



Forcing Change

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Understanding Six World Views That Rule the World

By Dr. David Noebel (www.summit.org)

Editor's Note: Dr. Noebel is the President of Summit Ministries (www.summit.org), an organization dedicated to defending and fostering a Biblical worldview. He is the author of *Understanding the Times: The Collision of Today's Worldviews*, and co-authored *Clergy in the Classroom: the Religion of Secular Humanism* (with Kevin Bywater and J.F. Baldwin). Both books can be purchased at the Summit website. He and his wife Alice live in Manitou Springs, CO and have two children and five grandchildren.



What is your Worldview?

vastly differing and incompatible worldviews are locked in a bitter conflict that permeates every level of society.”¹

The war, as Dobson and Bauer put it, is a struggle “for the hearts and minds of people. It is a war over ideas.”²

Back in the early 1990s, Dr. James Dobson and Gary Bauer sought to identify what they saw happening to Christian young people in the United States. Their conclusion was that,

“...nothing short of a great Civil War of Values rages today throughout North America. Two sides with

On one side is the Christian worldview, the foundation of Western civilization. On the other side are five worldviews: Islam, Secular Humanism, Marxism, Cosmic Humanism, and Postmodernism. While these worldviews don't agree in every detail, they unanimously concur on one point: their opposition to biblical Christianity.



As in any war, there are casualties, and anti-Christian ideas are taking their toll. Recent surveys indicate that up to 59 percent of “born again” college students drop out of that category by their senior year.³ According to George Barna’s research, nine out of ten “born again” adults do not have a biblical worldview. To effectively engage this battle of ideas, Christians must have an understanding of the times and “know what [they] ought to do” (1 Chronicles 12:32).

What is a Worldview?

Everyone bases his or her decisions and actions on a worldview. We may not be able to articulate our worldview, and our worldview may be inconsistent, but we all have one. *So the question is; what is a worldview?*

A worldview is “an interpretive framework,”⁴ much like a pair of glasses-through which you view everything. It refers to any set of ideas, beliefs, or values that provide a framework or map to help you understand God, the world, and your relationship to God and the world. Specifically, a worldview contains a particular perspective regarding at least each of the following ten disciplines: theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, psychology, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history.⁴

This article summarizes the six worldviews that currently exert the most influence over the world. Other worldviews exist, but they wield much less influence. For example, Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, or Shintoism may profoundly influence some Eastern countries, but hardly sway the entire world. The major ideas and belief systems controlling the world, and especially the West, are contained in the following six worldviews.

The Christian Worldview

Many people, including many Christians, do not realize that the Bible addresses all ten disciplines of a worldview. Christianity is the embodiment of Christ’s claim that He is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). When we say, “This is the Christian way,” we mean this is the way Christ would have us approach life and the world. It is no small matter to think and act as Christ instructs.

America has been described as a Christian nation. However, America – along with the rest of Western Civilization – has turned away from its intellectual, cultural and religious heritage. Almost thirty years ago, Christian philosopher Francis Schaeffer noted America’s drift toward secularism as a failure of Christians “to see that all of this [cultural and social breakdown] has come about due to a shift in worldview—that is, through a fundamental change in the overall way people think and view the world and life as a whole.”⁶

The study of worldviews in general, and the Christian worldview in particular, is a wake-up call for

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everyone. A country seeking to promote human rights (including the right to be born), liberty, and the common good must adhere to the only worldview that can account for our existence and dignity. We contend that human dignity comes from the fact that human beings are created in the image of God, a uniquely biblical perspective. Abandoning this perspective has dire consequences, considering the rise in abortions, homosexual practices, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, embryonic stem cell research, and the move toward human cloning.

The Islamic Worldview

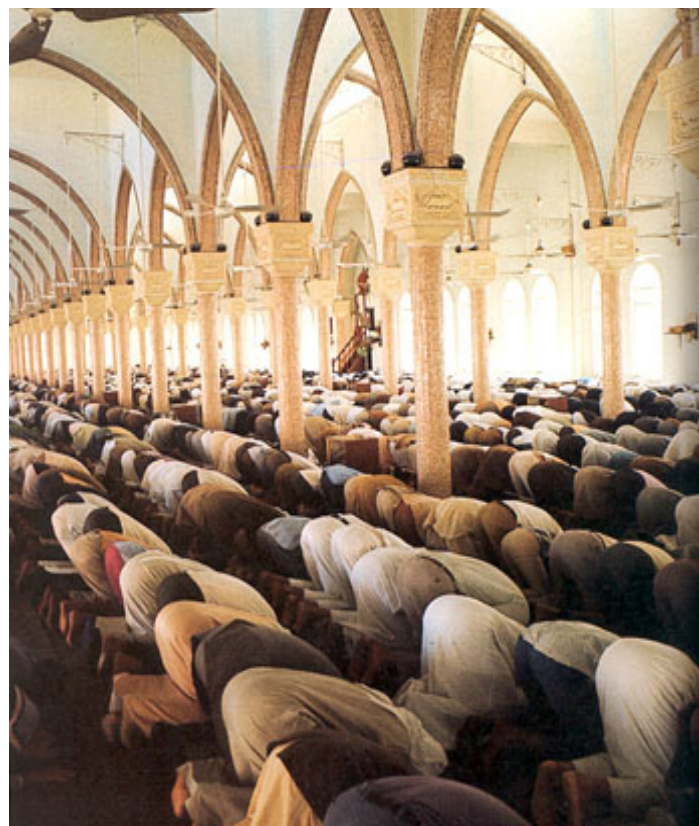
It is estimated there are 1.3 billion followers of Islam.⁷ In recent years, the Islamic worldview has been growing exponentially in numbers, power and influence, and therefore, is worthy of our study. As one article headlined, “The future belongs to Islam,”⁸ providing added incentive to understand its beliefs and goals.

Writing in *The Sword of the Prophet*, commentator and international political consultant, Serge Trifkovic, explains that “Islam is not a ‘mere’ religion; it is a complete way of life, an all-embracing social, political and legal system that breeds a worldview peculiar to itself.”⁹

Christianity and Islam have some teachings in common, including belief in a personal God, creation of the material universe, angels, immortality of the soul, heaven, hell, and judgment of sin. Likewise, Muslims accept Jesus as a prophet (one of many), his virgin birth, physical ascension, second coming, miracles, and messiahship.¹⁰

The major differences between Christianity and Islam is Islam’s rejection of the biblical Trinitarian God and the death of Jesus for the sins of the world. Muslims likewise reject Jesus’ physical resurrection from the dead and his claim to be the Son of God.

Another major difference between the founder of Christianity and the founder of Islam is that the Bible describes Jesus as living a sinless life while the traditions of Islam depict Muhammad having many flaws.



“Muhammad’s practice and constant encouragement of bloodshed,” writes Trifkovic, “are unique in the history of religions. Murder, pillage, rape, and more murder are in the Koran and in the Traditions.”¹¹

Furthermore, Muhammad’s life “seems to have impressed his followers with a profound belief in the value of bloodshed as opening the gates of Paradise.”¹² Thus, the history of Islam from 622 A.D. to the present has been a history of violence, submission, and war toward infidels (non-Muslims).

For many Muslims, one of Mohammad’s most important legacies is to see the world as a conflict between the Land of Peace (*Dar al-Islam*) and the Land of War (*Dar al-Harb*). On the other hand, there are a number of Muslims, particularly those living in Western democracies, who do not believe the Koran’s violent passages regarding killing infidels and Islam’s violent history should be applied literally today.¹³ Yet, in either case, Islam is a worldview with which Christians must contend.

The Secular Humanist Worldview

Secular Humanism refers primarily to the ideas and beliefs outlined in the *Humanist Manifestoes* of 1933, 1973, and 2000. Secular Humanism is the dominant worldview on the majority of colleges and universities throughout all Western nations. It has also made gains in many Christian colleges and universities, especially in the areas of biology, sociology, law, politics, and history.

Secular Humanists recognize the classroom as a powerful incubator for indoctrinating students into their worldview. Operating under the educational buzzword “liberalism,” a Secular Humanist agenda controls the curriculum in America’s public schools thanks to the National Education Association, the National Academy of Sciences, and a host of foundations, including the Ford Foundation.

Christians considering a college education must be well versed in the Secular Humanistic worldview or risk losing their own Christian perspective by default. In her book *Walking Away From the Faith*, Ruth Tucker, a professor at Calvin Seminary, makes it clear that Christian students *are* walking away from their faith because of Secular Humanist teaching.

The ideas of Humanism have gained prominent influence throughout modern society. B.F. Skinner, Abraham Maslow, Carl Rogers, and Erich Fromm, all former “Humanists of the Year,” have powerfully affected the discipline of psychology. Scientists such as the late Carl Sagan, another “Humanist of the Year,” preached his Humanism on a widely heralded television and high school curriculum series. More recently, the outspoken atheist and Oxford biologist Richard Dawkins has gained much attention through a number of popular books on evolution and, of course, his 2006 best-seller, *The God Delusion*. Clearly, Humanists are willing to support their worldview – often more faithfully than Christians. For these and other reasons, we must give the Secular Humanist worldview close attention.

The Marxist Worldview

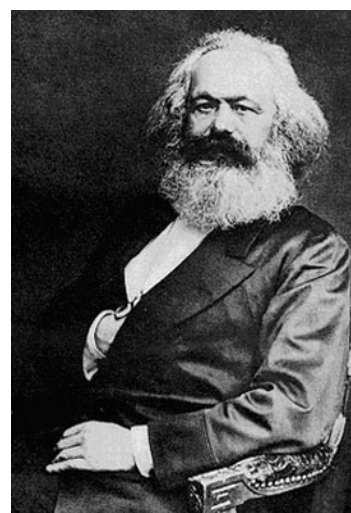
Marxism is a militantly atheistic, materialistic worldview. It has developed a perspective regarding each of the ten disciplines, usually in great detail. Based on the writings of Karl Marx in the late 1800s, Marxism has taken on some new looks in recent years, including debasing culture as a form of revolutionary activity.¹⁴ The latest Communist Manifesto, titled *Empire*, was published in 2000 by Harvard University Press. Marx’s presence continues to be felt around the world.

Marxism predominates on many American university campuses. Recruited as college students in the 1950s and ‘60s, many Marxist “radicals” earned PhDs and are now the tenured faculty on many campuses.

“With a few notable exceptions,” says former Yale professor Roger Kimball, “our most prestigious liberal arts colleges and universities have installed the entire radical menu at the center of their humanities curriculum at both the undergraduate and the graduate level.”¹⁵

U.S. News and World Report published a lengthy article in 2003 entitled “Where Marxism Lives Today,” which states, “Marxism is so entrenched in courses ranging from literature to anthropology...that today’s students are virtually bathed in Marx’s ideas.”¹⁶

The “radical menu” Kimball referred to includes a large serving of economic determinism. According to Karl Marx, the key problem with capitalism is that it breeds exploitation. Therefore, capitalism must be replaced with a more humane economic system, one that abolishes free markets (private property and the free and peaceful



Karl Marx

exchange of goods and services) and replaces it with a government-controlled economy.

Marx's economic ideas and political policy go hand in hand. A Marxist style communism controls a large number of nations around the world, and traveling under the name of "social democracy," a Marxist inspired political philosophy has engulfed Western European nations. Further, many South American countries have also taken a Marxist turn in recent years, and many think that the current administration and congress of the United States is quickly taking America down the same socialist road.¹⁷

In addition, some Christian groups have attempted to combine their Christianity with Marx's ideas of social equality. Because of the prevalence and subversive nature of Marxism, Christians must be aware of the goals of Marxist-thinking professors, politicians, and theologians.

The Cosmic Humanist Worldview

The Cosmic Humanist worldview consists of two interrelated spiritual movements. One is known as the New Age Movement (NAM) and the other is neo-paganism, which includes occult practices, Native American spiritism, and Wicca.

The New Age Movement mixes ancient Eastern religions (especially Hinduism and Zen Buddhism) with a touch of other religious traditions, adds a smattering of scientific jargon, and imports the newly baked concoction into mainstream America. "The New Age," explains researcher Johanna Michaelsen, "is the ultimate eclectic religion of self: Whatever you decide is right for you is what's right, as long as you don't get narrow-minded and exclusive about it."¹⁸

The assumption that truth resides within each individual, however, becomes the cornerstone for a worldview. Granting oneself the power to discern all truth is a facet of theology, and this theology has ramifications that many members of the New Age movement have already discovered. Marilyn Ferguson, author of *The Aquarian Conspiracy* (a book referred to as "The New Age

watershed classic"), says the movement ushers in a "new mind – the ascendance of a startling worldview."¹⁹

This worldview is summed up by Jonathan Adolph,

"In its broadest sense, New Age thinking can be characterized as a form of utopianism, the desire to create a better society, a 'New Age' in which humanity lives in harmony with itself, nature, and the cosmos."²⁰

While New Age believers make no serious distinctions between religions, considering that all are ultimately the same, John P. Newport explains that,

"...neopagans generally believe that they are practicing an ancient folk religion, whether as a survival or a revival. Thus, being focused on the pagan religions of the past, they are not particularly interested in a New Age of the future."²¹

Through best-selling books and popular television shows and movies,²² the Cosmic Humanist worldview is gaining converts in the West and around the world. Malachi Martin lists dozens of organizations that are either New Age or sympathetic to Cosmic Humanist views. Clearly, Cosmic Humanism, a transplant from the East, is a growing presence throughout the Western hemisphere.

The Postmodern Worldview

Forced to face the inhumanity, destruction, and horror brought about by the Third Reich and the Soviet Gulag during the first half of the 20th century, a substantial group of Enlightenment humanists and neo-Marxists abandoned their worldview to create one they believed more fitting with reality, resulting in the Postmodern turn. By the 1980's, Postmodern professors were making significant inroads in humanities and social science departments around the world.

Christian philosopher J.P. Moreland notes that Postmodernism refers to a philosophical approach

primarily in the area of epistemology, or what counts as knowledge or truth. Broadly speaking, Moreland says “Postmodernism represents a form of cultural relativism about such things as truth, reality, reason, values, linguistic meaning, the ‘self’ and other notions.”²³

Though Postmodernism comes in many forms, there are three unifying values: (1) a commitment to relativism; (2) an opposition to meta-narratives, or totalizing explanations of reality that are true for all people of all cultures; and (3) the idea of culturally created realities. Each of these commitments are designed to deny that there is a worldview or belief system that can be considered absolute Truth.

Postmodernism’s most effective methodological tool, one used extensively in university modern language departments, is known as Deconstruction, which means (1) that words do not represent reality, and (2) that concepts expressed in sentences in any language are arbitrary.

Some Postmodernists go so far as to deconstruct humanity itself. Thus, along with the death of God, truth, and reason, humanity is also obliterated. Paul Kugler notes the ironic twist: “Today, it is the speaking subject who declared God dead one hundred years ago whose very existence is now being called into question.”²⁴

To complicate matters even further, we must acknowledge that there even exists a variety of Postmodernism called “Christian Postmodernism.”²⁵ Such is the essence of mainstream Postmodernism—a worldview that claims there are no worldviews. This “anti-worldview” worldview is one that certainly demands the attention of thoughtful Christians.

Conclusion

We cannot overstate the significance of these five anti-Christian worldviews. The basis for much of what is taught in the public classroom today comes from Secular, Marxist, Cosmic Humanist, and Postmodern thinking and takes on a variety of labels: liberalism, multiculturalism,

political correctness, deconstructionism, or self-esteem education. Or, as is often the case, the labels are dropped and courses are taught from anti-Christian assumptions without students being told which worldview is being expressed. Neutrality in education is a myth.

The first chapter of the Book of Daniel explains how Daniel and his friends prepared themselves to survive and flourish amid the clash of worldviews of their day. We believe that Christian young people equipped with a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the Christian worldview and its rivals can become “Daniels” who will not stand on the sidelines, but will participate in the great collision of worldviews in the twenty-first century.

Society will flourish in the light of truth only when the emphasis shifts back to a Christian perspective. This dramatic shift in emphasis *can* be brought about through the leadership of thousands of informed, confident Christian students who think deeply and broadly from a well-honed biblical worldview and emerge as leaders in education, business, science, and government.

Our desire to bring about this shift in emphasis is the fundamental reason Summit Ministries produces curricula and resources for Christian schools and home school families (primary, middle, and secondary), presents in-service worldview training for teachers across the U.S. and around the world, and provides worldview conferences for students and adults. Information is available at www.summit.org. **FC**

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*This article is taken from the introductory chapter of David A. Noebel, *Understanding the Times, 2nd Ed.*, (Summit Press: Manitou Springs, CO, 2006). *Understanding the Times* is a landmark text that provides a comprehensive comparison of the six worldviews discussed in this article and can be purchased at www.summit.org. Portions of the original text has been edited and re-written by Chuck Edwards for the purposes of this article.

Endnotes:

¹ James C. Dobson and Gary L. Bauer, *Children at Risk: The Battle For the Hearts and Minds of Our Kids* (Dallas, TX: Word, 1990), p.19.

² Ibid., p.19-20.

³ Taken from the "College Student Survey." Cooperative Institutional Research Program, U.C.L.A. Online article: http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/css_po.html. [Note: link is no longer active].

⁴ Norman L. Geisler and William D. Watkins, *Worlds Apart* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989), p.11.

⁵ Other areas could be included in a definition of worldview, such as the arts, yet these ten disciplines contain the primary areas, acting as a web of interacting ideas, which contribute to a total world and life view.

⁶ Francis A. Schaeffer, *A Christian Manifesto* (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1981), p.17.

⁷ <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0001468.html>.

⁸ "The Future Belongs to Islam," by Mark Steyn, October 20, 2006, accessed 5/4/2009, www.macleans.ca/culture/books/article.jsp?content=20061023_134898_134898.

⁹ Serge Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet* (Boston, MA: Regina Orthodox, 2002), p.55.

¹⁰ Ibid., p.369.

¹¹ Op cit., p.51.

¹² Ibn Warraq (Ed.), *The Quest for the Historical Muhammad*, New York, 2000, p.349, quoted in Trifkovic, p.51.

¹³ See the American Islamic Forum for Democracy at www.aifdemocracy.org.

¹⁴ Paul Edward Gottfried, *The Strange Death of Marxism: The European Left in the New Millennium* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2005); David Horowitz, *Unholy Alliance: Radical Islam and the American Left* (Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, 2004); Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Empire* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000); Rolf Wiggershaus, *The Frankfurt School: Its History, Theories, and Political Significance* (Cambridge, NY: MIT, 1998); Raymond Aron, *The Opium of the Intellectuals* (third printing; New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction, 2003).

¹⁵ Roger Kimball, *Tenured Radicals* (New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1990), p.xiii.

¹⁶ *U.S. News and World Report*, Special Collection Edition, September 2, 2003, p.86.

¹⁷ See the online article, "The Socialization of America," by David Noebel, accessed 5/4/2009, http://www.summit.org/blogs/pd/2009/03/the_socialization_of_america.php

¹⁸ Johanna Michaelsen, *Like Lambs to the Slaughter* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1989), p.11.

¹⁹ Marilyn Ferguson, *The Austrian Conspiracy* (Los Angeles, CA: J.P. Tarcher, 1980), p.23.

²⁰ Adolph, p.11.

²¹ John P. Newport, *The New Age Movement and the Biblical Worldview: Conflict and Dialogue* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co, 1998) p.214.

²² Books by best-selling authors include *The Celestine Prophecy* and *Conversations with God*, while Cosmic Humanist themes are explicit in TV shows such as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Lost*, as well as through films such as *Pocahontas*, *Mulan*, and *Star Wars* (directed toward children), and *Sixth Sense*, *Gladiator*, *Dances with Wolves*, and *Hidalgo*, (for adult viewing), just to name a few in each category.

²³ See J.P. Moreland's website for his article "Postmodernism and the Christian Life." Also, J. P. Moreland and William Lane Craig, *The Philosophical Foundation of a Christian Worldview*.

²⁴ Walter Truett Anderson, *The Future of the Self: Exploring the Post-Identity Society* (New York, NY: Tarcher/Putnam, 1997), p.32.

²⁵ See D.A. Carson, *The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996); Myron B. Penner, ed., *Christianity and the Postmodern Turn* (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2005); and D.A. Carson, *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005).

The Mind-Changing Myths of Avatar:

Blending Hinduism, Shamanism and Goddess Spirituality

By Berit Kjos.

Editor's Note: Berit Kjos is an author and speaker focusing on how our changing culture is impacting and influencing Christianity, and Western values. Her books include *Brave New Schools* and *A Twist of Faith*.

Mrs. Kjos is a reader of *Forcing Change*, a dear friend, and trusted co-worker in the battle for truth. Her website is an excellent resource (www.crossroad.to).

"We...need to reawaken something very old...our understanding of Earth wisdom. We need to accept the invitation to the dance – the dance of unity of humans, plants, the Earth." – *Deep Ecology*.¹

"I propose that Cameron is alluding to that **tenth avatar of Vishnu** becoming manifest as the US marine in Pandora's universe. The deliberate choice of the **blue skin** instantly, magically and metaphorically relates our protagonist to two previous avatars namely **Rama and Krishna**." – Sita Wadhwani, *Mumbai Editor*.²

"When I woke up this morning after watching *Avatar* for the first time yesterday, the world seemed... gray. It was like my whole life, everything I've done and worked for, lost its meaning...I live in a dying world." – *Avatar-forums.com*.³

Imagine a new world! **Visualize** its beauty! **Flow** with your feelings! **Become** one with all! *But what about reality?*

With their cat-like eyes, pointed ears, snarling

hiss and balancing tails, the tall Na'vi humanoid-fit right into a spiritual network that supposedly links everything on Pandora, a lush distant moon. Environmentally attuned, they ride through the skies on powerful birds, climb the stony walls of magnificent hanging mountains, and worship their goddess. Naturally, they despise the corporate monstrosity that has invaded their habitat in search of priceless resources.

Those earthly intruders intend to excavate Pandora's most sacred spot. To avoid war, they brought a scientific team trained to befriend the indigenous Na'vi people and persuade them to move.

That team includes latecomer Jake Sully, a paraplegic Marine replacing his slain twin brother. After some training, his mind and consciousness would periodically be transferred to his Na'vi-like avatar – a body originally made to match his brother's DNA.

Remember the Hindu word *avatar*? It refers to an incarnation or manifestation of a Hindu god. The most common avatars are incarnations of the god Vishnu, and they include the mischievous flute-playing Krishna and the bow-and-arrow carrying Rama. Both are usually pictured with bluish skin – just like the native Na'vis.

Testing his new avatar legs, tail and body, Jake heads for the forest, admires the flowers, and faces a rhino-sized beast. This strange world is nothing like the gray, polluted earth he left behind!⁴

Moments later, a snarling panther-like *thanator* chases him deeper into the woods where he meets the beautiful Neytiri who aims her bow and arrow at him. Fortunately, she receives a message from her mysterious goddess through a cloud of white flower-like creatures that settle on Jake – a clear sign that the goddess [Eywa] wants Neytiri to befriend this ignorant stranger. But first she scolds him for causing the death of other terrifying pursuers.

Hmmm...Do you wonder why Neytiri carries a bow and arrow when *all life is one*?⁵



Jake does his best to follow the sure-footed Neytiri (climbing, leaping, etc.) back to Hometree, her clan's sacred domain. She introduces him to Mo'at, her psychic mother who happens to be the tribal *tsahik* (shaman speaking for Eywa). She tells her daughter to train this "dreamwalker" in their native ways. Some of the clan warriors look skeptical.

Jake is a good pupil, and his lessons on pantheistic unity soon shift his loyalty from his worldly mission to the tribe and Eywa. So when his commander prepares to destroy Hometree and much of the sacred forests, Jake springs into action. Through psychic linkage, he tames and rides the fiercest bird of all – the mighty *Toruk*, who became his "spirit animal" through a ritual Spirit Quest [see footnote 4]. Speeding above the forests, he gathers Pandora's tribes for war.

He prays to Eywa for help, and she answers his plea. She summons birds and beasts of every kind. With such an army, how could they lose?

Her final "miracle" is to transfer Jake's life from his injured earthly body to his Na'vi avatar. Now, he's one of them!

It all sounds good to earthlings who love the myth of pantheistic oneness! No wonder thousands of viewers became depressed (even suicidal) after their virtual experience of Pandora's wonders. To them, dropping their 3-D glasses into the recycling bin at the exit means a dreaded return to a dull reality! Ponder the potential effect of this seductive journey on those who love fantasy more

than facts:

"Ever since I went to see 'Avatar' I have been depressed. Watching the wonderful world of Pandora and all the Na'vi made me want to be one of them. I can't stop thinking about all the things that happened in the film...I even contemplate suicide thinking that if I do it I will be rebirthed in a world similar to Pandora'." (Mike at Avatar-forums.com)

The reality behind this mind-bending, feeling-based mythology is the existence of an occult spiritual system. Avatar's promotion of pantheism and panentheism (all is in God, yet God is transcendent over everything) points to the "spiritual unity" at the heart of Hinduism, Native American shamanism, and the worship of Mother Earth. They all clash with God's truth.

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness!" – Isaiah 5:20-21

1. Hindu gods and their Avatars

Writer and director Sudipto Chattopadhyay believes that Cameron's choice of the title (Avatar) reflects a Hindu perspective,

"The ancient Hindu scriptures have forever reiterated that whenever the world would be on the brink of disaster and mankind faces extinction... the divine **Lord Vishnu** would consider it his duty to **manifest himself in mortal, palpable form to save mankind** from the impending doomsday... the **Avatar is meant to be the savior**, the messiah of his own race and people." [see footnote #2]

In Cameron's mythical movie, planet Pandora was certainly facing a major disaster, and Jake – incarnated in his Na'vi avatar – seems to be the **saving avatar**. After all, he was chosen and approved by the goddess herself!

Chattopadhyay is not the only one affirming the Hindu suggestions in this movie. Rajan Zed, president of the Universal Society of Hinduism, repeats the need for intervention through an avatar – though he may not approve of this movie,

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“‘Avatar,’ a Sanskrit term, means descent or incarnation. Hinduism is shaped by its traditional belief in the incarnation of Vishnu (the Preserver in Hindu trinity) into ten forms to establish dharma (divine law), which include Matsya, Kurma...**Rama, Krishna, Buddha**...Hindus believe that without such intervention, the entire created universe would have gone into decline.”⁶

For a glimpse of the dark side of Hinduism please read *Let the Little Children Come* (www.crossroad.to/Excerpts/books/faith/amy/let-children-come.htm).

2. Goddess Spirituality

“The spiritual sense of our place in nature...can be traced to the origins of human civilization,” wrote Al Gore in his 1990 book, *Earth in the Balance*.⁷ Mr. Cameron would probably agree. Since he and Gore seem to think alike on some issues, ponder this next statement. Here Al Gore suggests that,

“...a goddess religion was ubiquitous throughout much of the world until the antecedents of **today’s religions**...The last vestige of organized goddess worship was eliminated by Christianity...it seems obvious that a better understanding of a religious heritage preceding our own by so many thousands of years could offer us new insights...” [see footnote #7].

Useful “new insights” from goddess worship? What might they be? In his next statement, Mr. Gore gives us a clue,

“The richness and diversity of our religious tradition throughout history is a spiritual resource long ignored by people of faith [Christians?] who are often **afraid to open their minds** to teachings first offered outside their own system of belief. But the emergence of a civilization in which knowledge moves freely and almost instantaneously throughout the world has...spurred a renewed investigation of the wisdom distilled by all faiths. This **panreligious perspective** may prove especially important where our global civilization’s responsibility for the earth is concerned” [see footnote #7].

Finally, Gore quotes Dr. Karan Singh, a Hindu environmentalist who wrote, “The Earth is our mother, and we are all her children” [footnote 7]. That should arouse fear rather than comfort, for when we look back to ancient goddess-worshipping cultures, we see unspeakable cruelty.

“...they speak a **vision of their own heart**...They continually say to those who despise Me, ‘The Lord has said, ‘You shall have peace’ and to everyone who **walks according to the dictates of his own heart**, they say, ‘No evil shall come upon you’.” – Jeremiah 23:16.

3. Native American Pantheism, Animism and Shamanism

According to Al Gore, Native American religions “offer a rich tapestry of ideas about our **relationship to the earth**.” He quotes Chief Seattle, who supposedly asked this question,

“Will you teach your children what we have taught our children? That the earth is our mother?...This we know: the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all” [see footnote 7].

Sounds like Pandora, doesn’t it? And it’s just as unreal. Those words were actually written by Ted Perry for a 1971 environmental movie. It was just the message they needed to persuade viewers of their point of view!

Likewise, the mythical Na’vi present “right” ideology. Largely patterned after today’s idealized views of Native Americans, they draw viewers into an unforgettable encounter with the “illusions of oneness.” Few realize that behind the “beautiful side of paganism” lie the same human tendencies that bring pain and destruction to all parts of the world: greed, violence, competition, and war.

The late Dr. Clark Wissler, Curator Emeritus of the Department of Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History, was recognized as a world authority on Native Americans. In his book, *Indians of the United States*, he describes all the admirable aspects of their culture: their love for their

children, their hospitality and their beliefs.

He also had the courage to expose the sad facts. Stripping away the popular myth of perfect harmony, Wissler shows us that Native Americans struggle with the same human nature we do. Look at some popular myths in the light of additional facts.

- **Harmony with nature?** To stampede a herd of buffalo, hunters might set the grass on fire behind the flock. The escaping herd would “flounder into a swamp or tumble over a cliff.” (pp. 270, 14)

- **Preserver of life?** “The early Indian hunted the wild horse for food, which may be one of the reasons why they became extinct long before white men came to America.” (p.287)

- **Peace with each other?** “The elders of neighboring tribes talked peace...but the marauding traditions were so carefully fostered that raiding for blood, captives, and plunder was on the level of second nature.” (p.63)

- **Respect for all life?** The Iroquois, noted for democratic self-government, “planned to destroy the Huron. It was not to be a war of subjugation; they hated the Huron intensely...After taking the first town, they massacred the entire population. If they took captives, it was to torture them to death.” (p.131)⁸

I don’t want to diminish the wrongs committed against Native Americans: killing, selling alcohol, taking their land, ignoring treaty obligations, etc. Yet our children need to **see these tragic violations in the light of the whole truth**. Apart from our Creator and Savior, human nature everywhere will express its selfishness and violence. If we dismiss uncomfortable facts in order to **prove a false ideal**, we perpetuate the lies. We also hide the only solution that works – trusting and following God.

Filling minds with occult visions and evolutionary ideals will surely immunize the masses against the Truth of God. **His reality** is incompatible with Avatar’s **mystical illusions**! Yet people have, through the ages, chosen to compromise

God's truths with their imagination. Remember the moral condition of the masses back in Noah's days:

"...every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." – Genesis 6:5.

Similar conditions will prevail when Jesus returns (See Luke 17:20). Today's occult movies and computer games, playing on the imaginations of impressionable children, could open a "Pandora's Box" of paganism and spiritual bondage. So let's heed His warnings,

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the **basic principles of the world**, and not according to Christ." – Colossians 2:8

Additional warning: The following is an excerpt from an article titled, *Avatar sex education? U.S. Gives Yale Researcher \$3.9-Million in Tax Dollars to Develop 'Avatar' Sex-Ed Video Game for Kids*.

"...a division of the **National Institutes of Health** is giving Dr. Lynn Fiellin, an assistant professor at the Yale School of Medicine, \$3.9 million over five years to develop a video game to teach 'sex, drug and alcohol negotiation and refusal skills' to children 9-14 years of age. The game will feature 'virtual characters or avatars' that are guided by the children playing the game to make decisions about whether to engage in behaviors that put them at risk of being infected with HIV."

"...the '**avatars**' in the **video game** will not actually engage in sexual or other high-risk activity on the child's computer screen. 'The avatars engage in role playing, having conversations in which they refuse to engage in risky behaviors'." **FC**

Berit Kjos is author of *Brave New Schools* and *A Twist of Faith*. Her website is www.crossroad.to.

Endnotes:

¹ Bill Devall and George Session, *Deep Ecology* (Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith Publishers, 1985), p.ix.

² *The religious backdrop to James Cameron's 'Avatar,'* at www.cnn.com/mumbai/play/avatar-hindu-perspective-961455.

³ A comment by "Hill" at Avatar-forums.com.

⁴ *Avatar: The Na'vi Quest*, Adapted from the movie by Nicole Pitesa, (Harper Festival, 2009), pp.1 and 57. This small book provides some details not explained in the movie.

⁵ The above book (footnote #4) answers that question: The Na'vi were meat-eating hunters, but they had to understand the pantheistic oneness before they could take life. When Jake kills a *hexapede*, he prays: "I see you, brother, and thank you. Your spirit goes with Eywa, your body stays behind to become part of the people." (p.39)

⁶ Hindus ask for a disclaimer with James Cameron's 'Avatar,' at www.entertainmentandshowbiz.com/avatar-hindus-ask-for-a-disclaimer-with-james-camerons-avatar-2009111822418.

⁷ Al Gore, *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit* (Houghton Mifflin, 1992), pp. 260, 258-259, 261.

⁸ Clark Wissler, PILD, *Indians of the United States* (New York: Anchor Books, Doubleday), pp. 270, 14, 287, 63, 131.

The Challenge of Communism

How Communists Destroyed the US/New Zealand Alliance: A Lesson For Today's America

By Trevor Loudon

Editor's Note: "The Challenge of Communism" is the heading under which two articles by New Zealand researcher and writer, Trevor Loudon, are being presented.

Most Westerners have a false notion that "communism is dead." Far from it, communism as an ideology with a social-change message is alive-and-well. The language may change, this is an historically documented methodology, but the ultimate message itself remains. One example is "social justice" – a Leninist concept that still retains the Leninist context of class warfare. Today's "progressive" Christian community is rife with calls for "social justice," largely without understanding what it is that is being asked for (social justice replaces Biblical compassion).

To help us understand the influence of communism in today's culture, Trevor Loudon has graciously given Forcing Change permission to publish his two articles: "How Communists Destroyed the US/New Zealand Alliance," and "Communist Party USA Gets Religion!"

Trevor Loudon specializes in researching and writing on major leftist ideologies. He is the editor of *New Zeal* at newzeal.blogspot.com and *KeyWiki* at www.keywiki.org.

The Obama presidential campaign achieved one positive thing. It alerted many Americans to the resurgent Marxist influence in US politics.



Reports of Obama's links to Democratic Socialists of America and Communist Party USA reached millions via the internet, even if it never made the mainstream.

So?

How can fewer than 10,000 revolutionaries possibly affect a country as powerful as the USA?

In politics, *influence* trumps numbers. How many Mafiosi stand for Parliament in Sicily? None. Therefore the Mafia has no political influence in Sicily?

Secondly, *the real threat* of communism has seldom been identified. Espionage and revolutionary violence are important, but they are not the REAL threat. To illustrate, I will give an example from my own country, New Zealand.

For decades New Zealand was a loyal member of the Australia, New Zealand, United States alliance, known by its acronym ANZUS.

In 1984 voters threw out the "conservative" government of Rob Muldoon and elected the leftist Labour government of David Lange.

Within months ANZUS was on the rocks. New Zealand banned US nuclear warships from her harbors. Why?

New Zealand's pro-Soviet communists, the Socialist Unity Party (SUP), controlled the New Zealand labor movement.

The SUP's Soviet masters wanted to break a Western country away from the US umbrella, in the hope of weakening the NATO alliance. The Soviets regarded my country as the West's weakest link, so they ordered the SUP to build up the New Zealand peace movement and expand its influence into all sectors of society.

In 1976, the SUP set up an affiliate of the Moscow controlled World Peace Council: the New Zealand Council for World Peace. From the SUP's *Auckland Regional Newsletter*, November 12 1980.

"To date in the region the Peace Council has made good progress among trade unions but more effort must be made to build on this and take the peace question to the factory floor. Also needed now is to broaden the Peace Council into other areas of the Community, join up prominent personalities including MPs, increase church involvement, university involvement, other peace groups, community clubs etc. Here branches and comrades can act as catalysts.

We must be extremely careful that in building the Peace Council it does not become overburdened with 'SUP' people or be labelled just another 'SUP' front. If our Party is working correctly, only a few comrades, reporting back to the Region and Branches and taking forward issues from the same sources, are necessary to ensure effective involvement in the Peace movement. The broadest possible base is needed if we are to make the Council effective."

Oleg Gordievsky, a high-ranking KGB officer and British double agent, knew the New Zealand situation well.

"KGB activity increased as the result of the election of David Lange's Labour government in New Zealand on an antinuclear programme in 1984... The [KGB] Centre...was jubilant at Lange's election...In its attempts to draw New Zealand into nuclear-free activities, the Soviet authorities had made tremendous efforts to penetrate and strengthen the

Labour Party, partly through the local Party of Socialist Unity...and partly through the Trades Union Congress."

SUP members studying in Moscow were taught how to turn the new government into a tool of Moscow through a series of covert steps.

1. Anti-nuclear policies formulated in Moscow.
2. SUP members indoctrinated by Soviet tutors to promote anti-nuclearism through the peace movement, the unions, and secret members in the Labour Party.
3. SUP to create a "public groundswell" to pressure Labour into adopting Moscow's anti-nuclear policies.
4. SUP/union/peace movement activists to ensure Labour passed the policies into law.
5. SUP to keep up propaganda to achieve maximum public acceptance of Moscow's policies.

By that time the SUP had substantial influence in Labour's executive and policy council, so the process went smoothly. The Soviets were amazed at how easily their SUP agents were able to plant the communist cuckoo's egg in Labour's nest.

By carefully playing all of its many strings in tune, the SUP was able to turn Soviet policy into Labour Party policy. By playing the patriotic and anti American cards, the SUP was able to make Kiwis proudly destroy ANZUS – while thinking it was their own idea.

That is the real "secret" of communism: The ability of communists to influence moderate leftist parties so that they become the unknowing conduit for communist policies.

While the Soviet Union no longer exists, the same process plays out today through Obama's Democratic Party [editor's note: this also plays out through England's Labour Party, Canada's New Democratic Party, the European Union process, etc).

[**Editor's Note:** The selection below is provided by Trevor Loudon; it demonstrates the current religious-side of religious Marxism].

Communist Party USA Gets Religion!

The Communist Party USA has long assigned members to churches, synagogues, even tabernacles. As part of the CPUSA's big push for power under the Obama administration the party is stepping up its infiltration of organized religion.

From the Communist Party USA's *People's Weekly World*,

CHICAGO - The Communist Party USA has established a new Religion Commission to strengthen its work among religious people and organizations. In its leadership are activists representing various religious traditions from around the country. Tim Yeager, a Chicago trade unionist and a member of the Episcopal Church, serves as its chair.

"We want to reach out to religious people and communities, to find ways of improving our coalition work with them, and to welcome people of faith into the party," Yeager said. "We invite questions and responses from people who would like to dialogue with us on matters pertaining to religion, Marxism and the struggle for more peaceful, just and secure world."

There is a common misconception concerning the position of the Communist Party USA about religion, Yeager noted. Many who are unfamiliar with the party wrongly assume that all Communists are atheists, or that the party requires its members to be atheists. Nothing could be farther from the truth, he said. Religious people are welcome to join. The party's Constitution specifically states that membership is open to *"[a]ny person living in the United States, 18 years of age or over, regardless of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or religious belief..."*

Yeager acknowledged that relations between some Marxist parties and religious institutions in other parts of the world have been marked by conflict. In tsarist Russia, the Russian Orthodox Church had been an arm of the state, and its leadership was opposed to the Revolution. The Bolsheviks adopted an

official atheist position, and for many years waged a struggle against organized religion. Elsewhere, such as in Latin America, Marxist parties and religious progressives have worked together against repressive regimes and imperialist intervention.

"There has been no state church in the United States since shortly after we gained our independence, and we have a tradition of religious diversity," Yeager said. *"The so-called Christian Right in recent years has certainly made progress, but some of the greatest leaders in our history have been men and women of faith, and our party has been proud to work with them. The best known example, of course, would be the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."*

The Religion Commission will be producing articles on matters pertaining to religion and social progress, he said. Its goal is to share with the broader people's movement the party's thinking on the religious aspects of current struggles, taking up theoretical questions, and discussing the relationships, contradictions and commonalities among science, Marxism and religion. The commission also announced plans to hold a series of gatherings around the country, open to the public, to discuss how people from religious traditions and the party can better work together, building toward a national conference in 2010.

"As Marx said, the goal is not merely to explain the world, but to change it. We hope that the new Religion Commission will help build greater unity toward that end," Yeager said. *"We welcome people from faith communities to join us."*

Tim Yeager is a United Auto Workers Union official and also Chairman of the Chicago Episcopal Peace Fellowship. **FC**

Trevor Loudon is a New Zealand based researcher and writer, specializing in far left politics. He is editor of *New Zeal* at newzeal.blogspot.com and *Key-Wiki* at www.keywiki.org.

Nazism and the False Church in Germany: Cultural Marxism and the False Church in America

By Brannon Howse (www.worldviewtimes.com)

Editors' Note: Brannon Howse is an author, radio personality, and speaker whose focus is on the issues now confronting Christendom. His book, *Grave Influence: 21 Radicals and Their Worldviews that Rule America from the Grave*, makes the connection "between occultism/pagan spirituality, the apostate church, the educational establishment and government/corporations." This book can be purchased through WorldViewTimes.com (www.worldviewtimes.com).

Brannon Howse is President of the American Family Policy Institute. *Forcing Change* is pleased to present Mr. Howse to our readers.

Starting in 1878, Julius Wellhausen, a German theology professor and author of numerous books, began to proclaim that the Bible was a book of stories but not the divinely inspired Word of God. He taught countless Germans that the Bible could not be trusted, but human reason could be. This philosophy became known as Higher Criticism or German rationalization, and this liberal philosophy jumped the ocean and became popular on the east coast and then spread throughout America.

So how did this false teaching impact the German culture, including the German churches, and lay the foundation for the acceptance of Adolph Hitler? Dr. David Breese writes,

"The initial effect of German rationalization upon a Christian culture was on the schools, churches, and scholarship of Europe...Even so, religion still continued in Europe. There were still large churches, burning candles, beautiful choirs, lovely stained glass windows, congregations...all of that



was still there...The Bible was only empty pages written by men who were now dead, rather than revelation of the living God. European Christianity was destroyed from within while still possessing the external form by which it had been known for centuries...the leaders quoted everything but the Bible and preached everything but the gospel, and reality was gone...It was because of religious liberalism that Europe lost its soul."

European Christianity was compromised and changed into a false religion from within, as German rationalization or Higher Criticism led the people to follow a humanistic religion. Germany was Hitler's for the taking because absolute truth and the gospel of Jesus Christ had long since been betrayed, and thus the German people believed that the end justified the means. As long as the people were to regain their national pride and their financial abundance, they would go along with Hitler's message of hope and change.

The masses went along, but as has happened throughout history – and as is happening today in America – God has a remnant that remains true to Him and His Word.

The remnant is a small group of Christians that stands faithful and firm in their Biblical convictions, even in the face of persecution and ridicule. The remnant is often met with hostility, not only by the world but by the members of the postmodern, dominant, false church which includes not only those calling themselves Christians, but can

include those calling themselves deacon, elder, pastor or evangelical. The remnant can also find themselves being ridiculed by their own family members. Matthew 10:36 declares; "...and a man's enemies will be those of his own household."

A dominant false church is rising, largely due to pansies in the pulpit, but the remnant is to contend for the faith and oppose the false teachers that have crept in unnoticed by most. These false teachers have turned the grace of our God into lewdness, and they deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 3-4)

The remnant as revealed in Revelation 14:12 are those who remain faithful to the cause of Jesus Christ even during great apostasy. "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

Romans 11:5 declares, "Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace."

Because of God's grace, not because of our good works, God has seen fit to save us unto Himself.

History screams that ideas have consequences, that worldview matters. The vast majority of the German people, including German Christians, willingly traveled the road to Hitler's hell, largely because they had lost the courage of their convictions – they had sold out to paganism, pragmatism, and a new gospel that promised everything and required nothing.

David Breese sums it up this way:

"It is obvious that Europe, despite its vaunted intellectualism, was unable to defend itself against the arguments and subversions of Nazism, Communism, fascism, the world of the occult, and other diseased ideas. External results in the life of any nation are ultimately caused by the presence or absence of a spiritual core made of divine life and spiritual blessings."

Does this not sound like the churches, seminaries, Christian colleges, and best-selling Christian

authors in America? Many American Christians seem all too willing to go down a path that will surely lead to the destruction of a once great nation. Sadly, many self-professing Christians are not just following, but leading the way over the cliff. **FC**

Brannon Howse is the President of the American Family Policy Institute and Worldview Weekend. He has authored numerous books, and has just released his latest volume, *Grave Influence: 21 Radicals & Their Worldviews Ruling America from the Grave*. Checkout his website: www.worldview-times.com.

Science and the Supernatural

By Carl Teichrib (www.forcingchange.org)

“In the past few centuries, science has made us aware that the universe is stranger and more interesting than our ancestors realised. It is an amusing thought that it may turn out stranger and more interesting than even the scientists are willing to admit.” – Colin Wilson, *The Occult: A History*, p. 33.

My family and I live in a very rural part of the Canadian prairies. Going shopping at a mall or big box-store is, literally, an all-day affair. Simply put, just driving to a community that's large enough to have such shopping facilities can take longer than the actually time spent shopping. Trips to the doctor, theater, or library requires a concerted effort; when a roundtrip to the nearest volunteer-run theater takes the better part of 100 miles, you question whether the movie is really worth seeing!

But there are perks living this far out in the boonies. On any given night, we can walk outside and see the Milky Way in exquisite detail, with stars touching each horizon, all viewed without the aid of a telescope or a set of binoculars. Spectacular Northern Light shows, which set the sky on fire, are enjoyed to the fullest. As are the thundering wings of thousands of migrating geese, swans, cranes, and ducks each spring and fall.

We've seen the sun and moon play tricks in the ice-filled winter air: sun and moon-dogs, “glories,” unusual halos, and other surreal light phenomenon. We've also witnessed a multitude of other interesting natural phenomena: bead lightening, sky bands and light arches, funky mirages, giant whirlwinds, multiple tornadoes (that was wild!), and thousands of perfectly formed mini snowballs falling from the sky in the middle of a sweltering August afternoon. Over the years my family and I have witnessed a plethora of beautiful and unusual natural wonders.

Why am I telling you all this? Because Colin Wilson was right: the universe is a strange and interesting place. Moreover, our immediate world and the greater universe is still a place where human

science can be utterly confounded.

Science, in its pure form, is chiefly concerned with what is observable, testable, and repeatable. It is restricted in that sense to the physical study of physical matter. But “pure science,” both in the past and present, has often had its fingers in another pie: metaphysics, the philosophical inquiry into the basis of reality – i.e., religion (it could be argued that all science has some metaphysical foundation, however, many secular humanist say that “pure science” operates independent of metaphysics; a debate that this article cannot rightly explore). What's more, science has become increasingly interested in exploring the possibilities of tapping into the supernatural.

Take for instance a published report by Eric Davis of Warp Drive Metrics. This report, titled *Teleportation Physics Study*, was produced and paid for by the US Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards Air Force Base (contract number F04611-99-C-0025, public release date August 2004).

Technical in its nature, the report delves into aspects of quantum physics and its relationship to space and time, something that I find fascinating, even if I'm often lost by the complex terminology. The report also details another “science” – one that crosses over, into, and beyond the study of quantum physics; psychokinesis (the movement of objects through psychic channels).

Outlining this strange occurrence, Davis explained that Uri Geller, a well-known psychic, was able to bend a spoon without physically touching it during a talk he gave at the US Capital building. Furthermore, Davis elaborated on the deep interest that the US military/scientific and intelligence community has had, and continues to have, in the field of occult sciences – particularly remote viewing.

Remote viewing, which includes and combines elements of clairvoyance (seeing things in the future) and out-of-body experiences, has been especially intriguing to the intelligence community. For decades, a multitude of governmental agencies and corporate laboratories have been involved in re-

mote viewing programs. Davis, laying out the historical context for military-scientific study within this field, explained the following,

“The reader should note that the very first U.S. military-intelligence R&D programs on psi, PK and mind control were conducted by H.K. (Andrija) Puharich, M.D., L.L.D during his military service at the Army Chemical and Biological Warfare Center at Fort Detrick, Maryland in the 1940s-50s. Puharich had an interest in clairvoyance and PK, and dabbled in theories for electronically and pharmaceutically enhancing and synthesizing psychic abilities. While in the Army, Puharich took part in a variety of parapsychology experiments, and he lectured Army, Air Force and Navy groups on possibilities for mind warfare. He was a recognized expert in hypnotism and microelectronics.” (*Teleportation Physics Study*, p. 55)

This is an amazing admittance. Already in the mid-point of the last century, the defense and intelligence community was involved in psychic and occult exploration, including clairvoyance – and had coupled this theoretical research with mind-bending drugs and electronic stimuli.

In the year 2000, W. Adam Mandelbaum, a former intelligence officer and practicing psychic, laid out a frightening futuristic scenario in his controversial book *The Psychic Battlefield: A History of the Military-Occult Complex* (St. Martin's Press, 2000).

“Besides an end to privacy and manipulation of financial markets, a cadre of highly developed psychic warriors might start to think of themselves as a new Master Race. We have seen, in Eastern Bloc Olympic training, the widespread use of suggestion, imagery, and mental rehearsal to enhance sports performance. We will probably see this trend continue in the military of the third millennium to create Super Soldiers...The conscious creation of a superior military force will result in those participants becoming consciously aware of their superiority. Add ego to weapons access, mix with superior psychic spying skills, and Voila! we have a new SS that makes Himmler's boys look like the Cub Scouts.” (*The Psychic Battlefield*, p. 235).

But the military and defense communities, including that of Russia and China, are not the only areas where science and the supernatural have combined. Psychic activity has also been used in the fields of archeology and criminology. Of these two, the use of psychics in criminology is probably the most widely known, fueled in large part by various television programs and publications that have highlighted the apparent successes and failures of criminal-clairvoyant investigations.

The use of occult powers in the field of archeology, however, is relatively unknown. Hans Holzer, one of the most prolific writers on parapsychology and spiritualism, detailed a number of psychic archeological experiments in his book *Window to the Past*. Through the use of mediums and the employment of such practices as telepathy, individuals were able to pinpoint archeological sites and document important historical events. Holzer, elaborating on the pseudo-science of psychic archeology, explained that,

“The expressions of mediums, no matter how genuine and detailed, nevertheless do not represent scientific fact in the accepted sense, but they can lead to investigations in areas where scientists might not have looked. If such follow-ups are undertaken free from all prejudice and preconceived notions, psychic clues can be among the most valuable tools of historical research.” (*Window to the Past*, p. 94)

Reincarnation, psychic healing, the development of super-consciousness, exceptional precognition, out-of-body experiences, remote viewing, and a host of other topics which dance along the razor's edge of supernaturalism and occultism have all been topics of scientific thought and study.

Furthermore, scientific inquiry into psychic phenomena is often rooted in basic scientific orthodoxy, taking on aspects of repeatability, testability, and observation. However, this doesn't negate its supernatural side, nor does it elevate psychic research into the echelons of hard science. But being testable, observable, and repeatable does give verification that psychic activity exists. To the skeptical “scientific mind,” however, the notion that this

pseudo-science trespasses into the foggy world of occultism or supernaturalism is rarely accepted as a serious option.

But theology and human history says otherwise. From an historical and contemporary context, mankind has embraced occultism in an attempt to harness and utilize supernatural powers for individual gain – sometimes setting in motion forces that have destroyed both body and mind in the process. Worse still, history is rife with civilizations that have followed occult-based ideologies and philosophies, with death and destruction in close pursuit (Nazi Germany comes to mind; see *The Occult Roots of Nazism* by Goodrick-Clarke, and the 4-part video series *The Occult History of the Third Reich*).

Not ironically, noted occultist and “mother” of the New Age, Helena P. Blavatsky, warned against the dangers of supernatural/occult powers as a military/criminal device. The following was originally published in *Lucifer* magazine, 1891, and was re-published in a collection of Blavatsky’s writings titled *Studies in Occultism*.

“...if purely material implements are capable of blowing up, from a few corners, the great cities of the globe, providing the murderous weapons are guided by expert hands – what terrible dangers might not arise from magical occult secrets being revealed, and allowed to fall into the possession of ill-meaning people! A thousand times more dangerous and lethal are these, because neither the criminal hand, nor the immaterial invisible weapon used, can ever be detected.” (*Studies in Occultism*, pp.28-29).

Blavatsky then suggests that the occultist must “live the life” in order to properly handle the potency of supernatural powers. This is a twisted position, for the practitioner is obviously dealing with forces that go beyond the human capacity to understand or control. In other words, the individual is not “playing with the occult,” rather the supernatural is toying with the practitioner. This is evidenced through personal lives impacted by supernatural bondage, including insanity (see Tal Brooke, *Riders of the Cosmic Circuit*, 1986, and Elissa Lindsey McClain, *Rest from the Quest*, 1984).

At the societal level, occultism can add upon an underlying destructive worldview or become the foundation for a culture of terror. The German Nazi movement blended myth and occultism, pseudoscience and technology. And it’s no surprise to learn that it’s pan-pagan roots were firmly planted in the soil of Blavatsky’s teachings. Christopher Hale, in his book *Himmler’s Crusades*, sums it up; “Myth is never harmless.” (*Himmler’s Crusade: The Nazi Expedition to Find the Origins of the Aryan Race*, Castle Books, 2006).

The Bible itself warns against the pursuit of supernatural manipulation. Consider the words of Deuteronomy 18,

“There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord...” (Deuteronomy 18:10-12a).

Yes, the *physical* world is a marvelous wonder, filled with many transfixing and puzzling surprises. It still baffles man by its beauty and complexity. So too the non-physical universe, including mental and spiritual components, is a place of fascination. However, when dabbling and dealing with the supernatural – and the mind sciences that sometimes attempt to explain or exploit it—a mental, emotional, and spiritual minefield is encountered. And just as wandering into a physical minefield will destroy the body, so too will a spiritual minefield destroy the soul. **FC**

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