



The Loss of America's Memory The Marxist Plan to Repudiate American Exceptionalism

Alzheimer's is a terrible disease that not only degenerates the body but also more tragically, erases a person's life memories, daily functions and complete personality. Alzheimer's dire affects are magnified exponentially when an entire nation loses its historical memory. This is what has been happening to the American people the past 40 years. The truth of its memory has been systematically erased from the pages of its history just as the Soviet Union did until its collapse in 1991.

Precious Heirlooms

All American History teachers should use only the ruler of truth to measure the merits of the American past against a backdrop of reason, research and profound thinking. American history should relate both America's triumphs as well as its failures. To deny students their true history is to alienate them from their community, nation, and culture. Teachers should confine their teaching to historical information, and not indoctrination or propaganda of any kind.

Writing in 1998 for the Watchmen Center, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and Professor of International Relations at the University of Pennsylvania Walter MacDougall underscored the importance of history to America's citizens. *History is the best vehicle for vicarious experience that truly educates provincial young minds and obliges them to reason, wonder, and brood about the vastness, richness, and tragedy of the human condition.* If taught well, history trains young minds in the rules of evidence and logic. To listen to liberals debate issues today underscores their woeful lack of logical reasoning skills.

History also has a valuable moral aspect. It is the only academic subject that inspires humility. Theology used to do that but given its ostracism from the public schools, history must do the work of theology. It is, for all practical purposes, the religion in the modern curriculum. In the post-9/11 era, it is increasingly necessary that students understand America's relationship to the rest of the world. Without a proper constructive view of their own history, American students are rudderless in a world swept by vicious and unruly tides of destruction. Like precious heirlooms these intellectual treasures of history have to be preserved by each succeeding generation of students.

Sam Cooke's Lament

In the popular 1978 satire of American college life, *Animal House*, Sam Cooke's song *Wonderful World* was featured because of its opening lines *don't know much about history...* How prophetic are those words for the American educational system of today? While American students may lag behind their foreign peers in math and science, their knowledge of their country's history is dolefully immeasurable.

Today's students have large and disturbing gaps in their knowledge of history. They inhabit a frenetic culture whose myriad of mind-numbing distractions from rap music to X-Box video games and a plethora of TV sports make the study of history pale by comparison. They wander aimlessly like a generation of Alzheimer's victims who are historically ignorant and destined to lose control of their own cultural institutions.

This situation can only worsen because in most states middle school students are not required to take classes in history or civics. Many national history and civics assessments show that most fourth-graders can't identify the opening passage of the Declaration of Independence, and that most high school seniors cannot explain the checks-and-balances theory behind the three branches of the US government. Nearly 20% of high school seniors think that Germany was an ally of the United States in World War II while 28% of eighth graders do not know why the Civil War was fought. For years, students have been taught that the late Senator Joseph McCarthy was the epitome of evil as he attempted to protect American internal security by exposing communists in our own government in the 1950's. The term "McCarthyism" was coined in the February 1953 issue of Political Affairs, the official organ of the Communist Party and this term has been used wrongly and indiscriminately ever since.

A Proletariat of Victimhood

America's historical Alzheimer's did not happen in a vacuum. A myriad of conspiracies effectively derailed millions of American history teachers from properly teaching history and undermining America's faith in its past and its hope for the future. In this case, all roads lead, not to Rome, but to Frankfurt, Germany just prior to the advent of Adolph Hitler.

After the guns of August became silent in 1918, European socialists realized that the world's proletariat had not heeded Marx's call to rise up in opposition to capitalism and embrace communism. It was Sardinian communist Antonio Gramsci who argued that Marxists economic tenets had seriously failed and that the only way to topple the West was through a dedicated and calculated *long march through its culture* that would destroy its religious, social historical and educational roots.

The Frankfurt Institute for Social Research became the fulcrum for enacting Gramsci's near-prophetic teachings. The Frankfurt School's primary goal was to translate Marxism into cultural terms. With the advent of Nazi terror, many of its Jewish social engineers fled Germany for American academia. It did not take long for scholars like Herbert Marcuse at Brandeis University and Theodor Adorno at the University of California to inflict their intellectual poison on a generation of college students.

Using its weapons of *political correctness and multiculturalism*, the cultural Marxists manufactured a new and vibrant amalgamation of Marxism that over the generations would chip away the edifice of America's traditional culture. Their ideas have infiltrated western churches, businesses and schools, damaging traditions and religious beliefs in their wake. Herbert Marcuse recognized that a *proletariat of victimhood* could emerge from a coalition of students, blacks, feminists and homosexuals, who would be protected from criticism as American culture drowned in a sea of diversity.

Theodor Adorno developed his idea of the *Authoritarian Personality* in his 1950 book, premised on the idea that Christianity, capitalism, and the American family rested on authority figures prone to racism and fascism. He believed that anyone who harbored America's traditional moral values and institutions was both a racist and fascist. His systematic attacks on authority figures found a willing audience among enlightened teachers who vowed to foster the principles of the French Revolution in their students.

The Frankfurt School also developed *critical theory*, in which every traditional institution was subjected to the most grueling verbal scrutiny. With regard to education, critical theory later became the basis for the *Cultural Studies* departments that now pervade American colleges and universities. As a result an entire generation of university-educated elite absorbed the poisonous tenets of cultural Marxism.

Deconstructing the Past

At a 1966 conference held at Johns Hopkins University, Algerian-born French philosopher Jacques Derrida introduced the word *deconstruction*--- a term coined by Nazi ideologues-- into the American intellectual bloodstream. Deconstruction is the literary theory that holds that there is no single meaning to any text. According to Derrida and his acolytes, reason was a tool of oppression. A derivative of critical theory, deconstruction quickly became the favored means of historical confusion and misunderstanding.

Deconstruction is based on Derrida's denial of absolute truth and metaphysical certainty, which are the foundation of Western thought since the 15th century. Its fervor caught fire in the minds of teachers and students alike, hoping to be liberated from the dead weight of their antiquated learning. Deconstruction is anti-history. It denies while history explains. Its proponents argue that all texts are empty of true meaning. Therefore the only important thing is the meaning the reader gives the text.

Deconstruction denies God while stripping history of its providential meaning. The result is an elite class of scientists and intellectuals who espouse the empty learning of nihilism. It focuses on the linguistic and institutional systems that frame a text, not the ideas themselves. This has facilitated historians who want to distort an American history of triumph and geopolitical hegemony. This all leads to what Pope Benedict XVI called a *dictatorship of relativism*, with readers determining their own truth.

In his 1971 book, *Rules for Radicals*, the textbook for community organizers, Saul Alinsky states that the denial of history is an important component of *the denial of ethics and morality*. By deconstructing American history students would become confused, leaving them much more open to his godless radicalism.

A Land of Wonders

The main target of deconstruction has been the idea of *American exceptionalism*. Alexis de Tocqueville coined the term in his 1831 book *Democracy in America*. While some historians debunk this concept as mythological, few can seriously dispute the idea that the United States and the American people hold a special place in the history of the world, nor can America be faulted for its generous ability to pass along its legacy of freedom and democracy to the billions in the world who have never tasted freedom.

American exceptionalism is grounded in the fact that America was founded upon an idea of liberty and as a nation of laws, not on the ambitions of men. It was the first nation founded on the rights of man as inherent and God-given. America's leaders held that the powers of government derived from the consent of the people and not the jackboot of force. The origin of American exceptionalism was best recorded in the words of Reverend John Winthrop of Massachusetts Bay, who told his Puritan congregation *we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill* with the world watching what we do.

A train of foreigner visitors, such as Crèvecoeur's *Letters from an American Farmer*, De Tocqueville's *Great Democracy in America*, and Lord James Bryce's *American Commonwealth*, celebrated these views. Tocqueville lyrically described America as a *land of wonders, in which everything is in constant motion and every change seems an improvement*.

Francis Fukuyama's 1992 book *The End of History and the Last Man* is often cited to underscore the irrelevancy of history. He states that the spread of liberal political and economic ideas

throughout the communist world and much of the Third World proved that mankind had reached the end of its ideological evolutionary process and there was no need to consider the conflicts that dominated 6000 years of recorded history. His ideas have fueled the flame of historical deconstruction.

The Bane of Human History

Some historians have taken umbrage at the idea of American exceptionalism. Richard Hughes and Godfrey Hodgson have relegated this antiquated idea to the status of myths that Americans live by. Many professors now teach American history from the flip side of this debate, subjecting it to Marxist critical theory. They stress a *negative exceptionalism* where the US has been murderous, racist, and anti-feminist and is the bane of human history.

Acting on the example of Herbert Marcuse, Marxist teachers have infected the study of American history with their multi-cultural array of homosexual, lesbians, African-American and feminist studies programs under the masquerade of history distorting an accurate portrayal of America's true history to the detriment of students, voters and policy makers.

To make matters worse, President Barack Obama's first year in office has proven that he is more a purveyor of American mediocrity than of American exceptionalism. As a cultural Marxist he subscribes to idea of multi-culturalism, which holds that all cultures are basically equal. During his trips to Greece and England, he went to great lengths to praise Greek and English *exceptionalism*, leveling his own country without cause. In Obama's kaleidoscopic left-wing view, no nation is better than any other. Breaching standard protocol, President Obama has bowed to several heads of state; never has a U. S. President done this. Yet his constant apologies for past American injustices and ill-conceived foreign *meddling* belie that sense of equality and actually lower America beneath the rest of the world.

A Bandwagon of Distress

The constant bashing of United States history, such as that given by its own president, is reflective of the new idea of *American Declinism*, which refers to those who sense the end of America as a leading power is near.

The tide of American history, tainted by man's fallen nature, will always provide the American people with discomfort, fear and even national crisis. The country suffered a serious blow

when *Sputnik* rocketed into orbit in 1957. History's natural ebb and flow sent the American people the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, disappointment and virtual defeat in Vietnam, the *Jimmy Carter Malaise*, and finally the Obama socialist legacy. A recent photo circulating the Internet shows a graveyard with AMERICA: 1776-2008, chiseled deep into a tombstone.

While the long-term activities of the cultural Marxists have done grave damage to American institutions, as Mark Twain once said, *the report of my demise was premature*. America has survived revolutions, a bloody civil war, foreign wars, Pearl Harbor, 9/11, panic, depressions, political assassinations, and long periods of social and political unrest. Given the breadth and depth of history, it is possible that U.S. power might not some day naturally recede like a setting sun.

But not just yet! Alan Dowd, a senior fellow at the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research wrote that people *have been predicting the decline and fall of America for 200 years*. To be sure, the U.S. faces challenges, competitors and threats that could erode its global position: China and India are ascending economically. The world abounds with asymmetrical threats that have the capacity to undermine the liberal order that Washington has sought to spread for generations. Americans have themselves virtually leaderless in the midst of another great ideological conflict with radical Islam.

American institutions, such as its churches and its families, have proven to be resilient and faith-filled over the centuries. They have a religious quality that revives them even when the hour is darkest. It will take a lot more than a posse of amateur Obama liberals to tear down this once proud nation. Will the 21st century also be an American century? Only history will reveal the answers. Americans must learn it before they become *history!*

~

William A. Borst, Ph.D.
Can be contacted at:
P.O. Box 16271
St. Louis, MO 63108
BBPROF@sbcglobal.net

The Mindszenty Report is published monthly by the
Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation,
7800 Bonhomme Ave.
P. O. Box 11321
St. Louis, MO 63105
Phone 314-727-6279 Fax 314-727-5897
Subscription rate: \$20.00/year, \$36.00/two years.
Outside the U.S.A. \$28.00

The Mindszenty Report is not copyrighted, and
subscribers are invited to have it printed in
their local newspapers.
Contributions to the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation
are tax deductible as allowed by law.
Eleanor Schlafly, *Publisher*
William A. Borst, Ph.D., *Feature Editor*
e-mail: info@mindszenty.org
web site: www.mindszenty.org

2010 Chicago Conference



The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation once again will host a one-day Conference in Chicago! You, your family and friends are invited to attend this conference on **FAITH, FAMILY, FREEDOM**

Chicago, IL - Saturday, April 17, 2010

Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace, IL
8:00 a.m.– 3:15 p.m.

Speakers:

Michele Bachmann

Outstanding U.S. Congresswoman

Phyllis Schlafly

President, Eagle Forum

Kitty Werthmann

Lived under Hitler and Stalin

Christopher Manion

Columnist, *The Wanderer*

Chicago Conference Committee Members:

Kevin Haney

Chairman, (630) 730-7112

Mary Ambuul

Co-Chairman, (219) 838-4217

Victoria Nelson

Registrar, (847) 312-2116

Don Ludwin

Information (773) 229-0375

Frank Spellman

Displays (847) 318-6735

This will be a great program of information, motivation, and spiritual support with Mass and the Rosary. Also an opportunity to meet with old friends and meet new ones! Mark your calendar now!

Mindszenty Report Reprints

THE PUPPET MASTERS: GEORGE SOROS AND THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION The meteoric rise of Barack Obama to the pinnacle of political power despite his woeful lack of leadership experience, lends credence to someone pulling strings like a puppeteer. All the signs point to the leftist/atheist George Soros. His background and ties with Obama's Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel has earned the ruthless Emanuel the title of "The Insider Soros."

Ask for 1/10

THE MIRACLE OF GUADALUPE AND THE DARK NIGHT OF OBAMA Citing our ever-increasing cultural darkness, the dramatic and inspiring account of Our Lady's appearance in the Western Hemisphere provides hope for America, the Church and the World.

Ask for 12/09

THE SHADOW CABINET: OBAMA'S DANCE AROUND THE U.S. CONSTITUTION President Obama's appointment of 30+ czars (their radicalism is clearly documented) has created a shadow cabinet accountable to no one but Obama. His continued consolidation of executive power and "dance" around the Constitution should alarm Americans.

Ask for 11/09

1 copy	\$.50	100 copies	\$20.00
20 copies	\$5.00	500 copies	\$85.00
50 copies	\$11.00	1000 copies	\$160.00

Speakers



◆ Michele Bachmann ◆
U.S. Congress



◆ Phyllis Schlafly ◆
Eagle Forum



◆ Christopher Manion ◆
The Wanderer



◆ Kitty Werthmann ◆
Survivor

Copenhagen Climate Summit

Dr. Fred Singer is the lead author in the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) Report, a distinguished atmospheric physicist, and a member of CFACT's delegation to the Copenhagen Climate Summit. The NIPCC Report is the most comprehensive compilation of current climate change research available. The report finds that there is no scientific evidence to consider global warming a catastrophic event.

CFACT (Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow), is a UN accredited NGO. CFACT offers positive solutions to today's global challenges with the aid of its influential scientific advisory board, aggressive collegiate program, CFACT Europe, Adopt-A-Village project, Global Social Responsibility program and "Just the Facts" national radio commentary.

News release December 2, 2009

ST PAUL, THES. 3:12-13

"May the Lord be generous in making your hearts overflow with love for one another and for all peoples; and may he confirm your hearts in holiness"