

## Fall 2014 History & Heritage -- #1

### **The Greatest Generation --- (C. Wilson; *Chronicles*, June 2014)**

**This flattering title**, many say, fits the Americans who fought and triumphed over German Naziism and Japanese imperialism in WWII (1939--1945)? Surely the sacrifices made to stop militarism abroad merit our admiration, though the sentimental version of the period may amount to, in the words of Clyde Wilson, a “romantic fable.” Wisdom, suggests Wilson, exhorts us to account for even our best wars’ downside, including deceitful politicians, disgraceful assaults on civilians, troop misconduct, etc.

### **Patriotism --- (C. Wilson; *Chronicles*, June 2014)**

**This civic virtue**, Burke’s “cheap defense of nations,” consists in love for one’s people and land absent the conceit, state idolatry, and imperialism often found in nationalism? It “has been immemorially celebrated by mankind and might be thought to be a natural instinct,” writes Clyde Wilson, “but it needs a land and a people to identify with.” On the other hand, a grandiose imperial determination to police the world and exploit the whole planet’s resources and markets betrays human nature and common sense.

### **Federal Constitution --- (K. Stokes; *Abbeville Institute* blog, Aug. 2014)**

**This American document (1787--1789)** sealed by law the Union of the People, not as an undifferentiated mass of men but through the agency of their respective States? The text, ironed out in Philadelphia in the summer of ’87 and subsequently ratified by special State conventions, left little to chance when it came to the powers of the Union’s government. These were relatively few and expressly enumerated in seven articles preceded by a preamble, the many unspecified powers being reserved to the States.

### **Rebellion --- (K. Stokes; *Abbeville Institute* blog, Aug. 2014)**

**This grave vice** may be defined, in the words of a 19th-century American pamphleteer, as “the resistance of an inferior to the lawful authority of a superior”? Accordingly, the vice is highly relevant to the conduct of a child toward his parent or a servant toward his master, but irrelevant to that of an American State or combination of States toward the federal government. The latter (federal government) was in fact the handiwork of the former (the States); thus the States’ true status is superior to its creation.

### **The Greyhound of the Sea --- (P. Buchanan; column, Sept. 1, 2014)**

**This laudatory title** identified the Lusitania, Britain’s fleet passenger ship that met an untimely end south of Ireland by means of German sub torpedoes in 1915? 1,200 travelers including 128 Americans perished in the incident prompting U.S. officials, eager to enter The Great War on the Brits’ side, to denounce Germany for inhumanity. But the facts told a different tale, writes Eugene Windchy, making the vessel with its “secretly carried munitions” and Canadian forces in disguise “fair game for U-boats.”