



strong relationship between peonage and slavery), a strikebreaker, and a Republican.

The truth is very simple. Ronald Reagan began his political life as a Democrat in the party of Harry Truman as a staunch believer in the efficacy of the 1947 Truman Doctrine. He retired from the Presidency in January 1989, leaving us, unfortunately, with the effects of his political life as a Republican still in the grip of Harry Truman's Doctrine without having moved so much as one degree on the political compass in forty-two years. Even though the rest of the world had changed, Reagan had not. He is gone now, thrown out with the bathwater of the rest of the Cold War, and due to be remembered fondly for bankrupting the nation.

The Truman Doctrine is little more than the Monroe Doctrine (Monroe was a Virginian, one of those perennial Southerners whom Alexander Hamilton Stephens correctly observed have nearly always been running this place), applied globally and foolishly to every scrap of land not controlled by Communists.

Here in a nutshell then is the argument for "The Chill At Appomattox." The South finally won what they call the War Between the States because their favorite ideas became public policy. It is ironic that Burton Hendrick's "Statesmen of the Lost Cause" was published in 1939, barely six years before the Confederate triumph was sealed. The legend of this lost cause was launched in the tears of General Robert E. Lee as he rode surrendered through his army at Appomattox. The cause was not lost, only temporarily misplaced.

Making Panama and everything in between part of the Empire while exploiting the labor of people of different races and cultures, whether as slaves, peons, or undocumented workers, are major Confederate concerns. An empire such as the United States of America would not have to spend so much time and money policing trade routes if its international relationships were beneficial rather than exploitive. Making strong railroad and other political and economic connections to California (connect the South to California), which by the way they turned into the largest disorganized military base on earth — only South Carolina gets more military money per capita — is a major Confederate achieve-

ment. Whether they can keep California, since in the fashion of an empire they have opened the borders to anyone's labor that can be exploited, is an open question.

Some lesser Confederate ideas kept showing up as Reagan initiatives, among them a balanced budget amendment (the Confederate constitution required a balanced budget), and the line item veto, an enumerated power of the President of the Confederacy. The single six year Presidential term, which Jefferson Davis was "elected" to in 1861, was a personal favorite of the Confederate Lyndon Johnson, who, if it had been operating law in 1968, would not have had to face the music in Chicago of a lied electorate.

The Confederates also need to be publicly credited with the initial paranoid insistence on a first ballot victory during their nominating ceremony in Montgomery, Alabama. We have been led to believe that it was television media requirements that made a less than unanimous group of delegates seem unseemly. Jefferson Davis really wanted to personally lead the troops, but was cajoled into the Presidency as the once removed commander in chief. There were no television cameras in Montgomery in 1861.

The most grievous Confederate idea of all, however, is the one requiring the rapid destruction of the environment for short term gain. When the Southerners made cotton King in the first agribusiness, they reduced the soil to dirt. This chronic exploitation is a legacy that has to be removed. In "Santa Clara County v. the Southern Pacific Railroad Company" (Jefferson Davis's personal favorite), Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Waite in 1886 said all the Justices were in agreement that the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protecting persons applied equally to corporations. Is this a loose reading of the Constitution, or what? Where are the strict constructionists when we really need them? A law passed to protect former slaves winds up being the bulwark of corporate irresponsibility, where corporations have the personal rights of individual people in an administratively efficient framework designed to reward the abdication of personal responsibility.

Every Presidential election can be seen as a test of the forces that conceive of the United States as a country versus the forces that conceive of it as an empire. Recently, the Empire has only lost the election of 1976. Empires come and go but the nation abideth forever.

The nation of the United States of America must be restored, even if it has to be over the objections of the bankrupt apparatus of the Confederate Empire of the United States that must be discarded. We correctly think of General George Washington as the Father of our country. Abraham Lincoln has been called "The man from nowhere who took the blame

for everything," presumably for keeping the Union together. Jefferson Davis is at least the equal of Washington and Lincoln in influence, and for the past forty-five years his star has been ascendant. This year marks the 127th anniversary of the ending of the carnage of the Civil War with the unconditional surrender of Lee to Grant at Appomattox. We have to teach ourselves to say that the South won the Civil War and Jefferson Davis is the Father of our empire. It is time to declare a Confederate victory.

Charles Potts lives in Walla Walla, Washington and is the director/editor of Palouse Literary Associates. His article "The Chill at Appomattox" is a summary of a book he has written of the same title. He writes of his reason for the book: "History is constantly in need of revision, being as Napoleon put it, merely a fable agreed upon. What is desperately needed at this point in the United States is an interpretation of history sufficiently large to accommodate a half century of bogus foreign and domestic policy. Most interpretations are too shortsighted and focus merely on the post-World War II period or at best the 20th Century. In order to comprehend the aggressive role of the South and Southern politicians during the past fifty years, it is necessary to go deep into the 19th Century for the originations of Manifest Destiny's drive for Texas and California (and Panama) in the pre-Confederate Mexican War. In short, a longer view of history is required to make sense of our present impasse." The overall theme of the book, Potts writes, "is that although the South was defeated militarily, their best ideas and concepts have had a great life of their own, and in fact have gone on to dominate American policy. It was a victory for, among other things, militarism, and is the factual basis for the unified field theory of the Southern domination of American politics and culture."

Copies of the book "The Chill at Appomattox: How the South Finally Won the Civil War" can be purchased through Palouse Literary Associates, 350 South Palouse, Walla Walla, Washington 99362.

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