

## Introduction

“Now surely nothing but universal education can counterwork the tendency to the domination of capital and the servility of labor. If one class possesses all the wealth and the education, while the residue of society is ignorant and poor, it matters not by what name the relation between them may be called: the latter in fact and in truth, will be the servants, dependents and subjects of the former. But, if education be equally diffused, it will draw property after it be the strongest of all attractions; for such a thing never did happen, as that an intelligent and practical body of men should be permanently poor. Education, then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is a great equalizer of conditions of men – the balance wheel of the social machinery.”  
Horace Mann.

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God Without Religion is a multi-award winning book that the institutionalized religious powers hope you never read. Here is this week's reason why:

### 12 My Comments/News

One of my listeners asked me if it was right to say whether The Nexus is in fact the most controversial show on radio. Even if it is, she said, how can you really be sure it is?

Of course, controversy for its own sake is not the point. But, listeners need only go to the archive of shows at [godwithoutreligion.com](http://godwithoutreligion.com) to find out The Nexus covers topics that no other talk show would touch with a ten foot pole. If it's not political correctness that stops them, or perhaps the fear of being branded something like anti-Semitic or the equivalent of a holocaust denier, what stops most them, I feel, is a failure to ask the right questions.

I'll give you an example. To me it's nothing to talk about 9/11 as a possible inside job by right-wing cold warriors. What is controversial is to ask, ok, now what? The answer to now what from the left is insipid. The right wing did far better at radio, and corporations are following Fox News's recipe for success, because it first seeks to entertain and second, seeks to induct.

On the left, the tendency is to seek to inform, which is not as entertaining, and while they thankfully do not induct their audiences into a world view, neither do they have the sure foundation to educate their listeners into a world view.

And people will take education over induction, if given the choice, any day of the week, because induction is from the outside and always enters the mind – even the mind of the most die hard true believer – with some resistance. The dystrophic conscience and intellect fight against it because it's brainwashing. But education, works from the inside. Sure, the die hard will fight it, but the education has allies within the person's own consciousness, so it inevitably triumphs.

Vulnerability in society puts people in weakened positions, where they seek extremist ideologies, move toward the right and exclusiveness, and fight the heart's natural tendency toward expansion. It's like a state of lowered immunity, but not for the body so much as for the intellect, and reason, and discriminatory faculties.

So, centralized powers work to create that vulnerability of the self in all of us. In fact, saying just that might win me the prize of saying the understatement of the year – the understatement that is never stated.

Back to the question: Now what? The right supplies entertainment and induction while the left provides information. And since information is by nature interpretive, it does not have the force necessary to upset induction, even if that induction is based on misinformation, because once you are induced into a world view, it becomes you. That world view is your sense of self.

All you do when you provide information to someone whose identity is based on the entertaining of misinformation is upset them. That's where hate mail comes from.

And let's not forget that the left is also prone to foster a narrow identity in people, and that perforce means that their information lacks lasting integrity. Even if they are relying on better representations of the artifacts of past events, their narrow sense of self disqualifies it from being finally true.

And again, the reason is that all that information is not properly fit together in a comprehensive world view that is intuitively educed from within. And by intuition I mean the proper blend of reason, or intellect, and feeling, or the heart's natural expansive capacity.

Once you have that education, though, information won't be just facts thrown out there or at you. They will become the building blocks of a new sense of self, a new identity. And since people are voting and believing and acting and fighting all in the name of identity, it is high time that identity is addressed.

They say, it's the economy, stupid. Well, whoever said that is not too bright. It's the identity, stupid, and it always will be because the sense of self is the basis for all conduct, including where the money goes.

But that statement, alone, without the larger framework of an educed world view, sounds reductionist. It can seem simplistic. And it is, without all the details that go into that world view.  $E=mc^2$  alone, before Einstein, would be a reductionism. His creative, intuitive genius delivered the details to give it meaning to a new world view.

That means that building this expansive world view takes time. It takes some thinking. It takes effort. So the best thing either side can do is deliver that education in an entertaining way.

Both the left and the right talk about how the Democrats lack a cohesive and comprehensive identity. And that's true. Some Democrats argue back that they belong to a large party of varied opinions. We are not so monolithic, they say, and hence don't run the risk of being monolithically wrong, like the Republicans. There is certainly value in that argument.

But it's irrelevant at the same time. If every single person in the human race identified with everyone else, and upheld the same ontological world view, meaning a view of what is real, there would still be discussion and argument, and there should be.

The argument wouldn't be about whether we are one human race and one family. It wouldn't be about who to bomb. It wouldn't be about how to milk this or that tribe out of its money. But there would still be arguments that are operational in nature. We would still have to make decisions regarding how best to go about living on this planet with all the inner and outer challenges. Because a world view doesn't provide answers to everything, it only provides all the right questions and the perspective to come up with the right questions under any given conditions.

So when the Democrats, who don't deliver educational value, counter that disagreement is strength, they are arguing against the wrong accusation. They are accused of failing to inspire a single unifying world view, and they are commending themselves for having different approaches to policy when there is no single world view they are basing any of those policies on.

Raising the minimum wage and health care for all are not world views. They are pet policies. To say the American Dream is their world view is offensive to intelligence. The American Dream is just that, a dream that arguably never bothered to grace four dimensional reality. It is hypocrisy. It is more propaganda. It is a political talking point. You can't even give it the benefit of the doubt of being reductionist. It's about as reductionist as a raisin in the sun.

And those pet policies have as much chance as a snowball in a fiery hell when they are not firmly rooted in a world view, widely educed.

So, having differing world views, or rather none, is a weakness, not a strong point. It is perceived as weakness by the public, and their defense that single world views smack of blind dogmatism only reveals that they only world views they are familiar with are the ones that are induced rather than educed. Induction requires a dogmatic approach and blindness, but educed is the opposite.

## 12 Minutes Guest/Skit/Callers/E-mails

“Without determining as yet whether war does good or harm, this much we may affirm, that now we have discovered war to be derived from causes of almost all the evils in States, private as well as public.” Plato

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If you want to hear this show again, perhaps break it up, hit pause, and think about some of these things, go online to [godwithoutreligion.com](http://godwithoutreligion.com).

I also suggest picking up my book. I and my mother spent our own money in this book. I had no publisher to give it to. It has won the biggest awards, and received dozens of endorsements. The foreword was written by Arun Gandhi. All the proceeds go to a nonprofit organization I set up, which pays for this radio show. From this show, I have not received a dime of advertising money. I have received no royalties from the book. And since I work for this nonprofit, it is public knowledge that I take home \$1500 per month. All the sales of the book have not yet even covered the cost of publishing and promoting it. So, it is a service through and through, and I hope you take advantage of it.

On the subject of service, the word service is cognate with the Sanskrit seva, which means service, and also with the word civis, as in civilization. Hence, society is an idea based on mutual service.

Everyone understanding, through education, what is real, at least what is real right before our eyes. Everyone in this country, everyone in this world, needs to arrive through education at basic world view as our starting point. And by world view I literally mean viewing the world, looking at the world, opening our eyes. It's not theological. It doesn't require superstition or faith. It is not even ideological or symbolic. It is phenomenological as in we just look at what the heck is going on. And we don't miss the forest for the trees.

It's even simple, but because of centralized power and the way it makes us all vulnerable, we seek the latest cult or extreme religion or the tough political party, and only a few scientists and philosophers and just thinking people in the world have a chance to educe it.

It is based on what we can all see with our two eyes: Namely that we are all human beings living our lives on this one ball of dust spinning around in vast space, and we have no one else, nothing else in the universe with whom to identify more.

We are all in the same boat in this stormy sea of space and time and causation, and we all owe to each one of us the gravest loyalty.

And the world view I discussed in the first segment reveals that there is no one else to serve in this world but us. You can look at any issue in light of this world view, even issues like global warming, and still arrive at the best course of action because you eventually find that our lives are not only connected, but human life is connected with other systems of life and force in this world and solar system.

When our self includes everything that we depend on for survival and thriving, then selfishness is not a problem. We will be selfish for each other, for the natural world, for everything that is part of us, which is everything because we are a part of the cosmos.

Donald Trump said if we show him someone with no ego, he'll show us a loser. His statement reveals how common it is for us to equate ego with ambition, will power, and drive. Those things are not good or bad. They are merely quantitative powers to be used in particular directions. To me, it is a question of the expansiveness of the sense of self. We could say that someone with a large sense of self has a small ego, but to simplify things, I just say large self means large ego. In that regard, Donald Trump to me, from the superficial observations of his life, has a small ego. It is a puny ego that is narrowly identified with the body. Let those who have strong will power have large egos, large selves, that identify with all human bodies as their own, all the world, and that will power will be placed in the service of that larger selfishness. But to do that, there needs to be war. Not on outer war with guns and missiles, but an inner war that each person wages against the tendencies of narrow self, small ego. If that war is not

waged in the spirit of annihilating the narrow sense of self, then outer war is inevitable as people will not identify with one another, and their powerful drives and ambitions, directed by a little sniveling ego, will clash on battlefields and stock markets.

All that I just said is self-evident. Our bodies are matter, matter is the stuff of the cosmos, of stars, we are the cosmos, everything affects everything else in the cosmos, and we are one.

But these thoughts, the thoughts that we need in order to start to build, from the ground up, a consistent understanding of the world as it is, are not the kind of thoughts you hear on either side of this cultural and political war. In fact, I've just about had it with the thoughtlessness from both the left and the right. And I can't decide which one is worse, because they both lead to the same thing.

See, the right says everything is peachy, and the people on the left just need to get one the ball and start supporting this president and this country, and stop being traitors. Well, it doesn't take much questioning to discover that's nonsense. When they start calling newspapers traitors for publishing the crimes of government, you might as well pack your tent and head West.

But on the left, the message is equally fatal. The so called left says everything is a mess, and we need to start voting in progressive candidates that stand for a higher minimum wage, for bringing home the troops, government accountability, yada yada yada.

Well, that is nonsense too, but for another reason. History has shown over and over and over that you cannot resuscitate a declining society by attempting to reinvigorate the standing institutions. And the more you think you can, the greater the decline into corrupted power, economic desperation, and chaos.

But are we a society in decline? Well, let's see. We are many trillions of dollars in debt, more and more of us are falling into poverty every year, corporatism, cronyism, and fascism are more powerful than ever, the will of the electorate has been distanced from the legislature, the decentralization of power in the Federal Government that conservatism once stood for has been hijacked and replaced by

the centralization of power in a plutocracy, voter fraud is common, the wall between church and state is full of gaping holes, we have an overgrown military establishment, and most critically, we have established permanent military frontiers in the hope that we can militarily grow ourselves out of immanent financial collapse.

And none of these goings on are new. All these symptoms of decline are decades old. Oh yes, and we have a criminal administration in power and no one, myself included, is doing anything about it that would, in my view, actually be an appropriate response, a proportional reaction, an action equivalent to the danger.

And by no one, I do not mean Congress. LOL. That would be laughable, even pathetic of me to think that Congress would be up to the task, when we consider the real power that puts people in office these days. No, I mean us.

So that decline isn't simply out there. I think it is also in our nerves. Perhaps we are numb. However we call it, we are part of the decline. A country is only the people, after all. The corruption reflects us as a whole public, and what we value, where we think happiness lies. As one public, we can't deny culpability. But while that all sounds pretty pessimistic, and perhaps it is based on the worst interpretation of events and a reading of history, even if it is a sound interpretation, I don't think things are actually so bleak. In fact, this could be humanity's moment of glory.

You see, I am betting that all this grasp for power, and move toward extremism, is not so much an offensive motion, but a defensive one. To me, these centralized institutions are declining in power, and in so doing, they are hanging on for dear life, reaching for more power and taking far greater risks. Many of the basic ideologies underlying them were around in the Dark Ages, and they simply no longer work. But more importantly, people are wising up. They reject those ideologies.

It is likely in their financial collapse they will take a lot of infrastructure with them, but that will be temporary. We will rebuild our institutions, perhaps not perfectly, but in keeping with more expansive principles. But I don't want to get too excited just yet. There's more to talk about.

## 12 Minutes Guest/Skit/Callers/E-mails

“Behind the ostensible government sits enthroned an invisible government owing no allegiance and acknowledging no responsibility to the people. To destroy this invisible government, to dissolve this unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics, is the first task of the statesmanship of today.” That is what the Progressive Party stood for 80 years ago.

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Now, while I have every right to observe this lack of creative response in we the public that might seek to effectively undermine the power of centralized institutions, I can only speak for myself when it comes to the source of my own paralysis.

First off, I do not consider staying up on the news and voting for the lesser of two evils as sufficient to ease my culpability. I don't consider writing a book and promoting it adequate. I don't feel having a radio show, even it were national and daily, amply proactive. Unless I do that which I feel would suitably respond to the decline of my society, as I see it, I am liable.

So how is it that I, and certainly others, see it? I see this time as the end to our democracy. In fact, it is not even the end. I think it has already ended. The times we are living in right now are the times after democracy died. In a matter of speaking, we let the symptoms go far too long. There is a numbness when it comes to action, maybe there's not much to do, but there's an awakening when it comes to circumstances. That awakening is where our future lies.

But as of now, we already live in a dead nation. Maybe because that fact is a downer or perhaps not a popular message, even though it is self-evident to anybody who wants to witness it, it is not commonly repeated, and we are left with an insane right wing that defends this carcass of a nation as the bastion of righteousness and a naïve left that hovers above this road-kill in the vain hope of resuscitating it.

We looked on as the frog of our democracy was slowly boiled, seemingly as oblivious to its demise as it was. With every increase in temperature, we didn't work to bring the temperature back down. Now, with its death, a numbness when it comes to action has set in and we can't see that it is dead. We have become so used to business as usual, we don't realize that our systems run so contrary to democratic principles. When we finally have to pay the bill for our lives, and we see that tally, I think the fact that our lives are lived so contrary to both democratic and even spiritual principles will hit home.

What is a trillion dollars? Does anyone really have any conception? We talk about our debt as if it belongs to that dead frog, not us. But we're the frog in this case. We've seen economic collapse in other countries, but yet we have this illusion of exceptionalism. Maybe we really started believing there was some god blessing America.

We're Americans! America! Say that name a hundred times, and it will lose all meaning in the mind, because there is no America the beautiful, America the blessed, America the monolithic. America is a convention, something we all agreed upon. It was an idea. And as people changed in their thinking, the idea of America changed. Even borders are ideas, fictions to which many people simply agree. To think that America, which was never anything more than a set of ideas communicated in words would be impervious to change, like it is infinite or unconditioned, is to call ourselves and our country god.

And isn't that what happened? Democracy and monotheism don't mix. Democracy and centralized religion don't mix. But even the people who don't want to mix the two can fall prey to simply making their country and its democracy their god. And the problem with that is that democracy is a fragile little thing that needs caring, not an infinite god that can take care of itself. The ideas are only as vibrant as the people who mobilize them.

And while that alone does sound pretty grim, I don't want to point out a wound and then squeeze lemon juice over it. I actually have an idea, and it's positive, which is to say proactive.

So here's my idea.

The first step is to cancel your cable TV subscription. I'd suggest to throw away your television altogether, but they can be useful for videos, if you don't care to watch them on your computer. But whatever you do, my first idea is to stop watching TV.

If you just have to watch, then bear in mind and bear the responsibility that a lot of this degeneration is powered by the tube.

And whatever you watch or hear or read in the mainstream, I'd say that, for the most part, you can at least bear in mind that is for entertainment purposes only unless the person you are listening to begins with the premise that our democratic system of checks and balances and representative government is no longer functional and cannot be repaired from within the system.

Now, a lot of very smart people are saying just that. Really, I am just repeating what they are saying. History details several symptoms of decline, and we have them all. But that's not to say that all who say this would agree on the solution. Even those who know that corrupted institutions cannot be revived from within still disagree on the next positive steps.

I say the first one is to disengage our minds from one major source of their power of coercion.

The second step is to arm yourself. I spoke in the last show about the importance, even if just in the minds of those in power, of an armed citizenry. If you didn't hear my last show, you can hear it at [godwithoutreligion.com](http://godwithoutreligion.com).

You don't have to join the NRA or anything, but the Founding Fathers had no problems with an armed populace. Rather, the danger is in a populace that disarms itself and relies on standing armies, which is the predicament we are in now.

Let's say we all identify with one another, and that's all well and good, but because of centuries of divisive religions and political powers, that education is not widespread. To a great degree, the world view that it's every person for him or herself is still prevalent.

Now, I've done the first two steps, but I still have to do this next one, though I've started. The third step, if done correctly, might even mean you don't have to do the second step, if the second step is just not your cup of tea. The third step is to get to know your neighbors. Just go door to door and say something like this: "Hi, my name is Sankara. We don't know each other, though you've probably seen that my front door is about fifty feet from yours. I propose that you and I and many of our neighbors start getting to know one another. We may agree or disagree on politics, religion, and just about everything else but we can all agree that we live closer to each other than any other beings in the universe. Perhaps that means something. Perhaps we can get together in each other's living rooms and talk about what exactly that means. Perhaps we can get to be friends, and look after one another when times get tough."

So what have I suggested so far? Get rid of the Big Brother machine, own something you can use to defend yourself, and most importantly, get to know the people nearest to you. Those are just for starters, but the third may be a big deal because the divide and conquer vertical society we live in makes it harder and harder, and less and less necessary, for us to get to know our neighbors. In many parts, even initiating efforts to get to know them is embarrassing. How sad is that? And that is a sign of decline. Just so you know, if it was easy, we wouldn't be in the place we are in now.

Now, if you do number three right, you'll start to centralize social power in yourself. Just imagine if you belonged to a cooperative of even thirty or fifty households. If that represents 100 people, just imagine the bargaining power of 100 people relative to just one person.

You can create a common board and start to share resources. There's saving gas in carpooling. There's saving money by shopping in bulk. You can negotiate for better prices. There are a dozen people right near you that you can call in case of an emergency. Perhaps one of them is a healer. One might be good at home defense, someone might baby sit for you. And of course, you'll have the chance to provide service to people that are the closest to you logistically, and in so doing they will become closer to you emotionally.

## 12 Minutes Guest/Skit/Callers/E-mails

“Always fight for progress and reform, never tolerate injustice and corruption, always fight demagogues of all parties, never belong to any party, always oppose privileged classes and public plunderers, never lack sympathy with the poor, always remain devoted to the public welfare, never be satisfied with merely printing the news; always be drastically independent; never be afraid to attack wrong, whether by predatory plutocracy or predatory poverty.” Those were the words of Joseph Pulitzer, in case Dick Cheney still doesn’t understand why journalists win Pulitzers for exposing government misconduct, or in case any of us wondered why it would be hypocrisy for just about any journalist to win the Pulitzer in the years leading up to the Iraq War.

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So, are we in decline? When the president won’t take a day from his month vacation to give a moment’s thought to a briefing that says this country faces the threat of terrorists flying planes into buildings, but will rush to Washington to save a brain dead woman, when the public can’t know who was in Cheney’s big energy meeting, but the government can know who is calling who and where everyone’s money is going, well, let’s just call the shovel a shovel.

Yes, we are in a declining society that, in dying, will hopefully kill off the Dark Age centralized systems that seeped into the democracy. Of course, only education will kill it in the human heart.

In a way the Founding Fathers foretold what would be the pattern of the government in the future. It didn’t really come to full fruition yet.

But interestingly, I can see a macro global democratic spirit, and I can see down up micro communities, but I can’t really see much in between. I don’t see large democracies surviving and thriving century after century, even if education was strongly present and centralized religions were obliterated. In fact, especially if those things happened, because I don’t feel big democracies are naturally educed.

Harmonious living relies on strong identities forming, and big government nations simply do not inspire a monolithic identity.

Look at us today, there are several American identities, with two in the forefront. I'd rather live under a philosopher king than a large democracy any day, though not one with noble blood lines, nepotism, or where the next king is decided by something as arbitrary as birth. That one wise king would more easily create harmony both within and without the kingdom. But better than a philosopher king would be a self-ruled community where identity within is strong, and mutual cooperation with other communities is strong as well.

In this bloated country that's caving in, we can move in that direction. That's why I am more for States rights than a centralized, all powerful Federal Government that practically serves as a one stop feeding trough for multinational corporations – they're parasites that hold no allegiance to this or any country, which also means the political parties they infiltrated, mostly Republicans but most democrats too since they play both sides and merely favor the side that is in power, hold no practical allegiance to this country – meaning the people – though both parties mouth that allegiance all the time.

Heck, I'd be for county rights over States rights, if such an identity could develop. Think about it, if the people in one county don't want abortions, and they are willing to live with the social and economic consequences, doesn't bother me. And if people in that county don't even want to give themselves the right to go to the next county over to have an abortion, that's fine with me too. I won't live in or support the products of that county, they don't have to purchase products from counties that support abortion, if that issue is so all encompassing a determinant to them, and I am sure that county will suffer brain drain, but if that is what they want, and they want to try that social experiment, let them. Obviously, people believing in bibles have already maimed their reason, so it's not like anything but the hard reality of jails full of women who didn't want to grow a body in their body is going to convince them of their error.

We'll have a show on abortion one day, and we'll go into the details of why abortion is a non issue.

Anyway, I feel we need both global and local identities forming. Already the Bush Administration has done a fantastic job of, once again for a new generation, discredited aggressive international policies. The general public is still not quite aware of the shadow power behind both this extreme ideology – the power money has in our system and the way the uses of money have been rigged – I don't presume to understand the mechanics of how it all works either. And there is still a great deal of apathy and paralyzing disgust among people, but the days where things could be kept in the dark are quickly dwindling. The internet is an incredible tool in that regard.

Imagine the times when the Catholic Church was worried about the printing press because it would eventually lead to the public revelation that their mysteries were mere self-mystifying hocus pocus. What do you think the Catholic Church would have done centuries ago if suddenly there was this thing, call it what you want, that hundreds of millions of people all over the world could access and read the opinions of people like Voltaire and Ingersoll and Mencken and Russell and Nietzsche? The priests would have gone berserk!

Now, what can they do? They still rely on the power of influencing young minds through the agency of parents who still narrowly identify with the religion, and they gain converts among poor in third world countries. They also find converts among the poorly educated who are vulnerable because of their failure to properly respond to the speed at which the world is technologically and socially changing.

But that good old fashion religion where you felt good at the expense of the rest of the universe just doesn't do it for people anymore. It's no wonder people these days have to believe in it harder for it to work. It's like a drug. The more you take and the more reality wants to stick its nose in your life, the more you need to take.

The internet is doing wonders. With as much misinformation that it transmits, the information is well worth the price. It can even help people educe an expansive sense of self, if the rights questions are made available. If we can just keep it going so it stays only moderately rigged, the light of oversight can be cast on the shadows of power before more and more eyes.

But just imagine if many of the things we take for granted were temporarily disrupted. Wouldn't your neighbors be the people you'd be getting to know? Even if breakdown never happens, might it still be a good idea to get to know them?

After my show on Jesus and that he didn't exist, I went home and found two well dressed men standing at my door. They belonged to Jehova's Witness. A long discussion ensued. They did not expect and were not ready for a discussion with religion scholar who had a passion for seeking truth.

But we all had a very pleasant time. I got to know some people, and they got to know me. I don't know where they lived, and since they were proselytizing, they were obviously on their best behavior, but it was educational for all of us. I had spoken to people of such beliefs before, and the responses were similar, but it was still a slightly different experience and a new opportunity for all involved to educe what is true.

A few days later, another Jehova's Witness knocked on my door. Again, we had a fruitful discussion. He said he would look up Mithra when he got home, probably on the Internet. If he did, he would gain some information which, if he asked the right questions, would help him educe a new world view, a different sense of self.

That happened from human contact. It is a wonderful thing. I think an argument can be made that our society doesn't value that direct contact and meaningful exchange as much as pervious societies that perhaps didn't have as many distractions. Maybe we can get that back.

### Closing

Thank Callers, Thank Listeners

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