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Insist on an Accurate History: Vital to Learning How to Think Like a “Free Person”

by Timothy D. Manning

*A subtitle for this might have better been “Why Empires Don't
Learn and Refuse to Read.”*



The 2009 Conference was held at The Chattanooga Convention Center.

This past Thursday through Sunday, Chris (my youngest son), owner of Allusion Studios, and I traveled to Chattanooga for the *Southern Independence: "What*

Do Y'all Think Now?" Conference. Chris recorded the presentations. The sponsoring organization of this conference understands that it is not enough to simply know the history of the events of our States' past, but that it is vital to *understand* the reasons behind those events and *what actually happened* and *why those events occurred* in order for us to have a fair chance at being able to recognize and accurately assess the consequences of those events and what lasting and/or continuing changes they have wrought in American life and culture and that of our individual States.



This was the largest attendance to such a conference in the last decade. One attendee voiced the thoughts of many when she said, “The United States is quickly self-destructing. We are becoming a communist totalitarian state. What will be our alternatives in the Southern States?”

Once we accurately know and understand the causes and effects of important past events, then and only then, will we be able to make an accurate assessment of *where we are* in the present. Once we understand the

causes and effects of what has brought us to the present, then and only then, will we be able to make legitimate efforts to assess what we need to do in order to move into the future with confidence and to move in a manner that is not destructive to the rights and liberties of ourselves and of other peoples and nations.

At the present time, the continuity of freedom and liberty as once envisioned, practiced and enjoyed in the United States of America and as understood and formulated by the Founders and Framers of the Constitution of the United States, was broken in 1861 and remains broken. The resulting loss of freedoms has increased since that time.

At the present time freedom and liberty in the United States simply no longer exists even though the universal mantra of the United States says “We are the freeist people on the planet and everybody else is just jealous of our freedom.” This sounds like Goldie Hawn in the movie *Overboard* when she said, “Everybody just wants to be me.” Such propaganda is not new. The poet and novelist of the early 19th century Johann Wolfgang von Goethe expressed the dangers of this kind of thinking in writing,

*None are more hopelessly enslaved
than those who
falsely believe they are free.*

Large numbers of people often believe things that are not true and fail to take the necessary time to examine

their own presuppositions and convictions. The writers of the movie *Star Wars III* wrote these insightful words for Queen Amidala about majority opinions and the mass thinking of people in an empire,

*So this is how liberty dies . . .
with thunderous applause.*

The U.S. Founders system of government was challenged through a highly secretive, manipulative, clever and corrupt administrative and an exceedingly violent military coupe led by the Radical Republican industrialists of New England at the hands of Abraham Lincoln. As a result, that system of government, the constitutional agreement that up to this time had nourished and sustained well-define Christian concepts of freedom and liberty, was dismantled and no longer in place. A centralized autocratic government established by military coercion destroyed the volunteer union (union by consent of the governed), and replaced the federal republic of the united (the lower case “u” here not a typo) States of America with an arbitrary centralised state that began its rule with a genocidal war against its own people followed by marshal law in which military commanders replaced civil judges and ruled over the conquered nation.

The Constitution of the United States failed to be sustained by the descendants of those whose blood was shed to have the North American democratic Republic established. In the northeastern States, dreams of government by the consent of the governed was like a

lake miles long but only an inch deep. Once that lake bed dried up, New Englanders were in the streets of their cities burning copies of the constitution that they found inconvenient and had grown to hate. The expediency of New England banking and industrial greed and the potential gains of expanding the markets for New England's industrial products redefined the functions of their view of “representative” government. The nature of American government was no longer about independence, freedom and liberty. It became about creating wealth, not the wealth of “the people” but about creating wealth for the new northeastern class of the banking and industrial “elite”, the word “aristocracy” is not appropriate here.

This failure of a consensual constitutional compact between the States was not the fault of the document or the actions and beliefs of those who wrote the constitution, who in good faith and trust gave their commitment to each other and to the document and who readily gave both life and fortune to establish its concepts. It was, rather, the fault of a portion of the people who no longer had the character nor the intellect to understand original intent and meaning of that agreement. And among those in New England who may have understood the original intent and meaning, their, commitment to the compact clearly had ceased and been replaced by other concerns, mostly the materialistic expediency of their businesses. Their union with the Southern States was not based on a common cultural heritage or jointly conceived political goals. It was based on what New Englanders saw as economic opportunities.

Some have believed that it would have been wonderful if somehow the constitution could have been written in such a manner as to have been *self-enforcing*, but that, in and of itself, would have been a contradiction of their concepts of freedom that soon would have amounted to little more than just another form of tyranny. The truth and strength of the document rested upon the righteous character, understanding and commitment of the people who *conditionally* gave their approval and consent to place themselves within the compact agreement between the sovereign and equal member States.

Napoleon once observed that if we do not understand and learn from the past we are likely to repeat its errors. His statement presupposes that to learn from the past can only be accomplished when we have an *accurate knowledge and understanding* of that past.

When the mistakes of large, powerful and militaristic governments occur a second time in history, the consequences are usually more violent than when the corresponding mistakes were first indulged. The second time the mistakes are made, they are usually made with more confidence, determination, vehemence and conviction that the "right" actions are being taken. This results in a "support-the-troops" mentality no matter where the troops are fighting or for what reason they are fighting. Some of these mistakes are not made because "the people" actually believed in the reasons for the military actions, but because errant civil rulers and/or governments have mistakenly been permitted to stay in

power while someone profits. Those who profit are not those who actually pay for the war or do the fighting of the war. Will Rogers once said,

*The real problem in America is not
so much what people don't know,
but, rather, what they think
they know that just ain't so.*

Soon after becoming President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower used a description he heard from the most decorated Marine General, Smedley Butler, in his famous speech given in 1935 to congress in which General Butler referred to the United States as a “Military Industrial Complex” which he saw as as all controlling fascist system feeding out of the public troff. Eisenhower said,

*We must guard against the
acquisition of unwarranted influence
by the Military Industrial Complex.*

The dangerous parasite here is not the military, as some have mistakingly understood it to be, but it is the “Industrial Complex.”

Foreseeing this kind of governmental manipulation of a nation and their wealth earlier in the history of the United States, James Madison wrote,

*If tyranny and oppression come
to this land, it will be in the guise
of fighting a foreign enemy.*

Such governments often attempt to focus the attention of their people on problems in other nations where, they believe, their pseudo-sacrificial appeal for the citizens at home to perform their “patriotic duty” will persuade them that their economic and military intervention can be, at least, superficially, justified. This is the common “slight of hand” substitution and diversion by political magicians to hide their own tyranny and injustice. The political success of this tactic cannot be underestimated. George Orwell in his book *1984* summarizes the successful effect of this brainwashing, brain-numbing flow of propagandistic approach saying,

*War is Peace,
Freedom is Slavery
Ignorance is Strength.*

G. Edward Griffin, retired Professor of History at the University of South Carolina, understood this very clearly when he wrote,

*To oppose corruption in
government is the highest
obligation of patriotism.*

The more distant the government (State or federal) from the control of the people and their individual State representatives, the less likely that the conscience and voice of the people who are paying the price for the governmental foolishness will ever be heard and the less likely even that an agreed upon constitution will be remembered by the “elected” representatives.

At one time the States clearly understood that the State level of government was to function as a check on federal power and possible abuse. They were not about to let their new government abusively rule over them like the English king had. Less informed modern historians assert that the federal government has “checks and balances” to see that abuses of power do not occur. They assert that the three branches of government, the executive branch, the legislative branch and the judicial branch would check each others powers. This is largely a bogus notion. This is like placing the fox, the coyote and the weasel in charge of the hen house while the wolf herds the sheep.

This is why an increasing number of serious historians believe it is so important to understand and correct the mistakes and failures of the so-called "Civil War"; however, for this to occur it is important that those federal government elected representatives remain within the direct control of the elected representatives of the States who can be held more directly and readily accountable for their violations of their State and federal constitutions. Edward Abbey who viewed the States and the property of their people as being constantly under

siege because of intrusive government and corporate greed was more right than he intended when he wrote,

*A Patriot must always be ready
to defend his country
against his government.*

This is not likely to happen in a country that cannot even require that the Federal Reserve be audited.

One of the reasons for the failure of the Constitution of the United States during the 1860's is that the size of the central government had become too large, too powerful, too distant and too far outside of the reach of "the people." (Yes, I know. The use of "the people" is a vague modern abstraction used to justify the worst of human thinking on just about anything. Kings and socialists have used the term to manipulate justifications for their nonsense and uncontrolled and arbitrary use of raw totalitarian power; however, history shows that kings have been more restrained in their use of raw power than have socialists.)

Evil (which is real, tangible and popular, especially among socialists), if allowed, tends to build up a head of steam and grows increasingly more grotesque like the picture of the decaying Dorian Gray. Karl Marx's often quoted statement about the importance of history is true. He said that those who control the past, control the present. This is why historical revisionism with its unending propagandistic whine is so dangerous.

Marxists stay busy creating new narratives of the past in order to promote their false *views* of what happened in the past in order to justify their radical rationalistic and social-engineering control of the present and changes for the future. Once a people accept their carefully constructed and crafted but bogus past, they are more likely to accept their illegitimate views of an all-controlling totalitarian central government. For them, the past can always be newly revised and manipulated to construct a justification for whatever nutball current notions they want to propose to further control the lives of others and the flow and use of the material wealth of others and the nations of other peoples.

Liberals are never concerned and focused on themselves and incurably cannot and will not mind their own business. They wake up in the mourning thinking about how they should be controlling other States and the natural and labour resources of those States. Now that they have conquered the South and controlled the develop of the western States they wake up in the mournings thinking about how they should be controlling the natural and labour resources of Columbia, the Canal Zone, Iraq, Afghanistan, Mexico, Canada, Korea, Viet Nam, China, etc. (This list is much longer as can be attested by the presence of U.S. military in 130 countries and 40 other independent islands and territories.) They consider everyone else either as their servant, irrelevant or too stupid to be able to control their own lives. This is always at the base thinking of modern political societal slave-masters.

History isn't just a mildly entertaining curiosity where the often poorly or partially informed and arrogantly smug individual can search for new ways to ridicule those who have traveled the road before them. Many current heritage and historical organizations and societies know at least a little "about the past"; however, they remain clueless about what we should be learning from those events and how and in what way we should be making course corrections to restore liberty and freedom.

What many northerners and yankee's have never understood is that while the military of the Confederate States of America was forced to surrender, the military of the Confederate States of America had only surrendered their cannons, swords and guns but not their love for the constitutional principles of freedom and liberty for which they had fought. It is worth noting that the government of the Confederate States of America never surrendered. War is not a legitimate way to determine matters of truth and it never settles matters of truth. This is not nuclear physics and should have been a simple matter for the leaders of the United States to understand about the Confederate States.

Ever since this war, the U.S. military "forces" have falsely been led to believe that they could destroy nations, handout chocolate bars, lavish trillions of dollars in tax monies to benefit American fascist companies (MAIN, Haliburton, Bechtel, etc.) to rebuild the countries (nation building) they have destroyed or placed them in a permanent condition of financial debt, and, in doing so, win the "minds and hearts" of conquered nations around

the world. It isn't working now in the Middle East any more than it worked on the people of the Confederate States of America among whom a great many still dream of secession and restored sovereignty. During the last 18 months the percentage of people in South Carolina who believe that they would be better off independent from the United States has risen from 18% to over 50%. The colonies had less support than this when they seceded from England, declared their independence and defeated the Red Coats.

Bernie Thuersam of the Cape Fear Historical Institute is exactly right when he says that the history, both the past and present, of the northern States has largely gone "unexamined." Note that the study of the battles, physical and legal, of Lincoln's War to Prevent Southern Independence, more often than not, leaves the history of the northern States still "unexamined" and even worse commonly misunderstood. This is why the work of serious historical studies is so vitally important. The term used here is "historical studies" rather than professional "academic" historians because the pseudo-academic "court" historians are the ones used by the media to measure the current versions of useful political truth. Court historians "stand where they sit" (this means write what those paying their salaries want to believe, use or hear) and write what will sell and serve the Marxist state. This is easily seen in how Russian history is being written now that there has been a major shift in their government.

The recent conference in Chattanooga was led by a

group that is an excellent think-tank examining modernity and proposing ways to repair its errors which always violate human dignity and always intrude on the rights of individuals to practice self-government and home rule. Two of those who support this think-tank have made widely publicized runs for the U.S. presidency where they had the opportunity to participate in the Third Party Debates on major university campuses across the country.

And, Ray McBerry, Republican candidate for Governor of the State of Georgia, is gaining an ever-widening constituency for the acceptance of a Southern constitutional view of government. Currently he is running third in a field of seven Republican candidates seeking their party's nomination for their States' highest office. If he is able to move into the number two position he will gain an even wider hearing since a contest with so many candidates for an office normally requires a subsequent runoff election. This could give him a much wider audience for an opportunity to help Southern views reassert themselves in the public forum and possibly restored to public practice. Those who have not already done so should go to www.georgiafirst.org/governor/bills.shtml and read McBerry's first ten proposal's for reestablishing his States right to govern itself without the continuing interference and violations through the intrusion by the U.S. federal government in what should be just the business and responsibility of the citizens of Georgia.

I wish that all of you could have been at this

conference. CD's of the conference presentations are available from Chris at christophermanning88@yahoo.com or by phoning him at (336) 416-5288 or from me at (336) 420-5355.

Deo Vindice.

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Timothy D. Manning, M.Div.

Executive Director

Palmetto Heritage Foundation

Below is the ordering information for the Conferences Presentations.

“Southern Independence: What Do Y'all Think Now?”

2009 National Conference
Chattanooga 30-31 October
Meet the Conference Speakers

Were you there? Great! If not . . . we missed you and you missed a great two days of fellowship and critical dialogue about the future of our Southern States. Once again, Alex Cheek was the Master of Ceremonies and he was better than ever.

Whether or not you attended this conference, you can order the CD's of this year's presentations from Allusion Studios based in North Carolina by calling (336) 416-5288 and ask for “Chris.” You can order a single presentation for \$10.00, any four presentations for \$35.00 or the entire conference on 9 CD's for just \$60.00.

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The presentations were:



Mark Thomey

1. Mark Thomey, “**Secession: From the Lunatic Fringe to the Mainstream.**” Mark has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas and has his own consulting firm in Structural Engineering licensed to practice in eighteen States. He worked in the metal building industry before forming his own consulting firm, Structural Engineering, in 1996. Mark and his wife Marguerite live in Monroe, Louisiana. Their dream is to buy land in Arkansas, Alabama or Tennessee

and start a small family farm. They have three sons and two granddaughters.



Dennis Fusaro

2. Dennis Fusaro, **“Preparing for Decentralization — Issue Mobilization Organization for the End of the Fed.”**

Dennis served as Director of State Legislation for Gun Owners of America from 1993 to 2001 and as the National Field Director for the 2008 Ron Paul Campaign. Dennis has a B.A. From George Mason University, where he studied economics under Walter Williams. He is a Christian in the old reformed tradition and is a proud citizen of the

Commonwealth of Virginia, He his wife and six children live in the rural Shenandoah Valley.



J. Michael Hill

3. Dr. J. Michael Hill, **“We Told You So.”** Michael called together a group in 1994 to examine the history of the Southern States. He received a doctorate from the University of Alabama, he is the author of two books about Scottish history, and is the “most often interviewed Southern leader” by the news media in the United States.

4. Tom Moore, **“The Easy Way to**

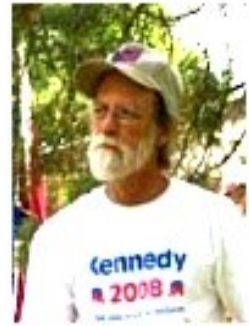
Southern Independence.” Tom is the Chairman of the Southern National Congress and author of the award winning novel, *The Hunt for Confederate Gold*. Tom graduated from the Citadel and earned an M.A. From Georgetown University. He is a part-time consultant to the firearms industry and full-time Southern activist. He and his



Tom Moore

wife Pam reside in the Blue Ridge of southwest Virginia and are both proud to claim their origins in South Carolina.

5. Mike Crane, **“Putting Success into Our Mission Statement.”** Mike is the Founder of The Southern Party of Georgia and a native of Chattanooga. He has had a successful career in computer-related fields, specializing in audio software product development, including one patent. Mike has been a Southern Party candidate for public office three times, achieving ballot access by petition (no easy job). He currently serves as Second Vice Chairman of the Southern Party of Georgia and on the Board of Directors of the Georgia League of the South and provides technical and internet services. He and his wife Pam have three children, ten grandchildren and a redneck burglar alarm—seven dogs.



Mike Crane



Franklin Sanders

6. Franklin Sanders, **“Who Are We & What Do We Want?”** He grew up in Memphis and spent two years in the U.S. Army. Franklin is the editor of *The Free Magnolia*. He attended graduate school at Tulane and the Free University of Berlin. In 1980 Sanders opened a gold and silver brokerage and began publishing his newsletter, *The Money-changer*. He has written or co-authored six books. Franklin, his wife Susan, six of their seven children, and thirteen grandchildren live in Dogwood Mudhole, Tennessee, which, he says, “is not near anywhere else.”

(See the next page to order CD's of these presentations.)

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