



RESILIENT

Christ-Haunted

Isaiah 6:3



Flannery O'Connor

20th century American novelist

“I think it’s safe to say that while the South is hardly Christ-centered, it is most certainly Christ-haunted.”



Isaiah 6:3

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”



The Influence of Christianity

Week 1: Antiquity

Week 2: Middle Ages

Week 3: Modern Age



Tom Holland

Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World

“So profound has been the impact of Christianity on the development of Western civilization that it has come to be hidden from view. It is the incomplete revolutions which are remembered; the fate of those which triumph is to be taken for granted.”



The Typical Narrative

Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543) placed the sun, rather than the earth, at the center of the universe and delivered the world out of superstitious darkness and into the glorious light of the scientific revolution.



Earnest Hemingway

The Sun Also Rises

“How did you go bankrupt?”

“Two ways. Gradually, then suddenly.”



Gradually...

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1. Copernicus could draw his conclusions only because others had established important ideas in the preceding centuries.



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 - William of Ockham (1295-1349) recognized that space is a frictionless vacuum.
 - Nicole d'Oresme (1325-1382) established that the earth turns on its axis.
 - Nicholas of Cusa (1401-1464) proposed ideas related to perceptions of motion.



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2. These ideas grew in the soil of Christian Scholasticism.



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2. These ideas grew in the soil of Christian Scholasticism.
 - Scholasticism grew out of Christian monastic schools in the several centuries before Copernicus.
 - “Early Scholasticism” could be said to have started in the 8th century with Charlemagne.
 - Christian scholastics could be said to have invented the university in the 12th and 13th centuries.



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3. Numerous medieval technological advancements were probably necessary for science to emerge.



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Water mills
Windmills
Dams
Heavy plows

Chimneys
Eyeglasses
Sailing ships



Nicolaus Copernicus

(1473-1543)

“To know the mighty works of God, to comprehend... the wonderful workings of His laws, surely all this must be a pleasing and acceptable mode of worship to the Most High.”



Galileo Galilei

(1564-1642)

“The glory and greatness of Almighty God are marvelously discerned in all his works.”



Johannes Kepler

(1571-1630)

“Geometry is unique and eternal,
a reflection of the mind of God.
That men are able to participate
in it is one of the reasons why
man is an image of God.”



Isaac Newton

(1643-1727)

“This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an Intelligent Powerful Being.”



Rodney Stark

The Triumph of Christianity

“I drew up a roster of the fifty-two major scientific stars during the era beginning with the publication of Copernicus’s work in 1543 and stopping with persons born after 1680. Of these, thirty-two (or 62 percent) were very religious men. Newton, for example, devoted far more effort to theology than to physics, predicting the date of the Second Coming as 1948. Of the remaining twenty, nineteen were quite religious and only one, Edmund Halley, could be called a skeptic. So much, then, for tales of the inherent conflict between religion and science.”



The Biblical Foundation

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The Biblical Foundation

1. God created the world with purpose and order.



Isaiah 40:26

Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?

He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name;
by the greatness of his might
and because he is strong in power,
not one is missing.



Psalm 74:16-17

Yours is the day, yours also the night;
you have established the heavenly lights and the sun.
You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth;
you have made summer and winter.



Psalm 139:13-15

For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.



The Biblical Foundation

1. God created the world with purpose and order.
2. God intended for His creation to communicate something.



Psalm 19:1-3

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.



The Biblical Foundation

1. God created the world with purpose and order.
2. God intended for His creation to communicate something.
3. God designed humans to experience wonder.



Psalm 111:2-3

Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.
Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.



The Biblical Foundation

1. God created the world with purpose and order.
2. God intended for His creation to communicate something.
3. God designed humans to experience wonder.
4. God gave humans the capacity to figure things out (and even commissioned them to do so).



Genesis 1:26

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”



These ideas weren't embraced by the ancient world...



Glen Scrivener

The Air We Breathe: How We All Came to Believe in Freedom, Kindness, Progress, and Equality

“A central feature of the ancient Greek worldview was the idea of fate and necessity. Aristotle saw all things unfolding by an all-determining reason. Neither the gods nor humanity nor the world were free. Everything was the way it had to be. So, on a question like “What shape are the orbits of the planets?” Aristotle would answer, *Circular, because the circle is the most perfect shape and, in all the cosmos, heavenly bodies are the closest to perfection.*”



Glen Scrivener

The Air We Breathe: How We All Came to Believe in Freedom, Kindness, Progress, and Equality

“Notice the assumptions: there is a way things must be that is baked into the fabric of the cosmos. The orbits of the planets are fixed by reason, and we can access that reason by thinking carefully. Investigating the world with our senses is not that reliable – after all, our senses deceive us.”



Glen Scrivener

The Air We Breathe: How We All Came to Believe in Freedom, Kindness, Progress, and Equality

“For Aristotle and his followers, studying the world was less a journey “outwards” into the surprising ways things are, and more a journey of the mind “upwards” into the predictable ways things must be. All this made the Greeks brilliant at reasoning and indifferent to experimentation.”



These ideas weren't embraced by the ancient world...

...and they wouldn't come from the modern world either.



William Provine

Evolutionary Biologist at Cornell University

“Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary biology tells us loud and clear — and these are basically Darwin’s views. There are no gods, no purposes, and no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after death. When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead. That’s the end of me. There is no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning in life, and no free will for humans, either. What an unintelligible idea.”



July 4, 1776

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.



Andrew Wilson

Remaking the World: How 1776 Created the Post-Christian West

“There are only six countries on earth that do not claim to be democratic... Over three-quarters of [the nations of the world] have the word “republic” in their official name, including five “people’s republics.” Some of the most authoritarian regimes anywhere call themselves “democratic republics.”



Andrew Wilson

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“The fact that many of these nations would lack a number of democratic hallmarks—universal suffrage, fair elections, voter security, the rule of law, a free press, an independent judiciary, and so forth—is an ironic demonstration of how widespread the democratic ideal has become. Even those states that have no intention of functioning as democracies feel the need to pretend that they do.”



Andrew Wilson

Remaking the World: How 1776 Created the Post-Christian West

“This is so commonplace now that we can forget what an astonishing change it represents. Today, there are around seven billion people living in countries that purport to be democratic republics.

In 1775, there were none.”



Earlier in 1776

We hold these truths to be sacred & undeniable; that all men are created equal & independent, that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent & inalienable, among which are the preservation of life, & liberty, & the pursuit of happiness.



Andrew Wilson

Remaking the World: How 1776 Created the Post-Christian West

“...the Declaration’s famous preamble depends heavily on Algernon Sidney and especially John Locke, who argued that there was “nothing more evident” than the equality of human beings and that “being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions.” In saying this, Locke was not innovating. He made it very explicit that he was also borrowing, in his case from a passage in the *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* by the Reformed theologian Richard Hooker (1554–1600)...”



Andrew Wilson

Remaking the World: How 1776 Created the Post-Christian West

“And Hooker was not being original either. He was standing in a rich tradition of Christian reflection on theology and government stretching back to the church fathers and beyond; in the passage cited by Locke, Hooker was quoting directly from the Code of Justinian and Christ’s words in Matthew’s Gospel.”



Andrew Wilson

Remaking the World: How 1776 Created the Post-Christian West

“So yes, the equality of all humans seemed startlingly obvious (at least in theory) to Franklin and Jefferson. But that was because their culture was saturated with Christian assumptions—so much so that the concepts and phrases they used were taken from Locke, who had got them from Hooker, who had got them from Scripture.”



We hold these truths to be sacred



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1. God himself is united across distinctions.



Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



We hold these truths to be sacred

1. God himself is united across distinctions.
2. Every human being is made in the image of God.



Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.



We hold these truths to be sacred

1. God himself is united across distinctions.
2. Every human being is made in the image of God.
3. Throughout the Bible, God made special accommodations for the outcast.



Deuteronomy 10:18

He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.



Especially in the life of Jesus...

- Jesus welcomed the little children.
- Jesus leaves the ninety-nine to rescue the one.
- Jesus pursued the sinners, the tax collectors, the lepers, etc.



Again, these ideas weren't embraced by the ancient world...

...and they wouldn't come from the modern world either.



Yuval Noah Harari

Israeli Historian

“Most legal systems in the world today are based on a belief in human rights. But what are human rights? Human rights... like God and heaven, are just a story that we’ve invented. They are not an objective reality. They’re not a biological fact about Homo sapiens. Take a human being, cut him open, look inside; you will find the heart, the kidneys, neurons, hormones, DNA.”



Yuval Noah Harari

Israeli Historian

“But you won’t find any rights. The only place you find rights is in the stories that we have invented and spread... over the last few centuries. They may be very positive stories, very good stories. But they are still just fictional stories that we’ve invented.”



Friedrich Nietzsche

German Philosopher (1844-1900)

“The weak and the botched shall perish: first principle of *our* charity. And one should help them to it.

What is more harmful than any vice?—Practical sympathy for the botched and the weak—Christianity....”



Isaiah 6:3

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”