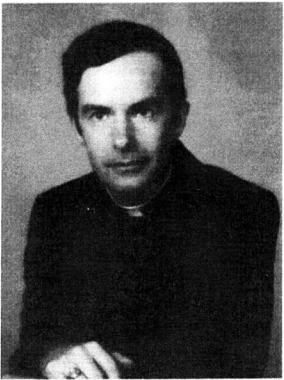


## Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd...



Today's fake news is the beginning of what tomorrow will be fake history. Both are as old as the existence of humanity. Events immediately following Christ's resurrection provide an example. On Sunday morning, the day of His resurrection, "...some of the guard went into the city and told the

chief priests all that had taken place (that Christ had risen from the dead)." (Matt: 28:11) Who were these guards?

On the previous day, the Jewish sabbath (Saturday), the chief priests and Pharisees had gone to Pilate under the pretense of being defenders of truth and maliciously accused Christ and His disciples of being the perpetrators of fake news. They demanded, "Therefore order the sepulcher to be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples go and steal Him away, and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead...'" Pilate responded, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." (Matt. 27:64)

Upon learning of the resurrection from their own guards, the chief priests and elders "...gave a sum of money to the soldiers and said, 'Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.''" Joining the priests and elders as the real disseminators of fake news, the guards "...took the money and did as they were directed; and this story (fake news) has been spread among the Jews (and non-believing Gentiles) to this day." (Matt. 28:12)

Recently, a graduate of a state university asked, "Which was first, WWI or the Civil War?" Regarding the void of knowledge about the WBTS, polls reveal that over 60% mistakenly believe the conflict was exclusively about slavery. The primary responsibility for Americans' naivete about their own history rests upon the chief transmitters of it - - teachers guilty of ignorance or deliberate manipulation to promote a social and political agenda. Gary Kramer, a university history professor and executive director of the State Historical Society of Missouri pontificated, "Without slavery, there would have been no war. States invoked the issue of

'states rights' because they wanted the right to retain the system of slavery and all that it entailed." David Reynolds, professor of history at City University of N.Y. and author of John Brown Abolitionist charged, "In the 19th century, supporters of the South used states rights as an EXCUSE to defend slavery." Digging his hole even deeper, he continued, "It was DEFINITELY a euphemism at that time, ABSOLUTELY." Then, without realizing it, he weakened his argument by admitting, "Each of the states that left the union published a document explaining why they were leaving the union and very rarely would they ever mention the word slavery in these documents." The reason they did not was because slavery was not the motive for secession. Edward Ayers, professor of humanities and president emeritus of the University of Richmond, dogmatically asserted, "The FACT that slavery caused the Civil War is not clear to all America, however." He boldly presumed. "The men who led secession certainly talked in terms of the rights of the states, but there was only one right they really cared about: the right to have slavery remain undisturbed by a growing northern majority." Southerners talked about states rights because that was their reason for secession. The inflammatory hyperbole, illustrated by the words in all capital letters in the above quotations, demonstrates the intensity of their stubborn insistence that slavery was the only reason for the war.

Those who tenaciously cling to this pernicious and racial theory avoid dealing with the questions that reveal how untenable it is. If slavery caused the war, why was the Emancipation Proclamation not issued until two years after the war started and did not free slaves in the North? Why did numerous negroes freely choose to fight for the Confederacy? Did they want to perpetuate slavery? What about the Yankee soldiers from New England who demonized the South and our ancestors over slavery? Was it not their ancestors who brought Africans here and sold them into slavery? Our ancestors did not fight "because they wanted the right to retain the system of slavery" as Kramer claimed or for "the right to have slavery remain undisturbed"

as Ayers insinuated. My great great grandfather and his neighbors, small dirt farmers who worked by the sweat of their own brows, said farewell to their families, left their homes, and joined the Confederate infantry. He never returned; he gave his life for a cause and that cause was not slavery. He and his neighbors did not risk making that ultimate sacrifice to defend and perpetuate the interests of wealthy slave owners and their large plantations. So, for what did they fight and die? Federalism as the Founding Fathers understood it, states rights, and the spirit of '76 together form the only viable answer. To paraphrase a quote, they did not fight because they hated what they approached in front of them; they fought because they loved what they left behind them.

The purveyors of fake news and history verify the truth spoken by William James, the father of modern psychology, who said, "Repeat a lie often enough and people will believe it." Those who promote a powerful central government and its oppressive bureaucracy practice the political philosophy of Joseph Goebbels, who said, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it." He advised, "It thus becomes vitally important for the state to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the state." Christ taught that "...the truth will make you free." (Jn. 8:32) If those who relentlessly promote fake news and history, a liberal philosophy and agenda, a strong central government, and the ultimate dominance of globalism reject the truth, then they must also reject freedom. Consequently, who is really fighting "to retain the system of slavery and all that it entail(s)?"

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