

[REDACTED] States of America

written by

Adam Smith

LOG LINE: In a drastic move to resolve the unprecedented national debt, the U.S. government starts selling states, triggering a national crisis and reckoning over the essence of American identity.

FADE IN:

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - WASHINGTON DC - NIGHT

The White House looms under a heavy sky, the American flag whips in the wind, an echo of overwhelming distress.

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

A packed Press Room. Reporters and photographers fight to be heard over each other, but none successful. Cameras flash at the pace of an increasing heartbeat.

U.S. PRESIDENT MEDELLIN nervously takes the Presidential lectern; his hair disheveled and his tie askew. The weight of the World lies on the following words-

PRESIDENT MEDELLIN

(voice trembles)

My fellow Americans, I come to you with grave news. The situation is... is dire and... our nation faces an unprecedented crisis.

The room quickly becomes silent; camera flashes are less sporadic.

PRESIDENT MEDELLIN

As you may know, our national debt just surpassed \$150 trillion, and many of our closest allies are distancing themselves. So... so, we are left with no choice but to take drastic measures.

He takes a moment to recollect himself as the room is on the verge of eruption.

PRESIDENT MEDELLIN

I deeply regret to announce that... that we just sold California to the Republic of China.

The room erupts in chaos as the reporters shout and snap photos.

REPORTER 1

Mr. President, what... what about the people of California? What happens to them?

PRESIDENT MEDELLIN

(struggles for composure)

We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for all of the residents of California.

REPORTER 2

And, what about other states? Are there even more at risk?

The President hesitates, gazing down at his notes.

PRESIDENT MEDELLIN

Yes... there are.

(clears throat)

The original thirteen colonies... they... they have reverted to European governance.

Chaos ensues. President Medellin struggles to regain control and physical composure; he has shrunken.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS NETWORK - BROADCAST STUDIO - NIGHT

The newsroom is dimly lit, with the only light coming from the glow from TV screens and a few flickering overhead bulbs.

Struggling with her own disbelief, our NEWS ANCHOR hastily delivers the breaking news.

NEWS ANCHOR

This is a developing story. Reports indicate that key American billionaires have abandoned their enterprises, further destabilizing our economy. A federal investigation has now firmly linked this widespread turmoil to the 'REDACTION scandal' of the former administration. Despite strong evidence, ongoing legal challenges have kept major figures from-

Suddenly the power turns off, but quickly back on.

NEWS ANCHOR
(panicking)
Oh no, not now. Please... please stay
with us.

Another power outage. The room teeters on the edge of
darkness.

NEWS ANCHOR
I'm so sorry... we... we are losing
connection. We will continue to
update you-

FLICKER TO BLACK.

INSERT TITLE: **[REDACTED] STATES OF AMERICA** by Adam Smith