



Green Acres The Leftist Elite and the Arrogance of Power

In the late 1960's CBS produced a sitcom called *Green Acres*. It portrayed a New York City couple who fled the city for peace and contentment in a rural burg called *Hooterville*, a town where all the townsfolk were delusional. According to Michael Graham's 2010 book, *That's No Angry Mob, That's My Mom*, the overbearing attitude of the locals evokes images of the liberal elitism characteristic of the Obama regime.

The Arrogance of Power

In the ordinary parlance of politics the term *liberal elite* is a controversial phrase that describes people, often well-educated, wealthy members of a left-leaning political group whose wide influence is vastly disproportionate to their numbers. In less than two years President Obama, his cabinet and auxiliary *czars* have demonstrated an uncanny sense of superiority that has characterized the left for generations. Without prompting they exude what the late Senator from Arkansas William J. Fulbright called the *arrogance of power*.

During the 2008 campaign in San Francisco, Obama noted that decades of dissatisfaction with Washington's unfulfilled promises had left many Americans *bitter and clinging to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustration*. Later there was the snide remark that the people should be thanking me for raising their taxes. Or his recent remarks to Wall St. that at some point you have made enough money!

Nothing better illustrates the president's elitist attitude than his antipathy toward the Tea Party Movement and the election of Scott Brown to fill the vacancy left by the death of Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts. The Obama regime erroneously interpreted Brown's election as just another angry reaction against all incumbents because of the failures of the Bush administration.

Obama failed to see that it was the paternalistic pandering of his tyrannical polices that caused their recalcitrant reaction. He was so blinded by his own arrogance that he failed to understand his forced-fed agenda and his aggrandizement of power caused the Tea Parties and voter rebellion at the polls.

Authentic Christians

To fully understand Obama's exalted sense of power and entitlement, it is imperative to trace its historical roots. Liberal elitism dates back to the formative days of Christianity when the Church seriously vetted all of its doctrines in order to weed out errors and heresies from its core beliefs. Gnosticism was a 2nd and 3rd century *heresy that denied the deity of Christ, excused evil conduct on the supposition that the body is evil, encouraged asceticism, limited the sufficiency of redemption through Christ*. The Gnostics thought they knew the secrets of the universe. They believed that this knowledge made them a superior class of beings, like the people in *Hooterville* above those who did not know.

The Gnostics taught a dualism which distinguished *between the purity of the immaterial world and the corruptibility of the material world*. They held that the God of creation was not the pure God, and that there was a distinction between Jesus who suffered on the cross and the Christ who was the transcendent Savior. They believed their direct revelations provided them with a unique insight and superiority over any other Christian writings and the knowledge about the true God. While their views were distinct from traditional Christianity, they believed that they were the *authentic Christians*.

The Gnostic emphasis on secrets and special knowledge has created quite an attraction for the liberal elite today because of its contradiction of traditional Christianity. Iconoclastic author Dan Brown is enamored with the Gnostic texts of Thomas, Judas and Mary Magdalene because he thought they improved the traditional Gospels. His novels, *The DaVinci Code* and *Angels and Demons* sell in the millions because of their literary dismantling of Christianity.

The end result has been a liberal Christianity that has reduced religion to a self-indulgent quest for spirituality. To Brown this is more appealing because it is not intolerant, judgmental, or exclusivist and it coalesces exactly with the free and open society he envisions for the world.

Moral Exemption

By deliberately setting its disciples apart from the general population, Gnosticism provides them with a set of moral exemptions and privileges that emanate from a 16th

century Antinomianism. This heresy held that its believers were exempt from the obligations of moral law. Their thinking derived from a flawed interpretation of Martin Luther's doctrine of *justification by faith* which asserted that since good works do not promote salvation, so neither do evil works hinder it.

The antinomian ideal has led to a pervasive cognitive *dissonance*, where liberals can hold contradictory statements to be true at the same time. It also explains their cries for flaunting all moral strictures against undisciplined sexual behavior. Antinomians believe that since the flesh was just a temporary vehicle for the spirit, mature Christians could do whatever they pleased with their bodies. Since lust and moral depravity were positive values, their congregations were urged to sin without restraint.

No president better symbolizes the antinomian ideal for sexual morality than Bill Clinton whose celebrated dalliances with White House intern Monica Lewinsky nearly collapsed his regime. Their doctrinal indifference of good works and their contempt for all human laws also presaged other antinomian ideas like the current pro-choice mindset.

In a political context, antinomianism is a common thread that runs through liberal thinking. It is the reason that liberals demand draconian laws for ordinary people and excuse themselves from their application. Al Gore is the *apostle of environmental restrictions* on the energy consumption of all Americans, except himself. He owns a mansion in Tennessee that uses a several times more power than the average home. He travels by jet all over the world to protest people who drive their cars too frequently, while raking in hundreds of millions of dollars.

Antinomian liberals are the embodiment of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* where all the animals were equal, except *some were more equal*. This laid the foundation for what Pope Benedict XVI has called the *dictatorship of relativity*.

Apostles of Reason

Gnosticism came to fruition during the French *Enlightenment*. The term Enlightenment refers to a loosely organized intellectual movement, secular, rationalist, liberal, and egalitarian in outlook and values, which flourished in the 18th century. The most salient idea commonly associated with the Enlightenment was its hostility toward established religion. Historian Peter Gay characterized the movement as *the rise of modern paganism*. The demotion of religion during the Enlightenment went hand in hand with the promotion of science. As the ultimate area of cognition, science lauded itself over the *irrationality* of a supernatural religion that could not prove itself empirically.

The Enlightenment was centered on the *scientific revolution*, especially the work of English physicist Isaac Newton. Other luminaries, especially in the humanities were René Descartes, Francis Bacon, Thomas Hobbes, and John Locke. These enlightened thinkers became the *apostles of reason*, lending an intellectual superiority to liberal thought throughout the centuries. It has been the baffling audacity of their arrogance that has undergirded contemporary elite liberalism.

Other enlightened thinkers replaced centuries of religious doctrine with a new language of natural rights tradition, such as *state of nature*, *civil society*, and *social contract*, which embraced the novel idea that the only legitimate basis of political authority was consent. However consent was often devoid of absolute moral principles. Self-interest and greed for power often filled this moral void, leading to those with power to assume the moral superiority of their political victories.

During the sanguinary French Revolution that followed, the ideals of the Enlightenment materialized in the reign of terror, the tumbrel, and the guillotine. Gnosticism effectively *liberated* France from the orthodoxy of its Catholic faith as well as the hereditary authority of the crown. It was clearly under the spell of the humanist Renaissance that the Enlightenment decisively obliterated the two most powerful sources of intellectual authority in Europe, namely Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian thought.

The Conscience of Humanity

From the Enlightenment, liberal elitism has spread throughout American society. Outside of the Beltway, no area of American culture has exercised its elitist sense of importance more than the ivy-covered walls of academia where thousands of scholarly professors whose high intelligence often reflects their abject disdain for ordinary people.

For generations many professors had sautéed in their own jealous juices because society had not properly recognized them. That slowly changed with the administration of Woodrow Wilson. When he journeyed to France for the Versailles Peace Treaty conference in 1919, Wilson took a coterie of professors, aptly named the *Inquiry*.

It then fell to FDR, Kennedy, Clinton, and Obama to have completed the merging of university and government as an established institution. Today lucrative research grants, consultation fees, and the visibility of government service have provided professors with the financial and professional acclaim they desired, making them bona fide members of the liberal elite.

Countless polls and surveys over the years have demonstrated that the vast majority of these professors held extreme liberal political and social viewpoints that separate them from mainstream Americans. Many are atheists or agnostics, who believe that their superior intelligence has set them above the rabble. The polls also underscore how few conservatives had faculty positions on the elite university campuses. This trend accelerated in the sixties because of the war protests. The next generation of college professors emanated from this stress-filled period of war and uncertainty. They are more akin to ideologues pushing their political agenda than they are teachers. Marxism became the academic rule, driving out the traditional study curricula. This only exalted their power and self-appointed role *conscience of humanity*.

An Effete Corps

Next to politics and academia the most obvious center of the liberal elite is the mainstream media. This should not be surprising since most journalists have been honed

from the journalism schools of the elite universities. Awareness of this liberal bias dates back to 1980 with the celebrated media study by S. Robert Lichter and Stanley Rothman. These researchers interviewed 240 members of America's dominant media for their opinions on various issues.

Among other organizations, their subjects came from *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *CBS*, *NBC*, and *ABC*, and *PBS*. This underlines the claims that the mainstream media is little more than the propaganda arm of the government.

The election of Barack Obama in 2008 also illustrates this charge. Since the liberal media never properly vetted the little-known candidate, Obama's campaign was uninhibited in couching itself in mainstream terms. This was in the face of substantial evidence that showed Obama as both secretive and divisive. The mainstream media focused primarily on his dual themes of *hope and change*, without ever questioning the premise for these amorphous concepts. The media were not just negligent in investigating Obama, they actively promoted his erroneous presidential narrative.

There is no greater way of understanding the elite media than how it treats the spokesmen for the other side of their progressive agenda. The bludgeon of scorn and character assassination has been their prime weapons, which they applied with near lethal force again Republicans, such as Dan Quayle, and George W. Bush, over their gaffes, errors and alleged incompetence.

No politician has evoked a greater visceral reaction among the liberal elite in recent memory than Sarah Palin. Their litany of invective reached a new low for honesty and civility. They raked her over the public coals for every imaginable offense from her clothing, and family, including her Down syndrome baby, making her sound like the *anti-woman candidate*. It is not surprising that in the late 1960's Vice President Spiro Agnew called the media an *effete corps of impudent snobs*.

Spiritual Junk Food

The Catholic Church has not been immune from the elite way of thinking. Liberal elitism in its religious dimension is vital to the New Age Movement. The fascination of many Catholics and even some clergy for New Age thinking may help to explain why 54% of them voted for Barack Obama in 2008. The New Age attraction lay in its claim to satisfy a yearning for an age of freedom from, not only the evils afflicting the world

but also, moral restrictions that hamper their free-self expression.

New Age thinking is a false religion, masquerading in the sheep's clothing of Christianity. Like its Gnostic and Enlightenment progenitors, the New Age has no room for judgment or blame, and holds that belief in evil is negative and only causes fear. As Pope Benedict XVI pointed out New Age beliefs are incompatible *with the Church's faith*. The New Age feeds its followers with *spiritual junk food*, while their followers crave the truth of the Holy Eucharist. They look for truth in all the wrong places---tarot cards, horoscopes, astrology, and ouija boards, as well as women who claim psychic powers.

The central question about the New Age movement is how it defines *spirituality*. They reject the faith of the Biblical God for a religion that exalts the self as divine, while underscoring an exaggerated idea of freedom, self-reliance, and authenticity. Many seek this spirituality, which they define as the use of the powers of nature and of an imaginary *cosmic energy to communicate with another world and to discover the fate of an individual*, with such techniques as centering prayer, bio-spiritual and eco-spiritual feedback. In the 2009 movie, *Blind Side*, one of the characters apologizes for her lack of religious faith by saying she was a very spiritual person as well as a liberal democrat.

What people like the *Blind Side* character fail to understand is that spirituality in the New Age sense is just another way of expressing a self-adoration. It is this narcissist self-love that fuels the arrogance of power that has perpetuated the liberal elitism that has vowed to eliminate the vestiges of morality, faith and traditions that have stood steadfast for two centuries. Americans must remember that when liberals speak of compassion and empathy, they do so from a vaulted platform of personal condescension.

The elitism of the Obama regime, in the face of America's current situation will mark a watershed in America's history. It may irretrievable change the country into a mirror of its modern European forbears unless it is stopped at the ballot box. Americans must shake out of their doldrums and send the liberal elite back to Hooterville where they belong.



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Chicago Speakers Defend Life and Freedom

The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation held its 29th annual Conference on Faith, Family, Freedom in Chicago on April 17. Each speaker had standing ovations from the 500+ attendees.

Wanderer columnist **Christopher Manion** called for the Church to disconnect with the government, even renounce its tax-exempt status. Also he called for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to be dissolved, leaving the bishops free to manage their own dioceses.

Kitty Werthmann described vividly growing up in Austria under Nazism and Communism. She eventually found freedom in the greatest country in the world – America! But can we keep it great? She urged everyone to participate in the elections, in Tea Parties, in support of worthy candidates and in prayers.

Cong. Michele Bachmann (R. Minn) spoke on the importance of people of faith to be informed and engaged in the political process. She alerted us to the major changes in the last 18 months that our government has affected vitiating the ideals of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”.

Phyllis Schlafly, President of Eagle Forum spoke wisely on “Feminism, Marriage, and the Family.” The good news is more people oppose abortion, yet feminist attacks on marriage and the family have increased.

2010 Freedom Award given to the distinguished patriotic Catholic
– *Thomas F. Roeser*.

Father's Day, June 20



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