
❧ Understanding the Times ❧

A Story About the 2nd American Revolution

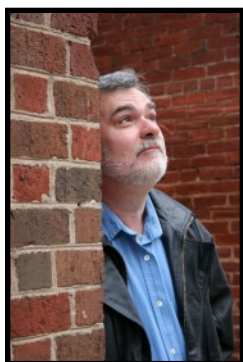
by The Famished Patriot

NO. 5

I Chronicles 12:32

JANUARY- FEBRUARY, 2020

1. ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...



Welcome to the 5th installment of *Understanding the Times: A Story About the American Revolution*. My name is Mark Weaver and I publish the periodical you are reading.

The primary mission of this publication is to provide access to the real stories going on behind the scenes. Journalism as we have known it is dead. As our nation continues down its path of self-destruction, millions of Americans want to know what is really happening.

The secondary mission is to provide what I hope will be some helpful insight and perspective to aid you, the reader, as you navigate through the muck and mire that is now feeding our culture.

Several years ago, I adopted a moniker, a nom de plum if you will. I call myself The Famished Patriot. I am a lover of America and I am hungry to learn as much as I can about our nation's founders, forbears and founding principles.

Therefore, after four issues of this newsletter, I decided that I should formally introduce myself and break free to write in the first person.

2. A QUICK RECAP...

#FAKENEWS is real. That is the primary reason that Q appeared on October 28, 2017. The mainstream

news is unreliable. According to Q **We are the News Now**.

Q is believed to be an operation of patriots within the US Military Intelligence community working with the president and other civilian patriots to take down the "Deep State" criminals in government, media, business, entertainment and anywhere else that "Black Hats" conspire to destroy America. The ultimate goal of the Q team is to restore America to her Judeo-Christian, Constitutional roots.

Q's arrival on the scene activated a flood of citizen journalists. Q "dropped" clues for us to research, first on 4chan, then on 8chan, and of late on 8kun. Q's "drops" have led the digging researchers to a plethora of stories and databases and information long-hidden from the public eye. Here's a quick rundown of what we've discovered so far:

- Q and the team have assured us that they have a plan that is being executed masterfully. Q tells us to **TRUST THE PLAN**.
- We have learned about Spygate, the plan of the CIA, the DOJ, and the FBI (among others) to 1. Keep Trump from winning the 2016 election, 2. Keep Trump from being inaugurated in 2017 and 3. To undermine Trump's presidency and to find crimes for which he could be impeached. Their efforts have failed on all three fronts.
- The arrest and subsequent death of Jeffrey Epstein has brought to light a massive pedophile and sex-trafficking blackmail network that has enslaved tens of thousands of innocent children and women and corrupted a profusion of elected

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officials, business-people and many in the entertainment industry.

- The Disney Corporation is slowly being exposed as another web of corruption. Stories of sexual abuse and manipulation of young, up-and-coming stars are now making the news.
- The desperation of the “Black Hat” Leftist criminals has become evident. It is not, as we’ve been told, that they simply preferred Hillary to be our leader. Their anguished efforts to find any kind of crime to pin on our president reveals their true motive. They are terrified that their own traitorous crimes will be brought to the light.
- The #FakeNews media has been exposed as little more than a “propaganda machine,” launched by the CIA as a program known as “Operation Mockingbird.” As a result, citizen journalists have now become America’s “**Storytellers**.”
- We are learning that the **story** we are watching originated in heaven. God inspired His people to intercede for our nation. God then responded to our prayers by sending Donald Trump and the team that works with him. But by the time that Trump came on the scene, God’s prophetic voices had already been activated, declaring in advance what God was about to do.
- The web of corruption is both deep and widespread. We have learned of Hillary’s “Open Secrets” left on her server for our enemies and allies to access. We now know that twenty percent of America’s Uranium supply was sold in secret to the Russians who then later, sold it to Iran. Vice President Joe Biden used the power of his office to shut down the investigation of his son, Hunter, in the Ukraine/Burisma deal. The full story behind the Benghazi nightmare is still yet to be made public. And there’s much more...
- Have you been “red-pilled?”
- Did you know that the US intelligence community cannot legally spy on American citizens? Did you also know that we have treaties with fourteen nations, giving us all the ability to spy on each other’s citizens and then share the information?

- The world’s central-banking system is in place to drive nations into deep, unmanageable debt, all for the purpose of giving the “Deep State,” Cabal elites the ultimate power and control over the world. Trump and his team are working to bring them down.

So there you have it. Just a quick recap to bring us all back up to speed.

3. WHAT IS BEHIND ALL OF THIS EVIL?

Have you ever considered that it was just three little words followed by a question mark that brought down the entire human race? Yes, the serpent’s insidious query—“Hath God said?”—planted a seed of doubt into the woman’s mind, leading to the termination of the perfect life that God envisioned for the family of mankind.

The deceiver’s follow-up statement, proffered skillfully, proved **just how fragile the truth can be** when challenged by a skilled liar possessing a masterful pretense of authority.

“You will not surely die,” he assured her, followed by the promise that if she went ahead and tasted the fruit, she would be able to understand good and evil, just like God.

She bit. She then offered a bite to her husband. BOOM! That was it! Their life in God’s beautiful garden had been terminated—just like that—the bitter fruit of exchanging the truth for a lie.

Was it not Jesus Himself who characterized His arch-enemy as “a liar and the father of lies?” (John 8:44). He surely would know, wouldn’t He? After all, it was Jesus who said, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” (Luke 10:18).

Few would challenge the thought that Satan is the most deceptive being in all of creation. Deception is his primary power. Yes, he divides us. He also diverts our attention away from God, attempting to lead us down dark and deadly paths. And oh how easily he can discourage us! How does he do these things? Through his power of deception.

America, indeed the world, has been taken hostage by the power of deception. And we are far deeper into the dastardly web of lies than we could ever possibly imagine.

The very first step towards restoring our American liberty is to open up our minds to consider the possibility that we have indeed been the victims of massive deception. As noted on the first page of this issue of *Understanding the Times*, the mission of this publication is to "... provide access to the real stories going on behind the scenes..."

To understand more fully just how deeply we have been deceived, I recommend the four sources listed below.

Thanks to the hard work of others, we can now take a deep-dive into the real history of our world. As we read and consider the information in these resources, the process of decontaminating our minds can commence.

Our airwaves have been filled with falsehood after falsehood. Our thinking processes have been tampered with and our belief systems and worldviews have been manipulated. Our understanding of reality has been malfunctioning for decades.

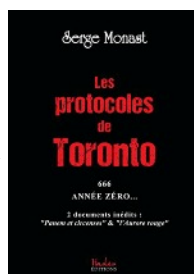
But before you dive into these documents, I suggest you first read this very short blog post which defines the meaning of the word "pathocracy," the disease of those who have held the power for generations. I call them the "Satanically-inspired, pathologically elite."

<https://pathocracy.wordpress.com/definition/>

Now, join me in discovery:

1. *Protocols of Toronto*
by Serge Monast

In the early 1990's, French Canadian journalist, Serge Monast, began researching the "New World Order" (NWO). He published his work, *Protocols of Toronto*, in 1995. The relatively short book tells the story of two



secret meetings of elite world leaders and their plans to take over the world. At the first meeting, held in 1967, attendees spelled out, in general terms, their essential goals and the means to reach them. At the second meeting, held in 1985, 27 specific steps were set into place with the expectation that their NWO would be in place by 1998. The 27 steps from 1985 are chillingly accurate.

Let's look at a few excerpts from *Protocols of Toronto*. First, at their 1967 meeting, the globalists describe their primary point of attack. They plan to weaken the foundations of healthy societies:

"All historical periods that led to the decadence of civilizations were marked, without exception, by 'The Spirit of the Wandering of Men.'"

"Today, we must ensure that this 'spirit' is translated into a 'Worldwide Leisure Society' in all its forms. This 'Leisure' shall consist of ...sex, drugs, sports, travel / exoticism, and leisures in general, but accessible to all segments of society. Man must come to believe he is "modern" and that his modernity consists of his ability, his opportunity and his right to enjoy all that surrounds him."

Next, they describe the areas of culture they intend to invade and then occupy for their own insidious purposes:

"To achieve this objective, it is imperative to be able to infiltrate the media (radio, television, newspapers) and the worlds of fashion and music (all arenas of culture) by which we will take control, for sure, of all layers of 'Western society'.

"In so doing we will thus take over the 'direction' of the youth (the adults of tomorrow). Through these avenues of influence we will shape their senses and infiltrate and transform their minds and thought patterns which will, in turn, bring about the policies, the legal system and the direction of education to meet our purposes. This is how we will fundamentally change the course—the future direction of societies—under our 'plan'."

Let's now jump forward to 1985 where we will see one particular example of a plan implemented to persuade Americans to surrender their firearms. The following is taken from line item no. 24 of 27 of *Protocols of Toronto*:

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"... it will be imperative for us to complete as soon as possible global gun control within the United Nations territories. To do this, we will accelerate the 'ALPHA PLAN' implemented in the 60's by some of our predecessors, by which we will take control, for sure, of all layers of 'Western society'.

"This 'Plan' originally had two objectives that have remained the same to this day: Through the intervention of 'mad shooters,' create a climate of insecurity in populations to lead to tighter gun control. Orient violence so as to place the blame upon religious extremists, or persons affiliated with religious allegiances and trend toward 'traditionalism' or, people claiming to have privileged communications with God...Remember how successfully our predecessors were able to control Germany in the 1930's with the new 'law' implemented at the time..."

Sound familiar?

Protocols of Toronto can be purchased in French only on Amazon.com (<https://cutt.ly/orYCreN>).

The English version can be found here:

(<https://rightedition.com/2017/09/15/the-toronto-protocols/>).

2. *Lifting the Veil* by Timothy M. Silver

This PDF document, at 163 pages in length, thoroughly covers fifteen unique themes of the fraud and deceptions of the NWO. From the fraudulent "War on Terror" to the many clandestine operations of the criminal CIA, it provides a thoroughly footnoted unveiling of the true stories of corruption and felonious activity on a massive, global scale.

Take a moment or two to read of the author's personal reflections on his research as it becomes clear to him that his individual discoveries were actually separate pieces of a master plan:

"Before long I came to the understanding that I was not just learning about a series of unrelated clandestine agency abuses and financial crimes, but rather was researching various disclosures of an organized subversive network working behind the scenes. A bold statement like this requires bold evidence, of course,

and I invite you to investigate the over 500 citations of publicly available, mainstream sources yourself and come to your own conclusions."

Here is a bulleted list of Silver's topics of study:

1. The War on Terror is a Fraud
2. The One-Party State
3. Psychopathy, Power and Politics
4. Operation Paperclip
5. MK-ULTRA
6. Operation Gladio
7. Operation Mockingbird
8. COINTELPRO
9. The Phoenix Program
10. Iran/Contra
11. Continuity of Government
12. Pedophocracy
13. Cults and Child Abuse
14. Trauma-Based Mind Control
15. The Pathocracy
16. Solutions
17. The Awakening

Finally we will conclude our inside look at *Lifting the Veil* with a paragraph from the author's conclusion, a chapter which he has dubbed 'The Awakening.'

"Entering the Age of Enlightenment, and Lifting the Veil, means more than just shining a spotlight on the Pathocracy. While I think the information contained within this book is important, I believe that its true significance lies in showing that our collective understanding of reality is vastly incomplete and largely incorrect.

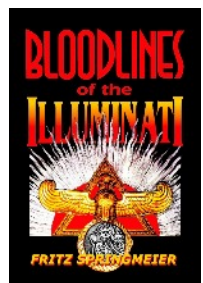
Lifting the Veil is not available in printed form.

It can be found here:

(<https://docthub.com/timesoftrouble/v6pYpW/lifting-the-veil>).

3. *Bloodlines of the Illuminati* by Fritz Springmeier

In this comprehensive work, Fritz Springmeier reveals and examines the thirteen family bloodlines of the Illuminati. He also lays out a vast network of people down through history who have connections with the Illuminati families. Many of the names will be recognizable to you. Springmeier



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reveals the dark, Satanic roots of this ancient Cabal, reaching all the way back to the days of Babylon in Genesis 10 & 11. He also sheds light on the demonic, blood-lust sacrificial rituals of this ancient-yet-still-very-real, mafia-like, debased crime syndicate on steroids.

Below the reader will find several excerpts from the opening section of *Bloodlines of the Illuminati*.

"... This book is not about a theory. It is about the secret occult oligarchies which rule the world. When brought together, the facts of this book will begin to speak for themselves without me. I don't ask that you take my word. Investigate for yourself. God Himself has told us that the whole world lies in the power of the wicked one. Some people after they have read my material have gone out into their own geographic area and seen for themselves that a small group of people control their nation and the world from behind the scenes. They have seen for themselves the power that secret societies exercise from behind the scenes."

"Long ago in the dark unwritten pages of human history, powerful kings discovered how they could control other men by torture, magical practices, wars, politics, religion and interest taking. These elite families designed strategies and tactics to perpetuate their occult practices. Layers upon layers of secrecy have hidden these families from the profane masses, but many an author has touched upon their existence..."

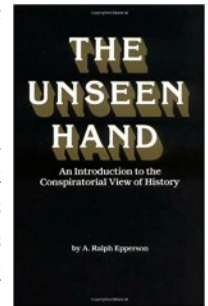
This paragraph will be a tough one to swallow.

"Some beginners who have just started into studying the World Order question why the Illuminati would use legitimate religious covers. Why would the Illuminati want to create a slave who is an evangelist? Why? Because those new converts will go to some establishment church where other programmed multiples in leadership positions will demand obedience (and then support those demands by quoting scriptures that make them seem like they are God's authority over that new convert). Because the evangelist or missionary and the bishop or pastor are controlled puppets, the convert will never get the full truth, just enough truth to keep him working hard for their organization. Even though the convert "got God in my life", the Illuminati never lose control over him."

Bloodlines of the Illuminati is available on Amazon in several forms: (<https://cutt.ly/1rIU6aQ>). It is also available in PDF form on on the CIA website: (<https://cutt.ly/SrIIt6F>)

4. *The Unseen Hand* by Ralph Epperson

In the late 1980's, a friend gave me a copy of *The Unseen Hand*. Nearly 500 pages in length, heavily footnoted and thoroughly indexed, I immediately read the book from cover to cover. In fact, I could not put it down. The revelations provided and the dark connections made opened my eyes for the first time to the broad influence and evil intentions in the NWO. The book explores everything from little known secret societies to well known organizations posing as legitimate institutions created to improve international relations. Groups like the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR), the Tri-Lateral Commission, the Rhodes Scholarships, the Fabian Society, The Bilderberg Group, the Institute of Pacific Relations (IPF), the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, along with tax-free foundations and a host of other organizations are all designed to advance and foster the goals of the NWO.



The Unseen Hand is available on Amazon:
(<https://cutt.ly/ArIOTUN>)

4. Bonus Research Recommendation - Video *The Payseurs* by IntheMatrixxx

Within the text of *Bloodlines of the Illuminati*, the name Payseur emerges. Daniel Payseur, former crown prince of France came to the United States in 1805, married Susannah Kiser in 1814, and had two sons. These offspring of French royalty began to wisely invest their wealth into a multitude of American enterprises. As their wealth grew they hired distant relatives and members from the Illuminate bloodlines to manage their enterprises, thus keeping the Payseur name out of the public eye. From railroads to mining to Western Union and AT&T, to the banking industry, multiple iron works, the automotive industry, and even insurance companies, the Payseur family, hidden out of site from the world, managed to monopolize nearly every industry in the land.

In the video linked below, you can learn of the Payseur family story, not available in history books. Here's the video: (<https://cutt.ly/ArIANl9>) Here's the text: (<https://cutt.ly/hrISp5u>)

4. THE LIE THE DEVIL SOLD TO THE CHURCH:

PART I. SUBSTITUTE ONE WORD

For a further examination of how we have been deceived, I offer my own first person observation and commentary. The topic I am breaching here will require more than one short installment. Please be patient as I unroll my thoughts over the next few issues.



I came to the conclusion decades ago, that the Church in America was suckered into a false belief, artfully fed to us by the devil and his earthly minions.

We willingly embraced this falsehood without a second thought. This lie that we now accept as truth has hamstrung our ability to effectively advance the kingdom of God in our time. In fact, over time, it has morphed into a stronghold that binds and restrains the present-day Church in America from fulfilling her mission.

So, just what is this dreadful piece of fiction that has crippled us in our great commission?

Would you believe it if I told you that the lie we have embraced is—"Religion and politics do not mix."

Consider how skillfully this statement is crafted, how quickly these words, and the ideas behind them, reel us into their grasp. Yes, we've been caught, hook line and sinker, just as intended.

The statement sounds so true doesn't it? And the really bad news is that our belief in this egregious falsehood has kept the Church off of the cultural battlefield for decades.

So, you ask, where did we go wrong? Or perhaps the more targeted question is, how was the devil able to fool us?

There are several elements to the answer. I will begin with a simple word: SUBSTITUTION. The devil

substituted one word with another. He simply took the word "government" and replaced it with the word "politics."

Imagine the statement this way: "Religion and government do not mix." While the version we have bought into is easy to swallow, the version with the word "government" gives us pause doesn't it? We have to stop and reflect. We must ponder and ask ourselves the question, "Is that true?"

Politics has been around since man first walked away from God—in other words, since time began.

Government, on the other hand is eternal in nature. Our God is Lord of all. His Lordship is a governmental office and in God's case, the highest office there is.

Government is God's work. We are His offspring, made in His image and crafted by our Maker to share in His governmental work.

So in case you are still struggling, yes, "Religion and government DO mix." And yes, we should be bringing our Biblical beliefs into governmental realms. We should be examining and learning what our governmentally-minded God has to say about government itself and how we can bring our thoughts and imaginations about government captive to the obedience of Christ.

We should not be running away from the realms of government in fear. Rather, we should be running towards the realms of government with the Word of God in hand.

Oh how that wily devil tricked us! He took us out of the governmental arena by weaving a fabulously fabricated mis-truth that restrained us from engagement.

With these few paragraphs I have introduced a topic worthy of much consideration. We are just beginning. Look for PART II in the next issue.

5. THREE PRESIDENTIAL WARNINGS

Warning No. 1: On January 17, 1961, our 34th President, Dwight David Eisenhower, delivered his farewell speech. The speech has come to be known as the "Military Industrial Complex" speech. In his speech

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he addressed his deep concerns about the rising power and influence of those involved in developing the tools of warfare. Here is an excerpt.

"Our military organization today bears little relation to that known by any of my predecessors in peacetime, or indeed by the fighting men of World War II or Korea.

"Until the latest of our world conflicts, the United States had no armaments industry. American makers of plowshares could, with time and as required, make swords as well. But now we can no longer risk emergency improvisation of national defense; we have been compelled to create a permanent armaments industry of vast proportions.

"This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence -- economic, political, even spiritual -- is felt in every city, every State house, every office of the Federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society.

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

"We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.

"Akin to, and largely responsible for the sweeping changes in our industrial-military posture, has been the technological revolution during recent decades.

"In this revolution, research has become central; it also becomes more formalized, complex, and costly. A steadily increasing share is conducted

for, by, or at the direction of, the Federal government.

"Today, the solitary inventor, tinkering in his shop, has been overshadowed by task forces of scientists in laboratories and testing fields. In the same fashion, the free university, historically the fountainhead of free ideas and scientific discovery, has experienced a revolution in the conduct of research. Partly because of the huge costs involved, a government contract becomes virtually a substitute for intellectual curiosity. For every old blackboard there are now hundreds of new electronic computers.

"The prospect of domination of the nation's scholars by Federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever present and is gravely to be regarded. Yet, in holding scientific research and discovery in respect, as we should, we must also be alert to the equal and opposite danger that public policy could itself become the captive of a scientific-technological elite."

You will find the text of Eisenhower's speech here: (<https://cutt.ly/ArPNX6k>)

You can watch a video of Eisenhower's speech here: (<https://cutt.ly/3rPN365>)

Warning No. 2: Three months later, on April 27, 1961, our 35th President, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, delivered a speech that many claim led to his assassination. His speech exposed the conspiracy of what we today call the "Deep State." Here is an excerpt.

"We are opposed around the world by a monolithic and ruthless conspiracy that relies primarily on covert means for expanding its sphere of influence--on infiltration instead of invasion, on subversion instead of elections, on intimidation instead of free choice, on guerrillas by night instead of armies by day.

"It is a system which has conscripted vast human and material resources into the building of a tightly knit, highly efficient machine that combines military, diplomatic, intelligence, economic, scientific and political operations.

"Its preparations are concealed, not published. Its mistakes are buried, not headlined. Its dissenters are silenced, not praised. No expenditure is questioned, no rumor is printed, no secret is revealed."

You will find the text of Kennedy's speech here:
(<https://cutt.ly/zrAIOxx>)

You can watch a video of Kennedy's speech here: (<https://cutt.ly/pezqNwu>)

Warning No. 3: Exactly one week before the 1964 presidential election, on October 27, 1964, Ronald Wilson Reagan delivered a campaign speech on behalf of Republican candidate Barry Goldwater. His speech, titled *A Time for Choosing*, is considered to be the speech that launched his political career. Sixteen years later, Reagan would become our 40th president. In the speech excerpted below, Reagan warns us of the dangers of socialism and big government.

"... this idea that government is beholden to the people, that it has no other source of power except the sovereign people, is still the newest and the most unique idea in all the long history of man's relation to man.

"This is the issue of this election: whether we believe in our capacity for self-government or whether we abandon the American revolution and confess that a little intellectual elite in a far-distant capitol can plan our lives for us better than we can plan them ourselves.

"You and I are told increasingly we have to choose between a left or right. Well I'd like to suggest there is no such thing as a left or right. There's only an up or down: [up] man's old -- old-aged dream, the ultimate in individual freedom consistent with law and order, or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism. And regardless of their sincerity, their humanitarian motives, those who would trade our freedom for security have embarked on this downward course.

"In this vote-harvesting time, they use terms like the "Great Society," or as we were told a few days ago by the President [LB Johnson], we must accept a greater government activity in the affairs of the

people. But they've been a little more explicit in the past and among themselves; and all of the things I now will quote have appeared in print. These are not Republican accusations. For example, they have voices that say, "The cold war will end through our acceptance of a not undemocratic socialism." Another voice says, "The profit motive has become outmoded. It must be replaced by the incentives of the welfare state." Or, "Our traditional system of individual freedom is incapable of solving the complex problems of the 20th century." Senator Fulbright has said at Stanford University that the Constitution is outmoded. He referred to the President as "our moral teacher and our leader," and he says he is "hobbled in his task by the restrictions of power imposed on him by this antiquated document." He must "be freed," so that he "can do for us" what he knows "is best." And Senator Clark of Pennsylvania, another articulate spokesman, defines liberalism as "meeting the material needs of the masses through the full power of centralized government."

"Well, I, for one, resent it when a representative of the people refers to you and me, the free men and women of this country, as "the masses." This is a term we haven't applied to ourselves in America. But beyond that, "the full power of centralized government" -- this was the very thing the Founding Fathers sought to minimize. They knew that governments don't control things. A government can't control the economy without controlling people. And they know when a government sets out to do that, it must use force and coercion to achieve its purpose. They also knew, those Founding Fathers, that outside of its legitimate functions, government does nothing as well or as economically as the private sector of the economy."

You will find the text of Reagan's speech here:
(<https://cutt.ly/XrAAgmG>)

You can watch a video of Reagan's speech here:
(<https://cutt.ly/lrAAh42>)

Sixty years ago, in the early 1960's, two U.S. presidents and one who would become president, warned the American people of the dangers ahead.

President Eisenhower went into retirement and spent the last years of his life on his farm near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

President Kennedy was assassinated in November, 1963, many say as a result of his speech linked above. (Was Lee Harvey Oswald really behind JFK's death? Or are things still being being hidden?)

President Reagan was shot in an attempted assassination on March 30, 1981, just a little more than two months after his inauguration. (Who was really behind that effort?) He survived to complete two terms in the White House.

Sadly, the American people did not heed the warnings that these brave patriots brought to our attention. The failed efforts of these three men to awaken a slumbering nation are presented here to reinforce the bigger **story** being rolled out in *Understanding the Times*.



In the **story** being told here, as in every story, we find antagonists (bad guys) and protagonists (good guys) duking it out in real time. Sixty years ago, these three men knew that a major effort was underway to turn America from a nation of liberty-loving patriots into a nation of mind-controlled slaves, chattel of a

massive central government run by unelected bureaucrats.

Earlier in this newsletter, article 3 to be precise, four reliable resources were made available for you, Dear Reader, to educate yourself on the polluted fountain of evil in our land. We have identified the criminals seeking to take down our republic as the “Deep State,” the Cabal,” the “New World Order” (NWO) and the Globalists. I have also labeled them as “the mafia on steroids” and the “Satanically-inspired pathologically elite.”

These bad-guy antagonists are unelected. They are wealthy beyond imagination because they have stolen billions of dollars from hard-working people like us. They call themselves “the elite” because they literally believe that they are smarter and wiser and far better equipped to run our lives than we are. They worship Satan and his dark forces and have no hesitation to lie, cheat, steal or murder. In reality, they are nothing more than deeply deceived fools on the road to judgment and hell.

Protagonists (good guys) Eisenhower, Kennedy and Reagan each tried to warn us. They saw into the future and attempted to sound the alarm. Perhaps this time around we will pay more attention to the voices calling out the warnings.

6. OUR REPUBLIC AND THE SHADE TREE MECHANIC

by Mark John Freeman

The editorial commentary below was penned by Mark W. Weaver on August 1, 2009 under the pen name of Mark John Freeman.

.....

I used to be somewhat of a “shade tree mechanic.” If you are not familiar with the phrase, a shade tree mechanic is one who attempts to perform routine maintenance and make minor repairs on his car. Generally, the motive is to try and save money. But sometimes guys, and even gals, just like to tinker. My motive always fell under the saving money category. And I say attempts because sometimes the shade tree mechanic gets in over his head and ends up costing himself more money



than he would have had he just taken the car to the shop in the first place. It's happened to me.

At one time, I somewhat knew my way around my cars. I used to change my own oil and air filter, and flush my own radiator. I have changed disk brakes. I have replaced more than one alternator, a regulator, a water pump, mufflers and tailpipes, and starters. Batteries are fun to mess around with. And then there are all those hoses and belts and cables. I've replaced two radiators, one heater core, and a vacuum-driven windshield wiper motor. I have gapped my own spark plugs and reset the points on my distributor.

I made many a trip to the junkyard in my day, seeking a bargain on a used part to switch with a worn out part. I've made attempts to adjust carburetors with mixed results. With the help and guidance of one friend, I replaced a worn out clutch plate. And with the aid of another, I even removed the valve cover from my car's engine and performed a valve job.

My dad on the other hand was what I call a "spray can mechanic." Dad, it seems, had a spray can for every automotive malady. If I had trouble starting my car Dad would suddenly appear from out of his basement with a spray can containing a magical chemical.

"Here, try this," he would say. Squirted in just the right amount, and in just the right place, Dad's

miracle spray sometimes actually fixed the problem. At least temporarily.

I'm no mechanic but I have somehow managed to keep my lawnmowers working beyond their normal life-span. By picking up various tricks along the way, I have been able to nurse another summer of service out of mowers that should have given up the ghost.

These days about the only thing I do with my cars is change the windshield wipers, replace the city stickers on the windshield, and the DMV stickers on my license plates. Everything else I leave to the experts. And it's not because I have lots of spare money, it's because there isn't a whole lot left for the shade tree mechanic to do anymore.

Gone are the large dashboard instrument clusters with oil pressure gauges and the like. Today, our vehicle's computer sends us warnings via electronic icons that suddenly light up on our dash. And our only recourse for that pesky check engine light is to drive to the shop and have the mechanic plug in his electronic reader. A code pops up and the problem is identified.

If you are the owner of some late model vehicles, you can't even manually check your oil or transmission fluid anymore. Manufacturers are eliminating dipsticks. Your car's computer tells you when your reservoir is low.

When it comes to cars these days, little is left for the regular guy to do. Your toaster breaks, you throw it away and get a new one. Same with vacuum cleaners and blow dryers. Just about all of the smaller appliances and electronic gadgets are throwaways. We are forced to let the experts, with all of their high dollar diagnostic equipment, evaluate and repair.

In the quest to fix an errant television my dad would unscrew the pegboard panel from the back of our television set and remove the vacuum tubes. Then we'd hop in the car, drive to the nearest drug store and test them one by one in that big, yellow vacuum tube tester in the corner of the store. Dad couldn't tell you how a television worked, but he could usually get ours up and running again when it went on the blink.



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Some people look down their noses at blue collar workers. Last year, Joe the Plumber clashed with the Obama campaign and came under scrutiny and suffered mockery. And Sarah Palin, then governor of Alaska and Vice Presidential candidate, found herself scorned, ridiculed, and labeled as stupid. These people weren't, you know, educated in the right institutions.

But if a pipe burst in the home of one of these elite critics, the ones that went to Harvard or Princeton or Columbia University, Joe the Plumber could fix it. Those very smart, highly educated snobs would call someone with the skills to diagnose and repair what's broken.

What many fail to realize is that fixing things requires cognitive activity. "Ah, there's your problem," cracks the mechanic, eyeballing that mass of steel and hoses and wires and belts under your hood. Understanding the way things work and making them work again after they break engages the brain. Logic, reason, and rational thought serve the technician.

Today with our dashboard, light-up icons, our throw away televisions and small appliances, the everyday American is deprived of the cognitive processes that our dads once enjoyed. And I say enjoyed because although frustrating, there is little to match the satisfaction that comes from figuring out how to make something work that was broken.

Speaking of broken things, how about our American republic? It is broken and it is broken badly. We all know it but we don't know what to do. We rally, carry signs, raise our voices, write letters and make calls. But we still feel helpless.

We don't know how to fix it because we don't really know how it works. Some of us know how it was designed to work, how it used to work a long time ago. And many don't even know that. Still more don't even care to know.

We no longer comprehend how power is really wielded in Washington. Our check and balance system has failed us. Accountability for office holders faded away a generation ago, or more.

We have left our self-governing republic to the experts. We no longer have the cognitive tools to diagnose and fix our problem. As a nation, we flail around in the dark.

Irony, isn't it? In this age of exponentially expanding knowledge and technology, we employ far less diagnostic capability than our parents. We push a button or flip a switch. If it doesn't work we call somebody or buy a new one.

Can't do that with government.

We aren't nearly as smart as we think we are. Technology leveled the playing field, stripped us of our need for critical thinking and analysis, lulled us to sleep, and is slowly stealing our souls.

Ben Franklin said that our founders gave us "a republic if you can keep it."

We haven't.

In the next issue of *Understanding the Times*, look for a first draft of what I am calling ...

The Famished Patriot's Game Plan!

What are we to do with the understanding and knowledge we are gaining as we dig and research and listen and ponder? Are we to remain mere observers? Should we just ride things out and hope and pray for the best? Or is there something we can and should do?

What if we discovered that the republic we thought we had, the people we thought represented us, and the history we learned in school, were not exactly as they appeared to be?

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