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## **American Axis Hypocrisy, Knowledge Less & Apathy A Post 9/11 Trilogy**

*Where Were You When*

*The World Stopped Turning? - Alan Jackson*

### ***New World Disorder***

I was burned by legal proceedings and geopolitical conflicts that reflected the American sunset of the 20th century. The sunburn left a permanent scar. When the U.S. spy plane landed on Hainan Island on April 1, 2001, after clashing with a Chinese jet, I was in the midst of an acrimonious divorce with my mainland Chinese wife who was holding our son and business hostage in Shanghai. The tension and rhetoric between my wife in Shanghai and me in Hong Kong escalated against a backdrop of Sino-U.S. saber-rattling framed by the detention of the 24 American servicemen and women and their high tech spy plane.

On September 11, 2001, a Hong Kong judge enjoined my wife from proceeding with her second divorce and custody proceeding in Shanghai. Later that day, terrorist kamikaze bombers tried to torpedo the freedoms of America and the Free World to the cheers and toasts of many mainland Chinese. They were happy even though Chinese nationals also died in the attack.

My wife's appeal against the September 11 ruling, like the Taleban's, Al Qaeda' and Saddam Hussein's appeals to the Islamic world to rise up, was only a limited success.



The acrid personal and geopolitical parallels contain many lessons. I hope this trilogy can derail the tortured relationship and contribute to the demise of the cultural and political misunderstandings the two major Pacific powers have of each other as we embark on the 21st century. I'm talking of both people and governments. Good relations between America and China are indispensable for all humanity if terrorism is to be defeated. America and China both have a common enemy against whom they should join forces to fight together in the new millennium.

When I went to Ground Zero to see firsthand the jagged remains of the humbled smoldering Twin Towers, I felt I was witness to a temporarily crippled self-impaled America. The spiritual idea of the Founding Fathers is in agonizing pain. People grieved not just for the dead, injured and their families but for America.

Like the public-address system in the World Trade Center that announced it was safe for people to return to their offices, the public pronouncements of career politicians are nothing but hypocritical misleading lies that we have been conditioned to believe and accept.

Government intelligence agencies failed to "protect" America and its citizens. Government commissions, committees and knowledgeable experts repeatedly warned the U.S. government of the imminent terrorist threats, corporate implosions, and the dangers they pose to America and its citizens. How much more do taxpayers have to pay for these commissions and committees whose recommendations are swept aside?

The government deliberately chose to ignore the warnings while America's career politicians coddled and sun-bathed with their corrupt corporate campaign donors and the petro-dictators and monarchs who financed terror. The career politicians decided to create an artificial, easily identifiable enemy. Not a mysterious enemy hiding in the shadows among us. China fitted the bill perfectly.

China is the career politicians' ideal enemy of the 21st century. A communist dictatorship that is easily identifiable. An illusory enemy with drastic fatal consequences to America. Corporate America's domination of government and suicidal terrorists and



the dictators and monarchies that oppress and suppress their families while financing their terror are the real threat to the New World Disorder.

Osama bin-Laden, al-Qaeda, Saddam Hussein and Iraq were around doing their mischievous thing before September 11. They were brought into sharp focus by the events of the day and took central geopolitical stage in the post-September 11 divisive vocal and violent new world disorder in Babylon. The cameramen focusing the political lenses are our religious career politicians, their moneyed interests and collective spin-doctors.

The world as we knew it ended on September 11. The bombing of the World Trade Center not only changed the landscape of New York City, but the corporate and geopolitical landscape of America and the New World Disorder it leads. September 11 is a fulcrum from which we will examine our political, corporate and cultural heritage and challenge the future. Emotionally, physically, politically, economically, locally, regionally and globally. The age of innocence and ignorance is over. The attack on the World Trade Center was not just an attack on America. It was not the "American Trade Center" that got destroyed. The target represented everything that is the insensitive, ignorant modern Western World that America leads.

### ***Goal***

I have been planning on writing a book since I graduated from college in 1968. During my travels the last thirty-five plus years I clipped interesting articles, copied e-mails and data off the Internet and made voluminous notes and outlines on various topics, political, cultural, social, moral, sexual, religious. Periodically, I'd update my notes and trash dated ideas. What started out as a book became a trilogy.

Over the years I had several false starts. My goal was to write a book that is a relevant civics and history discourse. A condensed fusion of history and contemporary events that converged yet again as the new century dawned. A bloody history because of our continued collective voluntary disengagement from an abandoned political process, leading to the dire consequences confronting America today. It would be a contemporary snapshot, a slice of apathetic and parochial



life in America today. Both timely and timeless. Honest, substantive observations. A social commentary on the perversion of the political process and system in America by career politicians. An easy one-stop read in our wired world. An accessible reference guide that has the potential to shatter illusory beliefs and practices. Shakespeare reminds us that the past is prologue. Sir Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein paraphrased the Bard. The difficulty is that we have to know what to look for to better understand each other's nuances and textures. Knowledge brings tolerance and understanding.

We have to look way out and way back, so that we are better equipped to look way in, at our country and ourselves. The present is the product of the past. The future will be the product of the present that we create.

During my search, I came across the cowboy philosopher Will Rogers. I decided to fuse a few of his observations, which became the premise and foundation of this book. "Humanity is not yet ready for either real truth, or real harmony," he said at the beginning of the last century. Will Rogers also believed that Confucius "perspired out more knowledge than the U.S. Senate has vocalized out in the last fifty years." My goal is to get *We the Apathetic People* to accept these truths in the 21st century. I also believe that the cowboy philosopher's observation that "The last man that knew China was Confucius, and he died feeling that he was becoming a little confused about 'em'" is a timeless comment that also applies to Rogers' fellow Americans today. My hope is this trilogy can contribute to the education needed to dispose of the negative image ingrained in Americans' psyche of the Chinese and Asians.

### ***The Trilogy***

Religion, politics and sex are three subjects we are constantly admonished not to discuss because of the emotions and passion they each evoke. Why? Is it possible our religious leaders, career politicians and their enforcers have subconsciously conditioned us not to look closer at their malfeasance? I believe religion, politics and sex are at the root and core of today's dysfunctional world disorder and this trilogy examines the reasons in depth. Human beings are the most self-abused and dysfunctional animals on earth. We are fundamentally flawed and a determined source of our own



destruction. We are the victims of a conscious and deliberate multi-generational psychological political conditioning campaign to become absolutely submissive and politely accept and subject ourselves to the whims of religious and political leaders. If we don't address our shortcomings and continue to blindly follow career politicians down the self-destructive speedway they've put us on, future species will study us the way we do dinosaurs. Our tendency of ignoring bad experiences has been seized upon by the houses of worship and political halls of power.

It is my hope that this trilogy will correct the misconceptions Americans have of themselves and Sino-Latino civilizations and enable Americans to acknowledge their double standards and shortcomings. By doing so, they will become patriotic citizens of the global village, capable of understanding their fellow villagers as they try to bridge their disagreements and misunderstandings. From that understanding the trilogy explores the benefits of a synergy between free-wheeling Anglo-American capitalist and Chinese-Latino authority-conscious societies. A synergy that has been tested and proven to work in Hong Kong. That cross-pollination will enable us to create a roadmap for society to follow, arriving at a New World Order: *a civilizational blending of religious, political, cultural, moral, ethical and economic harmony.*

I hope this trilogy will be thought-provoking. Its primary purpose is to stimulate personal multi-generational dialogue and debate between grandparents, parents and children be they dropouts, nerds, social rejects, loners, gifted, generation-Xers, professionals with degrees or just plain ordinary folks. Hopefully, the discussions that start at home will provoke each family and community to decide how it should live and interact with others and bring an end to the current deaf dialogue of the apathetic.

The trilogy proposes a homeopathic cure, drawing on existing human ready-made remedies for the New World Order. The prescriptions are *made* to last in the hope they can contribute in some small way to our survival and growth in the new millennium. In fact they've been with us the last millennium but were legally swept under the competing religious and political rugs by career politicians with their selfish agendas, an abuse we have unwittingly facilitated



at the expense of *We the Apathetic People*, a collective which Americans should constantly apply to what is being done around them in their name.

In examining the current human condition, Volume I of the trilogy focuses on political and religious hypocrisies and why they are the main causes of today's modern ills. Volume II is a concise history of modern imperial conflicts and their geopolitical legacy and impact on U.S. domestic and foreign policies that have to be studied and corrected in the Sino-American 21st century. The third volume expands upon the models proposed for a viable future in the first two volumes. It is a roadmap on how Americans can get politically active to get rid of the current personal, political and geopolitical pain being experienced. Volume III spells out the resulting personal, national and geopolitical rewards to be reaped by current and future generations once we become engaged and active in cleaning up the political mess we are mired in.

To achieve this, the opening three chapters of Volume I identify the hypocritical and defective religiously-driven domestic and international policy agendas and policies of America and their expensive long-lasting cost to taxpayers. Volume I then goes on to explore the cultural and historical backgrounds that led to the current condition, and compares Anglo-American societies with their Sino-Latino counterparts in the areas of religion, politics, sexual practices, economics, philosophy, family and life. Basic human, individual and institutional flaws are identified and explored. Fundamental failures are examined and challenged in the literary version of fast-paced music videos. Volume II points out why institutions have taken over the rights and lives of *We the Apathetic People* because we have been duped into allowing them to clean up while they hijack us at our own expense.

Ideas, themes and possible solutions evolve and are further developed in subsequent chapters of each volume. An evolutionary discussion.

Volume III incorporates conclusions from Volumes I and II and proposes alternative working models. It points out why we should re-capture these institutions and fuse a synthesis of the best each culture has to offer. Why career politicians and their special interests have no role to play in a functional New World Order. It is time



to replace political retreads. America needs new political engines, wheels and drivers if the country is going to have a smooth productive political ride in the 21st century. Especially if Americans want to continue winning the global political race.

Debate and deliberation are encouraged. If they fail, political activism on all levels is proposed as a viable alternative. Reconvened constitutional congresses, conventions, local, regional and national forums and referendums are also under-utilized tools. All violent means, confrontations, riots, terrorism and wars are not acceptable solutions in the New World Order.

People, not their churches or career political leaders or bureaucrats, should decide issues of the day in the New World Order. People have to recapture their God-given rights and liberties from the gods of politics and the gods of religious denominations. Church and State have to be separated as the Founding Fathers, the Last Prophets, intended.

Volume III concludes by proposing the vehicles to be used and pathways to be followed by America and the forward-thinking world to create a workable blend of Eastern and Western thought that will re-emphasize the basic human goals, beliefs, convictions, and desires that allow humankind to move forward in a cohesive functional manner to a New World Order worthy of its name.

### ***Custom Maid***

The “American Century” and its “New World Order” ended with the passing of the 1990s. The American Dream, however, is for many just that. They keep waking up. For others it has become a nightmare that has to be confronted at the dawn of the new millennium. Those who think America is a sweet dream should stop reading now. Otherwise they will also start waking up in a nightmarish cold sweat, or worse—not. Chaos is no longer just a theory. “Everything under heaven is chaos and the situation is excellent” is a timely ancient Chinese proverb. The identity of the 43rd president was left dangling in a constitutional, legal and political twilight zone in Florida in 2000. A political never-never land. A prelude to the dangling steel girders of the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Both were the result of duopolistic bipartisan anarchy that includes the nation’s Supreme Court and nepotistic American political



dynasties duking it out in Florida and Washington's legal and political swamps. Security disparity between career politicians and working people is as wide as the income disparity. The widest it's been since the crash of 1929, and it continues to grow. The ranks of the insecure and poor are growing. Fear and unemployment are on the rise. The poor feel more threatened and get poorer while the rich get safer and richer. The total net worth of the top one percent of Americans is now equal to the total net worth of the bottom ninety percent of the population. The sweeping language of the Patriot Act that became law in the wake of 9/11 swept away many hard fought-for civil liberties. A good reason to wake up and protect what is left. The New World Order America advocates and leads is a disorderly mess – thanks to career politicians. We have to clean it up. The United States of Apathy desperately needs a maid. One that is custom made.

Globalization to many is the equivalent to Americanization. Whatever happens in America today has geopolitical ramifications. The diversity of the American mosaic society, thanks to the endless waves of immigrants that flood America, is making the country a congested two-way super highway with a wide off ramp for those kicked out – and a narrow on ramp for those let in.

### *Americans*

America is a borderless and seamless ideal created by the Founding Fathers. Many throughout the world dream and aspire to become "Americans". The term American in the book therefore refers to all Americans. Citizens, residents, dreamers and wannabees. The true believers, Atheists, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews and Muslims that worship the Ideal that is America.

Made-in-the-U.S.A. babies are a booming global tourist sector. Babies born in America and its territories are entitled to U.S. citizenship which exempts them from compulsory military service in their parents' countries and entitles them to all the rights and freedoms so many in America take for granted.

Throughout history, immigrants have brought new ideas, ambition and mere labor to America – and to all countries that let them in. Always have. Always will. They are all Americans in the good old American cowboy tradition. In the words of the playwright





Mark Harelik who wrote *The Immigrant*, “We as a nation are experiencing massive alternative waves of fear and loathing of the stranger and pride in diversity.”

The outpouring of sorrow, sympathy, flowers and tears at American embassies and consulates around the world after September 11th magnified the number of global Americans. People who believe in individual liberty, religious freedom, free trade and democracy. The empathy, pain and global suffering were universal. Americans all over the world mourned with America. Most are not citizens. They merely believe in the Spirit of America and the ideals for which it stands – and stand up for. America is their “beacon of hope”. They are fellow family members of all cultures and religions. In Hong Kong, a large floral American flag representing freethinking Hong Kongers was left outside the consulate on behalf of kindred spirits.

### ***Cherry Garcia White Patched Butterfly***

Immigration, the Information Age and netizens have magnified America’s institutional shortcomings and multi-ethnic makeup. They cross-pollinated with the cultural misperceptions that have become ingrained in America’s everlasting New World Order. Conceptualized by the Pilgrims, memorialized by the Founding Fathers, America since has failed to come to terms with its continuously changing cultural, economic and religious fabric. Mythology replaced reality. Spirituality has failed to keep up with technology. Debt has consumed equity. America has undergone a tremendous transformation since the Pilgrims landed. America has changed from vanilla WASP to Cherry Garcia white patched butterfly, with butterfly ballots. Or is it a multicultural scoop of Ooey Gooey cake? Apple pie America is a racial blender of caramelized apple. Rich, heavy and lite.

At the dawn of the third millennium, America with only four percent of the world’s population produced more than twenty-seven percent of global output. Its stock market capitalization accounted for more than fifty-three percent of global stock market capitalization. A country where trillions of dollars of equity were wiped out the last year of the millennium. One where \$4.6 trillion were lost in one week of the opening year of the 21st century. The equivalent of wiping out the U.S. auto, steel, electrical machinery and oil



industries within a week. More than the federal debt! It then got worse in 2002. The second year of the new millennium kept the momentum going when \$2.4 trillion were erased in the first six months. More than Germany's gross national product. The U.S. consumes over half of all goods and services of the world; its citizens and residents spend over \$10 billion annually on pet food alone – \$4 billion more than the estimated total need to provide basic health and nutrition for everyone in the world; their expenditure on cosmetics – \$8 billion – is \$2 billion more than the annual total needed to provide basic education worldwide; a place where the three richest people have assets that exceed the combined gross domestic product of the 48 least developed countries. To make matters worse, the U.S. government announced a budget deficit of over \$156 billion after it gave a tax rebate to the rich of the long overdue existing surplus. A recipe and ingredients that can ignite the largest global financial crisis yet. A crisis that U.S. capitalism may not survive.

### ***Home Grown and Imperial Dramas***

As a kind of real-time Hollywood, America has directed and produced some of the most dramatic events. These events have fast-forwarded Americans' misperception of themselves and other countries, peoples and cultures, especially China, Muslims and the East. Without these cataclysmic events I would not be able to rationalize my thoughts as easily or logically. The attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon; Iraq War; mothers killing their children; the Internet; Ruby Ridge; the senseless killing of our children in schools; the largest accounting fraud in history and corporate skulduggery represented by WorldCom and Enron; Waco; impeachment of a sitting president; Kent State; trash can babies; the Oklahoma City bombing; political sex scandals at the highest levels of government – highlighted by Monicagate; the liberation of over one hundred million people in Eastern and Central Europe from Soviet communism in 1989; the slow formation of an international military force to reverse Iraqi aggression in the Persian Gulf war in 1991 and Osama bin-Laden, the Taleban, and al-Qaeda in 2001; the collapse of communism in Russia in 1991; the re-unification of Germany; the end of Apartheid in South Africa; the acknowledged failure of communism and the mass movement toward capitalism in China.



These dramas cry out for the dated cold war international relics – the United Nations and International Monetary Fund – to be replaced by new global organizations that are relevant for the changed realities of the 21st century.

The closing year of the old millennium in America ended with an illuminating political, military and media circus in Florida. One that exposed American doubts about the political system it proselytizes to the world and the American family. A presidential “electoral joke” – and the Elian Gonzalez family reunion. The new millennium then witnessed, for the first time in history, a change in the party controlling the U.S. Senate without an election. That, along with the change of the New York skyline after the Twin Towers imploded, forever changed a people’s misperception of themselves. Fear and the quest for knowledge and understanding became very personal.

Americans conveniently overlook the facts that America’s “Twin Towers”, its “secure free democratic model” and “transparent corporate governance” have become global jokes. America is the world’s largest arms dealer, has the largest nuclear arsenal and is home to the largest corporate frauds and bankruptcies. The U.S. threatens the security of anyone who is a threat to its corporate or geopolitical agenda. Yet America always gets a favorable deal from the United Nations, even when it is delinquent for several years in paying its dues. It is crowned the world’s sole superpower and has all the makings of becoming the global bully of the 21st century. Some would say it already has. The successor to England and Spain, America imposes its will on the United Nations and other international organizations such as NATO, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization. They then pass it on to taxpayers and to Asia like shopkeepers passing a price increase on to the consumer.

America’s evolving New World Order is dominated by tense dysfunctional communities that share two sharply defined conditions: -Expensive political, corporate and religious hypocrisy and -Social and economic models that are being warped in a vain attempt to emulate the glorified ideal of the “American model” with its crony capitalists sitting becalmed in an intellectual Dead Sea surrounded by Reaganesque lifeguards.



The miles of manicured dysfunctional palatial estates and political monuments off the gridlocked Washington Beltway, built by slaves, camouflage the crying terrified families and croaking political institutions and corporate malfeasance that are America. Americans ducking into cars, homes and schools to avoid a sniper's bullet. A Pentagon aflame merely reconfirmed how dysfunctional and insecure America is today. Enron, WorldCom and Global Crossing are examples of what a bankrupt fraud America has become. America is offline.

### ***Magnified Anglo-American and Sino-Latino Differences***

Historically, the differences – rather than the similarities – in Anglo-American and Sino-Latino societies have been emphasized, leading to the belief in America that Chinese and Latinos are not just different, but in many ways inferior. The jokes that the reason the Florida recount was taking so long was because it was Manuel are a glaring recent example. This image has been magnified in recent years by self-serving zealots. Some argue that if Nazi Germany and the former Soviet Union were the monsters of the 20th century, Chinese societies have all the makings of becoming the monsters of the 21st century. A “21st-century version of the Soviet bear,” America’s top military official pronounces. The Chinese government buys American politicians with illegal contributions, steals nuclear technology from the U.S., illicitly sells arms and technology to other countries, violates human rights with impunity, amasses nuclear weapons, continues to occupy Tibet and threatens Taiwan’s safety and security. Yet it always gets a sweetheart deal from the U.S. and is crowned a most favored trading nation.

China, unlike illusive, faceless, shadowy corporate and foreign terrorists, is an easily identifiable target for America’s career politicians with all their shortcomings and frustrations. Conservative Republicans add China to the list of countries that harbor terrorists and should be bombed. China is mentioned in the same breath as Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya! Not being included in the “Axis of Evil” was a progressive millennium step. My hope is this trilogy can contribute to the education needed to dispose of the negative image of Chinese ingrained in America’s national psyche.

American career politicians who are loyal party cadres, in both



parties, perpetuate the differences by fear-mongering. The Republican Party millennium platform regards China as “America’s key challenge in Asia”. The start of the 2004 presidential election saw China again made a political scapegoat. Faced with a sputtering economy and increasingly unpopular war in Iraq, China again became the whipping boy. It was blamed for the failed 2003 WTO meeting in Cancun and accused of keeping the value of the yuan artificially low to maintain a trade advantage over U.S.-based manufacturers. Economists who warned the Bush administration of the potential of a trade war that will destabilize China’s economy and set off a global financial crisis were shunted aside in favor of the political spinmeisters who wanted to appease the voters in the critical rust-belt states of Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania. To listen to some of the politicians on the right, you’d think the old Japanese internment camps were being dusted down for new occupants. Chinese are about the same color and size. They’ll do. Oops, actually South Asians and Arab Muslims will do for now.

However, American and Sino-Latino civilizations have much in common, as well as much that is different, that can be used by America to learn, understand and grow. A “marriage of East and West” similar to what Alexander the Great did when he officiated at a mass wedding of 9,000 of his soldiers to Asian women, a conscious act of state. Even President Bush acknowledged this is needed to President Jiang Zemin at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, in 2002.

### ***Made in Hong Kong***

Since Hong Kong’s reversion to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997, it has developed the potential to become a model society for America to emulate. It blends the best of Anglo-American and Sino-Latino cultures which already are the cornerstones and foundations of today’s Eastern and Western civilizations.

America and Hong Kong have a common heritage. America, like Hong Kong, was fertilized and created by the same colonial parent. Both are capitalist democracies with a solid foundation rooted in the Anglo-Saxon rule of law and religious freedom.

America and Hong Kong are vacuum cleaners that keep Hoovering in adventurous people. Both have been largely built by people



who moved from elsewhere – the British, the refugees and immigrants from all over the world. Both America and Hong Kong were molded by Scottish entrepreneurs, Chinese workers, Latino merchants and Irish politicians.

The Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC) is the laboratory which embodies these diverse fused functional cultures. The Athenian democracy practiced around the Main Bar objectively addresses and questions the American ideal. The divergent views on Yankee dysfunctionality from families to political institutions and foreign policy flaws are passionately debated with dispassionate interludes of deliberate discussions.

Most remarkably, in the tradition of the "Lion and the Mouse": The United States and Hong Kong have a parallel multi-ethnicity and culture which are complementary and not at all alien to each other. We in America have to sweep in the merits and benefits of the Hong Kong solutions for constructive change to begin in the 21st century. America should, once again, be "doing a Nixon on China". That phrase is standard political lingo that refers to dramatic change. Political and corporate.

It is time America sobers up from its moral and political hangover. By doing so it will be able to identify and deal with the real enemy. *We the Apathetic People*. The American Constitution and Declaration of Independence have to be revisited so that We the...can clean up our act so we can better understand our diversity and distinctions as a common humanity. It's up to us to write the obituary for politics as usual. If we don't, terrorists will. Radical times require radical changes.

*Going By The Book*

- Johny Cash -