

Lesson 9: Cultural Revolution in the West

Introduction – Modern society lacks the ability to appreciate the nature of things and to say someone else is wrong:

[Family Policy Institute of Washington – Interview of Students at the University of Washington: On Identity](#)

How can a person self-identify so contrary to the plain facts?

Francis Schaeffer, *Escape from Reason*

Value ← PRIVATE: the right of personal choice, regardless of the facts

Fact ← PUBLIC: proving claims based on the scientific method

The U. S. Supreme Court has ruled more than once in favor of this individualistic view of freedom:

“At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life” (*Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, 1992).

How did we get to such a point?

One Factor: The Failure of Education

C. S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man* – modern education treats all value judgments as subjective (one’s opinion)

Illus. Is beauty in the eye of the beholder? One man’s junk is another man’s treasure? Should it be?

Problem: “Men Without Chests” – lacking the sense of glory within that corresponds to true glory out there

Danger: Elite scientists will “social engineer” the rest of us!

One Factor: The Success of Music

Two Kinds of Revolution

Political Revolution (↓) – the overthrow of government → e.g. 1950s communists (cf. George Orwell)

Cultural Revolution (↑) – the overthrow of morals → e.g. 1960s sexual revolution (cf. Aldous Huxley)

Bible Examples:

Numbers – Balaam’s frontal attack failed, but the Moabite women succeeded

Revelation – the persecuting cruel Beast versus the seducing prostitute Babylon

Why did the cultural revolution succeed?

While ideas have consequences (Richard Weaver), consequences have ideas (Mark Coppenger).

“They will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires” (2 Tim. 4:3).

E. Michael Jones, *Degenerate Moderns* – much of modern *thought* has aimed at justifying sexual immorality

E. Michael Jones, *Dionysos Rising* – much of modern *music* has aimed at cultural revolution

Richard Wagner – failed to overthrow Christianity in the Revolution of 1848, but uses opera instead

Tristan und Isolde – chromatic music with an adulterous theme

Friedrich Nietzsche – claims Wagner points the way back to pre-Socratic days of will over reason

“Might makes right” and “God is dead” – contracts syphilis and goes insane

Result: Mick Jaeger & the Rolling Stones → goosetstep, “Sympathy for the Devil,” Altamont deaths (1970)

Agreements

Much of the 1960s Rock ‘n’ Roll music was a consciously rebellious movement aimed at revolution:

“The most important kind of freedom is to be what you really are... There can't be any large-scale revolution until there's a personal revolution, on an individual level” (Jim Morrison, *The Doors*).

Modern pop music does not need to feel rebellious anymore because the 1960s revolution succeeded.

Cultural revolution through music is effective, as Andrew Fletcher, a 17th-century Scottish politician, said:

“If a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws.”

Could that be why King David not only ruled Israel but also wrote the nation's songs?

Beware of “passion”, when the emotions take over the reason (e.g. Samson’s lust and anger; cf. 1 Th. 4:5).

“Come out of her...so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues” (Rev. 18:4).

Disagreements

First – Correlation Fallacy (perhaps Wagner and the 1960s come from the same source—lust)

Second – False Dichotomy (the Greek division between reason and appetite)

<i>Music Motion and Emotion</i>	Greek Music Phrygian Mode – orderly Dorian Mode – disorderly (Dionysian riot)	African-American Music Negro Spiritual – sway Common Music – tapping Ring Dance – frenzy	Psalm 16 The Lord is my God and my good. “My gut instructs me in the night.” Unified heart—deep affections.
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The filling of the Spirit enhances human personality, but demon possession displaces human personality.

The filling of the Spirit embraces the word about Christ (cf. Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16)—and leads to music!

What kind of spiritual habitat are you creating with your music (cf. Saul and Elisha)?

What kind of spiritual habitat are you creating alone and in private within the temple of your body?

Christian music unifies spirit and word for worship within the deepest core of a believer (see the Psalms).