



Primary Colors

By William A. Borst, Ph.D.

A liberal 527 group, *America Coming Together*, has been recently saturating the nation with phone calls that have maligned and distorted the presidency of George W. Bush. Such concerted attacks emanate from the residue anger still smoldering from the 2000 Presidential Election, which they still believe Al Gore won.

Just after that disputed election the news media colorfully illustrated a map of the country with the electoral results. The Bush voters were pictured in red while the Gore supporters were shown in blue. The Bush regions covered most of the nation's landmass while the Gore voters were concentrated in large metropolitan areas. In this panoramic display of primary colors, there were no white or neutral patches.

The Great Divide

A left-wing publishing house, Polipoint Press, recently released a book entitled *The Great Divide* written by John Sperling. This past summer they flooded the pages of the New York Times with a series of divisive advertisements for the book that underscored the 2000 geographic divide more as one of cultural division between what they termed *Metro* (blue) versus *Retro* (red). To them a *Metro* was progressive, fresh, and upbeat, like Senator Hillary Clinton, film producer Michael Moore, comedian Al Franken or Senator John Kerry. *Retro* people were traditional, that is old and outdated throwbacks to the 20th century, such as House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, actor and film director Mel Gibson, TV and radio talk show host Bill O'Reilly and of course President Bush.

Metros see themselves as cerebral sophisticates who sharply contrast with their country bumpkin Retro counterparts. Self-admittedly Metros are wealthier, seldom read the Bible, and are Nobel Laureates by a 10:1 margin over their inferior Retros. They view Retros as ignorant, superstitious, anti-choice and lacking the intellectual nuances for rational thought.

Unfortunately, Metros recognize better than the Retros that those who control the culture control the country. Their unabashed goal is

to insure American culture will remain on its downward secular path and that people of religious belief will become so marginalized that eventually they will not even be a blip on the cultural radar screen.

A House Divided

Dualities are a common occurrence in American history. They are a natural condition of a deeply flawed mankind. Most American divisions have been short-lived and not of great historical consequence. The development of the two party system was a natural outgrowth of the human tendency to disagree. The Constitution and the rule of law provided a moral context, founded on liberty under the protection of a Supreme Being. America's recognition of God within the confines of free and ordered society gave America its special essence.

Not every American conflict has been easily reconciled. By falsely assuming slavery would vanish in due time, the Founding Fathers made a fatal mistake that plagued the nation for well over 200 years. Instead of dealing with the age-old institution at its creation, they, in the question of representation, included the "three-fifths" compromise (Article 1, Sec. 2).

This faulty accommodation with the evil of slavery, in direct contrast to their boast of unalienable rights and the equality of man, entrapped them into a false sense of security that tore the nation asunder in 1861. Just as individuals cannot, nations can never compromise with the dark underbelly of evil.

As a Republican candidate for the Senate in 1858, Abraham Lincoln recognized what havoc the absence of moral and political unity had wreaked on the country. With the winds of war blowing over the country, Lincoln chose the Illinois Republican convention at Springfield to make one of his most memorable speeches. Echoing the resolute wisdom of the prophet Isaiah, Lincoln predicted that *a house divided against itself cannot stand...this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. It will become all one thing, or all the other. The peculiar institution of slavery fes-*

tered like an inflamed boil that finally ruptured into a bloody civil war. With slavery as an economic necessity, the South had developed its own distinctive culture. This made the American Civil War (1861-1865) the nation's first culture war.

Despite its bloody travail the country never surrendered its core belief in Divine forgiveness and love of neighbor. Blue and gray clad soldiers prayed to the same God and sought the same eternal salvation. The religious spirit with its basic moral underpinnings permeated home and hearth, school and Public Square. Religious faith helped the divided country ride out its worst fratricidal storm.

Einstein Abused

In the aftermath of the Civil War, progressive ideas were introduced that would have grave cultural consequences on American character and its humble acknowledgement of God. Not only Marxism and Socialism but also a new scientific way of mankind crept into the intellectual circles of what historians call *The Gilded Age*. A coven of social scientists misapplied the evolutionary theories of Charles Darwin to American social, political and economic institutions. Armed with the certainty of their new *scientific dogma*, Social Darwinists encouraged *a survival of the fittest* that sought to justify the inhuman conditions of the unregulated world of Big Business. The ensuing scandals sparked a religious revival under the banner of *social justice* that drew more of its inspiration from the secular wisdom of the day than it did from the inspired word of God.

In the 20th century social scientists distorted Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity by applying it to human beings. This intellectual marriage of social science and human behavior, as performed by these modern priests of applied social science, spawned such deformed offspring as freedom of conscience, unfettered personal choice, and situation ethics. When coupled with the existential rugged individualism of the 19th century and Freud's theory of guilt-denial in the 20th century, there should have been no surprise when a yawning fissure appeared in the American cultural edifice.

Gresham's Beach

By the late 1960s the country was ripe for a radical cultural departure. New fissures revealed themselves, especially over abortion. The Abortion issue assumed the same bloody mantle that slavery had worn in the mid-19th century. The arrival of the other *death issues*, such as euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, cloning and even homosexuality, which undermined the very nature of marriage and family, have only intensified the natural discord between the Metro and Retro patches. By the end of the 20th century God's influence and that of organized religion appeared marked for extinction.

An economic theory called Gresham's Law holds that bad money will always drive out good money. The same is true of culture. A cul-

ture dominated by pornography, profanity, and sexual deviation will always chase away literature, fine art and chastity. Bad culture will always drive out good culture.

Like the 2000 electoral map, there is no common ground. There are no white areas of ordinary indifference. There will never be an acceptable peaceful coexistence or cultural harmony between the Metro and Retro patches. The Metros' aggressive nature will never rest until the last vestiges of a God-oriented society have been driven from the public square. The Metro are attempting to radically change not only the culture but also human nature itself. They want to liberate the Retros from the inner tension that comes from knowing the difference between right and wrong. Metros will not stop until Retros, who refuse to change, fill the prisons for speaking out against abortion and homosexuality, even from the pulpit. Before it ever goes that far, the Retros will pick up their blankets and leave the public beach.

If America continues following the Metros' lead, like Lincoln's *House Divided* speech, the United States will promptly become a nation that not only accepts their *culture of death* and deviancy, but openly promotes it around the globe. Uniformity of culture is an unnatural state for a free and democratic people.

The Silence of the Inner Wolf

In an August *Sunday Church Bulletin*, writer Paige Shortal related a poignant story from the Cherokee Indians. It was the tale of a sage who confessed to his grandson that he had been troubled by an inner battle between two wolves his whole life. One of the wolves was *evil* and represented what Catholics would call *the seven deadly sins*. The other wolf stood for moral principles, not unlike *the cardinal virtues*. The Cherokee metaphor invites a comparison with the pointed determination of Civil War veteran Lt. John Dunbar, played by Kevin Costner in the 1990 Academy Award winning movie, *Dances with Wolves*. Dunbar's moving dance not only seduced but also pacified an emaciated wolf. This metaphor underscores what the Retros have done to the inner spiritual tug-of-war that has been historically an integral part of the human condition, that is until the modernists rewrote the morality handbook.

The silencing of the inner wolf is a phenomenon that Metros have used for the silencing of their consciences. As a matter of course, 21st century liberalism has successfully conditioned people, including many Retros, to remove or stifle their natural guilt feelings by putting their personal beliefs and behaviors into different boxes without the contents of one box ever interfering with the contents of the other boxes. It has been a brilliant way of eliminating the pangs of conscience and stifling any accusations of hypocrisy, inconsistency, and moral illogic. Former President Clinton was a master of this art of self and public deception.

Psychologists call this practice *cognitive dissonance*, or the abil-

ity to hold two contradictory positions at the same time without admitting or even realizing a conflict. It explains perfectly the ability of the Metros to advocate the wholesale slaughter of the innocent unborn, to approve of gay marriage and accept embryonic stem cell experimentation without any pangs of conscience. Under this deceptive shroud, Metros continue to think of themselves as good and decent people, who love their families and are kind to animals. Like the Cherokee folk tale they have made a false peace with their inner wolf, so that their active support of evil is an ordinary reflex.

This situation is suggestive of the Nazi soldiers who went home to their families every night after a hard day at the slaughterhouse and behaved like ordinary human beings. This is often hard to conceive because most people think that evil relates only to satanic dictators, serial killers, or demented maniacs. Hannah Arendt put a human face on the phenomenon of evil in her book *Eichmann in Jerusalem*. She described the Nazi exterminator Adolph Eichmann's mediocrity as the *banality of evil*. As a young man Eichmann had silenced his inner wolf, and was free to do whatever his ambition demanded.

Judicial Rule

The Metros' most potent weapon in protecting their personal accommodation with evil has been an activist court system that broke the chains of its constitutional restraints more than two generations ago. In her new book, *The Supremacists: The Tyranny of Judges and How to Stop Them*, Phyllis Schlafly traces the history of the abuse and near disintegration of the U. S. Constitution by a pack of liberal judges whose agenda has sought the subversive destruction of America's Judaic/Christian heritage. Using the rubric of the Constitution as a *living document*, these activist judges have concocted a plethora of false rights that have effectively eroded the very foundations of American culture and self-government.

Newly discovered rights to abortion, sodomy, gun control, confiscation of personal property through taxation, gun control pornography, same sex marriages and the subtle persecution of organized religion have fired a vicious broadside across the bough of the country's fundamental institutions—the family, private property and the Christian religion. Leftist justices have rewritten the Constitution to suit and promote their own liberal agenda. Quoting Judge Robert Bork, Schlafly writes, *America has suffered a coup d'etat by men and women in black robes who have changed the rule of law to the rule of judges*.

The failure to abolish the evil of partial birth abortion serves as a cruel reminder of the resolute tenacity of these judicial supremacists in destroying the vestiges of America's traditional culture. Witness the rulings of federal judges in New York, and California to undermine the Retros' victory in defense of innocent life. The Judiciary is the last line of defense in the Metros' playbook.

Retro Moral Backpack: The Catholic Church

While Schlafly's new book *Supremacists* has several practical ways to block further judicial usurpation, such as impeachment and Congressional denial of funding for enforcement, another formula for waging the culture war is a firm reliance on what the late conservative thinker Russell Kirk called the *moral imagination*. By that he meant *man's power to perceive ethical truth, abiding law, in the seeming chaos of many events*.

Kirk also had a profound belief in what T. S. Eliot called the *permanent things*. To him these were the eternal moral norms, such as purity of heart, marital fidelity, charity, prudence and the prescriptive wisdom of the past that provided a sense of order and true peace of soul. These all fit securely in a Retro moral backpack. A Catholic convert, Kirk believed that the *greatest power for order the world has ever known is the Catholic Church*. The Catholic moral imagination is the perfect antidote for a nation that is in danger of losing its sense of the Divine and squandering its religious birthright on the baccarat tables and roulette wheels of modernism and moral relativity.

Singing the Blues

Vice Presidential candidate John Edwards has harped on the existence of *Two Americas* throughout most of his political career. He is correct that there are *two Americas*, but the cleavage is one of culture not economics. America is suffering through its worst cultural struggle since the Civil War. This one is not between the blue and the gray, the free and the slave but red and blue, the believers in the permanent things and those who favor a life of transient material pleasures. On the ontological map, the City of God is red and the City of Man is blue.

The 2004 election promises to be a historic event in this cultural struggle. If President Bush cannot hold the red patches and the reins of political power transfer to the Democrats, it will only be a matter of time until the modernists paint the entire country in blue broad strokes. In a culture that promotes peace, love and brotherhood, while doing just the opposite, people of good will must shake the lassitude of cultural acquiescence before all Americans start singing the blues. The coming election is a good place to start.

William A. Borst holds a Ph.D. from St. Louis University. (1972) He is a weekly talk show host on WGNU radio and the author of the book, *Liberalism: Fatal Consequences* available from PO Box 16271, St. Louis, MO 63105, for \$17.50 ppd. (BBPROF@aol.com)

CMF Conferences in 2005



You, your family and friends are invited to attend CMF's excellent Conferences on **FAITH, FAMILY, FREEDOM** as follows:

- **DALLAS, TX – FEBRUARY 19, 2005**
Hotel InterContinental
Chairman Carmen S. Glenn, tel 214/521-6336
Hon. Chairman Susan Stanzel, tel 214/521-8779
- **CHICAGO/OAKBROOK, IL – APRIL 9, 2005**
Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace
Table Hostess Chrm. Danita Covington, tel 708/383-0813

Mindszenty Report Reprints

WORLD SERIES OF BOOKS—The Report contains a well-recommended list of recent books from faith and culture to government and history. See your local bookstore, order from the publisher, or you can find them in your public library. Ask for 9/04

THE SHROUD OF BERNARDIN—The late Cardinal Bernardin indicated that Catholic politicians should not be judged solely on abortion which was merely one strand in a rich and finely woven “seamless garment” of Catholic social teachings. Ask for 8/04

BRUISED APPLES—Traces the roots of modernism and liberalism to the French Enlightenment. It gives excellent warnings by Pius IX, Pius X, Pius XI, Pope Leo XIII up to John Paul II on these modern dangers to Christianity. Ask for 7/04

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

The Mindszenty Report is published monthly by the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, 7800 Bonhomme Ave., P.O. Box 11321, St. Louis, MO 63105 314-727-6279, Fax 314-727-5897.

Subscription rate: \$20.00/year, \$36.00/two years.
Outside the U.S.A. \$28.00

The Mindszenty Report is not copyrighted, and subscribers are invited to have it printed in their local newspapers.

Contributions to the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Eleanor Schlafly, Publisher
e-mail: info@mindszenty.org
web site: www.mindszenty.org

News & Notes

Pray the Rosary Daily



HIS EM. JOSEPH CARDINAL MINDSZENTY, in his last sermon before being imprisoned by the Communists in Hungary in 1948, said “Give me a million families with Rosaries in their hands, uplifted to Mary. They will be a *military power*, not against other people, but for all mankind...for their welfare, their healing...We need a Rosary of love. Let us therefore take the Rosary from family to family. With it in our hands, we shall conquer ourselves and convert sinners...”

PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY LEAFLET has colorful and holy depictions of each of the Mysteries including the Luminous with concise explanations. It can be used to meditate, teach a child, encourage a friend to the daily habit, even convert the skeptical. Don't miss the opportunity to teach others about one of the greatest tools Catholics possess, the Rosary. Order from Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263, 1-800-462-7426.

THANKS to each of you who so kindly send CMF a donation and/or prayers. We are very grateful. No remembrance is too small. You and your intentions are remembered daily in our prayers.

MOVING??? Let us know 8 weeks before you move! Send us your current address and your new address. That way you won't miss the REPORT and we'll save postage money. Also, if you receive duplicates, please send us both mailing labels advising which one is correct.

WILL YOU REMEMBER CMF IN YOUR WILL? If you care to help us continue our work, we would be most grateful! Our legal title is: Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, Inc.

E-MAIL REQUEST—If you have an e-mail address and are willing to share it with us, please send it to: info@mindszenty.org. On occasion, we want to send CMF news rapidly. Please include your name and address. We look forward to your response.

PSALM 53:6, 8

“God himself is my help. The Lord upholds my life. I will offer you a willing sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness.”