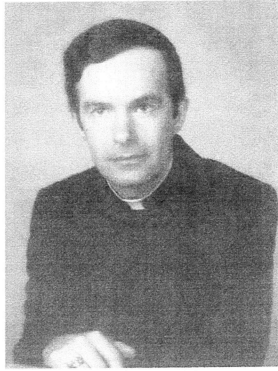




Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



Editor Note: I am running Richard Rudd's article from last month again due to errors I committed in the last paragraph. It's a great article, read it again, and this time the last paragraph will make sense! I apologize to Richard Rudd and our readers for the error in leaving out part of the article. LY

One of the primary motivating reasons for the North's war of total devastation against the South was the North's perception of an economic threat. Some of the largest concentrations of private wealth and ownership of property as well as the production of food and raw materials for manufacturing were located in southern states. The real reason for the North's pseudo-altruistic crusade against slavery in the South was to break an agrarian economy that was dependent on manual labor and private ownership of land. The antithesis of the private ownership of property is socialism, a political movement for the means of production and distribution of goods for the general welfare of the public. A century and a half after the WBTS, an aggressive and relentless Hydraheaded campaign is being waged against private ownership and use of property in the US.

Previous to 1964, Americans were free to acquire, use, and dispose of their private property which was bought with, maintained by, and sold for private funds without threatening government mandates. Today, the so-called Civil Rights Act has destroyed these civil rights. No American is free in the use of their assets to determine to whom one will offer employment and services or lease and sell their property without government intrusion.

The 5th Amendment reads, "No person shall...be deprived of...property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation." Government has long used the power of eminent domain to appropriate private property for public use. However, in 2005, in *Kelo vs City of New London*, the Supreme Court for the first time approved the forced transfer of land from one private owner to another for

economic development. The only justification given for this blatant seizure was that it would indirectly benefit the community in general.

Recently, the Kansas Senate refused to consider a bill passed by the House protecting people who, for religious reasons, refuse to use their property to provide accommodations or other services to homosexuals. An opponent of the proposed law said, "The Kansas legislature should never advocate discrimination...based on a perceived notion of religious freedom." Since when did the guarantee of the free exercise of religion under the 1st Amendment become "a perceived notion of religious freedom?" A Vermont inn-keeper was sued and fined \$10,000 for refusing to host a reception for lesbians. A New Mexico photographer was convicted by the state supreme court and bakers in Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington were penalized for refusing to provide their services to sodomitical ceremonies. Consequently, their property and means of financial support were jeopardized.

Provisions within the carelessly enacted legislation known as BO Care seek to force business owners to fund infanticide through insurance benefits. *Sebelius vs Hobby Lobby* is pending before the Supreme Court. The administration's defense is that corporate businesses are not people and are not entitled to the right of free exercise of religion under the 1st Amendment. Yes, businesses are not people, but people own the businesses. The administration's argument escalates the art of circumlocution to stratospheric heights. Again, private property is jeopardized.

As Solomon observed, "...(T)here is nothing new under the sun." (Eccles. 1:9) In I Kings 21 the story is told of Naboth who owned a vineyard. King Ahab sought to purchase the property for his private use. When Naboth refused the king's offer, false charges were brought against Naboth. He was executed and his land seized by the king. How far have we progressed in 2900 years?

John Locke was a 17th century English political philosopher, theologian, and author. Many of his political theories originated from the *Bible*. He was the third most cited man in early American political

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Richard Rudd continued... thought. The Founding Fathers utilized many of his ideas, especially from *Two Treatises of Government*. From him came the idea incorporated into our Declaration of Independence by Jefferson that all men are created and endowed by God with certain unalienable rights. Among these rights, according to Locke, is the right of private property. Locke's theory regarding private property was among the most influential elements of what he taught. Private property is a natural right preceding civil society and government, not created by it. It is the purpose and responsibility of government in civil society to protect private property, not deprive citizens of it. Under the cover of cleverly devised excuses, the skins of reasons stuffed with lies, private ownership of property is being incrementally destroyed in a false defense of civil liberty. While one's name is still on the deed, the rights normally associated with ownership are being usurped by government. As a result, Americans are increasingly discovering that they have the form of ownership without the powers thereof. Locke wrote, "The great and chief end, therefore, of men's uniting into commonwealths and putting themselves under government is the preservation of their property." Unless Americans demand a return to the Biblical principles of the Founding Fathers and Locke, socialism will be triumphant, private property will be trumped, Americans will subsist on a meager supply of life's necessities of food and shelter as dependent creatures of the state, and the minds of future generations will be medicated and deluded by a revised version of an eviscerated form of history from which the concept of freedom has been exorcised.

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