

Civilization at Risk

Civilization at Risk:

Seeds of Strife (Second Edition)

By

Ron D. Petitte

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This book, the effort that went into it, and everything positive that comes of it, is dedicated, first, to my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and to those few and unique people whom I love more than anybody else in the world: These are the people I would give my life for, without giving it a thought; and, fortunately, they know who they are.

Love & Blessings!

James Abraham Whitestone
a.k.a. Ron D. Petite

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Preface to Civilization at Risk: Seeds of Strife.....	xi
Acknowledgments	xiii
Introduction	xv
Chapter One.....	1
The First and Original Back Story	
Part I: The State of Things As They Are	
Chapter Two	5
We Begin With “The State of Things as They Are”	
Chapter Three	9
The Choice of the Trafficker	
Chapter Four	11
Unfathomable, Unspeakable Reality	
Chapter Five	15
Aberrations	
Chapter Six	17
So That They Did Not Die in Vain	
Chapter Seven.....	19
Jonathan’s Life and Sacrifice, as a Model of Courage	
Part II: Human Trafficking is the 21st Century Holocaust, Which Only Moral Leadership Can Combat	
Chapter Eight.....	23
“Causes Stir the World. They extend wide, and reach into the future beyond the power of man to see”	

Chapter Nine.....	25
Definitions, Worldviews, and Words	
Chapter Ten	29
Politics and the Pulpit	
Chapter Eleven	31
The Scourge of History	
Chapter Twelve	33
So: What can be done?	
Chapter Thirteen.....	35
The Problem with “John”	
Chapter Fourteen	37
The Public Policy Approach	
Chapter Fifteen	41
Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due	
Chapter Sixteen	43
Public International Policy	
Chapter Seventeen.....	45
The Encyclopedia of Human Trafficking	
Chapter Eighteen	47
Three Tragedies	
Chapter Nineteen.....	49
It Used To Take 80 Days (to go around the world)	
Chapter Twenty	51
Slavery Takes Many Forms	
Chapter Twenty One.....	53
The Ultimate Responsibility	
Chapter Twenty Two.....	55
Voices & Visions	

Part III: Listen to the Words of Lincoln, Bryan, Pope Benedict XVI, Jefferson and Bonheoffer

Chapter Twenty Three	59
A Righteous Cause	
Chapter Twenty Four	61
A Global Emancipation Proclamation	
Chapter Twenty Five	65
Remember the Words of Lincoln	
Chapter Twenty Six	67
From the Federal Level to the International Level	
Chapter Twenty Seven	69
A Call To Action	
Chapter Twenty Eight	71
One Day More!	
Chapter Twenty Nine	73
One More Day	
Chapter Thirty	75
And, One Day More	
Chapter Thirty One	77
And, One More Day	
Chapter Thirty Two	79
Conclusion	
Chapter Thirty Three	81
Author's Note	
One More Dawn	
A Note About the Reference List	83
Reference List	85

Addendum One.....	95
The Second Backstory	
Addendum Two	99
Leaders in the Fight	
Addendum Three	103
A Special Report	
Overview of the Epilogue.....	105
Epilogue.....	107
An Expression of Thanks	119
Special Commendations	121
Notes.....	123

A PREFACE TO *CIVILIZATION AT RISK*: *SEEDS OF STRIFE*^{1,2}

While distinguished academies of higher learning, governments, politicians, and the media struggle to find solutions to the imminent dangers posed to the Middle East and the world at large, a devastating human rights war has unfolded, with precious few warriors to combat it, let alone stem the brutal injustice that is of holocaust³ dimensions. “By the end of the war [World War II] in 1945, the Nazis had killed about 6 million Jewish men, women, and children—over two-thirds of the Jews in Europe. They also killed many members of other ethnic groups, especially Gypsies and Poles. No one knows the exact number of civilians killed by the Nazis during the war.

David Birnbaum, in Book 1, *Summa Metaphysica I, God and Evil*, writing on the Holocaust, offers this description:

“The victims, who were stripped of everything of which they could possibly be stripped, found themselves in the hammerlock of gross evil incarnate, in an environment itself stripped to its rawest core.”⁴

The word *holocaust* means *widespread destruction*.⁵ I use the term intentionally, to dramatize the plight of 30 million people trapped in a *widespread*, horrific, situation that, in most cases, leads to their *destruction*.⁶

If there is any scourge that puts “Civilization at Risk,” it is the malignant disregard for the human rights of millions of people, who suffer slavery and inhumane treatment, at the hands of fellow human beings. With 30 million people in slavery, today, 30 million seeds of strife have been sown, as the souls of these victims are seared beyond human recognition.⁷

Human Trafficking cannot be combated by indifference or ignorance, but by the education of people world-wide, to awaken them to this 21st Century scourge⁸, as well as by instilling in people world-wide, the courage and determination to stand and fight this evil, as Augustine, Wilberforce and Lincoln did, centuries ago.⁹

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TO THE FIRST EDITION

Cambridge Scholars Publishing (CSP) is acknowledged, first; because of their bold decision to break new ground in scholarly publishing by being willing to offer a book of this nature. Creating awareness, in order to counter and, where possible, to fight Human Trafficking, is not a traditional scholarly pursuit, yet the Academy needs not only to be familiar with this spectre, but willing to take a stand against such evil and bring awareness to the students they teach. Accordingly, special recognition goes to Christine Von Gall, Deputy Editor and my first contact at CSP, who, in turn, introduced me to Carol Koulikourdi, Commissioning Editor for CSP, who has been my primary interface with CSP and who has made working with CSP a blessing; Mr. Chris Humphrey, General Manager, who, as busy as he is, worked with me to achieve the balance that CSP and I needed, in order to make this book mutually acceptable; the CSP editorial panel, for whom this work has to have presented a rather unique challenge; Sean Howley, an exceptional editor and conscientious marketer; and, last, but not least, Amanda Millar, Typesetting Manager: Amanda's is one of the most important jobs in all of publishing, but, probably, one of the least acknowledged. Thank you, Amanda.

Secondly, I acknowledge Bryan College for their unwavering support of my efforts to counter and fight this scourge, as best I can. Special commendations go to Dr. Stephen Livesay, President of Bryan College, who has gone the extra mile in support of this cause and my efforts in this regard. Dr. Livesay convened a round table of key advocates in July 2012, which gave added momentum to Bryan's charge. Drs. Bradford Sample, Vice President (VP) for Academic Affairs and Cal White, who preceded Bradford: These men have been stalwart in their support of this mission. Dr. Matt Benson, VP for Spiritual Formation, who had the vision and courage to lead Bryan's first foray into countering trafficking in 2001 in Calcutta, India; Messrs. Dennis Miller and Ben Norquist have taken the fight into areas, consistent with their gifts, and have greatly enhanced Bryan's role in this war: Dennis in Atlanta and through his generous sponsoring of anti-trafficking fighters and Ben through his passion, scholarship, mentoring; and teaching; and, Drs. Ken Turner and Paul

Bowling, whose writings and lectures have raised awareness on the Bryan Campus and beyond.

Thirdly, The Oxford Round Table, in Oxford, England; its able coordinator, Ms. Shenette McCandless; and, the Programme Committee and Advisory Board, are worthy of acknowledgment. This Oxford Round Table Team, like Cambridge Scholars Publishing, took a bold step in 2008, by extending an invitation to me to join other scholars in Oxford, but more so, by accepting my proposal to speak to the spectre of Human Trafficking; and, then, bringing me back to Oxford in 2011 and 2013, enabling me to continue to address this scourge and receive the highest and most critical form of peer review, in the process. Three round table facilitators were especially important to this process: Drs. Samuel K. Alexander, Yehia Khalil, and Paul Steele; and, I wish to acknowledge their contributions.

Finally, I acknowledge Mr. John Glenn, my faithful technical editor, who has had to endure a sudden immersion into the military way of doing things. John has a gift set I do not, and never will have; so, suffice it to say that I could not have produced this book on my own; it has been, to my way of thinking, a splendid team effort.

INTRODUCTION

The greatest of the slave liberators throughout the history of Western Civilization, specifically, those three men who stood up, spoke out, and used the power of their offices to free the slave from the iniquitous shackles of slavery, are: Augustine, Wilberforce, and Lincoln.

It is left to William Jennings Bryan, distinguished American Statesman of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries; Standard Bearer for the Democrat Party for 16 years;¹⁰ Presidential Candidate three times,¹¹ who capped a brilliant public service career with his appointment¹² as Secretary of State by President Woodrow Wilson, to state the case for Augustine, Wilberforce, and Lincoln's leadership:

Government affects but a part of the life which we live here and does not deal at all with the life beyond, while religion touches the infinite circle of existence as well as the small arc of that circle which we spend on earth. No greater theme, therefore, can engage our attention. If I discuss questions of government I must secure the cooperation of a majority before I can put my ideas into practice, but if, in referring to religion, I can touch one human heart for good, I have not spoken in vain no matter how large the majority may be against me.¹³

All this said, I leave my argument in the hands of a bastion of British, liberal,¹⁴ secularism, none other than *The Economist*, whose editors argue, in a *Leader on Church and state*: "Let religion [to include William Jennings Bryan's religion] compete in the marketplace for ideas...One law for all, with its enlightened insistence on tolerance and free speech, is not a 'bit of a danger.'"¹⁵

So, it is hoped, that the reader will allow the occasional religious reference,¹⁶ as being essential to the argument, that "Human Trafficking is the Scourge of History;" which is the 21st Century Holocaust, and which "Only Moral Leadership Can Combat."¹⁷ These ideas must be allowed to compete in the marketplace, even for the attention of Bill Gates and Warren Buffett,¹⁸ as an example of free speech, that poses no danger, but which highlights the danger to civilization, i.e., that civilization is at risk, as millions of seeds of strife are sown.

I will use the voices of students and scholars; humanitarians and theologians; novelists and film makers; historians and Christian apologists; philosophers, artists, and soldiers. I will use a disparate array of sources

to, hopefully, pull all the thoughts that follow, together, in an eclectic mix that just might enable a large, diverse, and consciously concerned group of people to glimpse, if not grasp, the enormity of the evil that Human Trafficking presents to their nation and to the world today. And it is necessary to speak of evil:¹⁹ To speak of certain acts as evil is to render a judgment on such acts.²⁰ To not speak of certain acts as evil is to render a value judgment of another kind.²¹

Finally, I contend that the family is at the core of Western Civilization; and the church is the framework, the very structure, that protects the family, at its core.

When a woman enters prostitution,²² the family unit is broken; when a woman is trafficked, into sexual slavery, the family unit is shattered.²³

If Western Civilization is to survive, let alone thrive,²⁴ Human Trafficking must be recognized for what it is: The Scourge of History and the 21st Century Holocaust. Only then, will Western Civilization grasp the enormity of the cancer that is eating its lifeblood, and take the measures necessary to monitor and combat Human Trafficking. Restoration and protection of the family unit; respect for the role of church in society; and the global protection of human rights in an age of terrorism. These are the seeds of renewal for a civilization at risk. This is an example of: First Things²⁵ First.²⁶

CHAPTER ONE

THE FIRST AND ORIGINAL BACK STORY

“Administer justice every morning;
rescue from the hand of his
oppressor
the one who has been robbed”²⁷

The person forced into slavery “has been robbed,”²⁸ of the inalienable right of freedom;²⁹ robbed of their dignity; robbed of their very person, let alone the body they have learned to care for since earliest childhood.³⁰ Slavery is a heinous crime; a scourge³¹; and, Human Trafficking³² is the mechanism by which people are enslaved in the 21st Century, so many centuries after Joseph’s brothers,³³ bent on murdering him, agreed among themselves to profit from his purposed demise at their hands by selling him to slave traders,³⁴ i.e., “a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead . . . on their way . . . to Egypt.”³⁵

PART I

THE STATE OF THINGS AS THEY ARE

CHAPTER TWO

WE BEGIN WITH “THE STATE OF THINGS AS THEY ARE”³⁶

The following facts comprise the United States Department of State’s research and the work of other researchers, as noted in this paper. One prefatory comment: These facts are real; the reality in 2008 is the same reality we faced in 2013 and 2014, and which we face in 2021, and will continue to face in the years to follow. The facts, especially those originally presented by the State Department in 2008, serve as a vivid illustration of the depravity of man, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

To illustrate this contention, a Summer 2008 rape case was heard in court nearly three years later. The rape was first reported on August 30, 2008. The facts remain the same, whether they had the same relevancy in 2011, to the alleged victim, as they did to the student accused of rape, who denied the allegations and sued for damages. If the U.S. court system values facts that date back nearly three years (this case went to trial on July 28, 2011), so, too, can those people reviewing Human Trafficking facts, dating back three years, as one scholar recently was unwilling to do. He intoned, in the course of his all too quick review: “These facts are out of date.” With all due respect to my academy colleague: No, these facts are not out of date; and, they are timely, especially, in the sense of being suspended in time; and, they are just as relevant to today’s arguments.

Even in a field as eclectic and creative as film making, a Dutch film, such as *Bride Flight*, which was made and released in The Netherlands in 2008, but was given a limited release in the United States (June 2011), was not considered for an Academy Award, because three years of time had passed; regardless, it still could have been selected by critics for any number of best film categories. And, this is the same film that was released in 2008, as it was in 2011, as it is today: The facts that were presented at trial in 2011 are the same that were reported in 2008. Finally, the facts that the State Department presented over five years ago, and which facts, have been included, for the purposes of this paper, are timeless in their validity and the truths they bring to bear on the problem at hand.³⁷

Unfortunately, there is a tendency among some, especially, within the younger generation of academics, to rely on the most current data, even to include that found on the internet; and, if it is a day old, such information is to be questioned and, even, devalued, not because of the source, which may be questionable to begin with, but, because of the passage of time, as marked only by hours.³⁸

“It was ludicrous and impertinent, argued the philosopher St. Augustine of Hippo, for man to impose his own moral calculations on the workings of God.” Reference is to “the profusion of possible starting points for a ‘new year....’”³⁹ Just as Augustine argued [and I will be the first to admit that I am no Augustine] against the frivolous calculations of man, in his time; so, too, do I argue against the insensitivity of men and women, in my time, who deem only the most current facts to be of any value: “It’s not true; it’s not true; it’s not true; it’s old news.”⁴⁰

That which took place just a few years ago and which was reported, e.g., in 2008, has as much validity, in 2021, as if it happened today;⁴¹ because, the spectre of Human Trafficking only has become worse in these 13 years⁴² and requires a long-term plan of action. In a round table discussion of trafficking, one scholar was critical that my focus was on the trafficking of women and girls, which it was. He claimed that men and boys are “now” trafficked more than women and girls and cited the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as his source. According to FBI data, his statement simply was not true:

“The majority of victims in FBI trafficking cases are women and young girls from Central American and Asian countries. They are primarily forced into the commercial sex industry Men and boys are typically victimized in the migrant farming,⁴³ restaurant, and other service-related industries. However, there is an increasing number of young males being forced into the commercial sex industry as well.”⁴⁴

Unfortunately, in a forum, where a presenter has fifteen minutes to offer an overview of a position paper, followed by a 15 minute discussant led question and answer session, such a polemical statement can be made, with no chance for the presenter to effectively rebut, save in a subsequent journal offering, or book, after a thorough vetting of statements and a verification of facts, coupled with a rejection of misleading and erroneous information, has been completed.

Granted, the form that sin takes, may shift, as the demand for one sex of children may decrease, while the other may increase; but, the reality is the same: These are children, girls and boys, and only a depraved mind can even think of harming, let alone assaulting them. So, let us not waste

time debating whether one sex is more trafficked than another; let’s deal with the depravity that sees a child as a commodity to be bought and sold for the basest of reasons.

CHAPTER THREE

THE CHOICE OF THE TRAFFICKER

As has been confirmed, females are the favored choice of traffickers. They are the more vulnerable sex; offer the least resistance; and bring in greater profits to the trafficker. Sex trafficking is the scourge of our time. Labor trafficking, focuses more on males, for the simple reason of the strength and energy that can be applied to physical tasks. Granted, more and more women and girls are proving themselves to be as physically capable as men and boys, and, in some cases, more so, in this 21st Century. All this said, labor trafficking is a grievously sinful trade; but, it is significantly different than sex trafficking, and is not the focus of this book.⁴⁵

Finally, those people more interested in labor trafficking should study the U.S. Department of Agriculture's reports on "Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations."⁴⁶ One of my colleagues at a recent Oxford Round Table, at Lincoln College, in Oxford University, was Samuel Vincent Jones. Dr. Jones [Associate Professor of Law, The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois] cited the fact that there are over two million farms in the United States. The sheer volume of the farms (2+ million) gives one an idea of the potential for labor trafficking and the abuse that invariably follows. Dr. Jones has written on this problem, e.g., see his article, published in *The Utah Law Review* (2010.4 accessed 5 May 2011), entitled, "The Invisible Man: The Conscious Neglect Of Men And Boys In The War On Human Trafficking." Dr. Jones clearly is a powerful advocate for the plight of men and boys, who are trafficked; and, his passion for the subject is necessary to their defense.

One final comment, if I may: People interested in waging the fight against Human Trafficking, to include those who choose to write on the issues involved, need to appreciate the enormity of the problem and be understanding, if not gracious, to those brothers and sisters, who are laboring in behalf of a trafficking issue, e.g., the sexual trafficking of women and girls, that may not be of particular interest to them. Better to choose a field on which to do battle [and, the pen, if not mightier than the sword, in this battle, still can wield a cutting edge]; and, wage the fight, as

best one can. It is counter-productive to criticize others in the fight, who have chosen to wage their battle on another field; it is as counterproductive, as the Protestant refusing to join the Catholic in the fight for the right to life; or, a conservative refusing to join a moderate, or a liberal, regardless of party affiliation, in the battle over the national deficit, let alone the debt ceiling. Human Trafficking is one fight that should transcend petty politics and personal prejudice.

CHAPTER FOUR

UNFATHOMABLE, UNSPEAKABLE REALITY

What I am about to share is not pleasant. Accordingly, please consider the following facts, as I present them to you.⁴⁷

These 20 facts should suffice, not only to raise consciousness, but inspire action;⁴⁸ at least, that is my intention. I have grouped these statistics, to emphasize, thematically, aspects of trafficking of which we all need to be aware. I will begin with the general and move, ever so quickly, to the specific.

It is estimated that there are 27⁴⁹-30⁵⁰ million people, in the world, today, in slavery; and, there are 2-4 million newly trafficked victims, annually.⁵¹ Now, let me be more specific: It has been estimated that 80% of slavery crimes involve women and children,⁵² which is the primary focus of this research. Please, note that the International Justice Mission (IJM) quoted this State Department statistic on their website, citing this as of 2010. So, over a two year span of time⁵³ this “fact” continued to be “really true,” to use Webster’s definition phraseology.⁵⁴

Now let me focus, ever so briefly, on that which is faced by children caught up, in this scourge: Girls are summarily executed, in order to frighten other girls into sexual bondage.⁵⁵ This is a common practice of the trafficker. Victims not only are tortured; they are shot, burned, hung, and buried alive;⁵⁶ and, other girls are made to watch.

A Sri Lankan house maid gives a statement to police at a hospital in Sri Lanka, having returned after five months in Saudi Arabia. When she complained of a too heavy workload, her employers tortured her by hammering 24 nails into her hands, legs, and forehead.⁵⁷

The average age of the enslaved victim is seven (7) years.⁵⁸ Please: Think about this.

At this point, we move into a criminal area even more aberrant than that which I just shared; and, as if one specter was not bad enough, two specters now merge, i.e., the trafficking of young children, especially, girls, and the ravaging disease, Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS): It takes 18 months for a sex slave to be infected with (HIV/AIDS).⁵⁹ As the rate of HIV/AIDS increases,

there is a direct proportion to the demand for younger and younger children.⁶⁰ \$15,000 is the going price for one sexual encounter with a virgin.⁶¹

In Michael Crichton's *The Great Train Robbery* (1975), the value of a "fresh," or virgin, is highlighted. In the perverse and ignorant culture surrounding this criminal event (the notorious train robbery) of which Crichton wrote, it was believed that sex with a virgin, a "fresh," would cure venereal disease. A huge price was paid for such a treatment. The terrible irony is that 166 years later (1855-2021), we have not progressed; rather, moral degradation continues to consume children in the most terrible of ways. It should be noted, that it is to Michael Crichton and Sean Connery's credit, that, in the adaptation of the book to film, this historical observation is omitted, and for good reason. There is no need to encourage prurient interest more than the entertainment industry and the Internet already do. As the average age of the enslaved victim is seven years; therefore, the average age of the HIV/AIDS infected, sex slave is eight (8) years and six months.

The American author, Elizabeth George, gifted novelist, whose forte is the mystery crime novel, describes the rape of a grown woman in *Missing Joseph*. The description is so graphic, that I have had to put reading George aside, for the time being, even though I value, so much, her erudition and love of words [She drives me to the dictionary more than any other author I currently read.].

The aberration, now, intensifies: 83% of victims are children between the ages of six (6) and twelve (12) years;⁶² 9% of the victims are under the age of three (3) years;⁶³ and, in 81% of these cases, there is forced sexual penetration.⁶⁴ One victim was less than hours old.⁶⁵

In this particular case, no more detail was given. The assumption is: One to two hours old. On this point, alone, everybody who reads, or hears, this statistic, should join in the fight to monitor and combat Human Trafficking. Do not be naïve: "Sex predators take pleasure in afflicting pain".⁶⁶ This, also, explains child pornography, as well as child abuse: The intentional affliction of pain on an innocent child.

In December 2010, New Scotland Yard had hoped to be able to host a future international conference dealing with the economics of trafficking.⁶⁷ The reason such an economics conference is so important is that \$32 billion is generated, annually, from Human Trafficking, for sex, "on the street," so to speak, as well as labor activities.⁶⁸ In addition, \$34 billion is generated from the Internet, i.e., pornography.^{69,70} In total, the human trafficking industry accounts for \$66 billion annually.⁷¹

To give you some insight into the mind of such perverts: After James Freeman was vetted and approved for membership in what police describe as a highly sophisticated child porn network, he expressed his appreciation by posting two folders online: one labeled "mild," the other "wild." "All I can say is that they are worth the download," wrote Freeman, then 47, known in the global porn ring as "Mystikal," according to court documents. "My thanks to you and all the others that together make this the greatest group of pedos ever to gather in one place." Freeman, of Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, was one of 12 Americans indicted ... in a worldwide investigation that ultimately charged 22 people with participating in the porn ring -- and intentionally blocking police from investigating it. In all, more than 400,000 pictures, video files and other images showing children engaged in sexual behavior were produced, advertised, traded and distributed globally in the online pornography ring, according to U.S. and international authorities. The sting, which started in Australia, also netted accused pornographers in England, Canada and Germany. Some victims were as young as five years old. Others were preyed upon for innocent characteristics such as wearing their hair in pigtails. Authorities won't say how they eventually broke through several layers of encryption, background checks and other security measures the pornographers used to protect their online user group from being accessed. The porn ring was run like a business, FBI executive assistant director J. Stephen Tidwell said . . . , with the lewd images used as currency instead of cash. "This is beyond a quantum exponential leap for us to see folks that have gone to this much trouble to produce this kind of volume of horrific exploitation of children," Tidwell said in an interview.⁷²

One of the most important aspects of fighting Human Trafficking is the provision of after care. This is one of the greatest challenges to fighting Human Trafficking; and, very few people are qualified, let alone capable of providing such care. The medical and psychological training is an obstacle for many who would try. It might be well to start with Mary Frances Bowley's *The White Umbrella, walking with survivors of sex trafficking*, in order to assess whether such a mission is right for you. Mrs. Bowley is the founder and president of Wellspring Living, an organization fighting childhood sexual abuse and exploitation. Look her up.

