

## A WARNING LABEL? ..... ON WHAT?

Stephen L. Bakke – July 4, 2010



I didn't believe this could be true but .....

I recently heard a rumor about a recent reprint of The United States Constitution and other founding documents. My concern was that the publisher allegedly introduced the material using a disclaimer as to the current relevance of these historic documents – particularly The United States Constitution.

As part of my emerging project of researching and writing about our form of government, I thought it timely to find out what this was all about. It wasn't hard to locate the relevant information and I soon found the book for sale at Amazon. I was also able to access the copyright page where the “warning/disclaimer” appears.

Here is the warning I found on page 3:

***This book is a product of its time and does not reflect the same values as it would if it were written today. Parents might wish to discuss with their children how views on race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and interpersonal relations have changed since this book was written before allowing them to read this classic work.***

I understand that this warning also appears on the publisher's reprint of the Federalist Papers. The publisher is Wilder Publications and this book was published in 2008. Wilder is in the business of “publishing print-on-demand books (mostly self-help and public domain reprints).”

I was shocked .....

What could possibly be the reason for this to occur? I imagine that the only explanation might be that everything originally written prior to a certain date is preceded by this “warning label.” That is certainly no excuse! If the publisher gave even casual consideration as to what was being expressed in that warning it could have been excluded for our founding documents and related historical material.

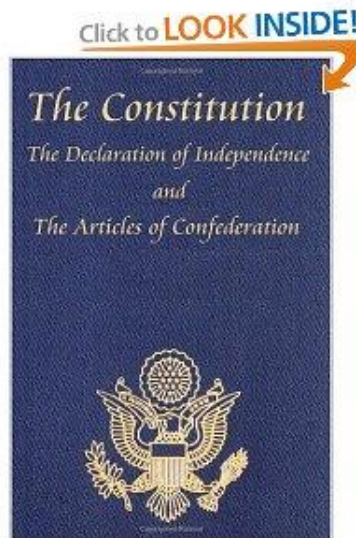
This is very sad .....

The implication is that our youth should be cautious about taking the original founding documents literally or too seriously. This is expressed in the all too common language of apology and relativism.

I am ashamed that this is actually happening in our country. But we shouldn't be surprised that this approach is popular when we examine all the ways we are losing our sense of American exceptionalism and the extraordinarily successful experiment the United States turned out to be. And in particular we shouldn't be surprised when we hear our President leading the apologies and qualifying his praise of the Founders by emphasizing that he finds some of their ideas as shortsighted or at least incomplete.

This is so wrong .....

Following is the Wilder Publication – On Page 3 I found the disclaimer. If you open the “Word” version, Ctrl+Click should enable you to access the book and examine portions of it, including the “warning.”



Let's move on.