli (1469-1527), an Italian political philosopher, was the first to develop a political science around the study of man. He wrote and taught that the most decisive factor in political life is power, not ethics, and that political morality differs from standard ethical norms. He idolized the Roman culture, particularly their power, and wrote, "To be feared gives more security than to be loved." He also said, "A prudent ruler cannot and should not observe faith when such observance is to his disadvantage." Machiavelli worshipped power.

- Erasmus (1459-1536) was a Dutch, Roman Catholic Reformer. He was a Humanist contemporary of Martin Luther and a close friend of Sir Thomas More (see below). He believed reform could be achieved by exposure to good works of literature. His most widely acknowledged trait was an unswerving trust in human reason.

- Sir Thomas More (1478-1535) was an English statesman, scholar, and martyr for the Catholic faith. He opposed King Henry VIII who broke away from the Catholic church in order to divorce his wife (Catherine of Aragon), who had borne him no sons, and marry Anne Boleyn. He is most widely known for his book entitled *Utopia*, taken from two Greek words meaning "not place" or "nowhere." The book was critical of social problems of the day and painted an idyllic picture of a world where no such problems existed. More blamed the social ills on "the unreasonable covetousness of a few." Although More was devoutly religious, his book portrays a non-Christian socialist society.

- René Descartes (1596-1650), a French philosopher, is best known for his development of an elaborate chain of reasoning designed to prove the existence of God. The most critical link in this chain is the statement, "cogito ergo sum," or, "I think, therefore I am," meaning that the only proof of his (Descartes') existence was that he could think. His theories elevated human reason as the foundation of truth.

THE ENLIGHTENMENT

The Enlightenment grew out of the Renaissance. Its fundamental precept was that through observing order in nature, one could conclude that nature's governing principle was reasoning mind. Deism, the religion of the Enlightenment, teaches that God made the world and then ceased to be involved (The Clockmaker God Theory). The pinnacle of Enlightenment's influence was the French Revolution (1789-1799), standing in stark contrast to that of the American colonies (1776-1784).

- Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) is known as the founder of democratic thought. His view of the perfect society was a pure democracy (whatever 50% of the population plus one says is right -- is right).

His ideas fostered the French Revolution and the reign of terror.

- Robespierre (1758-1794) headed a party called the Jacobins in France in 1793. The Jacobins operated on the philosophy of Rousseau. They opposed the Catholic church in France, declaring that all church property was now owned by the state. After taking power in 1793, they ordered all Frenchmen to swear allegiance to the state over the Pope. Robespierre was beheaded in 1794 during the reign of terror.

- George Hegel (1770-1831) a German philosopher, possessed and encouraged through his teachings, a boundless faith in human reason. His book, *Philosophy of History*, drawn from lectures given in 1822 and published posthumously, taught that an individual leader of a nation possesses total freedom regarding any actions which might be necessary to achieve the "world historical mission" of that nation, this concept being the precursor of totalitarianism. He also believed that truth is arrived at through stages of reasoning, each stage building upon the previous stage and each stage negating the one before it. Even though one stage might be error, it is still considered truth because the following stage is built upon it. Hegel's writing indirectly influenced Karl Marx, and John Dewey, the father of American education, held Hegel's ideas in high regard.

SOCIALISM

Socialism grew out of the ideas of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment. The means to improve man, human reason said, was to improve man's environment. Since the cause of unhappiness was economic, it was only right to control the economic elements of a society to achieve a leveling (or making everyone equal) of all men. (Sound familiar?) Socialism then is state control and direction of the means of production and distribution of all goods and services.

- Robert Owen (1771-1858), a British manufacturer, is known as "the father of

British socialism." His philosophy, that "happiness is the goal of society," resulted in many other concepts such as, happiness can be achieved through restructuring the environment and educational processes. He also conceived of the idea of guaranteed employment, seeing joblessness as the cause of unhappiness. The pinnacle of his philosophy was the socialist experiment of 1824-1827 at New Harmony, Indiana, where he sought to introduce "an entire new state of society." His "village of cooperation" failed because a number of New Harmony's citizens refused to work.

- The struggle of the lower classes (Proletariat) with the middle classes (Bourgeoisie) in 19th century Europe was exacerbated by Karl Marx (181-1883). In his publications entitled *The Communist Manifesto* and *Das Kapital*, Marx predicted a class war pitting the working class against the ruling class. His ideas influenced leaders of the Bolshevik Revolution (1917) in Russia, resulting in the establishment of the Soviet Union which dominated hundreds of millions of people for over seventy years and still holds over a billion in bondage in China.

- In his publication, *Origin of Species* in 1859, Charles Darwin (1809-1882) claimed that man was a descendant of lower life forms. His ideas caught on quickly in institutions of higher learning, and spread rapidly to all fields of study. The socialist religion was now complete, capped with a theology of man's origins, proving that man was evolving and thus could be shaped by his environment (socialism).

Key Questions:

- Have you ever considered that systems of government are derived from ideas about God and man?
- Why can socialism be explained as an unprincipled reaction to the sinfulness of man?

CHAPTER 4 -- SEEDS OF CHRISTIAN REPUBLICANISM

(Republicanism is not to be confused with the Republican Party. See explanation in PART II.)

Chapter Three looked at the ideas of figures from the Renaissance, the Enlightenment and the rise of Socialism. Now consider how the below listed ideas of both individuals and groups from the Reformation, the Colonial Period and the Founding of our Christian Nation have had long term consequences:

THE REFORMATION

The Reformation is a period of history accentuated by a return to the Holy Scriptures as the sole standard of truth. It was a time which witnessed great upheaval and change. Many people were martyred on both sides of the controversy. The Reformation was responsible for putting the common man back in touch with the Holy Scriptures, resulting in the rise of the personal faith in a personal God.

- John Wycliffe (1320-1384), often called the Morning Star of the Reformation, had an idea. He translated the entire Bible from Latin into English. His hope was to place the Bible in every home so all could read and know God's Word. John Wycliffe was martyred and his ashes were thrown into the River Swift by the town of Lutterworth. Ideas do indeed have consequences.

- Johann Gutenberg (1395?-1468?) produced the first printing press with movable type. The first publication made on his press was the Holy Bible, helping to fulfill the dream of Wycliffe. Ideas have consequences. Martin Luther (1483-1546) nailed a statement of 95 theses to the door of the church at Wittenburg. He took a stand that the scriptures taught that people were saved by faith alone, not good works. This began the Reformation which swept across Europe for the next two centuries.

- John Calvin (1509-1564), a French-born Reformer, is known for his great intellect. His *Institutes of the Christian*

Religion, a systematic theology, is still today one of the most highly lauded works of its kind. He taught that man, to change society, must first be changed himself, through the process of regeneration of the Holy Spirit. He, more than any other thinker before or since, elevated the scriptures as the sole standard for both the individual and society. His ideas greatly influenced the Puritans, and his teachings on government and order were the foundation for self-governing communities in colonial New England. Ideas have consequences. John Knox (1515-1572) was a Scottish Reformer whose heart longed for a nation where all authority is derived from the Word of God (the Bible). John Knox was a close friend and disciple of John Calvin and sat under his teaching in Geneva, an experience which he described as "the most perfect school of Christ that ever was since the days of the apostles." It was here that they discussed the concept of civil disobedience for the sake of Christian conscience, laying a foundation for the Declaration of Independence over two centuries later.

THE COLONIAL PERIOD

Colonial New England was settled by Separatists and Puritans seeking religious freedom from the Church of England. Their small, self-governing communities, based on patterns in both the Old and New Testaments, served as a model for later American self-government at the national level. Colonial New England was truly a seedbed of freedom both spiritually (internally) and politically (spiritually). William Bradford (1590-1657), the second governor of Plymouth from 1621 to 1657, led a small and seemingly insignificant group of Separatists (we know them as Pilgrims) after they set out to establish a colony in Virginia in 1620. Their ship (the Mayflower) had been blown off course and landed in what is now Massachusetts. Shortly thereafter, the Puritans arrived,

bringing with them their Calvinistic ideas of local autonomy and self-government. Ideas have consequences. John Locke (1632-1704) was a Christian philosopher and the author of *The Reasonableness of Christianity* and *Of Civil Government*. These and several other of his publications had a profound impact upon the American War for Independence. Locke believed that the law of nature is identical with the law of God and can be learned either by reason of revelation. This concept runs contrary to those of his Humanist counterparts, who believed in the supremacy of man and discounted the idea of a transcendent God. Locke is particularly remembered for his strong statements on the right of individuals to own and control property and his idea that "conscience is the most sacred of all property."

- Sir William Blackstone (1723-1780), an English judge and professor of law at Oxford University, was the author of *Commentaries on the Laws of England*. Blackstone took the fragmented, English common law and reduced it into a written form. He was distinctly Christian in his thinking and writing. His commentaries begin with the foundation of God the Creator and the divine law which is to be found only in the Holy Scriptures.

- The American War for Independence was preceded by an extensive use of the Christian pulpit in preparing the hearts and minds of the colonists for freedom. Consider this excerpt from a message given by the Reverend Experience Mayhew A.M., pastor of West Church in Boston, on January 30, 1750:

...few will think the subject of it an improper one to be discoursed on in the pulpit, under a notion that this is preaching politics, instead of Christ. However... I beg it may be remembered that all scripture is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. Why, then, should not those parts of scripture which relate

to civil government be examined and explained from the desk [pulpit] as well as others?

- There is also the story that just prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the first and most flamboyant signer, John Hancock, had heard a message in church encouraging all men to fully obey the commands of Christ. These are just two of countless examples.

A CHRISTIAN NATION

Some who read the above heading will be offended. History books have been rewritten to eliminate this fact. There is strong recorded evidence, however, that not only the people of that time, but their ideas as well, fostered the break from England. Our forefathers were profoundly Christian in thought, word, and deed. The Great Awakening of the 1740s and 1750s laid the groundwork for America's War for Independence. America is the offspring of the Reformation and its ideas.

- America's founding fathers drafted a Declaration in 1776, claiming the 13 colonies were free from the rule of the king of England. "There is no such right as the divine right of kings," they said, drawing upon their Reformation heritage.

- Our U.S. Constitution was born of an idea that power should be shared, not concentrated. Our founding fathers understood the idea of government very clearly. They knew that control had to come from somewhere. Their greatest fear in setting up a new nation was that of a strong, centralized government. These men saw that power is best left in the hands of many, not a few. Their struggle with this fear resulted in the Constitution, which so beautifully sets out the concept of the separation of powers. Power was divided into three areas (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial). It was also dispersed on many levels (Federal, State, and various levels of local government). Decentralization with voluntary unity was the way which the framers envisioned for keeping America free and productive. Our third president,

Thomas Jefferson, a firm believer in limited government, once said, "That government governs best, which governs least." This idea of shared power of federalism will be discussed more fully in PART II.

Key Questions:

- How is Christian Republicanism different from socialism?
- Why is Christian Republicanism built on principled action rather than the unprincipled reaction of socialism?

THE BASIC TENETS OF AMERICA'S TWO BELIEF SYSTEMS

REFORMATION AND TRADITIONAL AMERICAN VIEW

RENAISSANCE, ENLIGHTENMENT AND SOCIALIST VIEW

- GOD -

- God is a person -- Supreme ruler of all creation
- God is intimately concerned with all affairs of men
- God is unknown
- If there is a God, He created the world and is no longer involved

- MAN -

- Man is made in the image of God
- Man's purpose is to serve God
- God is the center of the universe
- Man has a spirit and a soul -- he can know his creator
- Man has been corrupted by power of sin and needs redemption
- Man must be reconciled with his creator
- The individual is primary in society. He is unique and deserving of respect because he is made in God's image.
- Man's conscience (spirit) is his guide to truth
- Man's origins are unknown -- probably evolved
- Man's purpose is to serve society or the state
- Man is the center of the universe
- Man is an animal -- a physical machine
- Man is innately and inherently good
- Man's flaws can be perfected through education
- The individual is not important. The masses or the people are what is important
- Man can be "programmed" through education to know truth

- OUR VALUES -

- God is source of all truth
- Holy Scriptures reveal God's purpose for man
- Values are eternal and unchanging
- Truth changes culture
- Theology determines morality
- Reason is source of all truth
- Society determines man's purpose
- Values change as society changes
- Culture changes truth
- Morality determines theology

- SOCIETY AND THE STATE -

- Man shapes society
- State exists to serve man
- Man is governed by just laws based on Biblical truth
- Authority of state is limited. Authority is divided into family, church, and civil spheres
- Change man first. Man changes institutions
- Society shapes man
- Man exists to serve state
- Man is governed by will of majority or ruling elite
- State is all powerful. Churches and families are subservient
- Change institutions first. Institutions change man

CHAPTER 5 -- THE CONFLICT OF IDEAS AND THEIR FRUITS

Described on the previous page are two lists of ideas and their consequences.

The Reformation elevated the Holy Scriptures as the supreme expression of truth. As individuals were able to read and understand the ideas contained in the Bible and became regenerated, a new idea arose to society. Man was seen as having been created in God's image, his culture being an expression of his redeemed individuality. These ideas were culminated in the birth of the American Constitutional Republic. America was clearly established on the ideas of the Reformation. The Renaissance and Enlightenment promoted the idea that man is the center of the universe and through his reason, he could comprehend all truth. It fostered a belief in a secular utopia with governments and institutions being the vehicle through which men are saved. The culmination of these ideas are the socialist/communist nations of today. It is interesting that the belief system which sees man as the center of the universe results in the supremacy of the state, while the system which places God at its center results in dignity, freedom, and self-government for man. Ultimately, it is ideas which liberate. Conversely, it is ideas which enslave. Agreed, a massive army staring you down the throat can indeed be intimidating, but to many Christian martyrs, the idea of death did not cause them to retreat into bondage.

There is a conflict, then, between good ideas and bad; between ideas which liberate and ideas which enslave.

Key Questions:

- Which system truly elevates or respects the individual?
- Which system generates the most freedom?
- Which system requires the most from the individual?
- Which system is the most difficult to maintain?

SUMMARY OF PART I -- THE POWER OF IDEAS

- *Chapter 1 - Understanding How Ideas Affect Our Lives:*

Every idea sets in motion a chain of consequences whose impact is felt for generations to come.

- *Chapter 2 - Ideas about God, Man, and Government:*

Man's idea of who God is, and who he is, determines the type of government he will have.

- *Chapter 3 - Seeds of Socialism:*

Socialism is born of the idea that human reason alone can achieve truth and that man is the center of the universe.

- *Chapter 4 - Seeds of Christian Republicanism:*

Christian Republicanism is born of the idea that the Holy Scriptures are the revelation of complete truth, that man is created by God and that God is the center of the universe.

- *Chapter 5 - Conflicting Ideas and Their Fruits:*

Some ideas lead to freedom, others to slavery.

PART II -- THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

CHAPTER 6 -- THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN FREEDOM

You have just completed the story (albeit brief) about how our nation came to be. Our founding fathers went to great lengths to ensure the perpetuation of individual liberty. They were extremely wise and insightful, understanding the forces and ideas which work at destroying a nation's freedom. They believed that certain rights were endowed upon us from our Creator. This is *the most critical* of all concepts incorporated into the founders' plans for self-government, for if certain rights do not come from God then they are reduced to being a grant from the state, subject to repeal. God is the ultimate guarantor of our freedom. We were designed for it in His original, Biblically-revealed plan. Forces and ideas have been working contrary to freedom, often in extremely subtle and deceptive ways, since time began. America's Christian Constitutional Federalist Republic is the most advanced expression of Christian self-government since the history of man began. Now, we are on the verge (one generation) of losing it

all. In the remaining chapters of Part II we will discuss the following topics, unfolding the reasons why freedom in America is about to be lost.

Chapter 7 -- The Original Plan for Preserving Freedom

Chapter 8 -- The Growth of Socialism in America

Chapter 9 -- The Systematic Dismantling of the Constitution

Key Questions:

- What key differences are there between the founding of our nation and the founding of other nations in the world?
- What key differences are there between the founding of our nation and that of other nations in the Americas?
- What was the principle reason for the Plymouth Colony?

CHAPTER 7 -- THE ORIGINAL PLAN FOR PRESERVING FREEDOM

THE U.S. IS NOT A DEMOCRACY

A pure democracy (50% plus 1 rules) will eventually bring tyranny to any nation. The founding fathers understood this concept and developed a system to preserve freedom while protecting the nation from tyranny. America is a Christian Constitutional Federalist Republic. Below is a brief description of each one of these terms.

REPUBLIC

A republic is a representative form of government. Representatives are lawmakers or policy makers who chart the course and direction of government. Each represents a certain area or district.

The first republic was the nation of Israel prior to King Saul. You can read this story in the book of Judges. Each of the 12 tribes of Israel had a territory set apart for them to occupy and govern. There was no king at the time, but rather elders over each tribe. The law or "constitution" was the Mosaic law or Pentateuch. This republic failed because individuals did not keep the covenant (law). They begged Samuel (the prophet) to give them a king "like the other nations." Saul was made king and that was the end of the first republic.

Government in ancient Greece and Rome had hints of republicanism for both had elected bodies which theoretically represented the people. However, a class system still existed wherein not all people had equal rights nor could all hold public office.

The first century church was set up with a republican form of government. Although limited in the civil sphere, each church (community) was self-governed by elders elected or appointed.

Representatives do not have to be elected for a government to be a republic. For example, during the era of the Soviet Union (Union of Soviet Socialist *Republics*), a so-called representative form of government

existed although the people had no real say in who their representatives were.

FEDERALIST

The main tenet of Federalism is shared power. In a Federalist arrangement, the central (national) government has the least power and the local governments (states) have the most power. Take note of the tenth amendment which reads, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." The strong point of federalism is that government is most effective when kept close to home. The more centralized a government becomes, the more the people become its servant because they cease to control it.

CONSTITUTIONAL

Human reason is such that ideas and perspectives are subject to rapid change. Thus, it can become quite easy for most of us to get caught in a mob mentality. This is why pure democracy will always lead to tyranny.

The Constitution, not the will of the majority or the latest public opinion poll, is the law of the land. The Constitution protects our freedom by sheltering us from the tyranny of the majority. Fortunately, it is very cumbersome to change or amend the Constitution and it was designed so, just for the reasons enumerated above.

God alone possesses all power and authority. He has delegated to man the responsibility to govern or manage the earth (Genesis 1:26: "...have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth"). God shares His power with man in this way. God's governing authority is summed up in Isaiah 33:22: "For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us." In this scripture, God defines the three governmental functions which He

alone holds (judicial power, legislative power, and executive power).

The foundation of the American Republic is its Constitution, a body of law undergirding all governmental action. All officials (judges, legislators, and presidents -- note the similarity to Isaiah 33:22) are subject to the Constitution. The U.S. Constitution wisely divides or separates powers into three functions (legislative, executive, and judicial). In order to protect the people from abuse of authority, no one individual or group can possess more than one of these powers.

CHRISTIAN

The word above means many things to many people. The most accepted use is for the individual, describing one who believes in and follows Jesus Christ. In this context, the word is a noun (*i.e.*, He is a Christian). Another usage would be the form of an adjective (*i.e.*, That is a Christian nation) describing a characteristic of something. Obviously an entire nation made up of individuals cannot, as one individual, be a follower of Christ. It can, however, be built upon and operate under ideas and principles which are Christian in nature. It is in this context that America is a Christian nation (at least in the original plan).

The single building block of a Christian nation is the self-governing individual, the primary requirement being that of accountability. This fundamental concept of Christian self-government is anti-socialist and breathes freedom into the life of the nation.

- I. We are each individually accountable for personal self-government.
 - A. Providing materially for ourselves and our families
 - B. Managing and using our personal God-given talents to benefit our fellow man
 - C. Conducting our lives so as to treat our fellow citizens with the respect they deserve because they, like us, are made in God's image

II. We are each individually accountable for local self-government.

- A. Working together to manage our local communities
- B. Working together to ensure effective state government

III. We are each individually accountable for local self-government.

- A. To vote, well informed, in all elections
- B. To guard our Constitutional rights and the rights of others from infringement

Albert Einstein once said, "The strength of the Constitution lies entirely in the determination of each citizen to defend it. Only if every single citizen feels duty bound to do his share in this defense are the Constitutional rights secure.

The key element of good government then is individual self-government. When individual self-government (internal control) fails, then there arises a need for stronger centralized government (external control). The nation of Israel (see Republic -- this chapter) at the time of the Judges failed because of loss of individual internal control. Some people, like the Israelites, would rather be told what to do than manage life themselves. The idea of individual self-government is distinctly Judeo-Christian, whereas socialist philosophy makes little provision for individual accountability, dealing with people "en masse" or in groups.

Socialism takes a "top down" approach to government while Christian self-government is voluntary from the "bottom up."

Key Questions:

- How did the founders' ideas of God and man affect their idea of government?
- How does the sharing of power (Federalism) protect the individual?
- Can a nation's system of government be built upon religious principles?
- Can a nation's system of government *not* be built upon religious principles?

CHAPTER 8 -- THE GROWTH OF SOCIALISM IN AMERICA

The American Christian Constitutional Federalist Republic was a government established to serve the people. Today, however, the tables have completely turned. The people have become the servants of the government. How much of your time at work goes to feed the federal bureaucracy? For that time you are the government's bondslave!

How then did our national government become so powerful, and what causes drove the American public to look to Capitol Hill as their savior? Consider the following events in American history and the subsequent increase in federal sovereignty at the expense of individual sovereignty.

THE CIVIL WAR

The pre-Civil War south was built illegitimately from the ground up. From the arrival in 1619 of the first blacks, until the Civil War, the southern economy was sustained only by depriving certain human beings (black slaves) of their God-given human dignity and civil rights. It was this flagrant violation of not only Biblical morality but human reason that kept the South afloat in otherwise troubled economic waters. It was at his second inaugural address, March 4, 1865, toward the end of the war, when then-President Abraham Lincoln, quoting the Holy Scriptures, said, "Woe unto the world because of offenses; for it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh. If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all

the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'" (Question: If the Civil War was, as President Lincoln said, "God's way of reclaiming human blood lost through slavery," then what calamity yet awaits us for the slaying of over 18 million unborn babies since 1973 *Roe v. Wade*?)

The Civil War, a struggle over states' rights as much as over slavery, resulted in a Northern victory and a stronger centralized government. As reconstructionist policies were implemented, the "savior state" was born. America was on a course far away from Federalism and toward the centralization of power.

This period of history is further punctuated with the adoption of the 14th amendment to the Constitution, which while guaranteeing equal treatment to all individuals regardless of race, also conversely reduced the power of the individual states and strengthened the federal government's control. This amendment is widely used today in the enforcement of federal policies at the state level. (Note: Take a second look at the tenth amendment under **Federalist** in this booklet.)

TRUSTBUSTERS

Following the Civil War there was a move toward mass industrialization. Not only did the industrialists take advantage of their laborers (causing the rise of the labor movement -- a field white unto harvest for the communists in the early 1900s), but they also schemed to create large monopolies which were meant to control or corner the market on certain goods and services. Many of the industrialists were evolutionists, operating out of a "survival of the fittest" philosophy. They saw themselves as the "fittest" and thought

nothing of manipulating others to achieve their own selfish ends. The federal government stepped in to break up these monopolies, but in so doing began a trend toward the regulation of commerce and trade. The government became the champion of the people, freeing them from the hands of the cruel "big business" interests. It was one more step in the growth of the "savior" state.

THE NEW (RAW) DEAL

The causes of the great depression are many and complex, but the results were catastrophic for millions. Whether homeless and out of work or simply struggling, families in America turned their hearts again to Uncle Sam. And he did not disappoint them, creating massive work programs and getting America back on her feet. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President, was the originator of the New Deal and was elected to an unprecedented four terms. In a speech to Congress on January 6, 1941, Roosevelt outlined what he perceived as the "four essential freedoms," two of which are the "freedom from want" and the "freedom from fear." Only a socialist government could even attempt to guarantee such freedoms. By this time in American history, and with the aid of men like Roosevelt, peddling their palatable socialist ideology, the federal bureaucracy had established itself as the "savior" of the people.

THE GREAT (SOCIALIST) SOCIETY

Wherever human beings are present, there will be problems. No era in American history demonstrates this statement more clearly than the 1960s. The sixties saw the rise of the civil rights movement, the environmentalist movement, the peace movement, the feminist movement, and the consumer movement, to name but a few. Each brought their prayers and petitions written on placards and signs and offered them to their god -- the "savior" state -- worshipping at their altar -- the Capitol steps. "Save us," they cried. "Save us from ourselves." So their god responded with a rash of laws and regulations designed to perfect every area of our lives, to make us

all equal, and to remove from us the consequences of our actions and decisions.

TOP-DOWN OR BOTTOM-UP GOVERNMENT?

The world is not a perfect place and as long as humans are in control it never will be. In Part I we discussed the two ideas of God, man, and government. The socialist idea, born of the Renaissance/Enlightenment view of man, is *top-down* government. Conversely, the traditional American view is that power is best left in the hands of many self-governing units, allied voluntarily but retaining as much local autonomy as possible. This is government from the *bottom up*.

Most Americans have been slowly wooed into thinking like socialists. It has not happened overnight but has taken several generations. On the next pages I have listed IDEAS which are socialist to the core. They are non-Christian, and promote a *top-down* government. Their end is the enslavement of the American people. Unfortunately, they are now in the mainstream of current American thought. Read them over and see if you think like a socialist.

Key Questions:

- How did the failure of individual self-government (internal control) result in the rise of centralized government (external control)?
- What happens when people look to their government for help instead of God?
- Do Americans need to repent for making their government their God?

A SOCIALISTIC WORLD-VIEW PERSPECTIVE

- It is the responsibility of the state to educate the children.
- It is the responsibility of the state to provide a retirement for everyone (social security).
- It is the responsibility of the state to see that everyone is financially provided for.
- It is the responsibility of the state to manage the economy.
- It is the responsibility of the state to protect everyone from failure.
- It is wrong for the state to take a position on moral issues.
- You can't legislate morality.
- The state is the highest authority over all things.
- Rights are granted by the state.
- The 50 states are sub-agencies of the federal government.
- The United States is a democracy.
- Religion should have no impact on public life.
- The first amendment calls for a separation of church and state.
- You can't fight city hall.

A CHRISTIAN WORLD-VIEW PERSPECTIVE

- It is the responsibility of the parents to educate their children.
- Individuals and families should provide for themselves.
- It is the responsibility of the state to see that an environment exists where a free-market economy can work.
- It is the responsibility of the state to see that an environment exists where a free-market economy can work.
- It is the responsibility of the state to see that an environment exists where a free-market economy can work.
- Every issue is a moral issue; every position is a moral judgment.
- All legislation is morally based (but whose morality prevails?)
- God is the highest authority; the state is but one of several ministers of authority in our lives.
- All rights are granted by God; it is the responsibility of the state to protect our God-given rights.
- The states are autonomous units, *voluntarily* joined together under a *federalist* form of government.
- The United States is a Christian Constitutional Federalist Republic.
- Public life is but a reflection of who the public is.
- The first amendment *restricts Congress* from setting up a national church.
- You can reelect the people who run city hall.

Key Question: Which is more dangerous -- a strong centralized government or a nation of people who think like Socialists?

CHAPTER 9 -- THE SYSTEMATIC DISMANTLING OF THE CONSTITUTION

As noted earlier, the Constitution is the law of the land. It separates or divides power into three functions (legislative, judicial, and executive). There is a battle raging today over the concept of Constitutional law. Is the Constitution a fixed, unchangeable standard, or is it meant to be manipulated to fit with the current social mores? Social engineers, working to redirect society to their own socialistic ends, together with activist judges, are manipulating the law with hopes of restructuring our society into a secularist utopia. The perfect society of which they dream is one where there are no distinctions between people (*i.e.*, races, cultures, and sexes) and no religion to challenge the conduct of society's leaders and members. (Do you remember the John Lennon song "Image"?) Judges have blatantly violated their Constitutional function by assuming the role of a legislator. This is done by court decisions which set legal precedent and, in essence, make new laws, a role reserved only for Congress, the representatives of the people. Such activism in the courts is fueled by the ideals of a high-minded "morally superior" elite, foisting upon us a complete socialist agenda, designed to right all the wrongs of society with the force of a centralized governmental machine driving socialism down our throats. Its end is the stripping of individual liberty and accountability, and establishing the complete sovereignty of the state. In his book, *The Second American Revolution*, author John Whitehead details the systematic misuse of raw judicial power and its long-term effects on American society.

How is it that this travesty is happening right under our nose? In Part III we will discuss how our nation's conscience has been seduced.

Key Questions:

- What is the Separation of Powers in the Constitution?
- What happens when one branch of government illegitimately usurps a role or function not designated for it?
- Why will the court's illegitimate usurpation of legislative power lead to totalitarianism in America if not checked?

SUMMARY OF PART II -- THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

- *Chapter 6 - The Biblical Foundation of American Freedom:*
America was established on a Biblical (Judeo-Christian) foundation.
- *Chapter 7- The Original Plan for Preserving Freedom:*
America is a Christian Constitutional Federalist Republic -- not a democracy.
- *Chapter 8 - The Growth of Socialism in America:*
Failure of individuals to govern themselves has resulted in the centralization of authority.
- *Chapter 9 - The Systematic Dismantling of the Constitution:*
The court system in America is exercising legislative power unconstitutionally.

PART III -- THE NATION'S CONSCIENCE

Of all the material in this booklet, this section is the most critical. This section involves you personally, and your individual responsibilities as a citizen.

CHAPTER 10 -- THE INDIVIDUAL CONSCIENCE

John Locke, noted above, said, "Conscience is the most sacred of all property." Conscience is the only property that cannot be seized or taken. Today in Communist bloc countries there are thousands (probably millions) of people who are being true to their consciences. And in recent years here in our own nation, Christian teenagers have lost their lives while standing up for their Christian faith.

While physical property and persons may be seized, stolen and even murdered, faithful saints have held their consciences in freedom. Many Americans who, though physically free, are dull of conscience and internally bound to ideas which, if left to fully develop, will ultimately enslave them physically as well.

Key Question:

- Is your conscience awake?

CHAPTER 11 -- HOW TO ENSLAVE A NATION

There are three steps which are required to enslave the conscience of a people:

- I. Remove God from the public consciousness under the guise of separation of church and state. (Foster the myth of neutrality or amorality. In reality, there is no such thing as amorality.) (See Chapter 13.)

- A. Remove God from the public schools.
- B. Remove God from the marketplace (nativity scenes at public buildings, etc.)
- C. Portray Christianity in a derogatory way in movies and on television. (What is the difference between portraying a black person in a stereotype on television and portraying a Christian in a stereotype on television?)

- II. Reeducate the next generation.

- A. Have the schools take a "neutral" stand on pre-marital sex and downplay traditional moral values.

- B. Teach children that there is no right or wrong (values clarification in public schools).
- C. Teach evolution as a science (the socialist religion of origins).

- III. Buy off the individual conscience with pleasures and comforts.

This is how you enslave a nation!

Key Questions:

- Why do socialistic nations discourage and even persecute those with a personal faith in God?
- What causes an individual to seek God?
- Why is individual personal faith in God paramount to preserving freedom?

CHAPTER 12 -- COMFORTS AND PLEASURES

Within each of us there is a God-created vacuum, a place for Him and Him alone. Generally, when we are in a crisis, we turn to God. Otherwise, we seek to fill this vacuum with other things (materialism).

There are two means by which our lives are guided. One is a principled conscience, the other is our senses. To be sense guided is to be driven by a desire to please the senses. We live in an extremely sense-oriented culture -- the most sensual culture ever in the history of mankind. When I use the word sensual, it is meant to describe an environment where the senses are continually being exposed to things which stimulate them. Take for example the television set. It is on in the average household over seven hours a day emitting images and sounds (sense stimulators). A new car, a refreshing beverage or type of food, new clothes, perfume, jewelry or some other tantalizing product is paraded before us in an attempt to stimulate our senses and motivate us into purchasing whatever the advertiser is trying to sell. Men and women are promoted as objects of desire (things to

be possessed and enjoyed). Comfort and pleasure have become paramount.

With so many things, then, who needs God? We are comfortable, satisfied, secure - - all is well. And while our conscience is asleep, our Constitution is being dismantled and our freedoms being tossed aside. No one notices; we are too preoccupied with our comforts and pleasures to care.

For most Americans, the chief motivation has become the preservation of pleasures and comforts. As a bloc of voters, we Americans have begun to regularly vote our pocketbooks instead of voting for leaders who understand and adhere to the the principles of good government.

Key Questions:

- Are your actions determined by a principled conscience or by a reaction to your senses?
- How many decisions in your life are determined by a desire to preserve comfort and security?

CHAPTER 13 – HAVE WE FORGOTTEN HOW TO THINK?

Americans have become infatuated with amusements. VCR's, computers, video games, and sports mania have infiltrated the American family. The television precludes family interaction. We have become a nation of spectators, non-participants in life. We observe but do not relate. We have found many ways to amuse ourselves. To muse means to think, ponder, meditate, or consider. To *A*-muse means to *not* do these things. Musing requires effort and a willingness to take time to consider things in the abstract, things which are not readily obvious. Two factors have precluded most Americans from musing: (1) an information overload -- the 24-hour-a-day bombardment from various media sources; and (2) a relative level of comfort (*i.e.*, there is no need for most of us to look for anything more -- we have it all).

What happens when we don't muse? We become vulnerable pawns in the hands of those with powerful ideas -- ideas such as those previously outlined. We lose our basis for sound judgment and we swallow what is fed to us.

Our preoccupation with amusements has affected our ability to think critically. We believe what we believe but we don't know *why* we believe what we believe.

Take for example the following two statements. Both are illogical, and demonstrate a lack of critical thinking.

Statement #1: You can't legislate morality.

Most of us think this way, but consider the following before you conclude that this statement is accurate.

What is legislation? It is the statutization of a culture's unwritten moral code. In other words, putting into law that which a culture deems as proper conduct for its members. For example, our culture has determined that it is unsafe for vehicles to travel more than 25 miles per hour in a

residential neighborhood. The encodation of this cultural value results in a speed limit sign on a residential street. What values underlie this law? In a residential neighborhood, there are often children playing, people walking, or cars backing out of their driveways. A vehicle driving at 45 miles per hour could endanger the life of any one of the individuals mentioned above. Thus, a 25-mile-per-hour limit is designed to protect lives -- a moral value legislated. This is true of all legislation, for all legislation has, underneath it, a set of values. But whose?

Statement #2 -- I don't believe in abortion for myself but I believe every woman has the right to make her own choice.

This is quite an accepted position taken by many in our society. It is a position popularized by a recent female vice-presidential candidate. But it is schizophrenian in nature and reveals a lack of critical thinking.

If you believe that abortion is wrong for you, it is because you value human life. you believe that the fetus in your womb is human life. If the fetus in your womb is human life, then the fetus in your neighbor's womb is human life, too. If it is wrong for you to destroy human life, then it is wrong for your neighbor to destroy human life. Life is life, no matter whose womb it may be found in. If it is wrong for you, it is wrong, period! It can't be wrong for you and right for someone else. To value human life selectively is to not value human life.

I recently read an article telling the story of a Christian man on an airplane who observed an individual, either a public speaker or an educator, highlighting a sentence in boldface type which read, "We must communicate the fact that there are no absolutes." Webster defines the word "must" in this way: "1) To be required or obliged by morality, law, or custom. 2) To

be compelled as by a physical necessity or requirement. Also 'an *absolute* requirement.'" Does this sound like schizophrenia to you?

Those whose thoughts parallel the above statements are victims of a culture which is expert at promoting clichés and nice-sounding ideas which underneath have no firm basis. The reason we so easily fall prey to such platitudes is our failure to think critically, and to understand why we believe what we believe. We then become pawns of those who wish to subtly and slowly shape our thinking (*i.e.*, to brainwash us) to achieve their own ends.

The Bible teaches us to "be transformed..., the renewing of your mind," and to "put on the mind of Christ." Only by following these Biblical instructions will we be free from the manipulative efforts of those who seek to seduce our consciences.

Key Questions:

- What are your sources of information?
- How trustworthy are they?
- Is there a danger when most Americans have the same information source (*i.e.*, network TV news)?
- Why do all three TV networks generally cover the same stories every day? Is there a problem with this?
- Why is it easier to let others tell us how to think than it is to think for ourselves?

CHAPTER 14 -- YOUR CONSCIENCE

How about you? Are you free? Or are you bound to preserve your pleasures and comforts? Do you realize that with the expanding power of the state your freedoms are slowly being taken away? Is your conscience awake? What do you believe? Why do you believe it? Can you think critically or do you, like most Americans, lap up what is fed to you by the media? Do you want to be free or are you comfortable where you are? What motivates you? Are you sense driven or do you operate out of a principled conscience? What are your values? How are they derived?

These are questions that we all need to consider. Take time to think on them. Muse. Ponder. Reflect. Learn to think again.

SUMMARY OF PART III -- THE NATION'S CONSCIENCE

Chapter 10 - The Individual Conscience:

The individual conscience is the "most sacred of all property," unable to be seized, only seduced.

Chapter 11 - How to Enslave a Nation:

Enslave a nation by removing God from the public consciousness, reeducate the next generation, and replace God with pleasures and comforts (materialism).

Chapter 12 - Comforts and Pleasures:

There are two ways to be guided -- one is by a principled conscience, the other is by our senses.

Chapter 13 - We Have Forgotten How to Think

Critical thinking has been stolen from the life of the average American by amusements.

Chapter 14 - Your Conscience:

Some questions to consider for your personal life.

CONCLUSION

At the beginning of this booklet, in the INTRODUCTION, I said that politics and religion are inseparably bound, and that they alone determine what type of life we will live. I have tried to demonstrate this fact in PARTS I, II, and III. This booklet is meant to be only a primer, something to get you thinking. If you found it difficult to read, let it sit, muse upon some of the ideas, perhaps the questions in Chapter 14, and pick it up again in a few days.

I hope you see more clearly how ideas of God, man, and government affect our lives.

America is on the verge of collapse. The moral fiber of our nation is almost gone. Our children are on drugs, our bodies are ravaged with sexual diseases, and we are killing 1.5 million babies a year. Where are those of principled conviction, with active consciences, who will stand against the tide with steel in their backbones and say, "Let us return to our foundations"?

America was built on the strength and character of the individual and can be reclaimed *only* on this same principle. Remember, good government can only be built from the bottom up! Your conscience is the key!

I trust that you have read this booklet with an open mind. My heart and soul have gone into it. I wrote it not for me but for you. I ask for no money; I have no organization I want you to join. I do, however, appeal to your conscience to take the following steps:

1. Rediscover your conscience.
2. Rediscover your creator.
3. Rediscover your individuality.
4. Rediscover your Bible.
5. Rediscover your Constitution.
6. Rediscover the American political process.