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The US Can (and Must) Change Its Worldview!

All wars are civil wars, because all men are brothers.
—Francois Fenelon

This book has been written in an attempt to help Americans understand the culture in which they live and the worldview that informs our reality. It is written as a description of that worldview, and as a warning against retaining this worldview for the future.

Since gathering the data I have described in the preceding chapters, I have had the opportunity to present this information at numerous locations across the nation, ranging from academic conferences and university settings to religious institutions (churches, mosques, and synagogues), civic organizations, and the homes of my friends. Of the thousands of people who have seen my data and heard my thoughts, not a single objection has been made based on my data. To be sure, there have been assorted questions raised along the lines of whether
Missouri is indeed a “Red State,” how I define a war-related or peace-related monument or memorial, if the peacemakers really should be included within the US-approved history books, the importance of symbols, the impact of Mason Locke Weems, and the true nature of Christianity. But, to date, no one has ever challenged my data. This is because, I believe, nearly every person in my audiences, particularly Americans, knows from personal experience that my research rings true.

They know my data are accurate because they have seen this for themselves. They have seen, in their hometowns and travels across the nation and visits to Washington, DC the abundance of war-related monuments and memorials and dearth of peace-related monuments and memorials. They have studied the wars and warmakers in US history and know little of those who worked for peace. They understand the power of the US flag as a symbol and know of its omnipresence throughout the nation, and they see and understand, to some extent and after some explanation, the complex relationship between Christianity and US national power despite the fact that Jesus was a pacifist. Their thoughts are drawn to their place of worship, and they quietly confirm to themselves that an American flag is displaced within their sanctuaries. They understand the power of myths and legends and, once described to them, recognize the Myth of Redemptive Violence at work in the United States.

I have found my most sympathetic audience members to be members of the military. Many of them “get” what I am saying. I have presented this information in front of generals, admirals, colonels, majors, captains, sergeants, and privates, the vast majority of who understand and accept my overall argument while perhaps differing on minor points. It is wrong to assume that most military persons are hawks