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# **American Ignorance of Our History**

Bob Bauman (October 26, 2010)

My friend, the late President Ronald Reagan was worried about how little most Americans know of our own history.

In his farewell address he said: "If we forget what we did, we won't know who we are. I'm warning of an eradication...of the American memory that could result, ultimately, in an erosion of the American spirit."



I have much respect for Nat Hentoff, the nationally known authority on the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights and a senior fellow at the Cato Institute. In the past I have quoted his remarks about how our constitutional liberties are being destroyed.

He has written a recent column sadly detailing the ignorance of the roots of their liberties in American history on the part of far too many students in our schools.

Hentoff lists a number of groups with online contacts that are trying to redress the massive lack of knowledge of American students about our nation's history, our Constitution and the Bill of Rights and about our system of government.

#### A New Generation

Says Hentoff: "What is most needed if the new generation of Americans are to be — as **Thomas Jefferson** warned all citizens — the ultimate protector of their liberties is an active, participatory civic curriculum, in addition to involvement in our history."

I certainly agree, especially during an unusual election campaign in which understanding the Constitution and applying the Bill of Rights have become major issues in many Senate and House contests. It's about time, in my opinion.

I commend <u>Hentoff's column</u> to you. It can provide the ammunition you may need to measure and improve the civics teachings of your children's schools and colleges.

If we ask God to bless America we have an obligation to do our part as well.





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### **About the Author**

Robert E. "Bob" Bauman, legal counsel to The Sovereign Society, serves on its board of directors and was the founding editor of The Sovereign Society Offshore A-Letter, more than a decade ago.

Society members and many others know Bob as the prolific author of many articles, reports and books. His writings have appeared in The Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, National Review, Human Events and many other publications.

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