

## **WE SEEMED TO HAVE LOST OUR WAY**

**There is a great dichotomy between conservative and liberal, those who believe in God, those who don't, and the many faces of democracy, good, bad and ugly. A look at the past found F.A. Hayek (The Road to Serfdom), circa 1944 citing the great schism between individualism and collectivism much influenced by the collectivist dictatorship of Hitler, and Stalin's utopian march on the backs of his people with collectivist communism as their bible. Eric Hoffer the learned longshoreman (The True Believer) found meaning in mass movements, a similarity of those who followed the tenets of fascism and communism- suggesting a path for a new life, a promised land and a fanaticism of clinging order and commitment –the danger of the collectivist mind. Orwell found collectivism to be not inherently democratic, fashioned by tyrannical minority with powers the Spanish Inquisitors never dreamt of. Hayek's main theme was the fear of state control over the means of production**

**Whittaker Chambers (Witness) found a faith and belief in God that circumvented the discipline, commitment in communism. He enjoined Kierkegaard, "Between man's purpose in time, and God's purpose in eternity, there is an infinite difference in quality." College curricula suffered according to Alan Bloom (The Closing of the American Mind): To Bloom "American democracy unwittingly played host to vulgarized continental ideas of nihilism, despair of relativism disguised as tolerance." Reason trumped by creativity. Thomas Sowell (Vision of the Anointed) as 'political correct theory' is confronted by facts.**

**Pat Robertson, a religious leader, has argued "an out of control judiciary as the biggest threat to democracy and the moral/religious foundation of America." Like Dr. Dean Kenyon's (San Francisco State University) -a distinguished Bio-Chemist-whose difficulty in the explanation 'of purposeless and unguided chemical evolution' led to Intelligent Design.**

**George Weigel in his article, 'the handwriting on the wall' has become a staple of public conversation, a metaphor for the sense of disorientation, unease, and fear for the future that seems to be epidemic throughout the Western world, and having an effect on the national cast of mind in this election season. A political culture detached from the deep truths embedded in the human condition yields traits of selfishness and irresponsibility that ill befit the citizens of democracy....a dictatorship, thinly disguised, of relativism.**

**Weigel suggests a look to Jerusalem and Athens for a revival of the Biblical image of humanity, rediscovery of the arts of reason to rebuild democracy.**

**David Horowitz is famous for his conversion from 1960s radicalism. In 'A Point in Time' he offers meditations on a deeper conversion...essence of the meaning of life. A stoic –one who is indifferent to pain or pleasure-Horowitz was influenced by Marcus Aurelius, a Roman Emperor and Russian writer, Dostoevsky who wrote of social revolutions, his early commitment to the overturn of the Czar, and his later converting to morality and religion....a time of meaning. A search for redemption in this life and the next.**

**Religion like culture tends to tear the fabric of what once was a strong religious country boasting of its belief in God and applying Christian faith as a hallmark of example and a responsible criterion for a value-strong life.**

**The battle in the political arena seems to pose the intellectual aura of collectivism versus individualism.**

**“God grant me the strength to accept with serenity the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”**