


If you don't regularly receive my reports, request a free subscription at steve_bakke@comcast.net !
Follow me on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@BakkeSteve> and receive links to my posts and more!
Visit my website at <http://www.myslantonthings.com> !

 **IS IT OLD CULTURE**
vs.
NEW CULTURE?
or
OLD CULTURE
vs.
NO CULTURE?



**"What do you mean it's wrong?
In Ethics we learnt that the
truth is always subjective!"**

By Stephen L. Bakke  October 24, 2016

A couple years ago, nationally syndicated columnist E.J. Dionne wrote a column in which he borrowed from sociologist James Davison Hunter to frame what has been popularly referred to as "Culture Wars." This is the struggle between those whose deepest commitments were to God vs. those humans who believed their own value systems evolved through what Dionne and others describe as "steady enlightenment." Dionne concluded that for most issues the war is receding, e.g. changing public opinion about gay marriage. But I think he missed the boat on a couple issues.

Regarding the issue of immigration, he suggests that the old question, "Who are we?" was really about how we define ourselves morally. He favors a new question that deals with how we define ourselves ethnically, racially and linguistically. What a change that is! We emphasize differences rather than what we have in common. Whereas the civil rights movement at one time told us we should be "blind to racial differences," we are now told that ignoring these differences is actually a racist action – a micro-aggression they now call it.

Does this all mean some progressives celebrate a theory that seems to relegate the concept of "morality" to a low level priority? Is the concept too old fashioned to be relevant? Has the concept of having moral absolutes been set aside in favor of making it a personal decision? Recall Barack Obama's explanation of "sinfulness" when being asked about his religious and moral foundation. He clearly answered that a sin was something that he considered to be wrong – a personal decision with no moral absolute as a basis.

Relate this discussion to the current Presidential campaign. Has the de-emphasis on moral standards been reflected in any way in the selection of candidates? Many would say yes to that question. Without me choosing sides in this election, for this discussion, it's interesting to examine this concept: Since the majority of Americans seem generally unhappy with both candidates, how does that relate to the country getting used to ignoring moral standards. Most of the complaints relate to feelings that the candidates have ethical and character issues. Would different moral standards have generated better conduct by the candidates and better choices for the voters? Think about it!

I ask: What is the meaning of "culture" in a traditional, meaningful sense? Is it a given that some sort of culture exists in all societal environments? No, I respect the concept too much to suggest that. I

believe that a true culture requires some level of philosophical consistency and moral and ethical absolutes?

Apparently, some progressives celebrate those who stand in the way of developing or maintaining a unique American culture based in part on moral standards. However, the actions of many progressive elements in our society contradict Dionne's notion that we are moving from an old culture to a new one? **Rather, I suggest those progressive goals and actions actually suggest that we are moving from the "old" culture to a condition of "NO" culture!**