

The Conservative Mind:

A New Model for Government

Other Books By This Author

Take Counsel, Universal Publishers, Parkland, Florida, 2000.

A Lawyer Prays God's Will for His Clients, Universal Publishers, Boca Raton, Florida, 2000.

The Saga of Joe Monk, "The Greatest Golfer of Olive Chapel," Universal Publishers, Boca Raton, Florida, 2000.

North Carolina Automobile Insurance Law, The Harrison Company Publishers, Norcross, Georgia, First Edition, 1988.

Snyder North Carolina Corporation Law And Practice Forms, The Harrison Company, Publishers, Norcross, Georgia, First Edition, 1990

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Snyder North Carolina Corporation Law and Practice, The Harrison Company Publishers, Suwanee, Georgia, Third Edition, 1999.

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The Conservative Mind

A New Model for Government

Jim Snyder

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DEDICATION

To our grandchildren: Maggie, Olivia, Will, Kevin and Ty.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A person's political philosophy is germinated by his earliest childhood experiences. God, family and church activities, in a seminal fashion, forge one's ultimate political tendencies. With Conservative Republican grandparents and parents, all trained in the Baptist tradition, probably the die was cast at an early age. I am grateful to all of these and in particular to my mother and father because, in our home, politics was a matter of regular concern. Throughout my years of elementary, secondary, university and law school education, I somewhat was aware, but now profoundly am aware, of the quality of instruction received. During formative years of the practice of law, the coterie of attorneys and judges with whom I exchanged ideas and barbs were "professors" of the highest quality. I profoundly thank all of these individuals.

During my recent U.S. Senate campaign, I was accompanied by a formative "political consultant" who, with a pointed finger in the side of her candidate husband, made certain that expediency did not win over philosophy. She proved a more able campaigner than I, and her philosophy is based on the standard of wifely conservative common sense that is unassailable. It was again my wife, Sandra, who has been patient as her husband turns again to writing. Our daughters and their husbands have been an inspiration and confirm the adage, "Rear them up in the way that they should go, and they shall not depart from it." I especially acknowledge their love and affection.

No attorney or writer has a better staff than I. Cindy Venable has transcribed with great professionalism and patience these words; and, the remainder of my staff, both permanent and support, Erin Younts, Chasity Clodfelter, Iris Hyatt and Charlotte Cook have effected the many measures to allow a lawyer to be a writer as well. I thank all of these fine individuals.

Finally, I acknowledge my debt to the Almighty for so markedly having blessed this one individual with special environments of hearth and home, and educational systems patently American and providentially and effectively phlegmatic and a church which has been warm and constructive as to the Torah and Christian admonitions to live with love and obedience. (JES Lexington, NC)

James E. Snyder

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PROLOGUE

It was the privilege of this writer to have been engaged in a recent U.S. Senate race. “Along the campaign trail” was delivered a basic conservative message which included a “liberal” expiation of the words of our founding fathers; bucolic, albeit instructive, historical events; a conservative’s approach to current issues; and, some perceived flacid vision for America.

Those who attend grass roots Republican political events in a southern state, and probably in most states, are dedicated, felicitous and concerned citizens. It was serendipitous to become aware of the depth of commitment of these Americans. Only several are ideologs. Most simply are Americans concerned about liberty.

Since there really is not much new under the sun, it was interesting to note the manner in which the listener and the speaker enjoyed respectively receiving and delivering information about our great nation. By their countenance and by their enthusiasm it was demonstrated that for some time their appetites for efficacious patriotic rhetoric had not been assuaged.

It occurred that some of these individuals and possibly others might be interested in a more expanded and written explanation of the conservative mind thought process. It, however, was determined by the author that this book would not be written; instead, in fact, it was dictated as a stream of consciousness over a two day period.

We conservatives believe that we are utterly rational; that we weigh all of the lessons of the past and by a process of syllogistic reasoning blithely arrive at the only conclusions sustainable. We rightly or wrongly, probably rightly, suspect that those few true perfidious liberals among us give no thought to the past and its lessons but place full faith and hope in the modernist, non-theistic, rationalist, humanist processes which serve to advance solely the cause of egalitarianism. And, there just might exist a quintessential bumptious liberal or two who, without apostacy, would desire to know more about why and how we think as we think; in what manner we reason to be reasonable; and why we place uncommon adherence in the conclusions which we reach.

Contents

It is the desire of one conservative that this book augment and sustain the conservative posture of the reader and enlighten and impugn, if that is possible, the minds of recondite doubters.

THE CONSERVATIVE PETITION

On Powers of the State, And, Powers of the People

Let us revere the spilled blood of our fathers, whose prayer, “In God we Trust”, has been emblazoned on our nation’s portals and forged within our national soul.

Let our people embrace America’s sovereignty and, as well, the sacred right of each state to claim and secure in full manner all powers reserved.

Let each citizen be awakened and reflect upon the purity of federalism, in its constitutional and representative form, which has embellished the nascent dreams of our founders, who proclaimed that it is “we the people,” from every hamlet and commonwealth, in whom all power is constituted.

Let all children of democracy remain enlightened but be forewarned, lest indolence and avarice obscure the Divine righteousness of our birthright, whose destiny, provided we fail not, is foreordained and manifest.

JES

BOOK I

THE CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO

CHAPTER 1

CONNECTIONS WITH THE PAST: THE CONSERVATIVE SOUL

The early light of dawn made visible the narrow pathway from the old house to the barn. He was living in the second year of his ninth decade, and it would be his last. I was the youngest of his twenty grandchildren. He was born two years after Mr. Lincoln left this earth, he, a child of the War Between the States. His last son, my father, was born late in his life in the room from which I observed. As I stood there gazing at him walk the old dirt path to milk in the cool morning, my young heart was absorbing his conservative values. At age ninety two, he was walking to work, at dawn.

Fifty feet to my right was the Old Colonial Highway from Salisbury to Salem in northern Carolina. A passerby on that road on May thirty-first of 1791 was George Washington. He was engaged in his southern tour. It was only fitting that my grandfather's father would be his namesake.

Not apparent to me then was that my grandfather's great-great-great grandfather, Frederick Woodrich Fritz, and my grandmother's great-great-great grandfather, Valentin Leonhardt, had joined with General Green to fight with General Washington for a birthing nation at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in an adjoining county. After the battle, and within two days, both had been assassinated by the Tories. The cost of liberty is high.

Unknown to me then, as I watched him walk the old path, was that his father had gone to war in 1861 with his four brothers. But one of those five brothers returned, his father, George Washington Snider. The cost of liberty is high.

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It readily is apparent that you and I are connected with a past. The diffident young boy who stood in the second floor of his grandfather's house witnessing some of his grandfather's last footsteps blessedly is connected through that man with the great generation which birthed our nation. My grandfather's grandfather lived when Adams and Jefferson lived and his father fought with General Lee for causes and reasons which he little understood, but out of a sense of duty, as did fight the brave Union soldiers. In like manner all of us are connected by parents and grandparents with the brave formative generations of our nation.

These grandparents, great grandparents, ancestors and progenitors of ours, without compunction, labored for every morsel; birthed many children and lost some of those; and, by the sweat of their brows and the faith of their hearts they established an assiduously conservative philosophy which has molded and shaped our free nation.

We in America did not achieve preeminence on this globe by sitting at home watching soaps. We immutably are the most productive and free of all nations in history because we have been and remain the most assiduous, the most laborious and the most faithful of God's children. The question is begged, can and will our diligence and circumspection continue, or will we trod the paths of the multitudes of less faithful and fail. The vacuous paths to the welfare state, the execrated paths of dependence, adherence and obsequiousness to government protectionism are fraught with pernicious destruction.

The idea of liberalism in the early years of our nation and through and continuing until the first quarter of the twentieth century applied to some awareness and the appreciation of freedoms. At some period between the end of the Industrial Revolution and the beginning of the Computer Revolution, the connotation of the term, and in some circles the meretricious denotation of it, became twisted and abstrucely characteristic of dependence on others without adequate labor for one's self. It has become associated with lack of military preparedness, and an irresponsible and pusillanimous view of national affairs, which assumes the existence of no evil and no threat to our constitutional freedoms: and, it mendaciously has nested and found seemingly a permanent home in the motives and even the souls of many of our citizens.

We must look backward and "think backward" if we are to regain the elan which birthed and sustained this great nation from its

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inception and through its formative years. Conservatives, when we are concerned about the future, reactively look to the past. In so doing, interestingly, we are criticized as repressive, and we are called anachronistic, even superannuated. We are labeled as non-progressive ideologs who would deny the advancement of the new abstruse liberal society. We are admonished to enter the twenty-first century and work less, risk less, play more, and spend more. We are chastised to accept and take up the mantra of the children of the Grateful Dead of the 1960's and other dilatants and sever our strong ties with our bold and disciplined progenitors and ancestors on their walk, not in the freedoms envisioned by Adams, but in their arcane "free world", seeking a handout today and a pension tomorrow earned by the sweat of someone else's brow.

When we conservatives are concerned for the future we look to the past, even to one of the greatest of the "great generation" and their leaders. The rakish response of the generation of the 1930's with their newly discovered jazz, automobiles, college campuses and movies-the first generation off the farm-was fascil and profound. And, the responses of their most salient leaders, Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt, were dramatic.

One wonders how the beatnick generation would have responded, were they on a tiny island in the North Atlantic as the metaled fury of the redoubtable and invidious Third Reich prepared to invade. In what manner would they have responded as a people? Would we have shown the fortitude and pugnaciousness of the British?

America was ambivalent. Russia had signed her non-agression pact with the Reich. But what did Sir Winston do? Immediately following Dunkirk, he stood before his Cabinet and historically extolled those men, all of whom were born in the last century, that, "We must brace ourselves to our duties, we must bear ourselves, should the empire last a thousand years, men will say this was our finest hour!"

And the very next day the truculent Mr. Churchill strode before the House of Commons and rendered what some say was his greatest speech. He leaned recumbently over the podium at such distance that even Herr Hitler could hear his majestic words; and, he prophetized, " We will fight them to end, we will fight them in France, we will fight them on the oceans and the seas, we will fight them in the skies; we will fight them on the beaches, we will fight them on the landing grounds, we will fight them in the mountains

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and in the hills-we shall never, never give up! But, if it should occur, and I do not think for a moment that it shall, that this tiny island, or even a portion of it, should be subjugated and starving, then the Commonwealth, supported by the fleet, will continue the struggle until in God's good time the new world comes to the liberation and the rescue of the old."

One must wonder how then did the solicitous Prime Minister know that the new world would respond. He had studied his history, his American history. He was aware that there lived across the waters a generation of Americans who had been reared by the sons and daughters of the American farmer. He knew that the brave men and women of America, both North and South, would respond to a call to do what they believed to be right, though it would require four out of five sons in one family. He knew that an introspective leader of the parents of a generation of Americans, on whom would rest the future of the freedom of the world, had stood at a battleground at Gettysburg in 1863 and humbly and mournfully decreed, "Fourscore and seven years ago our forefathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground, the brave men living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far beyond our poor ability to add or detract...that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that they shall not have died in vain, that this nation shall receive a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall never perish from the earth."

Abraham Lincoln stood perforce like as a stanchion of persistence and perseverance, some believe divinely inspired, to agglutinate a nation for the purpose of some day augmenting and amalgamating the great powers of the world against an evil so vast and diabolical, an evil which would cause the deaths of 50 million people during a century of so called enlightenment, a time and a war which would be so devastating that genocide would be the dreaded plague and the curse of a generation. The great Lincoln may have known, and certainly Almighty God had presaged, that America must be free and strong for all time, else, this world would be a caldron of self interest and depravity.

But how did Mr. Lincoln know, who had prepared him for his challenge, and why was he prepared and suited and chosen perfectly,

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by the wisdom of the American people, to be the right person at the right time under all the wrong circumstances to bridge the founding pillars of our nation, to prepare a generation for the greatest challenge the world has ever known? For answers to these questions we must trace back four score and seven years prior to Mr. Lincoln's battlefield homily to a sultry, warm night in Philadelphia.

An hubristic Virginian, well selected and the chief of his committee of representatives of the various states, with perfect comportment was poised in his residence. It was he who would inscribe the certificate of birth of a nation. And, as his quill pen paused motionless before touching parchment, one could imagine Mr. Jefferson's thoughts. On his tall shoulders would rest the dreams and aspirations of millions of Americans and of millions of free persons throughout the world for some indefinite period of time. By his hand, by his mind and by some inspiration would be achieved the essence of the spirit of a young nation. It was he who was to be the progenitor and author of liberty. And, as his quill hovered over parchment, one might have seen a divine spark leap from pen to page and the white light of vociferous liberty filling that room, exploding through its open windows then drifting on the clouds of a young nation to be disbursed around our globe to extinguish the opaqueness of enslaved peoples. And, when the light dispelled, the planter of Virginia had completed his task; he had produced the words which we all hold so dear, "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." But, he did not stop there. He knew that he must remind the world of one final thought. "To secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, securing their just powers from the consent of the governed." "Just powers from the consent of the governed"-let no world despot forget these words!

After a speech at the Duke University School of Law, a student vituperatively asked, "Why is it that you conservatives always talk about freedom and liberty?" My answer was inadequate but tertiary nonetheless, "Because we choose to." We choose to be aware of our history, of our heritage, and of our duty. We choose to understand that there is a price to be paid, usually in terms of work and sacrifice, to sustain what our forefathers so dearly have contributed.

So much for the past, and let her always be a part of our inimitable future.

CHAPTER 2

CONNECTIONS WITH THE FUTURE: THE CONSERVATIVE SPIRIT

During the Summer of 2001 there existed no threat to America. After all, we had defeated the iniquitous forces of evil during the great wars of the twentieth century. We had faced down the Soviet threat and stood as a colossus astride the globe. It was a time of American hegemony with resulting pax Americana. We controlled our past; we would control our present; and, we would control our future. There existed no threat.

Our ambivalence could be seen in the faces of Americans. We were riding the economic tidal wave of the 1990's. Markets abounded in the Far East, in Eastern Europe, and in Russia. The good peoples of "our" Southern Hemisphere sanguinely would produce our goods. We would collect our profits. It was a time hedonistically to eat and drink.

As I was privileged to make speeches during that summer, speeches of a patriotic tone, the reception was polite but not enthusiastic. Patriotic words were of Washington, Lincoln and Reagan, but the time for flag waving had ended. Most believed that the land of the free was secure and that all nations were in rapprochement. Unfortunately, our thoughts were not portentous.

The first tower evaporated as a grayish nebula. Thankfully it did not lean; it simply collapsed.

The insurgent bullet which interdicted this giant was made by a great economy. It was fueled by kerosene from the Middle East. Passengers in that projectile, good hard working Americans, intrepidly rode the missile unaware of its target and unaware of their

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power to change its course. Those Americans were like many Americans, all trusting and non-combative.

The Boeing rocket disappeared in a tragic instant; and, our nation was paralyzed in disbelief by its geodesic flight into eternity.

The world watched. The gray ashes, symbolizing American economic power, exploded downward and then upward in black smoke which, like Mr. Jefferson's declaration, rode the upward breezes over the harbor and around our globe, sending a message that again freedom bears a price and that we own our destiny to the grace of God Almighty, the faith of our fathers and our own resilience.

Conservatives understand that there is nothing new under the sun, that there are cycles to political and economic affairs. The northern and southern economic successes of the 1850's lead to the conflagration of the 1860's, as were the successes of the 1890's slowed by the events of the 1900's. The Charlestonian dances of the 1920's ended with the crash of the 1930's and the clashes of the 1940's. The virtue and the virility of the 1950's led to the instability of the 1960's and the sacrifice of a generation in Southeast Asia. And the unstoppable markets of the 1990's were stoppable after all.

Our security agencies disparately were prosaic and incredulous to purported indications of infiltration of our shores by those who would do us harm. Like children who are disinclined to connect the dots in primary school, we all lacked suspiciousness sufficient to posit that one misanthropic terrorist in one cockpit could fly one plane and destroy a city. Prosperity seems to attend tragedy. There is nothing new. Will we ever learn? We must learn that until the Bible is rewritten, evil is an ubiquitous anathema and always will exist; that he who is unaware of this maxim continuously and perversely will be astonished; and that those nations which perfidiously lack constant forces and leadership are subject to destruction.

Barry Goldwater was castigated for observing that, "Conservatism is the struggle for the soul of America." He might have added that conservatism has been the struggle for the very survival of America. In every town there is an historian or, often times more aptly termed, a prophet, if we will listen for him.

As a boy I noticed that my father considered himself to be a "conservative Republican." I wondered then why he cared enough to label himself. Today I know. In the 1950's there was a small group of leaders in our community, less than thirty, who met monthly, attended conventions and effected some involvement in government

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on a local level. It is reported that less than 5 percent of our population actively are involved in political processes as party workers or as contributors. It is known that the average percentage of voters in any one election is less than 40 percent. Less than 5 percent of our peoples are the foundation for adjuring less than 40 percent of our peoples to vote. We, therefore, must conclude that our country is being guided and controlled in essence by a small fraction of our populous. Should we care?

Certainly some few intuited individuals care and must wonder why so many do not. Why are only a fraction of us concerned enough to dedicate time and gold to the political process, a process which has led to the open, free and productive society which we all enjoy? Could it be that these few simply are worried? Could it be that these few have studied history and are aware of the altruisms which, from the pages of the Holy Book and even from our history books, didactically warn of errors. The law is a body of cases and statutes, one staked upon the other, the zenith being the latest edict of the justice who has considered all the mistakes and successes of the past. In like manner, our body of history is like a silver New York tower, grandiloquently founded and neatly constructed, with the most lofty view at the top where ethereal breezes stir. Our law, our history and our society, no less than a Trade Tower, improvidently can collapse in gray smoldering dust and in an instant.

We fellow citizens all have been ambivalent. Were it not for some great leaders of our nation, both Republican and Democratic, most of whom had conservative leanings, our society might be ashes today. I recall the Cuban Missile Crisis of October of 1962, as a seventeen year old, "slightly" following the news to the south of our border. Would there be war, and would it be atomic? General Curtis Lamay advised the President for a preemptive strike. A young thirty five year old Attorney General cautioned his brother to wait. A young war hero from Massachusetts, because of his understanding of history and his wisdom not to underestimate his enemy, made the right conservative decision. Invasion or preemptive strike of Cuba likely would have led to eviscerative nuclear holocaust. Leadership requires circumspection.

Our world has been on the brink of destruction more times than we would know. None of us are safe. We must not withhold any effort, deny any expenditure or shrink from any sacrifice to ensure that our children's children will enjoy a safe, free world. The question remains, "Are we willing to pay the price, are we willing to make any