

Evan Wu  
26 March 2009

The Dire Consequences of Unrestricted Power:  
A Criticism of the Church and Modern Liberalism

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Galileo uncovered compelling evidence that challenged geocentrism. The geocentric theory was the “theory of a universe that moved in perfect circles around a stationary earth [which] satisfied most, although not all, astronomers until Copernicus (1473–1543) developed an alternative ‘heliocentric’ theory that proposed that the earth revolved around the sun” (Klonoski, Richards, and Tempel 509). The Copernican theory explained the universe that Galileo saw through his telescope. Despite Galileo’s observations, the Church upheld that the earth was stationary, interpreting the Bible to support geocentrism. This conflict of vision created a confrontation between theology and science. After Galileo published Dialogues Concerning the Chief World Systems, the Church brought Galileo before the Inquisition, forcing him to recant. During Galileo’s life, the Church had enormous influence, controlling many aspects of people’s lives, which is the ultimate goal of liberal Democrats today, who undoubtedly caused the current economic recession, but deny all accountability. Through its power and effort to maintain it, the Church inhibited the advancement of science, demonstrating in the process, the propensity of those in power to deny the facts that contradict their own assertions, to arrogantly remain confident in their self-endowed omniscience, to carelessly cause unintended consequences, and to deceitfully defend their entitlement to greater authority without regard for those they supposedly represent.

Abusing its self-granted authority, the Church compelled Galileo to recant, rebuking his observations and scientific evidence, which did not indisputably prove the Copernican theory, but clearly debunked the assertion of a stationary earth. Recounting the historical progression of human innovation and intellectual thought, Klonoski, Richards, and Tempel claim that

astronomical observations agreed with Galileo's notion of an orbiting earth. They argue that "[w]hat astronomers saw in the night sky ... did not perfectly support [Aristotle's] theory ... [which claimed] that the earth was motionless, and that a series of perfect spheres rotated around it" (508). Even though scientists, through their analysis of the solar system, begun to question and acquire evidence against the theory of a stationary earth, the Church still condemned any opposition to geocentrism. Furthermore, in a description of Galileo's life, Jaki asserts that "the publication of [Galileo's] *Discourse on Bodies of Water* ... disclosed his discovery of the phases of Venus (a most important proof of the truth of the Copernican theory)" (1). Blinded by arrogance and their confidence in their intellectual superiority, Church officials disregarded Galileo's research and the evidence he produced, merely because Galileo disagreed with their interpretation of the Bible. In the same way, Democrats and liberals, confident in their self-proclaimed omniscience, disregard the facts that prove the true cause of the 2008 financial meltdown. The economy began to decline as a result of a tremendous increase in home foreclosures, a direct consequence of subprime loans. The trail of evidence leads one to the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 and the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, both instituted under the presidency of Jimmy Carter. The Federal Reserve implements the HMDA through Regulation C, which "is intended to provide the public with loan data that can be used ... [t]o help determine whether financial institutions are serving the housing needs of their communities ... identifying possible discriminatory lending patterns and enforcing antidiscrimination statutes" (National Archives and Records Administration). Through this regulation, the government, unconcerned about a borrower's ability to pay the monthly mortgages, forced banks to make subprime loans to low- and moderate-income borrowers. Section 203.6 of Regulation C states that "a violation of the regulation is subject to civil money

penalties” (Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System). So in effect, the government would sue banks that failed to meet a certain quota, arbitrarily set by omniscient bureaucrats, requiring banks to make a percentage of its loans to unqualified, low-income borrowers, in which many borrowers inevitably defaulted on their loan. These reckless and irresponsible left-wing policies mirror “[the Church’s] errors of judgment,” which “Galileo had suffered greatly from” (Reston 526). Somehow concluding that the financial institutions needed more regulatory policies, former president Jimmy Carter signed into law the Community Reinvestment Act in 1977. As stated by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, the “Community Reinvestment Act is intended to encourage depository institutions to help meet the credit needs of the communities in which they operate, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, consistent with safe and sound banking operations.” Obviously, Democrats discouraged “safe and sound banking operations,” encouraging the issuing of subprime loans. By passing and implementing the HMDA and the CRA, Democrats and liberalism unquestionably caused the current economic crisis. In spite of this evidence, analogous to the Church’s inquisition of Galileo and rejection of all evidence against geocentrism, liberal Democrats continue to blame greedy capitalists and the free market, dismissing any evidence that reveals the truth of their incompetence. In a televised interview with Milton Friedman, Phil Donahue asks, “When you see around the globe the mal-distribution of wealth, the desperate plight of millions of people in underdeveloped countries, ... the greed and the concentration of power, did you ever have a moment of doubt about capitalism and whether greed’s a good idea to run on” (“There is no alternative, but Capitalism”). Friedman fittingly educates Donahue, informing him that greed, individual self-interest, in a capitalistic economy benefits all of society, raising the standard of living:

Well, first of all, tell me is there some society you know that doesn't run on greed? ... Of course none of us are greedy; it's only the other fellow who's greedy.

The world runs on individuals pursuing their separate interests. The great achievements of civilization have not come from government bureaus. ... In the only cases in which the masses have escaped from the kind of grinding poverty you're talking about, the only cases in recorded history are where they have had capitalism and largely free trade. ...

You think - excuse me, if you will pardon me - do you think American presidents reward virtue? Do they choose their appointees on the basis of the virtue of the people appointed or on the basis of their political clout? Is it really true that political self interest is nobler somehow than economic self interest?

History reveals the miracles of capitalism, but liberals refuse to accept this historical evidence.

Democrats continue to attack capitalism, even though the "competitive price system is indispensable to liberty and material progress" (Buckley). This dismissal of the facts resembles the Church's failure, during the time of Galileo, to acknowledge the validity of Galileo's support for the Copernican theory. Galileo produced sound evidence, which clearly refutes geocentrism:

When Galileo began producing evidence that challenged the Ptolemaic universe and, by extension, the accuracy of the Bible, the Catholic Church balked. Having observed that Jupiter's moons rotated around the planet itself and that Venus was not rotating around the earth, Galileo argued that it no longer made sense to assert that all celestial objects rotated around a stationary earth. What made more sense was a solar system that rotated around the sun. (Klonoski, Richards, and Tempel 509-10)

In a misuse of power, regardless of Galileo's scientific findings, the Church intervened and infringed upon Galileo's freedoms, just as the government intervened in the housing market.

Walter E. Williams conveys the consequences of government intervention, stating that in the "absence of government interference, it is unlikely that a lender would extend a mortgage to a person with a poor credit history, making no down payment, and providing no verifiable employment history. But under the pressure of the government's Community Reinvestment Act and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac buying up or guaranteeing such mortgages, a lender will" ("Capitalism and the Financial Crisis"). The current economic recession, affecting hundreds of

millions of Americans and even the global economy, demonstrates the detrimental effects of government intervention in the market, yet Democrats want the government to regulate even more aspects of the economy. Similarly, the Church exploited its authority over the public, interfering in scientific research, forcing Galileo to recant in spite of his compelling evidence, and consequently hindering scientific progression. In the case of Galileo, the Roman Catholic Church acted in the same way liberals are acting today; the Church delegitimized any evidence that contradicted its own assertions, abusing its position of power.

Having unrestricted power over the public fueled the Church's arrogance, leading the Church to believe that it possessed an incontrovertible and omniscient understanding of the solar system. The Church based its entire dispute with Galileo on the belief that "the Copernican doctrine was contrary to Holy Scripture and therefore was not to be defended or held" (Langford 514). However, in the past, Holy Scripture was solely the Church's interpretation of the Bible because "it had been forbidden by the Council of Trent for any layman to interpret Scripture" (Reston 526). In their arrogance, Church officials believed their interpretation was superior to any layman's assessment, just as liberal Democrats insist that banks discriminate against low-income borrowers and any person who disagrees is uncompassionate. Relying on their self-endowed omniscience, Democrats assume they can create affordable housing by coercing banks to make subprime loans to unqualified, low-income borrowers who will miraculously acquire the necessary money to pay the monthly mortgage. In reality, most unqualified borrowers had the luxury of temporarily living in a house they personally could not afford until they inevitably defaulted on their loan and faced foreclosure. Thomas Sowell illustrates the disaster of the Democrats' "affordable housing" ideology:

What they are saying and doing usually boils down to trying to enable people to choose what housing they want first— and then have some law or policy where somebody else, somewhere else, somehow or other, makes that housing “affordable” for them.

If you think it through, that is a policy for disaster. We cannot all go around buying whatever we want, whether or not we have enough money to afford it, and have somebody else make up the difference. For society as a whole, there is no somebody else. (“Lured To Disaster”)

Moreover, due to foreclosure, many of these unqualified borrowers still do not own a house, and now the entire national economy is suffering. Milton Friedman points out a common, but terrible mistake: “One of the great mistakes is to judge policies and programs by their intentions rather than their results” (Moffatt, “Carbon Taxes, Milton Friedman and Intentions”). In the name of compassion and in their infinite wisdom, Democrats have led the country into a recession, in which even more people are struggling financially. Democrats neglect the fact that the limited knowledge of a group of politicians in Washington cannot possibly surpass the combined knowledge of millions of individuals in a capitalistic economy, specializing in their respective fields, voluntarily making mutually advantageous transactions, and contributing to the wealth of the nation. In his first Inaugural Address, former president Ronald Reagan said, “From time to time, we have been tempted to believe that society has become too complex to be managed by self-rule, that government by an elite group is superior to government for, by, and of the people. But if no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else” (First Inaugural Address of Ronald Reagan). Similarly, due to their arrogance, Church officials thought they were merely defending the theory they considered irrefutably true; in actuality, the Church was impeding the growth of knowledge that would have resulted from the advancement of scientific research. Based on the false assumption that the Bible supports geocentrism, “the church was not ready to abandon two thousand years of astronomy, and Galileo was forced to recant” (Klonoski, Richards, and Tempel 510). About

three hundred years later, even “[Cardinal Poupard] accorded Galileo the compliment of being ‘more perceptive’ in his interpretation of Scripture than the theologians who opposed him” (Reston 526). Too proud to admit error, the Church incorrectly upheld the theory of geocentrism, just as liberal Democrats deceptively fail to define “affordable” housing accurately and truthfully. Sowell uses his personal experiences to elaborate:

I find it hard to think of a time when I didn’t live in affordable housing.

When I first left home, back in 1948, I rented a room about 4 by 8 feet, costing \$5.75 a week. Since my take-home pay was \$22.50, that was affordable housing.

... [I]n 1954 I rented my first apartment, a studio apartment— small but affordable. But a year later, I went off to college and lived in dormitories on various campuses for the next six years. None was fancy but all of them were affordable. ...

In 1969, I rented my first house, which I could now afford, after several years as a faculty member at various colleges and universities. A dozen years later, I began to buy my first house. (“Lured To Disaster”)

Affordable housing comes from living within one’s means, but Democrats ignore such rudimentary facts. The Democrats’ ignorance parallels the Church’s inability to grasp and accept the truth of the Copernican theory: “The disciplinary instruction handed down in 1616 by Cardinal Robert Bellarmine forbade Galileo to ‘hold, teach and defend in any manner whatsoever, in words or in print’ the Copernican doctrine of the motion of the earth” (Jaki 1). This act demonstrates the Church’s past arrogance, a product of its unconstrained power, by forbidding any support for ideas that disagree with the Church’s immense knowledge, effectively seizing an important aspect of an individual’s liberty. During a Virginia Convention in 1788, James Madison said, “Since the general civilization of mankind, I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations” (“Madison on Gradual Encroachments Against Freedom”). In the same way that Democrats gradually usurp the rights of the American

people and transfer more control to the government, the Church realized that by maintaining its air of self-endowed omniscience, it could obtain even greater power over the public with minimal opposition.

From their pedestal of supreme intellect, Church officials cavalierly sanctioned the publication of Galileo's ideas and later assailed Galileo for publishing his analysis, neglecting the fact that the Church was truly at fault for instigating the conflict and impeding the progression of science. "When the final manuscript copy [of the *Dialogue*] was being made in March 1630, Father Castelli dispatched the news to Galileo that Urban VIII insisted ... that, had he been the pope in 1616, the censuring of Copernicanism would have never taken place" (Jaki 2). This news gave "Galileo the necessary encouragement to go ahead with the great undertaking of his life." Moreover, the "[*Dialogue*] was published with ecclesiastical approbation." Essentially, the Church encouraged Galileo to publish a "detailed account of his ideas," and afterward, reprimanded Galileo for holding, defending, and teaching heliocentrism. In the same exact way, Democrats encouraged, even coerced banks to lend money to subprime borrowers, and now, liberals blame these banks and government deregulation. Liberal Democrats created an affordable housing "problem," provided and implemented a "solution," and caused a real economic problem. Sowell explains the devastating effects of government overregulation in the economy:

[O]ur present economic crisis has developed out of politicians providing solutions to problems that did not exist— and, as a result, producing a problem whose existence is all too real and all too painful. What was the problem that didn't exist? It was a national problem of unaffordable housing. ...

Like most political "solutions," the solution to the affordable housing "problem" took little or no account of the wider repercussions this would entail. ...

[Politicians] are now offering even more solutions that will undoubtedly lead to even bigger problems. ("False solutions and real problems")

These cavalier policies proposed by Democrats mirror the carelessness of Pope Urban VIII who “did not read the *Dialogue* before publication, nor apparently did he make it clear to the censors exactly what could or could not be said in the book” (Langford 515). Despite the blunder of Urban VIII, the Church “summoned [Galileo] to Rome to appear before the Inquisition” (Jaki 2), even though “Galileo was [previously] informed that the Pope had remarked that ‘the Holy Church had never, and would never, condemn it [Copernicanism] as heretical but only as rash.’” Langford makes the logical point that “[if the Master of the Sacred Palace and the Inquisitors] thought that the [*Dialogue*] was not in accord with [the decree of the Index], they should never have granted permission to publish” (515). In 1992, Pope John Paul II acknowledged “the historic uneasiness between science and the Catholic faith over the years and lamented the ‘tragic mutual incomprehension’ that had marked the relationship” (Reston 526). However, during the trial of Galileo, the Church overlooked the detail that the Church, not Galileo, instigated the conflict between theology and science, eliminating the scientific breakthroughs that scientists would have discovered without the interference of the Church. Democrats, as they attack Republicans and the free market, similarly overlook the fact that they caused this current recession. Sowell accurately asserts that “most of our problems are not nearly as severe as political ‘solutions.’ In housing, government policies have lured people into situations that were untenable to them and to the country” (“Lured To Disaster”). In the name of compassion for the poor, the Democrats have crushed the economy. In a profound statement, C.S. Lewis wrote,

Of all tyrannies a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victim may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron’s cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated, but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience. (The Humanitarian Theory of Punishment)

Whether it is government politicians or Church officials, those in power will always seek to seize more power under the guise of advancing the public's interests. In "Federalist 51," James Madison noted the difficulty of controlling the power of government: "In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself" (Levin 5). It is also a citizen's patriotic duty to research the facts, inform oneself, and vote responsibly to limit the power of government and maintain individual liberty. Both the Democrats and the Church sought to blame others for a problem, which they caused, to gain the support of the public and appropriate greater power.

In an attempt to save its public image, despite its own blunders and the concrete evidence contradicting geocentrism, the Church rejected and criticized Galileo's logical theory, demonstrating the inclination of institutions in power to lie and act against the interests of the public for the sole purpose of maintaining its credibility, and therefore its authority. In 1993, the Church was still trying to defend its previous stance against Galileo, placing the blame on Galileo and neglecting that scientists had already proven the Copernican theory: "[Cardinal Poupard] repeated again the standard church line about Galileo that ... Galileo had been condemned because he insisted on treating his Copernican theory as truth rather than hypothesis, and he could not prove it" (Reston 528). In a document to Firenzuola, Galileo testifies that he had the approval of the Church:

Seeing also that my book was not subject to a stricter censorship than that made binding by the decree of the Index, it will, it appears to me, be sufficiently plain that I adopted the surest and most becoming method of having it guaranteed and purged of all shadow of taint, inasmuch as I handed it to the Supreme Inquisitor at the very time when many books dealing with the same matters were being prohibited solely in virtue of the said decree. (Langford 519)

In spite of Galileo's efforts, the Church still blamed Galileo, using him to avert the public's attention from its own mistakes, just as Democrats accuse former president Bush and his administration's right-wing ideology of causing the economic crisis, even though the Bush Administration and Republicans repeatedly expressed their concern to Congress. From 2001 to the last year of his presidency, including seventeen instances in 2008, Bush alerted Congress of the risky loans that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were securing:

**For many years the President and his Administration have not only warned of the systemic consequences of financial turmoil at a housing government-sponsored enterprise (GSE) but also put forward thoughtful plans to reduce the risk that either Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac would encounter such difficulties.** President Bush publicly called for GSE reform 17 times in 2008 alone before Congress acted. Unfortunately, these warnings went unheeded, as the President's repeated attempts to reform the supervision of these entities were thwarted by the legislative maneuvering of those who emphatically denied there were problems. (White House Press Office)

This press release from the White House continues, listing numerous instances over the years, in which Bush tried to convince Congress that reform was necessary. Democrats ignored his warnings, and the country is now suffering for their incompetence. In addition, "Alan Greenspan warned them four years ago. So did the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to the President. So did Bush's Secretary of the Treasury, five years ago. Yet, today, what are we hearing? That it was the Bush administration 'right-wing ideology' of 'de-regulation' that set the stage for the financial crisis. Do facts matter?" (Sowell, "Do Facts Matter?"). In 2000, well before the housing market crash, Husock warns, "[T]he pressure on banks to make CRA-related loans may be leading to foreclosures" ("The Trillion-Dollar Bank Shakedown"). Democrats refuse to take responsibility for their actions. The reason Democrats deny any accountability for the recession is the same reason the Church criticized Galileo, which is that they want to shift the blame to someone else in order to sustain their credibility in the eyes of the public. Commenting on his interview with Cardinal Poupard, Reston concurs, stating that "[i]t was not long before I

realized that I was dealing with a politician as much as a priest” (527), also arguing that “[t]he Copernican theory was true, and the church had used extreme and rigorous methods to crush that truth and protect its falsehood” (528). The Church tried to protect former pope Urban VIII and the Inquisition. “[Pope John Paul II] did not mention the eccentricities of his predecessor, Urban VIII, nor did he directly criticize the behavior of the Inquisition” (Reston 526). Cardinal Poupard claimed that “Galileo’s judges, not the pope himself, were to blame” (Reston 527). Conversely, Reston comments, “I thought Urban VIII was one of his judges.” Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Poupard did not criticize Urban VIII or the Inquisition for fear of disparaging the Church. With the same reasoning, Democrats lie to the public to protect the Democratic Party, former presidents Carter and Clinton, and President Obama. James Madison warned, “All men having power ought to be distrusted to a certain degree” (Williams, “Why we love government”). The truth is that liberal Democrats are to blame for the financial meltdown:

It was liberal Democrats, led by Senator Christopher Dodd and Congressman Barney Frank, who for years— including the present year— denied that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were taking big risks that could lead to a financial crisis... [and] who for years pushed for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to go even further in promoting subprime mortgage loans, which are at the heart of today's financial crisis. (Sowell, “Do Facts Matter?”)

Before the housing bust, in response to the concerns Republicans expressed, Barney Frank provided further evidence proving his ignorance of economics: “In a speech to the Mortgage Bankers Association, Frank advised, ‘People tend to pay their mortgages. I don't think we are in any remote danger here. This focus on receivership, I think, is intended to create fears that aren't there’” (Williams, “Congress’ financial mess”). Democratic Senator Harry Reid ironically remarked, “While I favor improving oversight by our federal housing regulators to ensure safety and soundness, we cannot pass legislation that could limit Americans from owning homes and potentially harm our economy in the process.” While Senator Reid refused to “pass legislation

that could ... potentially harm our economy,” he defended legislation that significantly harmed our economy. Despite all the evidence, Democrats feign innocence. Under former president Clinton, another guilty Democrat, the CRA was enforced to a greater extent than before: “The Clinton administration has turned the Community Reinvestment Act, a once-obscure and lightly enforced banking regulation law, into one of the most powerful mandates shaping American cities” (Husock, “The Trillion-Dollar Bank Shakedown”). The New York Times released a similar report:

A New York Times article, “Fannie Mae Eases Credit To Aid Mortgage Lending” (9/30/99), reported, “Fannie Mae, the nation's biggest underwriter of home mortgages, has been under increasing pressure from the Clinton Administration to expand mortgage loans among low and moderate income people.” The pressure was the 1977 Community Reinvestment Act that was beefed up during the Clinton Administration. It required banks to make high-risk loans they would not have otherwise made. Failure to comply meant fines and difficulty in getting approval for mergers and branch expansion. (Williams, “Congress’ financial mess”)

Since the facts prove that the Democrats are at fault, the Democratic Party must lie as it seeks to protect the reputation of its fellow liberals, just as the Church sought to shield Church officials. Perhaps the closest comparison to the Church’s protection of Urban VIII is the Democrats’ defense of President Obama. The Washington University School of Law clearly lists Barack H. Obama as one of the plaintiff’s lawyers in the case *Buycks-Roberson v. Citibank Fed. Sav. Bank* ([The Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse](#)), a case in which ACORN insisted that Citibank make more subprime loans to low-income borrowers:

An ardent proponent of the CRA, ACORN benefactor, organizer, and trainer Barack H. Obama, Esq., contributed to the increasingly hostile environment for banks when he represented the plaintiffs in the 1995 class action lawsuit *Buycks-Roberson v. Citibank*. The suit demanded that the bank grant mortgages to an equal percentage of minority and non-minority mortgage applicants. The bank settled the case three years later and reportedly agreed to beef up its lending to unqualified applicants.

ACORN refuses to acknowledge the role that it and the CRA played in the current crisis on Wall Street, and as recently as Jan. 21 [2008] Obama said in a candidates’ debate that

the CRA should be more strictly enforced. (Vadum, “ACORN’s Food Stamp Mortgages”)

Throughout his presidential campaign, and even now, Obama and the Democratic Party have been able to fool the majority of the American public into believing in the Democrats’ complete innocence, and into blindly following and voting for their omniscient left-wing policies and ideology. Once one possesses the facts, it is undeniable that the policies of liberal Democrats caused the economic recession through overregulation of the banking system. Williams poses the question, “What kind of assumptions do politicians and news media make about the intelligence of Americans to expect us to buy the idea that our current mess results from deregulation and free markets? I do not find that assumption flattering” (“Congress’ financial mess”). As Democrats refute any responsibility for causing the recession, Cardinal Poupard denied that the Church created the conflict between theology and science: “The conflict between science and faith was a myth, [Cardinal Poupard] said dismissively” (Reston 527). It is instinctive of those in power to expand their authority by any means that they deem necessary. It is true of both the government and the Church, and the Democrats cannot resist the urge to seize more power for themselves without regard for the wellbeing of others. Describing the Democrats’ disastrous foreign policy during the Cold War, Ann Coulter inquires, “Why are people never ruined by subsequent revelations proving that they were completely wrong” (173). Liberal Democrats have undoubtedly led the American people into a recession, yet by lying and abusing their power, they have convinced too many Americans otherwise, in an effort to garner more political support. “Abraham Lincoln said, ‘You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you can’t fool all the people all the time.’ Unfortunately, the future of this country, as well as the fate of the Western world, depends on how many people can be fooled” (Sowell, “Do Facts Matter?”). Because the government and the Church are in

positions of power, they have the ability to repress the truth, although not completely, and for the simple reason that they can, to save their public image, they will.

The Church had seized too much power, and by exploiting its authority, it inhibited the advancement of science. Because of the destructive capability of those in power, conservatives fight to conserve the United States Constitution and the founding principles of limited government. Hence, while liberals stand for excessive government regulation, such as in the housing market, conservatives promote individual liberty and capitalism, a price-coordinated free market not centrally controlled by the government, but fueled by individual self-interest, which creates national prosperity and a progressively higher standard of living. One of the founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, said, “The greatest [calamity] which could befall [us would be] submission to a government of unlimited powers” (Williams, “Why we love government”). The public has already allowed the government to become too powerful; the American people must defend their unalienable rights, oppose the Democrats’ effort to empower themselves, and defeat modern liberalism. When the public apathetically permits those in power to increase their influence in every aspect of people’s lives, there are dire consequences, such as the 2008 financial crisis and the obstruction of science. Apathy and ignorance has allowed modern liberalism to destroy the economy and American lives, in the same way that it allowed the Church to use its power to conceal the truth and obstruct the development of science, forbidding support of the Copernican theory and denying Galileo, during his lifetime, the recognition of his intelligence and his great discovery.

## Works Cited

- Buckley Jr., William F. "Our Mission Statement." National Review Online. 19 Nov. 1955. 20 Mar. 2009 <<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=NDJhYTJjNWl0MWFiODBhMDc2MzQwY2JlM2RhZjk5ZjM>>.
- The Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse. Washington University Law. 18 Mar. 2009 <<http://clearinghouse.wustl.edu/detail.php?id=10112>>.
- Coulter, Ann. Treason: Liberal Treachery from the Cold War to the War on Terrorism. New York: Crown Forum, 2003.
- First Inaugural Address of Ronald Reagan. Yale Law School: Lillian Goldman Law Library. 15 Mar. 2009 <[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/reagan1.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/reagan1.asp)>.
- The Humanitarian Theory of Punishment. Lycos Inc. 15 Mar. 2009 <<http://www.angelfire.com/pro/lewiscs/humanitarian.html>>.
- Husock, Howard. "The Trillion-Dollar Bank Shakedown That Bodes Ill for Cities." City Journal. Winter 2000. The Manhattan Institute. 15 Mar. 2009 <[http://www.city-journal.org/html/10\\_1\\_the\\_trillion\\_dollar.html](http://www.city-journal.org/html/10_1_the_trillion_dollar.html)>.
- Jaki, Stanley L. "Galileo Galilei." Encyclopedia of World Biography, 2nd ed. 17 Vols. Gale Research, 1998. Reproduced in History Resource Center. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale. <<http://0-galenet.galegroup.com.mill1.sjlibrary.org:80/servlet/History/>>.
- Klonoski, Edward, Beth Richards, and Patricia Tempel. "Introduction: Living with Our Tools." McCormick 506-10.
- Langford, Jerome J. "The Trial of Galileo." McCormick 512-24.

Levin, Mark R. Liberty and Tyranny: A Conservative Manifesto. New York: Threshold Editions, 2009.

“Madison on Gradual Encroachments Against Freedom.” The Harper’s Magazine Foundation. 8 Jan. 2008. 15 Mar. 2009 <<http://www.harpers.org/archive/2008/01/hbc-90002051>>.

McCormick, Kathleen, ed. Reading Our Histories, Understanding Our Cultures. New York: Longman, 2003.

Moffatt, Mike. “Carbon Taxes, Milton Friedman and Intentions.” The New York Times Company. 12 Mar. 2007. 15 Mar. 2009 <<http://economics.about.com/b/2007/03/12/carbon-taxes-milton-friedman-and-intentions.htm>>.

Reston Jr., James B. “Galileo Reconsidered.” McCormick 525-28.

Sowell, Thomas. “Do Facts Matter?” Creators Syndicate. 3 Oct. 2008. 18 Mar. 2009 <<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell100308.php3>>.

Sowell, Thomas. “False solutions and real problems.” Creators Syndicate. 17 Mar. 2009. 18 Mar. 2009 <<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell031709.php3>>.

Sowell, Thomas. “Lured To Disaster.” Creators Syndicate. 20 Jan. 2009. 18 Mar. 2009 <<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell012009.php3>>.

“There is no alternative, but Capitalism.” WordPress. 11 Feb. 2009. 20 Mar. 2009 <<http://aristotlethegeek.wordpress.com/2009/02/11/>>.

United States. Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Regulation C: Home Mortgage Disclosure – Compliance Guide to Small Entities. Washington D.C.: FRB, 28 Jun. 2001. 15 Mar. 2009 <<http://www.federalreserve.gov/bankinforeg/reglisting.htm>>. Path: 12 CFR 203; Compliance guide.

United States. Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. Community Reinvestment Act: Background & Purpose. Washington D.C.: FFIEC, 2 Jul. 2007. 15 Mar. 2009

<<http://www.ffiec.gov/cra/history.htm>>.

United States. National Archives and Records Administration. Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C) Title 12: Banks and Banking. Section 203.1. Washington D.C.: GPO, 15

Feb. 2002. 15 Mar. 2009 <<http://www.federalreserve.gov/bankinforeg/reglisting.htm>>.

Path: 12 CFR 203; Regulation (GPO); §203.1.

United States. White House Press Office. Just the Facts: The Administration's Unheeded

Warnings About the Systemic Risk Posed by the GSEs. Washington D.C.: Office of the Press Secretary, 19 Sep. 2008. 18 Mar. 2009 <<http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2008/09/20080919-15.html>>.

Vadum, Matthew. "ACORN's Food Stamp Mortgages." The American Spectator. 29 Oct. 2008.

18 Mar. 2009 <<http://spectator.org/archives/2008/10/29/acorns-food-stamp-mortgages>>.

Williams, Walter E. "Capitalism and the Financial Crisis." Creators Syndicate. 5 Nov. 2008. 18

Mar. 2009 <<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/williams110508.php3>>.

Williams, Walter E. "Congress' financial mess." Creators Syndicate. 14 Jan. 2009. 18 Mar. 2009

<<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/williams011409.php3>>.

Williams, Walter E. "Why we love government." Creators Syndicate. 29 Nov. 2006. 18 Mar.

2009 <<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/williams112906.php3>>.