

•the journal



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“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness [evil] at all.”

—1 John 1:5 (NKJV)

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CHRISTIANITY

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

—I John 1:5–2:2 (NKJV)



To be sure, there are standards by which the early Protestants could be called “puritanical”; they held adultery, fornication, and perversion for deadly sins. But then so did the Pope. If that is Puritanism, all Christendom was then puritanical together. So far as there was any difference about sexual morality, the Old Religion was the more austere. The exaltation of virginity is a Roman, that of marriage, a Protestant, trait.

—C.S. Lewis, *English Lit in the 16th Century*



The instrument through which you see God is your whole self. And if a man’s self is not kept clean and bright, his glimpse of God will be blurred—like the Moon seen through a dirty telescope. That is why horrible nations have horrible religions: they have been looking at God through a dirty lens.

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

ENERGY

As “This Oil Disaster in Perspective, and a Reminder of Saddam’s Wells,” compiled and provided to RushLimbaugh.com by scientist Roy Spencer, June 1, 2010, points out, this BP spill is relatively small. It is dwarfed by annual average ship and storage oil spills and by several major spills during the past 30 years.

Moreover, as a result of nuclear energy suppression, Americans use hydrocarbons—coal, oil, and natural gas—

to power most of their civilization. Consider just the motor vehicles.

Approximately 100 people per day die in the United States in accidents involving motor vehicles. This death rate is the equivalent of a commercial airliner crash every other day. In each 18-month period, the number of American highway deaths equals the 60,000 American deaths in the Vietnam War.

If there were to be a major oil spill every five years (about current frequency), then the deaths on our highways would be about 200,000 per oil spill—oil spills incurred to obtain the fuel required to power our automobiles.

We tolerated those 200,000 deaths as an acceptable price to pay for the freedom and convenience of motor vehicle travel (which also makes possible the saving of many lives). Is an occasional drilling accident to produce the fuel for those vehicles also acceptable?

In my opinion, 200,000 human deaths is a price far higher than an oil spill, yet we pay that price. There is no national media and political clamor to ban motor vehicle use to save human lives. Why then is there now a political clamor to ban ocean drilling for oil?

Many American politicians and their media promoters favor the end of American freedom and the re-institution of slavery in the United States—enslavement of almost everyone to a vast army of overpaid bureaucrats empowered by a small group of incompetent, self-serving, entrenched politicians. They prefer poverty and slavery to human liberty. Their priorities and values are upside down and wrong. The odious program now in progress against the oil industry—by means of bogus claims of climate change and now opportunistically fueled by a tragic accident—is more of the same.

—Access to Energy (May 2010)



Windmill energy companies have been on a roll ever since they were given a back door into the tax payer’s pocket with subsidies for windmill construction—and a front door in higher prices than their competitors for their products as government-designated “green” energy. It is claimed that windmills now produce a .013 fraction or 1.3% of U.S. energy—but numbers on the true capital and maintenance costs of these installations and their actual production of energy seem impossible to find. While *Access to Energy* has found—not easily but we did it—the relevant data on solar power installations, we just do not have the needed data on wind.

The newsletter *Outstanding Investments*, Volume 10, Issue 5, May 2010, p. 7, states that the Wisconsin legislature’s mandate that 25% of Wisconsin electricity come from “green” sources by 2025 is already increasing electricity prices in that state.

continued on page 4

from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

a word from Dr. Noebel

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Summit Ministries publishes worldview curriculum ranging from 1st grade through the high school level. Our curriculum is formatted for both Christian Day Schools and Home School usage. A few days ago I received a letter from a lawyer who is teaching the high school *Understanding the Times* curriculum to home schoolers, and thought our Summit readership would be encouraged with what he had to say.

The following is from the teacher of the course:

I owe you and your entire staff at Summit Ministries a debt of gratitude. You are changing lives and I have watched it happen. KEYS (Kingdom Education for Young Scholars) is a homeschool co-op with approximately 150 students in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and they use your materials. In fact, the one mandatory graduation requirement is participation in a class titled Biblical Christian Worldview. It could just as easily have been titled "Understanding the Times."

"The class requirements are rigorous. The students must initially write a 400-word summary on each chapter of the book, which is bumped up to 600 words and must include a real-world application section following the philosophy chapter. Many of the students regularly write in excess of 1,000 words, and some will often exceed 1,800 words for each chapter, though that is not required. They also take almost daily quizzes, eight very difficult essay exams, and must read two worldview books each quarter. They are also periodically placed on the hot seat, which is a verbal quizzing of the day's materials applied to modern life, all in front of the class. By the end of the year their chapter portfolios will be from 120 to 200 pages in length, and most of them still love the class.

Their final assignment is a class manifesto. If you look at page two of the copy I have included with this note, you will see that you received special recognition for your efforts on behalf of their generation. The manifesto, unlike the chapter summary portfolio, is a statement of the class' position regarding each discipline. It is their work and they must sign off on each other's section before the manifesto is approved by the class. Once that is done, it is refined through the proofreading process, formatted, printed and provided to their families.



I am sending it to you because I thought you might enjoy seeing another small piece of the ministry's impact on the lives of young people, as well as the families of those young people.

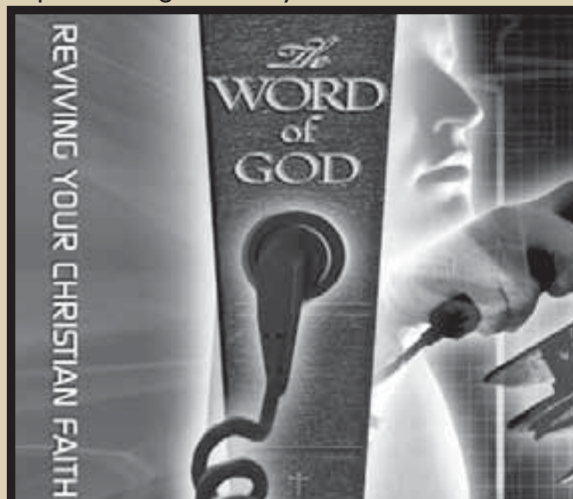
As a sidebar, one of this year's students was an avowed secular progressive who came to KEYS because the people were 'so much nicer' than at her last school. She was a living sound bite for progressive positions but she lacked the depth of knowledge required to defend the indefensible. By the end of the year, she had changed her position on abortion, economic stewardship, the church/state relationship, and other related issues. And though she has not yet embraced the Lord, she wrote her portion of the manifesto (History) and was far better able to recognize and analyze the impact of various worldviews on her life. Our hope is that she will eventually run to the Lord instead of away from him.

At any rate, I wanted to pass along my heartfelt thanks to you and your staff. We are extraordinarily grateful for all that you do.

—Sincerely, R.W., M.A., J.D.

And I can vouch for the fact that their 2010 Class Manifesto is indeed a work of youth scholarship rarely seen in college and I especially appreciated the Manifesto's closing statement: "When Christians lack a comprehensive biblical worldview, they face life ill-equipped and unprepared for the challenges they will encounter. As one student said, 'Not only should you know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, you also need to know what He says about the way, the truth, and the life.'"

If other home school co-ops around the country are interested in learning more about how R.W. teaches his worldview class contact us at Summit and we'll put you in touch with him.



Free Worldview Weekend Rallies

Featuring: Brannon Howse, David Noebel, Kay Arthur, Ron Carlson, Dan Hayden, Norm Geisler, Erwin Lutzer and more.
Full details at www.WorldviewWeekendRally.com.

Upcoming Rallies include: Little Rock, AR on Sept. 19; Wichita, KS on Sept. 24; Lincoln, NE on Sept. 25; Mitchell, SD on Sept. 26; Carbondale, IL on Oct. 3; Columbus, OH on Oct. 8; Pittsburg, PA on Oct. 9; Morgantown, WV on Oct. 10; Milwaukee, WI on Oct. 15; Duluth, MN on Oct. 16; St. Paul, MN on Oct. 17; Pensacola, FL on Oct. 23; and Orlando, FL on Oct. 24.

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Outstanding Investments reports that Wisconsin wind power costs 10 to 11 cents per kilowatt hour, while nuclear costs 4.5 cents and coal 6 cents. The relative prices are consistent with those we have seen published for other localities. The 10 to 11 cents for wind does not include the extra costs incurred because wind is an intermittent and therefore unreliable power source.

The best information on solar and wind power installations is that they are not built unless government subsidizes them with tax dollars and special privileges. The free market knows that these are inferior power sources and are wasteful of American resources.

"Natural Gas Tilts at Windmills in Power Feud" by Russell Gold, *The Wall Street Journal*, March 2, 2010, p. A1, relates a controversy in Texas that concerns one of the hidden costs of wind.

Texas energy producers are required to estimate daily the energy they have available and its cost, so that the grid operator can determine the most economical power mix for the next 24 hours. If a producer does not provide his accepted share, that producer is assessed to pay the extra costs of making up for the power not supplied.

Wind power, however, is exempted. If a wind producer does not supply the power he has offered, then the assessment is paid not by the wind producer—but by his competitors, largely natural gas producers. The argument is that, since the wind does not blow in a predictable way, producers cannot reliably know their production.

This is, of course, one of the problems with wind energy. Reliable power plants must be built and stand by unused in order to be available when the wind is not blowing. Texas is essentially requiring other companies to build and maintain those power plants—and give this standby capacity to wind producers without charge.

The true cost of a "wind farm" is the cost of building and maintaining the farm plus the cost of building and maintaining a conventional power plant to supply power when the wind is not blowing. Wind power companies should be required to build and maintain both power sources, but enviro-regulations are being used to force others to pay for the extra power plants that wind producers require.

Texas energy producers who have already built power plants are trapped. They cannot stop producing energy without losing their capital investments. This forced subsidy to "green" energy competitors is, however, a negative factor in building additional power plants, so it increases the amount of energy that Americans will need to continue to buy from abroad.

This inefficiency also raises the price of electricity paid by American industry, businesses, and individuals—and renders American products less competitive in world markets.

—Access to Energy (April 2010)

MIDDLE EAST

The gathering storm in the Middle East is gaining momentum. War clouds are on the horizon and, as with conditions prior to World War I, all it takes for explosive action to commence is a trigger.

Turkey's provocative flotilla—often described in Orwellian terms as a humanitarian mission—has set in motion a flurry of diplomatic activity, but if the Iranians send escort vessels for the next round of Turkish ships, it could present a *casus belli*.

It is also instructive that Syria is playing a dangerous game with both missile deployment and rearming Hezbollah. Hezbollah is sitting on 40,000 missiles and Syrian territory has served as a conduit for military material from Iran since the end of the 2006 Lebanon War.

Should Syria move its own scuds to Lebanon or deploy its troops as reinforcement for Hezbollah, a wider regional war with Israel could not be contained.

In the backdrop is an Iran with sufficient fissionable material to produce a couple of nuclear weapons. It will take some time to weaponize missiles, but the road to that goal is synchronized in green lights, since neither diplomacy nor diluted sanctions can convince Iran to change course.

Iran is poised to be the hegemon in the Middle East. It is increasingly considered the "strong horse," as American forces incrementally retreat from the region. Even Iraq, ironically, may depend on Iranian ties in order to maintain internal stability.

For Sunni nations like Egypt and Saudi Arabia, regional strategic vision is a combination of deal-making to offset the Iranian Shia advantage and attempting to buy or develop nuclear weapons as a counterweight to Iranian ambition.

Should either fall, all bets are off in the Middle East neighborhood. It has long been said that the Sunni "tent" must stand on two legs, if one falls, the tent collapses.

Should that tent collapse and should Iran take advantage of that calamity, it could incite a Sunni-Shia war. Or feeling its oats and no longer dissuaded by an escalation scenario with nuclear weapons in tow, war against Israel is a distinct possibility.

The only wild card that can change this slide into warfare is an active United States policy. Yet curiously, the U.S. is engaged in both an emotional and physical retreat from the region. Despite rhetoric that suggests an Iran with nuclear weapons is intolerable, that rhetoric has done nothing to forestall that eventual outcome. Despite the investment in blood and treasure to allow a stable government to emerge in Iraq, the anticipated withdrawal of U.S. forces has prompted President Maliki to travel to Tehran on a regular basis. And despite historic links to Israel that gave the U.S. leverage in the region and a democratic ally, the Obama Administration treats Israel as a national-security albatross that must be disposed of as soon as possible.

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As a consequence, the U.S. is perceived in the region as the “weak horse,” the one that is dangerous to ride. In every Middle East capital the words “unreliable and United States” are linked. Those seeking a moderate course of action are now in a distinct minority. A political vacuum is emerging, one that is not sustainable and one the Iranian leadership looks to with imperial exhilaration.

It is no longer a question of whether war will occur, but rather when it will occur and where it will break out. There are many triggers for igniting the explosion, but not many scenarios for containment. Could it be a regional war in which Egypt and Saudi Arabia watch from the sidelines, but secretly wish for Israeli victory? Or is this a war in which there aren’t victors, only devastation?

This is a description far more dire than any in the last century and, even if some believe my view is overly pessimistic, Arab and Jew, Persian and Egyptian, Muslim and Maronite tend to believe in its veracity. That is a truly bad sign.

—Herbert London, *Human Events* (June 28, 2010), p. 10



Israel has never signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and neither denies nor confirms that it has a nuclear weapon. Its enemies have long been trying to oblige it to join the NPT as a step in clarifying the situation, and then if necessary enforcing Israel’s disarmament. Hitherto the United States has used its veto power to head off such an outcome. In a conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Muslim countries, including Iran, have passed a resolution that Israel should allow inspection of its atomic sites, join the NPT, and, in effect, lose an important aspect of its defenses. The United Nations Security Council naturally has backed the resolution. Here’s the crunch: The resolution addresses Israel alone, and makes no mention of Iran’s continuous refusal to comply with its obligations to the IAEA and obvious determination to have its nuclear-weapon and nuclear-delivery systems. For the first time, the United States has failed to use its veto, instead backing this resolution. Consider it a moral disarmament.

—*National Review* (June 21, 2010), p. 11

ORIGINS

The fossil record in particular is problematic in failing to provide evidence of the development of one species from another. Far from showing developmental progress through transitional forms, the fossil record shows complex life forms arriving suddenly without precursor—most notably in the Cambrian Explosion some 570 million years ago, when most forms of complex animal life emerged seemingly with no evolutionary trail. The paleontologist Harry Whittington, who pioneered the modern study of the Cambrian Explosion, wrote in 1985, “I look skeptically

upon diagrams that show the branching diversity of animal life thorough time and come down at the base to a single kind of animal. . . . Animals may have originated more than once, in different places and at different times.”

In 2007, Eugene Koonin of the National Center for Biotechnology Information at the National Institutes of Health in the United States published a paper saying, “Major transitions in biological evolution show the same pattern of sudden emergence of diverse forms at a new level of complexity.” The paleontologist Niles Eldredge was even more candid, saying that evolutionary novelty “usually shows up with a bang” and admitting, “We paleontologists have said that the history of life supports [the story of gradual adaptive change] knowing all the while it does not.”

Darwinists have come up with various theories to explain away the missing fossil evidence. But these theories basically boil down to the belief that eventually the gaps will be filled. And that’s just what macroevolution is—a belief. It is held so strongly not because the evidence is overwhelming, but because the alternative is unconscionable. Thus it is a form of dogma.

—Melanie Phillips, *The World Turned Upside Down*, p. 91–92.



Writing of the origin of the universe, Stephen Hawking declared: “The remarkable fact is that the values of these numbers (i.e., the constants of physics) seem to have been very finely adjusted to make possible the development of life. . . . It would be very difficult to explain why the universe should have begun in just this way except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us.

Michael Turner, widely quoted astrophysicist at the University of Chicago and Fermilab, describes the fine-tuning: “The precision is as if one could throw a dart across the entire universe and hit a bulls eye one millimeter in diameter on the other side.

Roger Penrose, the Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford, and renowned for his work in mathematical physics, in particular his contributions to general relativity and cosmology, with honors, degrees, books, and published scientific papers too numerous to list, calculates that the likelihood of the universe having stable energy at the creation is one chance in one followed by a “million billion billion billion billion billion billion billion billion billion billion billion billion billion billion billion zeros. Even if we were to write a zero on each separate proton and on each separate neutron in the universe . . . and on every other particle as well . . . we should fall far short of writing down the figure needed.”

—Dave Hunt, *Cosmos, Creator and Human Destiny*, p. 210

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The origin of life could not have occurred by a gradual process but must have been instantaneous [because] every machine must have a certain number of parts for it to function. . . . Even most bacteria require several thousand genes to carry out the functions necessary for life. . . . The simplest species of bacteria, *Chlamydia* and *Rickettsia* [which are] about as small as it is possible to be and still be living . . . require millions of atomic parts. . . . All of the many macromolecules necessary for life are constructed of atoms . . . composed of even smaller parts . . . and the only debate is how many millions of functionally integrated parts are necessary. . . .

Overly simplified, life depends on a complex arrangement of three classes of molecules: DNA, which stores the cell's master plans; RNA, which transports a copy of the needed information contained in the DNA to the protein assembly station; and proteins, which make up everything from the ribosomes to the enzymes. Further, chaperons and many other assembly tools are needed to ensure that the protein is properly assembled. All of these parts are necessary and must exist as a properly assembled and integrated unit. . . . The parts could not evolve separately and could not even exist independently for very long, because they would break down in the environment without protection. . . . For this reason, only an instantaneous creation of all necessary parts as a functioning unit could produce life.

No compelling evidence has ever been presented to disprove this conclusion, and much evidence exists for the instantaneous creation requirement. . . . A cell can come only from a functioning cell and cannot be built up piecemeal . . . to exist as a living organism, the human body *had* to be created fully formed.

—Jerry R. Bergman in *Cosmos, Creator and Human Destiny*, p. 225

GLOBAL WARMING

Global warming, we were told, was even turning polar bears into cannibals as they were forced to start eating each other due to “nutritional stress” from their disappearing habitat. In January 2007, the U.S. interior secretary, Dirk Kempthorne, was moved to recommend that the polar bear be listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act. “We are concerned,” said Mr. Kempthorne, that “the polar bears’ habitat may literally be melting.”

Yet in fact there are four to five times more polar bears in the world now than there were forty years ago. Dr. Mitchell Taylor, a biologist from the Arctic government of Nunavut, Canada, noted: “Of the 13 populations of polar bears in Canada, 11 are stable or increasing in number. They are not going extinct, or even appear to be affected at present.”

Contrary to the repeated claims that both the Arctic and Antarctica are melting, the evidence shows nothing of

the kind. Global ice cover always expands and contracts; nothing new here, and there are many reason for these movements that have nothing to do with carbon dioxide. It is a highly complex and fluctuating picture; to take one small area where ice is melting and announce on this basis that all sea ice is disappearing through global warming is simply mendacious.

In fact, temperatures in the Arctic were lower at the end of the twentieth century than they had been between 1920 and 1940. Between 1966 and 2000, Antarctica cooled. Between 1992 and 2003, the Antarctic ice sheet was growing at the rate of 5 mm per year. By 2009, global sea ice levels equaled those seen twenty-nine years earlier, according to data derived from satellite observations of the northern and southern polar regions.

—Melanie Phillips, *The World Turned Upside Down*, p. 18

COMMUNISM

Glenn Beck is a Skousenite. During the “We Surround Them” program, he urged his audience to read Skousen’s *5000 Year Leap* (1981), for which he has written a foreword, and *The Real George Washington* (1991). “*The 5000 Year Leap* is essential to understanding why our Founders built this Republic the way they did,” the author writes in Glenn Beck’s *Common Sense*. More controversially, Beck has recommended Skousen’s *Naked Communist* (1958) and *Naked Capitalist* (1970), which lay out the writer’s paranoid scenarios in detail. The latter book, for example, draws on Carroll Quigley’s *Tragedy and Hope* (1966), which argues that the history of the 20th century is the product of secret societies in conflict. “Carroll Quigley laid open the plan in *Tragedy and Hope*,” says a character in Beck’s new novel, *The Overton Window*. “The only hope to avoid the tragedy of war was to bind together the economies of the world to foster global stability and peace.”

For Beck, conspiracy theories are not aberrations. They are central to his worldview. They are the natural consequence of assuming that the world hangs by a thread, and that everyone is out to get you.

—Matthew Continetti, *The Weekly Standard*, (June 28, 2010), p. 23

Editor’s Note: Being a faithful reader of *The Weekly Standard* I was surprised that it went after Glenn Beck—even labeling him “a Skousenite.” For those not familiar with the term it is a reference to Cleon Skousen, a very honorable and careful scholar and author of the hard hitting but very truthful work *The Naked Communist*. In fact, Dr. Fred C. Schwarz, author of *You Can Trust the Communists (to be Communists)* was a close friend of Cleon Skousen. My update of Fred’s book (soon to be released) and entitled *You Can Still Trust the Communists (to be Communists)* pays tribute to Cleon Skousen and his setting forth the Commu-

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Honored Active Duty Summit Alumni



Tim Ice is a 2001 Summit alum who is currently serving as a chaplain in the Army with the 101st Airborne serving in Afghanistan.



CPT Joshua Zinner, MD is a 1997 Summit alum who is currently serving at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX.

Please keep these soldiers and their families in your prayers. More active duty Summit alumni will be honored in months to come.

nist agenda for all to read and ponder. Skousen made the list of 45 items from the Communists own works, books, speeches, conversions, etc. Therefore, I would like to see *The Weekly Standard* point out what it is in *The Naked Communist* (or for that matter *You Can Trust the Communists*) that is wrong, deceitful, etc. What is it that makes Glenn Beck a threat to America by reading Cleon Skousen!



Antonio Gramsci, the Marxist thinker who became the guru of the former sixties radicals who are now entrenched among the elites, promoted the idea that Western society could be overturned by capturing the citadels of the culture—the universities, schools, churches, media, civil service, professions—and subverting its values. Enacting Gramsci's precepts to the letter, the British intelligentsia have ensured that morality and culture have indeed been turned upside down. Nowhere has this process been more deadly than in the crucible of knowledge itself, the schools and universities.

The shift away from reason is most clearly demonstrated by what has happened to the very place where individuals are taught to think—the British education system. For three decades and more, the Gramscian project has steadily been destroying the idea of education as the transmission of objective knowledge and values. In the universities,

the intelligentsia bought heavily into subjective theories of education, ostensibly geared to the “child-centered” doctrine going back to Dewey and before him to Rousseau, holding that authority, rules, and structure were an assault on children’s autonomy and fettered the creativity that expressed their inner selves. Teachers stopped teaching and became mere “facilitators,” as children were effectively expected to teach themselves. The resulting ignorance meant that children became less and less able to think for themselves. With objectivity junked by the academy, the way was open for propaganda to take hold—on issues such as global warming—and pupils no longer had the tools of intellectual inquiry with which to challenge it.

The overriding importance afforded to personal feelings and the corresponding doctrine that everyone’s achievement must be valued identically meant that no one was allowed to fail and in effect everyone got a prize. From university downwards, standards were adjusted to enable this to happen—with the result that failure was relabeled success.

—Melanie Phillips, *The World Turned Upside Down*, p. 343–44

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ISLAM

Tragically, without even subscribing to materialism, this is the means of “conversion” utilized by Islam from its very beginning and spread by the sword from France to China: “Either confess that ‘There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger/prophet,’ or suffer the consequences—death.” This remains the foundation of Muslim terrorism to this day—a fact that the West, to its own destruction, refuses to face. Nor does it matter to Islam, any more than it did to Muhammad, its founder, that forcing someone, under threat of death, to “confess” this belief does not mean they really believe it. This is why Saudi Arabia is a closed society where no other religion may be practiced, even in secret. There is no freedom to question Islam, and any Muslim who converts to any other faith is beheaded. Yes, this is still happening in the twenty-first century in obedience to Muhammad, who commanded, “Whosoever relinquishes his faith, kill him!” After Muhammad’s death at the vengeful hands of a widow whose husband the “prophet” had murdered, the “Wars of Apostasy” were fought to force defecting former Muslim Arabs back into the “faith.” At least 60,000 were murdered in the enforcement of the above command by Muhammad. Opposed to the reality, however, our president and other world leaders repeat the “good news” that Islam is peace!

—Dave Hunt, *Cosmos, Creator and Human Destiny*, p. 214

EDUCATION

The nationwide uproar over the Texas State Board of Education’s (SBOE) decision to reform the history curriculum began with the release, last July, of proposed new standards for the writing and production of textbooks, and for student understanding. With a school enrollment closing in on five million, Texas practices “statewide adoption” of textbooks, which makes it a leading force in educational publishing. And the state board of education, which has a conservative majority, had chosen a new direction, emphasizing pro-capitalist values and the role of Christian principles in the foundation of the American republic.

Predictably, liberal-left political interests, and the mainstream media, in Texas and across the country, went berserk. The board was accused of removing Thomas Jefferson from the curriculum, of promoting the Confederacy (to which Texas belonged), and of justifying McCarthyism. All such claims were wrong—as anybody who consulted the online draft of the standards could discern. Jefferson had not been removed from consideration as a major participant in the creation of the republic; the Confederacy had not been favored over the Union.

The critical howls over the treatment of McCarthyism were particularly interesting. The board’s new language called on students to be able to explain how the activities of Senator Joseph McCarthy, as well as those of the House

Committee on Un-American Activities, the arms race, and the space race, “increased Cold War tensions.” But the board of education further mandated for study “how the later release of the Venona Papers confirmed suspicions of communist infiltration in U.S. government.”

This appeared to strike Texas liberals as an outrageous intrusion of right-wing ideology. Yet the role of the Venona decryptions of Soviet secret intelligence by American codebreakers, in identifying Soviet agents at work in official institutions, has never been questioned by historians of any political sympathy since Venona was released beginning in 1995. Discussed many times in these pages, the importance and veracity of the Venona documentation is almost never challenged—although some recusant leftists still try to deny its evidence on Alger Hiss, or submit it to an “anti-anti-Communist” interpretation.

The board voted, 9–5, to adopt the new standard.

—Stephen Schwartz, *The Weekly Standard*,
(June 14, 2010), p. 14

ECONOMICS

The debt numbers start to get really hairy when you add in liabilities under Social Security and Medicare—in other words, when you account for the present value of those future payments in the same way that businesses have to account for the obligations they incur. Start with the entitlements and those numbers get run-for-the-hills ugly in a hurry: a combined \$106 trillion in liabilities for Social Security and Medicare, or more than five times the total federal, state, and local debt we’ve totaled up so far. In real terms, what that means is that we’d need \$106 trillion in real, investable capital, earning 6 percent a year, on hand, today, to meet the obligations we have under those entitlement programs. For perspective, that’s about twice the total private net worth of the United States. (A little more, in fact.)

Suffice it to say, we’re a bit short of that \$106 trillion. In fact, we’re exactly \$106 trillion short, since the total value of the Social Security “trust fund” is less than the value of the change you’ve got rattling around behind your couch cushions, its precise worth being: \$0.00. Because the “trust fund” (which is not a trust fund) is by law “invested” (meaning, not invested) in Treasury bonds, there is no national nest egg to fund these entitlements. As Bruce Bartlett explained in *Forbes*, “The trust fund does not have any actual resources with which to pay Social Security benefits. It’s as if you wrote an IOU to yourself; no matter how large the IOU is it doesn’t increase your net worth. . . . Consequently, whether there is \$2.4 trillion in the Social Security trust fund or \$240 trillion has no bearing on the federal government’s ability to pay benefits that have been promised.” Seeing no political incentives to reduce benefits, Bartlett calculates that an 81 percent tax increase will be necessary to pay those obligations. “Those who think otherwise are

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either grossly ignorant of the fiscal facts, in denial, or living in a fantasy world.”

There’s more, of course. Much more. Besides those monthly pension checks, the states are on the hook for retirees’ health care and other benefits, to the tune of another \$1 trillion. And, depending on how you account for it, another half a trillion or so (conservatively estimated) in liabilities related to the government’s guarantee of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and securities supported under the bailouts. Now, these aren’t perfect numbers, but that’s the rough picture: Call it \$130 trillion or so, or just under ten times the official national debt. Putting Nancy Pelosi in a smaller jet isn’t going to make that go away.

—Kevin D. Williamson, *National Review*, (June 21, 2010), p. 30



A lot of people are buying gold, including people who don’t fit the profile of your typical gold investor.

Democrats and other stimulus defenders have either ignored this trend or tried to portray the gold-price spike as a bubble at best, a conservative-talk-radio-driven conspiracy at worst. But some of the world’s smartest investors—guys who saw the subprime meltdown coming—are also putting their money into what Keynes once called the “barbarous relic.” They are betting that the next “big short” will be the U.S. government, and they aren’t the kind of investors the government should feel comfortable betting against.

—*National Review*, (July 5, 2010), p. 20

ENVIRONMENT

Prince Charles yesterday urged the world to follow Islamic “spiritual principles” in order to protect the environment.

In an hour-long speech, the heir to the throne argued that man’s destruction of the world was contrary to the scriptures of all religions—but particularly those of Islam.

He said the current “division” between man and nature had been caused not just by industrialization, but also by our attitude to the environment—which goes against the grain of “sacred traditions”.

Charles, who is a practicing Christian and will become the head of the Church of England when he succeeds to the throne, spoke in depth about his own study of the Koran which, he said, tells its followers that there is “no separation between man and nature” and says we must always live within our environment’s limits.

The prince was speaking to an audience of scholars at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies—which attempts to encourage a better understanding of the culture and civilization of the religion.

His speech, merging religion with his other favorite

subject, the environment, marked the 25th anniversary of the organization, of which he is patron.

He added: “The inconvenient truth is that we share this planet with the rest of creation for a very good reason—and that is, we cannot exist on our own without the intricately balanced web of life around us.

“Islam has always taught this and to ignore that lesson is to default on our contract with creation.”

—Rebecca English, *Mail Online*, (June 10, 2010)

POLITICS

Pres. George W. Bush decided to keep the U.S. separate from the U.N. Human Rights Council, because that body was hopelessly filled with the worst human-rights violators, including Cuba, China, and Saudi Arabia. When he became president, Barack Obama had the U.S. join the council and pick up 22 percent of the tab. Now, Libya has been elected, with 155 countries, or 80 percent of the U.N., voting for its membership. Other beauties recently elected include Angola and Malaysia. It is only an accident that Iran does not currently serve. (Instead, it graces the U.N.’s special panel on women’s rights—of course.) As U.N. expert Anne Bayefsky pointed out, the number of free countries on the council now stands below 50 percent. Our ambassador, Susan Rice, refused to say which states the U.S. supported for the council. She said she regretted the election of some, but “I’m not going to sit here and name names. I don’t think it’s particularly constructive at this point.” Neither is the U.N. Human Rights Council. Or the U.N.

—*National Review*, (June 7, 2010), p. 11



If the Senate confirms Elena Kagan, the Supreme Court for the first time in history will have no Protestants (Roberts, Alito, Kennedy, Scalia, Sotomayor, and Thomas are Catholic; Kagan would join Jews Breyer and Ginsburg). Has the sun set on the Protestant empire? In many ways, it has been going down for decades. The mainline churches (Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Congregationalist) that once provided chaplains for the establishment have shot their bolt, and while evangelicals have grown in numbers and some forms of political clout, they lack status. Yet Protestantism has won despite losing: Stephen Breyer does not live in a shtetl, and Antonin Scalia is not Pius IX. Catholics and Jews (and Mormons and Buddhists) have the relation to state and society—devout, engaged, tolerant—that American Protestants and politicians developed over two centuries of trial and error. (P.S.: Will Muslims also be won over? The jury is out.)

—*National Review*, (June 7, 2010), p. 4, 6



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Too bad there isn't a Cliff's Notes version of the Arizona immigration law. Granted, it's all of ten pages, about 1/200th the length of the health-care bill. But outspoken critics like Eric Holder and Janet Napolitano admit they didn't peruse the law before condemning it, as if sitting down to read it were on par with undertaking *Anna Karenina*. Such critics have an a priori belief that the law is wrong and racist, no matter its actual content of legal merits, which Kris W. Kobach outlines elsewhere in this issue. According to the Associated Press, a State Department official even brought up the law in a human-rights meeting with the Chinese as an example of our own failings. In an interview with Fox News, State Department spokesman P. J. Crowley defended this outrageous self-abasement, while admitting that he, too, has not read the law.

—*National Review*, (June 7, 2010), p. 9

Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani used to speak forcefully of radical Islam's war against us. His successor, Michael Bloomberg, instead speculated that the Times Square car bomb might be the work of a disgruntled right-winger "that doesn't like the health-care bill." Asked in congressional testimony about the plot—and the happenstance that it came on the heels of the Fort Hood massacre and the attempted Christmas bombing, both carried out by jihadists—Attorney General Eric Holder could not bring himself to utter the words "radical Islam," or any equivalent, insisting that "there are a variety of reasons why people do these things." Around the same time, President Obama signed the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act while taking pains to avoid mentioning Pearl's brutal murder by Muslim terrorists, catalyzed by a harrowing and longstanding interpretation of Islam. There are a variety of reasons people do things, including refusing to face the truth.

—*National Review*, (June 7, 2010), p. 8

In 1989, Lori Berenson dropped out of MIT "to pursue a passion for social justice." That's the way the Associated Press put it in a report the other day. Berenson's passion eventually led her to Peru, where she joined up with the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, or MRTA (as it's known in Latin America). The MRTA was a cousin of the Shining Path, Communist and terrorist. They did their best to overthrow Peru's democracy, and almost succeeded. They killed and maimed a lot of people. Berenson was arrested in connection with a plot to take over the Peruvian congress.

Having served three-quarters of her 50-year sentence, she has been released. She has never turned on the MRTA.

But she's now interested in working as a translator and desert chef. Let's hope that in the future she breaks only the literal kind of eggs.

—*National Review*, (June 21, 2010,) p. 11–12

Iceland's prime minister made history last week when she wed her girlfriend, becoming the world's first head of government to enter a gay marriage.

But fellow Nordic nations hardly noticed when 67-year-old Johanna Sigurdardottir tied the knot with her longtime partner—a milestone that would still, despite advances in gay rights, be all but inconceivable elsewhere.

Scandinavia has had a long tradition of tolerance, and cross-dressing lawmakers and gay bishops have become part of the landscape.

"There is some kind of passion for social justice here," respected cross-dressing Swedish lawmaker Fredrick Federley said. "That everybody should be treated the same."

Gay rights activists said Europe in general has a better record on accepting gays at the highest levels of government than the United States.

"In the current climate of U.S. public opinion it is impossible to imagine a U.S. president who is openly gay and who marries their longtime partner," said Peter Tatchell, spokesman for the London-based gay rights group Outrage.

Although no openly gay American has made a potentially winning run for president, openly gay people in recent years have won other elected offices in the U.S.

In Europe the situation varies. Several top-level politicians are openly gay, including Sweden's Environment Minister Andreas Carlgren and Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë.

But a gay head of government would be impossible in strongly Catholic nations.

"We will never see a gay prime minister in Italy. The power of the Catholic Church is too strong," said Giuseppina Massallo.

—*Associated Press*, (July 1, 2010)