

### The Delusional Assumptions

Propaganda is only the tip of the delusional iceberg, however. Other nations or disaffected internal critics can easily spot and expose it. Propaganda is ad hoc; it responds to short-term needs; it changes to fit every situation. But the basic delusional system has altered little since the ascendancy of the Domination System some five thousand years ago. It has successfully held the vast majority of humanity in its thrall by means of a series of largely unexamined *assumptions* that go far deeper than propaganda. These delusional assumptions are what Col. 2:8 and 20 call the *stoicheia tou kosmou*: the fundamental assumptions of the Domination System. Not all of these hold true for all countries in all times, and some would be held by only a minority of people in a given country. But over the five millennia that the delusional game has been playing, these assumptions have continually reasserted themselves. Here are some of them:

- The need to control society and prevent chaos requires some to dominate others.
- Those who dominate may use other people as a means to achieve their goals.
- Men are better equipped by nature to be dominant than women, and some races are naturally suited to dominate others.
- A valued end justifies the use of any means.
- Violence is redemptive, the only language enemies understand.
- Ruling or managing is the most important of all social functions.
- Therefore rulers and managers should be rewarded by extra privileges and greater wealth of all kinds.
- Those who have military strength, who control the most advanced technology, the greatest wealth, or the largest markets, are the ones who will and should survive.
- Money is the most important value.<sup>23</sup>
- The possession of money is a sign and proof of political and social worth.
- The production of material goods is more important than the production of healthy and normal people and of sound human relationships (or the former automatically produces the latter).
- Property is sacred, and property ownership an absolute right.
- In an organization or nation, great size is proof of its power and value.
- Institutions are more important than people.
- There is no higher value or being or power than the state. If there is a God, God is the protector and patron of the state.
- God, if there is one, is not revealed to all, but only to select individuals or nations and their rulers and priesthood.<sup>24</sup>

Walter Wink, *Engaging the Powers: Discernment and Resistance in a World of Domination* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1992), pp. 95-96.