

ACCLAIM FOR

The Desecrators

“The unraveling of America is now at a furious pace, and this is just the book to capture what has been happening and why. Unlike reformers of the past, today’s activists seek not to improve but to tear down: their anarchist thumbprints are everywhere apparent. Both of the authors have had a distinguished career in politics and in Catholic circles, and the poignant anecdotes they share gives the book a personal touch. They cover much ground, and they do it with considerable flair.”

—Bill Donohue, PhD, president, Catholic
League for Religious and Civil Rights

“Matt Schlapp and Deal Hudson perceptively read the moment and expose the nature of the threats to foundational American and human ideals, including the assault on life itself and the most innocent among us. There is no one better to outline where we’re headed and how the obstacles can be successfully overcome than these two visionary men of faith, who so generously share their insight. *The Desecrators* is filled with both urgency and vital hope for the America future generations will inherit.”

—Marjorie Dannenfelser, president,
Susan B. Anthony List

“In this must-read book, Matt Schlapp and Deal Hudson analyze what Yale law professor Stephen L. Carter once called ‘the culture of disbelief’ and Richard John Neuhaus decried as the ‘naked public square.’ The systematic attempt to marginalize people of faith and thereby undermine America’s Judeo-Christian foundations is not new, but its codification as cancel culture is. The authors urge that we reaffirm the faith of our founders and, most critically, provide a realistic plan to win.”

—Ralph Reed, political consultant

“If you want to know how to live as a patriotic Christian American today, fully aware of the dangers of our times and yet strengthened by hope, *The Desecrators* is the book to read. It will ground you in reality; it will make you want to jump up and fight for what is right; it will challenge you, in the spirit of the Founders and of the martyrs, to give your all for America and for the Gospel!”

—Fr. Frank Pavone, national director, Priests for Life
president, National Pro-life Religious Council

THE DESECRATORS

Defeating the Cancel Culture Mob and
Reclaiming One Nation Under God

Matt Schlapp
&
Deal W. Hudson

TAN Books
Gastonia, North Carolina

The Desecrators: Defeating the Cancel Culture Mob and Reclaiming One Nation Under God
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Publisher's note on cover image: As the first president of the United States, one of our founding fathers, and an American Revolutionary War hero, George Washington is considered by many to be the greatest American. Desecrated statues like the one on the front cover – vandalized with red paint in New York City's Washington Square Park in June 2020 – reflect the signs of our times and the continued physical and moral destruction caused by the cancel culture mob. May this appalling image serve as a constant reminder that patriotic Americans must help reclaim our freedoms and values if the United States wishes to remain one nation under God.

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*To Mom who is my Hero
& to Mercy who is my Heart
—Matt Schlapp*

*To Theresa C. Hudson for more than thirty years
—Deal W. Hudson*

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Foreword

The idea for *The Desecrators* started on our front porch where Matt and I would drink our morning cup of coffee. Our conversation always led to discussion about the declining state of affairs in America. We felt that we weren't the only ones sitting on the front porch looking to the horizon and feeling that we were losing this great country. We were in the middle of the horrific COVID-19 pandemic where thousands of Americans, especially older Americans, had died. Many Americans were living in fear, socially distancing themselves from their families, and being yelled at by their neighbors for not wearing a mask. The stress and anxiety was escalating, and any sense of normalcy had ended in our communities and churches.

The world looked grim. Rising deaths, endless lockdowns, and closed schools only added to the heartache. And the government's response is more control: mask mandates, vaccine mandates, lockdowns, and school shutdowns—all in the name of the COVID. We were also living in a new woke world where chaos and confusion were penetrating every aspect of our lives and directly impacting our children. It seemed like the darkness and sadness would never end. Matt and I could only hold on to our faith, our family, and each other. We found ourselves praying the Rosary every night with the family and asking for wisdom and God's mercy on our country.

Politically, the Republicans were lost after the 2020 election. Many of us were bullish about President Trump winning the presidential election. Matt and I traveled around the country and met thousands of Americans who all saw the dangers of the ambient spirit of socialism permeating their communities. We felt hopeless on election night, and with President Joe Biden now in the White House, anyone associated with President Donald J. Trump was considered evil by the Left and liberal media. Matt was the subject of a targeted campaign by the Left to destroy his business and our lives. The assault by the Left was fierce, with the goal of silencing Matt for his attempt to expose Marxist organizations shielded by the Left. Many corporations caved to the Left and bowed down to their every demand. But Matt would never cave. It was painful for me to watch how Matt was constantly attacked and targeted, and at times, our children and I were also attacked on social media. It was scary. During the campaign, an execution list was shared on social media on which several of us from the campaign were named. The Never Trump movement's Lincoln Project created the list of Trump people not to hire—I was included. I had never witnessed such vicious and destructive political behavior. It was pure evil and hate. At one point, I told Matt we needed to get out of the public eye, but I knew that we had been called to speak up for those afraid to speak. He would not back down despite the price, and he stood determined to fight against government control and the socialist agenda taking root in our communities.

Deal Hudson joined us on the front porch for several sessions and dissected the current problems in our society

and the Church. Matt and I have known Deal for over twenty years, going back to the George W. Bush days. He is a level-headed philosopher and critical and common-sense thinker. I have always admired his ability to explain the intricacies of our Catholic faith and the unique moment in which we live. His calm demeanor juxtaposes Matt's feisty and energetic nature. Writing a book is a daunting task, and Deal guided Matt every step of the way. It was a critical time to write the blueprint for reclaiming America, and I knew combining the political and philosophical minds of Matt and Deal would create a meaningful and impactful book for those in search of inspiration and hope for our country.

Venerable Sister Lucia, one of the seers from Fatima, once wrote, "From now on, we are either with God or we are with the Devil; there is no middle ground."¹ We have arrived at a moment that cries for a decision about who we stand with and who we defend. Institutions are failing us, and it falls to the people and faithful to save this country. The Desecrators have spent their time fomenting chaos and confusion and dividing us by race and an assault on gender. With the school shut-downs, many parents saw firsthand the insanity of the Left's propaganda being taught in their children's classes. Because of COVID-19 and ill-advised government and school policy decisions, our children lost their youth, their dreams, and their relationships. They suffered tremendous pain and mental health issues that could take a lifetime to heal.

¹ Augustin Fuentes, "Sister Lucy's Last Public Interview-1957," Tradition in Action, accessed November 8, 2021, https://www.traditioninaction.org/HotTopics/g23ht_Interview.html.

The government and the liberal media created unnecessary panic and fear that drove us all to avoid contact with others. The madness felt like it would never end. With the country in the hands of a mentally unfit president, a propaganda machine, social media, and with progressives in charge, we are headed in the wrong direction. While the Desecrators seek to take control of our lives, we have found a way to push back and not accept the lies of the Left. We remember a time when we pledged allegiance to the American flag using the words “under God” and taught our children what the flag stands for: freedom. We cherish our freedom to speak up, our freedom to worship, and our freedom to pursue happiness, and we need to stop the Desecrators. Freedoms are fragile and must be protected by each and every one of us.

Americans have proven that they are courageous and resilient. We have seen the rise of parents, everyday moms and dads who have taken on the Desecrators who have targeted their children. It moves me to tears watching these parents speak up at the school board meetings and challenge the destructive public school systems. Their bravery has changed the political landscape. They inspire us all that every voice matters and that we the people are in charge—not the Leftist mob.

As we would tell our children, in the darkness there is light. Where there are Desecrators, there are saints and everyday heroes who believe in the goodness and glory of God and will be responsible for saving America. The Desecrators will fail because God is in charge and the devil will be defeated. There is no middle ground. One day, Americans will gather with their loved ones on the front porch with a sense of hope and victory. They will recall the days of darkness and

know that their voices made all the difference in reclaiming a nation once bereft of hope.

—Mercedes Schlapp

Acknowledgments

This was my first attempt at writing a book, and it would have been impossible without Deal Hudson. He is a great man and faithful friend who always has the discernment to be on the right side of meaningful battles.

My soul needed an outlet that allowed me to think more intensely than in a TV interview and be able to relay what I believe God is calling righteous people to do: fight now, no matter how much personal risk it might require. The America we cherish could crumble, and with it, the core freedoms around the globe that America impacts, starting with religious freedom.

Of course, my wife is my partner in life and professionally. It seems we are always each other's top advisor, and sometimes each other's boss. Mercy is the sweetest, most loyal, and most fierce woman I have ever met. My love for her deepens as my respect for her character grows. I am sorry, Sweetie, that I still don't salsa very well.

I dedicated this book to Mercy, but also to my mom, Sue. She has always been my rock in a family confronted with obstacles and tragedy. Mom always got up and got through it no matter how embarrassing or tough the day was. And she always had a wry jab to make us all laugh and mock the insanity around her. Laughter was probably her second great gift to her kids (her strong faith gets the trophy). It was

Mom who taught me life was more challenge than celebration but that God would never abandon us and His plan for us was always for the good of His creation. She also taught me about life as she taught me competitive tennis. I cannot properly explain how much her lessons on the court translate into life in the arena: keep calm, be aggressive but patient, watch the ball and your opponent, always stay on your toes, take charge of the net whenever possible, and never play the score, because you can stage a comeback no matter how far you are down. I never won Wimbledon, and too often, I was a poor loser, but we all know our cause is greater than all that. The America we love is very far behind in the score; we just need to follow Mom's advice, starting now.

Mercy and I are blessed with a big, boisterous, loving family, all of whom support our work and are there for us, especially during the last five years. Mercy's father is constantly on our minds as he had the courage to fight Castro in Cuba and now worries about Castroism in America. We love our Florida Family: Lela, Abu, Melissa, Bob, Jose, Aimee; and our Kansas Clan: Andy, Jane, Carol, Jimmie, Chrissy, and Jason, and we adore all your kids. We are sorry for the times when you bear the brunt of what we say or do.

Thanks for all our dear friends from the two White House tours and in the Swamp who still put up with us, like Jana and Michael. Your numbers have dwindled, but as Mom always said, those who abandon you when you do right were never really your friends to begin with. Thanks to Stephen, Angela, and Frank, who help us so diligently at Cove Strategies. And to all our friends in the clergy who pray for us and

encourage us, especially our pastor, Fr. Edward Hathaway; we need your support more than ever.

To all those who support CPAC, you have my enduring love and appreciation. CPAC has played a large role in the great battle of America versus Socialism, and we have given hope throughout the world to those committed to freedom and dignity. To the staff and the board and all the supporters, dedicating my public life to this cause has been my greatest professional honor.

Finally, to our five daughters: Viana, Caterina, Elissa, Ava, and Lucia, too often I have had to explain how regretful I am that my generation is handing you a society that glorifies the trends that are making things worse. All of us should have spoken up sooner and done more for the students of today. Your Mom and Dad are, with Diana's assistance, dedicated to engaging in this great struggle to cleanse the soul of America. We are striving to save a new generation from the confusion and pain resulting from the embrace of the false gods of the government knowing best all the time in all things and the chaos-inducing trendsetters who spin the allure of chic evil. We are doing this for you, and each of you motivate us every day to do our job right. You inspire us with your innocence and love. Thanks for reminding us that it is never too late to right a wrong or to answer the call.

Finally, a whole group of wonderful Kansans helped pay large portions of my tuition bills when my Dad died during my time at the University of Notre Dame. To each of you, some of whom have passed, I know that without your help, I would have faced desperation. I'll never forget each of you, nor Kapaun Mt. Carmel's own Sister Kathleen, who was a

good nun but an even better fundraiser. May the prayers of Father Kapaun be with each one of you, and with this great country for which he gave his life.

With deep gratitude,
Matt Schlapp

I would like to thank those friends whose personal, intellectual, and spiritual guidance provided the foundation and perspective of this book: Bob Reilly, Jeff Wallin, Frank Buckley, Marjorie Dannenfelser, Claire Smith, Jeff Cavins, Deacon Keith Fournier, Msgr. Richard Lopez, Frank Hanna III, and David Hanna.

—Deal W. Hudson

Introduction

1.

We felt compelled to write this book because the country we pledge allegiance to and the truths to which we adhere are being attacked by evil forces that hate both America and our Church. Our country was formed in the crucible of a Christian culture. No nation on earth should be a better compliment to many of the moral teachings that shaped the Western world.

From her founding documents, America affirmed that the human person was created by God. This bestows on all of us rights that cannot be taken away by any temporal power—they are unalienable. All persons are therefore set apart from other creatures and things because we bear the stamp of God's creative will and love.

For half a century, people of faith have seen traditional ideas of morality undermined as a cascade of progressive revolutions impacted society. The waves of change hit the shores, but most nevertheless believed that families, the Church, truth, and education would all weather the storm.

But we were overconfident. We fought, but we also rested in the confidence that common sense and decency would prevail. It was impossible, it seemed, that the basic values

held by our parents and grandparents would ever be challenged by charges of racism and, for many, their “whiteness.”

Each day now brings news that defies common sense; it’s as if the world has turned upside down and none of the old verities matter anymore.

When a society begins to unwind, chaos ensues. It’s now crystal clear that our opponents want to create confusion, undermine basic truths, and take down America.

The opponents can be recognized by what they want to tear down: the family, traditional morality, gender, public order, public safety, police protection, freedom of speech, religious liberty, abortion restrictions, the military, America, Israel, and the Christian religion—an all-out assault on Western civilization

What name shall we give those nihilists? Let’s call them the desecrators. These pathways of destruction described above are all acts of desecration; they are attacking, and in some cases removing, what we as people of faith and Americans consider sacred. The sacred is that which we value above all else; it refers directly to God or to our core principles. What else is the removal of a cross from a public place? Or the removal of a statue of an American war hero? Or taking God’s holy name out of the pledge of allegiance? Or the accusation that America is inherently racist? Or the accusation that Christianity undergirds oppressive structures like marriage, the family, the rights of parents to education their children, and the priority of God’s law over man’s?

Thus far, we have witnessed desecration and destruction of statues of the likes of Saint Junípero Serra, Saint Louis, Christopher Columbus, Frederick Douglass, Abraham

Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Thomas Jefferson, and even numerous statues of the Blessed Mother. Not a single statue of Saint Junípero Serra at the missions he founded in California has been left untouched. He was the missionary who literally brought Christianity to California.

Desecration has taken the form of cancel culture—the attack on the history, traditions, and moral principles that have shaped America. The desecrators also employ the power of public shaming to destroy the lives of those heroic individuals who dare to challenge them.

The people of faith in America must stop the systemic desecration being inflicted by our most powerful public institutions—from the media and schools to universities and elected governments—and we must strive in particular to restore the safety of a mother’s womb.

2.

Since our founding, America has been foremost among nations in defending and promulgating liberty and human rights.

Those who promote and defend human rights around the globe rely on American support and leadership. They are concerned that if America becomes another run-of-the-mill secular democracy embracing socialism, its fight for freedom in smaller countries will dissipate.

President Donald J. Trump was a leader who recognized the human dignity of the unborn child, the unemployed, the poor, the unjustly imprisoned, and all those struggling to make ends meet. He understood there were forgotten men and women of America and across the globe whose plight

was being ignored by the powerful. These decent people pray that America remains strong so she can continue to speak up for their intrinsic dignity and God-given rights.

In decades past, radicals have risen to prominence in America, but usually they were rejected or ignored if they hated America or promoted violence. The election of Barack Obama changed all that, and not for the better: anti-American radicalism was more aggressively embraced in the media, the universities, and public schools. The creation and wide acceptance of the *New York Times's* "1619 Project" (2019) was made possible by the Obama presidency. This project claimed America was created to protect slavery. The *Times* itself explains the project's objective: "to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery . . . at the very center of our national [American] narrative." Most of us, including most of white America, hoped the first president of color would bring racial healing. His style of leadership appeared calming, but his harsh, leftist policies reinstated the racial polarization of the 1950s.

Throughout both his terms, Obama steadily pushed a theme that America had to be transformed due to its racist past. Obama set the stage for the "Great American Reset."¹

Eight years of the Obama presidency helped millions of Americans understand that socialism and soft anti-Americanism would make them poorer, sicker, less optimistic of their personal futures, and more dubious that America would always persevere. This explains the unexpected

¹ Llewellyn King, "King: The Great American Reset is underway, will change everything," *Boston Herald*, April 2, 2021, <https://www.bostonherald.com/2021/04/02/king-the-great-american-reset-is-underway-will-change-everything/>.

groundswell of support for Donald Trump in 2016, who, as everyone knows, wanted to “Make America Great Again.”

We believe that groundswell still exists and will grow larger during the full reveal of the Biden presidency. Regardless of the reasons that President Joe Biden became president, his administration has already stoked the fires that previously led to Donald Trump’s term in office.

3.

The desecrators came to power long before the Trump presidency. Donald Trump’s four years in office gave him the chance to slow them down and push them back, but what is taken away can be given back, which is exactly what the new administration is rapidly doing.

The policies of the desecrators are an attempt to destroy the backbone of American culture and its commerce: decreasing the production of American fossil fuels, increasing taxes, regulating everything except abortion, educating our children to hate the land of their birth, destroying clear gender distinctions, helping Iran and other radical Islamic terrorists while weakening Israeli security interests, encouraging globalism while undermining the US military, coddling a rising Communist China and an untrustworthy Russia.

But even more damaging is the death star strategy the desecrators have built in an attempt to destroy any vestige of mom, apple pie, and the America we once knew. These forces are intent on ending the influence of traditional morality, the primacy of the family, and respect for all human life.

We know this because, with the rise of Black Lives Matter Inc. (BLM), we saw the left become so confident that it

actually published on its website its true intentions: socialism, the end of Israel, the nuclear family, Western churches, economic profit, and a constitutionally-based America.²

Those who took over BLM and became its loudest voice had the open intention to destroy the family was quickly taken off its website but can still be seen in archives of its pages. It declared, “We seek to disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and ‘villages’ that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable.”³

The desecrators seek to disrupt and have no real intention to make anyone “comfortable.” They intend to end America as we know it through the tactic of cancel culture, which aims to not just register opposition to traditionalist policies but to use elite power through media, foundations, and academia to destroy the reputation of anyone who stands in their way.

The cancel culture worldview is the exact opposite of the Judeo-Christian traditions and America’s founding principles. Why? Because our faith is rooted in the past, in history, in time, and in time-tested truths. To cancel the past is to forget all of salvation history, the Scriptures, the life of Christ, and the body of the Church.

² Melissa Chan, “Black Lives Matter Releases List of Demands for the First Time,” *Time*, August 1, 2016, <https://news.yahoo.com/black-lives-matter-releases-list-190056794.html>.

³ Jon Miltimore, “Black Lives Matter’s Goal to ‘Disrupt’ the Nuclear Family Fits a Marxist Aim That Goes Back a Century and a Half,” *FEE*, September 24, 2020, <https://fee.org/articles/black-lives-matter-s-goal-to-disrupt-the-nuclear-family-fits-a-marxist-aim-that-goes-back-a-century-and-a-half/>.

In other words, we lose the truth revealed to us—not just as it was once long ago but the truth as proclaimed for centuries. Our faith, our worldview, and our salvation depend upon awareness and affirmation of the past. These are sacred to us.

4.

The desecrator's worldview targets the foundational elements of society as shaped by the Judeo-Christian tradition, beginning with the family. Why the family? The family is the crucible of human development. The family is where the truth of the past is carried forward through children and grandchildren.

Each human person receives his or her most important nurturing in the first years of life. Virtues, values, and worldviews are all learned during these years.

Catholics, other Christians, and other people of faith in America should be deeply alarmed about the ongoing attacks. The desecrators are even accusing the first chapter in Holy Scripture of causing “hatred.” Why? In part, because the chapter contains this line: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Gn 1:27).

The Democrats have proposed legislation that officially denies the truth of only two genders, male and female. The Equality Act (HR 5), if passed, will make the profession of this truth punishable under law.⁴ But this proposed legislation only starts with a redefinition of gender, which in itself

⁴ “11 Myths About H.R. 5, the Equality Act of 2021,” The Heritage Foundation, February 24, 2021, <https://www.heritage.org/gender/report/11-myths-about-hr-5-the-equality-act-2021>.

is an attack on the Judeo-Christian tradition. It should be called the Desecration Act!

One Jewish commentator, Yaakov Menken, has called the Equality Act “a new era of government-sanctioned anti-religious bigotry.”⁵ He explains that some Jewish events are traditionally held in venues where men and women are separated. This legislation requires the “desegregation of public facilities [by] sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity).” In other words, centuries-old Jewish custom must change or be liable to federal prosecution. And that’s only a single example.

Marriage itself as understood in Scripture and the Western tradition is regarded as a “sex stereotype” in the Equality Act, along with any judgments made on the basis of “gender identity” between male and female.⁶

One of the most frightening passages of HR 5 is this line overriding the protection of religious freedom: “The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 shall not provide a claim concerning, or a defense to a claim under, a covered title, or provide a basis for challenging the application or enforcement of a covered title.”⁷

This bill goes way beyond allowing anyone who declares himself or herself being “female” access to the ladies’

⁵ Yaakov Menken, “How The Equality Act Would Legalize Religious Bigotry,” *The Federalist*, March 23, 2021, <https://thefederalist.com/2021/03/23/the-equality-act-would-legalize-religious-bigotry/>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Mary Margaret Olohan, “Here’s What’s In The Equality Act,” *Daily Caller*, February 25, 2021, <https://dailycaller.com/2021/02/25/the-equality-act-lgbtq-transgender-democrats/>.

bathroom or locker room. The language makes it illegal for doctors to refuse to perform abortions.⁸

In the Equality Act, we see the federal government dictating a new worldview, starting with a radical ideology that separates sexuality and gender from nature and the physical reality of the body. That ideology will be pushed through public schools starting with kindergarten through sixth grade, meaning that parents will have to fight it out with the schools or find schools where the propaganda does not exist. Whether this legislation passes or not, it represents how a powerful minority of political and cultural elites want to “reset” our nation.

It’s no surprise then that the legislation impacts faith-based adoption and foster care agencies where boys are still considered boys and girls are still considered girls. The state regulation of these agencies will be changed, requiring the acceptance of the new sexual ideology.⁹ The Equality Act bases its power to enforce the new ideology by amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act to prohibit “discrimination” on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Chief among the discriminatory practices is using a “sex stereotype” such as that taught in Genesis 1.¹⁰

⁸ Alexandra Desanctis, “The Equality Act Would Require Government-Funded Abortion,” *National Review*, February 25, 2021, <https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/02/the-equality-act-would-require-government-funded-abortion/>.

⁹ Jeff Johnston, “Equality Act Discriminates Against Faith-based Adoption Agencies,” *The Daily Citizen*, March 26, 2019, <https://dailycitizen.focusonthefamily.com/equality-act-discriminates-against-faith-based-adoption-agencies/>.

¹⁰ Ibid.

Whether the Equality Act passes or not, America's children and teenagers are already taking drugs and undergoing surgery to change their natural gender by the countless thousands.¹¹

It's important to keep in the back of your mind that plans to abolish the family were made far in advance of BLM. Karl Marx, writing from the comfort of his London home, declared, "Abolish the family! . . . The bourgeois family will vanish as a matter of course when its complement vanishes, and both will vanish with the vanishing of capital."¹²

5.

The desecrators deliberately promote sexual confusion, particularly among children who are totally vulnerable to their manipulation. They say it's done in the name of freedom and choice. But the real target is nature, the nature described in the book of Genesis: "male and female he created them."

Destroy the two-gender worldview and you eventually destroy what the family was intended to be and what it was intended to accomplish for children.

In short, the desecrators treat the meaning of life as an empty blackboard upon which elites can redefine gender, family, community, politics, and truth. The important conservative philosopher Robert Nisbet put it this way: "Man

¹¹ Jeff Johnston, "Hospitals and Doctors 'Transition' Hundreds of Children with Drugs, Hormones and Surgery," *The Daily Citizen*, September 23, 2019, <https://dailycitizen.focusonthefamily.com/hospitals-and-doctors-transition-hundreds-of-children-with-drugs-hormones-and-surgery/>.

¹² Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, Nove-meber 2006, p. 24: http://www.slp.org/pdf/marx/comm_man.pdf.

is a social being, and his desire for community will not be denied. The liberated individual is just as likely to become the alienated individual, the paranoid individual, the lonely and desperately-seeking-community individual. And if he can't find that community on a human scale, then he'll look for it on an inhuman scale—in the total community of the totalizing state.”¹³

This is precisely what is happening.

6.

How the desecrators use their power to end the careers and the reputations of cynics is aptly called the new inquisition. We have been taught how power corrupts over generations, and one of the most common examples to use is that of a powerful Catholic Church which silenced opposition with all the means at its disposal, including ending reputations, torture, and death.

The Catholic Church officially condemned her own past atrocities, but we cannot escape discussing them. Leave it to the woke Left in America to only mimic one aspect of Catholic history that suits its determination to transform society, the Inquisition.

This intolerant push by modern radicals is to entice us to accept any form of immorality while accepting no form of forgiveness. In other words, anything goes, but you will be condemned if you question those overseeing the destruction of societal order.

¹³ Robert Nisbet, *The Quest for Community: A Study in the Ethics of Order and Freedom* (Wilmington, DE: Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2010), loc. 74 of 6565, Kindle.

Persons who are found heretical by the woke court of this new inquisition are sentenced to a virtual death. This virtual death (or digital death) leads to loss of reputation, loss of jobs, loss of family and friends, and shame.

The new inquisition employs its desecrating minions to scour social media to identify heretics and prosecute them. The mainstream media enables the new inquisition by publicizing the heretic's name and his crime, thus ensuring that the punishment is a life sentence: the digital gulag.

The desecrators, like self-appointed oligarchs, set the rules, and they pick the inquisitors who decide who violates them. Everyone, including the powerful, fear they will have their voices cancelled.

The internet has become a global fishbowl in which anything you wish to say or share is subject to the tyrannical power of the desecrators to silence anyone at any time for any reason.

7.

This awesome power could have never been anticipated by our American founders. The only power that came close was the faraway king against whom they declared a war of independence. Today's American tech oligarchs have unlimited resources and the power to silence anyone or anything. It makes one wonder how to wage a war of independence from Google, Facebook, Twitter, and other social-media giants.

We could speculate that tech titans are under an evil spell and have simply lost track of the truth. But what is more likely is they have simply been captured by the same forces that have been able to transform all other power structures in America: charitable foundations, universities—many of

them formerly Christian—media, publishing, unions, corporations, and mainline Protestant Churches.

If you are a Christian or a Jew, you understand the fight of good versus evil. The Old Testament is replete with graphic examples of the depravity of evil and the persecution of the Chosen People. Christians see redemption in suffering and understand that persecution can draw a believer closer to our Creator.

Americans must affirm the reality of evil. They must stop assuming the (alleged) good intentions of those who speak so sweetly in the name of inclusion and care for the oppressed. This mask of deceit must be stripped away to reveal the brute power grab that it is.

The desecrators understand that they must destroy the whole concepts of the family and gender to bring about the chaos to which they are so dedicated. Thus, they use the educational system to poison the minds and hearts of our children, to make them doubt themselves, turn against their parents, their faith, and even their nation.

And what will people of faith do when they finally realize the Left doesn't just want a little more government and a little less Constitution, when they recognize the evil being perpetrated at every level of society? Will the faithful relent or will they defend what keeps diverse people living together in relative harmony?

We offer this book as a blueprint to find the gumption to fight back and to defend the societal order centered on the family which has been so enduring. This moment in history is at a crossroads: the America envisioned by the founders hangs in the balance, as do freedom-loving individuals around the globe.

We can still win the cultural fight, but we have no time to waste.

But mostly, we wrote this book to name the names and to highlight the most grotesque modern forms of a malign effort to take us all down, to desacralize our lives and communities. We have stayed in our homes; we have tried to make friends with those who want to end America and traditional society. None of that worked.

So now we are writing it all down in an attempt to motivate you to join us and to make a last-ditch effort to reconnect with our Maker to see if there is a viable path to defend America. In doing so, we can begin to gain ground against a very real evil that has amassed great public power while we have focused on our daily commitments and responsibilities.

The fight has been joined, but we will not prevail without understanding the extent to which those who wish to take us down have been able to undermine most of what has brought us to where we are today.

We are in a battle on sacred ground. The ground of all that exists is God's love, His sharing of existence through the world He created, and particularly through the human beings who reflect His image and likeness.

Remember that where we fight is sacred ground; thus, it's a conflict about what our lives mean and how we should live.

One hundred years from now, our great-grandchildren will either live in one nation under God or live in a divided nation under the desecrators' idols. Let us reclaim this great country now, so help us God.

Talking About Desecrators

1.

This book argues that the desecrators are doing all they can to destroy respect for the Church, America, and the citizen virtues that the founders considered necessary for our nation to grow and flourish.¹

Yes, we said virtues. It's an old-fashioned word that the founders constantly preached, and its importance should be repeatedly emphasized. Virtues are the moral habits that spontaneously direct what we feel, think, and do. A courageous person, for example, does not immediately shrink from danger.

In a sense, virtues are more important than principles because virtues are the way principles become ingrained in individual and group character. Virtues ensure that principles will be acted upon. When we address the complicated question of American character, we will be looking for those

¹ Mike Sabo, "The American Founders Knew A Virtuous Republic Requires Virtuous People," *The Federalist*, April 28, 2017, <https://thefederalist.com/2017/04/28/the-american-founders-knew-a-virtuous-republic-requires-virtuous-people/>.

character traits, or virtues, that have become dominant in the fabric of America.

We are not interested in writing clever screeds or adding to the angry condemnations of what we see as necessary to America's recovery of its visionary roots. Neither cleverness nor anger will help to reverse the discouraging trends we will spotlight. We have named the enemy the desecrators because we think it is entirely fair and accurate.

We are writing on the assumption that our arguments will be more effective if their tone is respectful toward those with whom we disagree. We want to equip our readers with arguments, not with hate. This does not mean we will be throwing softballs. On the contrary, we will be as hard-hitting as necessary within the bounds of charity.

2.

People stop listening when they feel dismissed or, at the extreme, hated. We don't hate anyone, because we don't believe anyone should be written off, no matter how destructive they have become to the principles and values that constitute the American character.

Recall Lincoln's second inaugural address in 1865: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up a nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve a just and lasting peace among ourselves and will all nations."²

² Abraham Lincoln, "Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address," National Park Service, updated April 18, 2020, <https://www.nps.gov/linc>

To write with charity and firmness is always a challenge. We anticipate that some readers will open the book hoping for a red-meat harangue against the ideas and leadership we oppose. We began this project with the assumption that there are plenty of those books around and observe they have done little to move the ball down the field—that is, to achieve positive change.

No doubt, what we observe about our nation's problems, and what we propose to help correct them, will offend some people regardless of how we say it. Regarding the possibility of giving offense, we agree with Patrick Henry in his famous speech to the Second Virginia Convention in 1775: "Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the majesty of heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings."³

At this moment in time, our nation is fortunate to have several leading politicians with the fierce and eloquent directness of Patrick Henry. Senators Ted Cruz, Marsha Blackburn, Rand Paul, and Mike Lee immediately come to mind. All hold nothing back whether on the Senate floor or in the media, and all are as smart as and more informed than anyone who tries to bring them down.

The lesson is obvious: it's one thing to be fearless and quite another to be articulate and fully in command of your subject.

/learn/historyculture/lincoln-second-inaugural.htm.

³ Patrick Henry, "Speech in the Virginia Convention," March 23, 1775, https://www.redlandsusd.net/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=24801&dataid=32677&FileName=Speech_in_the_Virginia_Convention.pdf.

I had grown up a Presbyterian but became attracted to the evangelical Christianity of a Southern Baptist church while in college. A year after walking the aisle of that church to be baptized, I was elected president of the Southern Baptist Student Union of the University of Texas at Austin. Being a philosophy major at UT caused a problem to some fellow evangelicals on campus; one of whom told me I was “going to hell” if I didn’t change my major. During that year as SBSU president, plus the three years I spent at Princeton Theological Seminary and several years as an assistant pastor of a Southern Baptist church in Atlanta, I constantly ran into “fire and brimstone” attitudes towards my philosophical and literary studies and my pursuit of a doctorate.

I was made aware in seminary of the importance of philosophy and other humanistic studies in the Catholic tradition, and gradually I was drawn into the Church for what I regarded as the fullest realization of the Gospel. After my conversion at age thirty-four, I found myself comparing my journeys as a Southern Baptist with being a Catholic. I wanted to share with others my joy in becoming a Catholic but quickly realized that sharing had to be different in tone and style from my Baptist days.

The first invitation I received to speak about my conversion gave me the chance to collect my thoughts about what I called “the rhetoric of apologetics.” I think it surprised my audience in San Diego when I said that a Catholic bearing witness did not need to scream, shout, become red in the face, or wave a Bible. It is the Church, I said, that does the converting, not any one person, no

matter how articulate or enthusiastic. I know several people, for example, whose road to conversion began when they entered a Catholic cathedral for the first time. I know others who were converted by reading Dante, Flannery O'Connor, or G. K. Chesterton. The Church has such an abundance of truth, beauty, and goodness that you, as a witness, should point it out and then get out of the way.

In this way, a person does not feel like a set of beliefs are being rammed down his or her throat, or pressed upon you to assuage any guilt. Someone has recommended you look this way, toward the Church, and you looked. And like Dante, as he comes into view of the Triune God, you couldn't look away.

—Deal W. Hudson