

DISTORTING THE TRUTH

The Control of Information – Education and Media

“Knowledge is a shelter, as money is, but the advantage of knowledge is that it preserves the life of its possessor.”

Ecclesiastes 7:12

National Amnesia

On January 11, 1989, President Ronald Reagan delivered his farewell address to the American people. “I’m warning of an eradication of the American memory,” he said, “that could result in an erosion of the American spirit. If we forget what we did, we won’t know who we are. An *informed* patriotism is what we want. Are we doing a good enough job teaching our children what America is and what she represents in the world? We’ve got to get across that America is freedom, and that freedom is special and rare. It needs protection.”

Reagan’s prediction -- the eradication of the American memory -- has come to pass. An overwhelming ignorance pervades our country today. We are experiencing the phenomenon of *national amnesia*, a complete loss of our national memory. We have forgotten who we are as Americans and what we are supposed to be about. Ignorance, then, is our great enemy.

When we understand how uninformed the American people are today, even in this Age of Information, a sobering question comes to mind. Is this ignorance accidental or intentional? If our ignorance is accidental, then it can be easily remedied, but if our nation’s ignorance is intentional, then this country has an enemy who is using the control of information against us.

Why would socialists want to keep Americans ignorant? Reagan said it best, “If we forget what we did, then we won’t know who we are.” Karl Marx, the Father of Modern Socialism, said, “A people without a heritage are easily persuaded.” Ignorant people can be taken advantage of. They don’t know when they are being deceived. Therefore, they become as Nikolai Lenin described, “useful idiots” who hasten their ruin.

If the State controls information, then it can persuade people with false information. In time, the State can oppress the people while convincing them that it is a good idea. But the people who are informed or enlightened are not easily deceived. They know their rights, and they know when they are being violated or manipulated. Enlightened people guard their liberty; therefore, those in power work hard to keep the general populace in ignorance. Thus, generations have risen in America “who do not know the Lord” (*Judges 2:6-15*).

To that end, one of the most effective weapons in the socialist arsenal is the control of information. To control the flow of knowledge, socialists must regulate the primary gateways where people get their information. Those gateways fall into two broad categories – education and media. Control of education allows socialists to indoctrinate a nation’s children. Control of the media allows socialists to indoctrinate a nation’s adults. By propagandizing citizens of all ages, socialists can lead the “sheeple” anywhere they want, even to be fleeced.

Government and Education

To understand the importance of education to the health of a nation, we must first grasp a central principle. Every form of government needs a system of education to sustain it. For example, to support Hitler’s Nazi regime, he needed to control German education. That’s why he burned all of the books and replaced them with Nazi propaganda. That’s why he took over the schools and produced obedient Nazis who would do his bidding. That’s why he seized control of the newspapers and radio stations, to regulate information and remove his critics.

Hitler understood that to stay in power he must brainwash generations of Germans, convincing them that Nazism is good and that their purpose in life was to promote and defend it. Likewise, Communist governments need an education system that produces compliant Communists. Socialist governments need a system that produces submissive socialists. So then, what kind of education system does a republic need? Is our education system able to sustain what the Founders’ intended?

Many years ago, American education was led by the Church, under the supervision of parents. However, as the federal government has expanded its power, it has seized control of education and usurped the authority of parents. “Today, 70 million students attend America’s schools. Ninety percent of our young people get a State-flavored view of reality. With a nine-to-one edge in value-shaping influence, why shouldn’t the government be producing people who think State-sponsored everything is best?” (Joel Belz, *World Magazine*).

On my first field trip with a group of students, I filled up the bus with the wrong kind of fuel. The bus had a diesel engine and I filled it with gasoline. It didn’t take long for the engine to cough and wheeze and spew black smoke from the tailpipe. Eventually, the bus died. It was not one of my better days.

The American republic is like a bus that requires a certain kind of fuel or citizen to operate as the Founders intended. Sadly, the government-run school system is not producing citizens who can sustain our republic. Graduates don’t understand what it takes to perpetuate the liberty they enjoy. Instead, they have been indoctrinated with a socialist worldview, with a mindset of dependency. When the education system produces the wrong kind of fuel (or citizen), the bus or republic will eventually sputter and die.

If our republic was established on biblical principles, then those biblical principles must naturally be a part of one’s educational experience. If the principles of liberty are disregarded in our education system, then what chance does the republic have to survive? It is only a matter of time before the bus is abandoned for lack of fuel.

Education Against America

Americans must recognize that a federally funded government-run school system comes right out of the Marxist playbook, one of the planks of the *Communist Manifesto* (1848) -- “provide free education for all children in public schools.” Why? Why would Marx want to make education “free”?

By offering free schools, parents gladly send their children and never think twice about what is being taught. However, if they must pay for education, then parents will investigate the school to make sure that it is a good investment of their money. What most Americans don’t realize is that they are paying for schools with tax dollars; but since the money is sent to the schools indirectly, they never connect the dots. Americans are unknowingly funding the indoctrination of their children.

In the last twenty years, Southern Baptists have reported an alarming percentage of their students leaving the church once they leave home (as high as 88%). Though half of those students eventually return to the church in their adult years, the denomination cannot sustain that trend and survive. Why are so many students leaving the church? One factor is that 90% of Christian students attend secular schools. As a result, the school’s influence in a child’s life is greater than the combined influence of both the parents and the church. Without constant parental involvement, a child who spends 30-40 hours a week in a secular environment for 14 years of his life will eventually reflect that environment.

America’s government schools are offering much more than the academic essentials. They are reflective of the vision of their founder, John Dewey. Dewey, a co-author of the *Humanist Manifesto* (1933), took over America’s schools in the late 1920’s. He headed the NEA and became known as the Father of Progressive Education. His intentions were to eradicate any Christian influence in public schools and to socialize America’s youth through atheistic, humanistic, Darwinistic, collectivist, child-centered, Pavlovian-style indoctrination.

According to his book *Experience and Education* (1938), Dewey’s goal was to dumb down America’s children and undermine the country from within. However, he could not achieve his goal alone, so he invited Communist faculty members of the Frankfurt School in Germany to join him. By carefully placing these faculty members in prestigious American universities, these secular humanists were directly influencing America’s future teachers. In less than 100 years,

Dewey's strategy worked. America's students no longer lead the nations of the world but, according to Pew Research, they have fallen to the middle of the pack.

In his book *Public Education Against America: The Hidden Agenda*, Marlin Maddux describes today's school system.

1. **Deconstructionism:** Once away from parents, the first step is to dismantle the student's beliefs and values.
2. **Rejection of Religion:** Under the guise of separation of Church and State, schools have been secularized.
3. **Historical Revisionism:** True history has been skewed or replaced with anti-Christian, anti-American lies (i.e., *The People's History* by Howard Zinn). "He who controls the past controls the future" (George Orwell).
4. **Evolution Only:** Creationism is no longer allowed. Naturalism, Darwinism, and "science" are elevated.
5. **Postmodern Relativism:** No standard of truth exists. Truth is relative to each person. Now anything goes.
6. **Multiculturalism:** Under the guise of tolerance and political correctness, all cultures are equalized, so as to minimize American ideals and values.
7. **Socialism:** Students are encouraged to criticize the West (America stinks), the Founders, capitalism, rights, the Constitution, etc. and promote big government, dependency, and the New World Order (UNESCO).
8. **Environmentalism:** Students fear the demise of the planet and elevate Mother Earth over human rights.
9. **Immorality:** Sexual sin, pornography, drugs, alcohol, abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, violence, etc. are all normalized. Entitlements are now rights.

10. **Surrender of Liberties:** Tolerance and inclusion take precedence over free speech, religious views, personal convictions, or political persuasion.

Newspeak

The other tool that socialists use to control the information in society is the media (newspapers, radio, television, social media, Hollywood).

Controlling the media allows socialists to promote their preferred narrative. Today's Establishment media follows the strategy of Hitler's propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels who said, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, then people will come to believe it."

In George Orwell's masterpiece, *1984*, he describes the State's propaganda machine as "Newspeak" – a 24-hour seven days a week barrage of nonsense to brainwash people into believing that slavery to the State was the way to liberty and prosperity. In his book *When a Nation Forgets God*, Pastor Irwin Lutzer writes, "Create a critical mass of people who cannot discern truth from nonsense and the society is ready for a dictatorial leader. If everyone wants it, who can resist the momentum? Lutzer explains that propaganda simply wears down its opponents until they are finally willing to give in to the agenda; and, if there are those who refuse to give in, they are demonized as oppressors and sidelined as irrelevant.

The Founders' idea of a free press was that the media would be partial to the people (rather than the State) as their watchdogs against injustice and oppression. But, once the Establishment (or Deep State) got its hands on the media, the press became an agent of the State working against the people. For example, in 1915, J.P. Morgan, one of the Founders of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), bought the 25 most prominent newspapers in order to exploit their influence (*Shadows of Power* by James Perloff). Morgan's media machine became known as "yellow journalism" (Fake News today), no longer reporting the facts of a story but rather making up the facts and telling people what to believe about the story.

As America's largest media sources are no longer independent, Americans must realize that they have been betrayed by the highest bidders. Media corporations are simply businesses, and in order to survive or stay in business, they cater to those with the most money. Therefore, as Lutzer writes, "They will not hazard offending those groups that have the power to damage or destroy them," to the detriment of the American people. The major media outlets have been compromised. They can no longer be trusted. As a result, Americans must be discerning regarding what they watch, read, and hear, or else they too will fall prey to the modern propaganda machine.

In the world of technology, younger Americans get their news from social media and streaming platforms. What they don't realize is that both the Big Tech companies (Google, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Microsoft) and Hollywood are extremely liberal and constantly seeking to normalize immorality and censor Christian or conservative values. Not only is the media at large silent on the sinister actions of the State but they are now silencing all opposition.

What Can We Do?

With so many forces working against us, we suddenly find ourselves in a country that we no longer recognize. It's difficult to know who is telling the truth and what to believe. What can we do? Don't drink the Kool-Aid! In 1978, Jim Jones called upon the members of the Peoples Temple to commit suicide by drinking Kool-Aid laced with cyanide. Authorities found 900 members dead. They were deceived to follow a madman who led them to slaughter. The liberal media is leading us to the same fate. We must not be found among the dead.

The Bible gives us a warning, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception..., rather than according to Christ" (*Col. 2:8*). In short, be a Daniel. Daniel and his friends were kidnapped by the Babylonians when Jerusalem fell; but even in a foreign country, they refused to surrender to the system. The Bible provides a glimpse into the pressures that they faced (*Daniel 1*).

1. God's people were strangers in a pagan culture (*v.1, 2*).
2. Their children were exposed to pagan education for three years, to be made "useful for service" (*v.3-5*).
3. They were enticed with the king's food and drink which would have violated their obedience to God's law (*v.5*).
4. Their identity was replaced with pagan names so that they would fit in with the rest of society (*v.6, 7*).
5. But Daniel would not defile himself. Instead, he stood against the system and remained loyal to God (*v.8-16*).
6. Those loyal to God were ten times better (*v.17-21*).
7. Everyone but Daniel and his friends bowed down to the pagan idol or demands of the State (*Daniel 3, 6*).

The Bible warns us that the world is trying to mold us into its image (*Rom. 12:2*). With regards to education, if home school or private school is not an option, parents must be actively engaged to screen everything that is taught, read, watched, or assigned, and help kids filter all through a biblical worldview.

With regards to media, avoid relying solely on major outlets (ABC, CBS, NBC, MSNBC, CNN, FOX, etc.) and find independent sources to follow. Just as we should practice discernment when reading a book, listening to a podcast, or watching a preacher, we must be just as careful when digesting the news. All avenues of information express bias. We must discern the bias and weigh it against biblical truth and constitutional principles. Be a Daniel and refuse to conform to a system that seeks to keep you ignorant and conform you to its pagan mold.