



Living Against the Grain,
week 3

Thinking Against the
Grain

Billy Graham's 1957 NYC Crusade and the critique of Reinhold Niebuhr, a liberal social ethicist.



“I not only
want you to
do something,
I want you to
do it my way!”



How might you expect conservatives to respond to Niebuhr's challenge?

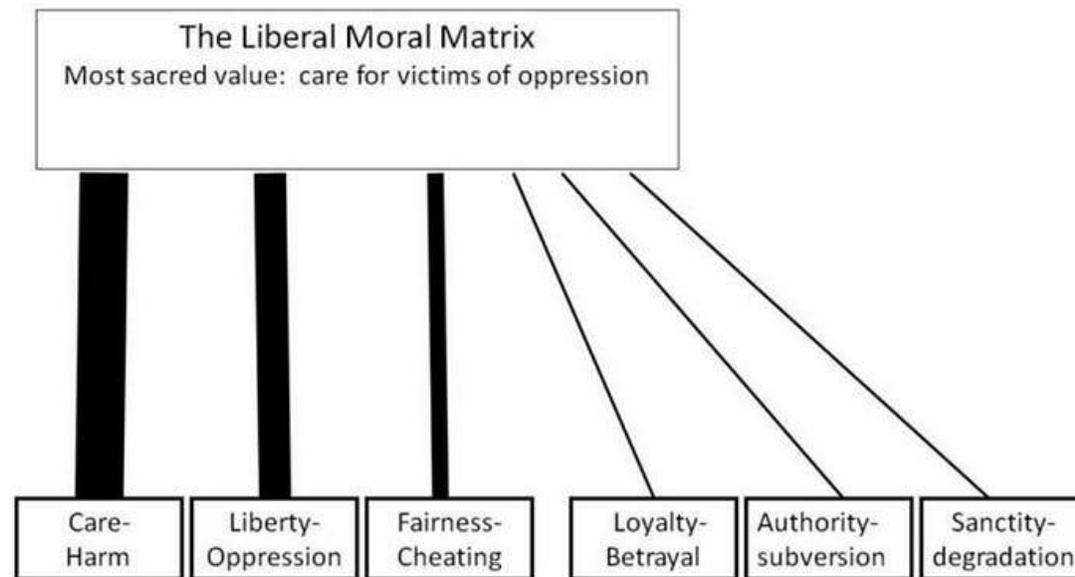


Figure 12.2. *The moral matrix of American liberals.*

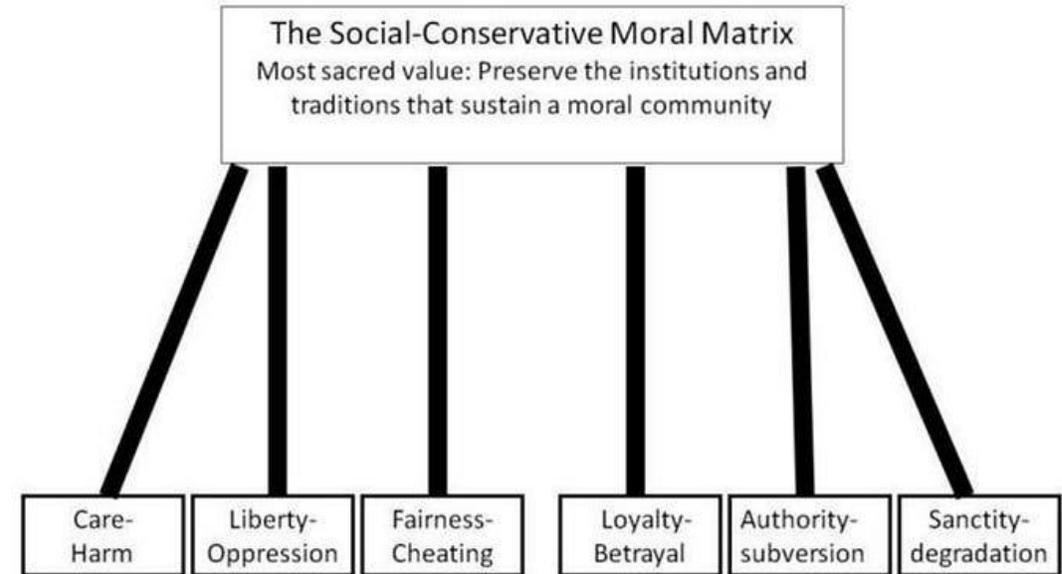


Figure 12.4. *The social conservative moral matrix.*

Take the sanctity/degradation foundation where certain boundaries are sacred/polluted.





Transphobic!

.

Racist!

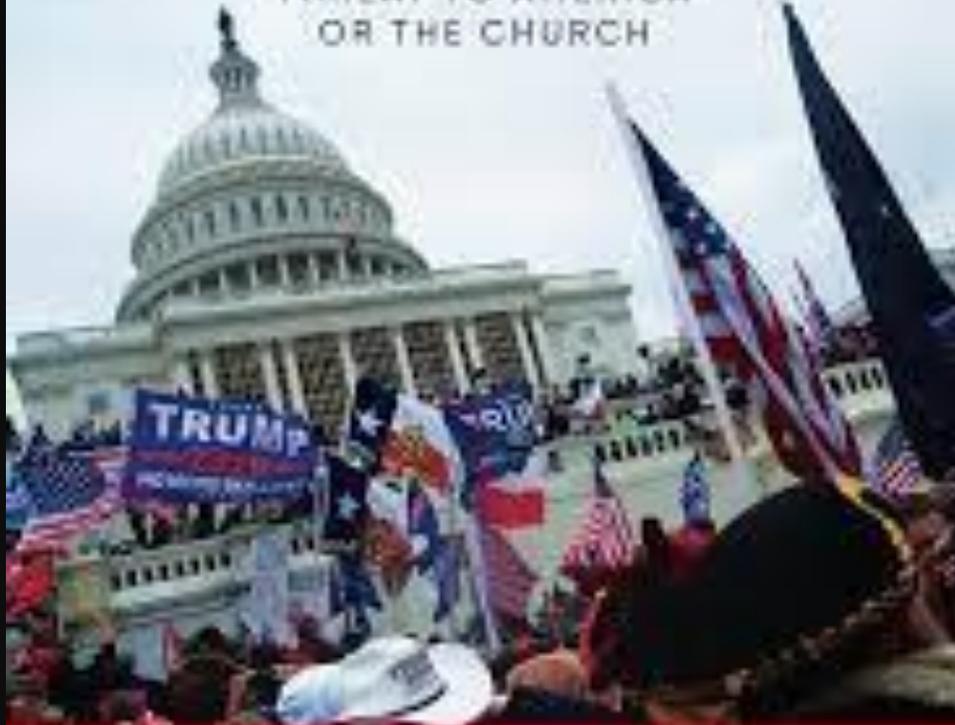
Shelby Steele

American blacks were freed from oppressive Jim Crow laws in the 1960s. According to Steele, political leaders failed to take the time or make the effort to demonstrate how to live responsibly in a free society. Who is showing conservative Christians how to live responsibly in the political sphere?



WHO'S AFRAID OF **CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM?**

WHY CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM
IS NOT AN EXISTENTIAL
THREAT TO AMERICA
OR THE CHURCH



— MARK DAVID HALL —

“Most of the literature about Christian nationalism is written by activists and journalists who clearly have axes to grind [against it]. The concept is ill-defined, often amounting to little more than the idea that Christians are bringing their faith into the public square for positions disfavored by the authors” who write against Christian nationalism.

Which is it?

“Thus, the literature [against Christian nationalism] usually portrays Christians fighting to end abortion or defend religious liberty as religious nationalists, but understands Christians motivated by their faith to pursue civil rights legislation as laudable political activists.” Mark David Hall



Progressives and Politics in an age of extremism.

Progressives are determined to keep traditional strong gods at bay. As a result, they double down and push things like openness and multiculturalism. They fear a return to extremism in areas that give many people meaning in life such as the nation, religion, the dominant American story, and traditional conceptions of the family. They seek community and validation in protests .



Conservative Christians in an age of extremism.

Conservative Christians (evangelicals and Roman Catholics) may be tempted by politics because they don't have much entrée or access to the cultural outlets that progressives have largely controlled for so long: the arts, the media, mainstream publishing, Hollywood, higher education, and until recently, high tech. (Conservatives may be doing better in the online world.)

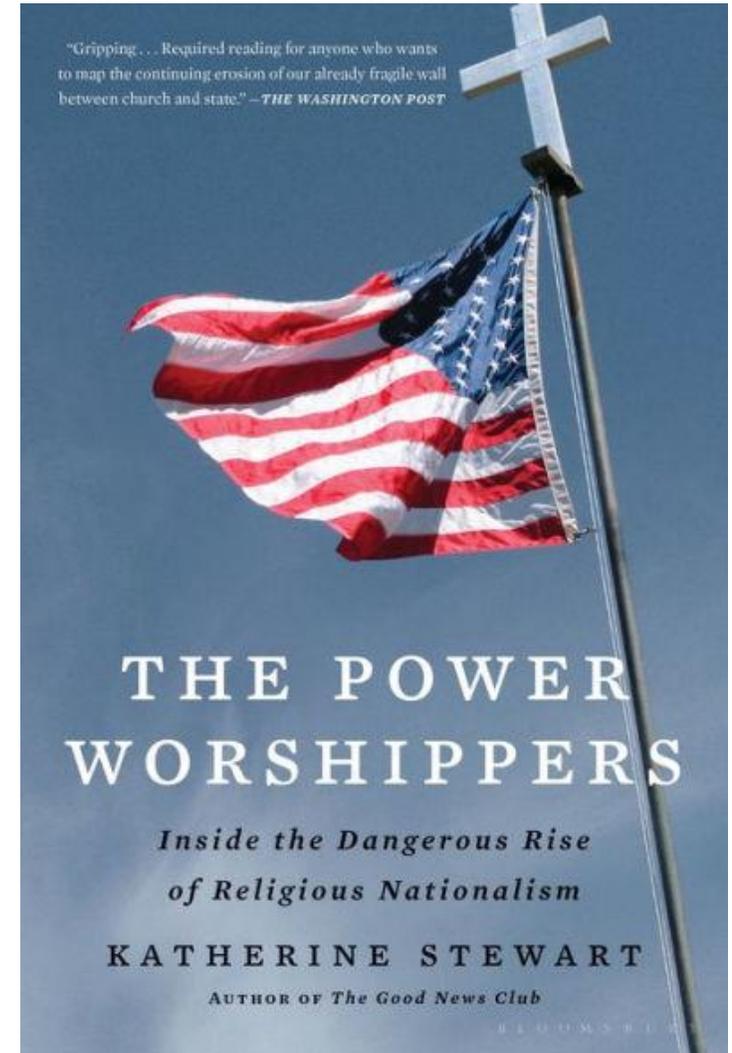


Christian voices in a secular society.

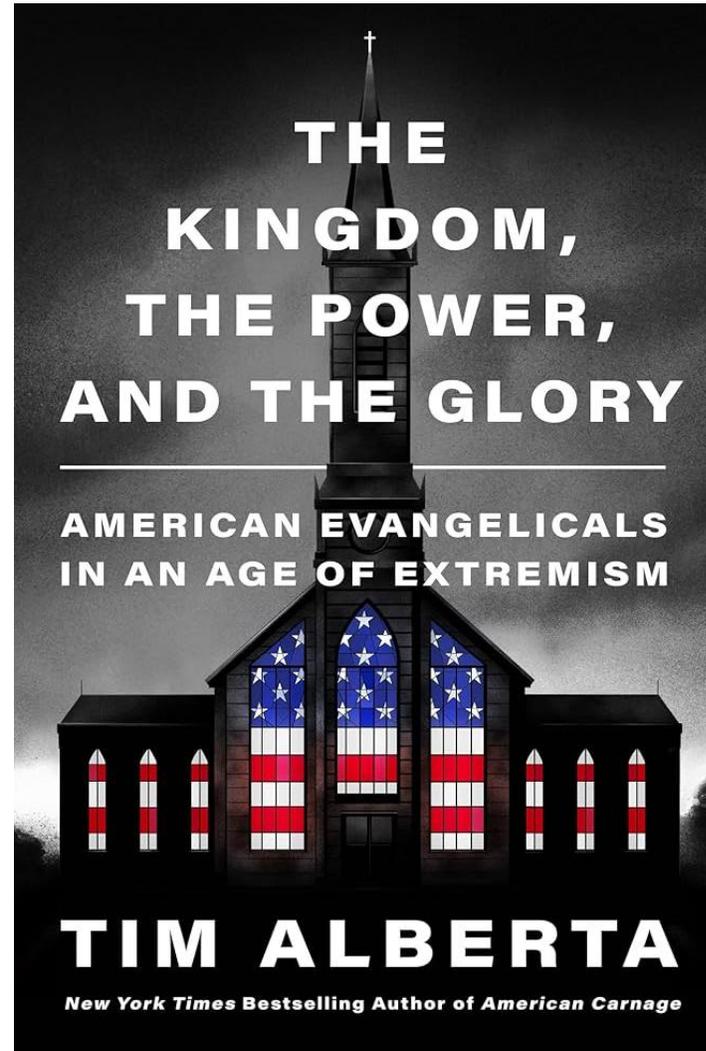
The **Seven Mountain Mandate**, also **Seven Mountains Mandate**, **7M**, **7MM**, or **Seven Mountains Dominionism**, is a dominionist conservative Christian ideology within Roman Catholic Christianity, particularly independent Charismatic groups. It holds that there are seven aspects of society that believers seek to dominate: family, religion, education, media, arts and entertainment, business, and government. **Some people or some groups are going to influence society, why not Christians?**

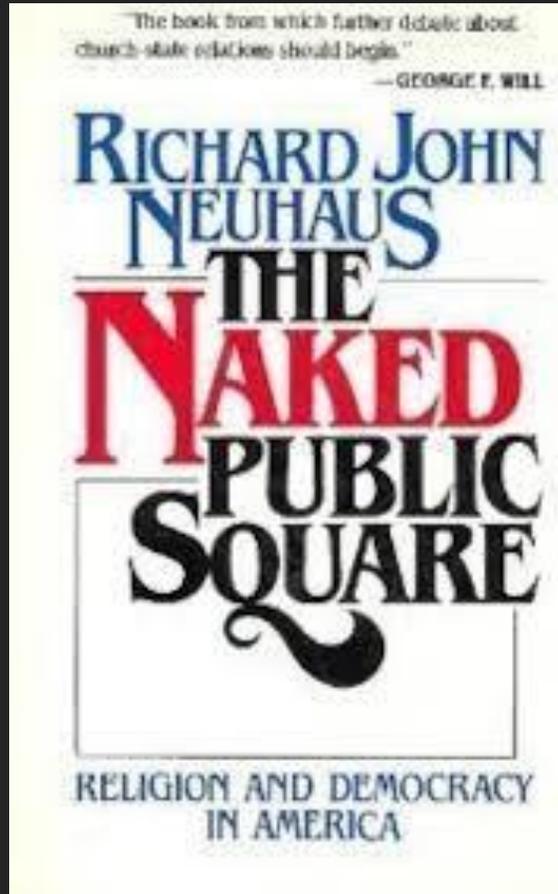


How are conservative Christians doing amassing political power over the seven institutions?



Christians seeking power for the sake of (conservative) politics are betraying Jesus. Is it okay for Christians to seek power to promote liberal positions?





Is there a place for
(conservative) religious talk in
the public square?

Or do we give that up in favor of a
secular language so we can
communicate with each other in
a language shared by all?



TAKING AMERICA BACK FOR GOD



CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM
IN THE UNITED STATES

Culture or Legislation?

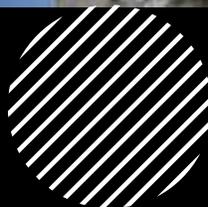
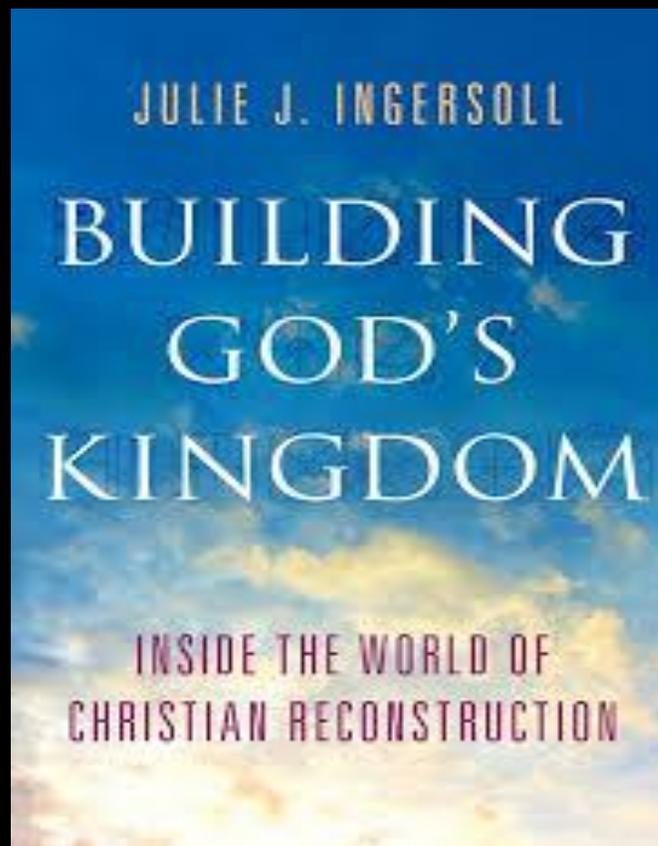
Christian Nationalism: a movement, a conservative political party, or an idea?

- **Christian Social Democrats**
- **European Christian Political Party**
- **Christian Democratic Union of Germany**
- **Christian Democrats**
- **Evangelical People's Party of Switzerland**
- **Christian Nationalist (Party)?**





Julie Ingersoll





Rousas John Rushdoony

Ingersoll points out that “Dominionists” like Rushdoony have little or no intention, interest, or capacity to implement biblical, i.e., Old Testament, law in American society.

However, they believe that in direct correlation to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in history, women and men will eventually use democratic means to vote for laws that reflect biblical law.

Keeping an eye on extremists of all sorts. Doug Wilson, pastor in Moscow, Idaho



Wilson's body of work — made up of over 40 books, thousands of blog posts and hundreds of hours of sermons and podcast appearances — amounts to a comprehensive blueprint for a spiritual and political "reformation" that would transform America into a kind of Christian republic.



POLITICO

Wilson's goals

Amending the Constitution to include reference to the Apostles' Creed, restricting office holding to practicing Christians and changing voting practices to award votes by household, with the default voter-holder being the male head of the household. His long-term goal, he said, is to inspire a grassroots Christian reformation that would excise the whole idea of secularism from American law and society."



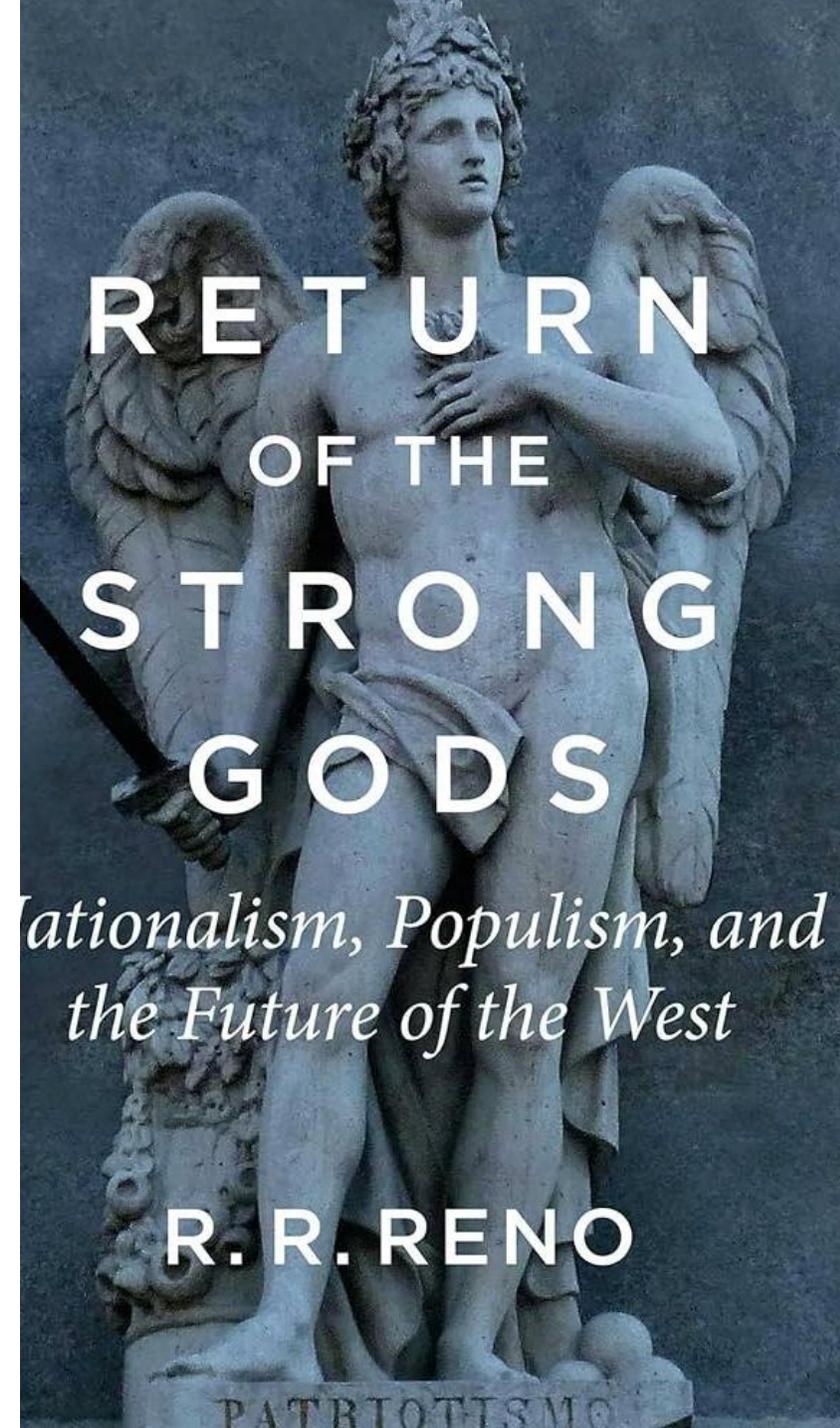
Another “extremist” group?
**New FBI Category:
Nihilistic violent
Extremism.**

The future?
How will
Christians
engage?

**Will the reinvigoration of
Christianity in the West
lead to the emergence
of the strong gods of
family, faith, and nation?**

**Or with progressives
successful in keeping
these strong gods at
bay, have other strong
gods emerged?**

**What is the relationship
between Christianity
and Western culture?**



**RETURN
OF THE
STRONG
GODS**

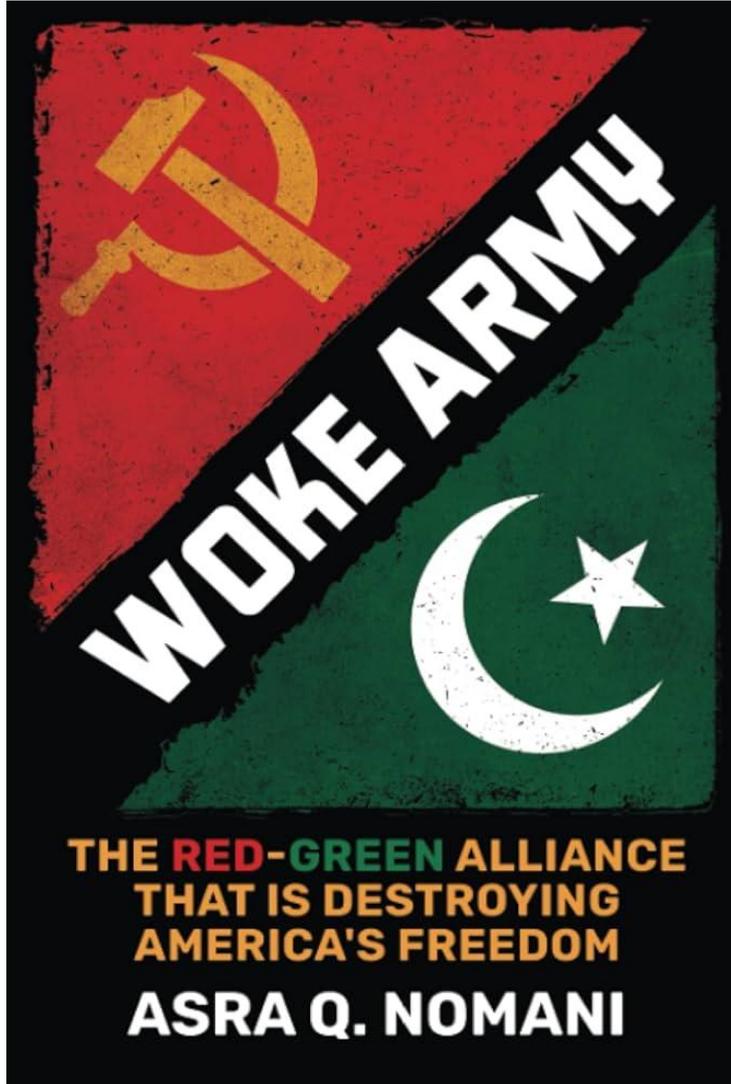
*Nationalism, Populism, and
the Future of the West*

R.R. RENO

PATRIOTTISMO

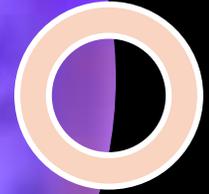


New strong gods: International Anarchism, Chinese-style Communism, and Political Islam



What do the radical red and the radical green have in common? A desire to stand up to and/or overcome the West and control or replace it with a non-Western ideology.

Tom Holland, Ayan Hirsi Ali, and Jordan Peterson as well as other intellectuals are turning to Christianity to prepare for civilizational struggle.



Christianity in a context
of civilizational struggle.

“Multiculturalism is the perspective that advocates for the coexistence and appreciation of diverse cultures within a society, arguing that no single culture should dominate.”

“Diversity is our strength!”



A common Western culture—with its Judaic/Christian roots—is our strength because it allows for diversity, among other things.

Western culture is the internally diverse culture of the Western world. The term "Western" encompasses the social norms, ethical values, traditional customs, belief systems, political systems, artifacts and technologies primarily rooted in European and Mediterranean histories.



How do you get to the point of thinking about these things let alone knowing or talking about them?



Being able
to discuss

these things.

Claiming *the*
Courageous
Middle

Daring to **LIVE** and **WORK**
TOGETHER for a More
Hopeful Future

Shirley A. Mullen



A Call for Understanding and a Grace-Filled Future



“Christian faith, where God is the only one who deserves complete loyalty, makes it impossible for Christians to align themselves fully with any side, party, or ideology. As such, it uniquely equips believers to call their communities away from total partisanship in favor of a more thoughtful and grace-filled future.”



Ways of Thinking Lead to Ways of Living: A preview of next week.

“I will be whatever I am—a good citizen, democrat, republican, independent, conservative, liberal, radical, etc.—until I can no longer be a good Christian.”

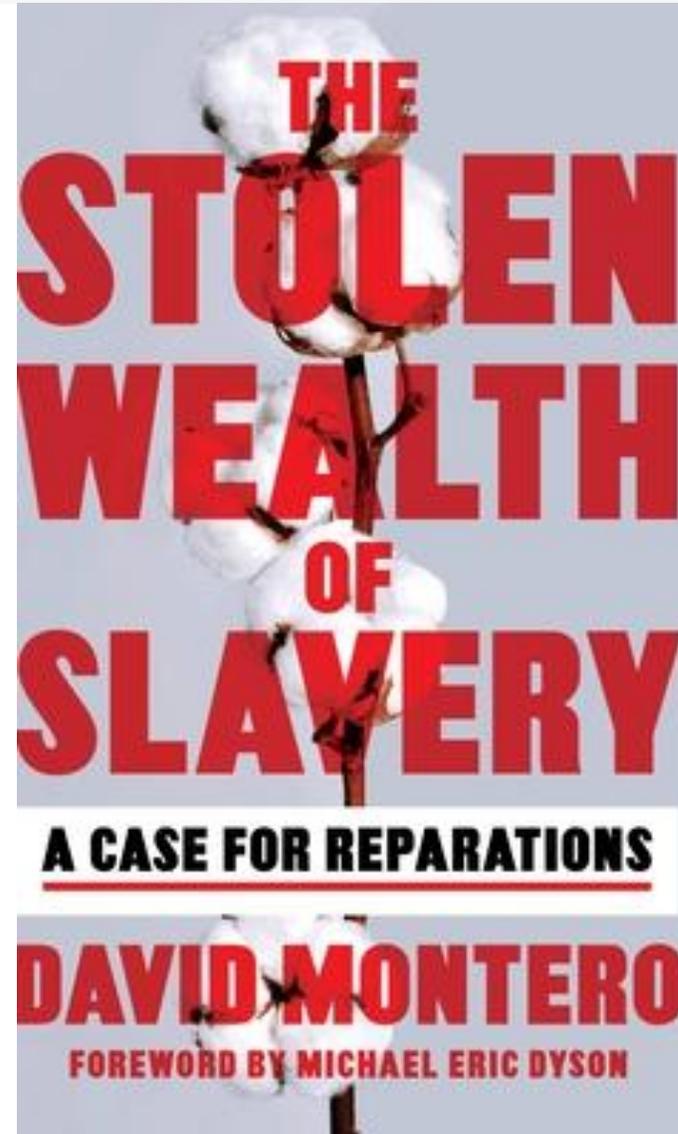


Ways of Thinking lead to ways of Living

#1 Intellectual formation

Intellectual formation is a “fundamental demand of human intelligence by which people 'participate in the light of God's mind' and seeks to acquire a wisdom which in turn opens to and is directed towards knowing and adhering to God.”

Ways of Thinking #2—
interpreting the positions of
others in the best possible
light. (Or at least not in the
worst possible light.)



**NIGEL
BIGGAR**

FROM THE
SUNDAY TIMES
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR

REPARATIONS

'A strong plea to see Britain's
past more clearly and honestly'

Professor Tirthankar Roy

**SLAVERY AND
THE TYRANNY OF
IMAGINARY GUILT**

Ways of Thinking #3— Against the Stream/Grain





Ways of thinking:
#4: Are we open
to God's call to
the uninteresting
poor and
oppressed?





Ways of Thinking #5—Lessons from the book of Job 29:16

“I was a father to the needy, and I championed the cause of the stranger.” NRSV

“I was a father to the needy; and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know.” ESV



How to Have
Impossible
A Very Practical Guide
Conversations

PETER BOGHOSSIAN
& JAMES LINDSAY

Lesson 6:
Learning to have
difficult
conversations.

