

the secret history of american empire

The Secret History of American Empire

the secret history of american empire is a fascinating and often overlooked narrative that challenges the conventional story we learn in schools. While the United States is widely celebrated as a beacon of democracy and freedom, its rise to global dominance is deeply intertwined with strategies, covert operations, and policies that reveal a more complex and sometimes troubling legacy. Understanding this secret history sheds light on how America transformed from a fledgling republic into the most influential empire the world has ever seen.

Unveiling the Roots of American Imperialism

When we think about empires, images of European monarchs and colonial conquests often come to mind. However, the United States, founded on ideals of liberty and self-determination, also embarked on an imperial journey, albeit in a distinctly American way. This journey began in the 19th century, as the young nation expanded westward across the continent.

Manifest Destiny and Territorial Expansion

The idea of Manifest Destiny was central to early American imperialism. It was the belief that the United States was destined to expand its territory across North America, spreading democracy and civilization. This ideology justified the annexation of vast lands, often at the expense of Native American tribes and neighboring countries.

From the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 to the annexation of Texas and the Oregon Territory, America aggressively expanded its borders. The Mexican-American War (1846-1848) was a pivotal moment, resulting in the U.S. acquiring California, Arizona, New Mexico, and other southwestern territories. This expansion laid the groundwork for America's imperial mindset—territorial growth was not just about land but about power and influence.

The Emergence of Overseas Ambitions

By the late 19th century, America's gaze turned beyond its continental borders. The industrial revolution had transformed the economy, creating a need for new markets and resources. This period marked the beginning of American overseas imperialism, often hidden behind rhetoric of liberation and civilization.

The Spanish-American War and the Birth of an Overseas Empire

One of the most significant chapters in the secret history of American empire is the Spanish-American War of 1898. Although framed as a mission to free Cuba from Spanish rule, the conflict resulted in the U.S. acquiring territories like Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. This marked America's first major foray into colonialism and global power projection.

The annexation of the Philippines, in particular, sparked intense debate at home. Critics argued it betrayed American principles, while proponents saw it as a chance to compete with European powers. The brutal Philippine-American War that followed exposed the darker side of American imperialism—suppression, violence, and control.

Strategic Interests in the Pacific and Caribbean

Following these acquisitions, the U.S. strategically positioned itself in the Pacific and Caribbean. The construction of the Panama Canal was a monumental engineering feat but also a symbol of American dominance over global trade routes. The canal allowed the U.S. Navy to move swiftly between oceans, enhancing military reach.

In the Caribbean, the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine asserted America's right to intervene in Latin American countries to maintain stability—often justifying military interventions and support for regimes friendly to U.S. interests. This era highlighted how economic and military strategies were intertwined in expanding American influence.

Covert Operations and Cold War Dominance

The secret history of American empire takes an even more shadowy turn during the Cold War. As the U.S. and Soviet Union vied for global supremacy, covert operations became a key tool in shaping world affairs without direct confrontation.

The CIA and Secret Interventions

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), established in 1947, played a crucial role in covertly advancing American geopolitical interests. From orchestrating coups in Iran (1953) and Guatemala (1954) to supporting anti-communist movements worldwide, the CIA's actions often went unreported or were deliberately obscured.

These interventions were driven by the fear of communism spreading but often resulted in long-term instability and suffering for local populations. The U.S. supported authoritarian regimes when they aligned with American interests, revealing the pragmatic, sometimes ruthless nature of empire-building.

Military Bases and Global Presence

Another less visible aspect of the American empire is its sprawling network of military bases. Today, the U.S. maintains hundreds of bases across dozens of countries, serving as strategic hubs to project power globally. This military footprint is a clear indicator of America's imperial reach, allowing rapid deployment and influence in critical regions.

These bases also symbolize the ongoing tension between American security interests and the sovereignty of host nations. In many cases, local populations have protested the presence of foreign troops, highlighting the complexities and contradictions of empire.

Economic Tools of Empire: Corporations and Trade

Beyond military and territorial control, economic influence has been a cornerstone of the secret history of American empire. The intertwining of government policies and multinational corporations has shaped global markets and political landscapes.

The Role of Multinational Corporations

American corporations have played a pivotal role in extending the nation's influence abroad. Companies like Standard Oil, United Fruit, and later tech giants wielded enormous power, sometimes acting as unofficial agents of U.S. policy. Their investments and operations often influenced local economies and politics, reinforcing American dominance.

In regions like Latin America and Southeast Asia, corporate interests were closely aligned with government actions, including covert operations and military interventions. Understanding this economic dimension reveals how empire is not just about conquest but about control of resources and markets.

Trade Agreements and Economic Policies

Trade agreements and economic institutions created or influenced by the U.S., such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, have also been tools for maintaining global influence. By setting terms favorable to American interests, these institutions have shaped the economic policies of developing nations, sometimes at the cost of local autonomy.

This approach—often called “economic imperialism”—has sparked debates on globalization, sovereignty, and the true cost of American dominance in the modern era.

The Cultural Dimension: Soft Power and Ideology

Empire is not only about guns and money; it’s also about ideas and culture. The secret history of American empire includes the spread of American culture and ideology as a subtle yet powerful form of influence.

Hollywood, Media, and the American Dream

American films, television, music, and consumer culture have reached every corner of the globe, shaping perceptions and values. Hollywood, in particular, has been a soft power tool, promoting ideals of freedom, individualism, and prosperity that align with American interests.

This cultural export has created a global admiration for American lifestyles but has also been criticized for eroding local traditions and promoting consumerism. It’s a reminder that empire can be as much about hearts and minds as about territory.

Education and Ideological Influence

American universities, scholarships, and international aid programs have also played a role in spreading democratic ideals and capitalist values. While many of these efforts are genuine attempts to foster development, they also serve to create networks of influence and align future leaders with American perspectives.

This ideological aspect adds another layer to understanding how the American empire operates—through persuasion and cultural integration rather than overt domination alone.

Reflections on the Secret History of American

Empire

Exploring the secret history of American empire reveals a complex tapestry of ambition, ideology, and pragmatism. It challenges the neat narrative of America as a purely benevolent force and invites us to grapple with the contradictions inherent in its rise to power.

Recognizing this history is crucial for understanding contemporary global dynamics and the role the U.S. continues to play on the world stage. It also opens the door to critical conversations about power, responsibility, and the future of international relations.

Whether through territorial expansion, covert operations, economic leverage, or cultural influence, the American empire has shaped much of the modern world in ways both visible and hidden. By learning this secret history, we gain a fuller picture of the past and a deeper insight into the forces that continue to shape our global community.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Secret History of the American Empire' about?

It is a book by John Perkins that reveals the covert operations and economic strategies used by the United States to maintain global dominance through manipulation, economic control, and political influence.

Who is the author of 'The Secret History of the American Empire'?

The author is John Perkins, a former economic hit man who exposes the hidden mechanisms behind American imperialism.

What role did John Perkins claim to have in the American Empire?

John Perkins claims to have been an economic hit man who helped coerce developing countries into accepting large debts and economic policies favoring U.S. corporations and interests.

How does 'The Secret History of the American Empire' describe U.S. foreign policy?

The book describes U.S. foreign policy as often driven by covert economic and political manipulation rather than purely democratic or humanitarian motives.

What are 'economic hit men' according to the book?

Economic hit men are operatives who use economic incentives, debt, and influence to control and exploit other countries for the benefit of the American Empire.

Why is 'The Secret History of the American Empire' considered controversial?

It exposes unethical and secretive practices by the U.S. government and corporations, challenging mainstream narratives about American foreign policy and raising questions about imperialism.

What impact did 'The Secret History of the American Empire' have on public awareness?

The book raised awareness about covert economic manipulation and inspired discussions on the ethics of U.S. foreign policy and global economic practices.

Does 'The Secret History of the American Empire' discuss specific countries affected by U.S. policies?

Yes, the book discusses several countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa that were influenced or controlled through economic manipulation and political interference.

How does John Perkins suggest the American Empire can change?

He advocates for transparency, ethical economic policies, and a move away from exploitative practices toward cooperation and sustainable development.

Is 'The Secret History of the American Empire' based on personal experience or research?

The book is based on John Perkins' personal experiences as an economic hit man, combined with research into U.S. foreign policy and corporate practices.

Additional Resources

The Secret History of American Empire

the secret history of american empire reveals a complex narrative woven through centuries of political maneuvering, economic interests, military

interventions, and cultural influence. While traditional accounts often emphasize the ideals of democracy and freedom as central to the United States' rise on the global stage, a deeper investigation uncovers layers of covert operations, strategic alliances, and calculated expansions that have shaped the modern geopolitical landscape. This intricate story challenges conventional perceptions and invites a nuanced understanding of America's role as an empire.

Unveiling the Foundations of American Imperial Influence

The American empire, unlike classical empires characterized by direct territorial conquest and colonial rule, evolved through a series of strategic decisions that balanced overt power projection with subtle economic and ideological dominance. From the late 19th century onward, the United States transitioned from an isolated republic to a global hegemon, driven by industrial growth, technological innovation, and military modernization.

One pivotal moment in the secret history of American empire is the Spanish-American War of 1898, which marked the nation's first significant overseas territorial acquisition. Through this conflict, the U.S. gained control of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, signaling a shift toward imperial ambitions beyond the continent. These acquisitions were justified under the guise of "civilizing missions," but they also reflected strategic interests in expanding naval power and securing trade routes.

Economic Expansion and Corporate Influence

Economic considerations have consistently underpinned the secret history of American empire. The rise of multinational corporations and financial institutions in the 20th century facilitated the projection of U.S. influence abroad without direct political control. The establishment of mechanisms like the Bretton Woods system, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank exemplify how economic tools have served as instruments of empire.

American businesses, in collaboration with government agencies, often influenced foreign governments and markets to create favorable conditions for investment and resource extraction. This form of economic imperialism, sometimes referred to as "informal empire," extended U.S. reach through debt diplomacy, trade agreements, and covert support for regimes aligned with American interests.

Military Interventions and Covert Operations

Military power remains a cornerstone in understanding the secret history of American empire. Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, the United States has engaged in numerous military interventions, ranging from overt wars to clandestine operations orchestrated by intelligence agencies like the CIA.

The Cold War period, in particular, witnessed a surge in covert actions aimed at containing communism and safeguarding U.S. global supremacy. Examples include the 1953 Iranian coup d'état (Operation Ajax), the 1973 Chilean coup, and support for anti-communist forces in Central America. These interventions, often shrouded in secrecy, reveal how the U.S. leveraged military and intelligence capabilities to influence foreign political landscapes without formal declarations of war.

The Ideological Dimensions of American Empire

Beyond tangible assets and military might, the secret history of American empire involves the propagation of ideological frameworks that justify and perpetuate its dominance. Concepts such as Manifest Destiny, American exceptionalism, and the promotion of democracy have been utilized to rationalize expansionist policies.

During the Cold War, the battle of ideas was as crucial as armed confrontations. The export of American culture, political values, and economic models served as soft power tools to align other nations with U.S. interests. Hollywood, educational exchange programs, and global media played a significant role in shaping perceptions favorable to American leadership.

Contradictions and Critiques

The secret history of American empire is not without controversy. Critics argue that the pursuit of empire has often contradicted the nation's professed commitment to liberty and self-determination. The consequences of imperial policies have included human rights abuses, suppression of local autonomy, and long-term geopolitical instability.

Moreover, the costs of maintaining a global empire—militarily, economically, and morally—have sparked ongoing debates within the United States. The balance between security and overreach, interventionism and isolationism, continues to shape contemporary discourse on America's place in the world.

Legacy and Modern Implications

Understanding the secret history of American empire sheds light on contemporary geopolitical dynamics. The United States retains an extensive network of military bases worldwide, exerts significant influence over

international institutions, and remains a key player in global economic systems.

As emerging powers challenge the existing order, the historical patterns of American expansion and control offer valuable insights into potential future trajectories. The lessons embedded in this history emphasize the complexity of empire-building and the interplay between overt power and subtle influence.

- **Territorial acquisitions:** Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam
- **Economic institutions:** IMF, World Bank, Bretton Woods system
- **Covert operations:** Iranian coup, Chilean coup, Central American interventions
- **Soft power tools:** Cultural exports, media influence, educational programs

The secret history of american empire thus invites a comprehensive reassessment of the nation's global role, challenging simplistic narratives and encouraging a more critical, informed perspective on power, influence, and international relations.

[The Secret History Of American Empire](#)

the secret history of american empire: The Secret History of the American Empire John Perkins, 2007 In this riveting memoir, bestselling author Perkins details his former role as an economic hit man. This stunning, behind-the-scenes expos reveals a conspiracy of corruption that has fueled instability and anti-Americanism around the globe.

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the secret history of american empire: Imperialism and Expansionism in American History Chris J. Magoc, David Bernstein, 2015-12-14 This four-volume encyclopedia chronicles the historical roots of the United States' current military dominance, documenting its growth from continental expansionism to hemispheric hegemony to global empire. This groundbreaking four-volume encyclopedia offers sweeping coverage of a subject central to American history and of urgent importance today as the nation wrestles with a global imperial posture and the long-term viability of the largest military establishment in human history. The work features more than 650 entries encompassing the full scope of American expansionism and imperialism from the colonial era through the 21st-century War on Terror. Readers will learn about U.S.-Native American conflicts; 19th-century land laws; early forays overseas, for example, the opening of Japan; and America's imperial conflicts in Cuba and the Philippines. U.S. interests in Latin America are explored, as are

the often-forgotten ambitions that lay behind the nation's involvement in the World Wars. The work also offers extensive coverage of the Cold War and today's ongoing conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and the Middle East as they relate to U.S. national interests. Notable individuals, including American statesmen, military commanders, influential public figures, and anti-imperialists are covered as well. The inclusion of cultural elements of American expansionism and imperialism—for example, Hollywood films and protest music—helps distinguish this set from other more limited works.

the secret history of american empire: The Secret History of America Manly P. Hall, 2019-05-07 A compilation of rare works on the untold history and destiny of America by acclaimed occult writer Manly P. Hall. Writer and scholar Manly P. Hall (1901-1990) is one of the most significant names in the study of the esoteric, symbolic, and occult. His legendary book *The Secret Teachings of All Ages* has been an underground classic since its publication in 1928. *The Secret History of America* expands on that legacy, offering a collection of Hall's works—from books and journals to transcriptions of his lectures—all relating to the hidden past and unfolding future of our nation. Hall believed that America was gifted with a unique purpose to explore and share principles of personal freedom, self-governance, and independent thought. PEN Award-winning historian, Mitch Horowitz has curated a powerful collection of Hall's most influential and insightful works that capture and explore these ideas. Never before collected in one volume, the material in *The Secret History of America* explores the rich destiny, unseen history, and hidden meaning of America.

the secret history of american empire: *LIBERAL FASCISM: the Secret History of American Nazism exposed by Dr. Rex Curry* Dead Writers Club, Micky Barnetti, Pointer Institute, Matt Crypto, 2015-07-31 The Pledge of Allegiance was the origin of the Nazi salute and Nazi behavior. Under Germany's Nazis, the swastika symbol was crossed S letters for SOCIALIST (for the National Socialist German Workers Party). Those are only two of the amazing discoveries in this blockbuster that have been left out of similar books on this topic. This blood drenched book offers eye-popping new analysis of the origins of fascism and explores the discoveries of the historian Dr. Rex Curry. Replacing conveniently manufactured myths with surprising research, the author Micky Barnetti reminds us of the history of robotic chanting en masse and on cue, accompanied by violence for anyone who refused to submit. Discover the secret of how the military salute was the origin of the fascist salute. Study the Wholecaust (of which the Holocaust was a part). Learn how the word Fascist is related to the word faggot. Calling someone a fascist is the fastest way to shut someone up, defining their views as beyond the pale. But who are the real fascists in our midst? According to the author Micky Barnetti, the pledge remains the first fascist bullying that begins each day in government schools (fascist schools) in Police State USA. The quintessential Liberal Fascist isn't an SS storm trooper; it is a public school teacher brainwashing children every day for 12 years of their lives. These revelations may sound odd to modern ears, but that is because we have forgotten what fascism is. In this smart, contentious book, Barnetti turns our preconceptions upside down and shows us the unvarnished meaning of Liberal Fascism. Find out why, if the truth were taught about the Pledge of Allegiance, then everyone (other than fascist kooks) would refuse to perform Francis Bellamy's quotidian mechanical ritual. The fascist salute was performed by public officials in the USA from 1892 through 1942. What happened to the photographs and films of the American fascist salute performed by federal, state, county, and local officials? Those photos and films are rare because people don't want to know the truth. Public officials in the USA who preceded the Adolf Hitler and the Benito Mussolini were sources for the stiff-armed salute (and robotic chanting) in those countries and other foreign countries. Explore how the ancient Roman salute myth originated from the city of Rome in the state of New York (not Italy), Francis Bellamy's hometown. Learn about Mussolini's strange gift to the city of Rome, NY: a statue of two human male infants suckling on a female wolf. That statue remains on display in Rome, NY. Find out who you are, what you are, and how you got to be that way. Also learn who you should blame: your government's schools (fascist schools). Remove the pledge from the flag; remove flags from schools; remove schools from government. The Pointer Institute proudly presents another news-breaking volume from the Dead

Writers Club (DWC) and Micky Barnetti. A portion of the proceeds of the sale of this book will aid the Stop the Pledge Foundation to liberate children and adults from the Pledge of Allegiance. For more information, write to: pledge-of-allegiance@earthlink.net Topic of the book include these and more: Everything You Know About Fascism Is Wrong American Fascist Francis Bellamy Edward Bellamy's Fascism Fascist Salutes & the Pledge of Allegiance Flags of Fascism? Freemasonry, Fascism, & Francis Bellamy Nazis & Masons Swastikas & Fascism Fascism's Wholecaust & Holocaust Nazism & American Fascism Adolf Hitler: Man of Socialism Mussolini: The Father of Fascism August Landmesser & other Fascist Victims Schools & Pledges: We're All Fascists Now Research Exposing Liberal Fascism Stop Fascism in the USA

the secret history of american empire: America's Secret History Steve Harris, 2020-05-19 The Truth Behind the Stories They Don't Want You to Know America's Secret History presents an undistorted picture of the history of the United States. Never in one volume have so many unknown facts that disprove America's history books been brought together in a cohesive historical context, all based on verifiable information. Utilizing the House of Representative's little-known 1953 Reece Committee revelations, the Carnegie, Rockefeller, Guggenheim, and Ford foundations have systematically controlled education and the high-level appointees to the US State Department for the last century with the full knowledge and approval of the United States government. Conclusive proof that there has been one attempted coup d'état, and three successful peaceful coups in America's history, and that all were obvious Deep State initiatives to mold the government into its intended purposes. Twenty-six people owned the same wealth as the poorest 50 percent of the world (almost four billion people in 2020). America's Secret History shows how the Deep State, the Fed, and world governments caused this to happen. Not another conspiracy theory book, America's Secret History reveals The Truth Behind the Stories They Don't Want You to Know, weaving all of them together to explain just how we find ourselves in Donald Trump's America.

the secret history of american empire: the Secret American Dream Nicholas Hagger, 2012-01-01 This powerful sequel to The Secret Founding of America presents compelling evidence of a 'secret American Dream' - nothing less than the establishment of a benign World State which would establish a universal peace under which all the peoples of the Earth would flourish.

the secret history of american empire: The Mystery of Iniquity: a Passage of the Secret History of American Politics, Illustrated by a View of Metropolitan Society David Francis BACON, 1845

the secret history of american empire: The Secret History in Literature, 1660-1820 Rebecca Bullard, Rachel Carnell, 2017-03-24 Secret history, with its claim to expose secrets of state and the sexual intrigues of monarchs and ministers, alarmed and thrilled readers across Europe and America from the mid-seventeenth to the mid-nineteenth century. Scholars have recognised for some time the important position that the genre occupies within the literary and political culture of the Enlightenment. Of interest to students of British, French and American literature, as well as political and intellectual history, this new volume of essays demonstrates for the first time the extent of secret history's interaction with different literary traditions, including epic poetry, Restoration drama, periodicals, and slave narratives. It reveals secret history's impact on authors, readers, and the book trade in England, France, and America throughout the long eighteenth century. In doing so, it offers a case study for approaching questions of genre at moments when political and cultural shifts put strain on traditional generic categories.

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the secret history of american empire: The War on History Jarrett Stepman, 2019-10-01 The War on Our History Confederate memorials toppled . . . Columbus statues attacked with red paint. They started with slave-owning Confederate generals, but they're not stopping there. The vandals are only pretending to care about the character of particular American heroes. In reality, they hate what those heroes represent: the truths asserted in the Declaration of Independence and embodied in the Constitution. And they are bent on taking America down and replacing our free society with a socialist utopia. All that stands in their way is Americans' reverence for our history of

freedom. Which is why that history simply has to go. Now, Jarrett Stepman, editor at The Daily Signal and host of Right Side of History, exposes the true aims of the war on our history: The war on America: World history is full of conquests and suffering indigenous peoples. Why target Christopher Columbus? What they really want to tear down is America. The war on Thanksgiving: World history is full of colonists. Why target the Pilgrims? What they really want to tear down is American freedom and prosperity. The war on the Founding: World history is full of slavery. Why target Thomas Jefferson? What they really want to tear down are the rights endowed by our Creator. The war on the common man: World history is full of victorious generals and populist politicians. Why target Andrew Jackson? What they really want to tear down is democracy. The war on the South: World history is full of civil strife. Why target Confederate heroes like Robert E. Lee? What they really want to tear down is respect for America's past and the reconciliation that renewed our Union. The war on patriotism: World history is full of national pride. Why target Teddy Roosevelt? What they really want to tear down is the idea of American greatness. The war on the American century: World history is full of bloody wars. What they really want to tear down is America's defeat of totalitarianism. If America is to survive this assault, we must rally to the defense of our illustrious history. The War on History is the battle plan.

the secret history of american empire: The Routledge Handbook of American Military and Diplomatic History Christos Frentzos, Antonio Thompson, 2013-08-29 The Routledge Handbook of U.S. Military and Diplomatic History provides a comprehensive analysis of the major events, conflicts, and personalities that have defined and shaped the military history of the United States in the modern period. Each chapter begins with a brief introductory essay that provides context for the topical essays that follow by providing a concise narrative of the period, highlighting some of the scholarly debates and interpretive schools of thought as well as the current state of the academic field. Starting after the Civil War, the chapters chronicle America's rise toward empire, first at home and then overseas, culminating in September 11, 2001 and the War on Terror. With authoritative and vividly written chapters by both leading scholars and new talent, maps and illustrations, and lists of further readings, this state-of-the-field handbook will be a go-to reference for every American history scholar's bookshelf.

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the secret history of american empire: Broke Glenn Beck, Kevin Balfe, 2010-10-26 Glenn Beck, the New York Times bestselling author of *The Great Reset*, showcases his distinctive humor in taking on the political landscape in his fight to fix America—before it's too late. As the most important presidential election in our history looms, ask yourself: Are America's finances in better shape than they were four years ago? Or are we still BROKE? THE FACTS. THE FUTURE. THE FIGHT TO FIX AMERICA—BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. Our nation is financially broke, but that's just a side effect of our broken spirit, our broken faith in government, the broken promises by our leaders, and a broken political system that has centralized power at the expense of individual rights. How did we get into this mess? Glenn Beck thinks the answer is pretty simple: Because we've turned our backs on the Constitution. Few of us have ever seen the whole picture, and politicians have done everything in their power to hide the truth. *Broke* exposes what we're really facing—and how to fix it. Packed with great stories from history, invaluable teachable moments, and Glenn Beck's trademark combination of entertainment and enlightenment, *Broke* makes the case that when you're traveling in the wrong direction, slight course corrections won't cut it—you need to take drastic action. Through a return to individual rights, an uncompromising adherence to the Constitution, and a complete rethinking about the role of government in a free society, Glenn exposes the idea of "transformation" for the progressive smokescreen that it is, and instead builds a compelling case that restoration is the only way forward. With this awareness, it's much easier to develop a realistic plan for uniting all Americans around the concept of shared sacrifice. After all, this generation may not be asked to storm beaches, but we are being asked to do something just as critical to preserving freedom.

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