**American Empire: Grand Republic to Corporate State, Part 2**

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**Course Description:** Takes up where American Empire: Grand Republic to Corporate State, Part 1, leaves off: From the grandest hoax ever perpetrated on modern man, the Versailles Treaty to the modern American Corporate State. Focus will be on such developments as the McCormick-Dickstein Committee and the Business Plot; Military-Industrial Complex; the National Defense Act, 1947; George Kennan and Containment; monolithic finance capital; Lewis-Powell Memo, Manifesto of American Fascism; demise of the Soviet Union and the unilateral world of a single superpower; Democrats and Republicans as denominations of the single major party in America, the Corporate State; the marginalization of the Constitution and America as a failed political state; the militarization of American foreign policy; the erosion of the Middle Class; the Myth of American Beneficence. . . These and other factors will be explored and discussed for a better understanding of the American Empire.

**Course Syllabus:**

**Week 1: Empire of Reason**

America in the wake of the grandest hoax ever perpetrated on modern man, AKA, the Versailles Treaty: The fiction of Isolationism; the growing power of American Finance Capital and the German recovery; growing American-Japanese friction in the Pacific; continued American imperialism in Latin America; the Great Depression; the McCormick-Dickstein Committee and the American Putsch.

**Week 2: New Deal**

Effort by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration to salvage the Grand Republic, post-Great Depression. Growth of the Left. The alphabet soup of programs designed to lift the country from its economic doldrums. Socialists and Communists; backlash from America’s Royalty. NRA as a blueprint for the Corporate Socialist State.

**Week 3: Myth of Beneficence**

Such efforts as the Marshall Plan were not enacted solely for the reasons of forbearance and compassion. For by the end of World War II, America was the world’s industrial monolith. The domestic market alone would not be able to absorb the production of goods necessary to establish global economic primacy. The world have to be fashioned into an economic sponge upon which the postwar American domestic economy would prosper.

**Week 4: Military-Industrial Complex**

Traces the rise and evolution of this veritable institution—from World War I, World War II into the 21st century. A monolithic institution set to preserve the Grand Republic has been transformed into an instrument for its demise will be discussed.

**Week 5: NSA 1947**

The National Defense Act of 1947 saw to the transformation of the American military. The Army Air Forces was divorced from its parent service to become a stand-alone armed force for airpower. Besides the three major services, each would have a civilian Secretary responsible for each service in addition to a Chief of Staff who would represent his service to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, including the Marine Corps. The CIA would be promulgated; plus, the National Security Council, designed to advise the president on security matters. It has been alleged that this military structure, together with industry, has become a shadow government. This will be discussed.

**Week 6: Containment**

The doctrine of the renowned Sovietologist and foreign policy guru, George Kennan. Based on the Long Telegram of 1946 and his Mr. X article, which appeared in *Foreign Affairs* in 1947, Containment was that strategy by which America would face down the Soviet competitor whenever and wherever it posed a challenge. Mr. Kennan viewed the Russian contender on the playing field of global politics; and, saw such tools as America’s economic advantage, more attractive political alternative and “psychological warfare” (overt propaganda and covert operations) as the proper strategy to rein in the Russian Bear. Of course, for this to be successful Americans could no longer find solace in that self-imposed incarceration known as Isolationism, as in 1815, 1865 and 1919.

**Week 7: The Lewis Powell Memo: Manifesto of American Fascism**

The tumultuous 1960s saw Americans calling into question the Nation’s standing both at home and abroad: Domestic backlash to the dreadful tediousness of Vietnam; the Civil Rights struggle; the young generation’s questioning of the Free Market system. . . Lewis Powell drafted a memorandum to Eugene B. Sydnor, Jr., Chairman, Education Committee, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; a missive that would galvanize America’s Royalty into a “counterrevolution” designed to ensure its position of privilege in an America facing challenges both at home and abroad.

**Week 8: We the People in America? We the State in Amerika?**

A distillation of the preceding seven week analysis of the evolution of this unique experiment known as the United States, since Versailles . . . featuring the ascendant rise of corporate power; Joe McCarthy; consolidation of the media; marginalization of the Middle Class and eroding of the New Deal; rising power of the privileged; comparisons to Ancient Rome are in order, as the Grand Republic makes the transition to Corporate State, as the ideas of the Age of Reason/Enlightenment slide into irrelevance?