

Normalizing Killing

It could never happen here...

I would stand against it...

I do not intend this as a training manual for inflicting genocide on the world or any nation. There are enough books in the world who have accomplished that, already. Sometimes it helps to learn from history. Evil follows patterns, and we can recognize when evil is trying to drive societies to kill each other.

Despite 2020 and 2021 being years most people didn't travel much, I managed to travel internationally on two occasions. The more recent of those trips was to Poland. One town we visited was one I was eager to visit from a pro-life perspective. The reason I wanted to visit was the dark history of the town and how that can teach us so much about protecting life. The town was called Oświęcim.

One might wonder what happened there, since not many people know of Oświęcim, Poland by that name, much less know how to pronounce it. It is known better by the name the Germans called it...Auschwitz. Many people consider it the site of the worst horrors of World War II in Europe.

People occasionally think about the horrors that happened and how we don't want that to happen again. We hear people calling those who view things differently than themselves as being Nazis or fearing that people might go so far as to kill people in some form of genocide. But far too many people think of Hitler and the Nazis as being an extreme evil, and they wouldn't recognize the evils that lead up to genocide until it has begun. Killing didn't start on day 1. Many people wanted things to be better in their country after a time of struggle. Sadly, the methods for

normalizing killing conditioned large parts of a population to accept it. This means that it can happen again without people resisting it, even among people who assume they would if they lived through it.

First, I plan to identify the steps used to commit the crimes against humanity. I will provide a clear spot where you can reflect on that part. **Then, I will try to point out a few things that have happened in our own country that seem to follow the same strategies. The abortion movement has hit so many of the steps, but there are other areas of concern.** But first, we will begin with the progression that led to the genocide of millions of innocent people.

Dehumanize Certain People

Blame: Even in good times, there are things that could be better. People rarely take credit for something that goes badly. This often leads to the blaming of people or groups of people. In bad times, it can spread even more easily. After WWI, the Treaty of Versailles led to very crushing terms against Germany. The German economy suffered. When the Great Depression came along, things grew worse. People sought someone who could make their country strong again. This is natural. The Nazi party came to power along with Hitler. The blame was directed primarily at the Jews, although they also included gypsies and some other groups of people.

Language: In the lead-up to the Holocaust, Jews were referred to as rats and other things. People used language to remove any sense of humanity for certain groups of people, while using traditional words for others.

Law: People's conception of morality is heavily influenced by the laws and policies

where they live and of nations with significant influence in the world. When laws made it legal to deny rights to the Jews, it reinforced in the minds of people that the Jews were not worthy of basic human rights.

Indoctrination: The Hitler Youth helped instill these ways of thinking into a generation of children. It's much easier to get people on your side if they are taught while they are young. A great deal can be accomplished before age 7 or so. It's critical to reach people before their mid-20s. If this is done for at least 20 years, it self-perpetuates. That generation becomes teachers and parents who teach and groom the next generation and the next.

Propaganda: By using the media and influencers, the public would quickly adopt the views being presented to them.

Moral vs. Ethical: I think this is a critical moment to distinguish between ethics and morals. People who strive to do what is good will try to do what is moral. Ethics involves the clashing of interests. In the pro-life movement, we often face ethical dilemmas. A common example of ethics arises when someone recognizes that something horrible is about to happen, but where the only way they can figure out to avoid that horrible outcome involves doing something that is otherwise immoral. If one had a time machine and could go back in time to when Hitler was a baby, many people think it would be good to kill baby Hitler. Killing is immoral. But what if killing could prevent millions of other people from dying? That's where ethics comes in—when morals clash. Often, there are other options that haven't been considered.

I bring this all up because most people don't just set out to do something evil because they want to do evil. Most people believe they are

doing something good for themselves and/or others. They focus on some morally good thing they aim to accomplish, but overlook or prioritize it over the morally bad things they do to carry it out. When they see people opposing them, they think those people are evil, because those people are preventing the moral good being attempted, even though the other people may be trying to stop the immoral evils from happening. It doesn't occur to most people anymore that people with differing views can have reasonable justifications for what they think or do. But those reasonable justifications can still be wrong and even evil. Sometimes there are things that mix a bit of good and evil, or the evil is hidden enough to keep people from second-guessing their own stance.

The propaganda and other efforts to divide people will depend heavily on seeking certain goods through evil means. The people get focused on the good, while enabling the evil to take place. Ethics is important!

Divide & Isolate People

Division: People were led to believe that people in the blamed groups were the problem. Thus, things could get better if those people were not around or at least now allowed the same freedoms as other people. People get to a point where they want certain groups of people out of their town or country.

Identification: The Jews were ordered to wear stars that met certain standards. This identified them as Jews. It also ensured that someone didn't make a star so tiny that they could meet the letter of the order and not have the average person see it. The standards ensured that people were clearly identified. In the extermination camps, additional shapes and colors were used to identify other groups of people, such as gypsies.

Freedoms: Eventually, people restrict the freedoms of certain groups of people. Jews were not allowed in certain businesses. There were a variety of restrictions of freedoms.

Ghettos: Usually, divisions are merely in the minds of people. Some people might allow imprisoning people who would ruin the chances of making things better by doing things that seem to make things worse. But WWII saw the creation of ghettos. Perhaps the most famous was the Warsaw Ghetto. Jews were forced to move to the ghetto. After having the star identifying them, it was easy to determine if someone in public was in violation of this order. Isolation is difficult until people are convinced that these people are a problem that need to be contained. But ghettos allow the people in power to commit more severe violations of human rights than might be allowed when everyone sees what is going on. They can authorize only approved people to go in and do the dirty work, which limits the witnesses. Ghettos also seem like a small step, since people can still live near where they used to live. It is justified as a minor inconvenience. Marshal law can rule in a ghetto, allowing military force and people who are under orders of a chain of command to do what they are told.

Extermination Centers: Eventually, they emptied the ghettos. Property was forfeit. People were shipped to labor camps or extermination camps. Today, people often refer to either of them as concentration camps. While some labor camps sought to get some work out of the victims, and death was a likely result, many camps were extermination camps. Such camps were designed to kill, and labor was a distant second-place goal. If no useful labor resulted, but people died, they would still be considered successful. Death was the goal.

Create Ordinary Killers

When people have been conditioned to hate others, it should be easy to continue to nudge them in the direction of being a cold-blooded killer. But what about the people who grew up before the indoctrination? It's harder, although not impossible to get them on your side. The Nazis figured out a way to make reluctant killers out of ordinary people.

German Reserve Police Battalion 101 consisted of men who grew up before the indoctrination that would warp the minds of the generations behind them. Yet, these men would end up killing tens of thousands of people.

But how did this happen? Many people assume there must have been coercion or threats. But these men were allowed to leave at any time. So that can't be it. A few things came into play.

Gradual: For one, they started out by gathering people to be sent to where they would be killed. They started out by not doing the killing themselves. Orders to kill were added later.

Comradery: When the killing was ordered later on, the men felt some sense of duty, and especially didn't want to leave their fellow men to have to do these horrible things. Out of comradery, they stayed with them and took on some of the burden of doing the evil acts. They hated what they were doing, but they did it for their fellow officers.

Leveraging Good for Evil: Evil often leverages the desire to do good or help others against people. That played a huge factor in this case. The consolidated power of the government also led to there being large numbers of people who could be ordered to do things,

beyond what a common civilian could be ordered to do.

Death Was Their Goal

As Germany began to lose ground, a leader seeking to win would try to keep as many people laboring for the cause and do whatever it takes to prevail. But the war being fought was not against other nations; it was against groups of people within the controlled territories.

This became clear when people noticed that Auschwitz was supposed to get another crematorium, even as the number of Jews was dropping to a point that there should not have been a need for more crematories. The Nazis clearly intended to find new groups of people to kill. Instead of using the people in the camps for labor to help the war effort (which itself is not good), they chose to spend more time, money, and resources to terminate lives. Expanding territory had simply been a means to gaining access to the people they wanted to kill off. When the war was being lost, they killed right up to the end, rather than fighting external enemies with a greater fighting force. That tells us what we need to know to understand their goals.

Resistance

Witold Pilecki: Today, people who know of Auschwitz recognize an ominous history of the extermination camps. But there was a time when people didn't know what went on there. The Polish Underground knew people would get shipped to Auschwitz and never be heard from again. Information didn't tend to come out of the place for some reason. They needed information from the inside. To acquire that, they needed someone from the resistance to report on Auschwitz from the inside. If anyone knew the horrors that took

place there, any volunteer would either be among the bravest heroes or someone with a death wish. Lacking info about the place, any volunteer would still need to welcome the unknown. In 1940, one man volunteered—Witold Pilecki, pronounced Veetold.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ta4YG51szE4>

Witold was informed of an area where people were going to get rounded up to transport to Auschwitz. Instead of vacating such a place, he made sure he was there and that he was found so he could be sent to Auschwitz. Auschwitz I was the only camp in the town at the time. He quickly formed multiple groups of people to report on what was inside. Within the camp, people tended to do whatever was needed to survive; working together like this was more of an exception, rather than the rule. He found ways to get word out of the complex. At one point, he managed to get assigned to the rare work shifts that took place outside of the camp. He used that opportunity to escape. Each person who failed to respond during the daily roll call would lead to the guards killing 10 other people in order to deter people from escaping.

When Witold reported what he saw over the course of a few years, many people refused to believe such horrible things were happening. He wanted the allied forces to attack the camps to destroy the mechanisms of death. His reports and requests were ignored by the people who had the most ability to do something about it. When evil strikes harder than people had seen in their lifetimes, it can lead to people not believing such horrors are real, especially when they don't see it with their own eyes.

After escaping Auschwitz, Witold fought with the underground resistance in the Warsaw

Uprising, which didn't end well. He was captured again, but this time he was sent to a POW camp, which the Americans liberated. Communists seized control of Poland, bringing their own brand of evil. Witold fought the evils of socialism, too. The Communists arrested him and sentenced him to death. He was never seen again. He faced a great deal of suffering for the benefit of others.

St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe: Born Rajmund (sounds more like Raymund) Kolbe, this man also experienced the horrors of Auschwitz I. He accepted martyrdom and the priesthood early in life. The martyrdom would come much later. Kolbe would establish a religious community in Poland well before WWII. In the early 1930s, he shipped off to Nagasaki, Japan to do the same. He rejected a plan to have a facility in the heart of the city, because of the ball of fire that would come from the sky—he foretold the atomic bomb, which had not yet been invented, and unleashed in a war that would not begin for several years. Nagasaki would become one of two sites of the horrors of the atomic bombs deployed in war—the horror of the Pacific sphere of the war.

After Kolbe returned to Poland and war broke out, he was sent to Auschwitz I. He survived longer than most people did. When someone escaped from the extermination camp, they gathered up 10 people to kill. Kolbe was not among the 10, but one of the men pleaded to be spared. Kolbe stepped forward, which was an action that alone could get one shot immediately. He volunteered to take the place of the man, Franciszek Gajowniczek, who would go on to live until 1995.

Kolbe then faced starvation treatment. He outlived the other men who were sentenced to death. Failing to die, the guards injected him with a lethal injection. He died on August

14th, 1941. He was the last man sentenced to death in Auschwitz I. Several months later, in 1942, Auschwitz II opened up. It was a much larger complex. It could house a population similar to that of Cedar Rapids, but confined to an area much smaller than downtown Cedar Rapids. Witold was reporting on the expansion at the time.

It's also important to realize that the capacity of the camp just had to accommodate the people not killed upon arrival. They killed at least 80% of people upon arrival.

Irena Sendler: A Polish social worker in her 20s acquired a permit to allow her entry into the Warsaw Ghetto whenever she wanted. She smuggled items into the ghetto, including food, medicine, and other supplies. On her way out, she would smuggle children out of the ghetto. Over the course of four years, she rescued 2,500 children. She brought a dog with her, and the dog would bark to cover up the sounds of the infants. She was eventually caught, but managed to escape just in time before her scheduled execution.

There are countless other people who rose against evil. I cannot name them all here. But these are but a few examples from history, specifically from the devastated land of Poland.

After Stories

History is done no favors when people rewrite history. People have reported that schools in some nations try to save face for their country, and there are people who have said that when they visited certain sites, people revealed their ignorance of certain parts of history.

One example ties to post-war Europe. Some Europeans saw the graves and wondered why

American graves were on their northern shore. They were told those were from the soldiers who died on D-Day as the allies finally gained a foothold on continental Europe, and then proceeded to sweep through Europe to Berlin. Confused, they said that the people of their country rose up to fight the Germans off, as if there had been no help from the outside. Yes, there was a resistance movement throughout Europe; we should not ignore that, nor trivialize the contribution they provided. However, they didn't realize just how much foreign help was provided to achieve success.

Likewise, when Japanese tourists visited Hawaii, they saw the memorial at Pearl Harbor. They wondered what that was all about. They were told that was from the Japanese surprise attack that brought the United States into WWII. They believed the United States attacked Japan first.

Another legend out of Europe initially inspired me, until I checked a few sources and found that even the Holocaust Museum recognizes the legend as not being true. After Denmark fell to the Nazi regime without really fighting, the legend goes that King Christian X chose to wear a yellow star, just as the Jews were ordered to do. The people soon followed, and the Nazis couldn't distinguish Jews from non-Jews, and the order never said that only Jews were to wear such an identifying star. Thus, very few Jews would die, due to the solidarity of the Danes. It's a great story, but it appears to be mere legend, unless proven otherwise.

Other Resources

There is always more than anyone can say on a particular topic. What I laid out is not a comprehensive list. Some resources that can help gain some perspective on the past are provided below.

Schindler's List: (Film) I watched Schindler's List when it came out, and maybe a time or two since then. It was a popular film about the way a man changed and saved many Jews from the holocaust, with a brief scene in Auschwitz. I saw a few scenes from the movie after my trip, and realized there were details that I had forgotten in the early part of the film.

The Pianist: (Film) While in Warsaw, our guide pointed out some places of historical value and the places that appeared in the movie, The Pianist. I hadn't watched the film prior to the trip, but I had heard of it. I have since watched it, and I consider it worth watching. It tells of a man who really did live in Warsaw Ghetto, avoided being sent to an extermination camp, and struggled to survive without significant resources long enough for the Soviet liberation from the Nazi regime, although the Soviets brought with them their own horrors that some considered worse.

Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland: (Book)

Although I haven't read this book, Jordan Peterson has summarized this book in a way that explained how ordinary men would end up killing tens of thousands of people.



Auschwitz II Gate

Reflect on the Past & Learn

Pro-lifers often engage in what some people refer to as fetus tunnel vision. This is where each time a disaster occurs, pro-lifers may try to draw people to focus on the abortion issue in a way that can appear to diminish the original disaster. After 9/11, it's easy to point out how there are as many abortions performed in the United States each day as died on 9/11. After the Holocaust, it's easy to point out how abortion not only kills at a faster rate, but for many times longer and at a nearly global area.

It's important to allow attention to the other horrible things that happen in the world. As you should gather from what you've read, there are many things we can learn from history. There are millions of people who died unjustly, and they deserve memorials and for us to remember them. There are evils that come back to test future generations if we don't learn from history, since even destroying traces of events from history cannot prevent those evils from returning.

Yet, one of the key reasons we are called to remember the horrors of the Holocaust and why they insisted on preserving Auschwitz extermination camps was to prevent such grave injustices from happening in the future...and our present.

Therefore, I would love it if you would take a break from reading this for the day. Reflect on what you have read. Look into some other resources. Find stories of people I didn't mention. There is more to read after this page, but I'm asking that you wait a day or more before continuing on to that part. I know some people might forget to return to finish reading; it's a risk I'll have to take.

After you take a break from reading this, you can read about how we can see some of these same tactics used to deny the most fundamental human rights and other rights today. That begins on the next page.



Auschwitz I Gate

What About Now?

It doesn't take all of the steps to result in widespread killing or other evils. Some things can make sense without necessarily heading toward an evil end. For instance, propaganda is used for many things, good and bad. Alone, it's not something that ends in genocide. However, we NEED to recognize how evil progresses so we can spot it well before it causes serious destruction. Some approaches are very gradual. But evil tends to act quickly at some point.

Quick Review/Reference

As I step through the various examples from recent years, I thought it would help to summarize the main points from before. Dehumanizing works through: blame, language, law, indoctrination, and propaganda. People seek good through evil means. Things advance through: division, identification, limiting freedoms, ghettos/isolation, and extermination centers. Killers are made from ordinary people: gradually, using comradery, and leveraging good for evil. Afterward, rewrite history or ignore history. And every fight against evil brings with it the resistance to stop the evil. As you read through each of the next few sections, you may see these words a great deal. I will try to underline them whenever possible for emphasis. Feel free to come back to this section or reread the content this summarizes.

Abortion

Abortion advocates, especially those within the abortion industry have used many of the tactics from the past in order to make abortion as common as it is today.

The abortion industry blames pregnancy and children for holding women back in society. In hijacking feminism, they would argue that unless women can avoid pregnancy, they can't be equal to men. This suggests that they believe women are inferior to men when they don't kill their children to get what they want. This is a sad perversion of feminism. Equality is different from uniformity. Women are equal to men, even if women are not identical to men. It's precisely those differences that give each gender something unique to contribute. That gets taken away with abortion.

The language is used to dehumanize children at the earliest stages. They are referred to as a clump of cells, tissue, or even goo. Although the word fetus can be accurate for much of the time a child is in the womb, many people use it not only because it can be an appropriate term, but because most people don't know Latin, and thus the term can almost come across as if it refers to something non-human, rather than the offspring or little ones of the human parents.

Abortion was made legal through a court decision with the weight of law, which quickly shifted the views of millions of people who let the law define their concepts of what is moral. Even as the law shifts to become more pro-life, there have been efforts to expand abortion using the law. Abortion funding is provided in some areas explicitly, and indirectly in others. Some places like California even consider paying the travel costs of visitors who come to seek abortions.

Planned Parenthood develops curriculum that is used in many schools throughout our country. People who have worked in the industry make it clear that they were there to make relationships with the youth so they would come to Planned Parenthood later in

life. It's part of their marketing strategy. It allows them to indoctrinate generations of children with their propaganda.

Propaganda goes beyond just the school systems. We hear it in their ads. We get it through the government. We see it all over the place.

The division and identification are less of a concern when trying to identify and separate the unborn children from society. The blame puts them at odds with people who believe the rhetoric. The identification is accomplished by virtue of them being physically inside their mothers. Their freedoms are already limited. They are already separated from society. But most of these are just from the nature of pregnancy. The steps to divide and isolate should be viewed regarding other people than the unborn to fully understand the active efforts to promote the evil of abortion.

When Carol Everett would speak of the workings of the abortion industry, she would point out that part of the goals of comprehensive sex education was to divide children from their parents. Parents just don't understand you and what you're going through, but you can trust us, and we understand. The students would be taught to trust forms of birth control that would fail a large number of them. When it would fail, they would go back to the business they were conditioned to trust by their time in school—Planned Parenthood (the biggest abortion provider in the country). This indoctrination has been critical to their business model.

Abortion in America has depended on privacy in order to grow. The abortion providers work in their own buildings that often do little more than abortion. Most people don't know what

goes on inside. It's like the ghettos, where bad things are allowed to happen without being brought to justice in most cases. When we look at how Kermit Gosnell was enabled to commit horrid crimes against so many women and children, we realize that his abortion site went without inspections for a very long time. He was protected by the governor and government of that state. Reputable medical sites get periodic inspections, but most abortion providers avoid inspections. There is no requirement to inspect abortion sites in Iowa, and NONE of the stand-alone abortion providers appear on the inspection registry (Emma Goldman site in Iowa City and every Planned Parenthood in Iowa).

Did I just equate it to the ghettos? Sure, the abortionists get away with malpractice. But these are the extermination centers of modern society. Their primary purpose is to end the lives of children. It's done out of the view of the public. Many people who have seen The Silent Scream or other similar documentaries that reveal what abortion involves oppose abortion. But as long as the killing is done apart from the view of society, they get away with murder, literally and on a very large scale.

Abortion became commonplace in America gradually. The contraceptive mindset tends to lead down the path of abortion in practically every culture. Abortion would start in a few states. People would travel from non-abortion states to those states. Eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court would overturn the laws of every state (even the abortion-friendly states that only allowed abortion in many cases) to make them all allow abortion in practically all cases. In the 1990s, there was a call for abortion to be, "safe, legal, and rare." Years later, it's demanded to be, "safe, legal, and accessible" and even "safe, legal, and

funded.” It’s a gradual advancement of a culture of death.

People in the industry experience that gradual nudge along the way. They may start out as a volunteer escort or someone who does things offsite. Just think about Abby Johnson’s story as it appears in Unplanned. She was recruited by appealing to her desire to seek good, but they would use evil means. She was a volunteer escort and would help at college outreach. This is far from the killing. But she would get brought closer and closer to it with time. It was her job to sell abortion, and she was good at it. Look at the scenes where she would know people who went in for an abortion and had complications. She would try to help out in doing whatever good could save the life of the patient, if she knows of ways to help. Out of comradery, she could protect her employer and coworkers by covering up a really bad outcome of an abortion. Then came the day when she was asked to help out in an abortion. It was just one step more. In her particular case, it was a step too far. It led her to quit. But not everyone does that. As for leveraging the good for evil, think of the times we hear that women will get abortions anyway, and we want it to be safe for them, so abortion should be legal for that reason.

We know many pro-lifers have offered resistance. There are many people we could credit with doing things that made a serious dent in the abortion industry.

Other Matters

When we see other evils, we see many of these same tactics used. This next set of sections address just a few of these matters.

End of Life

Just as Bernie mentioned at our 2022 Cedar Rapids March for Life, the things used to justify the killing of the unborn would also lead to the justifying of killing people at the other end of life. They started with the children who were already out of view, and thus lacked a solid connection with most of society. Once killing was normalized at that end of life, when people are very limited in what they can do, the killing would be justified at the other end of life when people have lost some of their normal abilities.

We hear people twisting the language by referring to assisted suicide or even euthanasia as being the “compassionate choice.” People seek the good thing by trying to minimize suffering; they want to do the good thing of respecting a person’s wishes. But they go a step too far by approving of killing human beings (evil means).

When a teenager is suicidal, do we think it’s compassionate to respect their wishes? Do we decide we shouldn’t just let them figure it out for themselves, but rather provide them with resources to end their own life, or do we try to seek help for them so they don’t end life?

Racism

Even racism, which was at historic lows in our nation not that long ago is getting a resurgence in these tactics. If left unchecked, this can become a serious problem. Any hint of where racism showed up in history led to statues getting torn down by rioters and vandals. This is like ignoring history by not educating generations of students about what really went on in WWII, such that they don’t even recognize the memorials.

Worse, while appealing to the good in people to try to eliminate racism, we see curriculum being pushed that was found people on both the left and the right to be inaccurate portrayals of our nation's history back when it was first developed (rewriting history). Without changing the content, it started to be pushed into schools around the country. It was critical of just every event in history, teaching students to view everything from a racial inequality perspective. It would teach students that the color of their skin determined if they were innate oppressors or victims. That's racism! They are teaching racism, and people defend it because they think that schools wouldn't teach anything about racism, otherwise! But schools have taught the subject fairly well in the past with good results. Victims can feel entitled to benefits and can feel like anything they do will go unrewarded, so they shouldn't even try. Oppressors feel like they can't do anything right, so they shouldn't try. Even segregation is starting to gain support among many people who believe in what is being taught.

More Recently

Many people have been concerned about developments in the past couple of years. While medical information was protected in the past, now there are places where they want proof (a means of identification) of certain medical procedures just to enter restaurants and other businesses. This kind of rule was put into place just days before the 2022 National March for Life in Washington D.C. People who don't do what is requested are blamed for the spread of disease. There are children who now believe governments should send the police to arrest or isolate any dissidents. There are people who believe that without these cards, people should be limited in their freedoms, because they are the

problem. People are even being forced out of countries to keep them away, even if they have high levels of immunity from previously catching the disease, just because they haven't done what is demanded.

Health is important, and there are things people can do to help prevent the spread of a disease. When we seek the good, we must use moral means by applying ethics to the full situation and solution. But many people see far too many parallels between what has gone on in the past few years and what they learned from history. Like I said, a step or two isn't always going to send us on the path to evil. When we see many of the steps, that's when we need to really pay attention.

Other Roots of Discord

A while back, someone pointed me to a video of a man who used to work for the KGB and defected to America. He tried to warn the U.S. in the 1980s about the tactics that were used against us. Even though we would watch as the U.S.S.R. would crumble along with the Berlin Wall, following the Solidarity movement in Poland that led the way to the fall of Communist Europe and much of Asia, the KGB planted the seeds of destruction in our culture. These are methods still affect a balance of power, but aren't always directly tied to the prior steps. But some steps still tie back.

Phase I was to demoralize people over the course of 15-20 years. When people are taught that their nation's heroes have faults, they will dislike their country and destroy anything that memorializes them. We already saw this with the statues coming down. We see this with people even saying and doing bad things about the people who actually fought against slavery and racism out of their own ignorance. The KGB would try to subvert

the nation by getting certain views into education (indoctrination), social life (people who engage in propaganda), administration, law, and labor. They would find some good to leverage in a way that would become destructive and evil. If a nation cares about equality, it would be weaponized. True equality can be good. But just as we saw the hijacking of the feminist movement, something different than equality was substituted in, despite resembling it, and it would lead to grave evils.

After a generation or more has gone by, these mindsets really sink in. One generation raised in this way of thinking would teach and raise the next generation, and so on. Eventually, they would move on to phase two, which aimed to destabilize things. With a few sleepers in various places, they could trigger bad things. These bad things would trigger a crisis, which is phase three. This phase uses self-appointed leaders. Then, their final phase is normalization. That's where they create a new normal. It destroys the things of the past, and forms their desired way of life and control. The self-appointed leaders and many others that helped usher in the change are almost always discarded/left behind. A new regime steps in and a few people gain control over others.

They have seen these tactics work very well in many other countries. It's possible to avoid reaching phase four, but it hasn't been successful once reaching phase three. It's things like this that can also lead us to need to notice when evil is working in its early stages. When people are divided in the early stages of demoralization, it makes it harder for us to work together. We fight each other and crumble as a nation and society from within. The Communists recognized that they couldn't compete with our economy, and thus

couldn't afford to fight us militarily or economically. So they had to use the tactics that could avoid weapons of war, but would cause the division and collapse of nations from within. That's why about 95% of what the KGB did was not gathering intelligence, but rather planting the seeds to subvert great nations. There's much more than just breeding discontentment in people in phase one; there is division and some of the other steps laid out from what led to the genocide of WWII.

Some people who lived under communism moved to the United States to live in the land of the free. Some of them are concerned. They say our nation is already communist. We still allow private ownership of property, so the claims are a bit overblown. But they see many of the precursors that would lead to a regime that would kill over 100 million people.

Popular Culture

With a sharp political divide, I've seen people post images to social media that showed a map of our country with lines to cut off certain states, suggesting we should split off problem states. We are so divided that we aren't united states anymore. We play into the division that destroys a society.

Many people allow stereotypes to define entire groups of people. When they take issue with some members of that group, they cast blame on the group as a whole. Dividing society into groups and placing value based on membership in a group leads to trouble. Today, we see people who will factor in race, gender, and other things to determine how much of an extra advantage to provide a member of a collection of those groups, and treat people who are in other groups differently because they had all of the

advantages in life, whether a particular person had such advantages or not.

Even in popular culture, I remember when the Star Wars prequels came out. Episode I wasn't as good as the original movies. People grew bored with the legislative focus, annoyed with a character that spoke in a way that seemed a bit racist to many people, etc. One thing I liked about the movie that seems to be underappreciated is its take on evil. Spoiler alert for these movies that came out so many decades ago, or should I say "a long time ago?"

Movies traditionally showed a clear division between good and evil. We knew who the good guy was and who the bad guy was. In Episode I, we saw a trade federation blockading a planet. Clearly, this was evil. It led to people trying to empower a government to do whatever was necessary to address the situation. A powerful military capable enough to address the threat was created. But evil was playing both sides. That military force would continue to be used beyond that situation and would be used against innocent civilians.

Many people read that passage in the Bible where it's reasoned that evil wouldn't divide against itself, since that would lead to ruin. Nowadays, evil is desperate, and it knows we will assume a clean line of good and evil. If I see an evil and I oppose it, then I must be good...or so goes modern reasoning. But again, we must examine the ethics to make sure we don't also engage in evil. Evil aims to destroy, and it knows that if it manipulates a little on both sides of heated matters, we will destroy each other and ourselves in the process.

Conclusion

I'm not saying that everyone who implements one or more of the steps seeks to kill lots of people. These steps also work for acquiring power. Yet, many of the people involved with certain things today support abortion or other measures that end lives prematurely. It's easy to create conspiracy theories when one sees these things happening. But it's easy to become a victim if we don't watch for these signs.

Let us recognize the precursors of grave evils while they are minor evils. Let us work together to fight evil, without engaging in evil. We are in a battle of good against evil, and not against people. It is a spiritual battle. Let us choose spiritual weapons for a spiritual battle. Among them are prayer and a deep love for one another. Love doesn't stand idly by when evil sets out to cause problems.

If someone cannot articulate the good that people seek who are on the other side of a major issue, I would argue that they don't understand the issue very well. And if we learn what the good is that is sought, then it makes it easier for us to figure out how to convince people that it is wrong by showing why our goods should take priority, often due to something immoral in their approach.

When I was in school, I remember people thinking it was insane to imagine people allowing the Holocaust, slavery, and other serious injustices. No one imagined they would allow it, much less support it. Yet, so many people support abortion. As racism dwindled, it seemed so unlikely that people would teach racism as a good thing in schools and promote segregation. Evil takes breaks after it takes major losses. It shifts to other things for a while. After people become complacent about something, that's when evil

strikes again. This is why we need to maintain a consistent ethic of life and continue to promote the respect for life regardless of whether the law is in line with that, in opposition to that, or somewhere in between. We can rise up like the heroes of generations past and fight the good fight against evil, all while loving people.



Map of Auschwitz Camps



*Gas Chamber at Auschwitz I
(the smaller camp)*



Execution Wall in Auschwitz I



Photos of SOME Holocaust Victims



Photos and text by
Jim Burke of the Coalition for Life of Iowa