



## American Hubris

### Communism and the Manipulation of the American Left

According to Greek tragedy, *Hubris* is described as a fatal character flaw. America's hubris resides in the nation's native simplicity that delights in its eternal optimism, buttressed by a love of the happy ending. It is this inborn trait that blinds Americans to the hardcore realities of human nature in favor of the sugar-coated promises of an unending progress toward perennial peace on earth.

#### A Great Mystery

Since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the American people have been susceptible to almost any kind of utopian argument. Their inborn naiveté has left them vulnerable to the false promises and hopes of ideologues bent on world conquest and human oppression. It is this innate trait that mindlessly condemns any hint of conspiracy or ill will toward its body politic or its national borders. Like a conditioned response, this ingrained defense mechanism demonizes all ideas of conspiracy as the whimsical paranoia of the *black helicopter* and *grassy knoll* crowd.

America's elite, along with the mainstream media, has repeatedly relegated the people who attend church regularly, own guns or vote for Tea Party candidates to the ranks of *conspiracy chasers* in order to nullify any legitimate complaint they might have. This tactic is contradicted by the undeniable continued existence of doctrinaire Communism, a *bone fide* conspiracy that has lurked in the deep recesses of American liberalism since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

One of the great mysteries of the Cold War is how so many seemingly intelligent Americans believed the propaganda of the Soviet Union, as a workers' paradise on Earth. In his 2010 book, *Dupes: How America's Adversaries Have Manipulated Progressives for a Century*, Paul Kengor reveals the Kremlin's covert operations for attracting the support of the American left without betraying their plans for global conquest. Lenin and his successors poured millions of dollars into the Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA) from 1919 through the 1980s in order to spread their propaganda.

Kengor's use of the term *dupes* seems reminiscent of Lenin's term, *useful idiots*. According to the author, the term *dupe* is a broader term that traces its origins back to George Washington, who warned Americans in his *Farewell Address* against being the *tools and dupes* of foreign powers.

#### False Promises

Thousands of America's *best and brightest* failed to heed Washington's sage advice and fell easy prey to communism's false humanitarian rhetoric. Since the end of the Soviet Union, the opening of their archives, the release of the Venona decrypts, the declassification of FBI files, and the scholarship of writers, such as Harvey Klehr, Allen Weinstein, and Herb Romerstein—all have clearly demonstrated the communists' clandestine efforts to seduce liberals in academia and the pulpit with their false promises.

One of the most influential *dupes* was America's educator pioneer, John Dewey, who was largely responsible for the development of public education for nearly a century. After visiting the USSR in 1928, Dewey wrote in *The New Republic* that the Bolshevik Revolution had been a *great success* and that the USSR's churches *are not only intact, but taken care of with scrupulous and even scientific zeal*.

The communists also targeted leading American intellectuals and influential writers, such as Upton Sinclair, Benjamin Spock, Arthur Miller, Lillian Hellman, historian Howard Zinn, and newsman Walter Cronkite. Hollywood was an obvious place to plant some communist seeds. The legion of *Hollywood dupes* included Katharine Hepburn, Gene Kelly, Humphrey Bogart, John Garfield, Lauren Bacall, and Judy Garland.

#### A Culture of the Lie

By the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, most Americans, especially those who were educated in Dewey's progressive education, looked to their government as not merely a protector of their rights and safety, but as a savior. This shows that America's hubris was already deeply ingrained in America's soul in defiance of the warnings of its first president.

From his research in the Russian archives on the early history of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in 1917, Kengor concluded that the Soviets were masters at spreading propaganda. Echoing the voice of Nico Machiavelli, Lenin said that *lying was moral as long as it advanced class interests*. Czech president Vaclav Havel called it the *communist culture of the lie*. The CPUSA used Soviet techniques of lying to get millions of starry-eyed acolytes among liberals and progressives in education, media and religion to their marches and rallies.

## A Hegelian Synthesis

It is arguable that communism would never have been able to secure a beachhead on American intellectual soil had not the ground been tilled by the progressives of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. With its curious amalgamation of prairie populism, urban gentry's *noblesse oblige* and *gas and water socialism* as its core, the idea of unending progress and a forced social justice for minorities and the outcasts of American society are a strong belief.

As an ideology progressivism became a *new liberalism for a new century*—updating America's liberal tradition from its *Jeffersonian, small-government, republican roots* which was best suited for the agrarian economy of the early Republic to a *more democratic and modern liberalism capable of checking rising corporate power*.

Progressives argued that the rigid notion of Jefferson's limited government had to be discarded in order to better promote liberty and opportunity for America at a time of industrial revolution. Human needs were too numerous to rely solely on Jefferson's idea of small government, subsidized by private and local charities. The times demanded social and economic reforms so there would be a greater expansion of Jeffersonian democracy, equality, and opportunity.

Progressives relied heavily on the nationalist tradition of Alexander Hamilton and Abraham Lincoln. They challenged *excessive individualism* in social thought and politics while promoting a regulatory alternative to laissez-faire economics that purported to insure the common good, promote economic growth, and protect workers and families displaced by an unfettered capitalism. To facilitate this they vowed to replace America's constitutional formalism with a more flexible judicial order that expanded democracy while it regulated the nation's unfettered economic system.

## The Progressive Avatar

Herbert Croly can easily be called the *avatar of the Progressive Movement*. His 1909 book, *The Promise of American Life* came at a time when the United States was in great flux due to its Industrial Revolution. The national wealth was becoming increasingly concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer individuals, mainly the corporate executives and political bosses.

A noted Comtian positivist not bound by objective laws and the student of Harvard's renowned Hegelian, Josiah Royce, Croly betrayed a contempt and loathing of *individualism* and its political expression in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. He argued that only programs administered by the federal government could pave the way for America to fulfill the promise of a positive and fair democracy for the greatest number of its citizens.

The result was a Hegelian synthesis with strong Machiavellian overtones where Jefferson's goals of liberty, equality, and opportunity could be best secured through the forceful intervention of the government without concern for constitutional limitations.

The success of progressives hinged on their ability to replace a rigid economic philosophy—one that had emerged from its

egalitarian roots into a legalistic defense of economic power and privilege—with a more democratic political order that allowed people to flourish individually within a larger national community.

## The Rod of Authority

Croly's *Promise* even had a strong influence on Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. It was FDR's administration that helped establish the idea of the *social contract*, an idea that dates back to Socrates. The social contract was designed to explain the relationship between individuals and their governments. It played an important historical role in the emergence of the belief that political authority must be derived from the consent of the governed. Intellectual history is replete with several different views on this principle. The most important emanated from the European Enlightenment in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries with such luminaries as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Not surprisingly their conclusions on the nature of political authority widely differed. Hobbes advocated absolute monarchy, while Locke promoted nature rights and self-rule. But it was Rousseau's *Social Contract* that especially influenced Croly. In Rousseau's imaginary world everyone was free because all forfeited the same amount of freedom and all had the same duties. Rousseau condemned private property because it invariably led to inequality, unfairness and the rise of different social classes.

Croly's *Promise* drew inspiration from Rousseau's reliance on the *general will* of the people. Croly especially liked Rousseau's striking phrase that people must *be forced to be free*. This underscored Croly's lack of faith in the innate ability of the people to know what was good for them. Like Rousseau, Croly believed that the *rod of authority* was essential to ensure the general will was fully achieved.

## A Blind Spot

There is little doubt that without Croly's *Promise* paving the way, Americans would not have been so easily *duped* by Soviet propaganda. Communist duping reached a pinnacle during FDR's presidency. Kengor's *Dupes* describes the relationship between FDR and American Communists as one where they *alternately trashed, demonized, and duped the president*. His administration was also severely compromised by Communist operatives who penetrated the Treasury and Agricultural Departments while their comrades were simultaneously attacking him and his policies.

Roosevelt displayed an unfathomable naiveté where he thought he could cajole even the hardest core Communist, like Stalin, as he had done with his Republican opposition at home. The highest profile Communists in his administration, as documented by the late 20<sup>th</sup> century revelations of the *Venona Dispatches* included Alger Hiss, Lauchlin Currie, Harry Dexter White, and Harry Hopkins.

Harry Hopkins, Roosevelt's senior adviser, was probably the most egregious breach in national security. The documentation clearly proves that Hopkins was not a dupe, but a closet Communist who had duped Roosevelt and many others. There were several reports that Hopkins had close contact with the Communist underground since the 1930s. Soviet officials, who

were working undercover for British intelligence, called Hopkins an agent of *major significance*.

Former KGB officer, Oleg Gordievsky, described Hopkins as *the most important of all Soviet wartime agents in the United States*. According to the leading authority on the *Venona Dispatches* Herb Romerstein said that Hopkins was not only a *dedicated Soviet agent*, but was *both a spy... and an agent of influence*.

### A Sinister Cloud

Marxist duping did not disappear with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 or the end of the Cold War in 1991. Progressives, such as Bill Ayers and his wife, Bernadette Dohrn, have influenced Obama since his early days in Chicago politics. *Progressives for Obama*, spearheaded by '60s radicals Tom Hayden, Jane Fonda, and Mark Rudd raise the question as to their possible Marxist affiliations. Obama's relationship with self-admitted Communist, Frank Marshall Davis, who served as his mentor when he was growing up in Hawaii, casts the same sinister cloud of doubt over his allegiance.

With regard to the *social contract* Obama has been determined to expand Rousseau's idea regarding to immigration and abortion. He has faithfully walked in the same footsteps as John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson who sought to change America from a nation of European ancestry into a multicultural reflection of the global population. After Kennedy's assassination, his brother Ted seized the mantle by pushing the Johnson administration in opening the immigration floodgates from Latin America, the Orient and Africa. In just over 50 years this new policy transformed the nature of the country's population.

For Obama, *Roe v. Wade* is not just a woman's *right to choose* but more a question of economic and social equality. Obama believes abortion is ensuring that our daughters *are going to have the same opportunities as our sons*. To truly honor that decision, *we need to update the social contract so that women can free themselves, and their children, from violent relationships*. Obama entirely missed the fact that abortion reflects the failure of the social contract when a nation abandons *unnecessary people to choice*.

### A Beacon of Hope

When invoked by members of the Catholic left, *social justice*, can be easily connected to the enlightened ideas of the *social contract*. Catholic social teaching is a body of doctrine developed by the Church on matters of poverty and wealth, economics, social organization and the role

of the state. When it transforms into a quasi-socialist ideology, based on the inspiration of the leading thinkers of the anti-Catholic Enlightenment, it assumes an entirely different nature that reflects the secular mores more than any Christian standard. Every pope from Pius IX to Benedict XVI has consistently condemned this kind of socialism.

According to Catholic blogger, George Neumayr, social justice is *a euphemism for the social agenda of the Democratic Party on health care, labor, welfare, and other matters*. Their historic November defeat sent shock waves through the faculty lounges of many Catholic universities. Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan's health care and budget reforms have shaken the rafters of their leftist solidarity.

Though most of the liberal members of the Catholic hierarchy oppose Obama's abortion policies, they applaud him for his concern for the poor and his implicit support for *lawless sanctuaries* for illegal immigrants in America's urban centers with little regard for the nation's immigration laws, the Catholic principle of subsidiary and the Seventh Commandment.

Fortunately, the election of New York's Archbishop Timothy Dolan as president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) offers a beacon of hope that bodes well for the future of the Church's relationship with the state. Archbishop Dolan is a charismatic figure whose voice and charm resonates well with the millions of faithful Catholics, who attend Mass, say the rosary and receive the sacraments on a regular basis. They are and always will be the strength of the Church.

Despite Archbishop Dolan's inspired leadership and their faithfulness there are Americans who are susceptible to being *duped* by a nebulous utopian rhetoric such as *hope and change*. Catholic leaders, educators and parents have to make a concerted effort to re-educate the faithful on the dangers of apathy and atheistic communism.

Their efforts can be greatly abetted by a reliance on Pope Pius XI's 1937 encyclical, *Divini Redemptoris*, J. Edgar Hoover's 1958 *tour de force*, *Masters of Deceit*. Also helpful are the writings of the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who was devoted to the Blessed Mother, her appearance at Fatima, on the dawn of the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, and who became the Church's most ardent opponent of Communism.

With these intellectual weapons and the power of prayer, Catholics and other Americans will be able to see through the seductive charms of a Marxist flim-flam man in the disguise of a secular messiah.

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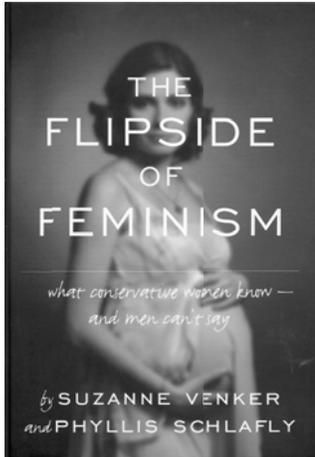
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## NEWS & NOTES



*The Flipside of Feminism: What Conservative Women Know and Men Can't Say* is an excellent new book by Phyllis Schlafly, the icon of conservative women, and Suzanne Venker.

Phyllis Schlafly is President of Eagle Forum, lawyer editor, syndicated columnist, author of 20 books and has been a national leader of the conservative movement since

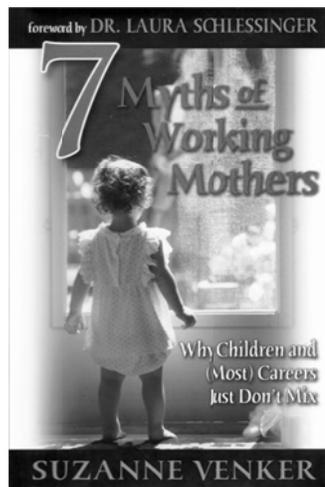
the publication of her best-selling 1964 book, *A Choice Not an Echo*.

Suzanne Venker is an author, former middle school teacher, and a featured columnist at David Horowitz's NewsReal website, where she writes about the Left's effect on the American family. She has appeared on ABC, CNN, the Fox News Channel, C-Span, PAX and EWTN.

The book explains how American feminists for decades have fed the public their agenda for marriage, children, sex, education, politics and gender roles.

Venker previously wrote *7 Myths of Working Mothers*. In this book, Venker tackles the most contentious issues of working motherhood: family economics, the notion of "quality time," women's equality, women's guilt and stress, and day care.

In each chapter, she exposes a different myth about working mothers, drawing on recent social science research and her own experience as a mother and a teacher. The result is a powerful case for the link between the problems of today's children and the absence of mothers from the home.



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“Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

St. Matthew 7:15