



Written by [Gary Benoit](#) on February 21, 2023

Published in the March 13, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 05

Opposing the Bad to Uphold the Good

In the pages of *The New American* we devote significant space to what might be called “bad news” — from growing government corruption and overreach, to the rising threat to fundamental liberties, to the sinking economy, to the erosion of morality. But we also expose what’s behind today’s alarming political, economic, and social trends, and we offer solutions for a brighter tomorrow.

When learning about the “bad” that plagues our world and taking steps to counter it, we should never lose sight of the fact that we do so because it threatens to destroy that which is good. In fact, without a clear vision of what we are striving to preserve and restore, we cannot realistically hope to succeed, no matter how fervently we rail against the threats.

Robert Welch, the founder of The John Birch Society, the parent organization of this magazine, put it this way regarding his “conviction that even warding off Communist slavery and reversing the socialist trend is only half the battle”:

We can never win even that half unless both leadership and following have a positive dream which is more important as a hope than the negative nightmare is as a fear; unless the promise of what we can build supplies more motivation than the terror of what we must destroy; and unless this faith in the future is based on a deeper faith in eternal truths.

Those words were spoken at The John Birch Society’s founding meeting in 1958 during the Cold War. Though the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain decades later created the appearance that communism and socialism were in their death throes, more recent history has tragically shown otherwise.

Our Western Inheritance

Our cover story in this issue, by Selwyn Duke, imagines “A World Without the West” for the purpose of illustrating how spectacularly the world has benefited from Western civilization, and how different our lives would be today if this civilization had never existed.

It is true that the history of Western civilization is imperfect. Crimes were committed, but these crimes were consequences of man’s sinful nature, which has marred all civilizations. As Western civilization developed, so too did lofty ideals inspiring man to do better. And man did do better — much better — despite his sinful nature. As Selwyn points out in his article: “The West’s crimes, every one, are the crimes of all humanity; its glories, however, are in many cases uniquely its own. The West might not have been the first civilization to practice slavery, for example. But it surely was the first to end it. The West was not the first civilization to violate what we now call ‘human rights.’ But it was the one that created that modern concept of human rights in the first place.”

Destruction and Restoration

This correct understanding of history, however, has not stopped communist/socialist revolutionaries from working insidiously to subvert Western civilization and the Judeo-Christian principles that undergird it. Here in the United States, the tearing down of statues is a part of this revolution, as are the efforts to destroy completely the greatest experiment in human liberty the world has ever seen.



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Both here and abroad, the revolution also includes the war against Christianity, Judaism, and the old “Thou Shalt Nots.”

The revolution even includes the war against truth, as exhibited, for example, by the false claim that a man can become a woman, and vice versa, simply by identifying as such, or that there are no absolutes except that there are no absolutes.

Yet despite the threats, God and truth still exist (and always will). So does the family, the fundamental unit of civilization, which is also under attack. So does our country and the Constitution that protects our rights. By keeping in mind what we are for while opposing that which threatens to destroy it, we should be able not only to preserve the treasures we have inherited from Western civilization, but also to restore them to even brighter luster.



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