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**Minther
& Sklar**

"There's a clear cause and effect here that is as neat and predictable as a law of physics: as government expands, liberty contracts."

-- Ronald Reagan

Chapter 7 | THE FLAG

I'm really having trouble sleeping. First, I feel like a caged animal that wants its freedom but have no idea how to escape. And, where would I run? It's not like I can dream of going to America. OK, STUS and Dawn are working together. That is clear. They want me to get involved. That is also obvious. However, I don't know what they are trying to accomplish or how I fit in. And, how did all of this happen? I found a history book, searched the globalnet, and opened Bradfordwasright.com. It was then that Dawn and I met—strictly by coincidence. She couldn't possibly have orchestrated all of the steps necessary for us to meet. Maybe she discovered my name on the Declaration of Independence after we started chatting. Yet, I can't help but wonder.

Moonlight coming through my window creates eerie shadows on the wall. I watch them and my imagination melds with the movement. In front of me is a group of men arguing over independence. It reflects what I read in the history book. It seems that the colonies did not rise up together in one dramatic quest for freedom. It happened slowly and in steps. South Carolina's new constitution opposed those loyal to the crown, called Tories. Other colony legislatures approved independence. In Massachusetts town hall meeting after town hall meeting supported independence. However, there were a large number of colonists who wanted to remain attached to England. Some historians estimated that it was one third for independence, one third loyalists, and one third undecided. Then on June 7, 1776, three hundred years ago, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia brought before the Continental Congress the resolution for a declaration of independence. After heated debates the vote remained indecisive. South Carolina was against independence. Go figure, considering their constitution. George Clymer and Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania were outnumbered as they vehemently argued in their delegation for independence. Delaware's delegation was divided while New York's waited for instructions from home. Arguments continued in what seemingly was a futile endeavor. Finally, a dying Caesar Rodney arrived and swung Delaware's vote

in favor of independence. In the Pennsylvania delegation, two delegates didn't attend and one was convinced to change leading to that colony voting for independence. Finally, South Carolina switched its position and Congress voted unanimously for independence on July 2, 1776. John Adams wrote, "patricians stamp and foam and curse, but all in vain. . . The decree has gone forth."

Oh, would I love to have been there to be a part of such noble history. But, would I have had the courage demonstrated by these men? Could I really risk everything for an ideal? Is that what I'm being asked to do, now?

Before me the shadows change. I see men and women sitting around making declarations of new regulations and laws all for the "good of the people," that promise to make things fair, and that ultimately will keep liberty at bay. As my mind sees present day American government at work I conclude that essentially, we have no voice in our government, no representation, and little individual freedom. The royal class pulled off the greatest hoax in history—a bloodless coup whereby they conquered an entire nation by claiming to be doing everything for the good of the people. If you ask me they pulled the goods over on the people.

So, there you have it. I am a traitor. No, they are traitors. No, based on the Reorganization Constitution, I am the traitor. I guess, more accurately, I am a patriot for a country long lost that I never knew. It makes me wonder, "What was it like in a real free America?" All I know is what I've experienced in my lifetime or been taught in history class.

I'm tired from lack of sleep when Virginia picks me up. Fatigue makes it difficult to be logical or for-that-matter tactful. So, without thinking I ask, "You're part of this conspiracy—what's really going on?"

"What do you think is going on?"

There's a surprise, a non-answer question to my question. "Come'on Red," oops, that was a slip, "I feel like a horse being trained for the big race and I didn't even know I was a race horse."

"Red?"

"I'm sorry, that's what I called you before I knew your name." I see just a glimmer of a smile so I bravely continue, "Apparently, I'm needed for some reason or some task but no one will tell me what it is. How can I decide whether or not I will make a commitment without knowing what it is for?"

"If you had a secret that was very important would you tell just anyone?" Virginia asks.

"Of course not."

"You'd want to know first whether or not you can trust those you confide in, correct?"

"Is that what this is all about? Determining if I can be trusted?"

"Listen Skinny, that's what I called you before I knew your name," this time

a real smile, “When we first met I was told to pick you up. How I knew where you were should be obvious. Remember the gloves? Quite fetching, I must say,” this time a quick laugh. “What transpired in your interview or with any other interactions that you’ve had is none of my business. My job is to get you to and from work and to protect you.”

“Protect me—from what?”

“At present, from yourself.”

“So, once more, I don’t get any answers.”

“Think George.”

I really like Red. Yeah, I am attracted to her, as well. For crying out loud, I’m twenty-years-old I’m supposed to be a wild stallion. There’s that horse analogy again. Freud would have a field day with my psyche. I just spent a sleepless night thinking and all I came away with was that we have a tyrannical government that is posing as the good, kind, nanny. The politicians, noble class, have enslaved an entire nation, rewritten history, molded complaisant citizens, and taken away . . . what was it that Jefferson said . . . We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness . . . that’s it, our unalienable rights. The government has denied me my God-given rights. “I know one thing,” I start.

“I figured that was about your limit.”

“Stop that! I know that I have certain rights that our government has taken away that they do not have the authority to do.” I pause, then add, “But, when someone holds a gun to your head how do you stop them from robbing you?”

“You take away their gun,” Virginia says flatly.

“Or die trying.”

“Not if you are smart.”

“OK, we have a tyrannical government. I get it. And, some of you don’t like it. I understand. But, this is all that I’ve known in my entire life. I’m not sure what real freedom would be like or if it is worth dying for. Heck, if you’re dead, freedom doesn’t really count, does it?”

“Millions of brave souls died to protect American’s freedom and while they were being noble unscrupulous, venomous con artists defrauded the American people and gained power over them that they subsequently abused. Freedom is so dear that it is worth dying for even if you die to insure another’s freedom.” There is a look on Virginia’s face that tells me that she sees the awesome value of this thing called freedom.

Now I’m at work and Walter is his pleasant self, as he says, “You look like shit.”

“I’d say that’s a fair assessment,” I reply as I flop into one of his guest chairs. “Tough night?”

“I kinda snapped at Dawn.”

“She’s a big girl—she can take it.”

“Have you met Dawn?”

“Nope,” he replies, “but I have a message from her about you.”

“Am I in trouble?”

“You are not!” Walter stands and leads me through his door and down the hall. “What you are is in for an education.” As we walk down the hall Walter asks, “Do you ever wonder why I treat you so poorly?”

“Yeah, you don’t like me.”

“Well, besides that.” He stops and turns to face me, “When STUS was founded in 2015 things had gotten completely out-of-hand. It was long before I was born, but I’ve seen the videos that you are about to see. After you view them you will know why I talk with you the way that I do.”

We enter the small screening room where previously I watched the PR video about STUS. Walter punches in a code and a number of video selections appear on the monitor next to his chair. He selects one and the video begins. On the screen is a simple title: STUS Board Meeting 2015-001. It fades to a gentleman standing at the head of a conference room table. It is a plain room with a long wooden table that seats six along each side and one at the end. There are eight persons seated at the table. The man, whose back is to the camera, begins.

“It’s been a long five years and now the real work is about to begin. We all know why we are here, but for posterity, if you will indulge me, I will reiterate our motivations and intentions. America is dead. That fact is sadly without question. It has been replaced by Socialist America with a tyrannical federal government. What the founding fathers feared most has happened. Every day laws are passed that diminish individual freedom. Unelected regulators establish arbitrary rules with abandon. The legal system is corrupt. Politicians have formed a cabal of thieves, murderers, and elitists. Media are biased, fools, and liars. Public education is inadequate and used to dumb-down and indoctrinate each new generation. The economy has been completely destroyed. Morality, honor, and individual responsibility are now vague long-lost concepts. Entertainment is used to pacify the masses much as was done when Rome was declining. And, most important of all, the Constitution has been abandoned.”

Walter Tize leans over toward me and says, “That is Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery Eastwood one of the founders of STUS. At that time he was 65 years old.”
NOTE: Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery Eastwood’s bio is available at www.2076AD.com.

Eastwood continues, “We, The Loyal Nine, came together with one objective; to resurrect America and re-establish the original Constitution, to overcome the forces that have taken control and illegally perverted our system of government, and to once more make America a beacon of freedom.”

“Damn right,” Sergeant Major Demarcus Shepherd adds from his seated

position.

Once again Walter leans over and explains, "That is Sergeant Major Demarcus Shepherd, he was 52 and in great shape by what I've been told. His nickname was 'The Fist.' He lived to be 100 years old."

I can see in Walter's eyes and hear in his voice that he sincerely admires these people.

Colonel Eastwood nods in the direction of Demarcus Shepherd and responds, "Damn right, it is. Step one was the nine of us getting together and sharing our philosophy and vision and forming The Loyal Nine—a secret society. If you recall your history, the Sons of Liberty another secret society was formed in 1765, eleven years before the Declaration of Independence was written.

Asayo Nakahara adds, "And the Constitution was written eleven years after that."

"Asayo Nakahara," Walter states, "was a computer genius who was so far ahead of her time she gave STUS an immediate edge in technology and the marketplace. She was 47 at the time."

"Time is not on our side," Colonel Eastwood warns, "The slide into oblivion will continue. Within the next five years America will fail."

"Five point three years," Benson Whittingham projects.

"A financial analyst, Benson Whittingham was a stereotypical accountant type complete with a round pudgy face and thick glasses who could see trends, and shifts, and opportunities big name banker types never dreamed of. He could turn a dime into a dollar faster than those in the government could turn a dollar into a dime. Benson Whittingham gave STUS financial strength beyond their wildest imagination. He predicted America's failure almost to the day." Walter sits back and adds with a touch of sadness, "He was 58 at that time. When the reorganization occurred he worked 24/7. Literally, lived at STUS in a small apartment. It eventually killed him at age 72, but he kept the dream alive."

On the screen Colonel Eastwood looks around the room, then says, "If there ever is going to be a new America based on the original founder's vision we have to start the process, today. We will not see the fruits of our labors, but we will plant the seeds of freedom. Our success will depend on secrecy, strategic planning . . ." before he can continue each member of the board adds an attribute.

Benson Whittingham says, "Business acumen."

Sergeant Major Demarcus Shepherd, "Strength."

Asayo Nakahara, "Imagination."

Hector Santiago, "Perseverance."

Hans Keller, "Courage."

Erin Slattery, "Confidence."

Angelina Granelli, "Humility."

Neha Crying Wolf, "Loyalty."

Colonel Eastwood finishes it with, “and Divine guidance. STUS Corporation is our sword. It will remain an invisible sword until those who join us in the distant future deem it time to wield it. Until then, we have to create the path and provide the tools for future patriots.”

Walter pauses the video. He stands and walks up to the screen and turns to face me. I get the feeling that he wishes he could step through the screen into the room and be among those he admires so deeply. Finally, he says, “When STUS was founded things in America had gotten so warped and misguided that liberty was being attacked from every direction. If someone chose to run for office their opponent immediately had an army of researchers looking for any dirt that could be used for the purpose of character assassination. And, if they didn’t find enough they made it up or misrepresented innocent events. Much like today, language was weaponized. Say the wrong thing or for-that-matter something that could be misinterpreted and you become an outcast or evil person. The term racism was used as a club to bludgeon anyone who didn’t follow the party line even when the person spoke the truth. Truth became subordinate to emotional appeal. And, fear replaced freedom as individuals were silenced or coerced to show support for unreasonable positions.” Walter returns to his seat and restarts the video.

I’m not going to tell you every detail of what I saw, but I will enlighten you to one fact; with the corporation STUS stands for Strategic Technology Universal Systems while for the secret organization behind it STUS stands for Save The United States. More interesting is that in the logo the Latin phrase, “conditorum visio in aeternum” means “founders vision forever.” Right from its inception STUS had a hidden purpose.

There is another thing of interest that strikes me. At the end of the meeting all of the board members stand, place their right hand on their heart, and recite a pledge of allegiance to a flag. Here’s where it gets weird. It is the stars and stripes—the very flag that is a symbol of imperialism, militarism, racism, arrogance, and hate. In school we were shown how President Jamal Clay made an impassioned speech to Congress stating, “Symbols of hate and division have no place in our government. It’s time to stand up for what’s right and take down the stars and stripes!” That was 2022, during the dark days of the Reorganization.

I say, “That flag is illegal.”

“It wasn’t then,” Walter responds, “and, God willing, it will fly over a free America, once more.”

“We were taught . . .” I begin.

“Stop there!” Walter interrupts. “The key word is ‘taught.’ You were taught the original American Flag is a symbol of evil. That’s because it represents freedom and socialists hate freedom. Control is their mantra.”

Just to mess with him I press on, “But, America under that flag went all around the world conquering weaker nations and stealing their wealth.”

He doesn't react as I expect. Instead, he smiles and says, "You don't believe that—not anymore. In fact, you are ravenous to learn more about pre-reorganization America. You want to come out of the darkness of ignorance and know what really happened. All in good time, my friend. However, since you brought up the subject of the flag," he punches some buttons, "watch this."

A video begins titled; *Old Glory* and starts with an image of a tattered and filthy stars and stripes flag laying in the dirt being trampled by boots as an army passes. A voiceover states, "When liberty fell, no one protested. It happened slowly—going unnoticed—until it was too late. And, as is a standard tactic of tyrants, once a takeover is complete they remove as much reminder of the past as possible. History books are rewritten, street names changed, cities renamed, those who complain arrested, news turned into propaganda, entertainment strictly controlled, and images of the past scrubbed clean. The flag of the original United States of America fell victim in 2022."

In a more uplifting manner the video provides a history of the original American flag. The voiceover explains, "In late May of 1776, during the Revolutionary War, three men; General George Washington, Robert Morris, and Colonel George Ross—the uncle of Betsy Ross's recently deceased husband, John—visited her and asked her to create a flag. They showed her a design that featured 13 red and white stripes and 13 six-pointed stars. Betsy had been acquainted with Washington and Morris, as they attended the same church as she. With the suggestion of using five point stars and arranging them in a circle, she agreed to make a flag."

"On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, passed the Flag Act of 1777, creating an official flag for a new nation that had yet to win its independence."

"The American Stars and Stripes were filled with symbolism. Red is for valor, zeal and fervency; white for hope, purity, cleanliness of life, and rectitude of conduct; and blue for reverence to God, loyalty, sincerity, justice and truth. The star is a symbol of dominion and sovereignty, as well as lofty aspirations. A constellation of stars, one for each state, is emblematic of States individual sovereignty except as to rights delegated by them to the Federal Government."

A colonial fort appears in the video. The kind voiceover tells me, "The American flag was first flown over Fort Stanwix in New York State on August 3, 1777. Three days later it came under fire in the Battle of Oriskany."

"When two new states joined the union Vermont (1791) and Kentucky (1792) the number of stars and stripes was increased to fifteen. Quickly, it became clear that adding stripes would not be practical so in 1818 Congress decided that the number of stripes be restricted to thirteen representing the original colonies while a new star would be added each Fourth of July for each succeeding state. That remained the law until the flag was outlawed."

An interesting side note appears on the screen; it was the 15-stripe flag

that Francis Scott Key saw flying over Ft. McHenry during the War of 1812 that inspired him to write the poem that later became known as the *Star-Spangled Banner*.

“The name ‘Old Glory’ was given to the flag by Captain William Driver a master merchant mariner who sailed around the world twice. He was born in Salem, Massachusetts March 17, 1803 and was given an American flag made by his mother on his twenty-first birthday.” I can’t help but think I don’t believe that I will be receiving the stars and stripes from my mother on my twenty-first.

The video continues. “Driver moved to Nashville, Tennessee bringing with him the flag he called ‘Old Glory’ and would display it on special occasions. When the Civil War began he remained loyal to the Union while Tennessee joined the Confederacy. To protect his flag he hid it until Union forces marched into Nashville February 25, 1862. It was then that William Driver brought “Old Glory” out of hiding, and it was raised over the Tennessee Capitol. News of the event spread throughout the north and the name Old Glory was attached to the stars and stripes from then on.”

The video starts showing different images as the voiceover says, “America became a major world power—a power for good. Wherever there was a disaster, anywhere in the world, the stars and stripes usually flew over the first to arrive to provide aid. The American people were by far the most generous in the world offering significant assistance to those in need or suffering. When World War I broke out in Europe, America provided supplies and military support to defend free nations. In World War II, when Hitler and Hirohito almost conquered the world, America supplied its allies with weapons and material without being compensated. And, the American military led the fight to defeat the Axis powers. Throughout history millions of American lives have been lost defending the freedom of others. And, never once did America seek to take control of conquered lands. In fact, America helped rebuild its enemies and promote economic growth and competition. Even after the Venezuelan War of 2019 America helped rebuild that nation. Yet, America’s enemies, foreign and domestic, worked tirelessly to foster an image of an imperialistic nation symbolized by the stars and stripes.”

At the end of the video President Jamal Clay’s speech to a joint session of Congress is shown. It was June 14, 2022. He says capitalists brought the nation to the brink of destruction. Then adds the vilest things about the flag and how it represents hate. I have to admit that my stomach turns when the members of congress cheer and support the outlawing of the stars and stripes and replacing it with a friendlier and more appropriate flag. The new flag is blue with a large red stripe on top and bottom and five stars representing the five continents defined as; Eurasia, Africa, America, Australia, Antarctica. It is considered more in line with the new world order of the future.

The final scene is a painting of Washington crossing the Delaware with an

American Flag. A quote from George Washington appears, "Our cause is noble; it is the cause of mankind!"

Walter and I sit in silence. There is a feeling I am experiencing that is foreign to me. I'm proud of these wonderful people who so long ago fought and died to found a nation unlike any other that ever existed in history. In a strange way I feel connected to them. I'm getting to know them—the real them—not the sterile characterizations taught in history class. And, I like them. I respect them. If I was sitting in a tavern and General Washington walked in seeking recruits, I would join them. I'm proud to be an American—a pre-reorganization American. Then it hits me, STUS is winning me over. Only, in my head I keep hearing the clank of a jail cell door. Finally, I turn to Walter and ask, "Is our cause noble?"

"Our cause?"

I nod.

"Son, Americans today, have no idea what they lost because they never have had it. For a brief time in history fortunate generations of Americans lived in greater freedom than any nation in the world as the result of the brilliance of the founding fathers. Through divine guidance they approached government from the perspective of the rights of individuals."

I recite a line from the Declaration of Independence, "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

"Exactly. Is our cause noble? Trying to replicate the miracle of the founding fathers is the noblest thing you or I will ever do in our lives."

Next, I watch news programs from 2015 that demonstrate how words were twisted, taken out of context, or motive attached that cast a negative shadow on what a person said. No wonder people were afraid to express themselves.

Walter explains, "The founders of STUS decided that within the halls of our organization free speech meant free speech. If someone got offended they could say so. At least everyone would know where the other stood. Sergeant Major Shepherd was quoted as saying, 'I'd rather be insulted by someone and know where I stand than to have them pat me on the back while hating me.'" Walter smiles, "I don't hate you. In fact, I rather like you. It's just that STUS turned into a big Tourette Syndrome petri dish with cursing, insulting, and off-color verbiage common among the inmates. It's freedom and it works."

Walter leaves me to watch two movies from pre-reorganization days. The first is a musical titled *1776*. It's not 100% historically accurate but very good and inspiring. The second movie is a comedy that is designed to show me what America was once like in the 1950s. The title is *American Graffiti* and it really is hard to believe that people had so much.

After a long day it's good to be home. And, yup, you guessed it I have to contact Dawn.

DAWN: George, how was your day?

GEORGE: Very educational and inspiring.

DAWN: Did you pull back the veil of omission about America's past?

GEORGE: I want a 1958 Chevy.

DAWN: LOL, *American Graffiti*, good choice. I'd have thought you would want the white T-Bird.

GEORGE: Did people really live that way?

DAWN: That and more.

GEORGE: Did Walter Tize contact you?

DAWN: No.

GEORGE: Then I should tell you—I'm in.

DAWN: Very good. Profit or loss?

I now know the response to that question. Maybe, I'll share it with you, when you are ready.

Visit: www.2076AD.com for more information or to participate in the creation of 2076AD. You can also view the YouTube version of Chapter 7.