

BE THE CHANGE OR BE THE SAME?

Why Skywalker Wasn't a Storm Trooper

The American youth of WWII have been called the greatest generation because they emerged triumphant—yet that same bright generation in Germany became utter failures. History cycles through generations and those who don't know the patterns are condemned to repeat them. In the coming crisis of our day, will you become the heroes who lead out or the followers who shrink back and become absorbed into the collective?

Benjamin Franklin said that "a nation of well-informed men [and women] who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins." Although there are hundreds of books I could list to help expand one's understanding in this area, I think the following selections make for a good start.

1. AMERICA & CAPITALISM

- *The Five Thousand Year Leap*, Skousen
- *The Law*, Bastiat
- *Arguing With Idiots*, Beck
- *Letters to a Young Conservative*, D'Souza
- *The Fourth Turning*, Strauss & Howe

2. TOTALITARIAN GOVERNMENT & WWII

- *Defeating the Totalitarian Lie: A Former Hitler Youth Warns America*, von Campe
- *Animal Farm*, Orwell
- *Red Scarf Girl*, Jiang
- *And There Was Light*, Lusseyran
- *The Hiding Place*, Ten Boom
- *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, Solzhenitsyn

3. DIPLOMACY AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

- *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, Covey
- *You are the Message*, Ailes
- *Leadership and Self-Deception*, Arbinger

Timely words to ponder as we get closer to the election in November:

We're at war with the most dangerous enemy that has ever faced mankind in his long climb from the swamp to the stars, and it's been said if we lose that war, and in so doing lose this way of freedom of ours, history will record with the greatest astonishment that those who had the most to lose did the least to prevent its happening. Well I think it's time we ask ourselves if we still know the freedoms that were intended for us by the Founding Fathers.

Not too long ago, two friends of mine were talking to a Cuban refugee, a businessman who had escaped from Castro, and in the midst of his story one of my friends turned to the other and said, "We don't know how lucky we are." And the Cuban stopped and said, "How lucky you are? I had someplace to escape to." And in that sentence he told us the entire story. If we lose freedom here, there's no place to escape to. This is the last stand on earth.

And this idea that government is beholden to the people, that it has no other source of power except the sovereign people, is still the newest and the most unique idea in all the long history of man's relation to man.

This is the issue of this election: Whether we believe in our capacity for self-government or whether we abandon the American revolution and confess that a little intellectual elite in a far-distant capitol can plan our lives for us better than we can plan them ourselves.

You and I are told increasingly we have to choose between a left or right. Well I'd like to suggest there is no such thing as a left or right. There's only an up or down—[up] man's old—old-aged dream, the ultimate in individual freedom consistent with law and order, or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism. And regardless of their sincerity, their humanitarian motives, those who would trade our freedom for security have embarked on this downward course.

. . . Winston Churchill said, "The destiny of man is not measured by material computations. When great forces are on the move in the world, we learn we're spirits—not animals." And he said, "There's something going on in time and space, and beyond time and space, which, whether we like it or not, spells duty."

You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. . .

Ronald Reagan
[*A Time for Choosing*](#)