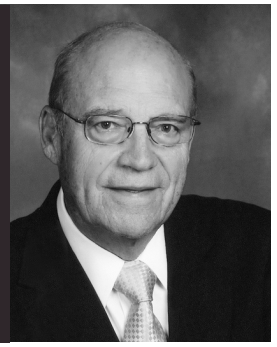




Dr. Fred Schwarz

# The Schwarz Report

65 Years Defending Our Christian Faith



Dr. David Noebel

## The Secular Humanist Worldview

by David A. Noebel

November 2025

A worldview is a pattern or bunch of ideas, beliefs, or convictions that speak to at least the following categories: theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, psychology, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history. Needless to say, Secular Humanism speaks to all ten; hence it is a major worldview.

“Secular humanism openly proclaimed the modern victory of ancient naturalism. In the beleaguered culture of the West atheistic forces today hold a major initiative in universities, in the mass media, and in politics.” Carl F. H. Henry, *Twilight of a Great Civilization*, p. 126

“The Christian worldview has been vindicated by the fruitlessness and depravity of the anti-Christian view.” Groen Van Prinsterer, *A Christian Theory of Political Truth*, p. 44.

1. Secular Humanist theology—“Humanism cannot in any fair sense of the word apply to one who still believes in God as the source and creator of the universe.” Paul Kurtz. “There is no place in the Humanist worldview for either immortality or God in the valid meanings of those terms. Humanism contends that instead of the gods creating the cosmos, the cosmos, in the individualized form of human beings giving rein to their imagination, created the gods.” Corliss Lamont. “Among religions in this country which do not teach what would generally be considered a belief in the existence of God are Buddhism, Taoism, Ethical Culture. Secular Humanism and others.” Justice Hugo J. Black. “Karl Marx is a Humanist because he rejects theistic religion and defends atheism.” Paul Kurtz. “Science and the scientific method have exiled God and the supernatural to the dustbins of history.” John Dewey. “*Critiques of God* contains 371 pages supporting Humanist theology’s denial of the existence of God.” Peter Angeles. Humanism’s theologians: Ernest Nagel, Sidney Hook, Paul Edwards, Wallace I. Matson, Erich Fromm, John Dewey, H. J. McCloskey, Antony Flew, Kai Nielsen, Corliss Lamont, Kurt E. M. Baier, Bertrand Russell, Isaac Asimov. “I suppose that I would have to list myself under ‘atheistic humanism.’” Norman Mailer.

2. Secular Humanism philosophy—“Closely related to Naturalism in its basic worldview and similarly a strong bulwark for Humanism is the philosophy of Materialism, holding that the foundation stone of all being is matter in motion. Like Naturalism, Materialism relies first and foremost on scientific method, believes in the ultimate atomic structure of things, and finds in Nature an order and a process that can be expressed in scientific laws of cause and effect.” Corliss Lamont. “My own tentative general definition of Humanism as a whole would be that it is a philosophical system based on the concept that the universe, life, and consequently mankind are the result of natural evolutionary processes alone, and hence that our view of them must be monistic. In other words, there is nothing in existence except random, fortuitous forces which eventually bring together consonant elements from which under favorable circumstances, galaxies, planetary systems, bacteria, and human beings gradually issue and evolve.” Miriam Allen deFord. “The Cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be.” Carl Sagan. “The purpose of man is like the purpose of the pollywog—to wiggle along as far as he can without dying; or to hang to life until death takes him.” Clarence Darrow.

3. Secular Humanist Ethics—“The fundamental question of ethics is, who makes the rules? God or men? The theistic answer is that God makes them. The humanistic answer is that men make them. This distinction between theism and humanism is the fundamental division in moral theory.” Max Hocutt. “No inherent moral or ethical laws exist, nor are there absolute guiding principles for human society. The universe cares nothing for us and we have no ultimate meaning in life.” William Provine. “If man is a product of evolution, one species among others, in a universe without purpose, then man’s option is to live for himself and to discover new areas of significance and achievement.” Paul Kurtz. “The traditional supernaturalistic moral commandments are especially repressive of our human needs. They are immoral insofar as they foster illusions about human destiny [heaven] and suppress vital inclinations.” Paul Kurtz. “If there is no ultimate basis for a moral ‘ought,’ then there is no basis for determining right or wrong, which means the Hitlers, Stalins, and Maos of the world are innocent of any wrongdoing.” Mihailo Markovic. “Right and wrong are humanly perceived,

not religiously revealed. In a word, ethics is humanist.” Joseph Fletcher. “Humanists have had an important role in the sexual revolution.” Lester Kirkendall. “The world needs more Christian love.” Bertrand Russell.

4. Secular Humanist Biology—“Evolution is a fact amply demonstrated by the fossil record and by contemporary molecular biology. Natural selection is a successful theory devised to explain the fact of evolution.” Carl Sagan. “Man is the result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind. He was not planned. He is a state of matter, a form of life, a sort of animal, and a species of the Order Primates, akin nearly or remotely to all of life and indeed to all that is material.” George Gaylord Simpson. “I use the word ‘Humanist’ to mean someone who believes that man is just as much a natural phenomenon as an animal or a plant, that his body, his mind, and his soul were not supernaturally created but are all products of evolution, and that he is not under the control or guidance of any supernatural Being or beings, but has to rely on himself and his own powers.” Julian Huxley. “To those who are trained in science, creationism seems like a bad dream, a sudden reliving of a nightmare, a renewed march of an army of the night risen to challenge free thought and enlightenment.” Isaac Asimov. “Simple forms of life came into being more than three billion years ago, having formed spontaneously from nonliving matter.” Isaac Asimov. “It became an accepted doctrine that life never arises except from life. So far as actual evidence goes, this is still the only possible conclusion. But since it is a conclusion that seems to lead back to some supernatural creative act, it is a conclusion that scientific men find very difficult of acceptance.” J.W.N. Sullivan. “It is essential for evolution to become the central core of any educational system, because it is evolution, in the broad sense, that links inorganic nature with life, and the stars with earth, and matter with mind, and animals with man. Human history is a continuation of biological evolution in a different form.” Julian Huxley.

5. Secular Humanist Psychology—“For myself, though I am very well aware of the incredible amount of destructive, cruel, malevolent behavior in today’s world—from the threats of war to the senseless violence in the streets—I do not find that this evil is inherent in human nature.” Carl Rogers. “Holding an organic view of life, humanists find that the traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected.” *The Humanist Manifesto I*. “But you say that you ‘believe that it is cultural influences which are the major factor in our evil

behaviors.’ This makes culture the enemy. But who makes up the culture except persons like you and me?” Rollo May. “To know Humanism, first know the self in its relation to other selves. Trust thyself to stand alone; learn of others but lean not upon a single saviour.” Harold P. Marley. “Since this inner nature is good or neutral rather than bad, it is best to bring it out and to encourage it rather than to suppress it. If it is permitted to guide our life, we grow healthy, fruitful, and happy.” Abraham Maslow. “Self-actualization stresses full-humanness, the development of the biologically based nature of man.” Abraham Maslow. “The man of the future should ever be moving toward a greater realization of his human potential and, equally important, that he be constantly transcending himself.” Ellis G. Olim “When I am speaking to outsiders I present Humanistic psychology as a glowing hope for the future. But within the bosom of our family I have been trying to say that we have no reason whatsoever for feeling complacent as we look toward the future.” Carl Rogers.

6. Secular Humanist Sociology—“The goal of humanism is a free and universal society in which people voluntarily and intelligently cooperate for the common good. Humanists demand a shared life in a share world.” *Humanist Manifesto I*. “The discipline of sociology thus is highly political.” Patricia Hill Collins. “Politics and science go hand in hand. In the end it is Gay activism which determines what researchers say about gay people.” Vern Bullough. Erich Fromm wrote *The Sane Society*, which is based on the premise that today’s society is insane and therefore corrupting the individual.” David A. Noebel. “Humanist sociology is thus an approach that emphasizes the interrelationship of the individual and society, and the tensions produced as the individual attempts to invoke his or her freedom in the face of social constraint.” Joseph A. Scimecca. “Marriage, for most people, has outlived its usefulness and is doing more harm than good.” Lawrence Casler. “The Christian institution of the family (male/female) must be radically remodeled or eliminated altogether including redefining ‘woman.’ The institution of the church must be kept under wraps by insisting on the separation of church and state (but such separation must not apply to the religion of Secular Humanism). The institution of the state (and especially the judiciary) must be used to establish the Humanist worldview agenda, including child care centers, changing boys into girls and vice versa, gay and trans rights, abortion, and animal/environment rights. Humanists are essentially calling for

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the complete eradication of all Christian institutions, traditions, and symbols and a complete overhaul of American and Western society. Only then will America be prepared to merge slowly with other like-minded Humanist states (including Marxist states) to forge a new world order.” David A. Noebel.

7. Secular Humanist Law—“Man has never reconciled himself to the Ten Commandments.” Will and Ariel Durant. “The Ten Commandments are obsolete and part of a religion for losers.” Ted Turner. “There proceeded during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century under the influence of the evolutionary concept a thoroughgoing transformation of older studies like Law.” Julian Huxley. “I see no reason for attributing to man a significance different in kind from that which belongs to a baboon or a grain of sand.” Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. “Christopher C. Langdell was the key personality behind the evolutionary interpretation of the law. He became dean of Harvard’s Law School in 1870 and proceeded to move Harvard from its Christian foundation to law based on the theory of evolution. Instead of law based on the law of nature and of nature’s God, law is based on ever-evolving principles determined primarily by judges. Law no longer has an absolute base, but a relative one. Langdell encouraged his students to abandon William Blackstone’s *Commentaries on the Common Law* primarily because he could not accept Blackstone’s non-evolutionary interpretation of law.” David A. Noebel. “The Declaration of Independence speaks of natural law as an endowment by a creator, whereas I speak of it as the result of humankind’s evolution as a social animal.” Julian Wadleigh. “The divine legislator and guarantor of human value has gone by the board, but the human legislator doesn’t seem to have the credentials.” Alastair Hannay.

8. Secular Humanist Politics—“Humanism holds that the planet Earth must be considered a single ecosystem, which is to say it is no longer feasible to arbitrarily divide it into separate states and hope that each one can satisfactorily manage itself....Quite simply, national borders can no longer be considered sacrosanct when manipulation of the environment can easily lead to worldwide devastation.” Timothy J. Madigan. “A truly Humanist civilization must be a world civilization.” Corliss Lamont. “The Humanist is truly global in his concern for he realizes that no man is a separate island and that we are all part of the mainland of humanity. Thus the idea of mankind as a whole and of one world is a profound moral vision that sustains and nourishes the Humanist morality.” Paul Kurtz. “We therefore must all broaden our visions and understand that we are a world of one species, interdependent brothers and sisters who must replace patriotism with humanism. We must become world-patriots, which simply means we must become humanists.” Phillip

Butler. “What would a Humanist world government be like? Judging from the Secular Humanist movement in the United States, it would work to eradicate the Christian worldview and its symbols from the public square—removing the Ten Commandments from public schools, replacing Christian ethics with ‘values clarification’ and sex-education under the auspices of Planned Parenthood etc. This seems especially likely when one considers that Huxley has already written the UNESCO materials for the future world government educational institutions.” David A. Noebel.

9. Secular Humanism Economics—“We socialists are not ashamed to confess that we have a deep faith in man and in a vision of a new, human form of society. Socialism is not only a socioeconomic and political program, it is a human program: the realization of the ideals of humanism under the conditions of an industrial society.” Erich Fromm. “Humanists have generally been sympathetic to socialism as the wave of the future and many have believed that in changing the conditions of ownership and the relationship of production many or most of the inequalities of life can be ameliorated.” Paul Kurtz. “Socialism is a policy which aims at constructing a society in which the means of production [factories, mines, transportation, etc.] are socialized [i.e. taken from their owners and given to central planners].” Ludwig von Mises. “I became a convinced believer in socialism as the best way out for America and the world.” Corliss Lamont. “I agree with John Dewey and Marx on the primacy of the community.” Roy Wood Sellars. “Actually I was not the first or last to find a strong philosophical kinship between Karl Marx and John Dewey. Bertrand Russell [who at one time called himself a Bolshevik], among others, had remarked upon it. This could be traced to their Hegelian origins, their acceptance of the Darwinian revolution in biology as a basis for a worldview.” Sidney Hook. “I believe I can say with justification that I was one of the few American ‘Socialist intellectuals’ who read Marx’s *Capital* closely, but was drawn to socialism on ethical grounds rather than economic ones.” Sidney Hook. “The Democratic Party must henceforth use the word socialism. It describes what is needed. If there is assumed to be something illicit or indecent about public ownership, it won’t be done well.” John Kenneth Galbraith. “No intellectually honest person today can deny that the history of socialism is a sorry tale of economic failure and crimes [at present time approximately 150 million killed] against humanity.” Antony Flew.

10. Secular Humanist History—“There is no one key to the riddle of historical causation. At times one or another factor may rise to a position of transcendent importance, but no single ‘cause’ or ‘influence’ has been dominant throughout all of human history.” Harry Barnes. “We can discover no divine purpose or

providence for the human species. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.” *Humanist Manifesto II*. “The realistic Humanist, however, believing in at least a limited economic interpretation of history, will look beyond fine-sounding peace pronouncements to those fundamental economic forces and relationships that make for war.” Corliss Lamont. “Man creates himself in the historical process.” Erich Fromm. “The messianic time is the time when man will have been fully born.” Erich Fromm. “If there is anything we do that computers cannot, be patient. In time they will do it better, if it is worth doing at all. Computers will have a better chance of withstanding absolute zero when the Second Law of Thermodynamics takes its final toll.” Victor J. Stenger. “The historian may shout in despair that this means insufferable confusion, anarchy and complexity. We must frankly admit that for the time being it does.” Harry Barnes. “Humanism assigns to man nothing less than the task of being his own savior and redeemer.” Corliss Lamont.

The documentation of all quotes used in this article see David A. Noebel, *Understanding The Times: The Story of the Biblical Christian, Marxist/Leninist and Secular Humanist Worldview*. Summit Press, 1991. Our Christian response to this Humanist worldview that has captured huge portions of Western Civilization including the United States see Jeff Myers, David A. Noebel, *Understanding The Times: A Survey of Competing Worldviews* (2016 edition).

## Charlie Kirk Memorial

by Monica Showalter

It was a memorial unlike any other—probably the biggest, and one of the most beautiful, in US history.

At least 300,000 people came, only 70,000 of whom could pack into the stadium. President Trump, and all his top cabinet officials attended and spoke—most in deeply spiritual ways—delivering the greatest speeches of their lives. Elon Musk attended and intensely spoke. Charlie Kirk’s widow, the young Erika Kirk, spoke, forgiving her husband’s killer, perhaps the most movingly of all.

About six hours before the Charlie Kirk memorial service started. The throng was already outside. From all over the world people have flown in including two presidential jets loaded with White House workers.

This is a revival, not merely an event.

A Wellstone funeral it was not. It was not a political rally, it was about our shared Judeo-Christian heritage and about Charlie Kirk. It was not about politics. The look towards Heaven of the event reflected beautifully on them.

First, there were the crowds—massive crowds, three or four times the size of what had been predicted.

There were the magnificent speeches—Stephen Miller with a crusader-like focus on good and evil.

Stephen Miller: “To those who try to incite violence against us—what do you have? You have NOTHING, you are NOTHING. You are wickedness, you are jealousy, you are envy. You can build NOTHING, you can produce NOTHING, you can create NOTHING. WE ARE THE ONES WHO BUILD.”

President Trump with many moving passages revealing his love for Kirk.

Marco Rubio invoking deeply religious passages—a moving speech that could have been delivered from a church pulpit, probably the best speech he ever gave.

An awe-inspiring religious speech from Pete Hegseth. Listen to the fire in his heart. “My pastor texted me the day after that horrific event and said, ‘The devil overplayed his hand. D\*\*\* straight he did.’”

A magnificent speech from J.D. Vance.

And the crowning speech from Erika Kirk, forgiving her husband’s killer in the true Christian way. “I forgive him.” “The answer to hate, is not hate.” Wow. What a woman Mrs. Erika Kirk is. Incredible watching her deliver this speech tonight. “When we lose the ability to communicate, we get violence...”

The rally was likely evidence of an emerging Fourth Great Awakening, the religious fervor that periodically engulfs the US every few decades since this country’s founding. People are longing for this.

This one saw a fascinating merger of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish traditions. It’s impossible to think other faiths of goodwill are not welcome, too. Catholics held up their rosaries, unapologetically, Protestants delivered the tenets of their faiths, the Jewish love for the law and God was present and evident. They all came together, in love and honor for Charlie Kirk.

“I echo this. Jewish people also have a role to play. Attend Shabbat services, not just high holy day services. Religious life plays an invaluable role in our democratic experiment, But for me, faith is a source of comfort.”—Ari Fliescher on X

It was so beautiful it’s impossible to think this will be the end of it. The forgiving heart of Erika will sit powerfully in many minds as she seeks to bring the message of Charlie Kirk [Christian conservative] to so many who have not heard it. You can bet the pope will notice and soften the Vatican stance on conservative Catholics. President Trump and others will move closer to Christianity in ways never anticipated.



It's not surprising that many view this as the miracle of Charlie Kirk. One can only hope the spirit of this event, and not the boiling hate from the left that has dominated the news in the past week, is what lasts. The haters outside the stadium gates, by the way, were few and far between, a scraggly miserable bunch shouting their obscenities. And the press didn't ignore it.

People are going to church and synagogue who never go to church or synagogue. I was thrilled this past Saturday afternoon when, as a lector, I read the prayers of the faithful to the Catholic congregation I serve in San Diego, and right there under people to pray for—the only name—was Charlie Kirk. The Church is softening its studied indifference, likely brought on by leftists in the Curia or among some bishops.

What's more, it's being observed and followed all around the world. The French foreign ministry officials were reportedly choking on their chateaubriand, not accustomed to religious speech from US officials.

Truly, something is changing. It looks like a turning point, the turning point Charlie founded.

—*American Thinker*, September 22, 2025

## The Legend of Charlie Kirk

by Melissa Kelp Frankenfield

I nearly vomited when I heard. Our forgotten dinner—Chicken Lo-Mein—smoldered silently in the skillet. My shaking hands gripped the remote to adjust the volume so I could hear the news anchor somberly confirm: “Charlie Kirk is dead.” Murdered by an assassin's bullet on the campus of Utah Valley State University, the famed champion for free speech was silenced.

Violence is always stunning. As it should be. The grisly murder of a 31-year-old father, husband, and son has haunted me. When did we start shooting our rivals, our political adversaries, those with whom we disagree?

Perhaps this gruesome execution is a symptom of societal sickness. These are dark cultural days when our differences turn deadly. I fear we've lost the art of respectful disagreement.

Ironically, that was Charlie's mission at Turning Point USA: to reclaim the conversation. And it cost him his life.

CNN analyst Van Jones—an admitted rival of Charlie Kirk's—recently shared in an emotional interview that Charlie had invited him for a gentleman's conversation about some divisive topics. Charlie concluded the invite, “We can disagree about the issues agreeably.”

This was Charlie's heart, his mission: “We can disagree about the issues agreeably.”

Charlie believed this nation was the greatest on earth. Flawed. But, still America the beautiful. He wasn't wrong. Charlie Kirk died a joyful warrior, engaging amiably and respectfully with the next generation in his pursuit of Truth. His life was cut tragically short.

During his memorial service, his widow, Erika Kirk, stood teary-eyed before an audience of arguably millions and offered the unthinkable—forgiveness to her husband's killer. She choked, “It's what Charlie would do.”

Certainly, Charlie was flawed. He was human. Like us all. But Charlie was onto something. He found Grace. And that changes everything.

While Charlie Kirk may have been silenced by an assassin's bullet on September 10th, his legacy will continue to speak loudly.

As we love God, our families, and our nation.

As we seek Truth. As we forgive our enemies.

And as we disagree agreeably, Charlie's voice will always be heard.

“Here I am Lord, send me.” Isaiah 6:8

—*American Thinker*, September 23, 2025

## Charlie Kirk Data Foundation

by Kevin Finn

For years Democrats have been accusing conservatives of being cruel, heartless individuals. Our crime? Believing in God, the Church, the family, the country, the Constitution, and the rule of law. Their attempts to claim the moral high ground has led them to institute “restorative justice,” where people credibly accused of criminal acts are released without bail. They've instituted policies allowing millions of unvetted, unvaccinated individuals from third-world countries to be welcomed into the country and hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied immigrant children to go missing in four years. We've watched while Catholic churches were vandalized and burned because we oppose abortion. We've seen normal American citizens called Nazis while obese, hairy drag queens read graphic pornography to kids in public libraries.

We've had enough. The Left has accused us of being intolerant because we object to their lawlessness and depravity. D. James Kennedy said, “Tolerance is the last virtue of a depraved society. When you have an immoral society that has blatantly, proudly, violated all of the commandments of God, there is one last virtue they insist upon: tolerance for their immorality.”

The Left has been using Saul Alinsky's playbook to beat us into submission, and it's time we returned the favor. In fact, it appears it's already begun. Since the

assassination of Charlie Kirk, leftists around the country have been posting vile comments and videos on social media. Not only are they celebrating his death, not only are they calling for the murder of his wife and children, they've created a list of other people who they say need to be assassinated as well; people like J.K. Rowling, Ben Shapiro, and J.D. Vance, for starters.

We've noticed.

A group has organized a website called the "Charlie Kirk Data Foundation" (formerly "Expose Charlie's Murderers") which is compiling legally-available information on individuals and organizations that are openly celebrating the murder of Charlie Kirk. It's having an effect. 100 teachers in Texas will have their teaching credentials suspended and face permanent banishment from public schools in that state (recent reports have raised that number to 180) after posting their glee over the Kirk's murder and their hopes that other conservatives will soon be targeted. People like that shouldn't be allowed within a country mile of civilized people, let alone children, and it looks like Governor Greg Abbott and the state of Texas are about to ensure that that is the case.

News is beginning to break of other individuals losing their jobs; pilots, health care workers, stockbrokers, and even Matthew Dowd from MSNBC. That one makes me wonder if the temperature in Hell is dropping.

All of this is in accord with Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*. His Rule #4 states, "Make opponents live up to their own book of rules. You can kill them with this, for they can no more obey their own rules than the Christian church can live up to Christianity."

Good. What goes around, comes around, Saul. Leftists censored people whose opinions they disagreed with. If an organization depends on the good will of the public and an employee jeopardizes that relationship, then it's in the company's best interest to sever that individual's employment. If a doctor, nurse or health-care worker openly celebrates the death of someone they don't like, how comfortable can we be placing ourselves under their care?

I suspect that some employers may sympathize with those workers, and that's their right. But we, as consumers, have the freedom to take our business elsewhere. Some employers may enjoy ridding themselves of such noxious individuals, perhaps as much as the operators of the "Charlie Kirk Data Foundation" enjoy making them known. That is in line with Alinsky's sixth rule, "A good tactic is one your people enjoy." Similarly, rules 8 and 11 state, "Keep the pressure on. Use different tactics and actions and use all events of the period for your purpose" and "Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, polarize it. Identify a responsible individual. Ignore attempts to shift or spread the blame."

Maybe we can take it a little farther. Activist judges who release offenders without bail seem unconcerned with what those individuals may do once they get back on the street. Iryna Zarutsky paid with her life after Decarlos Brown Jr. was arrested and released at least 14 times. Perhaps, after releasing an individual like that, the accused could utilize his new-found freedom to make his way to the judge's home and make himself comfortable. The next time a federal judge issues a nationwide injunction preventing the President from deporting violent gang members to their home countries might find a group of them parked on his front lawn, ready to move in.

Politicians and bureaucrats who prevent helping homeless people get moved into shelters or mental health facilities might arrive home and find a group of "unhoused" individuals camped out on their lawn. They say they care about the plight of the homeless, let's give them an opportunity to demonstrate it. As far as that goes, the voter rolls identify who voted for left-wing politicians, so perhaps those voters can demonstrate their compassion by opening up their homes as well. City records indicate the square footage of their homes, so it's a simple matter to calculate the appropriate number of homeless people and "justice-involved individuals" to drop off at their addresses. We could conceivably get every homeless person off the street in record time!

Many Leftists openly suggested we defund law enforcement. A database could be created that records and flags the names and addresses of those individuals. That way, law enforcement would know that, should they ever receive a 911 call from that person, the police dispatcher could send them a social worker, or at least help them set up an appointment. That way they'll get just the sort of assistance they've been asking for.

Nobody puts a post on social media in the hopes that no one will see it. The posts are out there, we're seeing them, and we think they ought to get everything they want.

Good and hard.

—*American Thinker*, September 18, 2025

## Love of God Created the USA

by E. Jeffrey Ludwig

"If the sins of religions seem to eclipse their merits, chart your own spiritual path for truth and wisdom." This sentence appears near the end of a Harvard Crimson article that briefly summarizes the spiritual orientation at Harvard's Divinity School throughout its history. The words "chart your own spiritual path" highlight how



Christian institutions in the USA fail to offer a universal theology that will inspire and sustain our culture.

While intended as a positive and inspiring phrase, the words “chart your own” are emblematic of the spiritual decline of our country. The spiritual decline is the cause of our moral, political, economic, and cultural decline. Instead of continuing our adherence to biblical values and worship, we have appropriated too many materialistic goals and turned away from Biblical ethics and following God.

When one thinks about charting one’s own spiritual path, Oprah Winfrey’s steadfast adherence to the phrase “my truth” comes to mind. Many believe this two-word stamp of approval on one’s self-ordained values shows a respect for the individual that is completely consistent with the American emphasis on freedom and rights.

These two words are aligned with those in William Ernest Henley’s poem *Invictus*, which states, “I am the master of my ship; I am the captain of my soul.” The poem is such a classic that Timothy McVeigh handed a paper with that poem on it to the warden before he received a lethal injection for murdering 167 people in the Oklahoma City bombing. Yet, the vision the poem presents and the similar vision presented by Oprah place too much emphasis on the power of individuals to create their own destiny.

American individualism has succumbed to a great degree to this understanding that the individual is solely responsible for the outcomes of his or her life. In fact, I was teaching a class in ethics and showed a brief video in which the speaker extolled Aristotle’s ideal of happiness. The speaker concluded that Aristotle believed that his way led to “flourishing,” and spoke as though “flourishing” was a species of the power of positive thinking (Norman Vincent Peale would have been delighted).

However, I would say that the resulting so-called happiness was more inward and deep than mere positive thinking about ourselves or our lives. One writer explains that true happiness—or Eudaimonia—this way: “It is not merely a fleeting emotion or sensation but a deep and lasting state of contentment and fulfillment.”

Thomas Aquinas, writing roughly 1500 years after Aristotle, really appreciated Aristotle’s analysis, but believed that death introduced sorrow into the life of even a successful Aristotelian, and thus corrupted his idea of happiness. For Aquinas, only Christ and the Roman Catholic Church could eternally sustain the parameters of happiness habits developed to balance excess and deficiency.

Making another giant leap forward in time, we can see that the Marxists made a 180-degree turn away from Christianity by emphasizing happiness as having one’s physical needs met. In 1859, Marx said, “From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.”

This principle has been affirmed by leftists and recently by moderates as though it were an affirmation of respect for the individual.

The eminent psychologist Abraham Maslow, in 1943, came out with his hierarchy of needs, a triangular chart where 28 human needs were listed in ascending order in a triangle. Although Maslow was not an avowed follower of Marx, he followed Marx regarding the importance of needs being met as determining identity and the development of successful lives.

Thus, by the middle of the 20th century, the Aristotelian ideal of a balanced mindset as being decisive for a fulfilled and thus happy life, and the Christian ideals that followed for centuries with Catholics and later in Protestant worship in an even purer form, were pushed aside. For Marx, previous forms of morality were merely forms of bourgeois selfishness claiming to be “moral.” Other writers, such as John Stuart Mill or Maslow, were not as hostile to religion as Marx, but came to the conclusion that other institutions and practices were more central to human happiness and positive living.

Mill put forward the principle of the greatest good for the greatest number, and that has been generally accepted as a principle of social policy and a requirement for individual adjustment in Western Civilization. And few would dispute Maslow’s claim that meeting needs is and should be a high priority.

The phrase “Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” is being seen by increasing numbers as a motto for selfish individualism, where exploiting others is justified. We see this stigmatizing of our Declaration of Independence and the country’s founders in recent works like *A People’s History of the United States* by Howard Zinn and *The 1619 Project* by Nikole Hannah-Jones.

I believe that Ms. Jones finds these elevated sayings of the Declaration of Independence and the Founding Fathers offensive because they divert attention from what she believes were the Founding Fathers’ underlying selfish and exploitative goals. Their spirituality as Christians was all part of a deceptive amalgamation of devious, heartless, money-making interests.

Although I believe that greed was more present in the founding of Virginia than in the founding of New England, we must understand that, even in that community of macho adventurers, Holy Scripture was essential to their mindset despite an overemphasis on material success. They did not come with families like the colonialists in New England. But when they came to Virginia, they built a fort and a church, where they were required to attend multiple services throughout the week, even though they were rough and tough male adventurers.

The Puritans came with families, explicitly to set up a Biblical city on a hill that would be a light to the entire world. They befriended the Wampanoag tribe, which helped them immensely, and they, in turn, helped the Wampanoags with their struggles against the Pequot tribe.

Can anyone alive today even imagine the depth of faith it took to move to the shores of North America in the early 17th century? Can anyone really believe that selfishness alone could keep those people going through the travails of survival that they faced? Were they merely meeting needs, or operating out of “my truth?”

Greed alone might have been present at the founding, but it did not alone give them the success they achieved. And in New England, we saw a purity of motive that has never been matched. Though troubled by sin then as humankind always has been, their transcendent beliefs opened the door to the nation that was built and survived. I hope we can revive a more foundational view that man belongs to God, and that self-interest and self-reliance and meeting of needs can never bring us the success that we need and desire.

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## What is a Fascist?

by Michael Lynch

What is a fascist? Don’t ask any of the college students who throw this word around. They won’t remember Benito Mussolini, who started a political movement in Italy, and who gave us a quotation that will serve to characterize his intent: “All within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state.” All who try to describe fascism also include nationalism—perhaps ultra-nationalism. To combine these two elements to describe any political movement in the United States in 2025 is idiotic.

Yes, you can say that “America First” sounds like nationalism; but ultra-nationalism surely would begin with the conquest of Canada, and that isn’t on anyone’s agenda, (except for Islamists). And you can say that there is a political party in America that desires state control of almost everything. But that political party is completely hostile to the idea of “America First.” In fact, it’s more dedicated followers despise America’s history and most of its people. So “fascist” in historical reality has no relation to its usage in America today.

But it has another meaning, deliberately created by Stalin. In that meaning “fascist” is anyone who opposes communism. Stalin, however, would never have opposed Mussolini’s idea about the state. In fact, that

was Stalin’s desire also, and like Louis XIV, he was the state. (Even more than Louis ever dreamed.) But today in America, “fascist” is frequently used to denigrate those who oppose the expansion of state power.

Stalin was the leader of what was once called “international socialism.” It took a while for the unsocialist behavior of the working classes in World War I to sink in and in the twenties the idea of “socialism in one country” began to be accepted by the communist leadership; (though their international program of subversion continued). But by the twenties, it was too late to rename the Soviet Communist Party the National Socialist Party, because some Germans had adopted the title in 1920. This suggests the same problem for the use of “Nazi” in American political life. Again, one party has most of the nationalism, and the other has most of the socialism.

So, in modern American politics these terms have no historical meaning. In their current usage they are possibly the best example of what might be called “hate speech.” When an American calls another “fascist” or “Nazi” what she means is “I hate you and I wish for others to hate you as well.” In fact, if anyone remembers, (which no one under 50 does for sure), “fascist” and “Nazi” do refer to those whom all Americans hated from 1940 to 1945 with aftereffects for perhaps a decade. But those Americans were thinking of real Mussolini fascists, and Hitler Nazis. Real nationalists and at the same time socialists.

At present, “fascist” can be used to refer to people who support the right to own firearms (which no fascist or Nazi supported once they had political power.) It can be used to refer to people who oppose abortion, or sex education in kindergarten, or mail-in ballots, or to those who believe that “transsexuals” are mentally ill. It is understood by all to express the hatred of the speaker and her wish that you should share it. And that is true also of the politicians who use the term, though their hatred is less likely to be awakened by the policies involved and more awakened by people seeking to take away their power.

In our country it is widely recognized on the Left that speech can be violence. More traditionally it has been recognized in law that speech can incite violence. The recent assassinations and attempts have shown that the epithets “fascist” and “Nazi” are themselves incitement to violence and perhaps should be treated as such. A search of social media should be able to detect all those who have violently attacked Charlie Kirk or Donald Trump as fascist or Nazi and punish them for incitement to violence. Nothing too extreme—a few months in confinement and the confiscation of their goods will be a lesson to them.

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