

senting the constructive side of the picture. Or, if you will, the solutions to the problems we face. Unless we do this, then as bearers of bad news only, we are contributing little to building the necessary resistance in time.

Against Overwhelming Odds

An even better reason to persevere is that with dedication and sound leadership in pursuit of a just cause, we might just earn God's blessings and win. There is plenty of precedent for such a view. As Robert Welch wrote in the April 1969 *Bulletin*,

The pages of history are rich with the stories of men, and women, who have banded together against overwhelming odds, and who have, through persistence and unified efforts coupled with rock hard spiritual dedication and unwaning courage, conquered the impossible. Such was the epic of Moses and the Israelites, the feat of Xenophon and the Ten Thousand, the exploits of the first Crusaders, the heroism of Arnold von Winkelried and the Swiss patriots, the courage of George Washington and the Continental Army at Valley Forge, and today such is the undertaking of The John Birch Society.

Yet none of these victories could have happened if the men and women involved had taken the view that it was too late and abandoned the attempt.

In more modern times, we might also take note of the miraculous recovery that occurred in Chile following the 1973 coup that brought General Augusto Pinochet to power. The coup occurred when it was uncovered that the Communist government of Salvador Allende was mere days away from consolidating its tyrannical control by murdering the nation's non-Marxist military leadership. Since Allende enjoyed Insider backing, the coup itself was a miracle. Another miracle was that Pinochet could maintain power for 15 years, repudiate collectivist programs that had wrecked

the economy, and within three years lead his country to an unprecedented economic recovery — a model for Latin America — all in the face of hostility from United States Insiders.

William Sleeman and Thugee

The July 20, 1998 issue of *The New American* recounted an amazing but little-known example of an immensely powerful, incredibly evil conspiracy that was routed due to the leadership of one man. All concerned Americans should read, and gain inspiration from, this true story of William Henry Sleeman's remarkably successful war against Thugee in India during the 1820s and 1830s.

According to researcher Steve Bonta, the Thugs (meaning "deceivers" from the Hindi verb to deceive) were "a terrifyingly ruthless and efficient secret society of murderers whose depredations made roads in India unsafe for generations, yet whose very existence had gone unknown and unsuspected by most Indians and British alike for centuries.... It is now estimated that a few thousand Thugs, a tiny minority by Indian standards, accounted for thirty to forty thousand deaths per year in India, a truly appalling figure even for our time, let alone the early 19th century."

William Sleeman's campaign, like our challenge today, was no cakewalk. "Before he could tackle the Thugs themselves, he faced a stone wall of official indifference, disbelief, and outright opposition.... A major impediment to Sleeman's efforts was the sympathy and outright protection that Thugs often enjoyed from local political figures, especially in territories not under British jurisdiction." As Bonta pointed out, this story is "largely the tale of a single courageous, principled man, who literally gave his life to the cause of exposing and wiping out this extraordinarily successful secret society...."

Bonta concluded that "Sleeman's example illustrates the proper way to fight a conspiracy, namely, first gather evidence to educate the people, especially those wielding legal and political authority, and so expose it. Then, enlist the aid of good men and women to uproot and destroy the conspiratorial organization."

How Late Is It?

The previous discussion should amply demonstrate that it is no easy task to project what the future holds with absolute certainty. Many elusive factors come into play, most especially the intervention of the Almighty. Of course, we cannot expect God to do our work, but will He not smile on our dedicated efforts to defend our nation against a centuries-old satanic Conspiracy?

To the question, "How late is it?," we still like Robert Welch's answer in the April 1968 *Bulletin*:

Obviously it is very late indeed. But it is not yet *too late*. Nor will it be, as long as The John Birch Society is alive, and growing, and able to put up a fight which frightens the Communists into such massive efforts to destroy us. And *resolute-ness*, not *panic*, should determine our course.

If the Insiders could have sewn it up during the Nixon Administration, they would have done so. If they could safely complete the consolidation of their power today, they would do it. But they cannot. Which means we have time. The real issue is what we do with the time. The only realistic route to gain more time and forestall the loss of all we hold dear is to *help The John Birch Society grow much larger*. Only with increased numbers, organized as an activist body of informed patriots, can we hope to create sufficient understanding of the reality that our nation is beset by a Conspiracy. And only then will the steps needed to purge the Conspiracy's influence from our institutions be taken. That is the message which every individual Bircher needs to keep uppermost in mind, since the responsibility for bringing our friends, neighbors, and associates into this battle rests with each of us. ■

— Thomas G. Gow

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