

## **A Thought Provoking Story ABOUT A ONCE FAMOUS LAND**

A long, long time ago, several groups of people left the countries where they were born and raised and struck out for a new land, a land where they could be free from evil government controls, a land where they could establish a new form of government allowing freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

These people, pilgrims if you like, endured many hardships before arriving at this new and unsettled land. When they finally reached their destination, they gathered upon a large rock and thanked God for their safe journey and there pledged their devotion. Even today, that rock is still one of their new country's main landmarks.

Before doing anything else, these men were determined to build a place of worship in this, their new land. It was not a fancy structure by any means, but it was still a house of worship, and the people would gather there each day to pray. They also had a special day set aside each year to give thanks.

The pilgrims began driving off the savages that inhabited this new land and immediately began building plain, rough shelters for their families in this lonely, secluded region. From time to time they had to fight off the savages who had lived there for many years and resented these newcomers. Whether working right near their homes or out in the fields, the men had to be alert at all times for attacks from these savages.

These people were not easygoing, but were uncompromising, hard working, and determined to build something worthwhile, a new nation. It is said that the first schools to offer free public education in the history of the world were established by these pilgrims and were operated by religious leaders.

Most of these pilgrims were farmers, men who loved their land and were most content when working in the fields and planning out their and their children's tomorrows.

Some of the people back in the old countries, from which these pilgrims had migrated, looked with amusement on these pilgrims who chose to live under such primitive conditions, scorning the luxuries left behind. They had no way of knowing, then, that these people and their descendants would build the most powerful, most respected, and richest nation in the world.

These settlers absolutely refused to be patient with wrong-doing and they punished criminals very severely. They did not intend to pamper, nor in any way allow the lazy or depraved among them to become parasites in their new nation.

As their communities grew, they began trading with each other and with other

countries. They built ships and began importing and exporting goods. Soon they began to prosper, but they still maintained their simple manner of dress and mode of living. They loved the land which nourished them, and enjoyed gathering together in their churches to worship. Over a long period of time their villages became towns, and the towns became cities.

Then others began to come and establish new communities and colonies, but they were all still separate colonies, not yet joined together into a nation. They continued, to some degree, under the rule and authority of the governments of the old countries from which they had come. They did have one thing in common, and that was they had all fled to this new country, leaving the oppression and persecution of the old country behind, hoping to find peace. As far as they were concerned, and as they wrote many times, they were determined, in the sight of God, to establish a new nation.

Many years went by and colonies prospered and grew. Small enterprises grew into big business, and the winds of freedom blew strong and fresh, lighting up their hearts and spirits.

Those colonies can claim some of the greatest literature that has ever been written by man. They built some of the grandest architecture of all time, and devised some of the noblest precepts ever laid down. Legends like "Liberty" and "Justice" that are found on many of our modern government buildings were penned in those early years.

Some great men were beginning to appear on the scene and God was blessing this group of colonies that were not yet unified into a nation.

More years passed and then a dreadful and alarming event took place. One of the old countries, corrupt, greedy, and despicable as it was, tried to impose its will on the colonies and put the colonists once more under oppression. They sent tax agents to the big city of the pilgrims.

The news of this attempted tyranny traveled through the colonies like a mighty wind, alerting the pilgrims to the presence of this dangerous threat. A general assembly was held and attended by representatives who were especially chosen from each colony. Knowing that they would find strength in unity, they began to search for someone to lead them wisely. They agreed upon a gentleman farmer, a man who was concerned mainly with agriculture but who was also a man of great learning. The representatives found this gentleman farmer standing in his fields, with his hand on the plow. After he was informed of their mission, the man agreed to leave his farm and accompany them to the city. A large, well known American city is named after this man who later became known as the Father of His Country.

Now this man united the colonies. This great man--who will always be

remembered whenever and wherever free men dare to speak-- won the fight against corrupt politicians and then returned to his farm.

These colonies, just recently united, then became one nation. It was the dawning of a new great era. A great and still growing power had emerged in the world as a new kind of nation - a Republic.

There were two houses of government in this new nation, the strongest, most powerful of the two being the Senate. In the early days of this new nation a man had to be religious, patriotic, and honorable in order to be elected to the Senate.

The Senators believed in and actively supported their Republic and she was divided in a terrible civil war. A man who led the country in war was assassinated. To this day he is still the subject of many books. Plays have been written, and movies made about him.

The Republic seemed to establish a new set of principles and ideals shortly after that infamous civil war.

Although the Republic was still a young nation, she was now recognized as a major power in the world. She became known as a land of opportunity and attracted thousands and thousands of immigrants. Some of these immigrants, like the early settlers, came to escape oppression. Others only came because of the riches in this new land of opportunity.

This Great Republic became famous for her outstanding achievements in sanitation, parks, banks, architecture, education, and administration. She began to mass-produce some consumer items and she established a stock market which dealt with large investments.

After a while, many of her Senators became greedy and power hungry. Some of them began to make deals under the table, so to speak, and soon forgot or ignored their humble beginnings and the principles for which their country and their flag once stood. Some of them would do anything for a price--even to the extent of committing treason.

Later, the Republic became entangled in foreign alliances, supposedly for the purpose of defending the civilized world. But the real reason was to satisfy the greedy ambitions of the corrupt politicians and merchants.

Soon the alliances resulted in wars, and of course the wars brought taxes. However, the good citizens didn't complain, because the wars also brought additional trade and industry. The citizens of the Republic began enjoying their new prosperity and did not mind the taxation--at first. The politicians said that the tax would only be collected from the rich, and the foolish people believed them.

But now the citizens began to think about security. They wanted public auditoriums for sporting events, paid for by tax money. They wanted bigger and better roads and they soon began to develop a vast network of roads and highways all across their land. They wanted pensions, and they wanted the government to support them whenever they were unemployed.

Those in the cities were not the only ones looking for a government handout. Soon the farmers began to demand their share. They appealed to the Senators for subsidies and price supports, which they were granted. After all, the Senators knew that they must give the people what they wanted if they expected to get re-elected. So the government began buying up the farmers' surplus crops which were stored and left to rot in warehouses. And, of course, the big industrialists demanded benefits in the form of tax breaks.

So it was only a matter of time before the new government became the all-powerful State.

The greatest asset of the Republic was that group of people commonly referred to as the middle class. They were farmers, shopkeepers, small business men and the like. The politicians knew that the government could not become all-powerful without first being able to control the middle class. So the government began giving out welfare, supporting over three hundred thousand people. They subsidized housing and established wage and price controls.

It must be remembered that in the early days of the Republic's greatness, its middle class citizens regarded themselves as their own chief sources of income and livelihood. When the government began its big giveaway program and started building its welfare rolls, there were, no doubt, many good patriotic citizens who were opposed to such a program. However, as is the case in any welfare state, when the government gives away that for which man has always had to work, it soon destroys the incentive of the working man. So, in a short time, many of those same patriotic citizens, who at first objected, now began to drink at the public trough, believing that if they didn't take it, then someone else surely would. Many of the respectable middle class became just like the mobs, lazy, shiftless, and self-seeking. Never satisfied--the more they got, the more they wanted.

The mobs began to protest and make demands, never realizing, or caring, that they were becoming more and more dependent on their government for their very livelihood, and in so doing were losing more and more of their rights and freedoms. It goes without saying that the more freedom they gave up, the more power the government acquired.

Still the mobs demanded more, and the government, becoming more powerful and corrupt all the time, gave them what they wanted. The government built new sports arenas, and subsidized more housing, building new housing projects in

the city for the "low income groups," and even giving them swimming pools! The welfare continued and increased.

Before long, the housing projects turned into slums with the swimming pools filled with garbage. Yet the Senators continued to meet the never-ending demands for more and more government assistance.

Meanwhile, what was left of the middle class, the backbone of the nation, was fighting a losing battle. With inflation running rampant, they couldn't afford to have children. They were unable to keep up with their taxes, which were steadily climbing toward an unbelievable 100%, and there were no longer decent schools for the children. They began to lose their homes, which became slums when the mobs took them over. There was no longer any such thing as morality among most of the people. Sex became the main preoccupation of the majority, and crime was at all time high. It was unsafe to venture out into the streets of the cities after dark. The middle class was all but abolished.

The ruler of the Republic, a crippled and evil old man, led the nation into foreign war. The government became entangled in all kinds of foreign matters and foreign financial aid. It was no longer popular to be considered patriotic. Now patriots were scorned and made fun of.

There was an old general who, having been belittled by his government, begged his country to remember her past and to turn back to God; to return to the principles of her founding fathers; to return to honor and decent government. But the people ignored him and considered him, like other patriots, an extremist. Even one of the Senators dared to be different and stand up for what was right. He addressed the Senate and beseeched them to put a stop to the foreign subversive influences in the Republic. He called for a halt in the spending of the people's money on foreign aid. But he, like the old general, was despised and ridiculed.

The Republic became a member of a group, or league, of many world nations. Most of these nations hated her and naturally took advantage of her. But in spite of this, the government of the Republic continued to send wheat and other commodities to those other nations, all at the ever increasing expense of the taxpayers.

The Republic continued to deteriorate, the government becoming viler and more corrupt all the time. She was the victim of mass corruption, exorbitantly high taxes, a huge bureaucracy, and burdensome regulations. Foreigners began to acquire control over the supposed rulers. The people who controlled the government were no longer dedicated to the Republic, but began serving foreign interests.

How did these traitors in government get so much control that they could sell out

the nation and her people? Who gave them such total and unlimited powers? The people themselves did it when they gave up their individualism for a free handout.

The Republic began to die. Actually, she was no longer a Republic in the true sense of the word, although she was still sometimes called one.

Now, have you been wondering about the name of this famous Republic?

The Republic that you have been reading about was *Ancient Rome!*

You know what happened to Rome. She was finally invaded and destroyed by barbarians. Rome not only betrayed her own people, but the entire civilized world as well. The cultures of thousands of years were destroyed with her, leaving only bits and pieces of great literature, law, art, and culture to be handed down to us.

One important thing did survive, and for that we can thank the early Christians. The twelve tables of Common Roman Law survived the destruction of Rome, and they formed the basis of English Common Law, and later the American Constitution. Every time we allow the President, or Congress, or the Supreme Court to subvert our Constitution, we come just that much closer to the total destruction of our Republic.

We are nearly two thousand years down the road from the fall of Rome. Yet never in the history of man, either before or after the great Roman Empire, have any two nations resembled each other so closely in so many astounding ways; not only in a fantastic rise in civilization, splendor, and wealth, but in the amazingly parallel facts of history.

How long will America continue to follow Rome's history? To destruction?

Perhaps, if sincere, honest men will leave their plow to serve their country, as did the ancient Roman Cincinnatus; if our generals will call for a return to honor and principles, as did Mark Antony; if our Senators will demand a stop to foreign subversion in our government, as did Cicero, the great Roman Senator, instead of giving control of our country to evil and wicked men as did Rome's Emperor Caligula; and if our people will turn back to God and the Christian principles upon which our country was founded and which made her great, then we just might still have a chance.

Until then, We the People have no one to blame but ourselves. There are too many who are afraid to be known as Patriots, or even more importantly, as Christian Patriots. Too many Americans still refuse to consider and recognize the Communist influence that controls most of our government leaders, our news media, and even the pulpits of most of our churches.

So the choice is ours-CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC-- will we turn back to God and Christian principles for our nation? Or will we leave our children the heritage of Ancient Rome?

*Adapted from an article entitled "Honoriam"  
written by Taylor Caldwell in 1957*