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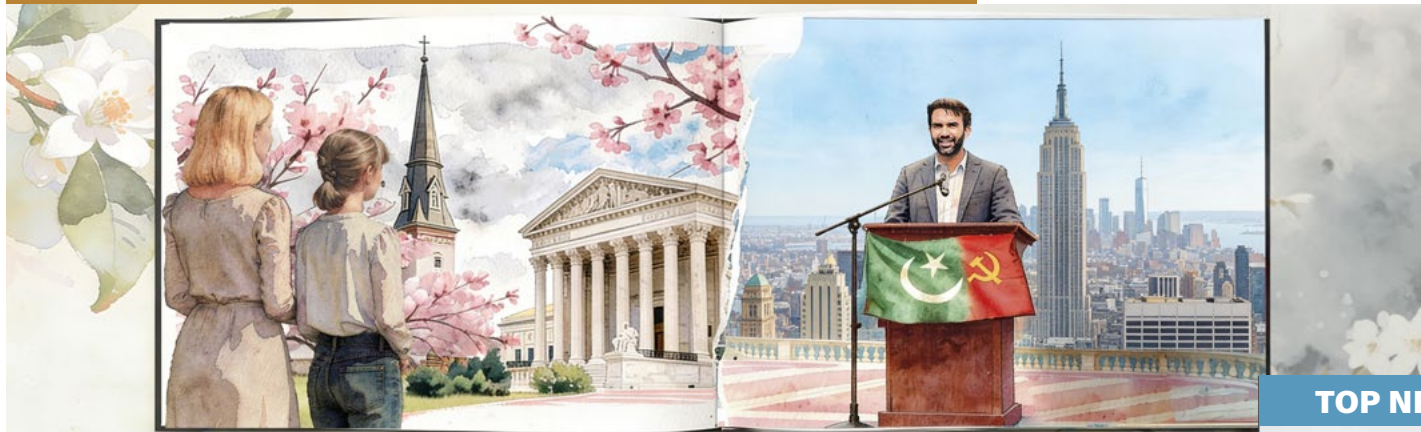
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QUARTERLY

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Why Maintaining the Supremacy of the West Is Crucial to America's Future

By Daniel Schmid

Scroll through your favorite newsfeed these days, and it will not take long to come across an article highlighting the invasion of cultures and traditions that are so antithetical to the West. One stands aghast at how our government can allow such a *coup de main* against our beloved Republic.

Deep in the heart of Texas, for example, the stars at night may not be so big and bright anymore. Rather, in some parts of the state, one might call the stars eerily EPIC. In East Plano, radical Islamists have established what they call the EPIC City, the East Plano Islamic Center.

The goal? Create a Muslim-only community with its own housing laws, schools, "churches,"

and education system wholly divorced and separated from the constitutional system established by our Founders.

In Minnesota, Somali pirates are attempting to create what Europe has not-so-affectionately called "no-go zones," where certain races (i.e., white people) are not welcome. In the wake of federal law enforcement officials enforcing federal law in Minneapolis, State Senator Omar Fateh (not to be confused with Rep. Ilhan Omar's husband/brother) has sworn to create a "no-go zone" in Minneapolis in which white people, law enforcement, or anyone daring to question the rampant fraud and piracy of Somalians are unwelcome. Who is welcome in the "no-go zone"?

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A Spiritual Battle Worth Fighting: Defending a Single Mom's Right to Take Her Daughter to Church

By Mat Staver

Emily Bickford and her daughter, Ava, were on the way to church on a Wednesday evening in December 2024 when Emily, a single mom, received notice of the [custody order](#) preventing her from taking her preteen daughter to church at Calvary Chapel.

This was a devastating blow for them both, and they could not imagine the legal battle ahead. To this day, Ava is unable to attend Calvary Chapel because her father deems the church's verse-by-verse, chapter-by-chapter preaching and biblical teaching — specifically on hell, demons, spiritual warfare, and salvation through Christ — to be "psychologically detrimental" to her.

In this heartbreaking case, a judge whose order demonstrated hostility toward Christianity weaponized the legal system against this Christian mom who intends to raise her daughter according to her Christian faith. In fact, in the custody order, every mention of God is spelled with a lowercase "g," and it



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Well, radical Islamists, pirates, and anyone born with a melanin content sufficient for Fateh's radical scales.

Last, but certainly not least — if for no other reason than there are purportedly no “leasts” to Marxists and communists — there is the new radical Marxist mayor of New York City, Zohran Mamdani. Hardly a month into office as mayor, Comrade Mamdani chastised Americans for wanting their borders and duly enacted laws enforced by the federal government and said America should look to Islam for its immigration policies. You read that correctly. In the largest city in a Republic founded upon Judeo-Christian principles, the mayor suggested that a religion that teaches its followers that the Founders of this Great Republic are infidels worthy of slaughter should be the standard by which laws are governed.

We can also leave for another day the fact that praising radical Islam as a means of justifying his desired sanctuary city and open border policies is unbelievably hypocritical, given that neither immigrants, nor visitors, nor non-Muslims are even allowed to set foot in their beloved Mecca. But, as the saying goes, if Democrats (Marxists) did not have double standards, they'd have no standards at all.

At least now you know where Minneapolis's Fetah gets his no-go zone ideas.

“And it was *being the West* that produced freedom, not bondage; enterprise, not desolation; liberty, not tyranny.”

Defining “the West”

As unwelcome as these efforts are, they are nothing new. In fact, the dichotomy of the beliefs espoused in these no-go zones date back centuries. And the fundamental incompatibility between the beliefs espoused in the Judeo-Christian heritage upon which this Republic was founded and the beliefs borne out by radical Islam represent the division that begat “the West” and Western Legal Tradition.

To espouse the supremacy of the West necessarily requires defining it, which — in turn — requires exclusion. So, what is the West, and why is radical Islam incompatible with it?

Formerly referred to as the Occident, the West has oft been defined as a successor in interest to the cultures, heritage, and beliefs of the ancients in Greece and Rome. This is contrasted specifically with the Orient, which included Islam, India, and the Far East. So, from its inception, the West necessarily excluded Islam on the basis of its antithetical cultures, heritage, religion, and values.

Harold Berman's authoritative writing on the West aptly noted that the West is “not to be found by recourse of a compass.” Rather, *it is cultural*. And it is in the cultural distinctions that one finds incompatibility of no-go zones with Western Legal Tradition.

The West and Western Legal Tradition are not merely ideas upon which the Republic based its founding documents but are cultural norms and shared values that make a community homogenous and structured.

If one sought to put it simply, *the West is inextricably bound to Western Christendom*. Indeed, it was born out of a division between the Eastern and Western churches, which begat the canon law, which begat secular legal systems, which begat the common law, which we still follow today.

As Berman put it, the West “is not Greece and Rome and Israel but the peoples of Western Europe turning to the Greek and Roman and Hebrew texts for inspiration and transforming those texts in ways that would astonish the authors.” Astonishing, indeed, for look what the West begat: the United States of America, which has become a light to the world, with religious and economic freedom that was inconceivable to the ancients but almost perfected by the likes of Jefferson, Adams, and Madison.

But, there is one inescapable conclusion derived from the history of the West: Islam is *not part of it*. It never has been, *and it never will be*.

The reason for this is simple: the traditions, values, mores, religion, and culture of Islam are fundamentally distinct from, and diametrically opposed to, the West. If one needed any evidence of that, Fetah's no-go zones, Omar's articulated beliefs that America is evil, the EPIC city, and Mamdani's condemnation of the enforcement of Western legal traditions, namely, borders, conclusively proves the point.

Made for a “Moral and Religious People”

In other words, the pillars of the West are shared values, shared heritage, shared customs, shared thoughts, and shared conscience derived from religious foundations. If you knock out but one pillar, the foundation crumbles. That is simply biblical truth, for “if the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do” (Psalm 11:3).

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Preserving the West is only possible by preserving the foundations that created it. As John Adams said to the Massachusetts militia soon after our Republic was birthed, "Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." While that line is well-known, what goes most ignored about his 1798 statement was a refutation of all that is happening in the Republic today. He praised the Republic for "remain[ing] untainted with the Principles and manners, which are now producing desolation in so many Parts of the World."

His reason for praising the Republic was because its gravamen was morality and religion — in other words, it was *being the West*. And it was *being the West* that produced freedom, not bondage; enterprise, not desolation; liberty, not tyranny.

And, as Adams noted, should America descend into a rejection of its Western heritage, "this Country will be the most miserable Habitation in the World."

He was not wrong. And that is why Mamdani, Fetah, Omar, and their ilk seek not to uphold the West, but to destroy it.

The Republic, and indeed the West as a whole, cannot survive if it is infected with individuals who refuse to accept the values, ideals, and religious beliefs upon which it was founded, and who actively seek to denigrate, dispel, and eliminate all vestiges of the Law of Nature and Nature's God. As Scripture tells us, "dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour" (Ecclesiastes 10:1).

We're told today that "diversity is our strength." Greater nonsense has never been spoken.

The West was premised upon not diversity, but homogeneity. Homogenous beliefs, values, and culture. Homogenous religious traditions. And a homogenous respect for our institutions, even ceding their imperfection and the striving for a more perfect Union. Without those shared values, and a generation willing to stand up for them, there is no West and, concomitantly, there is no America. **TC**

Daniel Schmid is a constitutional attorney and the Associate Vice President of Legal Affairs at Liberty Counsel.

New Resources Expose Dangers of Abortion Pill, Help Women Heal

As chemical abortion dominates the abortion landscape in the United States, accounting for more than 60% of abortions, Liberty Counsel Ministries (LCM) released two resources to confront the crisis with both truth and compassion: *Her Story*, a booklet exposing the dangers of the abortion pill, and *Beauty from Ashes*, a 30-day devotional to help with healing after an abortion.

Her Story is a 35-page booklet that explains how the abortion pill works and documents the physical and emotional effects reported by women who have taken it. Written in clear and compassionate language, the booklet is intended for churches, pregnancy resource centers, and individuals seeking a reliable educational tool to inform their communities.

Recognizing that soul care is essential to helping women heal after abortion, LCM simultaneously released *Beauty from Ashes*, a compassionate Scripture-based devotional offering biblical encouragement and space for personal reflection. The book is a 30-day journey that helps women process the grief, shame, and regret associated with abortion and find freedom and forgiveness in Christ.

These two resources are intentionally designed to work together: *Her Story* provides truth before abortion, equipping communities to speak clearly and confidently about the risks and realities of chemical abortion. *Beauty from Ashes* offers hope after abortion, ensuring that women who have been affected are not left without support or spiritual care.

For more information about *Her Story* and *Beauty from Ashes*, or to request copies for your church or ministry, visit [TellingHerStory.org](https://tellingherstory.org).



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relies on testimony from an “expert on cults” who perceived the mainstream evangelical church to be a “cultic” organization.” Why? Because it teaches the Bible.

Cut Off from Christian Community

Under the unlawful order, Emily is prevented from taking her own daughter to the church they had attended since May 2021. Furthermore, Ava was immediately cut off from anyone “associated” with Calvary Chapel, including the friends she made during the 3½ years they attended the church. And she can have no contact and cannot be “exposed” to any literature, video, or anything associated with the evangelical church.

Emily is also prohibited from taking Ava to any church or religious organization or event, and Ava cannot be “exposed” to any religious literature, including the Bible, without express permission from the atheist dad (who has total veto authority of Ava’s religious involvement). Her father, Matthew Bradeen, has vetoed every church Emily has presented to him — and I cannot tell you how distressing this is for Emily and Ava. Ava has not even been able to celebrate Christmas, Easter, attend summer Christian camp, or see her Christian friends.

The judge acknowledges that Emily is a fit parent, and the order admits that there is no evidence that Ava has suffered any harm by being exposed to any teaching of the Bible. But the father still alleges that

teaching the Bible verse by verse and chapter by chapter could expose Ava to potential harm. This is unbelievable.

Ava has just turned 13 years old and wants to go to church with her mom to be with her friends and church family and grow in her Christian faith — but this unconstitutional custody order prevents her from doing so.

Religious and Parental Rights Under Attack

Religious liberty and parental rights are clearly under attack in America today when a mother is prevented from taking her own daughter to church. This is not communist China or North Korea — this is in Maine, in a nation founded on the premise of religious freedom.

The bottom line is that Emily is unable to raise her daughter in accordance with her Christian faith because of an unlawful, overreaching custody order intended to stifle her freedom and silence her faith.

The court system intervened in the realm of private family life, trampling both religious liberty and parental rights. When a custody case interferes with fundamental freedoms, it is necessary to intervene. In November, I stood before the Maine Supreme Court, [arguing the appeal](#) of this outrageous order that has kept Ava out of church and away from Calvary Chapel since December 2024.

Legal precedent protects a parent’s right to instill their religious beliefs during their custodial time, so the court’s total prohibition on Emily’s decision-making authority is a direct infringement of this right.

A Deeper Spiritual Battle

This is evidence of a deeper spiritual battle that we face as Christians — a battle of light and darkness: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

The fight for religious liberty matters because right now, a single mother is unable to take her daughter to church, not even to worship our Risen Savior together this Easter. This is a unique case with far-reaching legal implications for religious freedom and parental rights in America.

As we await a ruling from the Maine Supreme Court, a parent’s right to raise his or her children in accordance with his or her religious beliefs is universal and should be undisputed, no matter what a custody order says.

This is more than just a legal fight; it’s a spiritual battle worth fighting. **LC**

Mat Staver serves as *Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel and Chairman of Liberty Counsel Action.*

Liberty Counsel at Work

The Liberty Counsel, Liberty Counsel Action, and Faith & Liberty teams celebrated Life Week in Washington, D.C., this January.

On Jan. 21, Faith & Liberty helped host a viewing of *Pardon Me: The Bevelyn B. Williams Story*, an inspiring documentary about a pro-life activist who faced imprisonment for defending the unborn. Also, that day, the LCA team spoke to attendees of the Values Action Team January Coalition Meeting at the Capitol about *Her Story* and *Beauty from Ashes*, two new resources that help expose chemical abortion’s consequences and help women find hope and healing post-abortion.

On Jan. 22, the team memorialized the lives lost to abortion since *Roe v. Wade* at the America250 Remembers: Remembering the Victims of *Roe* memorial and prayer vigil. They placed red, white, and blue flowers in front of the Supreme Court to represent the approximately 3,000 babies killed by abortion every day in America as abortion deaths continue to rise.

On Jan. 23, Life Week culminated with the team marching with tens of thousands of pro-lifers in the March for Life with a Life Reception at the D.C. Ministry Center following the march. All human life is made in God’s image and worth protecting, and Life Week emboldens pro-life advocates in the fight for life.



Liberty Counsel, Liberty Counsel Action, and Faith & Liberty D.C. staff gather outside of the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 22, 2026, for America250 Remembers: Remembering the Victims of *Roe*.