A Formula for Loss of Free Speech, Collapse of Moral Order, and the Downfall of the United States

This is a formula for loss of free speech, collapse of moral order, and the downfall of the United States:

\[ \text{P} + \text{CT} = \text{X} \]

“P” stands for “Postmodernism.”

The seeds for Postmodernism were planted by the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, who proclaimed “God is dead” in 1882. It took a hundred years for Postmodernism to mature, being watered by French intellectuals in the 1960s, growing to mighty trees at the universities, dropping its fruit on unsuspecting elementary and secondary students along the way, until it forcefully broke out onto the streets of the United States in 2020.

Here are 3 ideas coming from Postmodernism that are now commonplace:

**Idea number 1:** In the days following Martin Luther, the Bible was the go-to source for determining what is morally true, right and just. Later on, during the “Modern” era, the popular determining factor for all truth (moral and otherwise) was human reason, mixed not with the Bible, but with the scientific method alone.

But in Postmodern times, neither the Bible, science nor human reason provide the guide for determining truth. Today, personal opinion, intuition, gut instinct and “my experience” are acceptable sources for determining right and wrong. What is “right” and what is “wrong” is whatever you decide it is. Morality is totally subjective.

**Idea number 2:** In the Postmodern world, truth is never “universal,” “absolute” or “transcendent.” Truth is a mental construct, created by various social groups, or individuals, and “truth” varies from group to group, or person to person. “You have your truth, and I have mine.”

**Idea number 3:** All so-called “truths” are equally valid, and they do not conflict with one another, because “truth” is multi-dimensional, like the multi-dimensions of quantum physics. “My truth is just as valid as your truth.” It’s wrong to say wrong is “wrong.”

Here are some samples of Postmodern thinking, from random interviews of everyday people in Seattle, who were asked to define “right” and “wrong,” and tell how they determine the difference: https://youtu.be/ufyeuasYFdk (2.5 minutes)

Even the U.S. Supreme Court got into the act when, in 1992, a joint opinion by three justices stated: “At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, or the universe, and of the mystery of human life.” [Planned Parenthood v. Casey, O’Connor, Kennedy, and Souter]

Postmodernism has re-defined “liberty.” And a lot of other things.

Back to the formula: \[ \text{P} + \text{CT} = \text{X} \]

While “P” stands for Postmodernism, “CT” stands for Critical Theory.

The seeds of Critical Theory go back to ideas of Karl Marx in the late 1800s. But again it took a hundred years for Critical Theory to reach the streets of America, after it was nurtured by a band of German Marxists known as “The Frankfurt School.” These intellectuals came to the U.S. in the 1930s to take up residency in key universities, where their neo-Marxist ideas were welcomed and cultivated.
The Frankfurt School viewed the world as divided into evil oppressors and innocent victims in constant conflict over power. Marx spun his “power narrative” in relation to economics, seeing property owners as oppressing property-less workers, but the Frankfurt School broadened the orbit of “oppressions” to include race, gender and social status.

Critical Theory is like a manufactured virus that was incubated in higher education, let loose on public elementary and secondary students, and now roars like a pandemic, infecting the general population.

_Here are 3 big ideas of Critical Theory that came out of the ivory towers:_

**Idea number 1:** Society is made up of only two groups of people: the oppressed and the oppressors. Put another way, the “dominant groups,” and the “dominated groups.” The dominant groups are _intrinsically_ oppressive.

The classification of “oppressor group” is determined by things like skin color, gender, social status and religion.

Critical Race Theory imparts the astounding idea that if you are “white,” you are _unavoidably_ an oppressor, based upon your group identity, no matter if you are meek and mild, or loud and bossy. It doesn’t matter. That’s because “white” is the leading _skin color_ of people in the U. S., and is _therefore_ oppressive. All white people are in a _class_ of “oppressors,” and thus guilty of “systemic” racism. That’s not the same as _systematic_ racism. It’s a new kind of racist: racist by _default_. “Racism” is defined in terms of one’s _identity_ as a member of an “oppressive group,” regardless of one’s personal views. Sound like stereotyping? It’s all part of the “power narrative.” (You have to be a Marxist to really get it.)

Christianity is also oppressive, according to Critical Theory, because Christianity has been the leading religion in the United States since its inception. Christianity is _therefore_ oppressive. This is the case in spite of how _individual_ Christians may feel, or how pleasant a particular Christian may be. Christians are all “systemic” oppressors, because the group they belong to is a dominant group.

**Idea number 2:** Oppression of human beings (as they define oppression) is the enemy (no matter what form the oppression takes), and _freedom from obligation to conform to any dominate “norm”_ is the goal.

If the nuclear family is considered “normal” (that is, a family consisting of a father, a mother and children), this is now deemed _oppressive_ to any other family structure. The “norm” of the nuclear family must be brought down, and “anything goes” must take its place.

Any norm for society is “oppressive,” and needs to be brought down. It’s the way of Critical Theory.

**Idea number 3:** Social _change_ is the intended outcome, and _activism_ is the _means_.

Critical Theory _requires_ its adherents to _fundamentally change society_.

Critical Theory activists see themselves as liberators. They believe they have a _just cause_ that _morally requires_ activism. It’s not enough to call people _out_. You _must_ bring them _down_, and _eliminate dissent_. It’s the way of Critical Theory. It’s like a religious cult.

“Social Justice,” according to Critical Theory, means liberating people from “oppression” in any form—and by force when necessary.

The mixture of Nietzsche with Marx, combining Postmodernism with Critical Theory, created a potent and toxic brew which spilled into the consciousness of many Americans in 2020 who previously had no idea what the terms “Postmodernism” or “Critical Theory” meant. The burning of cities caught their attention.
This was the perfect storm. Postmodernism provided the necessary underpinnings, while Critical Theory provided the fuel and the force to shove its self-proclaimed “liberating” ideology on people’s lives without being asked. It’s called “revolution.”

And this brings us back to the formula for loss of free speech, collapse of moral order, and the downfall of the United States: \( P + CT = X \)

“X” stands for “Cancel Culture.”

What “norms” are being cancelled? What “oppressions” are being brought down?

the “nuclear” family
heterosexual marriage as normative
gender distinctions
masculinity
“whiteness”
Western society and Western history
U.S. history
the police
national borders

(and although it is rarely openly identified as a target to be cancelled) historic Christianity

Historic Christianity is “the hidden brass ring,” because when it goes, a lot of so-called “oppression” goes with it.

Historic Christianity has taught norms that have been dominant in American culture for the nearly 250 years of our nation’s existence. Historic Christianity teaches Truth claims that do not leave room for multiple gods, or subjective moral order. The 10 Commandments are neither “The 10 Suggestions” nor “The 10 Options.” For the true-blue Critical Theorist, law itself is oppressive.

Because historic Christianity promotes transcendent norms, it is seen as needing to be silenced, through public opinion first, intimidation next, and by force (legal or otherwise) when necessary. Force coming under the guise of “social justice,” “diversity,” “equity,” “inclusion” and “anti-racism.” It all sounds so very, very good.

We’re well into the intimidation stage. Legal force has already begun, and unless something very miraculous occurs to change the course of U.S. history, it will get much, much worse. Even without legal force, the social force may prove to be titanic, unless there is another Great Awakening.

\( P + CT = X \) This, in a nutshell, is what is going on, and this explains why Critical Theory (and its offspring, Critical Race Theory and Critical Pedagogy) needs to be exposed and extinguished without delay, in our government agencies, our public schools, and—yes—in some of our churches.

Our freedoms are at stake. Freedom of speech, freedom of religious expression, and all the other freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. But something even more severe is possible: the collapse of the very infrastructure holding it up.

For more about Critical Theory, see An Introduction to Critical Theory, here.