

In private moments, many of the most dedicated Conservatives entertain opinions that are impolitic to express openly. Some of these are:

- In general, white males are best suited to create and enforce the rules within which citizens are free to seek their goals.
- Women are constitutionally unsuited to the exercise of power, leadership, and putting their lives on the line (except for the occasional few who have successfully incorporated masculine capabilities). The same goes for homosexuals of either sex, in addition to which their practices are an abomination.
- Pure democracy gives the least competent the same power of governance as the most able. Men of property have more power, more responsibility, more at stake, so should have a greater voice in governance. Unfortunately, the name in common parlance for this form of government—plutocracy—comes with a host of bad connotations.
- The white race has shown a capacity for achievement that the other races can only hope to emulate. In America, most races have been able to adapt to the society these achievements have produced. Much of the population of African descent, however, has not. Their resultant suffering does not justify regarding the acknowledgment of this fact as racism.
- The police must be charged to protect property against the many greedy and envious persons of lesser means without which protection, the owners of property would be helpless to prevent dispossession. Although seemingly enshrined in the Bill of Rights, civil rights are a lesser priority than the insurance of patriotism, the protection of property, and the authority and safety of law enforcement personnel.
- Although respect is due to the natural world as the source of our bounty, environmentalism that verges on nature worship or that seeks to subvert the efforts of mankind to subjugate nature to our purposes must be resisted.

In brief, the Conservative ideology is one that supports capitalist business, a strong military with global reach, Judeo-Christian religious teaching, and the self-reliant family-man of good character. This ideology resists socialist schemes to overthrow or supplant capitalist-based distribution of wealth or concentrations of economic power. This ideology resists pacifism, delegation of national sovereignty, and military downsizing. This ideology resists the influence of alien religions, atheism, secular humanism, and scientism when they are at odds with the received wisdom. This ideology resists all efforts to undercut the primacy of the nuclear family and the self-reliance of the individual.

## CONSERVATIVE IDEOLOGY: 1/15/2001

In outline, the contemporary American Conservative *ideology* goes something like this: The United States was founded in the context of the beliefs, traditions, and culture of 18<sup>th</sup> century Europe. Although the innovation of an elected government replaced hereditary aristocracies, the received traditions affirmed the unarguable validity of patriarchal institutions. These traditions affirmed that the *virtuous* ought to reap the fruit of the material world as their reward, and that those so rewarded should enjoy the privilege of greater influence on the affairs of the nation. They affirmed that those fruits were most equitably achieved in a society in which freedom is granted to the individual to seek his fortune through good works. Therefore, the unseen hand of the *free market* best distributes wealth. Those whose virtue and hard work are rewarded by prosperity (along with those less fortunate who, nevertheless, remain steadfast in their dedication to virtue, chastity, and hard work) are, without question, the good people of the country. They are the ones who have earned the right and duty to govern the country. When so governed, the country will be the embodiment of goodness.

A key aspect of the good character required to live a virtuous life is the ability to postpone pleasure—even, if necessary, to forego it altogether. Sex for pleasure—not for procreation—subverts the moral fiber of the community, and must be discouraged and the consequences punished. Threat of *punishment* is the only proven deterrent to those embarked on a path of debauchery.

The modern world poses special challenges to the morality, character, and ideological integrity of the Conservative. In Biblical times, the advances in medical technology that enable the practices of contraception and abortion were millennia in the future. Secular humanists make powerful arguments in favor of practices contrary to the spirit of the received wisdom. The same forces seek to install situational ethics as the norm. The development of science has cast doubt on the historical veracity of the received theory of creation and attempted to supplant it with evolutionary theory. These contemporary ideas must be resisted.

The pursuit of happiness enshrined in our Declaration of Independence did not envision happiness achieved at the expense of *good character*. As with licentious sexuality, the contemporary ubiquitousness of drug use that eats away at the nation's moral fiber must be countered with the threat of severe punishment. More difficult to counter are the sensual enticements and subtle (and not so subtle) iconoclasm of the arts when they originate in a context unconnected to their proper function of instilling virtue.

Modern weapons of mass destruction, atheist totalitarian ideologies, and the terrorism of alien fanatics require that Conservatives support the military and economic means to overwhelm these threats. Conservatives have no ethical problem with massive retribution carried out against opponents of the nation who employ or threaten violence. Capital punishment for convicted murderers is consistent with this view. Similarly, since threat to life and property from another citizen (or the ascendance of a tyrannical government) is always a possibility, the individual citizen must be protected in his right to bear arms.