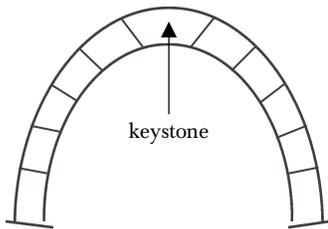


President Woodrow Wilson

“A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday does not know what it is today, or what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing, if we don't know where we've come from or what we've been about.”



The Keystone

“We, as Americans, have allowed ourselves to be separated from the *keystone* of our national structure – our Christian heritage. By omission, America has deflected into socialism. The *keystone* in the arch of our nation has been loosened.”

Miss Verna Hall

Revelation 2:3-5

“I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, repent, and do the deeds you did at first, or else I am coming to you, and I will remove your lamp stand from its place – unless you repent.”

Education Is the Keystone to Restoration

In January, 1876, the Reverend S.W. Foljambe stood before members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and delivered an Election Sermon entitled, “The Hand of God in American History.” Election Sermons were an important part of early American culture. The intention of pastors was not to influence the outcome of elections but rather to educate their congregations on their responsibilities and to remind them of the biblical principles of government, law, justice, economics, and such.

After Foljambe's outstanding message, it was decided that 1000 copies of the sermon should be printed and dispersed among the various state districts. Here is the most well-known excerpt from that incredible sermon.

“The more thoroughly a nation deals with its history, the more decidedly will it recognize and own an overruling Providence therein, and the more religious a nation will it become. However, the more superficially a nation deals with its history, seeing only secondary causes and human agencies, the more irreligious will it become. Satan has attempted to dispossess Americans by causing them to forget their Christian history.”

When one studies the founding of the United States, it is difficult to deny that it was built on principles from the Bible. Christianity is at the heart of all our institutions and government, and it is the reason for our general peace, prosperity, and power. But today, that Christian heritage has been robbed by secular humanists who desire to see every hint of our godly

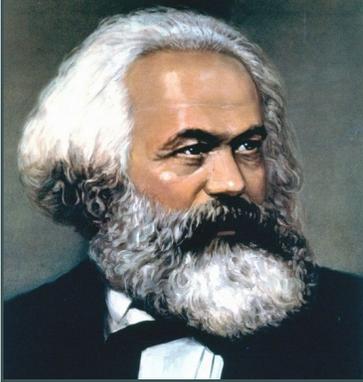
foundation erased. Why does that matter? Woodrow Wilson, who was President during World War I, warned us, “A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday does not know what it is today or what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing, if we don't know where we've come from or what we've been about.”

To summarize Wilson's warning, *one's* origin largely determines one's purpose; and if knowledge of that origin is ever tainted or lost, then one's purpose can be easily altered. Take, for example, human existence. If mankind exists by haphazard evolutionary means, then our lives have little value to speak of. If we are here by accident, then we have no real purpose. However, if an all-wise, personal Creator hand-crafted man in His own image, with great care and intentionality, then our lives have value and purpose.

The same principle applies to Americans today. We have forgotten our origin and, thus, we have forgotten the purpose and direction of our country. Why have Americans forgotten their origin? For over 150 years, Americans have not learned of their Christian history. Five generations have produced a *national ignorance* concerning the Providential founding of this nation. In so doing, we've lost our vision of the destiny of America.¹

The question must be asked, “Why haven't we learned the true history of the founding of this country?” The answer is quite simple. For decades, the opponents of our Christian heritage, with its inherent

Education Is the Keystone to Restoration



Revolutionary Karl Marx

“Take away a people’s heritage and they are easily persuaded.”

We Must Not Forget

“Beware that you do not forget the Lord, otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and when you have built good houses and lived in them, and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord.

You may even say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’ But you shall remember, it is the Lord who is giving you power to make wealth. If you forget Him and go after other gods, I testify against you today that you will surely perish like the nations before you.”

Deuteronomy 8:11-19

^{1,5} Verna Hall, *Christian History of the Constitution*

^{2,4} Peter Marshall, David Manuel, Intro to *The Light & the Glory*

³ Dr. Mark Fakkema, *Teaching & Learning America’s Christian History*

⁶ Rosalie Slater, *Teaching & Learning America’s Christian History*

rights and liberties, its limited form of government, its civil institutions, and its free-market economy, have plotted to hijack and hide our heritage from us, in order to replace it with secular humanism.

The weapon of choice for these revisionists is omission, leaving out the truth of America’s past. But, when one vandalizes the past, he compromises the present and jeopardizes the future. President Ronald Reagan realized what was happening when he was in office. He said, “I am warning of an eradication of the American memory that could result in an erosion of the American spirit. If we forget what we were, we won’t know who we are.”

We must admit that the revisionists have done their job well. With the government take-over of our schools and media, education of both the young and old is now under their spell. Basic knowledge of our nation’s history is eroding at an accelerated pace. *National amnesia* has become a serious problem. If only the problem were merely ignorance of our past. The truth is that we have lost the founding vision for America. ² We no longer seem to know who we are, much less why we are here. We are like the ancient Israelites who lost the Word of God in the dusty recesses of the temple archives. The Bible alerts us to the consequences of this condition, “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (*Proverbs 29:18*).

What must we do to reverse the trend of this national amnesia? Educate! Shall our nation continue in the faith of our Founders or shall we continue secularizing the citizens of tomorrow? This is not merely one of our nation’s problems. It is the problem of problems, for as we educate our youth today, so will be our nation tomorrow. Our nation is standing at a crossroads. Our youth are being trained in

state schools whose education program is committed, by law, to secularizing them. To save our country from the dry rot of secularism, we are in need of nation-wide education that honors God. ³

If we could reveal God’s hand in our nation’s beginnings, if we could rediscover that her foundations had been laid by Christian men and women who were conscious of being guided by God, maybe we could help modern Americans recover our national purpose. ⁴

It is apparent that if we would preserve our liberties, we must reclaim the principles upon which our country is constructed. ⁵ Unless we understand the Christian history of this nation and the Christian principles of our form of government, we are not equipped to deal with today’s challenges to our freedom. Our Founding Fathers were alert to detect the slightest infraction of their liberties and rights because they were knowledgeable of Christian principles. ⁶ This enabled them to stand fast despite every effort to threaten their rights. We need to be knowledgeable about our national principles so that we can restore its spirit.

The challenge is clear – if we continue to forget our national origin, we will forfeit our national purpose. In an effort to safeguard what our forefathers have so nobly gifted to us, we must remember from whence we came. We must not forget what God has done. We must recognize that “overruling Providence therein.” We must preserve our Christian heritage by reclaiming our tremendous foundation. Thus, *education* is the keystone to our national restoration – education in America’s Christian heritage. It must be taught in our homes, our schools, our churches, and our media. To reclaim America’s future, we must recover America’s past!