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PROJECT

The Religion, Values, and Foreign Policy of the Country with the Biggest Guns

This project is a study of the history of American evangelicalism, its role in forming core American values and assumptions, and the influence of those values and assumptions on US foreign policy. Core values and assumptions (shared, as Thorstein Veblen noted, by society's various classes and subgroups) can be thought of in terms of discourse, habitus, or more simply worldview or outlook. To be accepted, core outlook and policy, in the pragmatists' language, must be seen to "fit". Evangelicalism, emerging in the mid-18th century in the British Isles and the pietistic and Moravian movements on the European continent, became the dominant approach to faith in early America, as a progressive, often populist, force. Its role in forming the American outlook

will be explored and its residues in US foreign policy investigated. Regarding foreign policy, the two questions to be examined are: looking at the long durée of US foreign policy, was US policy in Europe postwar (reconstruction and international institution building) normative, and is it useful to think of it as a template to which the US can return? Are the policies of G. W. Bush

exceptional? In an attempt to answer, this project looks at the policies that (after the debates among different schools and characters) have been implemented over the course of US history. It looks also at the way Americans have understood these policies or seen them as "fitting" the core outlook.

Recommended Reading

Pally, Marcia. *Critique Abandoned: The Ceding of Democracy*. Berlin Verlag (Random House), 2003.

-, ed. *Sustained Content Teaching in Academic ESL/EFL: A Practical Approach*. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 2000.

-. "Sex & Sensibility: Reflections on Forbidden Mirrors and the Will to Censor." Hopewell: The Ecco Press, 1994.

Religion Expressed, Religion Submerged Or: The Religion, Values and Foreign Policy of the Country with the Biggest Guns

- * Will US foreign policy substantively change with a new president?
- * What are the basic motives and underpinnings of US foreign policy that endure over time?
- * What is evangelicalism's role in them, first as a radically progressive force and later as a conservative one?
- * What was Germany's role in evangelicalism's turn to conservative politics?

In this talk, I will explore the deep structure of US foreign policy as it was influenced by American evangelicalism, for the purpose of anticipating future US foreign policy after Bush.

A good deal of interest in America at present emerges from the expectation that US foreign policy will change should a Democrat gain power in 2008. Especially in foreign policy, the Democrats are expected to return America closer to its true self. This assumes that Bush's foreign policy is "untrue" or an exception, and that Democrat foreign policy--epitomized by the postwar in Europe--is normative, better, and a template to which America can return.

I'll question these claims by looking at the long through-lines of US foreign policy and the assumptions that undergird them. They reveal that the postwar in Europe falls outside the traditional foreign policy range--western Europe must confront its own comfortable, exceptional treatment since 1945. And that Bush's policies fall within the traditional range, including the war in Iraq, unpreparedness for the postwar, use of torture, and manipulation of intelligence on Saddam's WMDs. We should not confuse the gravity of the results in Iraq/Mideast/Central Asia with the banality of the approach itself.

It is the consistent range of US conduct abroad which Germany needs to consider. For the preponderance of policy--what was actually done, after all the intrigues and debates were over--is the best guide to US policies Germany will face in the future. Ignoring it is politics by collective amnesia.

Where does this consistent range come from? The values and assumptions undergirding US foreign policy emerge not only from America's frontier/immigrant experiences and British cultural heritage, but importantly from evangelicalism, which was radically progressive and America's dominant religion from the colonial era to WWI. In the turn to conservative politics, Germany played a key role. I'll begin my remarks by tracing how American evangelicalism differs from its European Calvinist parent and how its doctrines have been formative to the values and assumptions underpinning US foreign policy--how it created "the world of the possible" which sets out what politicians can envision and what the public is willing to support.

In concluding, I'll consider possible sources of change in US foreign policy and raise questions about Europe's role in it.

Pally, Marcia (Berlin,2009)

Liebeserklärungen aus Kreuzberg und Manhattan

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=600534596>

Pally, Marcia ([Berlin],2008)

Die hintergründige Religion : der Einfluss des Evangelikalismus auf Gewissensfreiheit, Pluralismus und die US-amerikanische Politik

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=568510348>

Berliner Reden zur Religionspolitik

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=568510348>

Pally, Marcia (2007)

Warnung vor dem Freunde : was Europa über die Außenpolitik der USA wissen muss, um seine eigene zu gestalten

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1816647381>

Pally, Marcia (2006)

Warnung vor dem Freunde. Aus dem Englischen übersetzt von Michael Haupt : Tradition und Zukunft US-amerikanischer Außenpolitik

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=669197661>

Pally, Marcia (Berlin,2003)

Lob der Kritik : warum die Demokratie nicht auf ihren Kern verzichten darf

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=358058341>

Pally, Marcia (Stuttgart,2001)

Die Invasion der Körperfresser : warum wir die Medien zum Monster machen müssen

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=101447778>

Pally, Marcia (2001)

Skills development in 'sustained' content-based curricula : case studies in analytical/critical thinking and academic writing

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=770088821>