



Crooked Timber Barack Obama's Ideological Family Tree

Ever since Joyce Kilmer's celebrated poem, the beauty, majesty and power of *Trees* has served as an inspiration to millions. In 1734 essayist Alexander Pope wrote that *education forms the common mind. Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined.*

100 years before an assassin's bullet ended Kilmer's life in the Marne, Immanuel Kant used a philosophical approach to trees when he referred to man's fallen nature as *out of the crooked timber of humanity, nothing straight was ever made.*

Family Tree

Ever since Barack Obama emerged as presidential timber in 2004, the tree and its many variations have served as an apt metaphor for assessing the president's character and ideas. Since his 2008 campaign, many unanswered questions about his *family tree*, namely his parentage, country of origin, religious affiliation and intellectual formation still remain unanswered or not fully explained by the mainstream media.

To the contrary, the partisan media has erected a cordon of insulation around the president that has allowed him to ignore or obfuscate these serious questions about his family tree. More importantly the press has ignored the many intellectual forces that helped to shape the roots of his intellectual tree. Had the media investigated how Obama's *intellectual twig* was bent and who were the leading arborists in his ideological family tree, the public would have seen through his vague notions of *hope and change.*

In the wake of his election it became apparent there were at least three significant ideological branches on his family tree who unofficially served as his mentors on politics and social change. The first of these thinkers was family friend Frank Marshall Davis. It was Davis who suggested Obama attend Occidental College in California, known for its radical faculty. After transferring to Columbia University in New York, a hotbed of socialist fervor two years later, Stanley Kurtz demonstrates in his book, *Radical-in-Chief*, that at the Socialist Scholars Convention in the early 1980's Obama was exposed to the thinking of professors Frances Fox Piven and her husband Richard Cloward, who developed a strategy for destroying capitalism and replacing it with a *socialist paradise.*

After Harvard Law School Obama tested his timber against urban normalcy in Davis' ideological stamping grounds in Chicago, which had become a hotbed of liberal ferment as well as political and moral corruption. In Chicago Obama learned the practical organizing techniques of Saul Alinsky to complement his theoretical knowledge and strategies, which served as the perfect habitat for a budding revolutionary.

Hawaiian Mentor

In Obama's book, *Dreams From My Father*, he casually mentions *a poet named Frank, who visited them in Hawaii, read poetry, and was full of hard-earned knowledge and advice.* This Frank was Frank Marshall Davis, who was much more than a casual friend to Obama and his grandparents. According to Gerald Horne, a contributing editor to the Communist Party of America (CPUSA) publication Political Affairs, Davis was *a decisive influence in helping Obama to find his present identity as an African-American.*

Davis had a long history of anti-Americanism. He had become interested in the Communist party in 1931 during the famous *Scottsboro Boys* case in Alabama and became a champion of black activism to combat the oppression of *White America.* At the suggestion of *fellow traveler* Paul Robeson, Davis left Chicago for Honolulu in 1948 with his second wife Helen Canfield, a white socialite. Robeson, who was a popular actor and singer, as well as an active member of CPUSA, thought the Hawaiians would be more tolerant of a mixed race couple.

Davis was unequivocally identified as an active member of CPUSA in a 1951 report of the Commission on Subversive Activities to the Legislature of the Hawaii Territory which, along with the House Committee on Un-American Activities, also charged that Davis was affiliated with a number of communist-front organizations. In Hawaii Communists effectively controlled the Democratic Party through the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, until the election of Republican Governor Linda Lingle in 2002. In 1949 Davis began writing *Frankly Speaking*, a regular column for the communist newspaper, Honolulu Record. In his column Davis advanced the communist agenda of racial, social and legal justice.

Mentor from the Grave

Following *Uncle Frank's* advice after completing his education at Occidental College and Columbia University, Obama gravitated to Chicago where he *came into contact with more far-left political forces, including the Democratic Socialists of America*. In 1985 he began a four-year stint as a community organizer, which served as a valuable incubation period. He worked for Gerald Kellman's Developing Communities Project on the far South Side of Chicago, where he studied and later taught Alinsky's methods for community organizing.

Though the two never met, Alinsky's philosophy had a lasting impact on the impressionable Obama, prompting some to call him Obama's *mentor from the grave*. Born to Russian-Jewish parents in Chicago in 1909, he is considered to be the founder of modern community organizing and has often been compared to Thomas Paine. Ryan Lizza, senior editor of *The New Republic*, characterized him as *profane, outspoken, and narcissistic, always the center of attention despite his tweedy, academic look and thick, horn-rimmed glasses*.

Alinsky, who died in 1971, spent nearly four decades of organizing the poor, especially in black neighborhoods, for social action. His ideas were later adapted by some U.S. college students and other young organizers in the late 1960s and helped to instigate the radical uprisings of the late 1960s on college campuses. Though Alinsky never formally joined the Communist Party he *became an avatar of the post-modern left*. Even after his death in 1971, Alinsky's writings have remained central to the revolutionary movements that still thrive in American society.

Enlightened Marxism

Saul David Alinsky was a dedicated Marxist who helped establish the dual political tactics of confrontation and infiltration that characterized the 1960s. Though a Marxist, his legacy is more practical than ideological. He was deeply influenced by the social sciences, especially Criminology. Like the enlightened Jean Jacques Rousseau, Alinsky believed that the pathologies of the urban poor were not hereditary but environmental. If people could change their surroundings, they could change their lives. This led him to revive the old term *community organizer*.

In the Alinsky paradigm, *organizing* is a euphemism for *revolution* -- a wholesale revolution whose ultimate objective is *the systematic acquisition of power by a purportedly oppressed segment of the population, and the radical transformation of America's social and economic structure*. One may argue that this principle is behind Obama's hope and change campaign rhetoric.

Alinsky's thinking turned Machiavelli's on its head. He believed that the *Prince* was written to teach the wealthy how to keep their power over the peasantry while he wrote *Rules for Radicals* to teach the poor *how to take it away*. Alinsky urged his disciples to force America's leaders to honor every word in

every law, every Judeo-Christian moral tenet, and every implicit promise in the liberal social contract. When their human agencies inevitably fell short, there would be enough public discontent, moral confusion, and outright chaos to spark the social upheaval that Marx, Engels, and Lenin had predicted.

He warned that *true revolutionaries do not flaunt their radicalism*. To achieve his goal of the complete collapse of the existing capitalist system, Alinsky urged his followers to *penetrate existing institutions such as churches, unions and political parties* and transform them from within.

Economic Sabotage

While Frank Davis provided the philosophical underpinnings for Obama's thinking and Saul Alinsky the methodology, it was Frances Fox Piven who provided the concrete strategy to make Obama's revolutionary change a reality. Fox's Glenn Beck was the first to bring the City University of New York professor's influence to public attention. She quickly became a central figure in Beck's analysis of Obama and the progressive destruction of America. Beck simply used her own published works on how to *intentionally collapse our economic system* to indict her.

Beck's concerns about Piven are rooted in a 1966 article she wrote for the *Nation* magazine with her husband, Richard Cloward, who died in 2001. Inspired by the deadly Watts Riots in Los Angeles in 1965, the article, *The Weight of the Poor: A Strategy to End Poverty*, suggested that if the poor could overwhelm the welfare rolls, the fiscal and political stress on the system would give rise to a guaranteed income. Their strategy was clearly derived from Alinsky's *Rules*.

The *Nation* article quickly became the *Cloward/Piven Strategy*, which was designed to push society into eventual economic collapse by mobilizing the poor to overload government bureaucracy with a flood of impossible demands. When the welfare class no longer had their benefits, they would take to the streets and there would be serious violence. These riots would be then used as a means to expand government power and to usher in a new era of complete government control over the American people.

The Cloward/Piven Strategy sparked Rahm Emanuel's socialist corollary *you never want a serious crisis to go to waste*. For Cloward and Piven, the core strategic lesson of their activism is that, rather than channeling poor people's anger into conventional political activity, community organizers should *escalate the momentum and impact of disruptive protest at each stage in its emergence and evolution*. Theirs was a direct form of *economic sabotage*.

Of Strategic Importance

Frances Fox Piven was born in Calgary, Alberta in 1932. She is still a prominent sociologist, writer and is an honorary chair of the Democratic Socialists of America. She came to the U.S. in 1933 and became a citizen in 1953, the same year she received her B.A. in City Planning from the

University of Chicago. After a brief stint in New York as a city planner, she became a research associate at one of the country's first anti-poverty agencies, Mobilization for Youth, which was a community-based service organization in Manhattan's Lower East Side. In 1994 she was listed amongst over 100 activists who were builders of Barack Obama's New Party.

The *Cloward-Piven Strategy* has had a deep influence on radicals and community organizers. Piven's recent call for strikes, riots, and disruptive protests by America's unemployed is from her original strategy. Despite claims to the contrary violence is essential to the Cloward-Piven Strategy.

Piven's 1977 book with Cloward, *Poor People's Movements: Why They Succeed, How They Fail*, detailed the rationale behind the infamous crisis strategy of a decade before. The core argument is that the poor and unemployed are so isolated from the levers of power in America that their greatest potential impact is to withhold *quiescence in civil life: they can riot*. At the heart of the book, the authors gleefully describe instances of *mob looting, rent riots*, and similar disruptions, egged on especially by communist organizers during the Depression.

They believed that each new offensive would find an ample pool of volunteers willing to advance their radical agenda and expand their voter base. Piven realized that successful offensives would create a perpetual drain on the volatile resources of government. Their strategy clearly explains why the Democrats' economic policies include trillions in new spending and debt that the country will never be able to pay or absorb. Since these programs are financed with deficit spending, the effect of the *Cloward/Piven Strategy* becomes doubly destructive. Democrat fiscal policies seemed designed to collapse the nation's economy and destroy America's traditional way of life.

An Unwritten Alliance

In the wake of Vatican II the Church in the United States, especially its leading thinkers, has been susceptible to social action programs and anything ringing of *social justice*. With its unbridled enthusiasm for social welfare programs, the bishops may have lost sight of two traditional Catholic teachings from Pope Pius XI's 1931 encyclical, Quadregesimo Anno (40

Years), *social charity* in *subsidiarity*. Both teachings decry the socialistic trend prevalent in the American move for bigger government.

The larger government becomes, the more people who really need help will be buried under a landslide of bureaucratic red tape that will weight down the poor, creating a perpetual dependent class. After only two years of the Obama regime, over 35% of the American people are accepting substantial handouts from the federal government. This does not include the possibility that ObamaCare will defeat the challenges to its constitutionality. Even Obama's Treasury Secretary, Tim Geithner, believes the growth in government spending is unsustainable.

Taxpayers are supposed to take solace in the fact that 44% of English citizens are on the dole. This ignores the fact that several European nations have finally reached the tipping point and are starting to reverse that formula for national disaster.

Obama's Bully Pulpit

Obama has learned well from his mentors. From Alinsky Obama learned the dark art of destroying political adversaries. He also learned how to camouflage his real intentions with his false adaptation of Bill Clinton's triangulation strategy during his 1996 presidential campaign. If he repeats in 2012, Obama will quickly shed any moral pretensions of being a moderate and revert to his bullying ways from his presidential pulpit.

If his mentors were grading him, they would have to give Obama a B- because of his failure to adopt the Cloward/Piven Strategy of incremental change. Obama was too quick to saddle the nation with trillions in debt and an unpopular health care system. With his *nation of frogs* in the pot, Obama turned up the heat far too fast and millions jumped out and allowed his opponents to stifle his dreams at the ballot box in the last election. Despite his political savvy, Obama never expected the American right to do its own community organizing and galvanize its forces so effectively in opposition to his radical policies.



William A. Borst, Ph.D. can be contacted at 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

2011 Chicago Conference



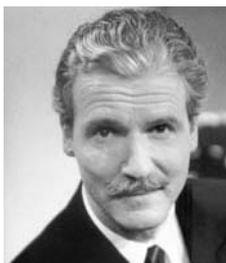
The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation will host its 30th annual one-day Conference in Chicago! You, your family and friends are invited to attend this conference on **FAITH, FAMILY, FREEDOM**

Chicago, IL – Saturday, April 30, 2011

Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace, IL

8:00 a.m.—3:15 p.m.

Come Hear the Best! Today's Hot Topics!



Robert R. Reilly

“Closing of the Muslim Mind”

Senior Fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council, columnist for many top newspapers & periodicals. New book, *Closing of the Muslim Mind*, a must-read!



Rev. Edmund F. McCaffrey, Ph.D. – “Fatima: The Solution to the Modern Chaos in America and the World”

Political scientist, scholar, writer, lecturer. President and Spiritual Advisor of Eternal Life.



Lila Rose

“Defending Human Life”

Her “Live Action” organization focuses on firsthand evidence to expose the tactics, strategies and deceitful practices of Planned Parenthood.



Bruce Sullivan

“Christ in His Fullness”

Apologist for the Catholic Faith, author. His new book, *Christ in His Fullness*, emphasizes the great gift awaiting all who will embrace the Catholic faith.

- ♦ For Registration and Information: **Victoria Nelson** - (847) 312-2116; **Don Ludwin** - (773) 229-0375 ♦
 All Sessions & Luncheon - \$50.00; Or “Early Bird Special” (if sent by April 20)-\$47.00
 Luncheon Session-\$28.00; All Sessions (no Luncheon) - \$23.00
 All sessions (no Luncheon)—Clergy, Religious, Students - FREE

THE CHURCH TEACHES FORUM LOUISVILLE, KY-- JULY 15 – 16, 2011

The Galt House-East Tower
 Fourth Street at the River, Louisville, KY
 Friday evening, July 15, opens with Holy Sacrifice of Mass at 5:00 p.m., **His Em. Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke**. Keynote address: **Francis Cardinal Arinze**.

Saturday, July 16, begins a full program with dynamic speakers:

Rev. Edmund McCaffrey
Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz
Rev. Roger Arnsparger
Bishop Daniel Thomas

For Information and Registration
1-800-842-2871

St. Paul 2 Cor. 13:11

Rejoice, strive for perfection and live in peace, and the god of peace and love will be with you.

Mindszenty Report Reprints

THE LAST CENTURION: OBAMACARE AND THE CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE DILEMMA Thousands of present day Catholic hospitals are in a fatal tug-o-war with ObamaCare and the secular culture of death. Cardinal O'Malley and Bishop Olmstead are stemming the assaults against the Catholic health care system. Ask for 3/11

THE FEBRUARY PRESIDENTS: PORTRAITS IN PRESIDENTIAL GREATNESS Changing the birthdates of our Presidents to one single holiday in February lessens the exceptionalism of Washington, Lincoln and Reagan. Ask for 2/11

THE CHAMELEON IDENTITY: OBAMA AND HIS MANY POLITICAL DISGUISES This Report shows the many faces of Barack Obama: new socialism, extensive alliances with left-wing individuals and groups, and communist mentors. Ask for 1/11

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