



“Cycle of Civilization”; Maintenance of Culture: ‘Emunah: Stability of Thought; Influence of Parents, Pastors, & Pedagogues; Bierstock’s “Before You Go”

8. Russell Kirk and those he quotes have a solid understanding of the laws of divine establishment and some of the spiritual principles that are imperative for the survival of a client nation.
9. It is the responsibility of the masses to subscribe to a common understanding of the laws of divine establishment. These laws are revealed in Scripture and to one degree or another were adopted by the civilizations that emerged out from Jerusalem, Athens, Rome, London, and ultimately, Philadelphia.
10. It is the responsibility of believers to subscribe to the doctrinal principles of Scripture. The laws of divine establishment maintain order within the commonwealth while Bible doctrine provides divine protection, blessings, and prosperity to this commonwealth.
11. Thus American culture at its founding was based on these two requirements that constitute a client nation. For the United States to survive as a client nation it must return to these principles or devolve into a nation entirely different from that provided by its Founding Fathers.
12. There is an anonymous quote that summarizes the rise and fall of nations and it especially does so for client nations. Its origin is unknown but has been erroneously credited to such men as Alexander Tytler, Alexis de Tocqueville, Benjamin Disraeli, Arnold Toynbee, Ezra Taft Benson, and Clarence Manion.

It is most likely an amalgamation of ideas developed over time and later codified into a principle that recognizes an historical sequence to the rise and fall of nations. It is therefore not a verified “law of nature” but rather an observation of historical trends:

13. The quote is structured as both an **anadiplosis**, “a rhetorical figure of repetition in which a word or phrase appears both at the end of one clause and at the beginning of the next thus linking the two units,” and an **anaphora**, “a rhetorical figure of repetition in which the same word or phrase is repeated in successive lines” [*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*, 8, 10].
14. This example has been referred to as “The Fatal Sequence” by Loren Collins and “The Cycle of Civilization” by R. B. Thieme, Jr. I quote from the latter’s manuscript:

Thieme, R. B., Jr. *In Whom Do You Trust?: The True Hope of a Nation*. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1993), 12:

Man begins his existence in *bondage*,
And rises from bondage through *spiritual faith*,
from spiritual faith to *courage*,
from courage to *liberty*,
from liberty to *abundance*,
from abundance to *selfishness*,
from selfishness to *complacency*,
from complacency to *apathy*,
from apathy, to *dependency*,
from dependency back into *bondage*.

15. He concludes by observing, “This is the cycle of civilization. The only hope of breaking this cycle is the believer who gives his attention to the Word of God.”



16. This takes us to the biblical view of how the culture of a client nation is to be developed and maintained. In the verses we will note there is one word that is common to each, the noun אֱמוּנָה ^ʿ*munah* which we will translate “stability” but which we will come realize is accomplished by doctrinal thought that produces harmony, or esprit de corps, or *esōterikē harmonia*.
17. First some background on the word from:

Botterweck, G. Johannes and Helmer Ringgren (eds.). *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. Rev. ed. Translated by John T. Willis. (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977), 1:317-18:

^ʿ*munah* is not so much an abstract quality, “reliability,” but a way of acting which grows out of inner stability [inner harmony, or *esōterikē harmonia*]. It conveys the idea of inner stability, integrity, conscientiousness, soberness, which is essential for any responsible service. (p. 317)

Second, ^ʿ*munah* is characterized by being contrasted relatively often with שֶׁקֶר *sheqer*. “falsehood” [“deceit”]:

Proverbs 12:22 - Lying [שֶׁקֶר *sheqer*: deceitful] lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal faithfully [אֱמוּנָה ^ʿ*munah*: demonstrate stability] are His delight.

^ʿ*munah* refers to the conduct of the whole person, ... a type of behavior that may be defined as “genuineness, reliability, conscientiousness.”

He who speaks ^ʿ*munah* proclaims order (Proverbs 12:17, “He who speaks truth [^ʿ*munah*] tells what is right, but a false witness, deceit [*sheqer*].”) Thus ^ʿ*munah* is an element in that kind of conduct which maintains order among men.

How terrible it is if ^ʿ*munah* is absent! This is the lament of Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 5:1 - “Roam to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and look now and take note. And seek in her open squares, if you can find a man, if there is one who does justice, who seeks truth [^ʿ*munah*: stability], then I will pardon her.”

v. 3 - O Lord, do not Your eyes look for truth [^ʿ*munah* stability]? You have smitten them, but they did not waken; You have consumed them, but they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to repent.

Jeremiah 7:28 - “You [Jeremiah] shall say to them, ‘This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the Lord their God or accept correction; truth [^ʿ*munah*] has perished and has been cut off from their mouth.’”

Isaiah 59 describes the same condition and points out that in legal cases צֶדֶק *setheq*, “righteousness,” and ^ʿ*munah*, “stability” are lacking:

Isaiah 59:3 - Your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken falsehood [*sheqer*], your tongue mutters wickedness.

v. 4 - No one sues righteously [*setheq*] and no one pleads honestly [^ʿ*munah*: with stability of thought].

^ʿ*munah*, that inner attitude which is prerequisite to a genuine life, ... explains the psalmist’s statement that he had chosen a life of ^ʿ*munah* in preference to a life of “falsehood”:

Psalms 119:29 - Remove the false way [*sheqer*] from me, and graciously grant me Your law.

v. 30 - I have chosen the faithful way [אֱמוּנָה דֶּרֶךְ ^ʿ*munah derek*; wheel-tracks of stability]; I have placed Your ordinances before me.

Habakkuk 2:4 also belongs to this group of passages:



Habakkuk 2:4 b -
[**munah*: stability].

“But the righteous [*setheq*] will live by His faith

Here **munah* means that conduct which is in accordance with ... sincerity, faithfulness, reliability, and stability. (p. 318)

18. In the context of our study I am translating **munah* with the English word “stability.” This word conveys the idea of both the Hebrew meaning and its application to the principles we are noting.
19. Within the concept of esprit de corps we perceive the development of an inner character and integrity that unites one believer with another of like mind.
20. We also find in the verses just quoted how God blesses the nation where such stability is found in the souls of mature believers who are a part of its population.
21. From such individuals comes a group harmony, an esprit de corps, an *exterik harmonia* that brings stability to the land by its steadfast opposition to deceit, falsehood, and the lie.
22. We find that this stability finds its core, its foundation in knowledge of Bible doctrine, thus the nation is preserved by the presence of divine viewpoint in the souls of mature believers.

Isaiah 33:6 - Wisdom [חִכְמָה *chokmah*: understanding of divine viewpoint] and knowledge [דַּעַת *da'at*: discernment; awareness of right and wrong] are the stability [אֱמוּנָה **munah*] of your times ...

23. The stability of a client nation is thus dependent upon the doctrinal inventory of its resident believers which has an ongoing influence upon the country's culture, the general “way of life” that is subscribed to in public square and is incorporated into the corpus of its laws.
24. The result is a biblically influenced culture which unites the knowledge, beliefs, and behavior of a social group and is generally accepted as the society's way of life.
25. Without some means of extending this culture to the next generation then each generation would be forced to start afresh, therefore if the culture is not systematically transmitted to the succeeding generations then the society loses its stability.
26. In a client nation there are three major organizations that are assigned the duty of transmitting its culture to the next generation: (1) the family through parents, (2) the church through the teaching of a doctrinal pastor, and (3) the school through the instruction of the pedagogue.
27. Thus a client nation's culture is dependent upon the integrity of these three groups.
28. The parents, the pastor, and the pedagogue provide this continuity by transmitting accumulated knowledge to the children of their generation.
29. The knowledge to be transmitted in the home includes values, beliefs (establishment or doctrinal), behavior, manners, dress, and the fine arts.
30. Knowledge to be transmitted in the church includes support of those concepts communicated by the family. In addition, the spiritual heritage of the culture is transmitted through the isagogical, categorical, and exegetical instruction of Bible doctrine.



31. The most effective method for spiritual advance is under the instruction of a pastor who develops doctrine from a literal, historical, and grammatical system of hermeneutics through the prism of dispensational theology that asserts a pretribulational rapture, a premillennial Second Advent, and an infralapsarian order of the elective decree.
32. Knowledge transmitted by the school should occur within a liberal arts curriculum that includes instruction in languages (English and foreign), literature (from traditional authors), writing and speech (to develop communication skills), sciences, mathematics, history (both world and American), economics (with emphasis on capitalism), government (with emphasis on how ours works), geography (world and American), and the Classics (both Greek and Roman).
33. These subjects should be taught with a bias toward a traditional worldview that emphasizes its Anglo-Saxon culture, Judeo-Christian ethics, and Western European heritage.
34. Emphasis should be placed on the writings of the Founders, the influence of Christianity on the history of the Republic, and the importance of immigrants to assimilate into the national culture.
35. The cultural instruction should also emphasize the values and virtues subscribed to by our ancestors and how they contributed to the maintenance of freedom and advancement of our prosperity.
36. In addition, schools should maintain an environment for learning that stresses order, honesty, industriousness, and perseverance with strict rules against those who are cheaters, slackers, and quitters.
37. Preparation for the competition of the business world and the esprit de corps essential to military service should be developed through organized athletic games.
38. Finally, the home, the church, and the school should promote patriotism: love for country, respect for her flag, and appreciation and respect for those who have defended her shores or are doing so presently.

I received this e-mail from 1Lt Robert Danyluk, USAF, dated December 18, 2005:

Pastor Griffin,

Please remove me from the prayer list for Active Duty in Middle East. I returned from Iraq on October 29th, 2005.

I would like to thank you for everything that you do and for the prayers that everyone has made. For my team of 14 Air Force, not one of us came under direct fire or was injured in any way. Some of our team members logged over 3000 miles of convoys through northeastern Iraq with no major incidents. Terrorists repeatedly attacked our compound (Saddam's palaces in Tikrit) with mortars but with only one injury as a result from May to October. The comfort and security of God's grace is truly amazing and I was mentally at ease for most of the tour. I thank God for each day of life here on Earth and look forward to growing in grace and spending eternity with Him and our fellow believers. Again, thank you for everything. I will be stationed at Moody AFB, in Valdosta, GA in mid January 2006. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !!!

Robert Danyluk, 1Lt, USAF

A Tribute to World War II Veterans

“Before You Go”

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The elderly parking lot attendant wasn't in a good mood. Neither was Sam Bierstock. It was around 1 A.M., and Bierstock, a Delray Beach, Fla., eye doctor, business consultant, corporate speaker, and musician, was bone tired after appearing at an event.

As he pulled up in Bierstock's car, the parking attendant began to speak. "I took two bullets for this country and look what I'm doing," he said bitterly.

At first, Bierstock didn't know what to say to the World War II veteran. But he rolled down his window and told the man, "Really, from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you." Then the old soldier began to cry. "That really got to me," Bierstock says.

Bierstock, 58, and John Melnick, 54, of Pompano Beach, a member of Bierstock's band, Dr. Sam and the Managed Care Band, have written a song inspired by that old soldier in the airport parking lot. The mournful "Before You Go" does more than salute those who fought in World War II. It encourages people to go out of their way to thank the aging warriors before they die.

"If we had lost that particular war, our whole way of life would have been shot," says Bierstock, who plays harmonica. "Every ethnic minority would be dead. The soldiers are dying at the rate of about 2,000 a day. I thought we needed to thank them."

The song is striking a chord. The accompanying photo essay has bounced around nine countries, producing tears and heartfelt thanks from veterans, their sons and daughters, and grandchildren.

Bierstock and Melnick thought about shipping it off to a professional singer, maybe a Lee Greenwood type, but because time was running out for so many veterans, they decided it was best to release it quickly, for free, on the Web. Already they have been invited to perform it in Houston for a Veterans Day tribute, this after just a few days on the Web. They hope every veteran in America gets a chance to hear it.

Click here to listen to "Before You Go": <http://www.managedmusic.com/beforeyougo.html>