



# Liberty Tree

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Land of the



Home of the



*Which are you learning to live in?*

By Dick Greb

With the sights and sounds and smells of fireworks in the air, I've been reflecting on liberty in general, as well as the state of the freedom movement and more specifically, the tax movement. So, I'm going to touch on some of these issues this month, and see where it leads.

I just finished reading the novel *Freedom Road*, by Howard Fast. It's a story about the Reconstruction period, taking place in South Carolina. The author, in his after-

word, says "all the essentials of this story are true," but whether they are or not, there were two points brought out that are worth considering. The first was that education made men unsuitable to be slaves, and the second is that those who run the show from behind the scenes — the shadow government, if you want to call it that<sup>1</sup> — are in it for the long haul.

In the story, the first proposition led to calls for universal education opportunities for all; not necessarily mandatory schooling, but access for anyone who wanted it. Now, whether or not this was the impetus for mandatory school attendance, it occurred to me how the whole thing could be — and indeed, has been — turned back on itself, and done in such a way that the end result would be worse than at the start. Because in the beginning slaves were uneducated, which would tend to make them more manageable, but this condition was ultimately correctable — by becoming educated. These slaves understood that they were uneducated; they knew they couldn't read or write or do sums and such. So, even if they weren't fully aware of the advantages of education or of the extent of their lack of knowledge, they were aware that there were things they simply didn't know.

## Slavery is freedom

Once it becomes available to them, a proper education gives those with aptitude and ambition

greater opportunities to succeed. But the shadow government is not particularly interested in the lower classes succeeding, and in fact prefers just the opposite. And this is where the second point — the long haul — comes into play. Enter mandatory schooling. This sounds like such a high-minded idea; give everyone that greater opportunity. But rather than educating children in the ideas of freedom, individual God-given rights and limited government — and even such fundamental skills as reading, writing and arithmetic — the shadow government progressively subverts the educational system and turns it into a means of indoctrination and miseducation. One of the main purposes of such indoctrination is not just to make the common folk accept slavery, but to so distort the understanding of liberty that the people embrace slavery, thinking it is freedom. As Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said, "None are so enslaved, as those who falsely believe they are free."

In this scenario then, the people are worse off at the end than at the beginning. In the beginning, at least they knew that they didn't know things, but at the end, they think they know, but they're wrong! As baseball legend Satchel Paige is attributed with saying, "It's not what you don't know that hurts you. It's what you know that just isn't so." The miseducated folks believe things that simply aren't true, and when they act on such mistaken be-

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1. I refer here mainly to the international bankster types and all the others who want to control the world (and worse yet, believe they should), but also in a more general sense, their minions who actually hold public office and do their bidding.

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liefs, chances are the results will seldom be what they wanted to accomplish. Indeed, it is more likely that the results will favor those who were responsible for the miseducation. In fact, it's no real stretch to conclude that such results were a principal goal of the miseducation from the start.

### If I had a hammer ...

**A** corollary of Paige's observation is that believing things that just aren't so also has the potential of hurting others. Someone who sincerely believes a falsehood is likely to pass that misinformation on to his family, friends and acquaintances, thereby influencing them to likewise believe a lie. And on and on that cycle might go. Keep in mind that I'm talking here about people who are honest and sincere in their beliefs, but are mistaken nonetheless. Sincerity is no substitute for truth, but it may indeed make a lie more believable. Because, after all, who can paint a more appealing argument than one who is convinced it's the truth? And of course, that's a big part of the danger.

This dynamic easily translates into the long-range plans of the shadow government. It has an interest in spreading misinformation, but unlike the sincere dupes just discussed, the malicious individuals at the beginning of the chain know they are telling lies. Their job is to convince the first round of (preferably influential) dupes, who will then carry their program forward unwittingly.

There are certain forces at play that make this initial work easier than it might at first seem. One is through secret operations like COINTELPRO, where for decades, government agents provocateur infiltrated groups which the government considered subversive. And even though this particular project was eventually revealed, that's no reason to think that the same type of thing is not still going on.

Another force is what might be

considered a confirmation bias. I've always thought of this in terms of the adage, "To the man who has only a hammer, everything looks like a nail." People too often interpret information they come across as confirming what they already believe, even when it really doesn't. This is a two-pronged process. Information which tends to agree with their beliefs is enlarged and given pre-eminence, while information which disagrees with their beliefs is minimized or altogether ignored or rejected. By this method, everything they encounter ultimately looks like it bolsters their position.

### Mistakes were made, but not by me

**I**n addition to confirmation bias, there is another important aspect of human nature involved: a reluctance to admit that one was wrong. This is hard enough in any circumstance, but is especially true in the case of more actively influential or vocal advocates of any particular position. After all, it's one thing to be mistaken yourself, and another to induce others into that same mistake. So, there's a tendency to merely brush off opposing viewpoints as wrong rather than to go to all the trouble to actually counter them with evidence or logic. Also, people become invested in their beliefs, in terms of effort and reputation, as well as financially, and the heavier that investment, the harder it is to let it go. The bottom line unfortunately is that people too often simply believe whatever they want to believe, without ever really putting those beliefs to a rigorous test of truthfulness.

Together, all of these factors work together to more firmly embed already entrenched positions, and to further galvanize resistance to change. But when change is desired, like when somebody starts getting too close to an uncomfortable truth perhaps, it is still sometimes possible to induce error by gently nudging them into new false beliefs. As long as the new ones are close in

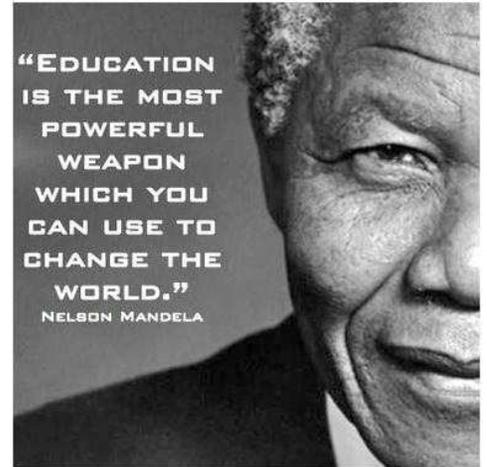
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If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.



Thomas Jefferson

"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."  
NELSON MANDELA

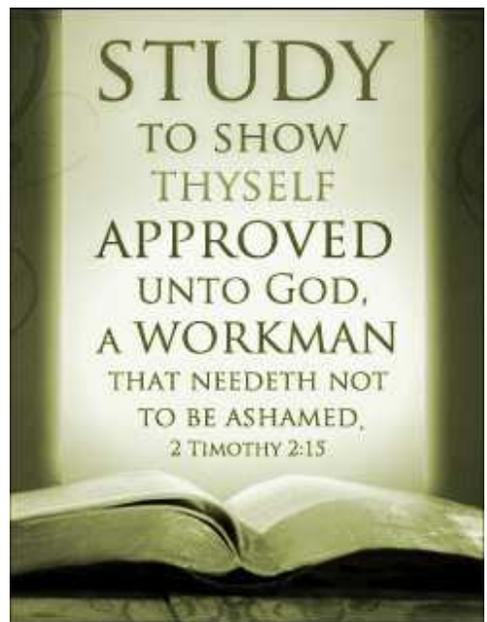


Men are born ignorant, not stupid. They are made stupid by education.



Bertrand Russell

STUDY  
TO SHOW  
THYSELF  
APPROVED  
UNTO GOD,  
A WORKMAN  
THAT NEEDETH NOT  
TO BE ASHAMED,  
2 TIMOTHY 2:15



From the Bible to atheists, from liberty lovers to tyrants, the essential nature of education and the importance of the means of that education, for good or ill, is widely understood.

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many respects to their currently held beliefs, the natural resistance can be minimized. Here again is an advantage of taking the long view of things, and being willing and able to bide ones time to achieve ones goals. A well-placed mole, who ingratiates himself into a position of influence in an organization (or even someone in such a position who has been unwittingly influenced by an outside change agent), can start bumping them slightly off their course, in gradual (perhaps imperceptible at the time) steps. Eventually, that small deviation accomplishes a complete change of direction.

### Domination by the few

**T**he enemies of individual liberty have a long-range plan for the citizenry – it's identified in the Declaration of Independence: “a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism” through “the establishment of an absolute tyranny.” And they have various methods to implement that plan. Edward L. Bernays opens his 1928 book, *Propaganda*, with this revelation:

The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country.

We are governed, our minds are molded, our tastes formed, our ideas suggested, largely by men we have never heard of.

...Whatever attitude one chooses to take toward this condition, it remains a fact that in almost every act of our daily lives, whether in the sphere of politics or business, in our social conduct or our ethical thinking, we are dominated by the relatively small number of persons — a trifling fraction of our hundred and twenty million — who understand the mental processes and social patterns of the masses. It is they who pull the wires which control the public mind, who harness old social forces and contrive new ways to bind and guide the world.

This passage was written almost a century ago, and there's no reason to think that methods haven't been improved upon. Certainly full-scale surveillance and tracking enhances the ability to “understand the mental processes and social patterns of the masses,” and that enhanced understanding inevitably leads to more effective mechanisms of control.

### There is a war going on for your mind

**E**ven while there might be ways to minimize ones exposure to such mind control, it would be reckless to think that anyone is totally immune to it.<sup>2</sup> So, it would behoove each of us to consider how much of what we believe to be true is the result of all of these different types of influence. As I said earlier, once you get just a few steps removed from the source (who knowingly and willfully propagate lies), the spread of misinformation is accomplished in

the main by people who have themselves been led astray in their thinking. In other words, you might well be led astray yourself by well-intentioned and trusted friends, family members and neighbors. And unfortunately, you might also be misleading them.

So, what can you do to minimize the risk of misleading others or being misled yourself? For this, I want to set aside the general, and concentrate primarily on how this might be accomplished in the context of the freedom movement, and even more specifically, the ‘tax honesty’ movement. Some of these things may seem too self-evident to need mentioning, but believe me when I say that even the most obvious are often ignored.

That being said, the first and foremost way to avoid falling into error is pretty simple — think for yourself! Don't take it for granted that a thing is true just because the person who told you is someone you trust. Take the time to reason it out. Verify as much as possible the premises on which it is based; look for legal, historical and logical inconsistencies. Follow the idea out to its logical conclusions and see how well it fits in with other things you already know to be true. If there are conflicts, work to resolve them until the new idea fits in seamlessly. In their song, “We Are Winning,” the Flobots sum this up pretty well: “There is a war going on for your mind. If you are thinking, you are winning.” This one thing is like an umbrella over all the methods for ferreting out truth, but now I'll move on to a few more specific items.

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2. Ironically, even the controllers are subject to mind control, and that on a much deeper level – by the Father of Lies himself.



I believe that it is better to tell the truth than a lie. I believe it is better to be free than to be a slave. And I believe it is better to know than to be ignorant.

H. L. Mencken

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## Verify, verify, verify

In real estate, the mantra is “Location, location, location,” but here, the mantra needs to be “Verify, verify, verify.” Once you get in the habit of performing this one task, you will probably be amazed at how often you will catch errors of several different types. The easiest to catch perhaps is the non-existent quote. Unscrupulous people will simply fabricate ‘quotes’ from whole cloth, and attach a case site to them to trick unsuspecting dupes into believing that some court (often the Supremes) explicitly upheld their position.

Another trick is to doctor up a real quote so that it says something different than the original. This might be done by adding or substituting terms, but very often it is accomplished by omitting words, phrases or even whole sentences! Here’s an example from the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all ... Governments are instituted ... to abolish ... Safety and Happiness ... and accordingly .... it is their duty, to ... provide an absolute Tyranny.” So, be mindful of the accuracy of quotes, and always watch those ellipses!

Another common danger is that even when a quote is accurate, it might still have been taken out of context, and thereby used deceptively. And perhaps most common of all is that passages are simply misconstrued or misunderstood. As I said above, people are often disposed to construe what they read to agree with what they already believe, rather than with a critical mind. That means you must make a conscious effort to avoid that pitfall, and really try to get to the truth of what you encounter. Take the time to read the whole opinion for any court case you cite, and try to understand the reasoning of the judge in arriving at his conclusions. Determine for yourself whether or not his reasoning was sound and his conclusion was correct. As with everything else, you will get better with practice, so keep at it.

Fortunately, you no longer have to spend hours at a law library looking up court cases and statutes. You can find most of what you need right on the internet. Even the more obscure state court cases are now often available on the net. The site [www.courtlistener.com](http://www.courtlistener.com) is an excellent source for cases in the lower federal and state courts. Supreme Court cases can be found on any number of sites — a search for the citation is usually enough to get a hit. Save-a-patriot.org has a legal links page (<http://save-a-patriot.org/links/legal.html>) that can get you to the United States Code and the Code of Federal Regulations, among other reference material. The Constitution Society also makes a lot of reference material available on their website ([www.constitution.org](http://www.constitution.org)), including pdf versions of the Statutes at Large going back to the very first Congress. The bottom line is that if you have a mind to do so, you should be able to verify just about any information you come across by reference to the original source. After that, it’s just a matter of putting in the time and effort to break it down and understand it.



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### Divide and conquer

The suggestions above are just the beginning, but a necessary beginning for anybody who really cares about understanding the truth of where we are in the tax honesty movement and why. Looking at it terms of the long haul, how are we faring? Are we making progress, or are we losing ground? How can we possibly tell without some kind of coherent long-range plan? A major role in the lack of such a plan is the fact that the movement is so fractured. There are so many competing theories about the tax situation in our country that the total number of people involved in the movement are divided up into smaller and less effective subgroups. And because of the opposing nature of many of the theories, a lot of these subgroups are fighting against each other. I don’t mean actively battling of course, but that the goals of one are diametrically opposed to the other.

This means that the limited resources of the movement overall are wasted by this conflict of positions, which is bad for us. But it’s good for the shadow government. A classic example of divide and conquer. So, I ask this question: Is it possible that this situation is a result of the kind of diabolical interference I discussed above? And if so, could a renewed and diligent search for the truth in our own positions and in those of our opponents help us to counter the effects thereof, and lead to a more unified front? To which I can only answer, it can’t hurt. I know as well as anybody that it’s not an easy path. It’s a lot of work, and sometimes it can be a lonely journey. Like myself, you may well discover that the truth is something other than what you once believed, and that can be a hard pill to swallow. But as for me, I would rather know the truth and deal with the consequences, rather than continue in a delusion just because it’s more comfortable.

