



Darwin, Design and America. Part 1.

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On April 6, 2009, during a visit to Turkey, President Obama stated to the press that the United States is no longer a Christian nation but rather “we consider ourselves a nation of citizens bound by a set of ideals and values”.

I’m pretty sure I would not agree with the particular set of “ideals and values” he had in mind, nevertheless the President’s statement does raise some very important questions.

Is America a Christian nation or not?

Debates on this subject seem to be divided into two different camps, one arguing that we are a secular nation and the other arguing that we are a Christian nation. Both contain some element of truth.

The U.S. Constitution and its amendments lay out the framework of the federal government, the duties of its three branches and the limitations of its powers. It is written in strictly “secular” language even though certain Christian principles are reflected in its structure. For example it establishes three separate branches of government to provide “separation of powers” as a means for protecting against the abuse of power which might arise because of man’s sinful nature and his natural tendency toward corruption.

It is fair to say that the Constitution is a **secular** document establishing a **secular** government to govern a nation ruled

by **secular** laws...but having a **secular** government and **secular** laws does not necessarily make America a **secular** nation.

The Declaration of Independence however, is **not** secular in that it embodies the basic elements of Natural Law. Natural Law is above the laws of men and is essential to a true understanding of the place of mankind on this earth. You cannot understand what America is all about unless you understand Natural Law.

Stoicism, a major philosophical system of thought that originated in the classical Greek period, provided the first comprehensive formulation of Natural Law with its conception of a universe governed by an eternal, immutable law and its distinction between what is considered to be “Just” by nature or merely “just” by the conventions and traditions of man. The conventions and traditions of man may vary from time to time and from place to place but Natural Law is eternal, unchanging and true...the same in Rome as in Athens...and in Jerusalem for that matter. Natural Law fits comfortably in both Judaism and Christianity because its truth claims are already solidly embedded in each.

Natural Law, as understood by the Founders, held that there is an eternal transcendent Creator who is ruler of the universe and that he ought to be worshipped by men. He has imposed His moral law on the hearts and minds of men and holds them accountable for their behavior. There is a life beyond our present lives and in that life we will be judged according to our behavior in this life. Natural Law is pre-existent to mankind, unalienable, unchangeable and eternal.

It was under the authority of Natural Law that the Founders declared their break with England and assumed “among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature’s God entitle them”. Under Natural Law “all men are created equal” and “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights”...rights to life and rights to liberty...and these rights are secured by instituting governments among men that derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Thomas Jefferson wrote these Natural-Law principles into the Declaration of Independence not as theoretical propositions but as self-evident pre-existing unalienable and eternal truths, truths for which he and the other Founder's were willing to die.

The Declaration of Independence did far more than establish the United States as an independent nation. It also laid out the Founder's view of the relationships... derived from Natural Law...between The People, their God and their government, and under Natural Law The People serve and obey God and the government serves and obeys The People.

Christianity may not have been explicitly written into the Declaration (and it wasn't) but Natural Law **was** and Natural Law is **not** a secular concept and the United States of America is **not** a secular nation. It just has a secular government...and that, for a purpose, the purpose of keeping government out of religious matters. How could we otherwise have freedom of religion?

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In Part 2 we look at the essential role Christianity has played throughout American history from the initial stirrings of the spirit of liberty in the early 18th century to the emergence of America as a world power within a few decades after the Revolutionary War.

We also show how evidence of design in nature affirms Natural Law and how Darwinism, which denies the existence of the Creator, is the enemy of reason, the enemy of Natural Law, the enemy of Christianity, the enemy of liberty and the enemy of America...yet, it enjoys a protected place in public education.

And, yes, we give an answer to the original question "Is America a Christian nation?"