

The Meaning of Thanksgiving: *‘Britain Delenda Est’*

The following greeting was sent to a Thanksgiving gathering of LaRouche Youth Movement members, by Mark Calney, a veteran of the movement.

Greetings to all you folks in Los Angeles and San Francisco. This is Mark. I assume by this time, you are all sated, stuffed with your Thanksgiving turkey. Unfortunately, . . . this is the first time in many years, that Maureen and I have not been able to host the national holiday festival at our home for all of you. As has been the custom over that time, I always endeavored to present an historical exposition of the true origins and meaning of those national holidays, often accompanied by readings of the key relevant, historical documents, writings, and speeches by such leaders as Presidents Washington, Lincoln, Garfield, FDR, and others.

The necessity of those expositions was revealed to me from the very beginning: Exemplified by the reaction of one of our early recruits to the Youth Movement, when she admitted to me privately, that she had always thought that Thanksgiving was a day to celebrate the all-American sport of football! This goes to the critical issue, which everyone present there understands: We desperately need to educate our fellow Americans, and others, to the true history and mission of the founding of the world's first true republic, the United States of America. . . .

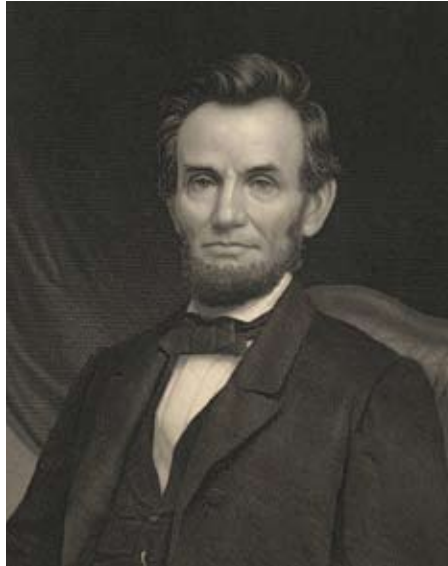
The Thanksgiving Idea

Now, the idea of Thanksgiving is as old as Western civilization, although the American founders and preservers gave it a more specific, though universal meaning. Historically, the “thanks” in “Thanksgiving” is given to God, in organized prayer, and possibly celebration, usually issued by church leaders, and later, military or state leaders, to mark a human victory over some type of natural or man-made calamity. The success of Nicholas of Cusa, over the degenerate, vile European oligarchy, who organized the colonization of the New World, with the best of the Old World, beginning with the trans-Atlantic voyage of Columbus, was marked by the historic pilgrimage of the passengers aboard the *Mayflower*, which landed near present-day Boston, in 1620. Parenthetically, I suggested the first manned spaceship to Mars, be given the name *Mayflower*.

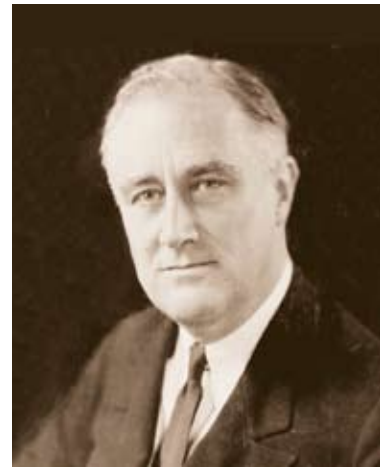
Now, it is often said, that the best Brits moved to America. In the case of those English Pilgrims, their quest to the New World was to establish a new civilization, based on the freedom to be human, to be able to exercise that God-given quality of creativity, that provides the means of discovering and mastering the principles of the universe, that which distinguishes human beings from the beasts, like sheep, or Prince Philip and the other Royal Primates, whose view of those “uppity Pilgrims,” and humanity generally, has always been



Portrait by Gilbert Stuart



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Presidents George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt (left to right) focused Americans' attention on the real meaning of Thanksgiving, with their declarations of national days of commemoration and celebration of human freedom.

that humanity is their personal cattle herd, to be culled and slaughtered, as they see fit.

Well, human freedom is not the simplistic notion of having the freedom to choose, à la Milton Friedman, or the Boomer concept of “freedom to do your own thing,” which is usually accompanied by an attempt to fill every available orifice of the human body, with the maximum amount of so-called pleasure. Rather, our Founding Fathers explicitly adopted Leibniz’s idea, that *higher idea* of freedom, what it truly means to be human, when they included “the pursuit of happiness” in our Declaration of Independence.

Now, some years ago, when I was in elementary school, I participated in a pageant depicting the first American Thanksgiving, celebrated almost one year after the landing of the *Mayflower* in Plymouth, by the colonists and the Native Indians. I was always proud of having played Squanto, a local Indian leader, in that school performance, because the Indians saved the butts of those Pilgrims! During the first Winter, almost one-half of those 102 English immigrants died of disease, brought about by the lack of adequate food supplies. The following Spring, the Native Americans taught the colonists how to reap the agricultural blessings of the New World, which happily resulted in a joint Thanksgiving celebration—and that lasted three days. It was during the Autumn harvest season.

That celebration did become an American tradition, particularly beginning in New England, and it included many of the foods served at that first feast, though lobster, eel pie, and venison are still not likely to be found on many American dining tables these days. In 1623, upon the arrival of new colonists and supplies, the Governor of Plymouth Colony, William Bradford, issued a Thanksgiving Proclamation.

Following that of the Plymouth Colony, there were a number of important American Thanksgiving proclamations from leaders, and also issued from Congress. Having spent each Thanksgiving holiday of my adolescence with my family, at my grandparents’ home in Boston, I was well aware of the origins of the original Thanksgiving tradition. Yet, it was not until I became a member of the LaRouche Movement, that I discovered the Thanksgiving Proclamations of later American leaders, such as President Abraham Lincoln.

An Anti-British Holiday

After the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving is perhaps the most patriotic, and explicitly *anti-British Empire* holiday for Americans. Let’s do a quick review:

After the American victory over the British, at the Battle of Saratoga, in October of 1777, Gen. George Washington proclaimed a Thanksgiving to occur in December, and that was supported by the Continental

Congress. After our military victory over the British, and the adoption of the U.S. Constitution by Congress in 1789, the newly elected President, George Washington, issued his Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamation in New York City. At the end of our Second War of American Independence, now referred to as the War of 1812, President James Madison, and Congress, declared not one, but two Thanksgivings, in 1815.

Following the defeat of the British-sponsored Confederate forces by the Union, at Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863, and General Grant's victory at Vicksburg on July 4, President Abraham Lincoln issued his first Proclamation of Thanksgiving, on July 15. Lincoln made two additional Proclamations of Thanksgiving: the next on Oct. 3 of 1863; the last was issued three weeks before his re-election in November 1864, as General Sherman prepared to launch his famous March to the Sea.

To whom do you think Lincoln was referring, in that proclamation, when he began by stating: "It has pleased Almighty God to prolong our national life another year, defending us with His guardian care against unfriendly designs from abroad." That final proclamation of Oct. 20, 1864, set aside the last Thursday of November, as a national day of Thanksgiving, which has since become the traditional national day of celebration.

And it's no accident that President Franklin Delano

Roosevelt hearkened back to reaffirm Lincoln's commitment to upholding the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, when Thanksgiving Day was officially established as a national holiday, in 1939. In 1942, FDR celebrated Thanksgiving in the White House, where the Marine Corps Band performed the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* (even though FDR privately criticized the band for always attempting to turn anything they played into a two-step!).

Now, in the weeks following that celebration, during January of 1943, after the U.S. invasion of North Africa, FDR held his famous meeting in Casablanca, Morocco, with the British Empire's Prime Minister Winston Churchill. It was there, that FDR informed the apoplectic "Winnie," that America would ensure that *all* colonialism would come to an end, globally, at the conclusion of World War II.

Today, the mantle of responsibility to bring about the unfinished mission of those who boldly came before us, of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt, has happily fallen on the shoulders, of Lyndon LaRouche, and us, his associates. And *that mission, is the final, and complete, destruction of the British Empire, and everything evil for which it stands!*

So, I now leave you, to continue your festivities, and hope to be with you, on the front lines, soon.

Oh, one final thing: *Britain delenda est!*

The Concept Of Immortality

Following Mark Calney's remarks (above), Lyndon LaRouche spoke briefly on the question of immortality. We print an excerpt here.

...What he [Calney] said, is the concept of the essential immortality of the human personality. That the problem which we often face, even among our ranks here, is the sense that one's sense of life, as being lived, is limited to the span, the bookends, so to speak, of your birth and death. That the sense of

non-participation in events which occurred before you were born, and after you died, is the extent of your experience and involvement with humanity.

This, of course, is a deadly, as well as false assumption. As we know from all great inventions, particularly discoveries of principle, the greatest inventions of humanity have been realized, in principle, long after, sometimes, the death of the individual inventor, or the initiator of this change. That mankind, unlike what the reductionist says, mankind lives in creativity, not in experience as such. Not in events as such. And the purpose of life is to insert into the living process, from the past and into the future, those conceptions which will lead mankind to a fruitful outcome, even long after the death of the creative individual...