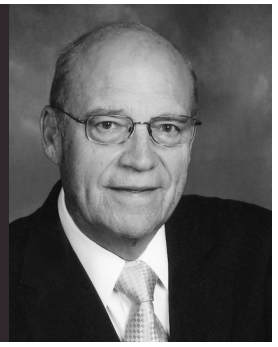




Dr. Fred Schwarz

The Schwarz Report

63 Years Defending Our Christian Faith



Dr. David Noebel

February 2023

Redefining Woman

by David Harsanyi

Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language*, first published in 1755, defines the word "woman" as "the female of the human race." And until October 2022, the word "woman" was still defined as "an adult female human being" in the *Cambridge Dictionary*. What transpired on the topic during the intervening 267 years? Not much. Science confirmed what men and women have known since Adam and Eve began talking past each other—not only do the sexes have immutable physiological differences, down to their genetic matter, but they observe, act, and think differently as well.

Yet Cambridge now says the definition of a woman is "an adult who lives and identifies as female though they may have been said to have a different sex at birth" (and the definition of a man is someone who "identifies as male though they may have been said to have a different sex at birth.") How does one use "woman" in a sentence? One of Cambridge's examples is, "Mary is a woman who was assigned male at birth." Who assigned Mary's sex? Her parents? God? Evolution? The SRY gene? And what other human characteristics does Cambridge believe can be altered according to one's feelings? Lexicographers have a responsibility to offer clarity and accuracy—which is, of course, impossible in this case.

When asked about the change, Sophie White, a spokeswoman from Cambridge University Press, told *The Washington Post* that the editors had "carefully studied usage patterns of the word woman and concluded that this definition is one that learners of English should be aware of to support their understanding of how the language is used." This is tautological gibberish. Though, in fairness to White, "Wokeish" is a relatively new language.

The *Post*, for instance, claims Cambridge updated its definitions for "woman" and "man" "to include transgender people." (Incredulous italics mine.) This also makes zero sense. If Cambridge changed the definition of "black" or "Caucasian" to incorporate "Asian people," it would not be including a new group; it would be altering the fundamental facts of what makes someone black or white or Asian. "Woman" is not a neologism. Our understanding of "woman" hasn't been altered by new scientific discoveries. Nothing has changed.

At first, these liturgic declarations of one's "pronouns" seemed relatively harmless to me. And, not that it matters much, but I've been perfectly willing to refer to adults in whatever manner they desire. It's a free country. Pursue your happiness. It's not like gender-bending is some new idea. In my real-world experience, I find that most people try to be courteous.

It's one thing to be considerate and another to be bullied into an alternative reality. But that's where we are right now. Placating the mob has led to the rise in dangerous euphemisms like "gender-affirming care," a phrase that means the exact opposite of what it claims. In today's world, "gender-affirming therapy" means telling a girl she can be transformed into a boy, but "conversion therapy" means telling a girl she's a girl. The corruption of reality has led to the rise of a pseudoscientific cult that performs irreparable mutilation on kids, with puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones and life-altering surgeries.

And in their never-ending campaign to smear political opponents, Democrats have latched onto this idea as if it were a universal truth. If a person contends that gender is an unalterable feature of human life these days—a belief shared by all of civilization until about five minutes ago—they might as well be Bull Connor holding a firehose. Only this week, after signing the same-sex marriage bill, our octogenarian president claimed that Republicans had passed "hundreds of callous and cynical laws introduced in the states targeting transgender children, terrifying families, and criminalizing doctors who give children the care they need."

Speaking of cynical. Does the president really believe these troubled teenagers "need" mastectomies, facial surgery, and genital removal to feel loved? Or would it be more prudent to let them wait for adulthood to make life-altering surgical decisions? Has anyone ever asked him? Joe Biden is, of course, right that Americans should be free from threats

of violence. That includes kids who are now subjected to abuse at the hands of people who have adopted this trendy quackery.

I simply refuse to accept that most Americans, or even more than a small percentage, believe children should be empowered to choose their sex. Rather, in their well-intentioned effort to embrace inclusivity—and avoid being called bigots—they’ve allowed extremists to, among many other things, circumvent debate by corroding fundamental truths about the world. And that’s what these dictionaries—once a place we collectively went for definitions and etymologies—have shamefully helped them do.

—*FrontPageMag.com*, December 21, 2022

Three Books Worth Reading

by Robert Curry

What a year! America, once known as the common sense nation, seems to have left common sense behind in the increasingly bizarre Biden era. Yet 2022 has been a banner year for truly great common sense books by thoughtful Americans.

America’s Rise and Fall Among Nations by Angelo Codevilla

The common sense year began with Angelo Codevilla’s magnificent book on foreign policy, *America’s Rise and Fall Among Nations*. When America was the common sense nation, it quite naturally had a common sense foreign policy. America’s common sense foreign policy is simple to state: America minded its own business and left other people to mind theirs.

That policy was followed with scarcely a misstep by America’s leaders from the time of the founders through the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. It succeeded spectacularly, and America rose among the nations of the world.

America’s original foreign policy was most clearly articulated by John Quincy Adams. Codevilla presents Adams’s view with simple clarity:

[J]ust as others’ business, others’ quarrels, and others’ objectives are rightfully and inescapably their own, America is the sole, sovereign judge of its own business, of what our own safety and welfare require. This, Adams argued, is international law as well as common sense.

The election of Woodrow Wilson in 1912 brought an end to America’s common sense foreign policy and to the era of America’s peace among nations. America’s Progressive elite swiftly imposed a new foreign policy that rejected the principles that had worked so well—

and plunged America into eleven disastrous decades of international quagmires.

The Money Confusion by John Tamny

Codevilla’s book shows Americans the way to restore common sense and sanity to America’s foreign policy. Tamny’s book shows American citizens how to restore common sense and sanity to America’s economic policy.

We cannot depend on the experts in either area. Economists, pundits, and politicians misunderstand money and inflation to a frightening degree. That’s because they have abandoned common sense. All you need to free yourself from the experts’ confusion is your own common sense—and a little help from your friend and mine, John Tamny.

Tamny’s theme is that it’s essential that money be trusted as a measure in the same way that the mile, the degree, and the tablespoon are trusted. He begins by quoting Adam Smith: “The sole use of money is to circulate consumable goods.” In short order, he quotes John Maynard Keynes: the market “presumes a stable measuring-rod of value, and cannot be efficient—perhaps cannot survive—without one.” Everything in the book follows from this simple yet profoundly important commonsense understanding of money.

Both Codevilla and Tamny make clear that so-called experts have been allowed to have their way in America for far too long. Here’s Codevilla: “Progressivism’s core proposition [is] that the correct path in human affairs is to be discovered through specialized knowledge rather than by politically responsible common sense.”

The only thing you can say for the CDC’s Anthony Fauci is that he has demonstrated once and for all the folly of Progressivism’s core proposition. It is time for America to return to politically responsible common sense.

Schools for Statesmen by Andrew Browning

The impact of the common sense thinkers of the Scottish Enlightenment on the American founding, once known to virtually every American, has been largely forgotten. The tragedy of that forgetting inspired me to write my book *Common Sense Nation*. I made every effort to tell the whole story as briefly as possible, to provide you, as I wrote in the preface, “the maximum of understanding in the minimum of pages.”

Twenty twenty-two has brought a major development in the important project of re-awakening Americans to the sources of the American idea: Professor Andrew Browning’s magnificent new book, *Schools for Statesmen: The Divergent Educations of the Constitution’s Framers*. It is an astonishing achievement.

Professor Browning’s focus is narrower than mine. He keeps his focus on the Framers and the Constitutional Convention. Instead of striving for

brevity, he tells the story in astonishing detail. His 278 pages of close text and 45 pages of notes are brimming with information and brilliant observations explaining the miracle that occurred in 1787 in Philadelphia. Understanding how it came about will only increase your wonder at what was accomplished then and there.

Reading all of these books might not be your cup of tea. But if you are reading this, at least one of them must be.

The book by my dear friend Angelo Codevilla is a must-read for those of us who are troubled by American foreign policy.

The book by my friend John Tamny is a must-read for those of us who are troubled by American economic policy.

The book by Andrew Browning is a must-read for those of us who want to understand deeply the commonsense thinking of America's founders and especially of those who gave us that most astonishing document in the history of the world, the Constitution of the United States of America.

Whether or not you enjoy one or all of these books, let us join in sharing our gratitude for America, the common sense nation, and our hope for America in 2023.

—*American Thinker*, December 22, 2022

The Frankfurt School

by Bruce D. Price

To fight pornography in the schools, a Texas housewife recently appeared at a school board meeting. She lectured the officials: "I do not want my children to learn about anal sex in middle school. ... I want you to start focusing on education, not public health."

Education, as we'll see, is the first refuge of scoundrels. Do you imagine that this school board is hip and cutting-edge? In fact, liberals have had few new ideas in more than a century. During World War I, the communist government of Hungary "imposed a system of pornographic sex education on Hungarian school pupils." Ever since, communists have tried the same pervy tricks again and again.

During World War I, the deputy people's commissar for culture and education was an extreme Marxist named György Lukács, then considered the most brilliant communist since Marx himself. He advocated promiscuity, denounced the family, and encouraged children to mock their parents and religion. The question Lukács posed was, "Who will save us from Western civilization?"

Marxist theory circa 1900 said that if Europe ever erupted in war, the working classes in every European country would rise in revolt and create a new communist Europe. Instead, the workers in every country lined up by the millions to fight their country's enemies.

Why is Marxist theory incorrect? Two leading Marxist intellectuals, Antonio Gramsci in Italy and Lukács in Hungary, independently came up with the same answer. They said that Western culture and the Christian religion had so blinded the working class to its true, Marxist class interests, that a communist revolution was impossible in the West until both could be destroyed. That objective, established as cultural Marxism's goal at the beginning, has never changed.

When WWI was over, Marxists set about devising strategies specifically aimed at conquering Western civilization, which is still their main obsession.

In 1918, Lukács continued refining what he called "cultural terrorism." One component was to create sexual education courses in schools that would work to distort traditional sexual morality. "He came to the conclusion that if sexual morals could be compromised and undermined when Christians were still children, then Christianity itself could be destroyed."

Always remember that Marx had predicted inevitable communist revolution caused by economic factors. Now it turns out that, as a first step, the revolutionaries have to dismantle the entire Christian revolution. Bottom line, this new Marxism had little resemblance to the older Marxism except a hatred for everything that disagreed with them.

Lukács concluded that in order to get people to accept communism, the people would need to be culturally aligned with atheism, the irrelevance of the family, the acceptance of diversity, and the tolerance of multiculturalism. In order to achieve this, he would need to undermine the Christian family structure by promoting teenage promiscuity, teenage rebellion, and arrested development.

During 1919, he set plans in motion to de-Christianize Hungary with a program of "non-judgmental tolerance." He reasoned that if Christian sexual ethics could be undermined among children, then both the hated patriarchal family and the church would be dealt a crippling blow.

To achieve his objective, Lukács launched a radical sex education program in the schools. Sex lectures were organized and literature handed out that graphically instructed youth in free love and sexual intercourse, while simultaneously encouraging them to deride and reject Christian ethics, monogamy, and parental and church authority. All of this was accompanied by a reign of cultural terror perpetrated against parents, priests, and dissenters. And all of this happened about 104 years ago.

In 1923, Lukács founded the Institute for Marxism at Frankfurt University in Weimar Germany along with fellow Marxists Herbert Marcuse and Theodor Adorno.

Cultural Marxists came to realize that their true intentions would be better concealed if they changed the name to the Institute of Social Research, which is popularly referred to as the Frankfurt School. Its primary goal was to translate Marxism from economic terms to cultural terms, or Freudian terms. It would use multidisciplinary methods to indoctrinate and manufacture new groups of oppressed proletarians such as homosexuals and transsexuals.

The intellectuals tinkered and revised, but the new theories failed. They reinvented Marxism on the fly, until it was nothing that Marx would recognize. Their broad strategy came down to this desperate gambit: any time they encountered something honest and decent, they tried to undermine it with something sacrilegious or shocking.

After 1932, as Stalin hammered down on his masses and the Nazis became more threatening, the Bolsheviks in Germany fled to safety in the United States. Many of the big names ended up in American universities, where they plotted how to destroy traditional views. Pick a fad of the last hundred years, and you will find the influence of Lukács and Gramsci, with some modification by Max Horkheimer, Theodor Adorno, Wilhelm Reich, Herbert Marcuse, Walter Benjamin, and Eric Fromm.

The big point is, Marxist intellectuals pretend to seek truth and wisdom. Nonsense. For them, politics is war. They are seeking your weak spots so they can destroy you.

As a result, communism is everywhere in our society, attacking, attacking, attacking. A few decades back, communism operated under the title “political correctness.” Now it maneuvers under the title “woke.” One thing every school should inaugurate is Communism Studies. These fanatics never take a day off. They won’t be happy until you’re unhappy.

Mark Levin summarized the saga best: “Democrats are hellbent on destroying our country.”

—*American Thinker*, December 18, 2022

The Climate Game

by Jim Hollingsworth

America has survived as a beacon of light for over two hundred years for two very simple reasons. First, we developed a Constitution that protects our God-given rights, especially those listed in the Bill of Rights, and second, we discovered and learned how to use fossil fuels.

Use of fossil fuels had an immediate effect on our environment, as the use of kerosene soon took the place of whale oil for lamps and preserved the lives of thousands of whales.

Under the Trump administration this long tradition was continued and even added to. The present administration has done much to reverse that trend. It is almost as if they have determined that every act of President Trump had to go.

A couple dozen executive orders were issued the first day Biden was in office. Many of these concerned the use of energy.

There was an immediate war on coal, oil, and natural gas, the very things that made America great. First was cancellation of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Then other pipelines bit the dust. Oil exploration projects on federal lands and off shore were ended.

The goal of the present administration is to stop all production of carbon dioxide in just a few short years. Carbon dioxide is a necessary gas from which every plant is built. From that tiny percentage (0.042 percent) comes the substance of every plant and all plant life in the oceans. We are just part of that carbon cycle. Animals produce carbon dioxide while plants produce oxygen, essential for all life.

It is foolish to think that man can reduce carbon dioxide and control the earth’s temperature. The goal of the liberals has been to end all use of fossil fuels, yet so far that use has not decreased, but has increased to meet the needs of a developing world. Although the present administration may have embarked on a war on oil, coal, and natural gas, countries like China and India are building literally hundreds of coal-fired electric generation plants.

Wind and solar will never take the place of fossil fuels. Use of fossil fuels has made us wealthier as a nation, and as nations become wealthier their protection of the environment increases.

Europe has closed coal-fired and nuclear generation plants. Now large numbers are in danger of freezing to death because of the cost of heating. Some folks are cutting trees to burn and keep warm, and this is certainly not environmentally friendly.

Wind and solar are only short-term solutions to our energy needs. Today we see ugly machines all over the country and they only provide for a couple percentages of our energy.

Sure, we can store electricity in batteries, but it will not be possible to build batteries for those times when the wind does not blow or the sun shine. Here in northern Idaho, there are weeks at a time when the sky is overcast or it is raining and snowing. Plus, the fact that the wind does not often blow when it is quite cold.

Solar panels produce no electricity when they are covered with snow. Their output is radically reduced

when covered with dust. Not only that, they wear out in just a few short years and must be replaced.

Wind and solar electricity can be used to pump water to an elevated reservoir where it can run back down and produce electricity. But that method is very inefficient.

Electric cars—that was the answer. Production of these vehicles has increased rapidly. However, Germany and Switzerland, among other nations, have passed laws making it illegal to charge electric cars when it is cold, as they need the power just for heat.

Batteries for electric cars are very expensive and require a lot of fairly rare minerals. These minerals come mainly from countries that are not very friendly to the United States. In some countries those minerals are “mined” by children.

Not only that, but these batteries only last a few short years and have to be replaced. When it comes time to replace them, the cost of the new batteries is more than the value of the vehicle. So used electric vehicles have no resale value.

We have all seen the ads for how wonderful electric cars are, yet when you check into it, you find that the power for the car comes from a coal-fired power plant. Or the picture of an EV charging station with the diesel generator providing the power; or the picture of a small EV with a portable gasoline generator in the trunk to provide charging when the battery goes dead. Then there is the picture of electric cars caught in a snowstorm where the batteries go dead while they run the heaters trying to keep warm. It is simply foolish to use electric cars in bad weather.

Wind turbines kill many birds, and after a few years they wear out and need to be replaced. Unfortunately, very little of what these huge machines are made of can be recycled, so they have to be broken up and buried. Not a very good use of resources. Not only that, many of these parts are made in China, not the best arrangement.

Then there is the giant solar installation at Ivanpah, California, which has already begun to wear out. It will cost nearly as much to replace it as it originally cost to build it.

No matter how many stories you read about fossil fuels it is rare to find one that talks about uses other than as a motor fuel. In fact, natural gas is used in the manufacture of nitrogen-based fertilizer, and someone has documented that over six thousand products are made from oil.

This includes things like vinyl siding and vinyl fences, asphalt roofing, asphalt highways, plastic containers for food items etc.

Plastic is the big thing: Today’s cars use a lot of plastic. Look around the house and see the things made from oil; even the carpeting on the floor.

This administration has foolishly determined to end all use of fossil fuels when that is the very thing that has made us great.

—*American Thinker*, December 21, 2022

The Fall of Rome

by Samuel R. Piccoli

When news of the Battle of Saratoga reached Britain, a young Scottish barrister told economist Adam Smith: “If we go on at this rate, the nation must be ruined.” Adam Smith responded, “Be assured young friend, that there is a great deal of ruin in a nation.” By that, he meant that nations can absorb a lot more blows than the pessimists tend to think. A few days ago, *American Greatness* had a very concerned article by Victor Davis Hanson on the future of America. After quoting Adam Smith’s answer at the beginning of the article, and after reviewing the ills that beset America, Hanson concluded his reflection with the following statement: “We have seen lots of cultural revolutions in this country, but never one that was so singularly focused on razing the foundations of America—until now. Yes, there is a lot of ruin in great nations. But even America is by now running low on it.”

In all fairness it has to be said that such a terrible sentence perfectly reflects the reality of the country as it has become today. We are \$31 trillion in collective debt, says Hanson, the military is politicized and short of recruits, and the American people are witnessing the breakdown of basic norms essential for civilized life: “Old Cairo seems safer than an after-hours subway ride or stroll at dusk in many major American cities. Medieval London’s roadways were likely cleaner than Market Street in San Francisco.” Not to mention the fact that “speech was freer in 1920s America than it is now.” Nor can the “abject, deliberate humiliation” suffered in Kabul be forgotten, when the worst US administration ever decided to flee and abandon to the terrorist Taliban a huge, remodeled air base, tens of billions of dollars in military hardware, a \$1 billion embassy, and thousands of friends. In addition, FBI is corrupt and discredited, collaborating with Silicon Valley’s Big Tech companies to suppress free speech and warp elections:

In 2016, the bureau with the Democratic National Committee sought to destroy the integrity of an election by fabricating a Russian collusion hoax. Its continuance and coverup ultimately required FBI agents and lawyers to alter legal documents, to lie under oath, to destroy subpoenaed phone data, and to outsource illegal suppression of First Amendment rights to Silicon Valley

contractors. The nation now fears there isn't anything the FBI might *not* do.

At the core of Hanson's analysis is the idea of a country that increasingly resembles the wide-open fifth-century A.D. Rome, when its traditional inviolable northern borders on the Rhine and Danube rivers vanished, and barbarian hordes roamed at will the European continent "on the premise that no one among their overripe, soft hosts could or would dare stop them." At the same time, the traditional liberal democratic model of citizenship is eroding and a new medievalism is emerging. First and foremost, the American middle class is shrinking, if not insidiously sliding into indebted peasantry. Society is also bifurcating, VDH explains, and "a tiny powerful minority has more leverage than any other elite in the history of civilization," while "a large underclass of subsidized poor shares with the wealthy a disdain for the struggling middle class, the old bulwark of democracy."

Please note that while Victor Davis Hanson's take on America's fate has little in common with the idea of American decline as expressed by intellectual pessimists of various persuasions, it is undeniable that concerns about the future of the country are popular among people of all social classes and political tendencies. In a January 2021 Axios-Ipsos poll, for instance, fourth-fifths of Americans—both Republicans (83%) and Democrats (78%)—said America is falling apart. In such a devastated context, "the idea of 330 million American citizens of different incidental races and ethnicities united by a common American identity of shared values, customs, and traditions is all but mocked. In its place is arising something like the former Yugoslavia—an undefined mishmash of competing and increasingly hostile tribal interests, with residents sorting themselves out into red and blue states that eventually will lead to two antithetical Americas."

It seems like a thousand years ago that Teddy Roosevelt referred to "hyphenated Americans" to mean they weren't Americans at all:

There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism. When I refer to hyphenated Americans, I do not refer to naturalized Americans. Some of the very best Americans I have ever known were naturalized Americans, Americans born abroad. But a hyphenated American is not an American at all. [...] Americanism is a matter of the spirit and of the soul. Our allegiance must be purely to the United States. We must unsparingly condemn any man who holds any other allegiance. [...] The one absolutely certain way of bringing this nation to ruin, of preventing all possibility of its continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities, an intricate knot of German-Americans, Irish-

Americans, English-Americans, French-Americans, Scandinavian-Americans, or Italian-Americans, each preserving its separate nationality, each at heart feeling more sympathy with Europeans of that nationality than with the other citizens of the American Republic.

To return to the last sentence of Hanson's article, those words immediately reminded me, by a spontaneous association of ideas, of a famous Venerable Bede's quote, "When Rome falls, the whole world will fall." Translated into current terms we may say, "When America falls, the whole world will fall." A total disaster. Just to give an idea of what's at stake here.

—*American Thinker*, December 21, 2022

Handel's Messiah

by Monica Showalter

At Christmas, instead of a lot of pop Christmas songs, I have been listening to passages from Handel's Messiah oratorio, including the powerfully beautiful Christmas-oriented "For unto us a child is born" based on the writings of the Prophet Isaiah, and the soaringly magnificent Hallelujah Chorus.

To hear these, compared to everything else makes me ask if this was the pinnacle of human musical achievement? Will there ever be anything greater?

An argument can be made for it at least this far.

This oratorio, after all, is touched by eternity. We listen to this joyful piece today, nearly 300 years after it was written, with its variations like angelic choirs, and that fierce lyric "the mighty God" turning the piece to conclusion and can only feel the same emotion that King George II must have felt in 1743 when it was first performed in London and the king unexpectedly stood up for it as if to honor it, to express his joy at its soaring sound. Yes, he may have been standing up in response to the verses themselves, taken from the Bible, as this writer argues, the lyrics of which speak of the king of kings, meaning, King George recognizes that he's just a little king at the service of the big one, so he needs to stand up same as peasants stand when a king enters the room. But I don't buy it entirely—King George couldn't hear that oratorio performed in the rough conditions 18th century life, with no telephones, no tech, no flush toilets, no running water, and hear the sound of angels as we do? How could King George have not felt what we feel today when we hear this divine music? Someone could have read him a passage about 'the king of kings' and he would have just sat there, knowing that it was just reporting he was hearing. That he stood suggested he

considered something happening, something “in the moment” with something real and in front of him with that music, as if it were alive.

For me, it seems so fresh, so new, so alive because its words sing of praise with melodies of joy, breaking out of its seemingly stilted musical era and our world is so bereft of praise as well as joy at the moment. When was the last time we heard any leader speak in terms of praise? It’s liberating to hear these words of praise. Think of today’s dominant culture of victimhood and the insipid Christmas songs sung now, particularly the modern pop songs, and think how sharply it contrasts with the entire focus of the Messiah, which is to put self aside to praise God as a collective in a beautifully layered sound of a choir—in a majestically beautiful composition, that in the end glorifies the humanity that God loves, who are glorifying God in their song.

It’s beautiful. It’s so beautiful it makes me wonder if God Himself could applaud this piece. I know that must seem impossible given that anything done by anyone on earth is “as dirty rags,” to recall the Biblical passage, compared to what is in Heaven, but I wonder if God wrote it and gave Handel the means to put it down. The guidance of God seems to have been present somehow in this piece.

The sound is so heaven-reaching that it makes me feel there had to have been some divine spark inspiring it, some Godly hand that must have moved their creation.

Yes, I feel that only emotionally, but I don’t think it should be entirely dismissed given that many art creations entirely baffle their artist creators as to how they came to them, sometimes, as art critic Jerry Saltz has noted on several occasions, beginning as utter rubbish, continuing as utter rubbish, and then coming together as art very suddenly.

We all feel this way, it’s a universal appreciation, it extends across ages, and perhaps we can predict with confidence that this music will be appreciated as much in 300 years as it is today, and as it was in 1743.

Handel, many historians note, understood the power of showmanship, but he also understood the power of the content informing his majestic pieces. If he was going to write something great, he needed a great topic, the greatest topic. Note how many pieces he wrote that were derived from the sheer power of the Old Testament. He got some kind of artistic energy from that.

The praise that Handel garnered for this work, and his many magnificent pieces prompted Beethoven to call Handel the greatest composer of all time.

According to historian David Wyn Jones, who wrote a delightful piece about that [at British Library]:

In the autumn of 1823, when Beethoven was worked hard on the composition of the Ninth Symphony, he was visited by an Englishman,

Edward Schultze. The conversation turned to composers that Beethoven admired. Expecting Beethoven to give priority to composers from his immediate tradition, such as Haydn and Mozart, Schultze was both surprised and delighted with the unequivocal response: “Handel is the greatest, the ablest composer that ever lived.” When Schultze tried to bring Mozart’s name into the conversation Beethoven’s response was an impatient one: “In a monarchy we know who is the first.”

This is one of many complimentary remarks that Beethoven made about Handel, reflecting a view that he had held for much of his life. But it was not an unusual one in the Vienna of the time. Handel’s music enjoyed a presence in the musical life of the city that was equal to that of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, even though the composer had died half a century earlier and had never even visited the city.

Imagine that kind of praise...which Handel didn’t live long enough to hear...from a utter giant like Beethoven.

It’s beautiful, it should be sung more often, and more people should have the opportunity to sing it as it does something good for the soul to sing it and hear it.

It’s amazing music at Christmas (and Easter) and may it continue forever.

—*American Thinker*, December 26, 2022

High School Goes Woke

by Andrea Widburg

Proving yet again that leftists desire a society with equality of outcome (imposed from the top down) to equality of opportunity, administrators at a STEM-centric high school have been hiding National Merit award notifications because it was unfair that some students received them and others didn’t. The fact that those who received the awards—mostly Asian students—*earned* them was irrelevant to the hyper-woke administrators.

Fairfax County, Virginia is a very Democrat-heavy region, having given Joe Biden almost 70% of its votes in the 2020 election. It’s an affluent part of suburban D.C. with a growing Asian population (over 20%). It’s also right next door to Loudoun County, which earned the dubious distinction of hiding the fact that, at one of its high schools, a boy in a dress raped a girl in the girls’ bathroom. The Board of Supervisors then arrested the girl’s father when he complained and transferred the

boy to another school, where he assaulted another girl (no doubt thinking he was immune to consequences).

Fairfax County is also home to the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHS). It's a magnet school that requires students to have an academic record of accomplishment as a prerequisite for admission. In other words, like Garrison Keillor's fictional Lake Wobegon, it's an institution in which all the children are "above average."

Some parents at TJHS were recently shocked to learn that, once their children enter the school, the school instantly loses its commitment to having students who are "above average." Instead, the school is aligned with the district's commitment to making sure no students stand out above any other students. That's not an inference. It's an explicit policy coming straight from the school superintendent: "equal outcomes for every student, without exception."

The only way to achieve that goal, of course, is to lower standards. You cannot make people who were born with lower brain wattage or with admirable skill sets that trend in a non-academic direction suddenly *earn* As in school. However, you can assure that academically gifted students never get As. Or you can do what TJHS did, which is to fake it 'til you make it:

School administrators, for instance, have implemented an "equitable grading" policy that eliminates zeros, gives students a grade of 50 percent just for showing up, and assigns a cryptic code of "NTI" for assignments not turned in. It's a race to the bottom.

As part of this "lowest common denominator" initiative, TJHS has, for years, withheld from students the fact that they earned National Merit awards based upon their PSAT scores. This is the kind of information that students can use to gain access to scholarships, and that looks good on a college admission application:

For years, two administrators at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ) have been withholding notifications of National Merit awards from the school's families, most of them Asian, thus denying students the right to use those awards to boost their college-admission prospects and earn scholarships.

[T]he principal, Ann Bonitatibus, and the director of student services, Brandon Kosatka, have been withholding this information from families and the public for years, affecting the lives of at least

1,200 students over the principal's tenure of five years. Recognition by National Merit opens the door to millions of dollars in college scholarships and 800 Special Scholarships from corporate sponsors.

Nor was this the kind of oversight that occurs because the school believed that the students had already received the information directly:

On September 16 of this year, National Merit sent a letter to Bonitatibus listing 240 students recognized as Commended Students or Semi-Finalists. The letter included these words in bold type: "Please present the letters of commendation as soon as possible since it is the students' only notification."

In other words, in pursuit of the mandate that all outcomes must be equal, the principal, Ann Bonitatibus, and the director of student services, Brandon Kosatka, deliberately withheld information that could have enabled lower-income, high-achieving students to obtain scholarships.

These types of actions must have consequences. Suing the school districts never changes these things because, if the litigation is successful, it merely means the taxpayers are on the hook for the verdict. Instead, the people involved need to be named, shamed, and fired. Even better, they should be required to reimburse the district for a percentage of their salaries, given that they failed to earn that money. Because leftists never face personal consequences, they keep engaging in the same unethical behavior.

Ironically, Kurt Vonnegut, before he became a flaming leftist, wrote a wonderful short story called "Harrison Bergeron." In it, he imagines a world of complete equality that is achieved only by handicapping anyone of accomplishment. You won't be surprised to learn that it ends badly. After all, as Cambodia's experiment with communism under Pol Pot proved, the only way to ensure complete equality is to rid the country of those who have achieved more than others.

The fastest way to achieve perfect "lowest common denominator" status is to kill the ones who rise above that baseline. The administrators at TJHS either do not know this or think that's a fine way to run a school and, eventually, a country.

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Founded in 1953, the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, under the leadership of Dr. Fred C. Schwarz (1913-2009) has been publishing a monthly newsletter since 1960. *The Schwarz Report* is edited by Dr. David A. Noebel and is offered free of charge to anyone asking for it. The Crusade's address is PO Box 129, Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Our telephone number is 719-685-9043. All correspondence and tax-deductible gifts (CACC is a 501C3 tax-exempt organization) may be sent to this address. You may also access earlier editions of *The Schwarz Report* and make donations at www.schwarzreport.org. Permission to reproduce materials from this Report is granted provided that the article and author are given along with our name and address. Our daily blog address is www.thunderontheright.wordpress.com.