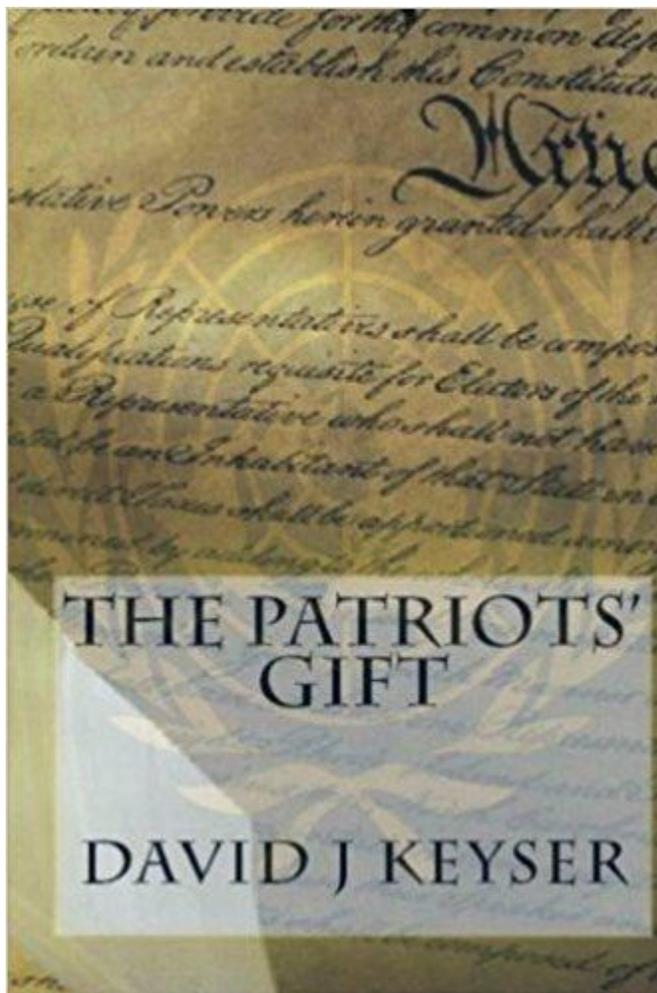


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In this novel The United States has divided into five nations by the year 2050 A.D. Each of these nations has different convictions and beliefs. The Texican Republic was the first to leave in 2036. They were followed by The North West Federation, The Central Alliance, and The Southern Confederation. This story follows the efforts of one family as they strive to reunite these nations. Stephen George Hampton II was born in 2040. When The Southern Confederation began in 2050 he was 10 years old. Stephen's calling and mission is to reunite The Texican Republic with The Southern Confederation.



Prelude

Millions in the American nations mourned the removal of the Statue of Liberty to make room for The World Peace Monument. The U.S. press strongly touted the “new great lady, the Goddess of Peace, Eirene” or Irene, an ancient Greek goddess holding in one arm the infant Plutus, the god of wealth, and in the other arm an olive branch with a cornucopia at her feet full of the good fruits of Mother Earth.

The new statue was a gift from the European Union to the United States. However, the French objected because the Statue of Liberty was historically a gift from France and some in France did not want their gift supplanted. The U.N. declared the new statue as magnificent and representative of all that is desired by modern mankind. New lighting pilings were created in New York harbor to hold powerful new lights to illuminate, to bathe, the new statue in a golden glow throughout the night in spite of the constant power shortage in the Northeast of the United States.

The Texican liberty broadcasts had been ranting against the “pagan monstrosity” for months when they began to raise money for a duplicate Statue of Liberty to be constructed in Galveston harbor. The broadcasts were quick to point out such inconsistencies between the god Plutus, the god of wealth, held by the goddess of peace and the horrifying poverty in the wasted cities of the United States which came about after that country rejected the free market system of a true republic. They also pointed out the difference between the cornucopia at her feet full of the good fruits of mother earth and the vast acres of farmland which produced nothing but weeds as a result of the federal government’s control of agriculture. There was also the comparison of the false cornucopia at Eirene’s feet full of the good fruits of mother earth as contrasted to the broken chains of tyranny at the feet of the Statue of Liberty which the statue of Eirene replaced.

Amazingly money poured in from around the Texican Republic and from the Southern Confederation, the Central Alliance even sent some, but there were donations big and small from around the world. It was obvious that the children of American liberty in other lands were stronger than liberty in the old U.S. itself. The Texican liberty broadcasts touted this as universal support for the historical American concept of liberty.

The only debate concerning the duplicate in Galveston was how big to make it. The original Statue of Liberty in America was immensely larger than the two copies in France. From the base of the statue itself, not counting the foundation under it, was over 151 feet to the top of the torch. It was over 111 feet from the actual heel of the statue to the top of the head. The entire height including the foundation was over 305 feet. Which made the pedestal about 154 feet high.

The new “pagan monstrosity” at New York was exactly 3 feet higher than the old Statue of Liberty had been. The decision of the Republic on the replacement in Galveston harbor was not to play the height game with the United States. The new Statue of Liberty would be 240 feet high, pedestal included, which was still twenty stories high. It would be constructed of aluminum and painted light green to match the copper patina of the original. The dedication in Galveston Harbor included a magnificent fireworks display and extensive media coverage. It was the party of the decade, the new Fourth of July.

This one act represented what they had come to. Now to begin the long road back.

Stephen Hampton had just closed the door behind him.

“I’ve got everything ready for a quick bite, honey...” she began.

“Why?” he asked. He was unusually tired.

“Here, I fixed you a pick me up,” she said handing him a strong cup of coffee.

He took the first sip.

“There was a call from the Governor's office. He’s coming here to see us with “two other gentlemen” in, uh, 20 minutes. Just said it was important. I told him it would be convenient.”

“Why didn’t you call me?” he asked.

“It just happened, well, almost just. I’m glad you got home. No sooner had his assistant hung up, Annalaurie called.”

Stephen had never seen Alicia this excited.

“Calm down, sweetheart,” he said as he gave her a quick hug and turned to go to put on a fresh shirt and tie.

“Don’t you want to know why they’re coming?” she asked.

“Yes, yes, what did Annalaurie say?”

“The Governor is going to appoint you to complete the term of Representative Cummings, he’s been sick you know.”

“The Governor’s been sick?”

“Now, don’t tease me, Stephen. Cummings has been sick and has asked to be relieved which you know quite well. You told me about him just a few days ago. Say, did you maybe expect this?” she asked poking him in the ribs as he tried to tuck in his shirt.

“No, not really. I was hoping a little, but nothing had been said,” Stephen said. “Nate had made just a slight mention.”

“Ah Hah! So that’s why Annalaurie knows. So she tipped us off.”

“Annalaurie knows more than Nate, She always does. She probably knows more than anyone with the possible exception of God Himself,” Stephen said.

“There’s a limo. I’ll greet them. You hurry on out. Do I look O.K.?” she asked.

“You look positively edible,” Stephen said as she scurried to the door and answered as the pretty serene wife everybody expected.

The meeting didn't last long. Stephen accepted and began his duties the next Tuesday in the Texican Congress. There were 19 months left on Cummings term. Stephen would run for the seat at the next election and win.

Chapter 1

Origins

On Tuesday, January 20, 2032 Clifford C. Laurence was inaugurated as the forty-eighth President of the United States. This was his first and only term. The Republicans ran him as a compromise candidate. Many said that "compromise" was his middle name. All the tracks had been greased by former administrations for what he was about to do.

On Wednesday, May 12, 2032 President Laurence sent the all-inclusive treaty with the United Nations to the senate for approval, complete with the five-year implementation plan. It was approved on Thursday, May 13 with plenty of votes to spare. The fat was in the fire.

The primary issues in the treaty included: The Federal Reserve was to be phased out in favor of the World Bank. The dollar and the euro would exist side by side for the first four years, then the dollar would be eliminated. All existing and future American corporations would have to file an expansion plan with the office of the U.N. Trade Commission and agree to pay massive fines for plan violations.

The U.N. General Assembly would control the foreign policy of the United States as it did the other member nations. Nations were allowed to have a Defense Force but incursions into other nations would be controlled by the U.N. Security Council. All national armies including troop strength and equipment would be subject to the approval of the Security Council. Militias at any level would be illegal.

All organized religions would be placed under the U.N. Department of Religion. State religions would be allowed in member nations and the states which are a part of those nations.

Immigration between contiguous countries would be liberalized. All borders on the North and South American continents were declared open and employment had to be offered on demand. Dual or multiple citizenship would be allowed upon 'simple' application.

The executive powers of the President of the United States would, in most cases, equal or surpass the powers of the Congress and the Supreme Court.

All of these changes were to be implemented in five stages over the five year period between 2032 and 2037 inclusive. It was sincerely believed by the U.N. that the implementation of this treaty would usher in a new era of unparalleled peace and prosperity for the world.

Although willing acceptance of this treaty was not expected by even the most optimistic one-worlder, the aftermath which would follow surprised them all.



Chapter 2

Reactions

On February 10, 2035 with an absolute unwillingness to be a part of the U.N. takeover the state of Texas with Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Arizona declared the Independent Texas Republic and declared war on the drug cartels. The U.N. Security Council met and condemned their action. These former states of the United States had amassed a significant arsenal to stand against not only the United States but the cartels and even U.N. intervention. In addition to their well-armed land forces which included thousands of heavily armed high tech helicopters, troop transports, light tanks and artillery there were countless land-to-land and land-to-air missile batteries.

The Texas Republic had also secretly brokered a deal through Brazil to purchase one of their two recently purchased air craft carriers which had been bought from the United States. These were fully functional recently refueled nuclear carriers with a full complement of 70 fighters plus other aircraft. It was soon suspected by every nation in the hemisphere and the U.N. that Brazil had bought one of the carriers for the Texans. The Texas Republic renamed their carrier the "Dallas" and promptly moved it from the Brazilian harbor of Rio de Janeiro to the Gulf of Mexico where it patrolled between Florida and Texas in good range of all five of the Texas Republic's states.

Although there had been considerable unrest for two decades, the actual separation movement began as a reaction to the drug cartels. Texas and Arizona were the most effected by the cartels. The cartels had acted like free agents promoting their own agendas at will. Texas and her neighboring states on both sides of the border were fed up.

The Republic of Texas had divided into three separate states in 2031 in order to fulfill the right that they had reserved when Texas joined the United States union on December 29, 1845. Actually they contended that they had the right to split into five states, but by 2031 for internal reasons they only desired to split into three states. The purpose of this split was primarily to triple the number of Senators from Texas in the United States Congress and by some maneuvering to slightly increase the total number of Representatives in Congress as well. It was not long before this strategy proved unsuccessful in changing the direction of the U.S. Congress and the three states of Texas began acting even more in concert with each other on every issue.

In early 2035 the three Texas states reunited into one Texas state again. Then the new Texas Republic declared all-out war on drug trafficking which was a logical escalation of their developed 'no tolerance' policy against the drug trade. The congress of the Republic declared that a state of war existed between their republic and all persons or nations that promoted the drug trade which effected their Republic directly or indirectly. They had amassed a large enough militia under the command of the Texas Rangers to enforce their demands.

The effect of this force was to dominate the four contiguous Mexican states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nueva-Leon and Tamaulipas bordering the Republic. The citizens of these states were relieved to be free of the drug cartels and considering the favor shown the Spanish language by

the new Republic readily agreed in a public referendum to join in the formation of the Texican Republic.

These four Mexican states seceded from the nation of Mexico and with the addition of Missouri united with the Texas Republic to form the Texican Republic in June of 2036. The southern border of these four Spanish states, and therefore of the Texican Republic, were an absolute barrier to drug traffickers.

In the Texican Republic the size of the Texas Rangers had been increased from 99 Rangers to 499 Rangers. All present Rangers who did not speak fluent Spanish were required to become fluent within 3 years and all new Rangers, which was soon the majority, had to be fluent in Spanish before they could be accepted regardless of their other qualifications. The Republic was legally made a two language nation by their congress which put Spanish on an absolute par with English.

A Field Magistrate had been created with special Texican federal judges who could pass death sentences in the field and the Rangers carried out these sentences on the spot. Also, in the absence of a Field Magistrate many drug cartel prisoners were being 'shot while trying to escape'.

The decision to establish the Field Magistrates had been made in haste and desperation. The situation had progressed to the point that action had to be taken. The Republic had to be formed before they could declare war on the drug lords. The United States had become totally ineffectual against the cartels and the United Nations was not going to bless the separation to form the new Republic, at least not the first breakaway. After Texas moved, the other areas were emboldened to separate and the U.N. was not reluctant to give them their blessing since Texas had started the movement by acting unilaterally.

By becoming an independent nation the Republic then had the authority to declare war on the cartels and to proceed against them without legal due process. The Field Magistrates were the only way to put their judges in the field so that the Rangers and the Militia could execute drug dealers on the spot. Of course there was a great outcry against these executions, but no one including the United States or the United Nations was prepared to do anything except to voice their complaints.

The Texicans had duly executed 937 drug dealers and cremated their bodies in the field. Also, by that time they had crossed their southern border into the four Mexican states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nueva-Leon, and Tamaulipas at the request of their governors and legislatures who were just as desperate to remove the horror show as Texas had been. The Rangers welcomed local militia from these states if they had a warrant signed by their governor. It was all over so quickly that no one including the United States or Mexico or the U.N. ever had the inclination nor the chance to intervene.

Drug traffic between The Texican Republic and the only other contiguous Mexican state of Sonora was also impossible. The Texican California border was fortified to totally resist the enormous amount of drugs in that U.S. state. At the end of the crisis the Field Magistrates were not dissolved. They became less and less active and their total numbers were reduced from the

war time strength of 33 to 14. This left a problem which would have to be dealt with at a later time.

This entire process was done without the prior consent of the United Nations General Assembly or the congress and government of the United States of America or Mexico. The people of the Texican Republic stood shoulder to shoulder in their resolve to form this free state and for some reason, unfathomable to most people, no one forced them to back down. Some said that the U.N. and the U.S. lacked the fortitude to go against the determined Texicans. Others cited the significant buildup of the manufacture and storage of arms and munitions that had occurred in Texas over the previous decades. And some simply said that it was an idea whose time had come. No matter what the reason, it was done and there was considerable concern that other parts of the United States would follow suit. This concern was not unfounded.

There was a lot of activity among the old line Southern states in the U.S. about secession but another area moved first as the North Western states of Oregon, Washington and Alaska joined with the two Canadian provinces of the Yukon and British Columbia to form the North West Federation in 2043 with the full prior approval of the United Nations General Assembly. The two Canadian provinces stood between Washington and Alaska and those Canadian provinces had been won over by the American states. The United States congress was so convinced of the claims of the new world government that it offered no objections to the formation of the North West Federation. Even though Canada was one of the Commonwealth Realms of England where the King is still head of state, the loss of Scotland to the European Union thus dissolving the United Kingdom had weakened England's resolve to object to the loss of two of her Canadian dominions. The world was changing.

The religious realm had also undergone quite a change. Muslims pressed the United States from many sides and the U.N. had become the protector of the U.S. in many ways.

The Mormon Church had experienced massive growth when Utah led in the formation of the Central Alliance of North America in 2047 with the full consent of the United Nations after which the Alliance soon severed all associations with the United Nations. They gave the reason that such worldwide alliances were against their religion and it was allowed to pass. Utah was joined by Montana, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wyoming as millions of Mormons occupied those states.

Kansas City, Kansas was quickly made the capital city of the Central Alliance instead of Salt Lake City, Utah in an attempt to show that the Alliance was not merely the political arm of the Mormons. Salt Lake City was, however, the spiritual capital of the Central Alliance and the first President of the Alliance was also the president of the L.D.S. church.

The Central Alliance wasted no time legalizing polygamy in the Alliance. Other states had been calling for the legalization of polygamy so the Central Alliance decided to lead the way as the Mormons believed that their form of polygamy was a long time custom in their religion and that the Mormons would practice it in a manner that was most pleasing to God while other states seemed to have different reasons for promoting it. The Mormon form of polygamy, polygyny, would, however, be one of multiple wives of one man and not the other way around.

With all of these changes having taken place the Old South finally formed The Southern Confederation in 2050 with the approval of the United Nations. The Confederation included Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee. They did this mostly out of their undying loyalty to the old Confederacy which had gained considerable momentum and their absolute distain for the Federal government of the United States. It was a bit of a stretch for them to warm up to the United Nations in order to do it, but when all the options had been weighed they swallowed hard and pushed ahead. At least Richmond was now their federal capitol instead of the District of Columbia.

The contiguous 21 states in The United States are in the Northeast. They are essentially another U.N. subsidized country. Most of the larger cities are bankrupt and many of those are wastelands where gangs rule square miles of territory. This is where the Deputized Retrieval Squads do their work. The four scattered states of the U.S. each have their unique problems. The earthquakes of the 2030's made 70% of California uninhabitable so the population fled, many of them to neighboring Nevada. The corruption in Nevada is legendary. Colorado is isolated between the Central Alliance and the Texican Republic and very crowded. It has a very diverse population and crime is high. Florida is also isolated below the Southern Confederation. Many from California have made their way to Florida which is now one huge theme park. Any fantasy can be fulfilled in Florida and most of it is classified as "adult" entertainment.