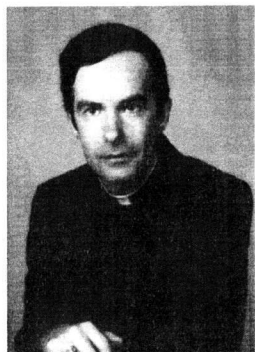


## Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



What poses the greatest threat today to the US and the American way of life? Is it Communism from Russia, China, and N. Korea or Islam from Arabia, Iran, and Turkey? Before his martyrdom, the Apostle Paul encountered numerous adversaries, not only Romans and Greeks, but "...danger from my own people..." (II Cor. 11:26)

It became personal; he recognized their faces and knew their names. For example, "...Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me..." (II Tim. 4:10) He noted that "...certain people have made shipwreck of their faith, among them...Alexander." (I Tim. 1:20) "Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm... Beware of him..." (II Tim. 4:14)

Disaffected, militant minorities and foreigners are not the greatest threat within America. Negroes are 12% of the population, homosexuals are 2%, Moslems are 1.1%. The majority of America's dissidents are young, native-born Caucasians. Without them, the influence of minorities would be negligible. As St. Paul said, the danger is from our own people.

After the Israelites entered the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, they lived as a nation of people under a tribal confederation. The influence of the pagan Canaanite culture that coexisted in the land with them became a divisive and "destructive threat. "In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes." (Jdg. 17:6)

The threat to the future of America does not begin with physical confrontation with a foreign military force; it originates with domestic ideological, spiritual, and moral degeneration that exposes, weakens, and turns a nation's citizens against each other as malignant cancer causes cells within a body to attack each other, metastasize (spread from city to city across the nation), and eventually ulcerate (erupt in violence and street fighting). At the time that the Israelites buried Joshua, they also buried his contemporaries. "And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them, who did not know the Lord or the work that He had done for Israel." (Jdg. 2:10) This new generation of Americans is

ignorant of their nation's true history and the experiences that form their character, convictions, and faith which cannot be biologically transferred from one generation to the next. Each succeeding generation must, as a result of their own experiences, pass through their own formation process by which they learn life's lessons and renew or repudiate their heritage. With each new generation, the fate of America depends on who wins the allegiance of their minds and hearts. As the pagan Canaanites infected Israelites, so secular academia, entertainment industry, and media infect Americans. These three sectors plus the ballot box are the front line of the battle for America.

Whether it is within each one of us or within the corporate body of a nation's citizens, the game plan remains the same and is as old as the history of mankind. The initial attack is not overt and sudden, but subtle and gradual. It begins by calling into question our beliefs in order to weaken our resolve and defenses. Satan asked Eve, "Did God say...?" (Gen. 3) Then he created confusion with a false statement, saying, "You will not die." Finally, he baited Eve with a false promise, vowing that "...your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God..." Through the use of disarming questions, false statements, and empty promises, the family, the basic unit of society, has been attacked by legalization of miscegenation, then homosexuality, and yet to come, polygamy. Life, our most basic right, has been attacked by abortion; euthanasia will be next. Education has been reduced to indoctrination. Perhaps state universities should be defunded instead of police departments. Individual initiative has been decimated by increased dependency on government with the expansion of socialistic welfare programs. Socialism includes government control of private property. Prior to the 1960's, citizens who bought private property with private funds had the exclusive right to buy, sell, and rent their property or hire employees. Under the guise of promoting civil rights, private property owners' civil rights have been lost or eroded. Also in the 1960's, the fabric of American society was shredded by radical changes in immigration laws, leading to the call for open borders. Confederate and other national monuments are being desecrated; it should be no surprise that Christian symbols are experiencing the same fate. Today, mobs decapitate statues. What will be next? Will the Reign of Terror during the French Revolution be reenacted in America?

What insurrectionists cannot obliterate, they seek to neutralize by redefining, censoring, demonizing, or just ignoring. Their claim to promote tolerance becomes intolerance, equality becomes inequality, freedom becomes conformity, diversity becomes uniformity, demonstrations become riots, religious coexistence becomes anti-Semitic and anti-Christian, fairness becomes just getting their own way, redistribution of wealth becomes higher taxation and a black hole of public debt. If the Constitution cannot be repealed by calling a new constitutional convention, it can be eviscerated by calling it a living document that can be reinterpreted to suit situational ethics. If history becomes inconvenient, it is rewritten. Just as the issue of preservation of federalism and states' rights was co-opted by slavery during the WBTS, current issues are being co-opted. Environmental issues are used to seek redistribution of wealth, poverty to seek socialism, world trade to seek globalism, and race is used to inflame emotions and foment anarchy. Whenever possible, subversives choose to avoid the electoral process. They prefer to work underground as moles through the shadow government of the deep-state bureaucracy, the courts where they can find sympathetic and pathetic judges, academic institutions, the entertainment industry, and the media where indoctrination can be waged uninhibited.

President Jefferson Davis predicted, "The principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it might be at another time and in another form." Our generation is witnessing the fulfillment of these prophetic words. The 2016 election revealed how divided our nation is, hauntingly reminiscent of 1861. Sectarian interests have replaced what is in the best interests of the nation. In the recent past, Americans were in general agreement about the future direction the nation should take; what they disagreed about was how to approach it. Today, Americans are polarized by the conflicting directions they envision. President Davis accurately described the time in which we live when he said, "The contest is not over, the strife is not ended. It has only entered upon a new and enlarged arena." The difference between 1861 and now is that we, the progeny of the South, are not the ones threatening the Union. Looking back to the "Deconstruction" of the Old South, we can clearly envision what "Reconstruction II" will look like for America. We cannot afford to lose this time; we are being provoked into a fight to the death—whether the spirit of 1776 lives or dies.

**Father Richard Rudd**