



Have We Been Lied To/Misled? The US And The Beast: Part 2

Rob Dalrymple

February 12, 2024

Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University estimates that the US (through the work of the CIA) has been involved in 80 regime changes since the beginning of the 20th century. Of course, these coups and war efforts were necessary to keep the American people safe. Well, at least that's what we are supposed to believe.

Is it possible that America's foreign interventions have served the aims of America's politicians and its major corporations more than it has served the interests of the American people?

Is it possible that our tax dollars have served to line the pockets of dictators and puppet leaders more than they have actually provided humanitarian relief?

NB: After the 1972 earthquake in Nicaragua, the US gave Samosa \$57million in emergency aid. The Nicaraguan national treasury only reported \$16million. Samosa apparently kept \$41million. The IMF gave Samosa another \$65million. Most of this money went to Samosa. Very little of it trickled down to the poor in Nicaragua. I plan to discuss the US' actions in Nicaragua in my next post.

Have we been lied to?

In my [post on Jan 22, 2024](#), I began by asking, "Have we been lied to?" I ask this with respect to America's wars and foreign interventions and what impact this has on our understanding of the Beast in Revelation 13.

NB: See links to previous posts on the Beast below.

We know that the famed *Pax Romana* (Roman Peace) was established by violence and bloodshed at the hands of millions. What Rome deemed "peace" meant rape, enslavement, and death for others. McKnight and Matchett note,

"Galgacus, a Caledonian [British] chief, speaking of the Roman army and its ruthlessness, calls them the 'robbers of the world' and says, 'To robbery, slaughter, plunder, they give the lying name of empire and they call it 'solitude' and 'peace'" ([McKnight, Scot; Matchett, Cody. *Revelation for the Rest of Us*, 56](#)).

How can we laud the Pax Romana?

What I find quite intriguing, if not downright disgusting, is that when the *Pax Romana* is mentioned today it is often heralded as one of the Roman empire's great achievements. For example, most of the hits from a simple [google search on Pax Romana](#) herald it as such! The [Wikipedia article](#) on the *Pax Romana* begins by claiming, "The Pax Romana is said to have been a 'miracle' because prior to it there had never been peace for so many years in a given period of history." A "miracle"? you've got to be kidding!

Even Monica (AI assistant for Chrome) refers to the *Pax Romana* as "a time of unprecedented prosperity, cultural flourishing, and territorial expansion for the Roman Empire. . . . The Pax Romana was also a time of great economic prosperity."

But what if we asked the poor, the slaves, and the family members of those whom Rome raped, pillaged, and killed what they thought of the Roman peace? (btw, such people constituted as much as 90-95% of the people of the Roman world).

This is incredulous! In fact, it is outrageous. But this is how empires operate. They delight in their glorious achievements. And then they call them "good!" Sorry to be the one to break it to you, but this is also the American way.

Understanding the New Testament

In my opinion, it is foundational to understanding the New Testament to recognize that Jesus was speaking to an oppressed people who were living under foreign occupation and He was telling them that there was a new way, a better way, and a way of true peace for everyone.

It is also critical to recognize that the book of Revelation was written against the backdrop of imperial Rome. And I don't think John would agree with Wikipedia's assessment of the *Pax Romana*.

The Great Harlot

In [Rev 17-18](#), we are introduced to the Great Harlot. In [17:2](#), John is told, "Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed *acts of* immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality."

Although these chapters are replete with apocalyptic imagery, it is fairly simple to determine the identity of the Great Harlot.

- In [Rev 17:5](#), she is named, "Babylon the Great."
- In [Rev 17:9](#), we are told, "The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits."
- And, in [Rev 17:18](#), John declares, "The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."

That “Babylon” was a common moniker used to identify Rome was well established in the first-century world (see 1 Pet 5:13). In addition, Rome was often referred to as the city on 7 hills. And there is no question that the “great city” that “reigns over the kings of the earth” was Rome.

John concludes his description of Rome, or the Great Harlot, by asserting, “And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth” (Rev 18:24).

When John/the book of Revelation/the Bible (however you want to phrase it) looks at Rome, it sees violence, savagery, enslavement, rape, and economic injustice. In *Revelation for the Rest of US*, McKnight and Matchett note: “Galgacus, a Caledonian [British] chief, speaking of the Roman army and its ruthlessness, calls them the ‘robbers of the world’ and says, ‘To robbery, slaughter, plunder, they give the lying name of empire’ and they call it ‘solitude’ and ‘peace’” (McKnight, Scot; Matchett, Cody, *Revelation for the Rest of Us*, 56).

Could it be that we look to the US as the great defender of democracy and the broker of peace and justice, while Christ looks at an empire that is not much different than Rome?

As I noted at the outset, the US (largely through the work of the CIA) has been involved in regime changes all over the world. And, in almost every instance, these regime changes have brought or likely will bring, negative consequences—directly or indirectly—to the American people. An article on the CATO Institute website, titled, “The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same: The Failure of Regime-Change Operations” states,

“The United States has, at various times in its history, used military force to promote regime change around the world in pursuit of its interests. In recent years, however, there has been a growing scholarly consensus that these foreign regime-change operations are often ineffective and produce deleterious side effects”

Could it be that the US has acted more in accord with the interests of its’ politicians, who are themselves largely subservient to major US corporations and lobbyist groups?

This is what the book of Revelation calls, “The Beast” (Rev 13).

This is radicalness

Now, I know that I might sound like a radical at this point. But that only proves my point even more. What do I mean?

The fact that calling out Rome’s gross injustices and comparing the acts of the US to Rome might even possibly be considered “radical”—in a bad sense—is the problem.

Is it possible that we become so accustomed to the rhetoric of empire that we deem evil good and good evil? As Isaiah says, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness” (Isa 5:20).