

# ***Church History***



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- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21<sup>st</sup> century



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- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20<sup>th</sup> century
  - *Modern Empire-Building*
  - *Post-War Religion*
  - *Conflicts of the "Greatest Generation"*
  - *The New Conservatism (part 1)*



# ***The Modern Age***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Remember after World War I, when a disillusioned America consciously turned against the values and traditions that they'd grown up with?  
(considering them to be what had gotten them into the “Great War” that had so dramatically shown them the horrors of war?)  
(so, for instance, long hair and long dresses became short bobs and miniskirts, etc.)





# *The Modern Age*

- **Funky little teaching moment—**

- Remember after World War I, when a disillusioned America consciously turned against the values and traditions that they'd grown up with?

- **The exact opposite happened in the 1950s, after the end of World War II**

(when a war-weary America just wanted to nestle into a comfortable, idealized, sanitized version of their nostalgic memories)

(so, for instance, shoulderpads and lapels widened to the point that they became almost caricatures of what they'd been before the war)

(and television shows reflected the importance of the traditional American family, where the father goes off to a good job each day and the mother stays home to watch the children)

(this conscious desire to be comfortably reactionary found a bedfellow in the growth of the new Evangelicalism, and the two became all but inextricably intertwined—to be a good “family man” was to go to church and believe the Bible, and to be a good Christian was to be a social and political conservative, and everything revolved around having it “perfect”)





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- The exact opposite happened in the 1950s, after the end of World War II

(when a war-weary America just wanted to nestle into a comfortable, idealized, sanitized version of their nostalgic memories)

(of course, nobody has ever gotten it all “perfect”) (so Americans were barraged with an endless stream of advertisements designed to focus on achieving a stylized “perfection” in life—and to make sure that you and your family look even more perfect than they do)







MORE PEOPLE NAMED JONES\*  
OWN CHEVROLETS THAN ANY OTHER CAR!

(Care you keeping up with the Germans?)

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SO THE  
HARDER  
A WIFE  
WORKS,  
THE CUTER  
SHE LOOKS!



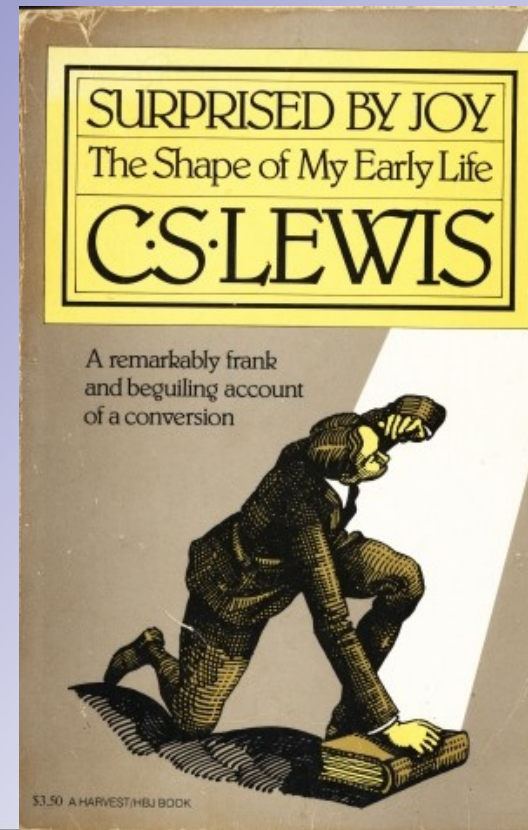
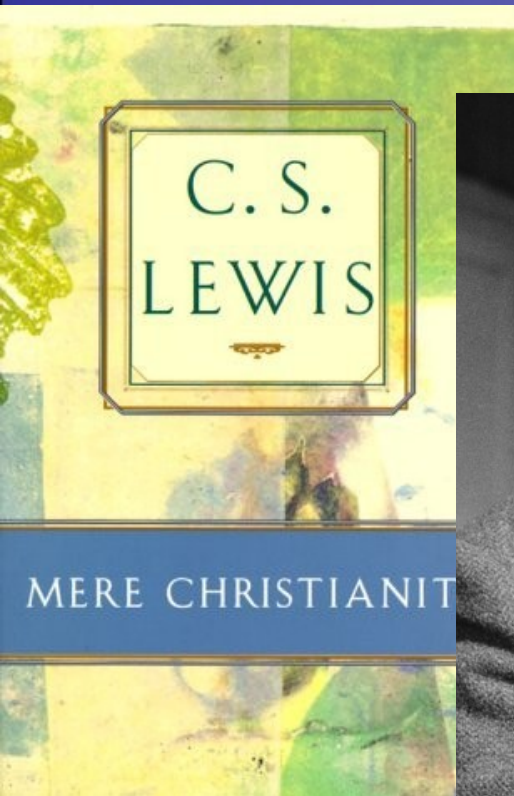
(of course, nobody has ever gotten it all "perfect")  
(so Americans were barraged with an endless stream of advertisements designed to focus on achieving a stylized "perfection" in life—and to make sure that you and your family look even *more* perfect than *they* do)  
(consumerism skyrocketed, and men competed with their neighbors and best friends over *stuff*... and women competed against other women and against idealized versions of what they were told women were *supposed* to be)  
(sociopolitical conservatism, Evangelicalism, and competitive consumerism became even more entangled together)  
(how do *you* think that all of that has affected American Christianity?)

20<sup>th</sup>  
CENTURY



# *The Modern Age*

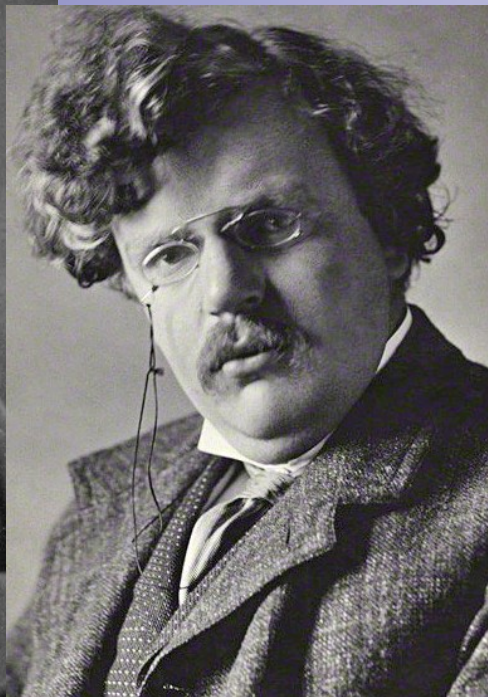
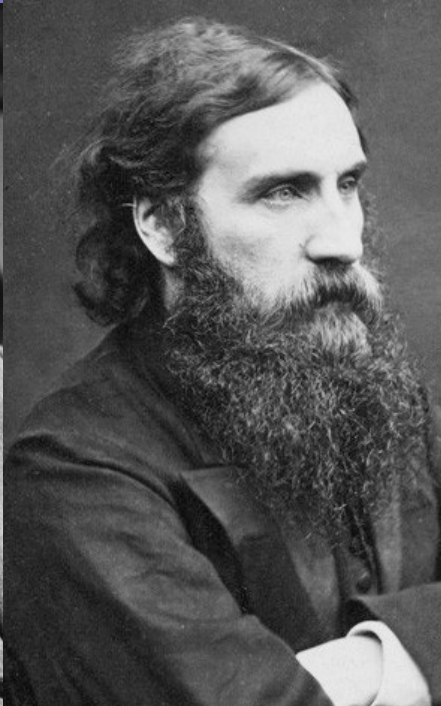
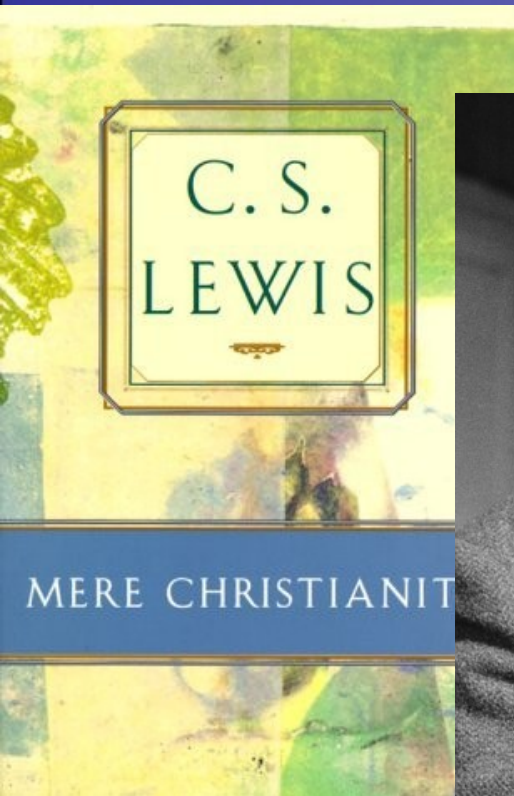
- Christian conservatism reached new heights
  - 1952 *Mere Christianity* was published
    - Clive Staples Lewis was born and raised in Ireland, but was then sent off to school in England
      - There, during his teenaged years, he abandoned his faith in Christ and became an atheist (in his later book, *Surprised by Joy*, Lewis admitted that he was basically just “angry with God for not existing”)





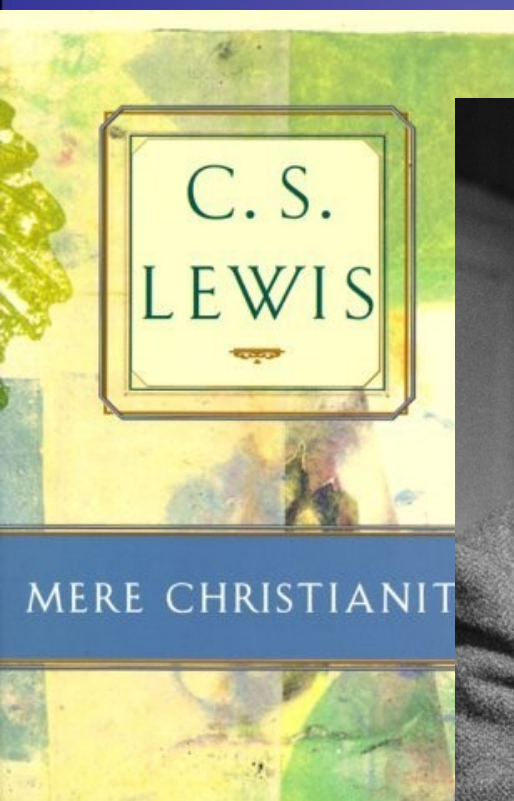
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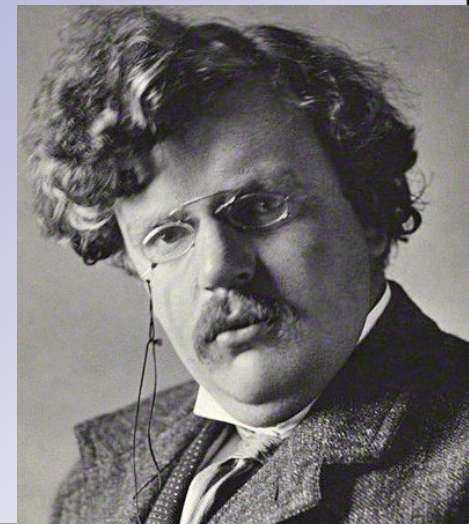
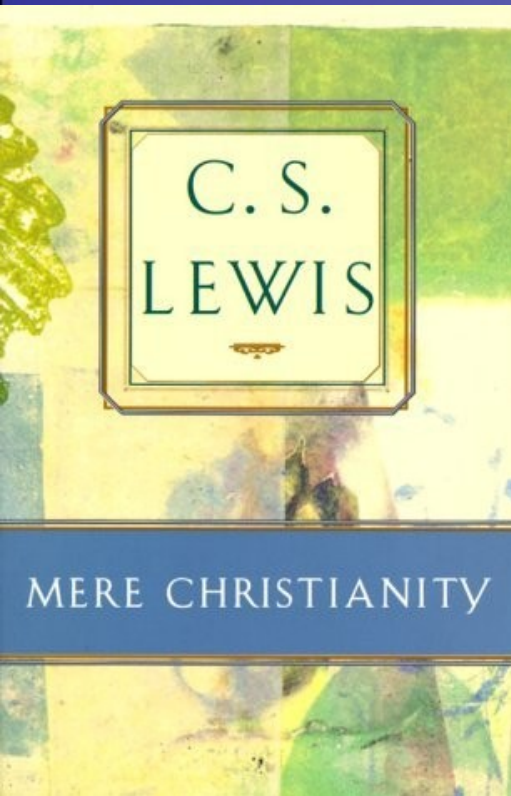
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    - But it was a late-night conversation with his friend, J.R.R. Tolkien, that ultimately led to his conversion in 1931 and Lewis hit the ground running





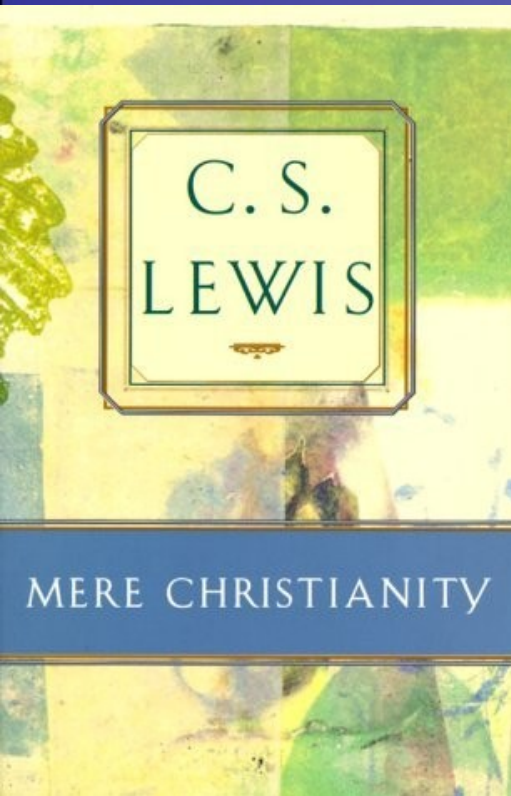
# *The Modern Age*

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1952 *Mere Christianity* was published
  - Clive Staples Lewis was born and raised in Ireland, but was then sent off to school in England
  - By 1942, he'd already written the popular books *The Problem of Pain* and *A Case for Christianity* so when BBC Director of Religious Broadcasting Rev. James Welch was looking for someone to share a "Christianity 101" over the radio in 1942, teacher and author Lewis was the logical choice
  - The resultant radio talks—which were broadcast between 1942 and 1944—were finally compiled into book form in 1952 and titled *Mere Christianity* (a term which had been used by G.K. Chesterton to refer to the very basics of the faith)



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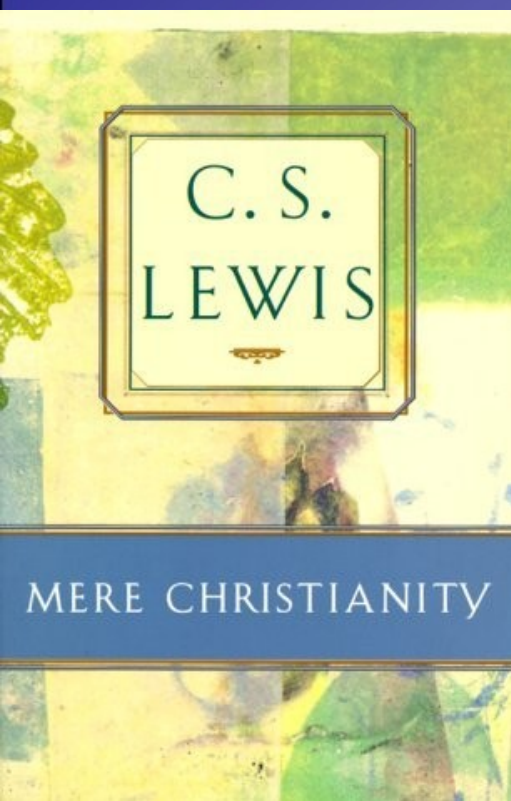


(NOTE: An amazing number of modern American Christians find *Mere Christianity* almost too complex to follow, with its sophisticated logic arguments, deep theology, and historical allusions but it was originally presented as a *BBC radio program*, designed to be understood by *laymen* so what kind of indictment should we see in that of the depth of our modern church teachings and secular educational system...?)



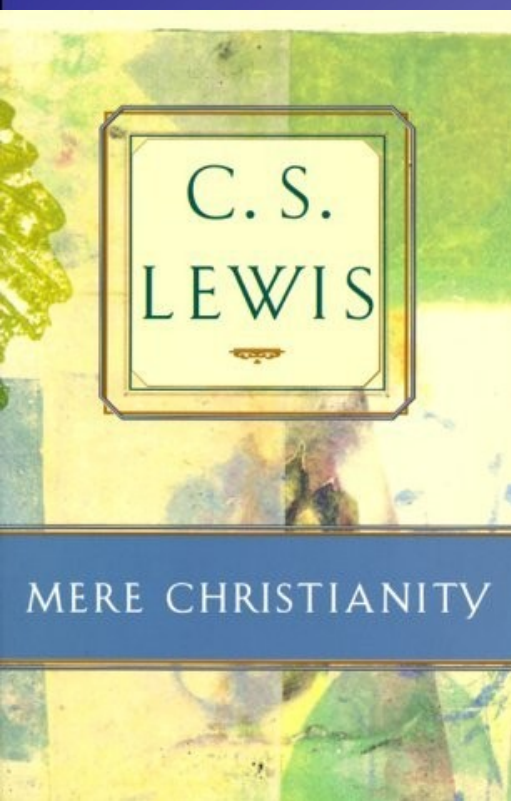
# *The Modern Age*

- Funky little teaching moment—
    - In *Mere Christianity*, Lewis builds a logical argument for believing not only in God, but in the *Biblical* God
      - A) The existence of a “moral law” that goes beyond any social conventions or religious affiliations logically suggests that there is something *bigger* than humanity out there, dictating morality
      - B) If that “something” is Divine, then of all of the possible theologies and cosmologies logically fall flat, other than Biblical Christianity
- (NOTE: It's in this argument that Lewis posits his classic “Trilemma”—i.e.; that we have only three choices when dealing with Jesus:
- 1) That Jesus was not a “good teacher,” but rather a certifiable lunatic for believing that He was God in the flesh
  - 2) That Jesus was in fact *evil*, and was consciously trying to deceive people
  - 3) That Jesus was *precisely* whom He said that He was—the Word made flesh, Thomas’ “Lord” and “God” from John 20:28)



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    - B) If that “something” is Divine, then of all of the possible theologies and cosmologies logically fall flat, other than Biblical Christianity
    - C) And if Biblical Christianity is true, then that truth demands that we live it out—not as *we choose* to do, but as the Creator and Lord who *sculpted* us *created* us to do, following the Bible's directions
      - We thus have a logical as well as theological obligation as Christians to live loving, ethical, God-honoring lives, whether we “feel” like it on any given day or not





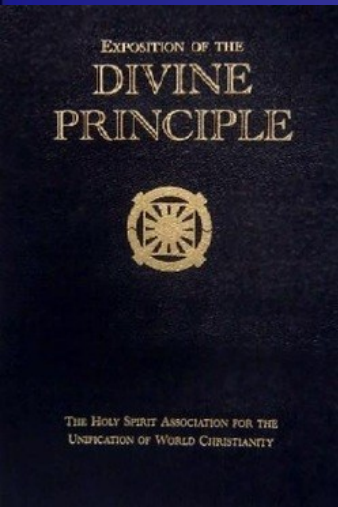
# *The Modern Age*

- Christian conservatism reached new heights

1952 *Mere Christianity* was published

1954 The Unification Church was founded

- Mun Yong Myeong was born in Korea in 1920, and his family converted to Christianity in 1930 and Yong himself experienced a vision at Easter in 1935 that he should be an evangelist for Christ
  - In 1940, he wrote *The Divine Principle*, expounding on the truths of Scripture—and ultimately spent five years in a North Korean prison camp when he tried to share his faith
  - But Yong was undaunted, and—returning to South Korea—he began *The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity* in 1954, and by the end of 1955, there were 30 new, growing churches in the movement



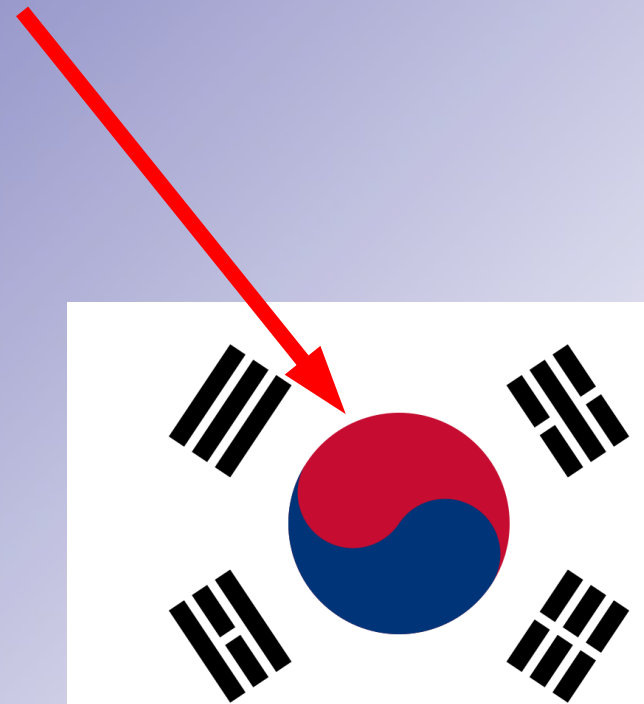
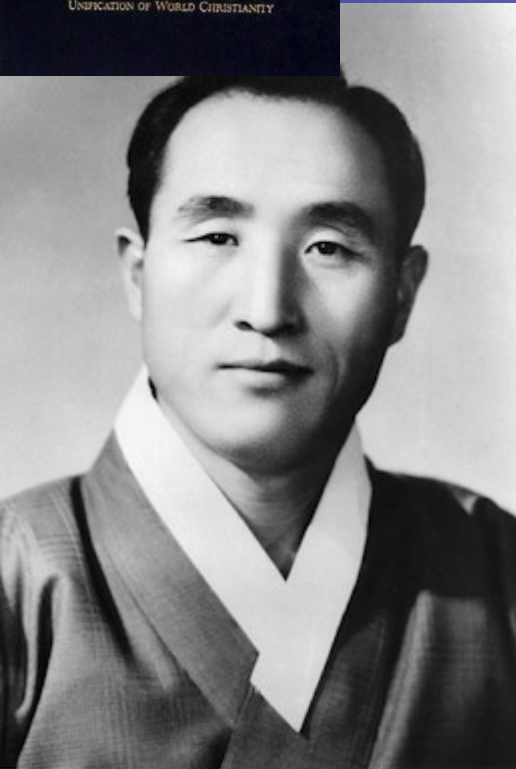
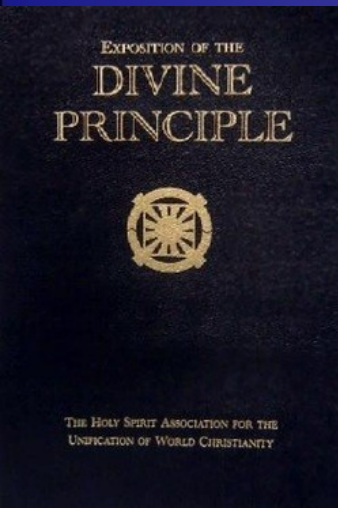
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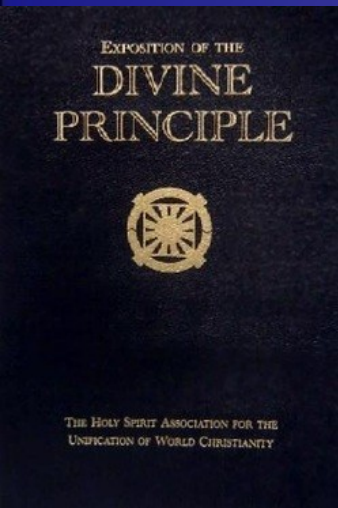
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  - The Church also taught against the dangers of communism and atheism, and how they corrupted society's core foundation of morality and values emphasizing the crucial importance of strong marriages (and the dangers of sexual sin) to echo our perfect unity with God and His own perfect unity within Himself
  - By 1959, the Church had sent missionaries to several countries, even including America and Yong had officially changed his name to Sun-Myung Moon (*"the Word made clear"*)





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- Funky little teaching moment—
  - This is probably a good point to mention that the Unification Church is totally a cult, and that you should probably be a little spooked if you found yourself feeling a kinship to Moon's teachings
  - When Moon said that God had masculine and feminine elements in Himself, what He *meant* was that he and his wife were themselves actually God, in the flesh and that their male and female perfection—clearly *more* perfect than *Jesus* was, since He *never* got married—constituted a *perfect* example for *everyone* to follow

(NOTE: That's why Moon so strongly urged his followers to get married—even performing mass weddings of up to 30,000 cult members at once)

(NOTE<sup>2</sup>: But don't worry—the marriages are guaranteed to last, since Moon himself would pick out your spouse for you)

(NOTE<sup>3</sup>: Please ignore the fact that Moon's *first* wife had *divorced* him because she thought he'd become a nut...)





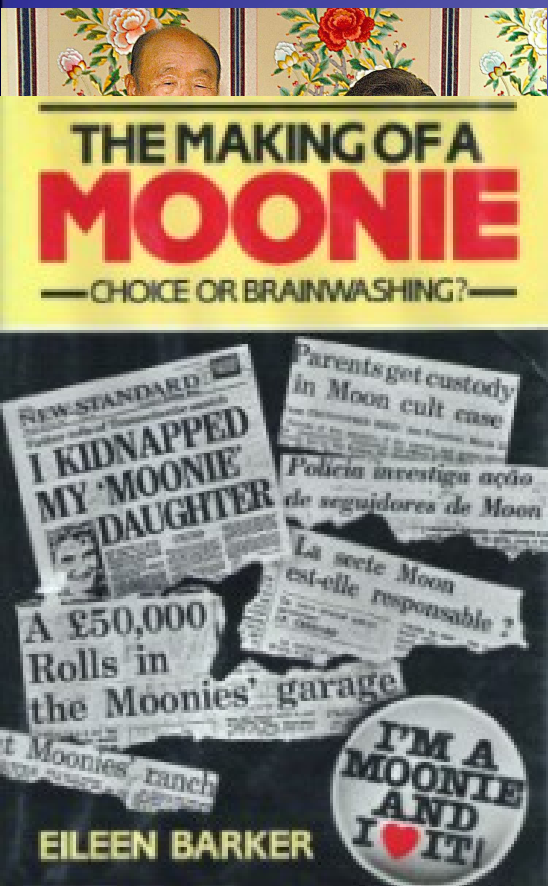
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  - Since the Moons were the “True Parents” to us all, then it would be an act of cruelty to send their “True Family” members back to broken, *imperfect* families therefore, church members were no longer allowed to have any contact with their birth families (which made total sense to converts to the church, after they'd had a few weekend retreats where they never got any sleep, rarely got any food, and were “love bombed” by other church members—and yes, those are all classic “brain washing” techniques)



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  - Families began hiring detectives to find and even “kidnap” their children back—even taking their children to “de-programmers” to try to undo the cult's work in them
  - Then again, there have also been several studies that suggest that the cult simply uses techniques that only *echo* brainwashing, and does not employ actual brainwashing to convert or control its adherents





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  - But Moon *did* employ conscious deception in attracting new followers
    - He was a master at getting people to support or even join a group without knowing that it was affiliated with the Unification Church



- For instance, the huge Inaugural World Convention of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification was held at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., in 1996 featuring speakers such as Bill Cosby, Gerald Ford, Pat Boone, and even pastor Robert Schuller—none of whom knew that the group was a Moonie front when they agreed to be present (most even tried to get out of it, but were contractually obligated by that point)



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      - The International Educational Foundation
      - The Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles
      - The Women's Federation for World Peace
      - The International Coalition for Religious Freedom
      - The Assembly of the World's Religions
      - American Clergy Leadership Conference
      - The New York City Symphony
      - The Washington Institute for Values in Public Policy
      - *The Washington Times*
      - New World Communications  
(which owns United Press International)
      - True World Foods  
(which distributes most of America's sushi)
      - Would you assume these were all Moonies?

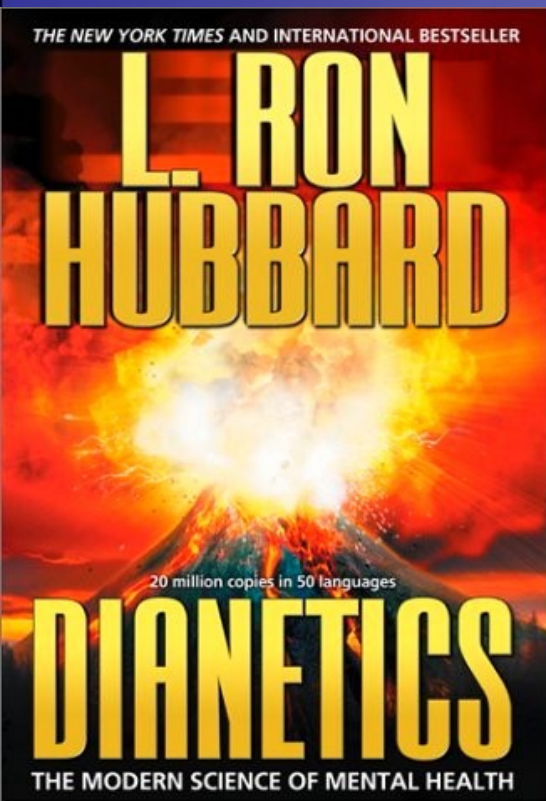




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(NOTE: Bear in mind that new “brainwashing” cults were popping up all over America at this time, including L. Ron Hubbard's Scientology in 1953 and in the 1960s, David Berg's “Children of God” and the “Hare Krishna” movement... the list goes on)



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- **Moon was convicted of tax evasion in 1982, and he died in 2012, but his cult is still going strong today**
  - In 1991, they even began to encourage cult members to go back to their families and communities to better evangelize them and bring them into the *True Family of God*...





# ***The Modern Age***

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  - 1954 The Unification Church was founded
  - Brown v. the Board of Education ruling**

# *The Modern Age*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Interestingly, ripple effects can sometimes collide and conflict with one another
  - For instance, a 1950s focus on being comfortably reactionary and hyper-traditionalist focused America on white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants as its normative “ideal”  
(NOTE: All of the images that I've included of 1950s Americans have been WASPs—had you noticed that?)





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(NOTE: The television program that most helped bridge the gap between traditional family values and embracing cross-cultural respect in 1951 was *I Love Lucy*, which changed the landscape of television by having a white woman happily married to a Latino man—and frightened CBS)

(Later, when other studios passed on what they saw as a controversial sci-fi program that showed different races, genders, and nationalities working together in harmony in the future, is it any wonder that it was *Desilu Productions* that finally offered to produce *Star Trek*?)



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      - So when Evangelicals who embraced civil rights for *all* people clashed with Evangelicals who wanted to protect their “idealized” America of white privilege, what happened?





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**Brown v. the Board of Education ruling**

- Since 1896's Plessy v. Ferguson ruling, it had been legal in America to provide “separate but equal” accommodations for blacks and whites
  - Judge Howard Ferguson had decided that there was nothing technically unconstitutional about having separate railway cars for different races and his decision had been upheld by higher courts, since actions like having separate but perfectly equal railway accommodations didn't violate the “Equal Protection Clause” of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (“No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”)





**PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL  
WHITE ONLY**



**WHITE**

**COLORED**



But the problem was that “separate but equal” was rarely equal, and the separation itself was usually demeaning and disrespectful—even when it was upheld more or less benignly

- Finally, in 1954, the argument was made that such segregation was detrimental to the mental health and self-esteem of children of color and thus, they were being denied “the equal protection of the laws”



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- Since 1896's Plessy v. Ferguson ruling, it had been legal in America to provide “separate but equal” accommodations for blacks and whites
- So a class action suit was brought against the School Board in Topeka, Kansas, arguing that it was detrimental and unconstitutional to force a little girl to go to a school over a mile away, when another one was only a few blocks from her home
  - The Supreme Court ultimately agreed, and Brown v. the Board of Education struck down the previous ruling of Plessy v. Ferguson—“separate but equal” was legally a dead concept



# *The Modern Age*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Of course, just because a concept is legally dead, that doesn't mean that it's socially or relationally gone
  - Clearly, many people felt strongly against segregation and others felt strongly about maintaining segregation and the stress on those first days of going to school would be all but inconceivable to us today
  - How would *you* respond to those who would argue that “God is the author of segregation!”?



(NOTE: The sign here cites Genesis 9:25-27, where a shamed Noah declares, “Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers... Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem...” so how would *you* respond to that?)

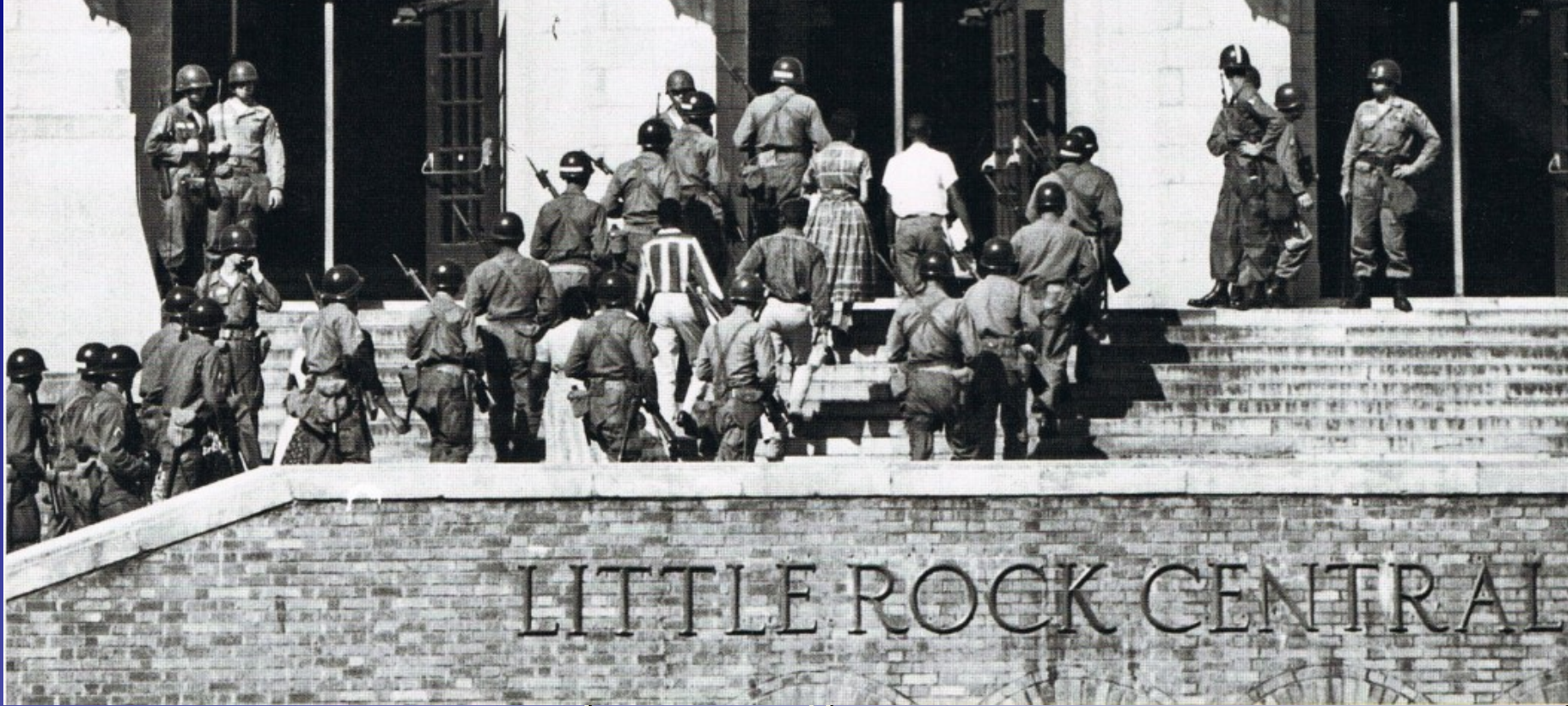


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- **Funky little teaching moment—**
  - Of course, just because a concept is legally dead, that doesn't mean that it's socially or relationally gone
  - **In 1957, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus decried what he saw as Federal encroachment on state rights and sent the Arkansas National Guard to bar black students from entering integrated schools**
    - **Faubus maintained that his rationale was to eliminate the violence that he was certain would ensue in those communities by “removing the cause” (i.e.; the integrated students)**







President Eisenhower responded by sending in a division of the U.S. Army to stand against the Guard and provide an armed escort for the students

So how tense would that particular stand-off have been, do you think?

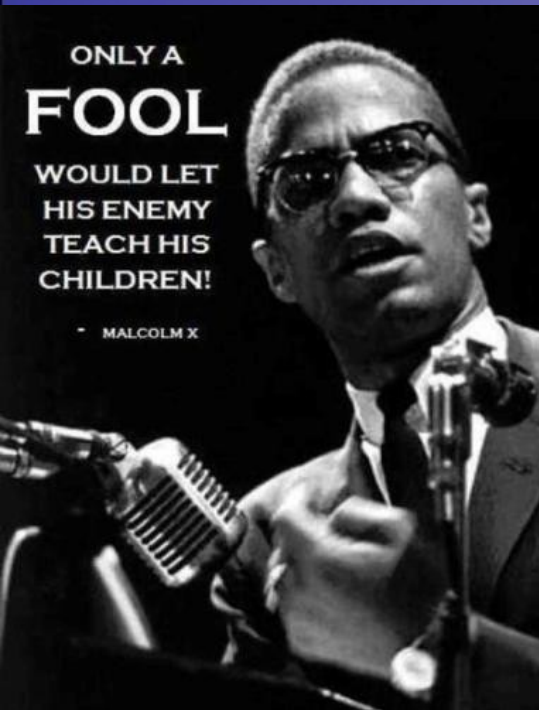
(NOTE: Faubus argued—correctly—that the federal government has no authority to direct how a state runs its own public school system but Eisenhower argued—correctly—that this wasn't ultimately about educational philosophies so much as about Faubus ignoring the decisions of the Supreme Court and suppressing the rights of American citizens)





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  - Just to clarify the sociopolitical climate of the day, America's reaction was not even remotely cut and dry
    - Some black leaders—such as Malcolm X—actually agreed with Faubus' decision to fight desegregation, arguing that it was *more* detrimental to integrate black children into populations who clearly didn't *want* them
    - And in 1958, a Gallup poll found that Faubus was among the “Ten Men in the World Most Admired by Americans”—which actually included many blacks
    - In fact, when Faubus won the next two elections in 1960 and 1964 to remain Governor of Arkansas, he defeated his opponents with over 80% of the black vote in the state
      - A) because he was a Democrat, and they would *never* vote Republican
      - B) because many Southern blacks felt that he upheld *their* traditional values too



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**The McCarthy hearings began**

- In 1950, little-known Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy made national headlines when, during his speech to the Republican Women's Club of Wheeling, West Virginia, he pulled out a piece of paper and proclaimed a vast, silent conspiracy

"The State Department is infested with communists. I have here in my hand a list of 205—a list of names that were made known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist Party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping policy in the State Department!"

(NOTE: He *kept* producing such lists—sometimes of 81 names, or of 57 names, or of 284 names... the numbers kept changing every time, and he never let anyone else see the lists)





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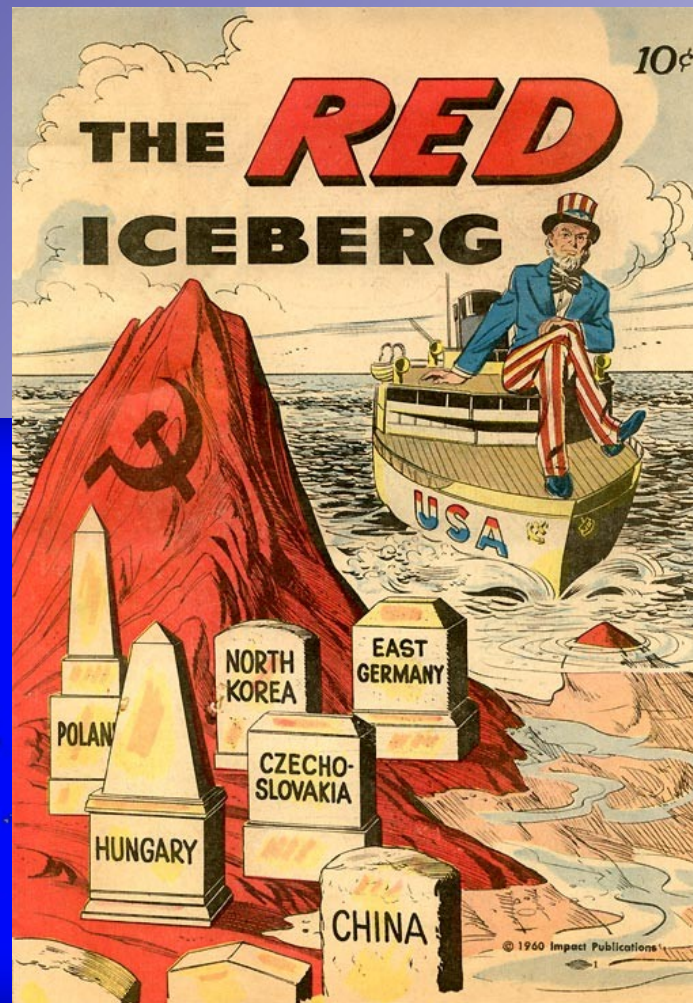
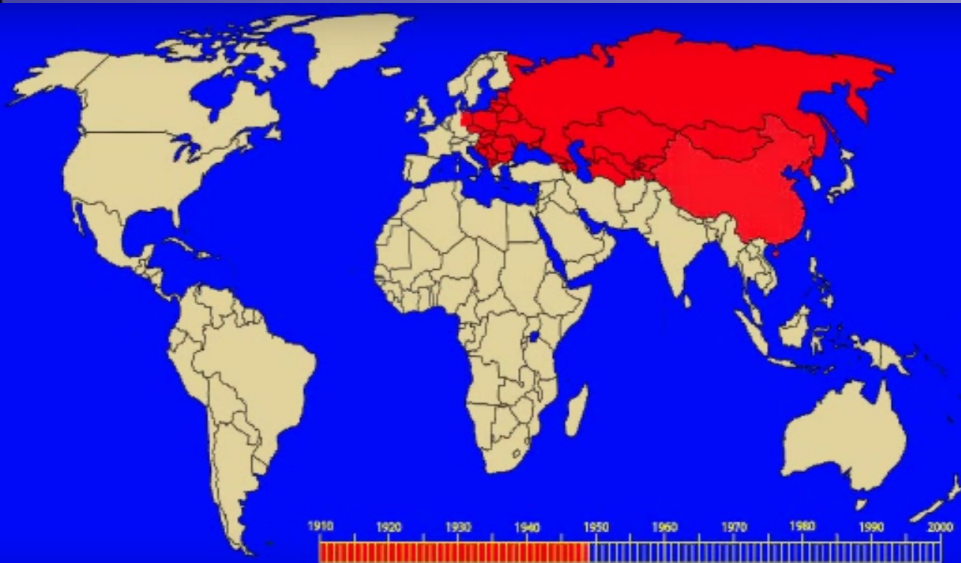
- In 1950, little-known Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy made national headlines when, during his speech to the Republican Women's Club of Wheeling, West Virginia, he pulled out a piece of paper and proclaimed a vast, silent conspiracy

- **Today, on *this* side of the Cold War, we'd see that sort of fear-mongering as laughably ridiculous, but you have to understand the time period**



# *The Modern Age*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - We need to remember how quickly communism had been growing in the world over the past three years (a fact which was being covered with concern even in children's comic books of the day)





# *The Modern Age*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - We need to remember how quickly communism had been growing in the world over the past three years *and* we need to remember that there *were* communist spies in the United States at the time
  - In 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted of being spies for the Soviet Union
    - Julius had been stationed at the Army Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories since 1940, but then he was fired in 1945 when the Army discovered that he'd had a background association with communism
    - To us, that sounds fairly paranoid on their part but in this case, Julius really had been working for the Soviets since 1942, passing along thousands of classified documents to the NKVD
    - With the help of his wife, Ethel, Julius recruited other key personnel to be spies, and passed along information about the specs of early jets (thus helping the Soviets develop their own jet airforce)



# *The Modern Age*

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- Funky little

- We never been caught and we were spies in the CIA

- In 1950, he was being



- With the help of his wife, Ethel, Julius recruited other key personnel to be spies, and passed along information about the specs of early jets, key information about the Los Alamos project, and even technical data that helped the Soviets shoot down U.S. pilot Gary Powers in 1960 (who was then held as a prisoner for nearly two years)



# *The Modern Age*

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  - In 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted of being spies for the Soviet Union
    - Julius had been stationed at the Army Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories since 1940, but then he was fired in 1945 when the Army discovered that he'd had a background association with communism
  - By the time that the Rosenbergs were convicted in 1950, the U.S. military and state department *really* were riddled with spies  
(then again, one could argue that we in the U.S. were fairly proud of our own spies in Soviet bloc countries, as well as that U-2 spy plane that Powers had been flying...)





# *The Modern Age*

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
  - We need to remember how quickly communism had been growing in the world over the past three years *and* we need to remember that there were communist spies in the United States at the time
  - In addition, as we discussed the other week, this was the same era when, in 1956, Soviet leader Nikita Krushchev was throwing around threats, shouting, “Whether you like it or not, history is on our side. We will bury you!”  
(NOTE: His literal words were “We will bury you!”—“Мы вас похороним!”—but the nuance of those words could potentially mean “We will see you in your grave” [i.e.; “We’ll outlast you” or even “we’re gonna dance on your grave”] depending on the intent but as he later clarified, “We must take a shovel and dig a deep grave, and bury colonialism as deep as we can, and drive in a stake, so that this evil may never be reborn,” so I think that Krushchev’s intent is fairly clear here)







- Add that all up, and you can see why Americans were primed to be a bit scared
- Communism was growing around the world, the Soviet leader had repeatedly publicly expressed the desire to destroy democracy, the Soviets now had nuclear capabilities, and those capabilities had been achieved in part due to the damaging work of Soviet spies who looked and acted just like your next-door neighbor
- Even in Hollywood, communists were essentially becoming the new horror movie monsters
- So when a U.S. Senator said that he could save us from the Red Menace, people sat up and listened...
  - Again, is there anything that we can learn from all of this in today's church?





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- McCarthy spun his notoriety into becoming the head of various committees and subcommittees, whose investigations often included trumped-up charges, circumstantial evidence, badgering, etc. but also just enough honest-to-goodness, genuine discoveries that he was kept in the public eye
- In the summer of 1954, he went up against the U.S. Army in a series of hearings that lasted for 36 days and were broadcast live on both the Dumont and ABC television networks
  - But after a month of watching how McCarthy actually comported himself in such hearings, even the people who had believed what they'd heard from synopses of McCarthy began to realize what a cruel glory-hound he actually was, once they saw him in person in their living rooms



# *The Modern Age*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - We can even point to one, brief exchange between Senator McCarthy and the Army's special counsel, Joseph Welch (from the law firm of Hale & Dorr), as the moral pivot point of the proceedings
  - After weeks of badgering, McCarthy then falsely accused Welch of baiting the committee's chief counsel Roy Cohn and then turned around and attacked a young lawyer in Welch's firm, who had been a member of the National Lawyer's Guild—which had had strong communist ties
  - Welch further chided McCarthy—

“Little did I dream you could be so reckless and cruel as to do an injury to that lad. It is true he is still with Hale & Dorr. It is true that he will *continue* to be with Hale & Dorr. It is, I regret to say, *equally* true that I fear he shall always bear a scar needlessly inflicted by you. If it were in my power to forgive you for your reckless cruelty, I would do so. I like to think I am a gentle man. But your forgiveness will have to come from someone other than me...”





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    - Welch further chided McCarthy
      - Between that exchange and a scathing attack by CBS news powerhouse Edward R. Murrow, McCarthy's power quickly fizzled
      - In December of 1954, the Senate voted 67–22 to censure McCarthy, and he was replaced as Senator the next month
- (NOTE: Though public confidence in McCarthy had faded, the fear of the “Godless Communists” that he had set fire to nonetheless remained at a fever pitch, and pro-America sentiment was at an all-time high... especially among Evangelical Christians)



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The U.S. Pledge of Allegiance was modified

- Back in 1892, Baptist minister (and Christian Socialist) Francis Bellamy had proposed a salute to the U.S. flag for the students at his school—

“I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty, equality, and fraternity for all.”

(echoing the classic “*liberté, égalité, fraternité!*” rallying cry of the French Revolution)





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“I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

(NOTE: Bellamy ran afoul of his own school board—who rightly thought that he was asking the children to pledge their allegiance to a flag that represented equality and fraternity for all races, creeds, and genders in the country so he changed his creed to be less offensive)



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- By 1942, the pledge had changed to become more specific, and it was officially adopted by the U.S. Congress—

**“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”**

(NOTE: The original, proscribed method of saluting the flag became decidedly less fashionable for children after World War II so Congress mandated that people either place their right hand over their heart, or use a military salute)





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- By 1942, the pledge had changed to become more specific, and it was officially adopted by the U.S. Congress
- By the end of the decade, various church groups were including the words "under God" in their versions of the Pledge  
(taking the words from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address)



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- A newly-baptised Eisenhower was in his congregation that morning, and the following day, he presented legislation to change the Pledge  
“From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty.”





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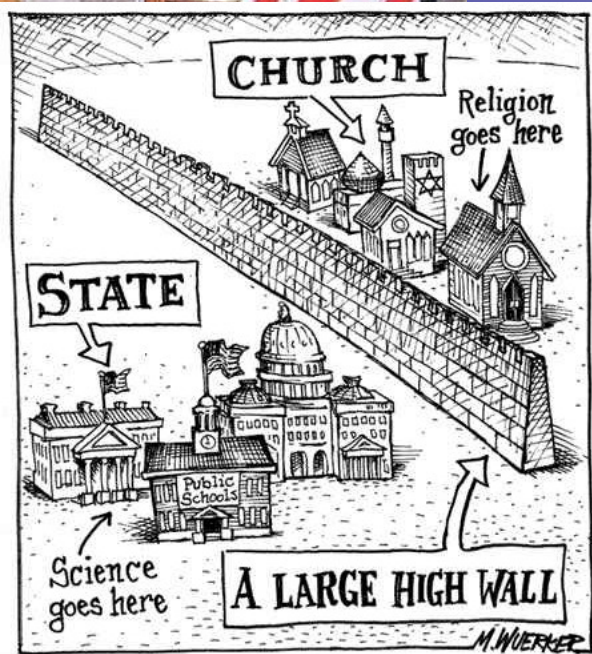
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- There was an immediate backlash against the change to the Pledge—much of which was led by atheist activist Joseph Lewis, who argued that it violated the “separation of church and state”

- But the Supreme Courts decided that

- since any child could simply choose to omit those words, this was not truly a hardship
- as New York State Justice Isadore Bookstein famously wrote, the separation “was conceived to prevent and prohibit the establishment of a State Religion; it was *not* intended to prevent or prohibit the growth and development of a Religious State”



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- **The courts thus decided that though the American government cannot support a particular religion over any others, it can support *religion in general***

- This is why Presidents can still be inaugurated with an oath that includes the words, “So help me, God” and our national motto can be “In God we trust”





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  - 1956 **“In God We Trust” became our national motto**
    - We'd never had an official motto before that (“*e pluribus unum*” was only a nifty saying that we put on our national seal—it was never made an official motto)



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  - 1956 “In God We Trust” became our national motto
- We'd never had an official motto before that, and it was already in the fourth stanza of the “*Star-Spangled Banner*” (which no one ever sings)—

O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation.  
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust.'  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!





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- We'd never had an official motto before that, and it was already in the fourth stanza of the “*Star-Spangled Banner*” (which no one ever sings), and the 1873 Coinage Act specified that the Secretary of the Treasury “may cause the motto IN GOD WE TRUST to be inscribed on such coins as shall admit of such motto”

- So in the wake of the modifications of the Pledge and within the context of the new American conservatism, making this the official motto of our nation seemed innocuous to most Evangelicals (and Catholics, and Jews, and even Muslims and Hindus—all of whom saw this as an affirmation of religion in general)



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1956 “In God We Trust” became our national motto  
But to the nation's atheists, this just sounded like  
America was becoming a theocracy

- Court case after court case tried to have the motto removed from documents and currency—or at least changed “back” to “*e pluribus unum*”

- But in 1970, the U.S. Court of Appeals decided  
“It is quite obvious that the national motto and the slogan on coinage and currency ‘In God We Trust’ has nothing whatsoever to do with the establishment of religion. Its use is of patriotic or ceremonial character...”



If you're offended by this image, then you're  
beginning to understand the importance of  
separation of church and state.



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- But in 1970, the U.S. Court of Appeals decided, and in 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court decided, “such practices as the designation of ‘In God We Trust’ as our national motto, or the references to God contained in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag can best be understood... as a form a ‘ceremonial deism,’ protected from Establishment Clause scrutiny chiefly because they have lost through rote repetition any significant religious content.”

(reason #482 why I tend to dislike “rote repetition”)



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      - But in 1970, the U.S. Court of Appeals decided, and in 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court decided
      - **For those who would defend the use of our national motto on our coinage, how comfortable are you with defending it as merely a “ceremonial deism” that has no significant religious content?**
        - How has much of our Christianity become far more about doing things that *look* churchy, rather than being regenerated children of God and ambassadors of His Kingdom?  
 (“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me...”)

