

## **Corporate personhood gives wrong people control of future**

By M.L. Johnson – 11/8/2012

---

There is a quantum difference between predicting the future and controlling the future.

The first produces a forecast based on carefully documented trends/cycles and the second uses a planned strategy to control variables for achieving a prescribed outcome — creating a designed future. George Orwell understood the difference in his observation: “He who controls the present, controls the past. He who controls the past, controls the future.”

Initiatives designed to affect a divined future are historic, whether by persuasion, manipulation or coercion of individuals or to create favorable public policy. Although some initiatives for control are only an extension of a cultural bias, most controlling initiatives involve strategic planning. Those with a vested interest and influence ability obviously can use mass media to frame conversation in the public square. Political leaders and successful business personalities get quoted, regardless of their actual knowledge of the facts, and their adamantly declared statements function to control the public’s beliefs.

A historic example of Orwell’s observation occurred when Chairman Mao Zedong took control of China in 1949 and reshaped a divided feudal society into a monolith — with a decidedly different future. Mao faced obstacles: a century of European influence and a massive country divided into self-serving feudal estates. After consolidating power through his Campaign to Suppress Counterrevolutionaries, Mao closed the country to Europeans and enacted land reforms; using violence and terror, he overthrew feudal landlords and divided estates into peasant communes. Once in full control, his Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution rapidly modernized the national consciousness, denigrating China’s historical culture and destroying relics and religious sites. Mao controlled the present; thus, he controlled the interpretations of China’s past and design of China’s future.

Winston Churchill’s, “History is written by the victors,” actually means that those in control of the present also control interpretations of the past and future direction. For example, the Texas State Board of Education removed mention of Ted Kennedy and Cesar Chavez from textbooks in favor of new entries on Newt Gingrich’s “Contract with America” and anti-feminist advocate Phyllis Schlafly. In the battle for the hearts and minds of future generations, the board mandated that lessons include interest groups and key individuals of the conservative

resurgence of the 1980s and 1990s — featuring the Moral Majority, the Heritage Foundation and the National Rifle Association.

We are currently experiencing tension between two visions of America, with election winners awarded control of the country's future. Unfortunately, critical information that could serve to instruct deep public policy discussion has fallen victim to massive paid advertisements. Unbelievably, history is distorted, inconvenient long-term economic policy effects are ignored and objective science is dismissed. For example, the Koch/Cato Institute (2012) fake research study, "Addendum: Global Climate Impacts in the United States," mimics/twists the original U.S. Government Report of global warning — except they added "Addendum."

Political elections are about creating visions for the future — controlling the future by framing and controlling present dialogue. However, the process is not well served when a self-serving vision is designed and promoted by corporations pretending to be persons.

*M. L. Johnson, Ed.D., Ph.D., lives in Fort Collins.*