

Repairing a Pre-Internet Education

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(originally titled "American Myths" in 2004)

Not until I was almost 50 years old (2002) did I begin to realize that much of what I had learned regarding history and politics from schools and the mainstream media was either untrue or misleading. After that realization, I put myself on a reeducation program that included:

- Identifying specific lies and deceptive half-truths that I had absorbed
- Trying to remember how and when I picked up each lie (from a classroom, textbook, TV announcer, printed publication, or government agency?)
- Identifying alternative reliable sources of information

After identifying unreliable sources, it is important to discontinue picking up additional lies from them. Some sources were easy to identify as untrustworthy, such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and former presidents George Bush (father and son), Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama. And more recently, the CDC (Center for Disease Control) regarding covid and [vaccines](#).

Consider the motivations for spreading the deceptions. Was it greed? Fear? A sincere desire to share knowledge, but not knowing that one was spreading lies?

Mixing truth and falsehoods is one way that deceptions spread. The book and movie, *Hidden Figures* are examples. In [The Portrayal of Early Manned Spaceflight in Hidden Figures: A Critique](#), former NASA engineers from the 1960s and 1970s give their perspectives on differences between actual events and the movie and book.

False ideas can also be created internally. For example, in childhood I made the false conclusion or assumption that "Good grades means good education is occurring."

Examples of lies or deceptive half-truths I previously accepted:

Deceptive Half-Truth or Lie	Conclusions After Research *
The U.S. Federal Reserve is a government agency.	The Federal Reserve has shareholders and therefore is not a government agency. It operates independent of civilian oversight. Washington does not regulate Wall Street; Wall Street regulates Washington.
After WW II, the allies were thorough and conscientious in prosecuting war crimes at the Nuremburg trials.	Confessions at Nuremburg were obtained by torturing defendants. American military and civilian officials (including Allen Dulles) assisted Nazi war criminals in escaping from Germany and provided many of them with employment in the U.S. through Operation Paperclip . (Linda Hunt)
Lee Harvey Oswald killed JFK and no other shooters were involved.	Lee Oswald did not shoot JFK; multiple other shooters were involved.
After WW II, the U.S. started wars and foreign revolts to help spread democracy.	Protecting and expanding corporate profits has been a prime motivation for U.S. post-WWII wars and foreign government overthrow operations.

* Don't take my word for it. Do your own research and make up your own mind.

Examples of reference material that I found helpful in replacing lies and half-truths with a more accurate understanding of history:

- Charles Higham: [Trading with the Enemy](#)
- The Federal Reserve banking system: [Money](#)
Mike Hewitt: [America's Forgotten War Against The Central Banks](#)
Robert Kiyosaki: *FAKE: Fake Money, Fake Teachers, Fake Assets*
- Webster Tarpley & Anton Chaitkin: [George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography](#)
- Ron Unz's articles on topics avoided by mainstream media owners, for example, Israel's 1967 attack on the [U.S.S. Liberty](#), U.S. abandonment of [Vietnam POWs](#), Israeli-Jewish involvement in the [9/11 attacks](#), and [Israel and the Holocaust Hoax](#). Mr. Unz is a Harvard graduate.

In previous phases of repairing my education, I placed excessive reliance on questionable sources. One example:

- *And the Truth Shall Set You Free* by David Icke. Contains valid information suppressed by mainstream news media; however, speculations are not clearly labeled as such and are mixed in with verifiable assertions.

Become more dedicated to telling the truth. Acknowledge the times that you lied or deceived others. When making a list of your lies and deceptions, include who you communicated them to and how you justified it to yourself. The list can include times when you misrepresented yourself on job résumés, tax forms and applications for government aid.

Replacing lies with more accurate information can be a good starting point in repairing a pre-Internet education:

- Identify the lies and deceptive half-truths you absorbed
- Which individuals and groups were the main sources of the deceptions?
- Find alternate more trustworthy sources of information
- Become more adept at evaluating the reliability of information and sources

What are the biggest lies that are still widely believed in your country?

“You can change your life by refusing to believe your own lies. You can start with the main lies that limit the expression of your happiness and your love. If you take your faith away from these lies, they lose their power over you. Then you can recover your faith and invest it in different beliefs. If you stop believing in lies, everything in your life changes . . .”

[Don Miguel Ruiz](#), *The Voice of Knowledge*

Additional References

Adam Grant: [Think Again](#)

[Summary](#) of “The Fine Art of Baloney Detection” by Carl Sagan

Advice from Hans Rosling in [Factfulness](#):

- Update your knowledge. Some knowledge goes out of date quickly. Technology, countries, societies, cultures, and religions are constantly changing.
- Test your ideas. Don’t only collect examples that show how excellent your favorite ideas are.
- . . . spend your energy on understanding the multiple interacting causes or system that created the situation.