

PROLOGUE

The Rise and Fall of the Concern

"Power corrupts - and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

World War II witnessed international devastation and loss of life. It also brought incredible wealth and power to those who controlled the money for the war machinery.

A small group of financiers in America, Britain, and Switzerland acquired significant influence in the world economy during the war. They were smart and ruthless men who did not desire to relinquish this power as the war drew to a close.

These men held a secret meeting in Switzerland before the end of the war in Europe. Their organizer, a prominent American banker, shared his views of history with the attentive group. He suggested the idea that throughout history governments failed because their leaders were visible, and that people dissatisfied with their governments could overthrow the visible leaders.

This charismatic figure suggested to the assembled group that they should create a new form of government invisible to the world. This invisible government would control the real power from behind the scenes with politicians acting as the visible leaders.

The group shared their similar sentiments about creating this new political structure as a way to secretly control the wealth and power of the industrial world. They believed there would always be eager candidates for the visible thrones of leadership who would revel in the attention of the people they appeared to govern. Very few would know where the real power resided so these men believed they could never be challenged for their control. This secret organization named themselves the Concern, and they planted the foundation for their new social order in the midst of the chaos that existed at the end of the world war.

The Concern would operate from Switzerland to help conceal their existence. Switzerland was the world's expert at con-

cealing financial resources, and reveled in their reputation as the bankers to the world. Initially the Concern would plant the roots of their new world order in the United States, Britain, and Switzerland. Their future strategy would be to obtain control over the assets of all the industrial nations of the world. Over time they planned to embed their selected invisible leaders in the true positions of power throughout the economic world.

The Concern needed secret intelligence agencies to collect information, manipulate power, and arrange the elimination of the uncooperative. They established these agencies in the form of the American CIA and the British MI6. These intelligence organizations, by their own secretive nature, could be structured so that departments understood just their specific functions. Only the highest ranking officers of these agencies would know their actual mission as an arm of the Concern. They would be paid well for their silence with the threat of death for any who divulged their secrets. At the conclusion of the Second World War the public was quick to accept the need for international intelligence organizations, and the inherent secret nature of their operations.

The appearance of free elections would be key to the Concern's plan for world dominance. It would be vital to the strategy of the invisible government that the public believed they were electing their own government officials. However, it was the Concern who selected the candidates for the higher offices of state. They would insure these offices were filled by personalities willing to trade public fame for the true power. When elections moved to electronic processes it became even easier for the Concern to manipulate the outcomes. Elections became elaborately staged events which furthered the illusion that citizens had a voice in selecting their leadership. As their ownership of the mainstream media increased over time it allowed the Concern to distort facts and perceptions about any event in the world.

The Concern believed the productivity of the working class could be maintained by catering to their materialistic needs. The United States became the first example of this for the industrialized world. The Concern shared a small portion of

the true wealth with citizens as an investment for them to be willing participants in the engine of the global economy. Americans quickly became obsessed with their material needs, and outward appearances of wealth, in exchange for unknowingly giving up their true freedoms.

An international credit card system was created to allow the Concern better management of global financial resources. It minimized the need for paper money and encouraged people to accumulate debt at a growing rate. Debt was an important tool of the Concern to keep the populace dedicated to their jobs while feeding the machinery of consumerism. Stories of the rich and famous would be promoted in the media to create the illusion that anyone could obtain happiness through wealth.

Over time the Concern spread their financial power by selling emerging industrial nations on the concept of capitalism. America and Britain created powerful economies that appeared attractive to other nations as a lure to the banner of materialism.

Communism was the foremost enemy of the Concern as it advocated sharing the wealth among the masses. When the lure of capitalism was resisted at first by Communist countries the Concern supported military enterprises in Korea and Vietnam. To them the soldiers lost or crippled were a small price to pay to spread their capitalist doctrine. These unsuccessful wars taught the Concern the valuable lesson that it was easier to win the hearts and minds of Communist countries through the media and consumerism rather than warfare.

After their failures in Korea and Vietnam the Concern launched a global economic war to attack Communism by offering an alternative world of affluence to the citizens of Communist countries. Materialism became their universal currency which had strong appeal to undeveloped nations. The success of this effort was culminated at the close of the century when Russia and China moved into the realm of the Concern. As their sphere of international financial influence grew the Concern maintained tight vigilance over who was allowed into their inner circle.

The members of the Concern did not believe in a deity. They believed instead that a few were destined to control the

many, and that your time on earth was your only existence in the evolution of the universe. They placed little value on life other than their own. They encouraged religion to exist as they believed it an opiate to the masses. They felt religion promoted a work ethic that served to make the economy more productive. The Concern would allow any cause that kept people busy, and superficially content, as long as they continued to feed the economic machinery.

At the close of the century the Concern, and the concept of the invisible government, was in place and working throughout the world. They seemed destined to rule unchallenged for centuries to come. Believing they had created the perfect command and control system of the global economy the Concern maintained a ruthless watch over the clandestine nature of their organization as the secret to their longevity.

As technology rapidly progressed, and sophisticated communication systems evolved, the Concern used these developments as tools to help them better control and conceal their invisible power. Research in some areas such as medicine was shared with the working class to help maintain the integrity of the work force.

The Concern financed the development of the Internet as an extension of their communications networks. They saw the Internet as a source of intelligence which could quickly detect international developments that might threaten their financial empire.

But the explosion of the Internet in the new millennium was too rapid for the members of the Concern to fully understand or control. They did not comprehend at the time that the Internet was evolving without anyone in control. Free, and largely unrestricted, access to international communication became a norm. The Internet became technological anarchy before the Concern understood what was happening. It was moving too quickly for the Concern to manage, and they did not understand the threat it would soon present to their covert organization.

Rumors of the existence of the Concern started to appear in the new millennium but the millions of Internet users took it to be

just more chatter among hundreds of popular conspiracy theories. The Internet had become a wasteland of obtuse and irrelevant information with very little taken for face value. The Concern considered shutting down the Internet if it continued to pose a threat, but they had built too many of their communication and banking systems around it. Turning it off would disable an important component of their command and control structure.

The Concern tried to isolate, and eliminate, the source of the rumors about their existence but the Internet was too fluid. It was a growing organism that quickly adapted to environmental threats. The Concern decided to take a different and dramatic tact by creating an international War on Terror to divert the attention of the world from their existence.

They identified various splinter militant groups around the world and offered them anonymous sources of funding to escalate their terrorist operations. The terrorists were not concerned where these money sources came from but only that they could use them to fund their particular causes. They were very willing to take lives, including their own, to gain the attention of the world. These terrorist groups became international zealots with a bank account.

Terrorist activities around the world started to escalate with each one promoting its own ideology. But the world's nations paid only scant attention to these groups if not directly affected by them. As Internet traffic about the Concern continued to grow the Concern decided to intensify the level of diversion they believed necessary to draw attention away from the increasing Internet traffic about themselves.

On September 11, 2001, the world witnessed the culmination of these efforts when a CIA coordinated terrorist group called Al-Qaeda executed the most appalling terrorist attacks ever witnessed. Hijacked passenger planes were flown into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon with world wide media coverage of the carnage. The Concern believed this dramatic attack would occupy the minds of the world's citizens, and divert their eyes from the Internet messages about themselves until they could root out and eliminate their sources.

This spectacular event succeeded in getting the world to focus on the Concern's orchestrated War on Terror. Shortly thereafter the United States invaded Afghanistan as the alleged home of this terrorist movement against the United States. In this move the Concern gained control over the lucrative drug trade in Afghanistan which they used to help further sponsor their War on Terror.

After the dramatic 9/11 event the Concern had the Office of Homeland Security created, and the Patriot Act passed, in the US allowing them to better regulate personal freedoms. It also opened the door for implementation of advanced surveillance techniques that could provide detailed scrutiny of the populace and their internet activity. They would follow with similar actions in other Concern nations.

In an attempt to establish a foothold in the midst of the Arab nations who were resistant to the overtures of the Concern they orchestrated an invasion of Iraq by the United States and Britain in 2003. They setup a puppet government of Iraqis with simulated elections in an attempt to appease the world reaction to this bold move. The Concern had already learned that significant profits could be made sponsoring wars irregardless of who was involved.

An unexpected side effect of the invasion on Iraq was increased activity from the underground movement who was working intently to expose the Concern. These individuals persisted even harder to unveil the Concern even though it meant a death sentence if they could find you in cyberspace. The number of vocal Internet dissidents trying to unveil the Concern was increasing.

Despite their considerable efforts the Concern was unsuccessful at establishing a welcome presence in the oil rich Arabic countries. In addition to other issues the Arab nations were growing weary of blame for the Concern's artificial War on Terror. In an attempt to overcome this Arabic resistance the Concern arranged the election of a black Muslim US president in 2008 - but it did little to placate the Arabic opposition to Concern ambitions.

Even with Concern owned media attention continually

focused on the War on Terror the Internet traffic about the Concern still continued to exist. It dramatically escalated in the second decade of the new century climaxing in 2018 when the Internet started carrying stories about the Concern that included names, and sometimes photographs, of Concern members.

Details of the organization and activities of the Concern were being leaked from somewhere inside the secretive group including their backing of international terrorist activities as a means to divert attention from their existence. The anger of the world became intensely focused on the members of the Concern for their willingness to conduct warfare on their own people.

In the Fall of 2018 members of the Concern were sought out and executed in retaliation for the chaos they had instigated on the citizens of the world. The vendetta against the Concern then turned to the visible members of the political machinery who had allowed the Concern to manage the real power. The world exploded into anarchy as people violently attacked the visible seat of the political system. Civil wars quickly spread into international conflagration and started the Regional Wars across the globe.

International communication dissolved during the Regional Wars as the networks had been maintained by the Concern. Power grids started to shut down. Everything built on electric power and technology fell apart. It became a new Dark Ages but with a deadly twist as people in industrialized nations had long since lost the basic skills to survive.

All existing governments disappeared in the Regional Wars and world order violently disintegrated into localized areas of control. As political structures disintegrated around the globe different groups fought to take control of their regions. Whoever was able to seize, and maintain, power in defined geographical territories became the new law. Bloody mayhem was the order of the time.

Billions died from the fighting, starvation, or disease. Regional governments took over control with many instituting cruel totalitarian mastery of the survivors. The modern world disappeared in a few months.

It was an apocalyptic scenario no one had predicted...!