



Endeavour Forum, Inc.

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EDITORIAL

The Coalition's dwindling commitment to religious freedom

The Scott Morrison government's long-awaited Religious Discrimination Bill has been a huge disappointment to many Christian voters across Australia.

At the 2019 federal election the Liberal and National parties solemnly promised to enact protections for religious conscience rights. But, as in Latin poet Horace's line "The mountains will go into labour, and bring forth a ridiculous mouse", the result of the Coalition's efforts has been derisory.

The bill, in the form it was introduced into the House of Representatives late last year, was a let-down for many people of faith. Earlier drafts of the bill had contained much-needed protections for "statements of belief". One key provision would have prevented employers from being able to sack employees for expressing their religious views in the social media.

This guarantee (later deleted) was dubbed the "Folau clause" after the public controversy generated by a social media post by rugby player Israel Folau in 2019, in which he loosely paraphrased St Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians 6:9–10. The post declared that "Hell awaits" sinners, including "drunks, homosexuals, adulterers, liars, fornicators, thieves, atheists and idolators", and that they should "repent".

Predictably, LGBTQ activists took great offence at these remarks and denounced them as "homophobic", as if Folau had singled out homosexual sinners alone as deserving God's wrath. (In fact, the Corinthians passage he paraphrased listed several other categories of sin, including heterosexual ones.)

Rugby Australia immediately terminated Folau's contract. It was only after a lengthy and costly legal challenge that Folau was able to have this decision overturned.

The Folau affair was only one of the more public instances of employers discriminating against employees on the basis of their public expressions of religious belief. Many other Australian religious believers have also lost their jobs over postings in the social media and elsewhere.

Nevertheless, in producing the final draft of the Morrison government's Religious Discrimination Bill, Attorney-General Michaelia Cash chose to drop the controversial "Folau clause" in order to placate LGBTQ lobbyists and a handful of Liberal MPs who said the clause was "unacceptable" to them.

How far the great party founded by Robert Menzies has declined when it is no longer prepared to defend the right — a right that Australians have hitherto taken for granted — to quote or paraphrase the Bible in public!

The Morrison government's weakened and compromised Religious Discrimination Bill, however, was not enough to satisfy the gender diversity brigade. When it came to a vote in the House of Representatives, five dissident Liberal MPs — Trent Zimmerman, Dave Sharma, Bridget Archer, Katie Allen

and Fiona Martin — crossed the floor to vote for amendments moved by the Labor opposition, thereby stripping the Morrison government's proposed legislation of important protections for Christian and single-sex schools.

The government, thus ambushed by both Labor and the dissident Liberal MPs, stopped the amended bill from proceeding to a vote in the Senate.

In the run-up to the forthcoming federal election, people of faith should press hard for the long-overdue restoration of their religious freedoms and conscience rights. Christian voters, in particular, should tell candidates in no uncertain terms that they will accept nothing less than the following four specific legislative protections:

- **The right of a religious believer to quote or paraphrase the Bible in public and not be sacked for alleged hate speech.**
- **The right of a conscientious doctor not to be compelled by law to refer a patient for an abortion or euthanasia.**
- **The right of a person with unwanted same-sex attractions to be able to seek and receive professional counselling or prayer.** (Both of these are now prohibited in the state of Victoria under its recent "conversion therapy" ban, which should more accurately be called the Counselling Censorship Law.)
- **The right of a religious school, hospital or charity to employ staff who support its values.**

Nevertheless, although the Coalition has failed to remove threats to religious freedom enshrined in the Sex Discrimination Amendment Act 2013, the return of another Labor-Greens government at the coming federal election will bring further legal restrictions on the lives of people of faith and the rights of parents to bring up their children according to their beliefs. □

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Putin's attempt to re-write history

by John Ballantyne, editor of the Endeavour Forum newsletter.

Russia's shocking and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has brought home to the Western world, as if it needed reminding, what sort of regime governs Russia.

After the collapse of communism and the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, it was hoped that at long last the Russian people could escape tyranny and embrace the benefits of representative government and the rule of law.

Such an outcome has not eventuated. When President Vladimir Putin came to power at the turn of the millennium, he did so with the support of powerful figures from his former employer, the Soviet KGB. Far from seeking to break with the past, he publicly declared in 2005 that "the demise of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century". To undo this, he has sought to re-assemble the bloc of countries which constituted the old USSR, so that Russia can become a superpower again.

Under Putin's rule, government corruption has proliferated, while death squads have assassinated numerous independent journalists and government critics, both at home and overseas.

As Putin is nostalgic about restoring the Soviet Union, it would be well to heed the words of the late American commentator, Irving Kristol. He said that, in order to understand how the former Soviet Union was ruled, you need read only two books: Mario Puzo's *The Godfather I* and *The Godfather II*.

An enthusiastic collaborator of Putin's thugocracy has been the government of Russia's neighbour, Belarus — ostensibly an independent, self-governing country, but in reality a repressive police-state and Russia's obedient satellite. Belarus's dictator Alexander Lukashenko is Mini Me to Putin's Dr Evil.

In 2020 Lukashenko contrived to get himself re-elected President of Belarus on the back of a nationwide vote marked by widespread electoral fraud. He hounded into exile the opposition presidential candidate, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who has been internationally recognised as having won the Presidency, and arrested numerous other political opponents.

In particular, Lukashenko has been an unswerving supporter of Putin's aggressive foreign policy. Belarus's armed forces are currently fighting alongside Russia's against the inhabitants of Ukraine.

Erasing historical truth was Putin's first step in his war to erase Ukraine from the map of Europe.

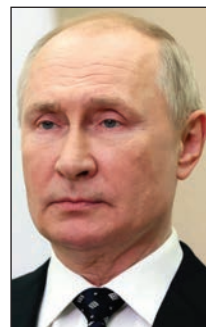
First, he tried to delegitimise Ukraine, with its 44 million population, by alleging it is "not a real country", despite its being more than 1,000 years old and centuries older than the Duchy of Muscovy from which Russia emerged.

Improbably, he accused Ukraine of posing a military threat to its larger nuclear-armed neighbour, Russia.

He falsely characterised Ukrainians as being neo-Nazis, despite the fact that in 2019 they elected as their country's president Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is Jewish, by a landslide.

Moscow's accusation of Ukraine being partial to Hitlerism used to be a constant refrain of postwar Soviet propaganda. In reality, Hitler, after he invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, treated his subject Slavic populations — Ukrainians no less than Russians — as *untermensch* (subhuman) and fit only for enslavement or extermination.

American foreign correspondent Edgar Snow, who visited the USSR in 1945, said that the "whole titanic struggle, which some are apt to dismiss as 'the Russian glory', has in all truth and in many costly ways been first of all a Ukrainian war... No single European country has suffered deeper wounds to its cities, its industry, its farmlands and its humanity".



Vladimir Putin

Ukrainians have far more reason to be aggrieved with Russia than vice versa. During 1932–33, the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin deliberately engineered a famine in Ukraine in an attempt to smash Ukraine's resistance to communist rule. Soviet authorities sealed the country's borders so that no one could escape, then confiscated all the food supplies from the farms. Five to six million Ukrainians, many of them children, perished under what came to be known as the Holodomor — that is, "death by starvation".

The late British historian and Sovietologist, Robert Conquest, in his book, *The Harvest of Sorrow: Soviet Collectivization and the Terror-Famine* (1986), described Ukraine of 1932–33 as a concentration camp, "like one vast Belsen", where the camp guards walked around comfortably while their victims perished.

Putin's pretext

Putin, however, has used as a pretext for his invasion of Ukraine the supposed need of the Russian-speaking people in the country to be rescued from the Ukrainians.

If he continues in his quest to reconstruct the USSR from its former subject populations, he may use similar justification to invade and occupy the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on account of the sizeable Russian populations that settled in these Soviet-occupied countries after World War II.

Ukraine, far from posing any threat to Russia, either in the past or today, was prepared, after the collapse of the Soviet Union to hand over its nuclear weapons (the world's then third-largest stockpile) to Russia in exchange for a solemn pledge by Russia that it would respect Ukrainian independence and sovereignty in its then borders.

This historic agreement was enshrined in the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, signed in Hungary on December 5, 1994, by three nuclear powers: the Russian Federation, the United States and the United Kingdom.

In February 2014, in breach of Russia's promise, Putin seized Crimea from Ukraine. Today his forces are shelling cities and killing innocent civilians across the entirety of Ukraine.

Putin's actions recall the cruelty and cunning of his most notorious predecessor, Stalin.

The Russian people themselves should heed the solemn warning of the poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko to Soviet leaders after the death of Stalin:

*So I ask our government
To double
To treble
The guard
Over this tomb.*



Endeavour Forum banned from UN

by **Babette Francis**, founder and overseas coordinator of Endeavour Forum, Inc.

Pro-life groups, including Endeavour Forum, Inc., have been barred from participating in the UN Commission on the Status of Women's CSW 66 forum meeting currently being held in New York for two weeks during March 14–25.

Worse still, powerful pro-abortion activists have declared their intention to exclude all pro-life groups from the United Nations permanently.

This has been a bitter blow to us. It is a source of pride for me that for decades we have enjoyed being able to participate in UN events owing to our being a non-government organisation (NGO) with special consultative status with the UN's Economics and Social Council (ECOSOC). On numerous occasions we have been entitled to run parallel and side events at UN conferences, and to sponsor those of other organisations which share our values.

For years I have attended international functions both at the UN headquarters in New York and in other countries, and made many friends and valuable contacts. My friendship with Denise Mountenay has been pivotal to our global outreach. Denise is founder and president of Canada Silent No More, and a key figure in Together for Life Ministries, a Christian outreach to women suffering post-abortion grief. In recent years she has been my voice at the UN.

Endeavour Forum has provided finance for presentations both by her and by sympathetic UN member-states, including for one memorable presentation by an American Samoan Christian women in 2018. Denise's regular participation in UN events has allowed us to continue on a global level to raise support for pro-life causes and especially the welfare of women and girls.

However, powerful pro-abortion activists in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) see things very differently. Through a distorted reading of the CSW's declared purposes — in particular, that the CSW is to be an inclusive and respectful forum “to disseminate information” and “to promote policies and programs to further the rights of women and girls, with a gender perspective” — they have contrived to justify this ban.

Endeavour Forum has been summarily informed that “your event does not align with NGO CSW values and/or mandate”.

The two virtual parallel events that we had planned to run — one on violence against women and girls during pregnancy, and the other on the same issue from the perspective of religious faith and women's rights — apparently do not sit well with the “woke” insistence on diversity and the neo-Marxist lens of “intersectionality”. This translates into the elevation of race, class and gender as the only approved approach to feminism.

I was deeply shocked at the injustice and hypocrisy involved. Denise Mountenay and others have appealed against this gross example of cancel culture.

In particular, Denise has protested against the CSW's “unfair decision”, invoking our 15 years of conducting parallel events at the UN. She reminded the CSW that its stated role is about “women advocating to empower women and girls”.

She explained: “That is exactly what we do. We advocate to save women and girls, by using our personal stories, and bringing

education and awareness to the forefront to help women and girls make informed choices about their lives.

“We bring to our events medical doctors, researchers and other experts who sit on our panels, and who are very qualified to help women and girls make good healthy choices in life. ... We totally believe in gender equality. We believe that men and women are different but equal.”



Babette Francis

The CSW's unprecedented and undemocratic ban extends to all pro-life groups including, notably, Austin Ruse's Center for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam) from New York and Sharon Slater's Family Watch International. The Commission's working group for this forum has reportedly been penetrated by a powerful and radical feminist group, the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), formerly the Association for Women in Development.

According to Ruse, the woman who runs the AWID was recently recorded on Zoom as saying, during a planning meeting for the forthcoming forum, that “pro-life groups must not only be barred from the Commission but kicked permanently out of the UN”. Ruse added: “And this was done in a forum that was promoting ‘inclusive’ civil society engagement!”

This enforcement of left-wing cancel culture, directed specifically against pro-life groups, is unfortunately the official policy of the U.S. Biden administration, which has sought to undo many of the former Trump administration's pro-life initiatives.

Endeavour Forum supporters will doubtless recall Donald Trump's inspired appointment, in January 2017, of Nikki Haley as his ambassador to the UN. She is both a person of colour (both her parents are immigrants to the U.S. from the northern Indian state of Punjab) and a woman, who has served with distinction as a diplomat and as first female governor of South Carolina. During her UN posting, she valiantly defended the unborn, standing up to the European Union's “reproductive rights” agenda.

We could well do with her equivalent among Canberra's diplomatic appointments. But unfortunately, to date, no Australian Foreign Minister has ever instructed the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to promote pro-life policies internationally.

Concerning the UN Commission on the Status of Women's banning of pro-life organisations from its March forum, C-Fam's Austin Ruse has issued a call to arms. “We will not let them get away with this outrage. We will stop them.” He envisages a long hard year and urges pro-life supporters to pray for this crisis to pass and also to sign and circulate the C-Fam petition to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

I look back with pride on Endeavour Forum's long history of involvement at the United Nations, and I am outraged at this assault on our rights and our legacy. □



Denise Mountenay at the UN

A thirty-year battle for mothers

by **Kathy Gyngell**, editor of *TCW Defending Freedom* (UK), an online journal

Sometimes lonely, often hard work, always challenging but never, ever, boring. That was my experience of the full-time motherhood that I opted for one year after the birth of my first baby and from then on. Leaving my baby every day to go to work had simply proved too painful. I gave in, my baby won, and thank God he did!

This was over 30 years ago when, with the zeal of a convert from working mother feminist to new maternal consciousness (by that I mean the revelation of babies' unique need for their mothers), I decided the world needed telling my news too.

By that stage I had found and read John Bowlby's *Attachment and Loss* trilogy. It had a profound effect on me and made sense of the battle that had raged in me and the anxiety I felt before I gave up on work. It explained it to me as the necessary biological imperative it is; one that women should not deny, for their children's wellbeing and for the sake of each new generation. It explained my guilt, not as irrational but as a protective reflex for the baby.

No wonder that organised outsourcing of baby and infant care, all for the sake of female equality, was bound to be fraught. My heart and mind told me that Bowlby was right. It was insensitive, unintelligent, bad for baby and bad for me. And, as I learned over time, bad for families too. Motherhood was not an inferior role — it was the prior one. A working woman can be replaced. I, as a mother, could not be.

I have always been a contrarian. The more I was told that babies were fine in day-care (thanks, Patricia Morgan, for enlightening me to the facts), the more I grasped the ideological nature of feminism's war against maternity (modern women do actually have significant choice), its deliberate denial and relegation of motherhood, the crosser I got. The more I was asked what do I "really" do when I said I was a mother, the more betrayed I felt. For nothing I'd done before compared for me with the role and responsibility of bringing up my babies.

So I persuaded the UK's *Daily Mail* to publish an article from me on the subject. Headed "Why must we treat mothers as second-class citizens?" it was an account of my decision to give up my job as a TV editor to look after my baby myself. In it I accused the women's movement — as I still do — of influencing women to avoid motherhood altogether and blinding them to our uniquely feminine drives and to maternal fulfilment. It touched a nerve. A huge (physically) postbag was delivered to my front door a week later by the paper. I still have the letters in an ageing file at the back of a cupboard. They were heartrending.

One mum after another wrote of the pain, wretchedness and heartache they felt at going back to work, how they hated leaving babies in "stranger" day-care when they knew they were too young but how they had no choice financially. They told of the baby rooms that instinctively horrified them. They were angry, too, that feminists had failed to give to motherhood the status it deserved.

I wrote back to as many of them who gave addresses. Would they like to join a Full-Time Mothers' group? On the back of this nascent membership and with likeminded women introduced to

me as a result of the article — Anna Lines, Ruth Liley, the late Frances Savin — and with the backing and moral support of Rachel (now Lady) Griffiths, the late Valerie Riches and sociologist Patricia Morgan, we founded Full-Time Mothers, later of course to be renamed Mothers At Home Matter (MAHM).



Kathy Gyngell

Its survival is a tribute to the many mothers who've come on board in the intervening years. Today you are more important than ever. With more mothers with children under four in full-time work than ever before, our understanding of babies' and children's needs is threatened. Working mothers are, understandably, defensive about criticism. The social and financial pressure to return to work early has intensified and is huge. Real choice has diminished.

Sympathy from female MPs for financial recognition of the mother's home role or for her right to choose how to spend her childcare credit is non-existent. Their solution to having children is, at best, family-friendly work practices or paternity leave. At worst, more round-the-clock child care provision and subsidy. Never autonomy for the mother. We are no nearer to making our elected representatives understand than when I wrote to every female MP 30 years ago.

Yet mothers at home have never mattered more. Children need them. We need to keep relentlessly fighting for the cause. We know most working mothers would rather work less or not at all. We know they want more time for their families; we know there is no solution to working mother stress. We know that babies are not born to be herded; we know they suffer separation anxiety and even maternal deprivation if they are put too early or for too many hours into day-care. We know this has consequences for their development.

No one is asking for women to be tied to the kitchen sink for ever. Women's adult life-spans are long. Childhood by contrast is short but critical. Once gone it cannot be retrieved. Our working lives can be.

Kathy Gyngell is editor of *TCW Defending Freedom* (UK), in which this article first appeared. She studied at Cambridge and Oxford, and is a writer, broadcaster and formerly a TV features editor. In 1993, she founded the organisation Full Time Mothers, now called Mothers At Home Matter (MAHM). □

**A working woman
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Two sad losses

Babette Francis is very sad to inform Endeavor Forum supporters of the passing of two of her most valued allies and oldest friends, **Dr Daphne Hennelly**, who died last October, and **Mrs Prue Oldham**, a former editor of this newsletter, who died this March just as the newsletter was going to press. A eulogy for Daphne Hennelly may be found on page 16 of this issue. A eulogy for Prue Oldham will appear in the next issue.

A tale of two pandemics: Spanish influenza and Wuhan flu

by John Morrissey

“The only thing that we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history”

— Georg Hegel (1770–1831), German philosopher

After the fear cultivated among Australians, the shambolic and shameful behaviour of some state premiers, and the damage done to the Federation over the past two years, it is instructive to look at the way our forebears faced a similar challenge a century ago. It was in 1918 when a young Australia experienced the so-called Spanish influenza, an avian virus which may have mutated from the common flu and surfaced on the Western Front with the arrival of millions of U.S. troops in 1918. The misnomer resulted from the Spanish king being its first notable victim. It is thought to have taken 30 million lives across the globe, including perhaps 12,000 out of Australia’s population of fewer than five millions.

The first sign was a severe chill or shivering fit, followed by an acute headache and pains spreading from the back. Vomiting and diarrhoea, running eyes and nose, and a sore coughing throat were common symptoms, and sometimes the skin assumed a bluish tinge. Pneumonia was a frequent complication, and those with heart or chest conditions risked death.

Medical opinions and methods of treatment were diverse: sweating powders, mustard plasters, inhalations, hot baths, better diet, fresh air and many more. On Salisbury Plain in England, Australian Imperial Force (AIF) troops awaiting repatriation were subjected to route marches and gargling Condy’s crystals (potassium permanganate) in salt water twice daily.

Doctors were scarce in Australia at the time, and often elderly, owing to so many of them still serving overseas. In any case they were distrusted by many, seen as akin to police spies, as they were required to notify the authorities of any cases of venereal disease, which involved extremely painful treatment. A century later, it is hard to distinguish responsible medical practice then from quackery; but it is worth recalling that Dr Morse’s Indian Root Pills, a North American herbal patent medicine which purported to help “cleanse the blood” of disease-causing impurities, enjoyed stellar sales in Australia during the pandemic.

Then, as today, the Commonwealth government led the way, being responsible for quarantine, which was focused on ship arrivals and relied on stations, such as the Victorian facility at Point Nepean. As early as October 1918, ships which had docked at South African or New Zealand ports were quarantined for seven days, and 300 cases of the pandemic influenza had been treated at Sydney stations, with numerous deaths, before the virus spread to the general population.

Most arrivals of course were homecoming troops, and there were frequent cases among them, as well as deaths during the voyage. Passengers and crews of ships without record of infection were nevertheless subjected to zinc sulphate inhalations and daily “thermometer parades”, while even one

infected person aboard a vessel would result in inoculations for all and compulsory facemasks for the period of quarantine.

The records make much mention of inoculations, and it seems that the vaccines were prepared from the sputum of pandemic victims. However, there was considerable distrust of the needle. This was fed by deaths occurring from occasional bad batches. Although by the end of 1919 a quarter of the New South Wales population had received two doses, this general distrust of the needle was already reflected in the 607 deaths in Australia in 1918 from diphtheria, long since preventable by then with free injections.

Initial confidence in securing immunity for Australia evaporated in 1919 as the disease spread among the resident population. Evidence exists of medical officers on troop ships falsifying their records to avoid protracted quarantine for returning Diggers, after perhaps four years of war. There were even break-outs from quarantine, such as the 1,000 men who abandoned the unprepared and snake-infested camp at North Head, Sydney, where they had been landed. Family re-unions and victory parades were postponed or cancelled, souring the mood of the population.

Commonwealth and state relations deteriorated rapidly. In November 1918 a meeting of state health ministers, Australian branch presidents of the then British Medical Association and the

Commonwealth Minister for Trade and Customs adopted a plan of action. This included closure of state borders where the Commonwealth proclaimed a neighbouring state infected, on the notification of its Chief Health Officer. Of course this came unstuck when Victoria failed to notify an infection for a fortnight — until NSW had notified its first person infected, who had in fact just arrived from Victoria! Thereafter it was every state for itself. Sound familiar?

As with today, the authority of the Commonwealth was flouted. Such sentiments peaked in Western Australia, where the transcontinental train was impounded and the Kalgoorlie district health officer inquired whether he should quarantine the passengers’ excreta as well! Queensland applied to prevent repatriated troops being landed at a mainland quarantine station, and broke the November conference agreement by refusing free access to persons living only ten miles from its border.

Crossings were restricted to Wallangarra, at a cost of 12/6 per day of detention, two injections and thrice daily stints in an inhalation chamber. Conditions were abominable and only intercession by the Anglican archbishop secured separate toilets for ladies. Conditions were no better in South Australian camps, for which the state government took no responsibility. With the exception of NSW leaders, our present-day state premiers like Anastacia Palaszczuk would have fitted in very well.

In the community itself there was a particular division of opinion over wearing masks, which were enforced in NSW. Some saw them as breeding grounds for infection or as sapping

The standout absurdity was the official call for all to unite in prayer and a simultaneous order to close all churches

the “vital force” of the population. A Bovril advertisement compared their effectiveness to using barbed wire fences to shut out flies. However, the Director of Quarantine defended them because they reassured nervous persons and provided an indication that precautions were being taken. We would recognise such a rationale as similar to the thinking of governments during the present pandemic.

Other public health measures rivalled the inanities of the current Victorian government, with its inconsistent regulations from Day One, including the sanctioned Black Lives Matter march, the later sealing off children’s playgrounds with “crime tape”, and then opening up golf courses, but not their toilet facilities.

In NSW in 1919, libraries, theatres, schools and places of indoor entertainment were closed, and then racecourses and hotels. Relaxations followed, but an order prohibited hotel bar patrons from remaining on the premises for more than five minutes! Perhaps the standout absurdity was the official call for all to unite in prayer and a simultaneous order to close all churches. A subsequent compromise allowed open-air prayer for masked congregations — observing social distancing and lasting no more than 30 minutes.

Australia experienced much lower death rates from the Spanish influenza than even England and New Zealand; but in 1919 the Commonwealth Year Book recorded a 25 per cent increase over preceding years in the overall death rate. As with today, the lives of those with pre-existing heart and chest problems were shortened. Mortality was abnormally high among males in the 25–40 age group. It is also interesting to learn that the death rate was highest in NSW, where the compulsive measures of the state government were most extensive.

Fear played a part in the responses of governments and people during those years, but it does not seem to have been as pronounced as it is today. In spite of the medical knowledge at that time being insufficient to meet the challenge of the pandemic, there was confidence in the “characteristic Australian spirit”, as the popular *Lone Hand* magazine put it. The *Medical Journal of Australia* called for “proportion”, and there was hope and gratitude that things were so much better here than abroad. This journal also accused the daily papers of “fanning the flame



**Medical staff in Surry Hills, New South Wales, in 1919
(NSW State Archives)**

of panic”. Other issues, such as the rise of Bolshevism and fear of its spread in Australia, also engaged public opinion.

It remains to ask ourselves why there is such disproportionate fear today in Australia, when medical knowledge and resources are so much better equipped and the Federal government’s support has been so generous. Widespread testing and state governments’ daily announcement of (largely asymptomatic) case numbers, rather than hospitalisations and actual deaths, have stoked the fears and been used to justify socially and economically destructive lockdowns. On top of print media, electronic and social media have focused on little else for nearly two years.

In contrast with the Australia of 1919–21, we have largely insulated ourselves from death and lost a sense of proportion. Our ancestors were emerging from a war which had taken 60,000 lives and maimed many more. Furthermore, deaths today rarely occur in the home, and life expectancy is 15 years greater. We have also grown up with the expectation that modern medicine and the welfare state will provide all the answers.

Finally, we no longer live in an age of religious faith in an afterlife, with the comfort of our churches and an eternal reward for us and our loved ones, as confirmed at funerals and gravesides. “Death where is thy sting?” puts it all into perspective.

For much of the information herein I am indebted to a paper delivered by Humphrey McQueen at the 45th Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) Congress, held in Perth in August 1973.

John Morrissey is a retired secondary school teacher who has taught in government, independent and Catholic schools. He lives in the Melbourne suburb of Hawthorn.

Punishment in search of a crime

As Prof. Pierre-André Taguieff establishes beyond reasonable doubt, anti-racism in the Western world has become simultaneously a religion, a totalitarian political movement, and a career opportunity for a class of intellectuals and bureaucrats of very modest attainments except for a sharp eye to the main chance.

The speed and thoroughness with which the anti-racist doxa has spread is astonishing. An eminent French astrophysicist told me that hiring decisions in his department were now as much decided by what contribution a candidate could make to the department’s demographic diversity as by what contribution he (or, especially, she) could make to astrophysics.

An American scientist told me much the same thing about his department in one of America’s great scientific institutions. Every department there now has its DIE (Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity) officer — I am tempted to say commissar — who wields considerable power, though he (or more often she) is typically a young arts graduate with no knowledge whatever of science

The pursuit of so-called diversity, inclusion, and equity has become the pretext for a regime of fear and intimidation directed and manned by a small army of well-paid mediocrities.

Modern anti-racism has something in common with the European Court of Human Rights. Originally set up to safeguard freedoms, by preventing gross abuses such as torture and imprisonment without trial, the Court now multiplies or manufactures rights in order that it may claim ever-greater jurisdiction in the affairs of signatory states, in the process severely limiting freedom.

In the same way, anti-racism, which once concerned itself with righting the most obvious racial injustices, now condones racial injustices. The most ferocious, uncompromising, and powerful racists in the Western world today are the anti-racists.

Excerpt from Anthony Daniels (aka Theodore Dalrymple), *The European Conservative*, February 16, 2022.



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Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation

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China plays the West

China seeks economic and military dominance of the world. This should be an axiom for President Biden's State Department. Yet the Biden administration's zeal to persuade China to commit to climate change has resulted in a confused message to China and to the world.

John Kerry, Biden's special climate envoy, returned in early November from a climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland touting the Glasgow Climate Pact signed by 200 nations including China. The signatory nations pledged to undertake unspecified "enhanced climate actions" to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. In return, developed countries are to spend \$100 billion to combat climate change.

China considers itself a developing nation, so its signature on the agreement is nearly meaningless. Even as the Chinese envoy signed the pact, China continues its breakneck pace of constructing coal-fired electric power plants.

Once again China played the United States. There is a long history of this. The U.S. has better options.

History of playing the West

In the late 1930s, Mao Zedong launched a campaign to create an image of himself as a benign revolutionary. To fulfil this task, Mao's agents approached American journalist Edgar Snow, who had arrived in China in 1931. Snow had developed a close friendship with journalist Agnes Smedley, a suspected Comintern spy and lover of Soviet spymaster Richard Sorge. Smedley vouched for Snow's leftist sympathies.

In preparing for Snow's arrival in northern China, Mao told his staff to project "warmth" while not revealing their communist ideology. Mao insisted that Snow submit his interview questions beforehand. Over the course of three months, Snow interviewed Mao and his well-rehearsed comrades. In the interviews, Mao portrayed himself as a humble peasant who sought agrarian reform and betterment for his people. He claimed heroic military exploits in his struggle to liberate China from the corrupt dictatorship of the Chiang Kai-shek government.

Before Snow's manuscript of a biography of Mao was sent to press, Mao's comrades amended and rewrote sections of the biography, all with Snow's approval. When published in 1937, *Red Star Over China* became the major Western source for information on Mao's China and remained so for decades. Snow's reputation was such that President Nixon invited Snow to travel with him to China in February 1972.

Mao's image as an agrarian reformer was reinforced by dozens of other Western reporters including Agnes Smedley, Anna Louise Strong, James Bertram and T.A. Bisson. American policy-makers took the bait, intentionally or unintentionally.

Lauchlin Currie, a top White House aide later revealed to be a Soviet spy, stated, "It appears at ten thousand miles away the Chinese Communists are what in our country we would call socialists. We like their attitude toward the peasants, toward women and Japan." He told President Franklin D. Roosevelt that the "the Communists have been the only party which has been able to attract mass support".

Typical of the duped policy-makers was General Patrick Hurley, Roosevelt's special envoy to China in 1944, who returned home to tell the National Press Club in Washington that "the only difference between Chinese

Communists and Oklahoma Republicans is that the Oklahoma Republicans are not armed".

Harry S. Truman, who became president following Roosevelt's death in April 1945, continued his predecessor's pro-Mao policy. The Truman administration insisted that the Chiang Nationalist government form a coalition with Mao. Chiang and Mao met for 45 days working out an agreement to end the civil war. After the agreement was reached, Mao declared, "We must stop [the] civil war and all parties must unite under the leadership of Chairman Chiang to build a modern China." Once home, Mao bragged to comrades that the agreement was a "mere scrap of paper".

Arguably it was the Nixon administration that demonstrated the most gullibility toward Mao. Intent on playing Communist China off against the Soviet Union, believing themselves to be geopolitical chess masters, Nixon and Henry Kissinger sent word to Mao early in the administration that they wanted to repair relations with China. In 1971, Kissinger secretly visited China, where he offered to drop U.S. support for Taiwan and recognise China in 1975. In addition, the United States agreed to support China's entrance into the United Nations. Kissinger even offered to provide details of current negotiations with the Soviet Union about the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty talks, and to share American intelligence concerning Soviet nuclear and military strength.

Nixon flew to Beijing in February 1972 to meet with Mao, who was extremely ill. The meeting lasted only an hour. Mao refused to discuss any substantive details, but this did not stop Nixon from praising him as one of the world's finest poets and philosophers, as evidenced by Mao's *Little Red Book*. Mao did not return any compliment to Nixon.

Today the Biden administration seems no less naïve about China than were Nixon and Kissinger

With the opening of China, Nixon was convinced he had outfoxed the aging Mao. For Mao, the meeting was a propaganda triumph, and China secured secret high-level American intelligence. Kissinger, meanwhile, proceeded to encourage France and Britain to sell China nuclear reactor technology. Upon returning to the States, Nixon observed that “under Mao the lives of the Chinese masses have greatly improved”.

Taiwan 50 years later

Today the Biden administration seems no less naïve about China than were Nixon and Kissinger. Following the Glasgow climate summit in November, U.S. Defense Department spokesman John Kirby was asked whether his department viewed China or climate as the bigger threat.

Kirby’s reply was lame at best. “I think,” he said with a straight face, “we get paid to examine all the threats to our national security”, only to add, “You’ve heard [Secretary of State Antony Blinken] talk about the climate as a real, an existential national security threat, and it is — not just to the United States, but countries all over the world. And we consider China as the number one challenge for the Department. Both are equally important.”

This is an administration that has vaguely promised it would take “unspecified” actions if China invades Taiwan. Following a closed-door meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Group 20 meeting in late October, Blinken said he made it “crystal clear” that Washington opposes any unilateral changes by Beijing to the status quo around Taiwan. Blinken’s toothless warning came after months of Chinese intrusions into Taiwanese air space. On the day Blinken and Wang met, Taipei reported eight such intrusions into the Taiwan air defence identification zone.

Blinken certainly understands that China seeks world domination. In May this year, he told CBS *60 Minutes* reporter Norah O’Donnell that “over time, China believes it can be and should be and will be the dominant country in the world”. This interview came at a time when China’s president unveiled three new warships to patrol the South China Sea. *China now has the largest navy in the world*. When pressed, however, on confronting China, Blinken blinked.

Asked about the genocide of Uyghurs in Xinjiang by the Chinese government, Blinken weakly replied, “Look, we don’t have — the luxury of not dealing with China. There are real complexities to the relationship, whether it’s the adversarial piece, whether it’s the competitive piece, whether it’s the cooperative piece.”

Blinken is airy or dismissive about other issues with China as well. As to theft of intellectual property by the Chinese, he merely said “we have real concerns about the actions that China has taken, and that includes in the economic area, and that includes — the theft of intellectual property”. When confronted with projections that China’s gross domestic product will surpass the United States as early as 2028, Blinken tepidly answered, “Well, it’s a large country, it’s got a lot of people.”

Yet Blinken believes America is up to the task of confronting China: “What I’ve found looking at our own history, is that when we’ve confronted a significant challenge, significant competition — significant adversity, we’ve managed to come

together and actually do the long-term investment.” He concluded, “And that is really the moment we’re in now.... Are we actually going to rise to it? I — President Biden believes we are.”

Blinken’s interview is revealing in that he recognised China is a threat, but he parses America’s response to the Chinese challenge into three separate areas — economic, military and cooperative. China, however, sees each area as part of a whole strategy for world domination.



**Antony Blinken,
U.S. Secretary of State**

A better approach for Biden

Foreign policy can be divided into separate niches of economic cooperation, military competition and adversarial diplomacy. But consider the following analogy. In the 1930s, Nazi Germany under Hitler made clear it was seeking world domination. Germany began a massive military build-up. At home, Hitler assumed one-party rule, arrested and murdered political opponents, and initiated anti-Jewish policies that ultimately led to genocide against Jews. Germany invaded Austria, and then after threatening an invasion of Czechoslovakia, a peace accord at Munich was reached to hand over part of that country to Germany.

What came next was the Nazi invasion of Poland, followed by the occupation of all of continental Western Europe. England came under violent air attack and verged on collapse.

Should the United States government have told Hitler that it abhorred the German treatment of Jews and opposed the continued build-up of Nazi military forces, but was seeking areas of mutual cooperation? For example, should U.S. policy have encouraged businesses such as our chemical industrialists to continue to invest in Germany and cooperate in scientific investigation? Should the U.S. government have promoted forest conservation by giving money to Nazi Germany to preserve its Bavarian forests? Such policies toward a rapidly arming aggressor would have been foolish.

This is not to suggest going to war with China. What the U.S. needs is a clear strategy that integrates trade, investment, military and diplomatic strategies. Linkage of issues and verification of treaties are essential components of the diplomatic strategy. These concepts were employed by the Reagan administration in confronting the Soviet Union. Idle promises from China to cut fossil fuels while it continues to build coal power plants make no sense. Any agreement with China on climate control should include verification that it is following through on its promises.

Linkage does not mean that every treaty or agreement between the U.S. and China needs to include every contentious issue. What it means is that in meetings and negotiations with the Chinese, *human rights issues should be raised*. Chinese officials bring up Taiwan as a renegade province in their meetings. American officials need to bring up the Chinese government’s vile treatment of Uyghurs and Falun Gong, repression of Christians and Buddhists, clear violations of civil rights in Hong Kong, and our willingness to defend Taiwan.

The Trump administration was countering China’s “Belt and Road” policy in which China provided loans to developing countries and then took those countries hostage

Trump's more promising policies

The Trump administration was pursuing this strategy, not hesitating to take a tough stand including sanctions on senior Chinese officials for the mass detention of Uyghurs. On the global front, the Trump administration was countering China's "Belt and Road" policy in which China provided loans to developing countries and then took those countries hostage. Trump initiated the Blue Dot Network to counter Beijing investments in developing countries. The idea of the Blue Dot Network was not to match China's funding but rather, as the State Department said, to certify projects as "market-driven, transparent and sustainable" in order to reassure investors. This initiative fell short in investment funds, but with more funding it could bear fruit.

Similarly, the Trump administration pursued a policy to make America less reliant on China for rare earth minerals. China has aimed to monopolise global rare earth minerals by gaining mining rights in poor nations rich in such resources. In October 2020, Trump signed an executive order calling for greater domestic production and mining of rare earth minerals, on which American manufacturers depend.

The implications of this policy are evident in the production of lithium used in batteries. "It's a declaration that the U.S. must be self-reliant and independent from foreign sources and free from geo-political interference," says Jim Hahn, advisory board member for American Manganese. American Manganese, listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, is in the battery recycling business. They extract metals such as lithium and cobalt from used electric car batteries to produce high-powered, long-life batteries.

The Trump administration also began to restore American defence technology and forces. The Biden administration has not withdrawn totally from some of these policies, but defence spending is being cut and our rhetorical tone toward China appears to run hot and cold. Biden sends Kerry to negotiate on climate change, but he is instructed not to raise other issues. Asked at a press conference at the Glasgow climate summit about China's use of slave labour to build solar panels, Kerry replied, "That's not my lane here. My job is to be the climate guy." But there are serious issues to be raised with China.

Biden's officials should take inspiration from Enes Kanter, a centre for the Boston Celtics professional basketball team, who on November 16 took to social media to slam China for its reported industrial-scale murder of prisoners of conscience to harvest their organs. The Women's Tennis Association and several celebrated female tennis champions have called attention to the regime's apparent crackdown on a Chinese female tennis champion, Peng Shuai, who issued a presumably coerced recantation after alleging sexual assault by a former vice-premier of China. The association is threatening to cancel championship matches in China. And Senator Tom Cotton (Republican, Arkansas) called on the Biden administration to boycott the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing because of security risks and human rights abuses.

In defence of Hong Kong and Taiwan

The United States should join Britain in insisting that China live up to its treaty signed with the Thatcher government, which turned Hong Kong over to China two decades ago. At the time, Beijing said Hong Kong would keep its capitalist system and enjoy its freedoms. China has taken brazen steps to crack down on dissent on all levels.

In 2020 Beijing passed a controversial national security law and arrested dozens of pro-democracy activists and lawmakers.

This national security law bypassed the Hong Kong legislature and criminalised dissent. Full-scale repression continues in Hong Kong today. Legislators and judges are now selected by the Beijing government. So-called "patriotic" curricular programs have been introduced in Hong Kong schools.

People who can afford to are fleeing the city. It is clear that China wants to bring the so-called Hong Kong province under heel, while trying to preserve its financial wealth. American and other foreign multinational corporations are remaining cautious. For them the question is whether financial independence can be maintained in an authoritarian regime. This might be an ideal time for American policy-makers to begin to push back on the Chinese government and its repressive policies in Hong Kong.

Similarly, the United States needs to send a direct and strong message that it stands behind Taiwan. This is a matter of principle but also of U.S. economic interest. Taiwan is the world's largest producer of computer chips. This might be the reason China has taken such an aggressive policy toward Taiwan. TSMC, Taiwan's largest chipmaker, is building a huge chip-making plant in Phoenix, Arizona. This plant will reduce U.S. reliance on Taiwan's island manufacturing for nearly 90 per cent of its computer chips. Pressure on China to back off Taiwan is in the national interest of the U.S.

Grand strategy toward China

The United States needs to pursue a long-term grand strategy toward China. This means linking issues in discussions with China. It means seeking verification with treaties with China by not accepting laughable promises such as that coal emissions will be reduced, while China continues to build coal plants. Most important, it means making *long-term investments in military technology*. We cannot rely on short-term planning by the Pentagon and corporations seeking short-term profits.

Physicist and former Defense Intelligence Agency official Michael Sekora believes that the recent testing of hypersonic missiles by China shows that the U.S. has already fallen behind in military technology. He urges that planning be based on technology-driven decision-making. Cybersecurity expert Nicolas Chaillan resigned from the Department of Defense in September in protest over the slow pace of technological transformation in the U.S. military as China has pulled ahead of the U.S. in artificial intelligence and cyber capabilities.

We are at a critical turning point as we face our greatest adversary since the fall of the Soviet Union: China. The Biden focus on climate change, uncertain and inconsistent messaging toward China, and a domestic Green New Deal are a destructive path. The whiz kids who came out of the Obama administration and are now running the State and Defense Departments need to step back, scale down their push for political correctness and domestic politics, and realise that if the Biden administration fails, America fails.

This article is published by the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation in St Louis, Missouri, USA. The original article, complete with references and footnotes, is available from the foundation's website: www.mindszenty.org. The *Mindszenty Report* is not copyrighted, and readers are invited to forward copies to their local bishops, priests and pastors.



Michael Sekora

Freedom of religion on trial in Finland

by William Kilpatrick

Will Finland bow down to the gods of fashion?

Päivi Räsänen is a member of the Finnish Parliament, a former minister of the interior, a public speaker and the mother of five grown children.

She faces a heavy fine and two years in prison for quoting the Bible. In response to the Evangelical Lutheran Church's affiliation with the Helsinki LGBT Pride event, she posted the Bible passage from Romans 1: 24–27 which condemns homosexual behaviour.

Finnish prosecutors stated that the use of the word “sin” could be harmful, and alleged that Ms. Räsänen's comments were made to cause intolerance, contempt and hatred toward homosexuals (*Fox News*, February 16, 2022).

But couldn't the prosecutor's remarks cause intolerance, contempt and hatred toward Ms. Räsänen? If criticising another person's beliefs or behaviour is a hate crime, then isn't she the victim of a hate crime?

The court prosecutors worried that the word “sin” could be harmful. One supposes they mean harmful to one's self-esteem. And, indeed, the list of sins in Romans 1: 24–32 is meant to make you feel bad about yourself. From a Biblical perspective, acknowledgment of sin, followed by repentance, leads on to salvation. In other words, feeling bad about your behaviour is, in some cases, a good thing.

It's not only homosexual behaviour that is condemned in Romans 1. The extended passage condemns all manner of sins including idolatry, deceitfulness, envy, gossip, slander, and disobedience to parents.

From one point of view this is highly offensive and insulting to those disposed to deceitfulness and slander. From another point of view, it can be looked upon as highly therapeutic — a moment of self-recognition that leads on to change.

Prosecutors should have no difficulty understanding the concept. After all, they apply painful therapeutics as a matter of course. They hope that a heavy fine or a dose of prison will force the criminal to recognise his crimes and put himself on the road to rehabilitation.

Increasingly, however, prosecutors are prosecuting “thought crimes” rather than real crimes, and courts are using hurt feelings as a criterion for making decisions.

Take the case of Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff, an Austrian woman who was found guilty of “inciting hatred” by an Austrian Court because of her assertion that the prophet Muhammad was a paedophile. In 2018, the ruling was upheld by the European Court of Human Rights which held that her right to freedom of expression was outweighed by “the right of others to have their religious feelings protected” (*Jihad Watch*, October 27, 2018). In short, feelings trumped facts, and the alleged pain caused to Muslims by the “slander” of their prophet became the deciding factor.

Interestingly, the case of Päivi Räsänen also involves “religious feelings” — her feeling or, rather, her conviction that

Lutherans should be guided by the words of St. Paul rather than by the fashions of the day.

But although the feelings of Muslims still count for quite a bit in Europe, it seems likely that the Christian “feelings” of Ms. Räsänen will count for very little against the supposedly great pain homosexuals feel when they read the words of St. Paul in Romans. The Finns will probably be hearing a great deal

in the near future about the harm that Christianity causes to homosexuals, transgenders and other favoured sexual minorities.

So, just as Muslims must be protected from Islamophobia, homosexuals must be protected from homophobia. Whether or not the free speech rights of Christians get trampled in the process doesn't seem to matter much to European elites.

But if the rights of homosexuals clash with the rights of Muslims, what happens then?

Well, if you understand how the hierarchy of feelings is structured, you'll quickly realise that — all things being equal — Muslim feelings will prevail. For example, a Birmingham, England primary school stopped lessons normalising same-sex relationships when hundreds of Muslim parents protested (*The Guardian*, UK, March 5, 2019).

This is in contrast to the attitude of schools in the UK toward non-Muslim parents. Such parents can expect to be ignored completely when they complain about sex-ed. It's not that the Muslim protests were threatening: they weren't. It's just that the Muslim population of Birmingham is thirty per cent and rising. And if you're given the choice of offending the city's gay population or its Muslim population, you'll probably choose to do the former.

Meanwhile, in Helsinki the top priority is criminalising Saint Paul's “offensive” letter to the Romans. But if the Finns had looked over their border to the rest of the Continent, they might have noticed that homosexuals in Europe worry very little about St. Paul and very much about the growing number of Muslim gangs in cities and suburbs.

In Brussels according to Bianca Debaets, the former Belgian Secretary of State, “there are too many areas where it is difficult for women and homosexuals to walk” (*Gatestone Institute*, New York, January 16, 2022). That may be because the Muslim percentage of the population of Brussels is now between 25–30 per cent. Perhaps, you may think, homosexuals in Brussels should consider moving to close-by Amsterdam which has traditionally been a haven for gays. But the Muslim population of Amsterdam has also been growing, and as Amsterdam becomes more like the real Mecca, it is no longer the Mecca for gays that it once was. As a result, many gays have moved out.



Päivi Räsänen MP

Increasingly, prosecutors are prosecuting ‘thought crimes’ rather than real crimes, and courts are using hurt feelings as a criterion for making decisions.

In short, while European elites claim to be fighting homophobia, they are doing little to resist the gradual takeover of Europe by the most homophobic culture on the planet. A similar contradiction can be found in the attitude of European officials toward anti-Semitism. On the one hand, they tell us it's a very bad thing. On the other hand, they welcome waves of immigrants from cultures that are steeped in anti-Semitism.

These schizoid policies suggest that European leaders are seriously confused. Indeed, many of the Western experts and authorities that we once relied on for guidance are now in the grip of deep delusions about obvious realities. I refer to politicians, teachers, health professionals, and media commentators who insist that men can become pregnant, that women can become men, and that a union between two men is no different than a marriage between a man and a woman.

It's ironic that some of these gullible types in Helsinki are now in a position to criminalise a passage in the Bible. It's ironic because the chapter from Romans that most offends them not only criticises idolatry and homosexuality, it also criticises the foolish thinking of the time which passed for wisdom among the elites.

But what Paul said about the supposed wise men of his day applies even more fittingly to the supposed wise men of our

own age. Here's a sample: "So they are without excuse, for although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools..." (Romans 1: 20–22).

You can see why the authorities want

to cancel Paul. The fashionable ideas they want people to bow down before are just as foolish as the once-fashionable idea of worshiping birds and reptiles. Yet, for opposing the present foolishness, Päivi Räsänen now faces prison time.

William Kilpatrick is the author of *Christianity, Islam, and Atheism: The Struggle for the Soul of the West* (2015) and *What Catholics Need to Know about Islam* (2020) and other books about culture and religion. The above article is reprinted, with the author's permission,

from *FrontPageMag.com* (February 25, 2022). For more on William Kilpatrick's work and writings, visit his website, *TurningPointProject.com*. □



William Kilpatrick

Although the feelings of Muslims still count for quite a bit in Europe, it seems likely that the Christian 'feelings' of Ms. Räsänen will count for very little.

2 + 2 = 5? Welcome to 'woke' mathematics

As Prof. Pierre-André Taguieff establishes beyond reasonable doubt, anti-racism in the Western world has become simultaneously a religion, a totalitarian political movement, and a career opportunity for a class of intellectuals and bureaucrats of very modest attainments except for a sharp eye to the main chance.

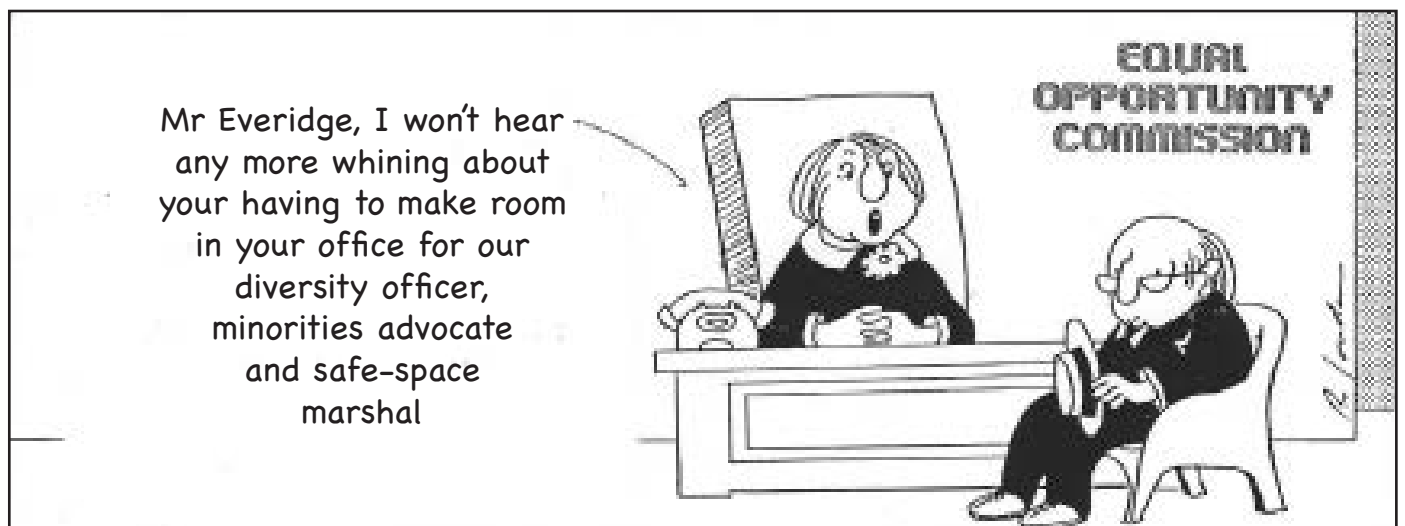
An American scientist told me much the same thing about his department in one of America's great scientific institutions. Every department there now has its DIE (Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity) officer — I am tempted to say commissar — who wields considerable power, though he (or more often she) is typically a young arts graduate with no knowledge whatever of science

Modern anti-racism has something in common with the

European Court of Human Rights. Originally set up to safeguard freedoms, by preventing gross abuses such as torture and imprisonment without trial, the Court now multiplies or manufactures rights in order that it may claim ever-greater jurisdiction in the affairs of signatory states, in the process severely limiting freedom.

In the same way, anti-racism, which once concerned itself with righting the most obvious racial injustices, now condones racial injustices. The most ferocious, uncompromising, and powerful racists in the Western world today are the anti-racists.

Excerpt from Anthony Daniels (*aka Theodore Dalrymple*), *The European Conservative*, February 16, 2022.



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BOOK SHELF

Hope for all women wounded by abortion

Book review by John Morrissey

Deceived: God Brought Purpose From My Pain, by Molly S. White
(Plymouth, Massachusetts: Elk Lake Publishing, Inc., 2019).
Paperback: 188 pages. ISBN: 978-1951080761.

Deceived is the autobiography of a woman who was both a victim of, and complicit with, the untruth that the unborn may be simply disposed of for the social convenience of modern society. Her awakening to this outrage and her coming to terms with her own guilt led to her spiritual redemption and her heroic efforts, culminating in her election to the Texas legislature, to combat the scourge of abortion.

Molly White's story opens with a painful description of her first abortion of an unplanned pregnancy, which she approached with the "just a clump of cells" fallacy and all the rationalisations which support it. She was quickly disillusioned and emerged determined never to repeat the procedure.

A return to her social scene of drink and pool-halls followed and she was quickly into another relationship which resulted in another pregnancy — with triplets. Her partner, now husband, deserted her; but her parents became her support, as she eagerly embraced motherhood. Only one child survived and life was a struggle, until she became pregnant again from a one-night stand. This time her parents insisted on an abortion, which she undertook unwillingly.

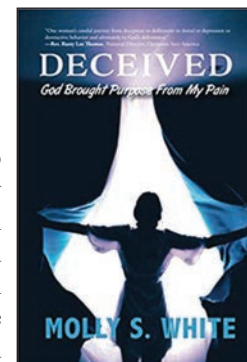
She describes how she was numbed and consumed with unresolved grief, sublimating her angst into hostility towards men and delivering tirades about women's rights. Yet she married a doting young man from her youth in order to provide a father for her son, then soon divorced him.

Life changed for her when she met Ronald, a "cute cowboy" divorcee, whom she pursued and with whom she formed her first stable relationship, revolving around hunting, fishing, dancing and raising the sons that each had brought to the eventual marriage.

Nevertheless, Molly was far from healed. Her conversion to Christianity followed a chance conversation about "a man called Jesus", which led her to attend an evangelical church service where she made a decision for Christ. "I would like to ask Jesus into my heart," she told the preacher.

Instantly, the dark cloud of depression was lifted from her. She quit her job and finally became pregnant, only to miscarry. Throughout a subsequent pregnancy she was disturbed with violent dreams, including one nightmare in which future archaeologists are aghast at the remains of thousands of babies: "What kind of society would kill their children and dump their remains in landfills?" Nevertheless, Molly's beautiful daughter arrived safe and well.

The rest of her story takes us through her encounters with the ministries of the Temple Crisis Pregnancy Centre and Focus on the Family, her finding the therapy she needed, and her eventual involvement with this work. Her personal testimony of her abortions in the recovery group called Healing the Hurts of Abortion was a watershed moment and there followed volunteer work in the crisis centre.



The Holy Spirit inspired her to apologise to her parents for her sexually permissive youth and to forgive them for forcing her second abortion, and they — now converted to Catholicism — reciprocated. For the next decade she continued her pro-life work and marked the existence of her aborted and miscarried babies, giving them names and acknowledging dates such as that of her second abortion. Nevertheless, she continued to receive counselling.

Molly's public life began with her joining with Allan Parker's Justice Foundation, which was representing Norma McCorvey of *Roe vs. Wade* fame and others seeking to overturn their cases, as they were based on lies and fraudulent information. His project, Operation Outcry, assisted women hurt by abortion to share their stories publicly or by affidavit.

She threw herself into this work, which took her to Washington. There she found useful contacts in the George W. Bush administration and participated in the giant March for Life. She has also represented Endeavour Forum at meetings in New York of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Called by God, as well as by colleagues, to run for the Texas state legislature in 2014, she still continued to minister to women hurt by abortion. When she took her seat she was pitched in at the deep end on a panel run by a left-wing Austin newspaper where she was outnumbered in a discussion of the effect on women's health of recent legislation to restrict the operations of abortion facilities.

Upon being introduced as someone who had "struggled with alcoholism and drug abuse because of two abortions in her past", she responded spiritedly, defending both herself and the controversial legislation, which actually resulted in far better health outcomes for women. She cited cases of botched late-term abortions, of bleeding women sent home or even dying, and Planned Parenthood denying any responsibility.

She sensed from the attacks on her by her most virulent opponent a post-abortive and hurt woman behind the bluster, which her opponent confirmed and claimed that it had only made her stronger. Molly tells us, "She's angry and still in the justification stage, which are classic mental health issues of abortion." She continued her own response with, "It's unnatural for we (*sic.*) women to kill our own defenceless children. That's the reason abortion hurts women physically, psychologically, emotionally and spiritually."

Molly concludes with her reflections on the power of personal testimony and that, after being saved and healed, we are commanded by God also to comfort those who are hurting. She explains that it is the power of testimony that leads us to our Saviour and exposes the works of the devil, changing hearts and even public policy.

This reviewer has often marvelled at the courage of post-abortive women who have given such testimonies, without fully realising the actual theology which underpins their actions.

Molly White's is a familiar story on one hand, but on the other has unusual depth. Her raw descriptions of her earlier experiences and frank acknowledgement of her own culpability seem to belie the title of her book, *Deceived*. Then I came to

realise that it was descriptive of *all* of the women who are duped into believing that abortion is a simple, painless and guilt-free solution to an unplanned pregnancy, together with the blasphemy that it is a human right.

John Morrissey is a retired secondary school teacher who has taught in government, independent and Catholic schools. He lives in the Melbourne suburb of Hawthorn.

BOOK SHELF

Antidotes to fake news

Four recent book releases from the U.S.



Rigged: How the Media, Big Tech, and the Democrats Seized Our Elections, by Mollie Hemingway (Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, 2021). Hardcover: 448 pages. ISBN: 978-1684512591. RRP: US\$30.00

Capping their four-year campaign to destroy the Trump presidency, the U.S. media portrayed a Democratic victory in 2020 as necessary and inevitable. Big Tech, wielding unprecedented powers, vaporised dissent and erased damning reports about the Biden family's corruption. And Democratic operatives, exploiting a public health crisis, shamelessly manipulated the voting process itself. Silenced and subjected, the American people lost their faith in the system.

Rigged is the definitive account of the disputed 2020 election. Based on Mollie Hemingway's exclusive interviews with campaign officials, reporters, Supreme Court justices and Donald Trump himself, it exposes the fraud and cynicism behind the Democrats' historic power-grab.

Mollie Hemingway (*née* Ziegler) is one of America's most respected journalists. She is a senior editor at *The Federalist*, a contributor to Fox News, and the co-author of the #1 national bestseller *Justice on Trial: The Kavanaugh Confirmation and the Future of the Supreme Court* (Regnery, 2019). Her sensational and copiously researched exposé is a reminder for weary patriots that truth is still the most powerful weapon. The stakes for U.S. democracy have never been higher.



January 6: How Democrats Used the Capitol Protest to Launch a War on Terror Against the Political Right, by Julie Kelly (Brentwood, TN: Bombardier Books, 2021). Paperback: 320 pages. ISBN: 978-1637582640. Paperback: US\$21.00

Americans were shocked and outraged to see chaos unfold in Washington, DC, on January 6, 2021, when rioters swarmed into the U.S. Houses of Congress. Their unruly protest was directed against Congress's scheduled official certification that day of Joe Biden's apparent victory over Donald Trump in the widely disputed 2020 presidential election.

Democrats, the mainstream media and many leading Republicans roundly blamed outgoing President Trump for the roughly four-hour disturbance. The president had "incited an insurrection", the American public was told, even though none of the rioters to date has been charged with firearm offences.

The events of January 6, 2021, continue to be exploited by the Democratic Party and the national news media in order to criminalise political protest and free speech in America. But one year later, the original narrative of what happened that day

has crumbled, while hundreds of Americans have been swept up in an unprecedented investigation led by Joe Biden's Justice Department to punish them for their involvement in the protest.

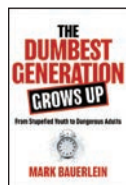
The public has been misled — and flat-out lied to — about a number of aspects related to that day. This book exposes them all. The author Julie Kelly is a widely published political commentator, who has reported on the Russian collusion hoax and the 2020 election fraud.



Red-Handed: How American Elites Get Rich Helping China Win, by Peter Schweizer (New York: HarperCollins, 2022). Hardcover: 352 pages. ISBN: 978-0063061149. RRP: US\$30.00

Bestselling author Peter Schweizer says that, in a quarter-century as an investigative journalist, this is the most disturbing investigation he has ever conducted. That the Chinese government seeks to infiltrate American institutions is hardly surprising. What is wholly new, however, are the number of American elites who are eager to help the Chinese dictatorship in its quest for global hegemony. Presidential families, Silicon Valley gurus, Wall Street high rollers, Ivy League universities, even professional athletes — all have been willing to sacrifice American strength and security on the altar of personal enrichment.

Schweizer is co-founder and president of the Government Accountability Institute, a team of investigative researchers and journalists committed to exposing crony capitalism, misuse of taxpayer monies, and other governmental corruption or malfeasance. Exhaustively researched, crisply told, and chilling, *Red-Handed* exposes the nexus of power between the Chinese government and the American elites who do its bidding.



The Dumbest Generation Grows Up: From Stupefied Youth to Dangerous Adults, by Mark Bauerlein (Washington, DC: Regnery Gateway, 2022). Hardcover: 256 pages. ISBN: 978-1684512201. RRP: US\$30.00

Back in 2008, when he published *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future* (2008), Mark Bauerlein was a voice crying in the wilderness. Educationalists were extolling the new generation as "digital natives" because of their proficiency with computers. However, Dr Bauerlein, in his capacity as a university lecturer, was less than impressed. He explained: "I've noticed in the last 10 years that students are no less intelligent, no less ambitious but there are two big differences: Reading habits have slipped, along with general knowledge. You can quote me on this: You guys don't know anything."

Knowing nothing about history, Millennials are convinced that it is merely a catalogue of oppression, inequality and hatred. They lack skills, knowledge, religion and a cultural frame of reference. *The Dumbest Generation Grows Up* is an urgently needed update on the Millennials, explaining the threat that their ignorance poses to the rest of us.

News and views from around the world

Betraying parents of gender-confused kids

My patient “Cheryl” is an example of a traumatised parent. Her 18-year-old autistic daughter, her only child, identifies as a man and has been on testosterone for six months. Cheryl is convinced she and her husband were misled by a gender clinic and that “Eva” did not have adequate evaluations and therapy. For the first time in her life, Cheryl is taking psychiatric medication for her constant crying, sleeplessness and anxiety.

Cheryl feels she’s at odds with everyone: Eva, family members, friends, schools, doctors, therapists, politicians, the media and the culture. On how many fronts can one person fight? I was not surprised when Cheryl told me, “Sometimes I wish my daughter had cancer. The whole world would be there for me.”

Doctors at Johns Hopkins tell Cheryl to embrace her child’s “evolving sense of self”. But when she first heard the lowered pitch of Eva’s voice, Cheryl threw up. A double mastectomy is planned; the thought of it floods her with panic and horror. She fears for Eva’s physical and emotional health, including her sexual health.

Excerpt from Miriam Grossman, *The Federalist* (USA), November 11, 2021.

Secret LGBT activists infiltrating conservative congregations

“I think you need to know what the next front in the culture war is,” a senior state leader of a conservative U.S. evangelical denomination told me recently.

He said that pastors in five different churches in the southern region of his state had reported the same phenomenon. They have had strangers come and join their congregations, and six months or so later, come out as transgender, and demand their rights as official members of the congregation.

It has happened to so many of these churches, in the same period of time, that they believe it is part of a concerted effort to undermine those churches. There is serious concern among the denomination’s lawyers that these undercover trans activists have found a legal way to force these congregations to capitulate on trans issues, or face ruinous lawsuits.

“There are a lot of churches in our denomination that don’t have a lot of money,” my friend said. “If they get sued, they won’t have enough resources to even defend themselves.”

My friend said he just met with the pastors of this region, who have all been poleaxed by this. Many of them are barely able to understand gender fluidity as a concept, much less figure out how to deal with it from a faithfully Christian point of view. They are sitting ducks, according to my friend.

Excerpt from Rod Dreher, *The American Conservative*, January 31, 2022.

NGOs vs. Hungary: actors of an asymmetrical warfare

Politics in the 21st century is not the game we have used to play in the old times with established, clear-cut parties, honourable and well-known career-politicians, and straightforward manifestos battling each other on the podiums for all to see in an accountable and civic manner.

Now, in the era of supranational organisations and global NGO-networks, we are drifting further and further from the

world of transparent politics, and everything has seemingly withdrawn behind the curtains of plausible deniability.

The double standards and unabashed bias of the Brussels elite and international NGOs towards the conservative governments of Central Europe have been obvious for the past decade. They are part of a dangerous, asymmetrical political warfare: unelected and therefore unaccountable bureaucrats funnelling largely untraceable funds to undermine the legitimacy of democratically elected governments just because they choose not to adhere to the global, leftist mainstream.

Excerpt from Tamás Orbán, *Hungarian Conservative*, February 21, 2022.

Don’t let the ‘woke’ teach your children

“The values we teach our children” was the theme of a two-day summit held in Budapest, Hungary, on February 16–17, and hosted by the Mathias Corvinus Collegium.

Katy Faust, founder of the children’s rights organisation Them Before Us, emphasised that parents have the right to educate their children — a right that is gradually being taken out of their hands by educational institutions.

That is why parents should talk to their children about all the “uncomfortable” topics, she argued. Parents also need to compete for the education of their children with social media. If parents don’t want to talk to their kids, Netflix and TikTok will.

Excerpt from Dávid Nagy, *The Hungarian Conservative*, February 22, 2022.

Men play large role in women’s abortion decision, study finds

“The study confirms once again that, far from being solely a ‘woman’s issue’, everyone has a role to play in building a culture of life,” Dr Ryan Anderson, president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, told *The Daily Signal*.

“Husbands and boyfriends are particularly important in the advice and support they offer to pregnant women, as are churches — and more needs to be done to encourage women to choose life,” said Anderson, co-author with Alexandra DeSanctis of the forthcoming book *Tearing Us Apart: How Abortion Harms Everything and Solves Nothing* (Washington, DC: Regnery, 2022).

Excerpt from Virginia Allen, *The Daily Signal* (Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC), January 31, 2022.

A pregnant woman is viewed as an impediment, not an asset

Of all the bodies, the most unloved is, I would say, that of women. A pregnant woman is just a chore. Nothing is more annoying for our brains in Silicon Valley than a woman who must for nine months carry her child, prepare her body to welcome an infant, and maintain her body to house him or her.

They do not see a pregnant woman as the incarnation of kindness, gentleness, and sacrifice. There is no symbolic or figurative respect for her. They see her as a loss of productivity. According to them, getting pregnant is costly for our dynamic and flamboyant economy, where the homeless die in the dark and where youth are suffocated with debt.

Excerpt from Zineb Riboua, *Beyond the Ideological* (USA), February 4, 2022. □

Vale Dr Daphne Hennelly

(February 17, 1922 – October 21, 2021)

Dr Daphne Violet Hennelly (née Bousfield) was one of Endeavour Forum's long-time stalwart contributors. She went to her eternal reward on October 21, 2021. She was passionately pro-life and pro-family, and supported Babette Francis in her many endeavours, including writing book reviews for this publication over many years.

Daphne was the loving mother of Paul, Christine, Michael, Stephen, Monica, Rosemary and Clare. She had 17 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She passed away within months of what would have been her 100th birthday.

In the eulogy, delivered by her son Stephen at her requiem at St Patrick's Church, in the Melbourne suburb of Mentone, there was recorded a long list of Catholic charities and kindred organisations to which she contributed.

Daphne trained as a medical doctor in London, and in 1947 married John Calvert-Smith, a solicitor, in England. Three years later, they migrated to Australia, and began a family. Tragedy struck in 1959, when her husband died suddenly from a brain



aneurism. Left with five young children, Daphne married again, this time to James Hennelly (since deceased), and bore two more children. While raising this large family, she re-entered the medical profession, and enjoyed a prodigious involvement in music, sport, travel and photography along the way.

Daphne practised medicine until the age of 85, when a mild stroke restricted her activities. She was a strong supporter of conventional vaccines, but was aware of their limitations and the advantages of natural immunity. Although working with unwell patients, she never even needed or received a flu vaccine. She would have been appalled at the coercion, discrimination and farcical outcomes of an obsession with one particular ailment, and the neglect of so many other areas of healthcare, which have occurred in the past two years.

Like many other elderly people in their last days, Daphne suffered from the deprivations inflicted on Victorians by state government lockdowns, including the loss of her beloved music events. As her son's eulogy concluded, "Mother, you came from a strong and principled generation. We respect you enormously. And we love you dearly. God bless you."

May she rest in peace. Amen.

Forging a new militant ecumenicalism

The problem comes when Christians do not realise that they are in a spiritual conflict, or do not want any part of it. The proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ is a declaration of war against the world and the domain of darkness. Every Christian who proclaims this message of salvation is engaged in a spiritual battle.

If we think that as long as we "stick to the gospel" or "focus on Jesus", and avoid all those controversial topics like God, sin, salvation, idolatry, sexual immorality, heaven and hell we are playing it safe, we are fooling ourselves. We have now moved into a new phase where the gospel itself is "hate speech", because the gospel proclaims that *Jesus saves sinners*. What message could be more offensive to this generation?

Excerpt from Rev. Dr Andrew Matthews, *Nails and Goads* (NSW), February 11, 2022.

Prayer of Saint Richard of Chichester (1197–1253)

Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits Thou hast given me,
For all the pains and insults Thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly, and
Follow Thee more nearly,
Day by day.

AMEN.

Richard of Chichester (1197–1253) was a faithful and godly priest who became Bishop of Chichester. He is the patron saint of the county of Sussex in southern England.

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