



## Straight Talk

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## How to Destroy a Country

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

Countries aren't like tract houses, identical in all but color of paint and types of shrubbery, or in our analogy, color of skin and levels of amenities.

So how does a nation become "a people?" More importantly, what reverses the process?

Language and racial makeup, religion and form of government give nations unique identities. While those don't divide most Latin American nations, they remain different and distinct. The healthiest, most functional is Chile, yet it is next door to totally dysfunctional countries.

A culture is made up of a central philosophy based on religion and history. Those form the skeleton, the structural framework which supports everything else. The founders of our nation were solidly Christian, extremely hard working and dogged survivors.

They had seen the evils of monarchies, class systems and privilege. They refused to replicate them here but old habits died hard.

Slavery was accepted and practiced worldwide, more so in Africa than on other continents. Morally unforgivable, we fought a bloody war to outlaw it, while England simply outlawed it.

There is more to healthy nationhood. Respect for private property, regardless of individual status, is paramount. A law abiding citizenry, judiciary and government are equally important. No nation made up of robbers, thieves and claim jumpers can thrive.

Survival of the fittest becomes the law of the land. The man with the biggest, best-armed military inevitably seizes power.

Education, history and form of government are critical. Education of children was extremely important to early Americans, as was their constitution-based government. European confiscatory taxation was vehemently rejected.

So how can a determined minority reverse the dedicated work of centuries, changing a nation's character and identity? They absolutely must accomplish these goals:

- Emasculation of the educational system by teaching young people principles dear to those ambitious to change the culture to reflect their values, especially changes in social attitudes, rather than the traditional knowledge and skills necessary to remain an honorable,

independent, productive nation.

- Deprive students of knowledge of their own history.
- Persuade youth to reject tenets of their traditional religion, forcing them to accept destructive lifestyles and behavior patters offensive to their culture.
- Devaluation of human life.
- Negating the importance of the family as the basic unit of society.
- Make the common standard of living prohibitively expensive, forcing mothers out of the home and into the work force.
- Raise taxes so high the citizenry is deprived of the fruits of their labors, giving those fruits to someone else, or to some other entity, for which the worker has no affinity.
- Compromise judicial protection of private property rights, creating individual uncertainty and financial instability.
- Make government regulations, whether banking or civil, so onerous that normal life function, e.g. one's livelihood and quality of life, are impacted.
- Erect obstacles to trade, tariffs, quotas, licensing, etc., to the extent that free trade is abolished.
- Make an underground economy — a black market — become the only recourse the people have to escape crushing taxation and live sustainable lifestyle.
- Mandate wage and price levels.
- Make foreign investment unprofitable.
- Allow inflation to devastate the nation financially, depriving citizens of a functioning economy.
- Encourage profligate government spending, redefining it as virtuous.

In their respective geographical spheres, in response to past disastrous economic experiments, only Ireland and Chile have created strong, growing economies, dramatically cutting government spending, taxes, regulations, tariffs, shutting down abusive environmentalist groups, etc.

Courage and integrity. Wow! A new concept!

To our peril, half of America's elected representative seem stuck in economic reverse. Can good sense, honesty, courage and integrity be imported? Maybe Ireland and Chile could spare us a little.

