

# WRONG has NO RIGHTS

by David Melechinsky

**TRUE or FALSE:** America is being corrupted by European ideas.

Answer: *"The corruption of the best is the worst"* -old proverb

The evil ideas gripping our nation are no more European than they are uniquely American. What they are is un-Christian. Europe fell farther from the Christian ideal than America did because, for the most part, Europe had been Catholic at one time, whereas America mostly was not. As a result, Europe's rejection of Christian principles was more direct, conscious, and thorough than America's. But America is catching up (down?). The social reign of Christ the King is the only way out for America—or for Europe! Our Lord Jesus Christ told us, know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free. Note well—He did NOT say, "Be free, and freedom will give you the Truth." That's because life does not work that way. When error is given "rights", that is, an equal right to be heard alongside Truth, it is *always at the expense of Truth*. Rights are from God. They arise specifically and exclusively out of our God-given DUTIES under the Ten Commandments. "Thou shalt not steal", for instance, is the sole origin of our right to own property. We have the right to life itself solely because Our Creator has forbidden murder. There is therefore no such thing as a "right to be wrong", no matter how perversely sensible the concept may sound. Libertarian-types like to think that if Truth and error are placed side-by-side in the "free marketplace of ideas", people will naturally and overwhelmingly choose Truth. That's what the first "pro-choice" politician in history thought. An innocent man was brought before him, charged with crimes against the State. This politician was intelligent enough to know the man was innocent, but influential people wanted him put to death. Shirking his responsibility for fear of what certain influential people might think, he decided to put the matter to a democratic vote of "the people". Fetching from his darkest prison the most notorious murderer in the realm, he placed this thug side by side with the innocent man, saying, in effect, "I'm morally opposed to putting this just man to death, but I'm not going to impose my morality upon the people. Let the people vote." And the People voted! "Crucify Him!", was how they phrased it. And we Catholics remember the forthright courage of that brave politician daily in our Rosary, in the Creed, when we say Our Lord "suffered under Pontius Pilate". If the People could not distinguish Truth personified from error personified, as they had the once-in-eternity chance to do on that bleakest day in human history, who can dare suggest that it can be otherwise when matters are not so clear-cut? Sure, it's easy to respond that the "game" was "rigged", that it wasn't really a free marketplace of ideas. But it never is, when error is given "rights", for its partisans will always use those "rights" to stack the deck. Libertarians generally disbelieve or ignore the doctrine of Original Sin. They think or "feel" that Man is naturally inclined to good and truth. Not so, since Original Sin, which left Man inclined toward evil and error, especially the plausible error. We can pretend that Man is not thus afflicted in our organization of society, but it will not change the reality of FALLEN human nature. This adventure of Pilate should teach us all a lesson. The granting of a "right to be wrong" necessarily entails *suppression of the right to be right*. And when those who know what is right refuse to "impose their morality" upon "the People", the "People" will impose *their* perverse "morality" upon the innocent.