

THE SHAYTAN · CHAPTER TWO

Who Benefits, Who Manufactures, Why It Must Exist

A lie with no one profiting from it does not survive one generation. This chapter follows the money, the law, and the architects — through all seventeen.

1619 – 2026 · Beneficiary · Manufacturer · Mechanism

THREE QUESTIONS

Before the Generations

WHO BENEFITS

Scripture is specific about who profits from the lie, and it is rarely the one telling it directly. “You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure... the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out” (James 5:1–4). The Qur'an names the same crime: “Woe to every sinful liar who hears the verses of Allah recited to him, then persists arrogantly as if he had not heard them” (Surah Al-Jathiyah 45:7–8) — arrogance and unjust gain, named together, again.

WHO MANUFACTURES

The lie is rarely told by the people who benefit most from it. It is manufactured — given a shape, a justification, a paper trail — by those with the standing to make it sound true. “Woe to those who write the scripture with their own hands and then say, ‘This is from Allah,’ that they may sell it for a small price” (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:79). Jeremiah names the same office centuries earlier: “The prophets prophesy falsely... and my people love to have it so” (Jeremiah 5:31).

WHY IT MUST EXIST

Here is the lie's actual weakness, named in both scriptures: it never had real power, only the power people gave it by believing it. “I had no authority over you except that I invited you, and you responded to me” (Surah Ibrahim 14:22). That is why the lie must be told again in every generation — not because it is strong, but because it is hollow, and a hollow thing collapses the moment it stops being propped up. “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32) is a threat to the lie, not a comfort offered around it.

GEN 1 • First Arrivals (1619–1644)

WHO BENEFITS

Portuguese and Spanish slave traders; Virginia's earliest tobacco planters.

WHO MANUFACTURES

The Catholic Church, via Dum Diversas (1452) and Romanus Pontifex (1455) — theology written to make conquest sound like duty.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

The colony had no labor force and no law yet defining who could be property. The lie supplied both.

GEN 2 • Founding Settlement (1644–1669)

WHO BENEFITS

Virginia's largest landowners, who gained an unfree workforce courts were not yet required to free.

WHO MANUFACTURES

Early colonial courts, ruling case by case (Elizabeth Key, 1656, among others) on who counted as bound and who did not — before any law made the answer automatic.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

Ambiguity was itself useful: a lie not yet written into law could still be enforced, and could not yet be challenged as unlawful.

GEN 3 • Codification (1669–1694)

WHO BENEFITS

The planter elite specifically — not poor whites, who lost the most natural ally they had when Bacon's Rebellion's biracial coalition was made illegal.

WHO MANUFACTURES

Virginia's House of Burgesses, writing the slave codes of the 1680s–1705 that made bondage hereditary and permanent in law.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

An elite outnumbered by the people it exploited needs the exploited divided against each other — the codes existed to make sure Bacon's Rebellion could never happen twice.

GEN 4 • Plantation Expansion (1694–1719)

WHO BENEFITS

The Royal African Company's shareholders — including the English Crown itself; King Charles II and the Duke of York personally profited as governors of the company.

WHO MANUFACTURES

A royal charter (1672) and the company's own seal, an elephant and castle flanked by enslaved men, stamped onto England's gold coinage.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

A monarchy needing revenue independent of Parliament found in this trade a source of wealth that required no vote to approve.

GEN 5 • Peak Importation (1719–1744)

WHO BENEFITS

Carolina rice and indigo planters, whose fortunes scaled directly with the number of people they could hold.

WHO MANUFACTURES

An expanding body of colonial law (South Carolina's Negro Act of 1740, written in direct response to Stono) treating a human being as agricultural equipment.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

Rice and indigo required mass labor with no machinery to substitute for it. The lie was the only labor-saving technology the system had.

GEN 6 • Creole Generation (1744–1769)

WHO BENEFITS

Slaveholders who no longer needed to purchase anyone — a woman's children now belonged to her enslaver automatically.

WHO MANUFACTURES

Virginia's 1662 partus sequitur ventrem law (“that which is brought forth follows the womb”), which converted childbirth itself into a permanent profit mechanism.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

A law that makes bondage hereditary does not need to be re-argued or re-justified each generation. It runs by itself, which is exactly why it had to be written once, carefully, and left alone.

GEN 7 • Revolutionary (1769–1794)

WHO BENEFITS

The new nation's planter-statesmen — Jefferson among them — who wrote of equality while remaining among the wealthiest enslavers in the country.

WHO MANUFACTURES

The Constitution's Three-Fifths Clause and Fugitive Slave Clause (1787), writing the lie directly into the new nation's founding law.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

A revolution justified by the language of universal rights could not survive admitting whom it excluded — so the exclusion was written in procedural, technical language instead, where it would draw less attention.

GEN 8 • Trade-Ban Generation (1794–1819)

WHO BENEFITS

Domestic traders and breeders, for whom Eli Whitney's cotton gin (1793) and the end of legal importation (1808) combined to make existing enslaved people more valuable, not less needed.

WHO MANUFACTURES

A booming domestic slave trade that operated in the open specifically because the international one had just been declared illegal — proof on paper that the system had reformed.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

Ending the international trade let the nation claim moral progress while the domestic trade, often worse for the people inside it, expanded to fill the gap entirely.

GEN 9 • Domestic Trade / Cotton Kingdom (1819–1844)

WHO BENEFITS

Not only Southern planters: Northern banks (the Bank of New York and others) lending against enslaved people as collateral, and Northern insurers — Aetna, New York Life — selling policies on enslaved people's lives.

WHO MANUFACTURES

A financial architecture, not just a regional one: insurance contracts and loan agreements that treated a human being as the same kind of asset as a ship or a warehouse.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

Slavery's profit was never confined to the South. It required Northern capital, Northern underwriting, and Northern silence — a continental lie, not a regional one.

GEN 10 • Civil War & Emancipation (1844–1869)

WHO BENEFITS

The Confederacy's political and planter class, who said plainly, through Vice President Alexander Stephens, that the new nation's “cornerstone” was the inequality of the races.

WHO MANUFACTURES

Secession declarations that named slavery, explicitly and repeatedly, as the cause — no euphemism, no procedural language this time.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

By this generation the lie no longer needed cover. It had been believed long enough, by enough people, to be stated as a founding principle rather than hidden as an exception.

GEN 11 • Reconstruction & Redemption (1869–1894)

WHO BENEFITS

Southern landowners again, now through convict leasing — arresting freedmen for invented “vagrancy” and leasing their labor back out, often to the same plantations.

WHO MANUFACTURES

Black Codes and vagrancy statutes, written within months of Emancipation specifically to recriminalize unemployment in formerly enslaved populations.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

Capital that had been built entirely on unpaid labor could not simply absorb the cost of paying for it. A new legal mechanism had to be manufactured immediately, or the entire regional economy would have had to change.

GEN 12 • Jim Crow / Nadir (1894–1919)

WHO BENEFITS

The same convict-leasing interests, plus the political establishment that kept power through disenfranchisement rather than economics alone.

WHO MANUFACTURES

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses — a legal architecture built specifically to look neutral while functioning as exclusion.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

Once the federal government stopped enforcing Reconstruction's protections, maintaining power no longer required violence alone — it could be done more durably through law that never had to say its real purpose out loud.

GEN 13 • Great Migration / Harlem Renaissance (1919–1944)

WHO BENEFITS

Northern real estate interests and developers, who profited from segregated housing markets just as Black migration north accelerated.

WHO MANUFACTURES

Restrictive covenants and, by the 1930s, the federal Home Owners' Loan Corporation's own color-coded maps, marking Black neighborhoods “hazardous” for lending — redlining, with the government's own seal on it.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

A migration the lie could not prevent had to be contained instead — not kept out of the North, but kept inside new, federally drawn lines once it arrived.

GEN 14 • Civil Rights (1944–1969)

WHO BENEFITS

Southern political machines and the businesses built around segregated commerce, who lost the most ground this generation and resisted the hardest because of it.

WHO MANUFACTURES

White Citizens' Councils and “massive resistance” campaigns — organized, well-funded, respectable-looking opposition built specifically to slow desegregation through the courts rather than the streets.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

When violence alone began losing in the court of public opinion, the lie needed a version of itself that could be defended in board rooms and legislatures instead of only on courthouse steps.

GEN 15 • Post-Civil Rights (1969–1994)

WHO BENEFITS

Politicians winning office on “tough on crime” platforms, and the earliest beneficiaries of a prison system about to grow explosively.

WHO MANUFACTURES

The War on Drugs. Nixon aide John Ehrlichman is widely quoted telling journalist Dan Baum in 1994: “We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin... we could disrupt those communities. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.” (Ehrlichman's family disputed the quote's accuracy after his death; fellow Nixon aide H.R. Haldeman is separately quoted making a similar admission.)

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

A lie that can no longer use race as its stated reason can still use crime as its substitute reason — the outcome unchanged, the language now defensible.

GEN 16 • Diaspora Expansion (1994–2019)

WHO BENEFITS

The private prison industry — CoreCivic and the GEO Group chief among them — whose revenue rises directly with incarceration rates.

WHO MANUFACTURES

The 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act and state “three-strikes” laws, which transformed incarceration from a cost into a publicly traded growth industry.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

A privatized system has a direct financial incentive to keep its population full — the first time in this history that maintaining the lie became, literally, a shareholder's interest.

GEN 17 • New Diaspora (current) (2019–2026)

WHO BENEFITS

Whoever profits from the wealth gap the prior sixteen generations built — a gap measured today in trillions, not explained by any difference in effort or ability.

WHO MANUFACTURES

Backlash narratives — “reverse racism,” “colorblindness” invoked to oppose remedy rather than harm — arguments that borrow the language of the Civil Rights generation to oppose what that generation was fighting for.

WHY IT HAD TO EXIST

The lie's newest costume is the language of its own opponents, worn in reverse. Scripture's answer to a lie that has learned to wear truth's clothing is the same in both books: it will be known by its fruit, and its fruit does not change just because its language did (Matthew 7:16–20; Surah Al-Isra 17:81).

Compiled from this project's prior historical research (papal bulls, the Royal African Company, slave-era insurance records, Reconstruction-era Black Codes, HOLC redlining maps, the 1994 Crime Bill) joined here to the question of motive rather than just method. The Ehrlichman quotation is widely reported (Harper's Magazine, 1994/2016) but disputed by his family after his death; it is presented with that caveat, not as settled fact. This is a work of theological and historical synthesis, not a legal finding against any living person, company, or institution.