

# MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE<sup>®</sup>

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## THE RISE AND FALL OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT PART IV - INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE

### INTRODUCTION

THIS WILL BE OUR LAST ISSUE DEVOTED TO INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE. IN IT WE WILL EXAMINE CAPITALISM, EDUCATION AND FOREIGN POLICY — THREE OF OUR MOST BASIC AND IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS BECAUSE THEY EXPRESS OUR ATTITUDES TOWARDS WEALTH, KNOWLEDGE AND OUR NEIGHBORS WITH WHOM WE MUST SHARE OUR PLANET. ALL OF THESE REPRESENT IN THEIR OWN WAY A COMPETITION FOR RESOURCES — FINANCIAL, INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIAL.

NONE OF THESE PIECES OF OUR INSTITUTIONAL JIGSAW PUZZLE FITS EXACTLY INTO A SPACE DESIGNED FOR IT. HUMAN INSTITUTIONS, LIKE HUMAN VALUES, HAVE IRREGULAR EDGES. THEY DEVELOP FROM FORCES SUCH AS EFFORT, HOPE, INTENT AND INTERACTION OVER TIME. THEY CANNOT BE LASERED TO CREATE THE PERFECT ECONOMIC, SOCIAL OR POLITICAL FIT. IN THE END, THE MOST WE CAN ACHIEVE IS TO IMPROVE UPON THE RECORD AND VALUES LEFT TO US AND TO LEAVE TO OUR OFFSPRING A REASONABLE CHANCE OF DOING THE SAME.

HOW ARE WE DOING IN OUR TIME AND PLACE? WHAT KIND OF LEGACY ARE WE LEAVING TO OUR INHERITORS, BOTH HUMAN AND OUR CO-SPECIES? IF WE SEEK PRAISE OR

ENCOURAGEMENT, THEN BEST WE NOT ASK. OUR GOVERNMENT FAILS US ACROSS A WIDE SPECTRUM OF PRINCIPLES AND POWERS, AND DOES SO SEEMINGLY WITHOUT ANY SENSE OF ITS OWN MISCONDUCT.

ON OCCASION WE HAVE CONFRONTED AND MET ENORMOUS CHALLENGES SUCH AS WWII'S MANHATTAN PROJECT AND OUR LANDING ON THE MOON, BUT THESE HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY TECHNOLOGICAL PROJECTS AND, GIVEN OUR MORE RECENT EXPERIENCES WITH GOVERNMENT FUNDING, IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER AN EFFORT OF SIMILAR SCALE TODAY COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN ITS ORIGINAL TIME AND COST ESTIMATES. THROUGHOUT GOVERNMENT TODAY WE FIND A CONNECTING THREAD OF INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS TO ADAPT TO THE EVER MORE RAPIDLY EMERGING NEW POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES BROUGHT ON BY NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND SOARING POPULATIONS.

ADAPTATION IS A NECESSITY FOR SURVIVAL IN ALL SPECIES. TODAY, OUR PLANET FACES SERIOUS CHOICES AS TO HOW IT WILL ADAPT TO THE NEW NUMBERS, THREATS AND REALITIES WE HAVE CREATED. IN OUR COUNTRY, WE ARE BETTER

**IN THIS ISSUE:** WE CONCLUDE OUR SERIES ON INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE BY EXAMINING CAPITALISM, EDUCATION AND FOREIGN POLICY.

**IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:** WE WILL COMMENCE A NEW SERIES, ENTITLED WHO ARE WE?: AND WHY ARE WE NOT WHO WE WERE?, TO EXPLORE OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR LACK OF CONCERN ABOUT ITS PRESENT FORM AND DIRECTION. AND WE WILL MAKE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING FUTURE EXPANSION.

# CENTER FOR PUBLIC CONSCIENCE

P.O. Box 220722  
WEST PALM BEACH,  
FL 33422-0722

www.  
centerforpublic  
conscience.org

Email:  
moconscience@aol.com

## Bromwell Ault

Editor/Founder  
Phone (561) 697-2233

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SUITED TO MEETING THREATS WITH ENORMOUSLY EXPENSIVE MILITARY PROGRAMS THAN FINDING POLITICAL UNITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER URGENT CIVILIAN PROBLEMS. PRES. EISENHOWER CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED THE REACH AND RISK POSED BY THE MILITARY/INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. AND YET, EVEN AS FIRES RAGE AND FLOODS SPREAD IN OUR WESTERN STATES, THERE IS NO WARNING FROM THE WHITE HOUSE OR CONGRESS TO BEWARE THE MUCH GREATER THREAT THAT LOOMS FROM OUR ABUSE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

WE HAVE CHOSEN CAPITALISM, EDUCATION AND FOREIGN POLICY AS SUBJECTS FOR THIS LAST ISSUE ON INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE BECAUSE ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS THEY, MORE THAN ANY OTHERS, DETERMINE OUR INTERACTION WITH OTHER PEOPLES. THEY ARE WAYS BY WHICH WE INTRODUCE OURSELVES AND HOPE TO FIND COMMON GROUND WITH OTHERS. IN THE FINAL SECTION OF THIS ISSUE WE WILL POINT OUT A SITUATION OF TRULY GLOBAL CONCERN BY WHICH THEY, AND WE, MAY SOON BE TESTED.

## CAPITALISM

WEALTH, IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, HAS BEEN PART OF MANKIND'S DEVELOPMENT SINCE OUR EARLIEST DAYS. AS IT HAS OFTEN BEEN A BY-PRODUCT OF NATURE AND DISTRIBUTED RANDOMLY, ACCESS TO IT HAS NEVER BEEN EQUAL. THIS DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE MANY WHO SEEK IT AND THE FEW WHO GAIN IT HAS BEEN A CONSTANT ONE WHICH CAPITALISM EMBRACES AND EMPHASIZES.

THE FIRST GREAT WEALTH WAS FROM LAND. IN OUR PREHISTORIC, NOMADIC TIMES IT WAS AVAILABLE TO ALL, ALTHOUGH NOT WITHOUT CONFLICT BETWEEN COMPETING TRIBES. WITH HUMANS' TRANSFORMATION FROM A NOMADIC TO AN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY, THEY FOUGHT FOR LAND AND WORKED IT, AND THEIR OCCUPANCY AND LABOR PRODUCED A NEW CONCEPT — OWNERSHIP CAPABLE OF BEING PASSED FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT.

MORE PEOPLE, STILL BEARING TRACES OF THE NOMADIC LIFE, PRODUCED TRADE AND TRADE ROUTES WITH BARTER BECOMING THE EARLIEST FORM OF EXCHANGE. IN ITS SIMPLEST FORM IT COULD WORK WELL, ONE PERSON'S EXTRA GOODS BEING TRADED FOR ANOTHER'S, OFTEN IN REGULARLY HELD LOCAL MARKET PLACES.

WITH MORE PEOPLE AND PRODUCTS,

THE AGRICULTURE NEEDED TO SUPPORT THEM INCREASED AND SPREAD TO FURTHER REGIONS, ALTHOUGH BASIC TRANSPORTATION METHODS (I.E., WALKING, MULES, OXEN) REMAINED THE SAME. AS THE TIME, DISTANCE AND POPULATION FACTORS OF TRADE INCREASED, BARTER AS A MEANS OF EXCHANGE BECAME LESS PRACTICAL. PORTABILITY IN THE FORM OF COINS OFFERED NUMEROUS ADVANTAGES OVER BARTER ONE OF WHICH WAS THEIR UNIVERSALITY AS A MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE.

MORE PEOPLE AND MORE TRADE AGAIN, AND THE PORTABILITY OF GOLD AND SILVER BECAME A PROBLEM. WITH THE INVENTION OF THE PRINTING PRESS AND PAPER MONEY, THE PORTABILITY PROBLEM WAS CLOSE TO SOLUTION. FURTHER AND FINAL ADVANCES IN EXCHANGE MEDIA TOOK THE FORM OF BANK CHECKS AND THEN INSTANTANEOUS TRANSACTIONS BY COMPUTER CLICKS.

WESTERN EUROPE'S ECONOMIES EMERGING FROM THE DARK AGES STILL WERE BASED MOSTLY ON LAND, HELD BY THE CHURCH, MONARCHS AND OTHER TITLED NOBILITY, WHICH WAS USUALLY ONLY TRANSFERRED BY DEATH, AGGRESSION, MARRIAGE OR BIRTH; AND, EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, TITLES WERE OFTEN ATTACHED TO THE LAND.

MORE PEOPLE AND MORE TRADE AGAIN, BUT BECAUSE THE SUPPLY OF LAND WAS STATIC AND THE TRAVEL SLOW, THE TRADERS IN THE 15TH AND 16TH CENTURIES TOOK TO THE SEA WITH THE HELP OF NEW NAVIGATIONAL TECHNOLOGY WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE AGE OF EXPLORATION.

WEALTH IN WESTERN EUROPE NOW WAS AVAILABLE FROM BOTH THE LAND AND THE SEA. AGAIN, MORE PEOPLE AND MORE TRADE PUSHED THE SEARCH FOR WEALTH TO GREATER COMPETITION. AUTHORITY IN THE AGE OF EXPLORATION WAS HIGHLY CENTRALIZED IN THE REIGNING MONARCHIES, AS WAS THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE CAPITAL AND REAP ITS REWARDS. SUCH CENTRALIZATION IN A HEREDITARY POLITICAL STRUCTURE, HOWEVER, CARRIED WITH IT THE RISKS OF COMPETING GENE POOLS, RELIGIONS AND MILITARY FORCES. IT WAS A TROUBLED TIME.

THEN SOMETHING RATHER MIRACULOUS OCCURRED. THREE FORCES CAME TOGETHER TO PRODUCE A CULTURAL IMPACT THAT TRANSFORMED EUROPE AND THE WORLD BEYOND IT. THESE WERE THE PRINTING PRESS, THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION AND THE RAPID EXPLOSION OF TECHNOLOGY BASED ON STEAM AND ELECTRICITY. AND THE KNOWLEDGE THEY

PROVIDED INTRODUCED THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT.

SCIENCE, WITH A NEW ASCENDANCY, OFFERED KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT THE IMPRINT OF THE CHURCH OF ROME WHICH HAD DOMINATED THE AGE OF MONASTERIES; AND THE PRINTING PRESS ENABLED THE NEW KNOWLEDGE, SCIENTIFIC AND RELIGIOUS, TO SPREAD EVERYWHERE IN IDENTICAL FORM AT A NEW AND INCREASED RATE OF SPEED.

CAPITALISM AROSE AS A FORM OF THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES DESIGNED TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY AND DELIVER ITS REWARDS TO PRIVATE, NOT STATE, OWNERSHIP.

### **MORE AND FASTER**

IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY, WITHIN JUST A FEW YEARS OF OUR SEPARATION FROM ENGLAND AND OUR ESTABLISHING OUR OWN GOVERNMENT, THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (IR) WAS ACCELERATING IN ENGLAND AND BEGINNING TO ESTABLISH ITSELF HERE. THIS INVOLVED USING THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES OF STEAM AND ELECTRICITY TO OPERATE MACHINERY THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN POWERED BY WIND, MAN OR ANIMALS. AND, ALTHOUGH IN 1830 THE WORLD'S POPULATION WAS ONLY ONE BILLION, THE TWIN DRIVERS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH (MORE PEOPLE AND MORE TRADE) WERE VIEWED AS SURE TO INCREASE.

IN 1803, JEFFERSON'S LOUISIANA PURCHASE, PROBABLY THE LARGEST LAND DEAL IN HISTORY, MORE THAN DOUBLED THE SIZE OF THE FLEDGELING U.S. BY EXTENDING ITS WESTERN BORDER ACROSS OUR MID-WESTERN PLAINS TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. IT OFFERED TO ALL, WHO HAD THE COURAGE AND ENDURANCE TO BECOME SETTLERS OF OUR EXPANDING REPUBLIC, OPEN SPACE WITH AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF FREE NATURAL RESOURCES, OPEN GOVERNMENT FREE OF EUROPE'S CLASS DISTINCTIONS AND AN OPEN ECONOMY THAT NEEDED AND WOULD GENEROUSLY REWARD THE LABOR AND INGENUITY REQUIRED TO TRANSFORM POTENTIAL INTO PROFIT.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE IR STIMULATED THE GROWTH OF GLOBAL POPULATION AND TRADE. LABOR COSTS DECREASED BECAUSE PRODUCTION BECAME LESS LABOR INTENSIVE, AND IT COULD BE INCREASED WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL LABOR COSTS.

IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY, THE ECONOMIC GUIDELINES WERE MORE PEOPLE, MORE TRADE, SPEED, AND CAPACITY. THE LAST ELEMENT NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE EQUATION AND ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE INVESTED INTELLIGENCE, LABOR AND CAPITAL WAS THE CUSTOMER. TO LURE CUSTOMERS, MANUFACTURERS OFFERED MORE AND DIFFERENT PRODUCTS, STYLES, COLORS, AND SIZES. TO PRESENT THESE TO THE CUSTOMER IN WAYS THAT RESULTED IN THEIR BEING PURCHASED IN LARGE QUANTITIES AND REPEAT PATTERNS, A NEW CONCEPT OF MARKETING DEVELOPED. IT INCLUDED SALES, ADVERTISING, PROMOTION, RESEARCH, PUBLICITY, AND MEDIA SELECTION AT MANY POINTS IN THE PRODUCTION TO SALE PROCESS. OVER TIME, AS OUR AMERICAN ECONOMY GREW EVER MORE SUCCESSFUL, IT ESTABLISHED THE ROOTS AND THEN THE STRUCTURE OF OUR PRESENT CONSUMER DOMINATED ECONOMY AND THE PUBLIC'S ADDICTION TO CONSUMERISM THAT SUPPORTS IT.

### **MADE IN THE USA**

OUR CAPITALISTIC SYSTEM, BORN OUT OF THE ECONOMIC SIMPLICITIES OF PRE-IR TIMES AND BASED ON BASICS OF FUNDING, PRODUCTION AND WEALTH CREATION, BLOSSOMED AND OVERRAN ITS COMPETITION WITH ONLY MINOR INTERRUPTIONS UNTIL THE TURN OF THE 19TH - 20TH CENTURIES WHEN ITS PRIVATE EXCESSES BECAME PUBLIC LIABILITIES, CAUSING PRES. THEODORE ROOSEVELT TO BREAK UP THE ENORMOUS INDUSTRIAL TRUSTS IN SUGAR, OIL, MEAT PACKING, STEEL, COPPER AND OTHER PRODUCTS THAT 19TH CENTURY CAPITALISM HAD DEVELOPED TO ELIMINATE COMPETITION AND CREATE "ORDER" IN THEIR MARKETS.

TR'S DISSOLUTION OF THE TRUSTS WAS QUICKLY FOLLOWED IN 1913 DURING THE WILSON ADMINISTRATION BY PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE NATION'S FIRST INCOME TAX. THESE TWO EVENTS GAVE RISE TO AN ATTITUDE OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN OUR CAPITALISTIC COMMERCIAL SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS CONTINUED TO THE PRESENT. A BY-PRODUCT OF THE OPPOSITION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS WAS THAT THE LATTER GREATLY INCREASED ITS POLITICAL ACTIVISM AND FOCUSED MUCH OF ITS ENERGY IN TRYING TO CONFORM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDUCT OF GOVERNMENT TO ITS OWN PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICALITIES.

THIS STATE OF RESISTANCE WAS EXACERBATED BY THE STOCK MARKET CRASH OF 1929 AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION THAT FOLLOWED, BOTH OF WHICH REVEALED THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF WALL STREET'S ROLE IN OUR CAPITALISTIC SOCIETY.

DURING AND AFTER WW II, EMERGING FORCES OF FREEDOM AND EQUALITY, WHICH WE HAD OFTEN PROMOTED RHETORICALLY, BEGAN TO MOVE TOWARDS REALITY. MUCH OF THIS SHIFT WAS DUE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE UN AND THE DISSOLUTION OF PREWAR COLONIAL EMPIRES. THEIR MODEL OFTEN EXTENDED FAR BEYOND MERE TRADING PARTNERSHIPS INTO POLITICAL/FINANCIAL CONTROL BY THE STAFFING AND OPERATION OF GOVERNMENT, MILITARY, TRADE AND PRODUCTION FUNCTIONS, AS WELL AS SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.

THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL GROWTH OF CAPITALISM IN AMERICA OVER ITS FIRST CENTURY AND A HALF HAS ASSIGNED IT A UNIQUE PLACE IN OUR CULTURE. WE, AND ESPECIALLY OUR POLITICAL CLASS, HAVE IDENTIFIED OURSELVES WITH IT TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT IT LAYS CLAIM TO BEING A NATIONAL VALUE.

IN OUR DEFENSE AND PROMOTION OF OUR DEMOCRATIC WAYS TO LESS FORTUNATE POPULATIONS WE OFTEN LINKED THE BENEFITS OF FREEDOM AND CAPITALISM, SOMETIMES IN A PACKAGE LABELED "REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, FREE MARKETS, OPEN ELECTIONS" OR SOMETHING SIMILAR.

THIS IS AN EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT IN OUR, OR ANY, DEMOCRATIC CULTURE. WE HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED BY OUR CONFLICTS WITH FASCISM AND COMMUNISM TO WITNESS PEOPLE SURRENDERING THEIR IDENTITIES TO THOSE OF THE STATE — I.E., NAZI GERMANY'S FUEHRER, CHINA'S MAO, RUSSIA'S LENIN AND STALIN, ETC. BUT THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO

“PLAY RIGHT” FOR A DEMOCRACY SUCH AS OURS.

IT RAISES TWO QUESTIONS. ARE WE WILLING TO INTENTIONALLY ASSIGN THE SAME VALUE TO AN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL THEORY AS WE DO TO OUR BASIC FREEDOMS OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND OPEN ELECTIONS? AND THE SECOND IS NOT FAR FROM THE FIRST. IT ASKS WHETHER WE SHOULD INVOLVE OURSELVES IN MAKING THAT DETERMINATION FOR OTHERS. WE WILL RETURN TO THIS LATER IN OUR TREATMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY.

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AS AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM, CAPITALISM HAS ENJOYED A POSITION OF ASCENDANCY AND SURVIVAL OVER THE PAST TWO CENTURIES, BUT HISTORY GUARANTEES NOTHING, AND WHO CAN TELL THE SHAPE OF OUR ECONOMICS, PRODUCTION, LABOR, CONSUMPTION OR POPULATION IN THE FUTURE? FOR THE MOMENT, CAPITALISM REMAINS A SYSTEM ORDERED AROUND A SOMEWHAT UNEVEN ARRAY OF FINANCIAL, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL BENEFITS THAT HAS PROVED ITSELF SUITABLE TO OUR TIME.

IN ALL ECONOMIC SYSTEMS THERE IS AN ONGOING TENSION BETWEEN “MORE” AND “FAIR”. THIS DICHOTOMY EXTENDS INTO OUR POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONCEPTS OF OURSELVES AS HUMANS, AMERICANS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH THE WEIGHT OF CAPITALISM COMING DOWN STRONGLY ON THE SIDE OF “MORE” ACHIEVED BY DEDICATED INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS. IN ITS PURE STATE WE CAN ACKNOWLEDGE THE REASON AND VALUE OF SUCH A POSITION, BUT PURITY IN OUR 21ST CENTURY AMERICAN ECONOMICS, POLITICS AND IDENTITY IS IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY.

THE WAYS BY WHICH HUMANS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH CAUSES, EVENTS, IMAGES, FANTASIES, LEGENDS, SUFFERING, HEROICS, ETC. ARE ENDLESS. THEY HAVE IN COMMON THAT THEY ARE SEEN AS ELEVATING THE INDIVIDUALS’ STATUS BY TAKING SOMETHING USEFUL OR DESIRABLE FROM ANOTHER SOURCE AND APPLYING IT TO THEMSELVES — TO THEIR CHARACTER, THEIR MOTIVES, THEIR MENTALITY, THEIR VALUES. IT SEEMS THIS PROCESS TRANSFORMS THEIR IDENTITIES IN WAYS THEY DEEM FAVORABLE.

AMERICANS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES WITH INDUSTRIAL CAPITALISM SINCE APPROXIMATELY THE END OF OUR CIVIL WAR. IN OUR COLONIAL TIMES AND AFTER OBTAINING OUR INDEPENDENCE AND CONTINUING THROUGH THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE 19TH CENTURY, WE WERE REGARDED BY EUROPEANS AS A KIND OF BUMPKIN COPY OF ENGLAND, BUT AS WE PRESSED WESTWARD WE WERE ABLE TO FORGE A SEPARATE IDENTITY FROM WHICH WE COULD TAKE PRIDE AND CONFIDENCE.

IN THE PROCESS OF GROWING OUR COUNTRY FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC — RIVER BY RIVER, TOWN BY TOWN, ACRE BY ACRE — WE COULD HAVE USED AND EMBRACED ANY ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT SEEMED APPROPRIATE TO THE CONSTANT CHALLENGE OF SETTLEMENT. AND CERTAINLY IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE VULNERABLE, SLOW MOVING WAGON TRAINS, AND THE COMMUNITIES THAT SPLIT OFF FROM THEM

BECAUSE OF SITE CHOICE, ILLNESS OR FATIGUE, THEY ENGAGED TOGETHER IN FORMS OF ECONOMIC PRACTICE THAT TODAY WOULD BE VIEWED AS COMMUNISTIC.

AS WE BUILT OUR NEW COUNTRY WITH THE NEW CONFIDENCE GAINED FROM OVERCOMING ONE OBSTACLE AFTER ANOTHER, THE IMAGE OF AMERICANS AS COPY-CAT ENGLISH FADED AND, AFTER OUR CIVIL WAR WHEN OUR CAPITALISM SLAMMED INTO HIGH GEAR AND STAYED THERE, WE EMERGED AS A TOP RANK, INDEPENDENT, INTERNATIONAL POWER WITH A POPULATION POSSESSED OF UNIQUE QUALITIES FROM WHICH INFERIORITY HAD BEEN DISCARDED. INDEED MANY EUROPEAN TITLED FAMILIES WITH SHRINKING FORTUNES LOOKED MOST KINDLY ON THE RESTORATIVE POWER OF ACQUIRING WEALTHY AMERICAN HUSBANDS FOR THEIR DAUGHTERS.

THERE’S SOMETHING TRULY REMARKABLE ABOUT AMERICA’S TRANSFORMATION IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY. AT THE TURN FROM THE 19TH TO 20TH CENTURIES, OUR FORMATION OF CONTIGUOUS STATES WAS NOT EVEN COMPLETE, AZ BEING THE LAST STATE TO JOIN THE OTHERS IN 1912. ONLY FIVE YEARS LATER THE AEF<sup>1</sup>, WAS SENT TO EUROPE AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN SECURING VICTORY FOR THE ALLIED FORCES WITHIN A YEAR. WITH THE END OF WW I THE US ROLE IN THE WORLD WAS THAT OF ACKNOWLEDGED ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND POLITICAL LEADER.

THIS RUSH TO WORLD LEADERSHIP IN ROUGHLY HALF A CENTURY FROM CIVIL WAR TO WW I, AND THE ENORMOUS WEALTH WE CREATED IN THAT PERIOD, CAN BE SEEN AS THE MOST LOGICAL SOURCE OF OUR NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION WITH CAPITALISM. “MY COUNTRY, RIGHT OR WRONG”, TO KEEP PACE, EXPANDED TO “MY CAPITALIST COUNTRY, RIGHT OR WRONG”.

TO MEASURE THE STRENGTH OF THIS IDENTIFICATION WE ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AT OUR DENIAL OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALITY. THIS DENIAL SERVES TO BOLSTER THE IMAGE WE WANT AND NEED TO HAVE TO REFLECT OUR INDIVIDUAL AND NATIONAL WORTH AND ACHIEVEMENT. IT IS OF NO REAL MATTER, APPARENTLY, THAT THE DEPTH AND CONSTANCY OF OUR DENIAL IGNORE THE TIMELY WARNING VOICE OF HISTORY. WE HAVE OUR OWN INTERPRETATIONS, OPINIONS AND SCHEDULES.

SELF-SUPPORTING DENIAL COMES IN MANY SHAPES AND SIZES THAT OFFER REFUGE FROM REALITY, AND WE NEED LOOK NO FURTHER THAN OUR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS. HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HEAR AMERICA REFERRED TO AS “THE RICHEST NATION IN THE WORLD” BY LEADERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS?

THE TRUTH IS JUST THE OPPOSITE. IN TWO GENERATIONS WE HAVE TRANSFORMED OURSELVES FROM THE WORLD’S LARGEST CREDITOR TO ITS LEADING BORROWER WITH OUR PUBLICLY STATED DEBT TO REACH \$18 TRILLION THIS YEAR. SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER CONTINGENT LIABILITIES MAY ALSO REQUIRE REPAYMENT.<sup>2</sup>

AS TRUTH, WHEN GIVEN A CHANCE, HAS A WAY OF DISTURBING OUR FINANCIAL MARKETS AND OUR ELECTORAL PROCESS, OUR “LEADERS” IN BOTH ARE SKILLED IN APPLYING FILTERS THAT PERMIT US TO BLOCK UNFAVORABLE INFORMATION, MAINTAIN OUR DENIAL AND ENCOURAGE MORE IDENTIFICATION. THE CYCLE REPEATS ITSELF AND WE CLING TO THE IMAGE

OF MILITARY, ECONOMIC, DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL SOLE SUPERPOWER WITH ITS MANY BENEFITS OF WEALTH AND POWER FOR OUR “LEADER” CLASSES.

AT SOME POINT THE CONCEPT AND MACHINERY OF ENDLESS DEBT AS CURRENT FUEL WILL BE CALLED INTO QUESTION IN WAYS THAT CAN ROIL MARKETS AND ELECTIONS HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD. WHERE THEN, OUR “LEADERSHIP”?

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IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE COULD KEEP POLITICS AND ECONOMICS SEPARATE, BUT THAT DOES NOT SEEM POSSIBLE GIVEN OUR TIME AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT. THEY COME INTO CONSTANT CONTACT AND, IN DOING SO, LEACH POWERS, VALUES, MONEY AND MOTIVATIONS FROM ONE TO THE OTHER.

THIS PROCESS, SOMETIMES CONSCIOUS AND AT OTHER TIMES INSTANTLY REFLEXIVE, IS UNEQUIVOCAL. IT HAPPENS REGULARLY NO MATTER WHAT POLITICIANS SAY OR WHAT ECONOMISTS IN ACADEMIA WRITE IN THEIR TEXTBOOKS. IT CREATES EXCESSES, SUBTERFUGES, POWER BASES AND A HERD MENTALITY THAT EVENTUALLY DIMINISH BOTH OUR ECONOMIC AND GOVERNMENT ROLES. THE PUBLIC, WITH ONLY A LIMITED OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE EITHER, IS BATTERED BY BOTH. IT IS NO WONDER THAT OUR IDENTIFICATION AND OUR IDEALISM HAVE SUFFERED.

THESE CONSEQUENCES ARE NOT GOOD. THEY EAT AWAY AT OUR CONCEPT OF GOVERNMENT AND THE QUALITY OF CARE AND MANAGEMENT WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE IT.

THERE IS ONE MORE VITAL ASPECT OF OUR ECONOMIC/ POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCE WE SHOULD NOTE. IN THIS RELATIONSHIP BOTH ELEMENTS UNDERGO CHANGE CAUSED BY EXTERNAL FACTORS SUCH AS MARKETS, WARFARE, HUMAN OR NATURAL DISASTERS, ETC. AND EVEN BY INTERNAL REALIZATIONS. THESE ALTERATIONS IN THOUGHT, BEHAVIOR, SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY AND NATURAL RESOURCES ARE CONSTANTLY EXCHANGED BETWEEN OUR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CENTERS IN WAYS, SOMETIMES RECOGNIZED AND SOMETIMES NOT, BEYOND THE ACTIVE CONTROL OF EITHER.

THIS IS NOT GOOD. UNDER SUCH A RAPID AND CONTINUOUS FLOW OUR CAPITALIST ECONOMY AND OUR ELECTED GOVERNMENT ARE SEVERELY CHALLENGED TO RESPOND WITH ADJUSTMENTS THAT WOULD BENEFIT BOTH.

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### A PARADIGM OF PARADOX

AMERICAN CAPITALISM TODAY IS BESET WITH PARADOXES THAT RESULT FROM ITS INABILITY TO ADJUST TO THE CHANGES WROUGHT BY TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCE. ITS HEYDAY OCCURRED IN THE LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20H CENTURIES AS AMERICA TRANSFORMED ITSELF FROM AN AGRICULTURAL TO AN INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY.

THESE WERE TIMES OF ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES CAPABLE OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR RAPIDLY EXPANDING POPULATION. THE KEY ELEMENT OF OUR ECONOMIC EQUATION

THEN WAS THAT BOTH OUR INDUSTRIAL AND OUR POPULATION GROWTH WERE SEEN TO SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST. GIVEN CAPITALISM’S HISTORIC CONCERN WITH WEALTH ACCUMULATION AND GOVERNMENT WITH ITS DISTRIBUTION, ACHIEVING THIS BALANCE HAS BEEN NEITHER FREQUENT NOR EASY. WHEN IT SUCCEEDS, HOWEVER, THE INTERESTS OF BOTH ARE SERVED BY THE FORMATION OF A STRONG AND STABLE MIDDLE CLASS CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING A DEMOCRATIC ECONOMY.

FROM ITS 19TH CENTURY PINNACLE AMERICAN CAPITALISM HAS BEEN CHANGED IN SIGNIFICANT WAYS. AS POSTWAR POPULATION, BOTH NATIVE AND IMMIGRANT, EXPLODED, AND WE BECAME THE WORLD’S LARGEST PRODUCER (“MORE PEOPLE, MORE TRADE”), THE DYNAMICS OF MONEY AND POWER IN AMERICA WERE TOTALLY TRANSFORMED. WE FOUND OURSELVES DEALING WITH NEW NUMBERS — “MILLIONS” LOST MUCH OF THEIR LONGTIME STATUS, AND WERE REPLACED BY “BILLIONS” WHICH, IN TURN, GAVE WAY TO “TRILLIONS”.

THIS TREMENDOUS RISE IN THE FLOW OF MONEY THROUGH OUR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS HAS HAD UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES FOR BOTH. FOR GOVERNMENT, IT HAS PRODUCED EXTENSIVE CORRUPTION AND PARALYSIS IN CONGRESS BY ENABLING CONSTANT PRESSURE AND INFLUENCE BY SPECIAL INTERESTS AND BY CREATING A CLASS OF CAREER POLITICIANS ABLE TO BE REELECTED TO MULTIPLE TERMS THAT CAN REACH THIRTY OR FORTY YEARS.

TODAY AMERICA REGARDS ITS POPULATION GROWTH FROM 1945’S 150 MILLION TO 2050’S ESTIMATED 500 MILLION WITHOUT ALARM.<sup>3</sup> THEIR TRANSLATION INTO THE STATISTICS OF EVERYDAY LIFE AND THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO SUPPORT IT, HOWEVER, IS NOT A SOURCE OF COMFORT.

PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER NEEDED IN OUR COUNTRY TO SETTLE AND DEVELOP WILDERNESS AREAS, AND YET FOR DIFFERENT REASONS (IDEOLOGICAL FOR GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMIC FOR THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR) THE PRESSURE FOR POPULATION GROWTH NEVER LETS UP.

NEITHER OUR CAPITALIST CULTURE NOR OUR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO RECOGNIZE, LET ALONE ADJUST TO, THE SHIFT FROM ABUNDANCE TO SCARCITY OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. THIS SHARED FAILURE TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO CHANGE IN A WAY THAT ACCOMMODATES BOTH OUR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL GOALS SETS UP A SECOND DICHOTOMY FOR OUR COUNTRY AND WORLD WHICH IS THAT BETWEEN “ENOUGH” AND NOT ENOUGH”. LIKE “MORE AND FAIR” ITS JUDGEMENT CARRIES A MORAL MESSAGE, BUT IT GOES FURTHER, AND WILL STRIKE WITH GUT-WRENCHING POWER.

OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS HAVE CREATED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF POPULAR ANGST OVER THE PAST HALF CENTURY BY FOLLOWING POLICIES THAT HAVE SHRUNK THE MIDDLE CLASS BY INCREASING THE NUMBERS OF THOSE IN OUR SOCIETY’S UPPER AND LOWER LEVELS. THIS IS SELF-DEFEATING AND WILL NOT PRODUCE LONG TERM BENEFITS. IT IS THE DIRECT RESULT OF EMPOWERING BOTH SYSTEMS TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT THEY FEEL THEY CAN OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY OF EACH OTHER — I.E. IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS. THEY MAY BE ABLE TO PUT ON FALSE FACES FOR A WHILE, BUT EVENTUALLY THE PLAY WILL END AND THE COSTUMES AND THE MAKE-UP MUST

COME OFF. AND THEN?

THERE ARE WAYS TO CONSTRUCT ECONOMIC POLICY AND POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST, BUT SO FAR THEY LACK TRACTION AMONG OUR SURE-TO-BE-ELECTED POLITICIANS AND WALL STREET WHIZZES.

## EDUCATION

LIKE CAPITALISM, OUR SYSTEM OF EDUCATION PROVIDES A MECHANISM BY WHICH WE, AND OTHERS, CAN MEASURE OUR SOCIETY'S VALUE AND OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO IT.

ANOTHER SHARED LINK IS THAT THE SAME POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC "LEADERS", WHO CLAIM THAT AMERICA IS THE RICHEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, STATE WITH EQUAL ASSURANCE THAT OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM IS SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHERS.

EDUCATION IS A WARREN OF METHODS, GOALS, INTERESTS, FUNDING, ENTERTAINMENT, POLITICS AND MORE. IT CAN TAKE A SIMPLE FACT, QUESTION OR ACTIVITY AND STATISTICALLY SLICE IT BY RACE, INCOME, GEOGRAPHY, ETHNICITY, IQ, RELIGION, AGE, GENDER, ETC. THERE IS NO END TO THE WAYS BY WHICH WE CAN DIVIDE OURSELVES IN ORDER TO COME UP WITH RELEVANT NUMBERS REGARDING STUDENT OR INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE. ONE SIZE DEFINITELY DOES NOT FIT ALL, BUT THE MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED STANDARD THAT EMANATES FROM WASHINGTON REFERS TO OUR SYSTEM'S ABILITY TO PRODUCE GRADUATES WHO CAN SUCCESSFULLY ENGAGE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETITION THAT OUR POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL LEADERS VIEW AS DETERMINANTS OF NATIONAL SUCCESS.

LAST YEAR OUR DEPT. OF EDUCATION PARTICIPATED IN AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY THE OECD TO TEST AND RATE SKILLS IN READING, MATH AND PROBLEM SOLVING IN OVER TWENTY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.<sup>4</sup> THE RESULTS SHOWED THAT THE US RANKED SIXTEENTH IN READING, TWENTY-FIRST IN MATH AND SEVENTEENTH IN PROBLEM SOLVING WITH SCORES BELOW THE GROUP AVERAGE IN ALL THREE AREAS. JAPAN AND FINLAND SCORED FIRST AND SECOND IN ALL THREE CATEGORIES. THE REMAINING TOP 5 SCORES DIVIDED BETWEEN THE NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, NORWAY AND AUSTRALIA.

SIMILARLY, A TESTING OF 15 YEAR OLD STUDENTS IN 60 COUNTRIES UNDER THE PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT REVEALED THAT THE BEST SCORES IN MATH, READING AND SCIENCE WERE ACHIEVED BY FIVE NATIONS — SHANGHAI, SINGAPORE, HONG KONG, JAPAN AND KOREA — WITH THE US AVERAGE FOR ALL ITS SCORES TRAILING THE LEADERS BY 492 TO 558, OR ABOUT 12%.<sup>5</sup>

RESULTS SUCH AS THESE, AND OTHERS AS WELL, ARE CAUSE FOR REAL ALARM. AS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PARTICIPATED IN THIS PROGRAM, WE SHOULD ASSUME THAT OUR POLITICAL CLASS IS AWARE OF ITS NUMBERS, AND YET OUR "LEADERS" CONTINUE TO ASSIGN TOP STATUS TO OUR SYSTEM.

THE TRUTH IS THAT EDUCATION IN THE USA FUNCTIONS IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT WAY THAN OTHERS BECAUSE WE HAVE

BURDENED IT WITH AN ARRAY OF NON-EDUCATIONAL GOALS THAT SERVE ADMINISTRATIVE, RATHER THAN SCHOLASTIC, PURPOSES.

EDUCATION USA IS A VAST ENTERPRISE CHARGED WITH EDUCATING MILLIONS OF STUDENTS THAT INCREASINGLY BRING TO SCHOOL THE DEMANDS OF DIFFERENT CULTURES AND BACKGROUNDS. IT OPERATES THROUGHOUT OUR FIFTY STATES AT LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS FROM WHICH A MIX OF FUNDING IS OBTAINED. AND, IN ADDITION TO THE PRESSURES APPLIED TO IT BY THE PUBLIC, PARENTS, POLITICIANS AND TEACHERS, IT IS SUBJECT TO PERSISTENT CONTROL AND OPERATIONAL MEASURES IMPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TWO OF THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST LABOR UNIONS — THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NEA) AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (AFT).

NOT SURPRISINGLY, THROUGHOUT THIS WEB OF INTERLOCKING DEMANDS, AMBITIONS, PROGRAMS AND THEIR FUNDING, THE MOTIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFIT ARE EVER PRESENT. EDUCATION USA TODAY IS BIG BUSINESS, AND A FAR CRY FROM ITS ORIGINS.

THE "LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE" WAS A ONE-ROOM FACT OF EDUCATIONAL LIFE IN EARLY AMERICA BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT EDUCATION IN AMERICA COULD BE BOTH EXCELLENT AND FREE. WE MAINTAINED THIS BELIEF AND THE FORM OF EDUCATION IT DELIVERED FOR LONGER THAN REALITY PERMITTED, BUT BOTH THE NUMBERS AND VARIETY OF OUR CONSISTENTLY EXPANDING POPULATION DEMANDED CHANGE, AND BY THE TIME WE CAME TO THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY THE STATUS OF THE "LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE" WAS MORE LEGEND THAN FACT.

SCHOLASTICALLY, THE "LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE" WAS SOMEWHAT OF A MIRACLE. IN OUR EARLY COLONIAL DAYS, IT HAD ONLY ONE OR TWO TEACHERS WHO WERE ABLE TO TEACH A STUDENT BODY OF MIXED AGES A SURPRISING MENU OF COURSES THAT INCLUDED SUCH TOPICS AS GREEK, LATIN, MATHEMATICS, HISTORY, COMPOSITION, GEOGRAPHY, PHILOSOPHY AND PERHAPS A SCIENTIFIC MIX THAT MIGHT COMBINE ELEMENTS OF BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS. THESE LAST WERE DECIDEDLY LESS INFORMED BY TECHNOLOGY AND DISCOVERY THAN THEY ARE TODAY.

THERE ARE SHIFTING STYLES IN EDUCATION AS IN EVERYTHING ELSE, AND TODAY GREEK, LATIN AND GEOGRAPHY ARE NO LONGER PART OF THE GENERAL COURSE OF STUDY IN OUR ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOLS, BUT ARE AVAILABLE AT MORE ADVANCED LEVELS OF STUDY. GEOGRAPHY IS AN INTERESTING FIELD. IT WAS DEEMED IMPORTANT UNTIL 20TH CENTURY TECHNOLOGY SEEMED TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR EXPLORATORY EFFORTS HAD REACHED ALL PARTS OF OUR KNOWN WORLD AND "NEW" DISCOVERIES WERE EXHAUSTED. THIS WAS FALSE THINKING WHICH WE ALREADY HAVE REASON TO REGRET, AS IT IS A TOPIC TIED CLOSELY TO SUCH CURRENT GLOBAL ISSUES AS POPULATION, COMMERCE, THE ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, POLITICS AND OUR FOOD AND WATER RESOURCES. GEOGRAPHY HAS BEEN IMPORTANT IN MORE WAYS THAN MAKING MAPS. IT IS IMPORTANT NOW, AND WILL REMAIN SO IN THE FUTURE, AS WE SHALL SEE LATER IN THIS CHAPTER.

AS IN OTHER NATIONAL DIRECTIONS, THE POLICY ADOPTED BY OUR FOUNDERS OF FREE AND EXCELLENT EDUCATION FOR ALL WAS A REACTION AGAINST THE EUROPEAN MONARCHIES' SYSTEM OF CLASS DISTINCTION. THERE, THE OFFSPRING OF THE UPPER CLASSES, OR THOSE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE CHOSEN FOR SPECIAL PRIVILEGE BY THE EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP LEVELS, WOULD ATTEND THE BEST SCHOOLS FOLLOWED BY UNIVERSITY AND POST-GRADUATE INSTITUTIONS.

THE MORE NUMEROUS STUDENTS, WHO LACKED EARLY EDUCATION OR WHOSE PERFORMANCE PRIOR TO UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS WAS DEEMED SUB-STANDARD, WERE DIVERTED TO OTHER LESS DEMANDING PATHS SUCH AS TRADE SCHOOL, APPRENTICESHIP, CLERICAL WORK, ETC. THE CONCEPT OF FREE, NATION-WIDE, PUBLIC EDUCATION UP TO THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL DID NOT EXIST.

EDUCATION IS AT THE ROOT OF ONE OF THE GREAT POLITICAL PARADOXES OF OUR GOVERNMENT. IT IS NEVER MENTIONED IN OUR CONSTITUTION AND, THEREFORE, IS A MATTER "RESERVED TO THE STATES RESPECTIVELY, OR TO THE PEOPLE".<sup>6</sup> AND YET, TODAY, OUR WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY INCLUDES AN IMMENSE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WITH THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYEES AND BRANCH OFFICES IN MOST STATES. IT CAN CREATE AND ESTABLISH POLICY BY EXECUTIVE DECISION THAT AFFECTS STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS THE GROWING LIST OF SUPPLIERS, CONSULTANTS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ADVISORS THAT ARE ATTRACTED TO THIS NATIONAL HONEY POT.

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EDUCATION USA IS BIG BUSINESS AND HAS BEEN SO SINCE WW II. IT GENERATES BIG MONEY IN ALL THE SECTORS IN WHICH IT ACTIVELY ENGAGES, THOSE THAT PROVIDE SERVICES TO IT AND THOSE WHO PACKAGE AND SELL ITS PRODUCTS INTO OUR "CONSUMER ECONOMY".

THE TECHNOLOGICAL LINE OF SEPARATION BETWEEN 19TH CENTURY AGRARIAN AMERICA EXTENDING ITS FRONTIER AND THE NEWLY EMERGING, WEALTHY, INDUSTRIAL WORLD POWER OF OUR 20TH CENTURY DIVIDED OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN FAR REACHING WAYS.

THE BASIC SCHOLASTIC MENU TODAY REVEALS NOT ONLY THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SOME COURSES AND THE ADDITION OF OTHERS, BUT ALSO A DEEP CHANGE IN OUR WAY OF THINKING ABOUT EDUCATION.

IN THE COURSE OF OUR TRANSFORMING 19TH CENTURY GROWTH, WE GENERATED ENORMOUS ENERGY AND STARTED A CHAIN REACTION THAT SHOWS NO SIGNS OF DIMINISHING. FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL, THE OLD VALUES, PACE, LANGUAGE AND METHODS HAD TO GO. BEGINNING EARLY IN THE LAST CENTURY, OUR EDUCATIONAL PROCESS ALIGNED ITSELF WITH THE GROWING DIRECTIONS AND CONCERNS OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE. AND WHEN THESE BECAME GLOBAL IN NATURE. THEY CAN BECOME DOMINANT ELEMENTS IN CULTURAL STASIS OR PROGRESS.

THIS PRESENTS A CRITICAL MOMENT FOR ANY COUNTRY, FOR DOMINANT CULTURAL ELEMENTS CAN BE ADJUSTED BY

PUBLIC INTERVENTION. EVEN WITH THE MOST HONORABLE INTENTION, HOWEVER, EFFORTS TO TWEAK CULTURES CAN GO AWRY — MOST NOTABLY, THE CULTURAL CHANGES SOUGHT BY TODAY'S MULTICULTURALISTS WHO HAVE PRODUCED RESULTS DETRIMENTAL TO BOTH THE PEOPLE THEY CLAIM TO BENEFIT AND TO OUR AND OTHER HOST CULTURES. KEEPING THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL WHEELS OF OUR PRESENT ZEITGEIST ON PARALLEL TRACKS, RUNNING SMOOTHLY AT THE SAME SPEED AND IN THE SAME DIRECTION IS NO SMALL TASK. FOR EDUCATION USA IT IS BESET WITH DANGEROUS TEMPTATIONS THAT MAY WELL PROVE IRRESISTIBLE.

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EDUCATION USA TODAY FACES A HOST OF PROBLEMS — SOME INHERITED, SOME IMPOSED AND SOME SELF-CREATED. THEY CONCERN MONEY, ETHICS, SCHOLASTIC PERFORMANCE, ATHLETICS, SOCIAL ENGINEERING AND, OF COURSE, THE EVER PRESENT PRESSURE OF POLITICS. WE CANNOT DEAL WITH ALL OF THESE ISSUES IN DETAIL HERE, BUT WE CAN PORTRAY SOME QUICK PROFILES AND THEIR PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES.

IF WE RETURN TO THE LATE 19TH CENTURY WHEN MONEY AND TECHNOLOGY WERE ACCELERATING OUR NATIONAL GROWTH, WE ALSO FIND THAT OUR SCHOOLS WERE BEGINNING TO SHIFT TO CURRICULA MORE SUITED TO OUR NEW MODERNITY. AT THE SAME TIME WE SEE THE FIRST EVIDENCE OF TEAM SPORTS CLAIMING THEIR PLACE IN ACADEMIA AND THE PUBLIC LIFE! EARLIEST EXAMPLES INCLUDE THE YALE-HARVARD CREW RACE OF 1852 AND THE BEGINNINGS OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S BROAD APPEAL WITH THE PRINCETON-RUTGERS GAME OF 1869.

COMPETITION IN THE DAYS OF FOOTBALL'S INFANCY WAS SPIRITED, BUT INFORMAL. THERE WERE NO RULES EXCEPT BY PRE-GAME AGREEMENT WHICH COULD EASILY BREAK DOWN IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE. WITH THE FIRST WRITING OF STANDARD REGULATIONS BY WALTER CAMP IN 1876, COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEGAN THE PROCESS THAT WOULD CAPTIVATE MILLIONS AND LEAD IT TO FORM LEAGUES, BUILD STADIUMS, CHARGE ADMISSION AND ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF THE SPORTS MEDIA AND THE EMOTIONS OF BOTH STUDENTS AND ALUMNI.

THE PUBLIC SUCCESS OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL IN OUR 1920S GOLDEN AGE OF SPORT WAS SO STRONG THAT IT SURVIVED FIRST THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THEN THE TRAVEL AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS OF WW II TO MOVE ON TO EVEN GREATER POPULARITY.

MORE MONEY AND MORE PEOPLE; AND, WITH THE ENORMOUS IMPETUS OF THE G.I. BILL'S CONTRIBUTION OF EIGHT MILLION WW II VETERANS TO COLLEGE CAMPUSES, THE GAME OF FOOTBALL EXPLODED TO EVER HIGHER LEVELS OF ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION. THEN, WHEN THE COLLEGE GAME WAS JOINED BY PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES, BOTH WERE TRANSFORMED BY THE NEW AVAILABILITY OF COMMERCIAL TV TO PERFORM MARKETING MIRACLES.

TEAM SPORTS, AND FOOTBALL IN PARTICULAR, SERVED STUDENTS, COLLEGES AND ALUMNI EQUALLY. THE STUDENTS, OF COURSE, RECEIVED THE BENEFITS OF EXERCISE, COMPETITION AND THE YOUTHFUL NEED FOR AN ENJOYMENT OF GAMES.

ALUMNI COULD UNLEASH THEIR MEMORIES AND EMOTIONS AND RELIEVE THEIR UNDERGRADUATE DAYS WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY STRICT ATTENTION TO FACT. AND IN THE NEARLY PERFECT SETTING OF AN AUTUMN AFTERNOON, PERHAPS ASSISTED BY A BIT OF WHISKEY, THEY COULD ENJOY THEMSELVES WITH THE CERTAINTY THAT THEY KNEW MORE ABOUT FOOTBALL THAN THE COACH, QUARTERBACK AND FIELD OFFICIALS COMBINED.

ORIGINALLY, THIS PROCESS WAS ONLY A PLEASANT AND HARMLESS FORM OF DELUSION, BUT, AS AMERICA MOVED FROM ITS WARTIME SUCCESS TO POSTWAR EXCESS, THE ROLE OF INDULGING MEMORY FOR ALL TOO MANY ALUMNI WAS TRANSFORMED TO ESTABLISHING INSTITUTIONAL SUPERIORITY WHICH, THROUGH OUR OVERLY DEVELOPED PROCESS OF IDENTIFICATION, EXTENDED TO THEIR PERSONAL STATUS. THE QUIET JOY OF MEMORY GAVE WAY IN MOST OF AMERICA TO AN AGGRESSIVE NEED TO BE "NUMBER 1" WHICH WAS NURTURED AND REINFORCED IN FOOTBALL GAMES EVERY WEEK FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER AND IN OTHER SPORTS AT OTHER TIMES.

FOR COLLEGE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY THE ADVENT OF TEAM SPORTS, SPEARHEADED BY FOOTBALL, CREATED A CORNUCOPIA OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER BENEFITS. NAME YOUR PREFERRED ACTIVITY OR CAMPUS PRESENCE AND IT COULD BE A BENEFICIARY. THE SITUATION WAS ONE OF "WIN FOR ALL AND ALL FOR WIN".

ALUMNI WERE DRAWN BACK TO CAMPUS FREQUENTLY AND, WHEN GAMES WERE SCHEDULED "AWAY", THE SCHOOLS COULD MAKE CONTACT WITH ALUMNI IN THE OPPONENTS' REGIONS. IN EITHER LOCATION THEY WERE TREATED NOT ONLY TO THE GLADIATORS ON THE FIELD, BUT ALSO TO CHEERLEADERS, MARCHING BANDS, A HALF-TIME SHOW, SOUVENIRS AND THE COMPANY OF FRIENDS/CLASSMATES SEATED NEAR THEM.

OVER TIME, AS FOOTBALL GREW IN POPULARITY, ITS ATTENDANCE NUMBERS SOARED AND ITS GRIP ON ALUMNI IDENTIFICATION STRENGTHENED, IT BECAME APPARENT TO COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS, AND EVEN FACULTY, THAT SATURDAY AFTERNOONS PRESENTED OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN SOME AUXILIARY FUND RAISING — NOTHING TOO OVERT, OF COURSE, BUT CONVERSATIONS STARTED IN THE STADIUM COULD RESURFACE IN THE TREASURER'S OFFICE OR IN ALUMNI FUND RECEIPTS. SATURDAY FOOTBALL AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, OTHER SPORTS HAD BECOME A NEW NATIONAL BIRD — THE GOOSE THAT LAID GOLDEN EGGS NOW, NEXT WEEK, NEXT YEAR AND WELL INTO THE FUTURE.

SATURDAY'S GAMES ALSO BROUGHT FINANCIAL BENEFITS TO THE TOWN SIDE OF THE "TOWN AND GOWN" EQUATION IN RECEIPTS FROM PARKING, HOTEL, RESTAURANT AND OTHER RETAIL OUTLETS. TOWN/GOWN RELATIONS CAN VARY FROM TIME TO TIME AND PLACE TO PLACE, BUT ARE USUALLY IMPROVED BY ADDED LOCAL REVENUES.

THE DECADE OF THE '60S WAS A TIME OF DEEP CONFUSION FOR OUR NATIONAL PSYCHE; AND NOWHERE DID IT PLAY OUT IN FULLER, MORE FREQUENT VIEW THAN ON OUR COLLEGE CAMPUSES — IN STUDENT CLASSROOMS, DORMS AND ATHLETICS; IN ALUMNI GATHERINGS AND GIFTS; AND IN ADMINISTRATIVE ATTITUDES AND CONTROLS.

ENTERING THE '70S, WITH THE NIXON IMPEACHMENT AND VIETNAM WAR IN OUR REAR VIEW MIRROR, THE PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE OF MONEY IN EVER LARGER AMOUNTS IN OUR SOCIETY WAS EXTENDED TO EDUCATION USA. IT BECAME A MAJOR, IF NOT DOMINANT, FORCE. IT CHANGED THE SCALE OF EVERYTHING — FACULTY AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION, PHYSICAL PLANT, STUDENT ENROLLMENT, ALUMNI GIVING, ATHLETIC FACILITIES, CURRICULAR OFFERINGS, FOREIGN STUDENT PARTICIPATION, GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORED RESEARCH, MEDIA EXPOSURE AND MORE, INCLUDING, AS GOVERNMENT EXPLODED IN SIZE AND REACH, THE FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF CONFLICT OVER OUR CONSTITUTION'S LANGUAGE AND INTENT.

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GIVEN THE EXTENT AND EMPHASIS OF OUR POSTWAR MONEY GROWTH, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT ITS LURES "TRICKLED DOWN" FROM THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL WITH FOOTBALL AGAIN SERVING AS THE LEADER. AMONG THE ATTRACTIONS THAT EASILY CAPTIVATED THESE YOUNGER STUDENTS WERE FAME, PUBLICITY, FUN, THE SENSE OF CREATING AND HAVING A VALUE FOR ONESELF NOT DEPENDENT UPON SCHOLARSHIP AND THE PROSPECT THAT SPORT COULD PROVIDE A CAREER WHICH COULD OFFER A PATHWAY THROUGH LIFE MARKED BY SIGNING BONUSES, CELEBRITY, PUBLIC ADULATION, STATUS AND THE LEISURE OF LENGTHY OFF-SEASONS.

REALITY WOULD TURN OUT TO BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT, BUT IT WAS OFTEN DISGUISED IN WAYS THAT REMOVED IT FROM HIGH SCHOOL AGE AWARENESS.

IN AMERICA, FRIDAY NIGHT IS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL NIGHT. BANDS MARCH, CHEERLEADERS CHEER, PEOPLE TAILGATE AND TEAMS PLAY. IN OUR SMALLER TOWNS, THE WHOLE TOWN EMPTIES AND GOES TO THE GAME. THERE, CITIZENS SHOW UNDERSTANDABLE PRIDE IN THEIR TEAM AND IN THE UNIFORMS AND STADIUM WHICH HAVE BEEN FUNDED, IN LARGE PART, BY THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS. WHETHER YOU ENJOY FOOTBALL OR NOT, THE FAITH THAT IS DISPLAYED IS IMPRESSIVE.

LIKE RELIGION, IT CREATES HEROES, LEGENDS AND OVERSIZED IMAGES THAT DAZZLE PLAYERS AND CAN LEAD THEM TO FEELINGS OF ENTITLEMENT AND UNACCOUNTABILITY THAT CAN ACCOMPANY SPECIAL STATUS. FOR MUCH OF OUR YOUTH FOOTBALL IS RELIGION. WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY GIVEN TO EXCESS — AND IT SEEMINGLY KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES. IT CAN EASILY PUSH STUDENT SPORT AND PARENTAL HOPE ACROSS THE LINE INTO THE BATTLE ZONE OF BOOSTERISM WHERE THE REWARDS ARE GREAT AND GOALS CAN BE BLURRED. GENERALLY SPEAKING, BOOSTERISM IS ALLOWED BY COLLEGES OR SCHOOLS, ENCOURAGED BY THEIR ATHLETIC DEPARTMENTS AND CONDUCTED BY THEIR ALUMNI.

IT IS AN OVER-THE-TOP EMPHASIS ON TEAM, ON WINNING, ON SCHOOL AND ON THE REWARDS THESE BRING. IT DOES THIS OFTEN BY COMPARING THE TEAM/SCHOOL TO FAMILY, THEREBY ESTABLISHING DISTINCT EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL COMMUNITIES WHICH THE TEEN-AGE STUDENT IS NOT PREPARED

TO QUESTION. THIS FAMILY IDENTITY IS AN ENDURING ONE IN OUR SPORT OBSESSED SOCIETY, AS PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES AT THE TOP OF THEIR CAREER AND YEARS LATER OFTEN DESCRIBE THEIR TEAM AS “FAMILY” IN MEDIA INTERVIEWS.

WHILE SCHOOLS AND THEIR ATHLETIC DEPARTMENTS PLAY THEIR PARTS, IT IS THE SCHOOL ALUMNI, OR EVEN NON-GRADUATE LOCAL BOOSTERS, WHO FUEL THE ENGINES OF BOOSTERISM — WEEK IN AND WEEK OUT, YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT. IT IS THEIR NEED FOR IDENTIFICATION, FOR STATUS, FOR VICTORY, FOR INCLUSION THAT DRIVE THE MANY ACTIVITIES OF BOOSTER PROGRAMS.

BOOSTER SUPPORT CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS WHEN OVERZEALOUS EFFORTS RUN THE RISK OF CONFLICTING WITH UNRELATED SCHOOL POLICIES OR ACTIVITIES. AND YET NO ADMINISTRATOR WANTS TO RISK DISCOURAGING BOOSTER EFFORTS OR OFFENDING THE SOURCES OF THEIR BENEFITS. MANY A COLLEGE PRESIDENT WITH URGENT NEED FOR AN ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY HAS HAD TO SETTLE FOR A NEW PRACTICE FIELD, LOCKER ROOM FACILITY OR STADIUM RENOVATION FAVORED BY A BOOSTER DONOR.

BY FAR THE STRONGEST AND MOST LASTING IMPACT OF SPORT ON EDUCATION USA HAS BEEN THE CHANGE IT HAS WROUGHT IN THE MINDSET OF ITS STUDENTS. TO THEM, SEEMINGLY, IT PROVIDES NOT ONLY A LUCRATIVE CAREER, BUT BOTH A PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEASURE OF THE SELF-WORTH WHICH ALL ADOLESCENTS CRAVE.

BUT THERE’S A TRAP HERE. IN MANY, IF NOT MOST, PARTS OF AMERICA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ARE GIVEN EXCEPTIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE. HEADLINES, STATISTICS, GAME REVIEWS, COACH COMMENTS, TEAM PHOTOS AND MEDIA INTERVIEWS MIMIC WHAT TAKES PLACE AT THE “PRO” LEVEL EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF THE PLAYERS’ COLLEGE SELECTIONS. THIS HAS BECOME A LENGTHY PROCESS INVOLVING THE PLAYER, HIS FAMILY, BOTH HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE COACHES, COLLEGE SCOUTS AND INTERESTED ALUMNI AND LOCAL MEDIA. THE LATTER REPORT ON STAR PLAYERS RELENTLESSLY, TRACKING EVERY REAL OR IMAGINED NEWS ITEM AND THEN, WHEN A FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE PROVIDE MULTI-COLUMN COVERAGE COMPLETE WITH PHOTO.

THE TRAP HAS BEEN SET EARLY. TIME AND LIFE WILL BE SPENT IN COLLEGE MOSTLY PLAYING TEAM SPORTS IN THE COMPANY OF THE NEW “FAMILY” AND THE PROCESS WILL BE REPEATED IF THE STUDENT IS SIGNED TO A CONTRACT IN THE “PRO” LEAGUES.

BUT MANY OF THESE PLAYERS ARE STILL KIDS. THEY HAVE BEEN ATHLETICALLY SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF THEIR BODY SKILLS AND THEY HAVE BEEN INDULGED AND, IN A WAY, PROTECTED BY THEIR ATHLETIC COMMUNITY. SOMETIMES DURING, BUT MOSTLY FOLLOWING, COLLEGE MANY OF THESE LIVES COME APART AND THE MEDIA COVERAGE INCLUDES DRUGS, DUI, SPOUSE ABUSE, RAPE, RESISTING ARREST, BATTERY, ROBBERY AND EVEN MURDER. THESE KINDS OF CHARGES ARE TERRIBLE JUDGMENTS OF SPORT AS LIFE. THEY ARE LEVELED AT KIDS WHO, THEY WERE TOLD, “HAD EVERYTHING”, BUT WHO, AS IT TURNS OUT, ONLY HAD TOO MUCH OF SOME THINGS AND NOT ENOUGH OF OTHERS.

THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE WAS SMALL IN SIZE AND, BY TODAY’S STANDARDS, LIMITED IN ITS PURPOSE AND CAPABILITY, BUT IT MANAGED TO SERVE THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF ITS TIME WITHOUT THE PROPS OF SPORTS, UNIFORMS, INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITIONS AND THE LOCAL PUBLICITY AND EMOTION THEY GENERATED. AT THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY OUR ACADEMIC VIEW OF EDUCATION FADED AND WAS REPLACED BY THE OVERWHELMING ATTRACTIONS OF NEW SCIENCE, MORE MONEY AND POWER AND THE VAST SOCIAL CHANGES THAT AWAITED US JUST ACROSS THE LINE IN THE GATHERING MODERNITY OF THE AMAZING 20TH CENTURY.

WHAT, WE MAY WELL ASK, MIGHT HAVE BEEN OUR EDUCATIONAL AND NATIONAL FATE HAD OUR NATIONAL CURRICULUM NOT CHANGED, AND HAD WE NOT CHOSEN TO DEVOTE SO MUCH OF OUR TIME, TRUST, ENERGY, COMMERCE AND SENSE OF WELL BEING TO SPORTS?

OUR “ACADEMY” HAS GROWN TREMENDOUSLY IN SIZE AND MONEY OVER THE PAST CENTURY — SHUNNING SOME OF ITS PRIOR WAYS AND ADOPTING NEW ONES AND OFTEN FORMING SCAR TISSUE IN THE PROCESS. SOME OF THESE “WAYS” HAVE “MEANS” ATTACHED. THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PAYS ITS PRESIDENT \$3.7 MILLION A YEAR, THE HIGHEST IN THE COUNTRY. PRESIDENTS FAUST (HARVARD) AND LEVIN (YALE) RECEIVED \$900,000 AND \$1.7 MILLION RESPECTIVELY, WITH THE AVERAGE BEING \$410,000 IN A RECENT SAMPLE OF 42 UNIVERSITIES. TO PUT THESE NUMBERS INTO BROADER PERSPECTIVE, WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT ALABAMA’S NICK SABAN, THE COUNTRY’S MOST HIGHLY PAID FOOTBALL COACH, RECENTLY RECEIVED AN INCREASE IN HIS ANNUAL COMPENSATION FROM \$5.5 TO \$7 MILLION. AND THE TOP TEN COACHES ALL WERE PAID AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT \$5 MILLION, ALTHOUGH ONLY TWO OF THEIR TEAMS PLACED IN THE TOP TEN RANKING.<sup>7</sup>

EDUCATION USA HAS BIG MONEY IN PLAY AT ALL LEVELS. COLLEGE PRESIDENTS ARE NOW MORE OFTEN PICKED FROM THE POOL OF CORPORATE CEOs AND ADMINISTRATORS THAN FROM FACULTY. THIS REPRESENTS HISTORIC CHANGE. TODAY’S ACADEMIA IS ADOPTING OTHER CORPORATE FORMS, TOO. THEY CREATE BUSINESS MODELS AND EMPLOY MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES FAVORED BY THE CORPORATE SECTOR, INCLUDING SIGNING BONUSES, DEFERRED COMPENSATION, VESTING AND OTHERS ALL INTENDED TO TIE THE PRESIDENT TO THE INSTITUTION AND TO REDUCE HIS/HER TAX BURDEN.

NOT SURPRISINGLY THE ROLE OF THE COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS ALSO CHANGED. MOST OF ITS MEMBERS ARE DRAWN FROM THE BUSINESS WORLD SO THAT THEIR EXPERIENCE CAN BE APPLIED TO THEIR INSTITUTIONS’ FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS. THIS GROWING RELIANCE ON BUSINESS PRACTICES AND PERSONNEL AT THE TOP MOVES THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION TO INCREASINGLY RESEMBLE THE CORPORATE MODEL AND IMAGE. THERE ARE OTHER PROCESSES AND PROBLEMS AT WORK IN EDUCATION USA THAT WE WILL EXPLORE IN OUR NEXT SERIES ENTITLED “WHO ARE WE?”

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WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED HAD WE NOT DROPPED GEOGRAPHY AND, IN OTHER WORDS, CHANGED OUR SCHOOLS' CURRICULA IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY? AND HAD WE NOT CONVERTED OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO ACCOMMODATE EVERY EXPANSION OF ITS SPORTS INGREDIENTS?

PRE-COLLEGE JAPANESE STUDENTS COMMIT TWELVE HOURS OR MORE A DAY TO THEIR STUDIES BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT DIVERTED BY ENTERTAINMENT AND FINANCIAL ATTRACTIONS OF TEAM SPORTS. WE, IN THE WEST, CAN ARGUE THAT JAPAN IS TOO SEVERE AND NOT A WELL-BALANCED SOCIETY, WHILE ORIENTAL ATTITUDES CAN CLAIM THAT OUR PURSUIT OF EXCESS PRODUCES A SIMILAR, FATEFUL IMBALANCE.

OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM NO LONGER FITS ITS SIMPLE DESCRIPTION. IT HAS COME TO INCLUDE A MAJOR PART OF ARGUABLY OUR LARGEST INDUSTRY — ENTERTAINMENT — THE MANY PARTS OF WHICH ARE BOUND TOGETHER BY THEIR ABILITY TO CREATE REVENUES.<sup>8</sup>

IT IS WHAT IT IS. THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ELEMENTS AT EVERY LEVEL PRODUCE THE KIND OF HEALTHY IMAGE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN "PROGRESS", BUT THERE ARE ALWAYS GLIMPSES OF WHAT TAKES PLACE BEHIND THE CURTAIN — NCAA (NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION) INVESTIGATIONS OF BOOSTERISM INFRACTIONS AT LEADING SCHOOLS SUCH AS SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY (TX) AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI (FL); AND THE COMPLETE ABDICATION OF RESPONSIBILITY BY PENN STATE'S ADMINISTRATION AND ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT REGARDING PROLONGED SEXUAL ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

ALMOST CERTAINLY, THERE WERE OTHERS — IN DIFFERENT FORMS AND PLACES — BUT THE DRIVING ELEMENT REMAINS THE SAME. IT IS MONEY AND IT IS AN ESTABLISHED PART OF OUR SYSTEM — MONEY FOR PLAYERS, COACHES AND SCHOOLS.

WE CANNOT IGNORE WHAT IS NOW A FACT OF LIFE IN OUR SYSTEM. THE COLLEGES HAVE BECOME A KIND OF FREE "FARM SYSTEM" TO FEED ATHLETIC TALENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, THE SAME PROCESS TAKES PLACE FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE. AT EVERY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL (ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE), WHETHER FUNDED PRIVATELY OR PUBLICLY, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF OUR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES HAVE BEEN COMPLICIT IN THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF THE ATHLETIC/LEARNING PROCESS. THIS IS MOST EVIDENT IN THE GROWING REVENUES CREATED BY FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL. ECONOMICALLY, THIS OPERATES AS A CLOSED SYSTEM IN WHICH ALL PARTICIPANTS — SCHOOLS, PLAYERS AND PROFESSIONAL SPORTS ALL BENEFIT. BUT IS IT EDUCATION? IS IT THE TYPE OF EDUCATION THAT CAN BEST SERVE THE STUDENT AND THE NATION?

WE DO NOT MEAN TO CONDEMN ALL SPORTS PROGRAMS OR THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES THAT OFFER THEM. THEY CAN BENEFIT BOTH STUDENTS AND THEIR SCHOOLS IN MANY WAYS, BUT IN OUR MEDIA-DOMINATED CULTURE THEY HAVE COME TO BE SEEN NOT JUST AS SCHOOL PROGRAMS, BUT AS THE EARLY STAGES OF A CAREER. TO THE YOUNG STUDENT (AND EMPHASIS STARTS EARLY) THE "SPORT AS LIFE AND LIFE AS SPORT" DIRECTION THAT HE CAN ENCOUNTER BOTH AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL IS NOT HELPFUL AND CAN PRODUCE UNWANTED

RESULTS.

WE ARE JUST BEGINNING TO SEE A GLIMMER OF RECOGNITION OF THIS IN THE RECENT PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE LONG TERM PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DAMAGE INFLICTED ON FOOTBALL AND HOCKEY PLAYERS. ALTHOUGH IGNORED BY THE MEDIA OVER THE YEARS, THE FREQUENCY AND SERIOUSNESS OF PAST AND PRESENT INJURIES HAVE MADE THEM INTO A NATIONAL CALL FOR ACTION.

IN SCHOOL AND COLLEGE SPORTS TODAY, THE STUDENT HEARS MANY VOICES — THOSE OF ADMINISTRATORS, COACHES, ATHLETIC DEPARTMENTS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS. SOMEWHERE IN THIS MIX THERE NEEDS TO BE A VOICE OF DENIAL THAT WILL PROVIDE SOME BALANCE BY SHOWING THE TEMPTATIONS OF "GLITZ" AND MONEY IN THEIR TRUE LIGHT. UNLESS WE CAN COUNTER THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS THAT LIVE OFF OUR YOUNG AND IMPRESSIONABLE ATHLETES, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO JEOPARDIZE THEIR LIVES. JUST A LITTLE TRUTH WOULD GO A LONG WAY.

THIS IS A DAUNTING TASK! FOR THE STUDENT/ATHLETE THE ATHLETIC ZONE IS PEOPLED WITH A POWERFUL MIX OF ADVISORS AND AUTHORITY FIGURES LINKED BY THEIR DEPENDENCE UPON THE SUCCESS OF THE TEAM. THIS BOND IS SO STRONG THAT IT CREATES AN IMPENETRABLE ATMOSPHERE CAPABLE OF TURNING AWAY INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGES FROM THOSE WHO SERVE IT AND THOSE WHOM IT SERVES.

AS THIS ATMOSPHERE IS BACKED BY THE ALL-POWERFUL POLITICAL, MEDIA AND COMMERCIAL FORCES OF OUR TIME, A MEANINGFUL CHANGE IN EMPHASIS WILL NOT BE EASY. THE ONLY MEANS AVAILABLE IS TO INCREASE EFFORTS TO REVEAL THE DANGERS OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM AND TO COUNTER THEM BY GREATER STUDENT EXPOSURE TO ETHICS AND VALUES INSTRUCTION.

THIS IS A DIFFICULT SITUATION. THERE ARE MANY FINE, DECENT PEOPLE THAT ARE PART OF THE ATHLETIC COMMUNITY — COACHES, TRAINERS, PUBLICITY AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS — WHO HAVE BECOME ABSORBED BY THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF SPORT AND PULLED ALONG BY IT. REPUTATIONS, MISTAKES AND LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY WILL ALL BE MADE AND ANY CHANGE WILL REQUIRE A STRONG AND CONCERTED CHANGE AT ALL LEVELS. THIS IS NOT LIKELY TO OCCUR.

## FOREIGN POLICY

OUR CAPITALIST, ECONOMIC AND WESTERN EDUCATIONAL VALUES ARE LARGELY MATTERS OF INTERNAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT, ALTHOUGH WE IDENTIFY OURSELVES WITH THEM SO STRONGLY THAT WE HAVE IMBUED THEM WITH AN AURA OF INVINCIBILITY FROM BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CHALLENGES.

FOREIGN POLICY IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT IN THAT IT PROJECTS OUR IMAGE OF OURSELVES TO OUR NEAR NEIGHBORS AND TO OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD. THIS IMAGE IS NOT A SIMPLE "BROWNIE" SNAPSHOT.<sup>9</sup> IT IS A CONSTANTLY MOVING MIX OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL MESSAGES BY WHICH WE TRY TO PERSUADE OTHER NATIONS TO ACCEPT

OUR VIEWS ON MANAGING GLOBAL PROBLEMS AND CONDUCTING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. THESE MESSAGES MAY RELATE TO MUNDANE, DAILY MATTERS OR TO SUDDEN, URGENT CRISES AND CAN SWING QUICKLY FROM ONE TO THE OTHER.

IN THE YEARS SINCE WW II OUR FOREIGN POLICY PROCESS HAS BEEN SHAPED BY FREQUENT AND HIGHLY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE FORMATION OF THE UN, THE COLD WAR, THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR ARMS, THE RISE OF MILITANT ISLAM, THE EU, THE DOLLAR AS THE WORLD'S RESERVE CURRENCY, DEPENDENCE UPON OIL AS OUR GLOBAL, PRIMARY ENERGY SOURCE, SPACE EXPLORATION AND THE UNPRECEDENTED ADVANCES IN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS THAT HAVE ALLOWED WORDS, PICTURES AND VOICES TO BE INSTANTLY EXCHANGED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

WHILE MANY OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE COMMONLY SEEN AS BENEFITS, THEY OFTEN HAVE DIFFERENT RESULTS FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD. SOME CULTURES, QUITE SIMPLY, ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT CHANGE AS EASILY AS OTHERS, AND IN FOREIGN POLICY CHANGE IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY — EVERY DAY!

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WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE BERLIN WALL AND RUSSIAN TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE COLD WAR, FOLLOWED BY THE INTERNAL COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION, WE ENTERED A BRIEF PERIOD OF “GLASSNOST” WITH RUSSIA WHICH, BECAUSE OF INFLATED EGOS AND AGENDAS IN BOTH COUNTRIES, SOON DISAPPEARED.

THE FAILURE OF THE SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN WAS A CRITICAL EXPERIENCE IN THAT WE PLAYED THE INSURGENT ROLE BY PROVIDING ARMS, MONEY AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS “ADVISORS” TO AFGHAN FORCES RESISTING THE RUSSIAN INVADERS. BUT WHEREAS OUR JOINT EFFORT PRODUCED A SPECTACULAR VICTORY, WE WERE UNABLE TO LEARN VALUABLE LESSONS FROM OUR EXPERIENCE.

THE SOVIETS JOINED BRITAIN AND OTHERS WHO HAD FAILED TO ANNEX AFGHANISTAN. WE PROVIDED THE WEAPONS THAT ENABLED THE AFGHANS TO WIN, ONLY TO SEE THEM LATER TURNED AGAINST US. WE ALSO WITNESSED HIGH AMOUNTS OF SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT LEFT BEHIND TO RUST AND ROT OR, AGAIN, BE PUT TO USE BY THE NATIVE AFGHANS. FAST FORWARD TO TODAY AND THE SAME ICONIC PHOTOS REAPPEAR. ONLY THE EQUIPMENT IS MORE EXPENSIVE AND THERE IS MORE OF IT. IT IS OURS. THE DEPT. OF DEFENSE ISSUES A STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT ABANDONING IT IS THE MOST ECONOMICAL WAY TO RID OURSELVES OF IT. TELL IT TO THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER! OUR ENEMIES WILL FIND WAYS TO PUT THIS MATERIAL TO USE AS THEY HAVE BEFORE IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ. ECONOMICS ASIDE, OUR ACCEPTANCE OF WASTE IN OUR MILITARY PROCUREMENT AND OPERATIONS POLICIES THRIVES IN THE SHADOW OF OUR WIDESPREAD EMBRACE OF EXCESS.

AND IN THESE AND OTHER MUSLIM COUNTRIES WE HAVE MADE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING WE HAD CREATED A FRIENDSHIP THAT WOULD PERMIT US TO INJECT A TRANSFORMATIVE DOSE OF

WESTERNIZATION INTO THEIR ISLAMIC CULTURE, A FOLLY WHICH REACHED ITS PEAK WITH FORMER VP CHENEY'S PREDICTION THAT WE WOULD BE WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS AS LIBERATORS IN IRAQ.

YEARS AND TWO TRILLION DOLLARS LATER, WE FIND OURSELVES STILL TRYING TO EXTRICATE OURSELVES FROM AFGHANISTAN AND HAVING EXPENDED AND WASTED VAST SUMS OF MONEY IN IRAQ. THE COST IN HUMAN LIFE FOR OURSELVES AND THOSE WHOM WE SOUGHT TO PROTECT FROM TALIBAN AND AL-QAEDA FORCES HAS BEEN FAR MORE THAN WE CONTEMPLATED IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

WE HAVE BEEN MILITARILY INVOLVED IN LIBYA, AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ AND, BY DINT OF OUR CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL COMMITMENT, EGYPT IN CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT. THESE ACTIONS ON OUR PART HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY MOTIVATED TO BRING ABOUT GOVERNMENTAL CHANGE IN EITHER REGIME OR PRACTICE, OR BOTH, BUT MOTIVATION AND RESULTS ARE OFTEN PAINFULLY SEPARATED BY FOREIGN POLICY.

WITH POLITICAL INTERVENTION, OUR TENDENCY IS TO JUDGE OUR ACTIONS BY POLITICAL RESULTS, BUT, IF WE DO, WE IGNORE ANOTHER FATEFUL DIMENSION. WHAT, AFTER WE HAVE COME AND GONE, IS LEFT IN THE WAY OF A LIFE FOR THE NATIVE POPULATION?

THERE IS STILL TRIBAL CONFLICT IN LIBYA SEEKING TO ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT AND POWER. IN IRAQ, THE SUNNI/SHIITE HOSTILITIES CONTINUE WITH DAILY BOMBINGS AND LOSS OF LIFE; AND IN AFGHANISTAN THE ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS WHOM WE HAD PREVIOUSLY DEFEATED AND SCATTERED HAVE REGROUPED TO ESTABLISH A FULLY ISLAMIC STATE. IN ALL THREE, MUCH OF THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE AND THEIR COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND GOVERNMENT FACILITIES REMAIN DESTROYED OR DEGRADED.

EGYPT'S STATUS IS STILL EVOLVING. OUR BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF ANNUAL SUPPORT PLAY A “BEHIND THE SCENE” ROLE AND EX-PRESIDENT MORSI SINGS THE CHORUS FAVORED BY DEPOSED DICTATORS, “I AM THE LEGITIMATELY ELECTED PRESIDENT . . . “ SEEMINGLY, IN TIME HE WILL BE MADE TO “GO AWAY”. GENERAL EL-ZISI HAS ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE MILITARY AND HIS CERTAIN-TO-BE-SUCCESSFUL CANDIDACY FOR THE PRESIDENCY. HUNDREDS OF HIS MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD OPPONENTS HAVE BEEN TRIED (WITHOUT LEGAL REPRESENTATION) AND SENTENCED TO DEATH. PRESUMABLY GENERAL EL-ZISI, A NEW CONSTITUTION AND NEW ELECTIONS WILL PREVAIL. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THIS DEEPLY DIVIDED COUNTRY? PART OF THIS DIVISION STEMS FROM ITS EXTREME ISLAMIC FACTION. IT WILL NOT GO AWAY. HOW WILL EGYPTIANS ESTABLISH RULES FOR LIVING IN CONTINUING, SUPPRESSIVE RELIGIOUS OPPOSITION?

## WAR FOR RELIGION

RELIGION RANKS AT THE TOP WITH TERRITORY AS A LEADING CAUSE OF WAR. WE USED TO UNABASHEDLY DESCRIBE OURSELVES AS A CHRISTIAN, AS WELL AS A CAPITALISTIC AND DEMOCRATIC, NATION BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD, BUT TODAY THIS DISTINCTION BY FAITH IS GENERALLY RESERVED FOR HOME

CONSUMPTION. RELIGION HAVING BEEN DECLARED BY FDR AND CONFIRMED BY THE UN CHARTER AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT, ITS PROPAGATION OR IMPOSITION COULD NO LONGER SERVE AS FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, YES; RELIGIOUS PRACTICE, NO.

THE ROOTS OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN RELIGIOUS WAR ARE FOUND IN THE ERA BETWEEN THE WARS WHEN HORSES AND TRAINS BEGAN THEIR ECLIPSE BY CARS AND PLANES. ALTHOUGH THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES HAD BEEN FIGHTING FOR SHIFTING ADVANTAGE SINCE BEFORE WW I, FDR'S MUTUAL TRADE/ASSISTANCE/PROTECTION AGREEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA IN THE '30S ESTABLISHED A TEMPLATE THAT WOULD SURVIVE UNTIL THE SOURCES OF MUCH OF THE WORLD'S OIL SUPPLY COMBINED IN CARTEL AND RAISED PRICES.

BUT FDR'S DEAL WITH THE SAUDI'S NOT ONLY DEEPENED OUR EXPOSURE TO OIL AND MONEY IN THE NEAR EAST. IT MOVED US, AT FIRST SLOWLY AND THEN WITH UNCONTROLLABLE SPEED, TO HAVING TO CONFRONT THE LAST, AND PERHAPS MOST DIFFICULT, ELEMENT OF NEAR EASTERN ENGAGEMENT — THE REALITY OF RELIGIOUS POWER IN GENERAL AND, MORE SPECIFICALLY, OF ISLAM.

THROUGHOUT OUR GROWING PRESENCE IN THE NEAR EAST WE HAVE HAD TO CONTEND WITH REBELLIONS, WARS, ASSASSINATIONS, REGIME CHANGE, LABOR STRIKES, EMBARGOS, PIRACY, TRADE/TRANSPORTATION BLOCKAGES AND OTHER EVENTS THAT CHALLENGE OUR FOREIGN POLICY. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SURVIVE THESE AND MOVE ON. WITHOUT IGNORING THEM WE PUT THEM ASIDE; THEY BECOME PERIPHERAL. WHETHER OUR FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS THIS AS ENLIGHTENED ACTION OR ESCAPE MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. IT IS A FORM OF ACCOMMODATION, AND ACCOMMODATION IS BY FAR THE MOST FREQUENTLY SOUGHT AND ACHIEVED RESULT OF FOREIGN POLICY.

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ENTER ISLAM OR, MORE PRECISELY, THE EXTREME ELEMENT OF ISLAM WHICH NOW ENJOYS ACCESS TO MUCH OF THE SAME TECHNOLOGY, WEAPONRY, SCIENCE, MONEY, COMMUNICATIONS AND POLITICAL POWER THAT SERVES THE WORLD'S DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IT HAS BECOME A POWERFUL FORCE MULTIPLIER.

BUT IT ALSO HAS ACCESS TO, AND IS CONTROLLED BY, THE LANGUAGE OF THE QURAN WITH ITS MANY VARIABLE INTERPRETATIONS AND EXTENSIVE CLAIMS TO PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL, LEGAL, JUDICIAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AUTHORITY. THE QURAN SPEAKS STRONGLY OF SUPERIORITY, SUBMISSION AND VICTORY. ITS MESSAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE ACCOMMODATION, AND ISLAM, WHETHER EXTREME OR MODERATE, IS NOT PERIPHERAL.

ONE OF THE GREAT PROBLEMS IN OUR AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS' DEALINGS WITH ISLAM IS THAT THE LINE THAT SEPARATES EXTREME FROM MODERATE IS NOT VISIBLE TO US. IT CONSTANTLY SHIFTS ITS LOCATION, CHANGES SHAPE OR COLOR, DIVES BENEATH THE SURFACE OF OUR COMPREHENSION AND EMERGES ELSEWHERE OUT OF OUR VIEW.

EXTREME ISLAM POSSESSES THE STEALTH, RANGE

AND POWER OF A MILITARY FORCE, AND YET WE ARE ASSURED OF ISLAM'S GOOD INTENTIONS BY THOSE WHO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS "MODERATES". BUT WHO ARE THEY, REALLY? AND ARE THEY ONLY "MODERATES" WHEN IT SUITS THEIR PURPOSE OF THE MOMENT? THE SILENCE OF "MODERATES" IN CRITICIZING THEIR "EXTREME" BROTHERS IS DEAFENING. WHY? THE ANSWER TO THIS, AS WITH MOST OTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING ISLAM, LIES IN THE QURAN!

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RARELY CAN COMPLEX FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES BE REDUCED TO SIMPLE CAUSES. AND RARELY DOES HISTORY LAY DOWN READABLE TRAIL MARKERS THAT ENABLE SUCH ISSUES TO BE TRACED TO OBVIOUS CAUSES, BUT IT HAS DONE SO REGARDING OUR WARS IN THE NEAR EAST.

THE WESTERN PRESENCE THERE HAD BEEN MINIMAL UNTIL AFTER WW I WHEN THE ALLIED POWERS CARVED THE REGION UP INTO "PROTECTORATES", THE OTTOMAN CALIPHATE COLLAPSED, KEMAL ATTATURK TRANSFORMED TURKEY INTO A SECULAR STATE AND THE GROWTH OF CAR, TRUCK AND AIR TRANSPORTATION SHARPLY INCREASED THE DEMAND FOR PETROLEUM.

GLOBAL WARS INEVITABLY CAUSE POPULATION SHIFTS AND DURING WW II THE NEAR EAST, WEDGED BETWEEN THE FIGHTING FRONTS IN RUSSIA TO THE NORTH AND NORTH AFRICA TO ITS WEST, FELT THE FORCE OF CHANGE UPON ITS MOSTLY MUSLIM AND POOR POPULATIONS. THE GREAT INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC EXPANSION FOLLOWING WW II WAS LARGELY FUELED BY OIL, AND THOSE WHO OWNED IT, WHO PRODUCED IT, WHO SHIPPED IT AND WHO BOUGHT IT REWROTE THE MONEY/POWER/POLITICS EQUATION OF THE REGION.

THE SECOND WESTERN INVASION OF THE REGION WAS A COMMERCIAL ONE BROUGHT ON BY THE AGGRESSIVE MARKETING OF WESTERN (MOSTLY AMERICAN) PRODUCTS — CLOTHING (NO CLOTHING), FOOD, SOFT DRINKS, MUSIC, HOTELS AND THE UBIQUITOUS, ALL-SEEING MAINSTREAM AND SOCIAL MEDIA. THIS COMMERCIAL INVASION FOUND ITS TARGET IN THE LARGE NUMBERS OF POOR AND UNEMPLOYED MUSLIM YOUTH. IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME SPAN THE WESTERN COMMERCIAL INVASION HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN CREATING AN UNDERLYING CULTURAL SCHISM.

OUR THIRD, CULTURAL, INVASION WAS THE MOST DEVASTATING IN THAT OUR WESTERN VALUES AND NORMS CHALLENGED AND OFFENDED THOSE OF ISLAM AT ALL THE MAJOR PRESSURE POINTS — ART, LANGUAGE, SEX, DRESS, FAITH, TRADE, DIET, EDUCATION, MARRIAGE, HISTORY AND MORE.

THE FINAL STRAW WAS THE PLACEMENT IN THE HOLY LAND OF MILITARY BASES AND PERSONNEL THAT WERE CALLED FOR UNDER THE TERMS OF TREATIES OR AGREEMENTS WITH WESTERN ORIENTED STATES SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, AND BAHRAIN. WHAT "MODERATE" GOVERNMENTS SAW AS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE MEASURES WAS FELT BY ISLAM'S MORE COMBUSTIBLE ELEMENTS AS AN UNBEARABLE OFFENSE TO ALLAH, THE PROPHET MOHAMMED, THE QURAN AND TO THE LAND AND PEOPLE.

VIOLENCE IS A PERSISTENT THREAD OF CONNECTION IN THE QURAN AND A “GIVEN” IN MUSLIM LIFE AND HISTORY. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN NO SURPRISE THAT THE ISLAMIC STATES OF THE NEAR EAST WOULD RESORT TO IT, AND WHATEVER OTHER MEANS AVAILABLE, TO RESIST BEING EXTINGUISHED BY WHAT THEY VIEWED AS A BLASPHEMOUS, SINFUL, ILLEGITIMATE, SACRILEGIOUS, FOREIGN FORCE.

ISLAMIC THOUGHT THAT REJECTS OUR PRESENCE IS PRETTY STRAIGHT FORWARD. IT SAYS, IN EFFECT, “THIS IS OUR LAND AND WAY OF LIFE AND HAS BEEN FOR CENTURIES. WE WILL NOT SURRENDER IT. SIMILARLY, OUR VALUES, FAITH, CUSTOMS AND CULTURE ARE ISLAMIC AND WE WILL RETAIN THEM”. THAT’S NOT TOO FAR FROM WHAT WE MIGHT, HOPEFULLY, SAY WERE THE PROCESS REVERSED AND WE FOUND OURSELVES FACING AN UNWANTED ISLAMIC OCCUPANCY. IT’S NOT EASY TO CONDEMN SUCH THOUGHT. IT HAS A UNIVERSAL APPEAL, BUT OFTEN NOT THE CAPABILITY NEEDED TO RESIST.

OUR WAYS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ HAVE BEEN EXPLAINED BY OUR POLITICAL LEADERS IN A CATCH-ALL PHRASE AS “NECESSARY TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS” WITHOUT FURTHER IDENTIFICATION. SOME OF THESE RELATE TO LEGITIMATE SECURITY INTERESTS, BUT MANY MORE ARE COMMERCIAL ONES THAT MANAGE TO “HITCH A RIDE” — DISNEY, LEVIS, MICROSOFT, McDONALDS, COCA-COLA, NIKE, ETC. INVARIABLY, THEIR ADVERTISING MESSAGES CARRY WITH THEM THE IMPLIED OR OBVIOUS (USUALLY VERY) ATTRACTION OF SEX. IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES THE SENSE OF AFFRONT IS PALPABLE.

WHATEVER THE MIX OF OUR INTERESTS AND HOWEVER WE PURSUE THEM, THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT BODY OF ISLAMIC OPINION THAT FAVORS KEEPING ITS TERRITORY, CULTURE AND POLITICS FREE FROM WESTERN INTRUSION AND POSSIBLE ABSORPTION. THAT’S NOT JUST A POSITION FROM WHICH TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS BASIC TO ISLAM, BUT SEEMS, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, TO HAVE BEEN IGNORED BY OUR ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL INITIATIVES. THERE IS MUCH ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

## GEOGRAPHY IS DESTINY

IN THIS CHAPTER WE HAVE EXPLORED THREE AREAS OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE BY WHICH WE REVEAL OURSELVES TO OTHERS — SOMETIMES INTENTIONALLY, SOMETIMES NOT; SOMETIMES PERSISTENTLY, AND SOMETIMES OCCASIONALLY, OR EVEN RARELY.

OUR CURRENT MOST DEMANDING NATIONAL ISSUES — THE ENVIRONMENT, EXCESSIVE POPULATION GROWTH, GOVERNMENT REFORM, IMMIGRATION — REQUIRE OUR LEADERS TO BE ABLE TO LOOK TO AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE IN WAYS THEY NO LONGER POSSESS. THEIR FAILURE INCREASES THE PRESSURES OF MONEY AND POWER THAT HAVE ERODED OUR DEMOCRACY AND OUR PRINCIPLES. HERewith, A POSSIBLE WORLD CRISIS IN THE MAKING THAT ESCAPES THE ATTENTION OF OUR LEADERSHIP.

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IN THE STUDY OF LIFE FORMS AND SYSTEMS WE ARE ADVISED THAT “BIOLOGY IS DESTINY”. IN THE MATTER OF LAND FORMS AND SYSTEMS IT SHOULD BE EQUALLY CLEAR THAT “GEOGRAPHY IS DESTINY”. AND YET, GEOGRAPHY HAS DISAPPEARED FROM OUR SCHOOLS’ CURRICULA AND OUR AWARENESS. WHERE CAN WE STUDY IT AT THE ELEMENTARY OR HIGH SCHOOL LEVELS? OR OBTAIN A COLLEGE DEGREE?

WE DO NOT REFER TO “LABEL” GEOGRAPHY SUCH AS NAMING THE FIVE GREAT LAKES. IT IS A GLOBAL TOPIC OF UNQUESTIONABLE IMPORTANCE WHICH DEMANDS A MANDATORY COLLEGE COURSE THAT EXPLORES GEOGRAPHY’S ORIGINS IN MANY OF OUR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL, NUTRITIONAL AND OTHER PROBLEMS. IT IS AN INCREASINGLY RELEVANT TOPIC THAT DESERVES TO BE TAUGHT AND UNDERSTOOD.

THE SNOW-COVERED MOUNTAINS OF THE HIMALAYAN RANGE INCLUDE THE WORLD’S HIGHEST. THEY WERE FORMED BY TECTONIC PRESSURE AGAINST THE SUB-CONTINENT OF INDIA, FORCING IT AGAINST THE ASIAN LAND MASS AND CAUSING THE LATTER TO BUCKLE INTO RIDGES AND PUSH UPWARDS. THE HIMALAYAN RANGE HAS BEEN CALLED “THE ROOF OF THE WORLD” AND IS THE ENGINE THAT DRIVES THE WEATHER AND THE DESTINIES OF THE LANDS TO ITS SOUTH AND EAST.

THE FOUR GREAT RIVERS OF THE ORIENT — THE IRRAWADDY, MEKONG, YANGTZE AND YELLOW — THAT MOVE SOUTH AND EAST INTO THE CHINA SEAS ARE ALL FORMED BY THE RUN-OFF FROM THE HIMALAYAS; AS ALSO IS THE INDUS WHICH MOVES SOUTH AND WEST THROUGH PAKISTAN INTO THE ARABIAN SEA.

THE IRRAWADDY FLOWS THROUGH BURMA; THE MEKONG THROUGH LAOS, CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM; AND THE YANGTZE AND YELLOW THROUGH CHINA. THESE RIVERS ARE THE WATER, FOOD AND LIFE LINES OF WELL OVER A BILLION PEOPLE THAT POPULATE SOUTHERN ASIA. THEY FORM A GIANT “RICE BOWL” CAPABLE OF FEEDING ITS EXPANDING POPULATION WITH A LOW COST, STAPLE FOOD. THIS IS A BASIC ECONOMIC FACT OF LIFE FOR ASIA AND THE WORLD. IT HAS NOT CHANGED FOR CENTURIES, BUT WHAT LIES AHEAD?

TODAY, OUR WORLD AND CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE A NEW AND CLOSER LOOK AT WHAT, BECAUSE OF CHINA’S DOMINANT, REGIONAL PRESENCE, WE TEND TO SEE AS A CHINESE PROBLEM. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

HERE IS WHAT FACES THE ORIENT, AND THE WEST, TODAY. THE POPULATION OF CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS IS INCREASING RAPIDLY AND NOW PROBABLY EXCEEDS 2 BILLION.<sup>10</sup> RICE, IN ADDITION TO FEEDING LOCAL POPULATIONS, IS AN IMPORTANT EXPORT CROP. HOWEVER, ITS CULTIVATION IS BOTH HIGHLY WATER AND LABOR INTENSIVE, AND SUCCESSFUL RICE AGRICULTURE REQUIRES EXTENSIVE GROWING AREAS TO BE MAINTAINED WITH STANDING WATER.

IT IS THIS CRUCIAL WATER SUPPLY THAT IS NOW A MATTER OF CONCERN, AS CLIMATE CHANGE IN HIGH MOUNTAIN AREAS HAS CAUSED SNOW PACK TO MELT, REDUCED GLACIATION AND LAID BARE MANY FORMERLY WHITE PEAKS AROUND THE WORLD. TODAY THE HIMALAYAN GLACIER’S EDGE RETREATS VISIBLY FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

WATER FLOW FROM MOUNTAINS HAS ALWAYS BEEN MORE ACCESSIBLE TO UPSTREAM POPULATIONS AND PURPOSES. IT IS IN DOWNSTREAM AREAS WHERE PAIN IS FELT FIRST AND MOST SERIOUSLY, AS AGRICULTURE AND RIVER TRAFFIC FAVOR THESE AREAS. CHINA HAS ALREADY HAD TO SUSPEND RIVER TRAFFIC FOR ITS LARGER VESSELS BECAUSE OF REDUCED RIVER FLOW AND RESULTING LOWER LEVELS.

BUT IT IS THIS REGION’S MARKET LEVELS OF RICE PRODUCTION AND PRICE THAT COULD CAUSE MASSIVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DESTABILIZATION. CONSIDER THE PROSPECT OF THE “RICE BOWL” GOING DRY, NOT BEING ABLE TO FEED EVEN ITS OWN POPULATION. WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT ONE CATAclySMIC EVENT THAT WOULD SUDDENLY DISRUPT PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY; MORE LIKELY WE WILL WITNESS A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT PROCESS OF DEGLACIATION WITH RESULTING CROP SHRINKAGES AND RISING PRICES.

DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION ARE GROWING PROBLEMS IN WESTERN CHINA. IT’S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THEY COULD QUICKEN THEIR EXPANSION AND MOVE EASTWARD WHERE EVEN ONE SERIOUS CROP FAILURE COULD WREAK REAL DAMAGE. THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND FARM IN THE “RICE BOWL” ARE POOR. THEY WORK LONG DAYS IN THE FIELDS AND THERE IS LITTLE ECONOMIC OR PHYSICAL LEEWAY IN THEIR LIVES OR LABOR. WHAT WILL BE THE EFFECT ON THIS ESSENTIAL LABOR FORCE OF EITHER A GRADUAL OR A SUDDEN DISRUPTION OF WATER AVAILABILITY?

AND BEYOND THE “RICE BOWL”, IN OTHER AREAS WHERE RICE IS A KEY ELEMENT IN DIET, WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPACT? IF CHINA HAS TO GO INTO THE WORLD MARKET FOR RICE IN A MAJOR WAY, WHETHER QUICKLY OR SLOWLY, WORLD PRICES OF RICE AND OTHER FOODS WILL QUICKLY RISE. HERE IN AMERICA, WE USED TO KEEP ON HAND SURPLUS FROM OUR GRAIN PRODUCTION FOR USE IN MARKET OR RELIEF EMERGENCIES, BUT IN RECENT YEARS OUR POPULATION HAS GROWN FASTER THAN OUR PRODUCTION AND WE NO LONGER HAVE IN STORAGE THE EXCESS RESOURCES THAT WE USED TO. WE ARE LIVING IN A NEW KIND OF WORLD IN WHICH THE SUPPLIES OF BASICS SUCH AS CLEAN AIR, WATER AND FOOD ARE NO LONGER LIMITLESS.

WORLD FOOD PRICES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INFLUENCED BY NATURAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EVENTS, AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO EXPECT THAT THIS WILL CHANGE, BUT, AS INHABITANTS OF THE SAME PLANET, ALL GROWING IN NUMBER AND APPETITE, WE NOW FACE AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE TO FACE NEW RESTRICTIONS OF PRICE AND AVAILABILITY WITHOUT OUR FORMER ELASTICITY.

SUPPOSE THAT TEMPERATURES CONTINUE TO RISE AND THAT AT SOME FUTURE TIME “RICE BOWL” PADDIES WILL HOLD LITTLE OR NO WATER. POPULATIONS FACING THE LOSS OF FOOD SUPPLIES HAVE HISTORICALLY MOVED TO NEW ONES, BUT THAT WAS SUCCESSFUL WHEN ROVING HERDS AND OPEN LAND WERE AVAILABLE. IN OUR 21ST CENTURY, NUCLEAR ARMED, MULTI-NATIONAL WORLD, MASS POPULATION TRANSFERS, FOR WHATEVER REASON, ARE NOT ONLY MORE URGENT, BUT MORE DIFFICULT. ANY SUCH MOVEMENT IN CHINA TO ESCAPE DROUGHT-CAUSED CROP LOSSES WOULD HAVE TO BE NORTHWARD AND WOULD RESULT IN PRESSURE ON ITS BORDERS AND RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

OUR ECONOMICS, OUR EDUCATION, OUR FOREIGN POLICIES ALL CONTRIBUTE, IN THEIR OWN WAY, TO DETERMINING OUR DESTINY AND THEY GAIN THE ATTENTION OF OUR POLITICAL, MEDIA, ACADEMIC, COMMERCIAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS. BUT THE SCHEDULES AND COMMANDS OF DESTINY ARE ISSUED IN ITS OWN LANGUAGE. WE SHOULD KEEP WATCH ON “THE ROOF OF THE WORLD”. IT HAS SOMETHING TO TELL US.

ECD 3/31/14

### END NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE WAS THE NAME GIVEN TO OUR MILITARY UNITS SENT TO EUROPE
- <sup>2</sup> THESE ARE DEBTS MOSTLY IN THE FORM OF LOANS, GUARANTEES AND INVESTMENT THAT WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN FOR A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS AND PURPOSES AND WHICH MIGHT BECOME DUE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF THIS EXPOSURE IS RARELY STATED. WE HAVE HEARD ESTIMATES OF \$50 TO \$70 TRILLION.
- <sup>3</sup> FAIR (FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM) STUDY BY JACK MARTIN AND STANLEY FOGEL VIA VDARE.COM, DONALD A. COLLINS 4/7/13
- <sup>4</sup> ASSOCIATED PRESS VIA PALM BEACH POST 10/9/13. ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT: THE PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF ADULT COMPETENCIES COVERED ABOUT 166,000 PEOPLE AGED 16 TO 65. US SCORES BASED ON 5,000 PARTICIPANTS.
- <sup>5</sup> PALM BEACH POST 2/4/13 EDUCATION TEST RANKINGS
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. CONSTITUTION — AMENDMENT X
- <sup>7</sup> PALM BEACH POST 1/1/14
- <sup>8</sup> THIS INCLUDES MEDIA, THEATRE, SPORTS, MUSIC, DANCE, FILM, INTERNET; AND THE TRAVEL, FASHION, WAGERING AND OTHER OFFSHOOTS FROM THEM.
- <sup>9</sup> “BROWNIE” - EASTMAN KODAK’S FIRST MASS-PRODUCTION, LOW PRICE, DRY, ROLL FILM CAMERA.
- <sup>10</sup> 2011 WORLD POPULATION DATA SHEET

### EDITOR’S BIO

MR. AULT IS RETIRED FROM BUSINESS, A GRADUATE OF YALE UNIVERSITY, AND THE AUTHOR OF: A RETAIL FOOD STUDY (LA ROCHE & Co. NYC, NY 1957) WHICH DESCRIBED THE EMERGENCE AND GROWING DOMINANCE OF THE SUPERMARKET IN AMERICAN FOOD RETAILING; EMINENT DISDAIN: THE TRIUMPH OF CYNICISM OVER INTEGRITY IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA. ; AND WHO LOST AMERICA? CAN AMERICA’S DEMOCRATIC IDENTITY AND GOVERNMENT SURVIVE OUR ETHICAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FAILURES?

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# CENTER FOR PUBLIC CONSCIENCE

P.O. Box 220722, West Palm Beach, FL 33422-0722

E mail: moconscience@aol.com Website: www.centerforpublicconscience.org

Bromwell Ault, Founder / Editor: Phone (561) 697-2233

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OVER INTEGRITY  
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BY  
BROMWELL AULT

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