

# Calvinism and Culture

by Steven Wilkins



H. Ward Sterett

Historian Christopher Dawson writes that “It is clear that a common way of life involves a common view of life, common standards of behavior, and common standards of value, and consequently a culture is a spiritual community which owes its unity to common beliefs and common ways of thought far more than to any unanimity of physical type . . . Therefore from the beginning the social way of life which is culture has been deliberately ordered and directed in accordance with the higher laws of life which are religion.”

The most important element in the formation of a culture is the predominant faith of its people. The foundation of Western culture is Christianity; in this country, Reformed Protestant Christianity. The majority of the early settlers were serious Christians; most of them were followers of John Calvin. Sydney Ahlstrom has noted that “Puritanism provided the moral and religious background of fully 75% of the people who declared their independence in 1776.” Ahlstrom further argues that, when the influence of the Reformation is considered among European immigrants, the figure is closer to 85 or 90 percent. This was true not only of the Puritans and Separatists of New England but of those inhabitants of the Southern colonies who came from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Huguenot France. In short, Calvinism was the dominant theological position of the American colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn—no Protestant—sums up the case:

If we call the American statesmen of the late eighteenth century the Founding Fathers of the United States, then the Pilgrims and Puritans were the grandfathers and

Calvin the great-grandfather. In saying this, one need not exclude the Virginians because Anglicanism has essentially Calvinistic foundations still recognizable in the Thirty-nine Articles, and the Pilgrim Fathers, like the Puritans generally, represented a kind of re-reformed Anglicanism. Though the fashionable eighteenth century Deism may have pervaded some intellectual circles, the prevailing spirit of Americans before and after the War of Independence was essentially Calvinistic . . .

All of this changed, however, in the 19th century. New England turned away from historic Christianity to embrace the heresies of Deism, Unitarianism, and Transcendentalism. This apostasy, coupled with the influence of the aberrant—actually, heretical—theology of Charles Finney in the West, drove the majority in the North away from biblical Calvinism. The doctrines of God’s sovereignty and man’s depravity were discarded. Men were left with an irrelevant God (or none at all) and a sovereign, perfectible man. Harriet Beecher Stowe observed that, in Boston during the mid-19th century, “the only thing worse than an atheist was a Calvinist.”

The biblical teaching of human depravity offended modern Northern sensibilities. Man was basically good. “Sin” was merely the consequence of inadequate education and an unseemly environment: Man’s problem was not *inside* of him but something *external* to him, in society. There was no need for rebirth in the biblical sense: Man was not saved by grace but by education and sociopolitical reform. As a result, the North became “movement mad” with societies dedicated to the eradication of every evil under the sun (real or imagined).

The South observed this drift into semipaganism with a mixture of fear and amazement; while the North was experiencing a general apostasy, the South was undergoing a revival of the old

---

Steven Wilkins is the pastor of the Auburn Avenue Presbyterian Church in Monroe, Louisiana.

faith. As the North increasingly drifted from the Bible, the South was becoming the "Bible Belt."

As the 19th century began, the South was one of the most "unchurched" regions of the country. By the 1830's, however, it had become a hotbed of evangelicalism. Historians have called this revival the "Second Great Awakening." Most of the attention has focused on the Northern side of this "Awakening," partly because it is far more interesting than what occurred in the South. In the North (and in some sections of the upper South), the Awakening was dominated by heterodoxy, fanaticism, and extravagant emotionalism. The Awakening had all the hallmarks of bedlam, complete with weeping, wailing, and the gnashing of teeth. The Awakening in the South, however, had a decidedly different character.

Charles Finney's brand of revivalism, which swept the North like wildfire, never resonated in the South. The Southern Christian leaders (Daniel Baker, J.H. Thornwell, B.M. Palmer, R.L. Dabney, John Holt Rice, Thomas Peck, and Moses Drury Hoge, among others) vigorously opposed Finney's theology as well as his "innovations," preventing the South from being corrupted by the fanaticism that dominated the revival in the North and West. Following the classic "Reformed faith," these men believed that true revivals were God-sent, not man-produced, as Finney and his followers insisted. Revivals could not be planned, nor could they be prolonged by artificial means. They were a gift of God.

**T**he attempt to contrast these views is not mere theological nit-picking. Finney's revivalism focused on man's ability to manipulate God and thus produce reform by his own efforts. Southern Christians, however, insisted that man was utterly dependent upon God and that nothing could be accomplished

apart from His blessing. These two perspectives would bear different fruit: Dependence upon God and strict adherence to His will, as set forth in His Word, became the hallmark of Southern Christianity; political coercion in the name of God increasingly characterized Northern Christianity.

The predominant view in the South was that the Bible is the infallible, inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God. The content of the sermons was overwhelmingly biblical. Southern ministers spent their energies on explaining and applying the truths of the Scriptures: the sovereignty of God, the depravity of man, the divine election of grace, the atoning death of Christ, the call to repentance and justification by faith.

Thus, in the South, the preaching of the Word was viewed as the chief means God uses to change the hearts of men. The primary instruments of reform, therefore, were not political or social movements but the truths of God faithfully proclaimed to the consciences of men. Reform always begins within man by the grace of God, not from without by legislative coercion or military force.

In accordance with the old orthodoxy, Christian Southerners believed that God was sovereign: He alone can be trusted with unlimited authority since He is spotlessly holy, just, and good. They believed, therefore, that, if society was to prosper, all human institutions (family, church, and state) must abide within the strict limits that God had outlined for each in the Bible.

It is only within God Himself that we find the solution to the ancient question of the one and the many: God is both One and Three; both unity and diversity reside equally in Him. Christian cultures, reflecting this truth, have always had a place for both "oneness" (unity, structure, form) and "manyness" (individualism and diversity). Only in the Triune God and in His Covenant can we have unity that does not annihilate legitimate

## ANNOUNCING THE 2001 PHILLIPS FOUNDATION JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIPS

• WORKING JOURNALISTS ELIGIBLE FOR \$50,000 •

**I**f you are a working print journalist with less than five years of professional experience, a unique opportunity awaits — the chance to apply for a grant to complete a one-year project of your choosing, focusing on journalism supportive of American culture and a free society.

**F**ounded in 1990, the Phillips Foundation is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to advance the cause of objective journalism. The Foundation's fellowship program serves to provide support for journalists who share the Foundation's mission: to advance constitutional principles, a democratic society and a vibrant free enterprise system.

**T**he Phillips Foundation offers \$50,000 full-time and \$25,000 part-time journalism fellowships. Applications are now being accepted for 2001. Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2001. The winners will be announced at an awards dinner in Washington in the Spring. The fellowships will begin on September 1, 2001. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

For applications and more information, visit our website or write:

Mr. John Farley

THE PHILLIPS FOUNDATION

7811 Montrose Road, Potomac, Maryland 20854

Telephone (301) 340-2100

E-mail: [jfarley@phillips.com](mailto:jfarley@phillips.com)

<http://www.thephillipsfoundation.org>

*Deadline: March 1, 2001*

diversity, and *vice versa*.

Consequently, Southern men understood the importance of minding their own business. The officious, busybody attitude of New England was not tolerated. Following Scripture, men cared for their neighbors, but they knew there were certain things that are none of your concern, and you need to resist the temptation to run other people's lives.

By contrast, unitarian and atheistic cultures usually demand a stifling egalitarian conformity in order to preserve unity. Unitarians view God not as a Person, but as an impersonal force. There can be no "love" in God (since His monism makes it impossible to express love within Himself); and the culture, reflecting this vision of God, often becomes cruel and heartless. Societies that refuse to recognize the loving Trinity seek unity by force, either through totalitarianism or statist egalitarianism; thus, they tend to be characterized by harshness, bitterness, and cruelty (as Islamic and communistic societies have been). True unity, however, is founded not upon impersonal or bureaucratic forces but upon the love and grace (the personableness) of the Triune God. Where this is lacking, there can never be true freedom, peace, or prosperity.

The theology of the South molded the political views that have dominated the region. The concepts of limited constitutional government, a union composed of free and independent states, a hearty distrust of democracy, strict constructionism, the separation of powers, and the rule of law: All of these doctrines (and many more), which characterized our nation in its founding, are rooted in biblical Christianity. At one time, these views prevailed throughout the country, but the North's theological liberalism gradually undermined these convictions among the "progressives" of the mid-19th century.

By 1861, the descendants of the Puritans in New England had rejected the religious faith that had laid the foundation for the nation. As one historian has put it, New England had been transformed from the "Holy Commonwealth" into "Yankee-land." The rejection of the Reformed faith led to a perversion of the old faith of their fathers. The Puritan "work ethic" degenerated into a greedy materialism; the Puritan emphasis upon education became a worship of knowledge centered on man; the old concern that men obey God's Word metamorphosed into an overreaching pharisaism; the exercise of godly authority turned into tyrannical, statist authoritarianism; and the desire to take dominion over Creation became a yearning to use political power to enforce conformity.

The great commission that Christ gave His disciples—to preach the Gospel and see the world transformed by grace—was perverted into a secular "Manifest Destiny" to make the world over in the image of New England—by force, if necessary. The South was the first major target of this "evangelical statism," and we lost far more at Appomattox than a war: We lost a world, a way of life. Moreover, the entire nation lost the constitutional republic our forefathers had sacrificed to establish; in its place we gained an unrestrained, amoral empire that, like Babylon of old, seeks to save the world by legislative coercion and brute force. Appomattox was a terrible defeat not just for the South, but for all who care about constitutional government and liberty.

We must take seriously the connection between theology and culture. We have been deluded into believing that we can enjoy the fruits of Christendom without affirming its roots; that we can have a society of integrity without faith in a God Who holds all men accountable to speak the truth. We assume we

can have prosperity and ignore marriage vows. We think we can rear a moral, responsible generation while teaching our young to ignore morality and shirk responsibility. We are shocked that our children are callously indifferent to violence and cruelty, yet we insist that they be taught that all life is merely the result of a grand cosmic accident. We are living in a deadly dream world; the cost of rejecting biblical theology has been catastrophic.

When we break covenant with God, Andrew Lytle said, all we are left with is magic. But magic is nothing more than pretense: We have no power to perform miracles, and this impotency provokes in unbelievers a lust for power. If there is no God, we must create our own. Having forsaken the true God, modern man has embraced the idol of empire. Those who rule us are unable to think of any solutions except those that come from their god, the unitary state. But idols cannot work miracles. Every effort to attain "freedom and dignity" by political means results only in more slavery and degradation.

Apostates always seek liberty apart from grace. As we used to know, however, liberty is a gift from God. He who commits sin, our Savior said, is a slave to sin. "But, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:34, 36). This is a lesson our forefathers knew well. It is a lesson we must learn again.

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

Publication Title: Chronicles: A Magazine of American Culture Issue Date: September 24, 1999

Issue Frequency: Quarterly Number of Issues Published Annually: 4 Annual Subscription Price: \$12.00

Year Began: 1977 Issue Number for this Year: 12 Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 09/24/99

1. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer): The Rockford Institute, 928 N. Main Street, Rockford, Illinois 61103

2. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: The Rockford Institute, 928 N. Main Street, Rockford, Illinois 61103

3. Complete Mailing Address of the Publisher: Thomas J. Fleming, The Rockford Institute, 928 N. Main Street, Rockford, Illinois 61103

4. Complete Mailing Address of the Editor: Scott P. Richard, The Rockford Institute, 928 N. Main Street, Rockford, Illinois 61103

5. Owner (Do not check if owned by a corporation. If owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all individual owners. If not owned by an individual or corporation, give the name and address of the organization. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address, as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a governmental agency, give the name and address of the agency.)

6. Owner (Do not check if owned by a corporation. If owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all individual owners. If not owned by an individual or corporation, give the name and address of the organization. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address, as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a governmental agency, give the name and address of the agency.)

7. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher: The Rockford Institute, 928 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103

8. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Editor: Scott P. Richard, The Rockford Institute, 928 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103

9. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Business Manager: None

10. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Circulation Director: None

11. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Principal or Managing Editor: None

12. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Business Manager: None

13. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Circulation Director: None

14. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Advertising Manager: None

15. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Advertising Salesperson: None

16. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Distribution Manager: None

17. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Postmaster: None

18. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Business Development Manager: None

19. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

20. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

21. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

22. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

23. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

24. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

25. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

26. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

27. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

28. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

29. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

30. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

31. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

32. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

33. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

34. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

35. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

36. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

37. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

38. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

39. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

40. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

41. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

42. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

43. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

44. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

45. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

46. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

47. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

48. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

49. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

50. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

51. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

52. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

53. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

54. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

55. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

56. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

57. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

58. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

59. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

60. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

61. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

62. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

63. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

64. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

65. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

66. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

67. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

68. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

69. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

70. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

71. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

72. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

73. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

74. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

75. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

76. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

77. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

78. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

79. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

80. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

81. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

82. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

83. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

84. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

85. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

86. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

87. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

88. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

89. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

90. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

91. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

92. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

93. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

94. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

95. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

96. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

97. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

98. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

99. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

100. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

101. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

102. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

103. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

104. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

105. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

106. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

107. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

108. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

109. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

110. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

111. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

112. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

113. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

114. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

115. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

116. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

117. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

118. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

119. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

120. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

121. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

122. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

123. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

124. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

125. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

126. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

127. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

128. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

129. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

130. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

131. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

132. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

133. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

134. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

135. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

136. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

137. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

138. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

139. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

140. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

141. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

142. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

143. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

144. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

145. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

146. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

147. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

148. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

149. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

150. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

151. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

152. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

153. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

154. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

155. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

156. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

157. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

158. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

159. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

160. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

161. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

162. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

163. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

164. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

165. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

166. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

167. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

168. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

169. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

170. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

171. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

172. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

173. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

174. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

175. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

176. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

177. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

178. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

179. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

180. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

181. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

182. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

183. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

184. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

185. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

186. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

187. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

188. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

189. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

190. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

191. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

192. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

193. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

194. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

195. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

196. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

197. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

198. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

199. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

200. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

201. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

202. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

203. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

204. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

205. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

206. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

207. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

208. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

209. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

210. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

211. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

212. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

213. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

214. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

215. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

216. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

217. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

218. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

219. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

220. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

221. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

222. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

223. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

224. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

225. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

226. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

227. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

228. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

229. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

230. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

231. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

232. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

233. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

234. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

235. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

236. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

237. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

238. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

239. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

240. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

241. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

242. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

243. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

244. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

245. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

246. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

247. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

248. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

249. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

250. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

251. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

252. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

253. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

254. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

255. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

256. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

257. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

258. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

259. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

260. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

261. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

262. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

263. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

264. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

265. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

266. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

267. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

268. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

269. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

270. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

271. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

272. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

273. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

274. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

275. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

276. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

277. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

278. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

279. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

280. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

281. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

282. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

283. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

284. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

285. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

286. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

287. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

288. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

289. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

290. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

291. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

292. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

293. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

294. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

295. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

296. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

297. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

298. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

299. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

300. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

301. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

302. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

303. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

304. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

305. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

306. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

307. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

308. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

309. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

310. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

311. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

312. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

313. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

314. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

315. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

316. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

317. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

318. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

319. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

320. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

321. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

322. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

323. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

324. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

325. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

326. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

327. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

328. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

329. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

330. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

331. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

332. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

333. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

334. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

335. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

336. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

337. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

338. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

339. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

340. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

341. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

342. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

343. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

344. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

345. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

346. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

347. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

348. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

349. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

350. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

351. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

352. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

353. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

354. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

355. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

356. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

357. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

358. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

359. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

360. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

361. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

362. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

363. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

364. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

365. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

366. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

367. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

368. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

369. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

370. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

371. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

372. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

373. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

374. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

375. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

376. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

377. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

378. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

379. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

380. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

381. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

382. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

383. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

384. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

385. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

386. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

387. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

388. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

389. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

390. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

391. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

392. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

393. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

394. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

395. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

396. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

397. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

398. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

399. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

400. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

401. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

402. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

403. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

404. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

405. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

406. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

407. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

408. Title and Complete Mailing Address of Other Key Personnel: None

# Reactionary Radicals

---

## RADICAL REACTIONARIES

### A Politically Incorrect Beatification

The Saga of Pope Pius IX

by Alberto Carosa



Few people have been so hated that their enemies have disrupted their funeral processions in an attempt to throw their coffins into a river, but that is precisely what happened to Pope Pius IX on the night of July 12, 1881.

Amid the heated debate surrounding Pio Nono's beatification this past September 3, a few articles mentioned this episode. But with the notable exception of *Inside the Vatican* (March 2000), no one indicated that this attempt was not an isolated attack during an otherwise peaceful two-hour march from the Vatican, where Pius IX had been temporarily buried after his death, to the Basilica of San Lorenzo Outside the Walls, which the Pope had chosen as his final burial place. Indeed, it was only one of the highlights of an incredibly stormy procession, which turned into a real road to Calvary for the immense crowd of Roman faithful determined to pay a final tribute to their beloved Pope. The funeral cortege had to make its way through horrible blasphemies, insults, curses, obscene songs, stone-throwing, and clubbings. Many mourners were seriously injured.

The attacks were carried out by a few hundred freemasons and liberals with the virtual connivance of the police force, who showed no respect whatsoever for the Catholic faithful and their sentiments. Rome had been "liberated" from the Pope's temporal authority 11 years earlier, and the police were serving a prime minister, Agostino Depretis, who was known for his hostility toward Catholics.

Almost 120 years later, the harassment continues. The spiritual heirs of the anti-Christian hecklers may resort to more sophisticated tools, including the media, but their intention is the same: to disparage the figure who, more forcefully than anyone else, denounced their errors, which are the root cause of the profound crisis in contemporary society. Pius IX repeatedly and forcefully condemned socialism and communism beginning in 1846, two years before Marx and Engels published the *Communist Manifesto*. Had his appeals been heeded, mankind would have been spared the mass murder of tens of millions of people during the 20th century.

Msgr. Carlo Liberati, an official at the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints, argued in *Corriere della Sera* (July 13) that the major American media are in the forefront of this smear campaign, particularly the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. While these newspapers have alleged that Pius IX was antisemitic, Msgr. Liberati claims that the contrary

is true: Pius IX promoted true freedom for Rome's Jews. The gates of Rome's Jewish ghetto were pulled down under his instructions, and Pius deployed patrols in the area to protect the Jews from those in the Roman populace who were upset by their emancipation.

The American media made much of the case of Edgardo Levi-Mortara, a Jew from Bologna who, when he was 17 months old, was secretly baptized by his Catholic nanny because he seemed about to die. Mortara survived, but his parents, when informed of his baptism, refused to bring him up in the Catholic faith. In accordance with canon law, on June 24, 1858, the child (then six years old) was brought to Rome, where he was educated under the personal protection of the Pope. Eight days later, his parents arrived in Rome, where they stayed for a month and pled for his return. Although he met with his family on a daily basis, Mortara never showed the slightest desire to rejoin them, as he himself later attested. In his teens, Mortara returned for a month to his parents, but he ultimately decided to settle in Rome and become a Catholic priest. He was one of the first witnesses to give testimony in favor of Pius IX's beatification.

When Piedmontese troops entered Rome in 1870, they hurried to the convent where they thought the 19-year-old Mortara was being held captive. To their surprise, he not only categorically refused to be "liberated" but made it clear that he had decided to take religious vows and to join the Lateran Canon Regulars. While churches and monasteries in Rome were being turned into stables, prisons, and army barracks by the very "liberals" who had come to "free" and "protect" Edgardo Mortara, he wanted to become a priest. In the end, he chose to expatriate rather than to serve the Pope's enemies. He became a well-known itinerant preacher, able to deliver sermons in nine different languages.

Why "was such a scandal raised for one child," Msgr. Liberati asked the *Washington Post*, "when thousands of Polish children were deported to Russia [in the same period] and forced to become Orthodox, and nobody protested?" Forced conversions are still the order of the day in Muslim-dominated areas; unlike Christians who are unwillingly inducted into Islam, however, Edgardo Mortara could have returned to his family's faith, had he wanted to, without fearing for his life.

Canon law has always condemned forced conversion and baptism against the will of a child's parents. Popes imprisoned Christians who violated this canon; and in the Papal States, a fine of 1,000 gold ducats (a huge sum) was imposed on anyone found by the courts to have done so. Jewish families in the Pa-

---

*Alberto Carosa, the editor of Famiglia Domani Flash, writes from Rome.*