

Defending Civilization:

HOW OUR UNIVERSITIES ARE FAILING AMERICA
AND WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT

*At a time of national crisis, I think it is particularly
apparent that we need to encourage the study of our past.
Our children and grandchildren—indeed, all of us—need
to know the ideas and ideals on which our nation has been built.
We need to understand how fortunate we are to live
in freedom. We need to understand that living in liberty
is such a precious thing that generations of men and women
have been willing to sacrifice everything for it.
We need to know, in a war, exactly what is at stake.*

– Lynne V. Cheney, October 5, 2001

A Project of the Defense of Civilization Fund

American Council of Trustees and Alumni

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Acknowledgments

This is a revised and expanded version of the report initially posted on our website on November 11, 2001. The report attracted considerable attention. Now included is a sampler of the many responses the report received.

This report was prepared by the staff of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, primarily by Anne D. Neal and Jerry L. Martin. The responsibility for its contents belongs only to the authors. No public official—including Lynne Cheney and Sen. Joe Lieberman—has endorsed or been asked to endorse this report.

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The American Council of Trustees and Alumni is an educational nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. dedicated to academic freedom, quality and accountability. ACTA has also published *Losing America's Memory: Historical Illiteracy in the 21st Century* (2000); *The Shakespeare File: What English Majors Are Really Studying* (1996); and *The Intelligent Donor's Guide to College Giving* (1996).

At this critical time in our history, ACTA has launched the Defense of Civilization Fund. The Fund will be used to support and defend the study of American history and civics and of Western civilization. The Fund's first project is this report.

For further information about ACTA and its programs, please contact:

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HOW OUR UNIVERSITIES ARE FAILING AMERICA AND WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT

In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Americans across the country responded with anger, patriotism, and support of military intervention. The polls have been nearly unanimous—92% in favor of military force even if casualties occur—and citizens have rallied behind the President wholeheartedly.

Not so in academe. Even as many institutions enhanced security and many students exhibited American flags, professors across the country sponsored teach-ins that typically ranged from moral equivocation to explicit condemnations of America.

While America's elected officials from both parties and media commentators from across the spectrum condemned the attacks and followed the President in calling evil by its rightful name, many faculty demurred. Some refused to make judgments. Many invoked tolerance and diversity as antidotes to evil. Some even pointed accusatory fingers, not at the terrorists, but at America itself.

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Leaders from Both Parties

“In this conflict, there is no neutral ground. If any government sponsors the outlaws and killers of innocents, they have become outlaws and murderers, themselves. And they will take that lonely path at their own peril.”

President George W. Bush.

“What happened on Tuesday, September 11th, was not simply an attack against America. It was a crime against democracy, and decency. It was a crime against humanity.” Joint Statement by Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and Minority Leader Trent Lott.

“This was not just an attack on the City of New York or on the United States of America. It was an attack on the very idea of a free, inclusive, and civil society. ... On one side is democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human life; on the other is tyranny, arbitrary executions, and mass murder. We’re right and they’re wrong. It’s as simple as that.” New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Voices on Campus

“[I]magine the real suffering and grief of people in other countries. The best way to begin a war on terrorism might be to look in the mirror.” Professor of anthropology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

“There is a terrible and understandable desire to find and punish whoever was responsible for this. But as we think about it, it’s very important for Americans to think about our own history, what we did in World War II to Japanese citizens by interning them.” Dean of the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University.

“[Students and teachers] do not need to be fighting against fellow-workers under other flags and gods but rather against their own corporate or government employers. ...” Professional Staff Congress (faculty-staff union), City University of New York.

“[T]his war can end only to the extent that we relinquish our role as world leader, overhaul our lifestyle and achieve political neutrality.” Professor of anthropology, Brown University School of Medicine.

Rarely did professors publicly mention heroism, rarely did they discuss the difference between good and evil, the nature of Western political order or the virtue of a free society. Indeed, the message of many in academe was clear: BLAME AMERICA FIRST.

“What happened on September 11 was terrorism, but what happened during the Gulf War was also terrorism.” Professor of English, Brown University.

“We are complicit.” Speaker at Haverford College meeting.

“Anyone who can blow up the Pentagon gets my vote.” Professor of history, University of New Mexico.

“If I were the president, I would first apologize to all the widows and orphans, the tortured and the impoverished, and all the millions of other victims of American imperialism.” “[T]here are few if any nations in the world that have harbored more terrorists than the United States.” Journalist at University of North Carolina teach-in.

“[W]e should be aware that, whatever its proximate cause, its ultimate cause is the fascism of U.S. foreign policy over the past many decades.” Professor of English, Rutgers University.

Many invoked tolerance and diversity as antidotes to evil. Some even pointed accusatory fingers, not at the terrorists, but at America itself.

Indeed, the message of many in academe was clear: BLAME AMERICA FIRST.

And while professors should be passionately defended in their right to academic freedom, that does not exempt them from criticism.

“The ultimate responsibility lies with the rulers of this country, the capitalist ruling class of this country.” Mathematics instructor at City University of New York teach-in.

“[T]he only way we can put an end to terrorism is to stop participating in it.” Professor Emeritus, MIT.

“[The American flag is] a symbol of terrorism and death and fear and destruction and oppression.” Professor of physics, University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

“[The terrorist attack] was no more despicable than the massive acts of terrorism ... that the U.S. government has committed during my lifetime.” Professor of journalism, University of Texas-Austin.

“Why should we support the United States, whose hands in history are soaked with blood?” Professor of Hawaiian studies, University of Hawaii.

Comments like these are in pointed contrast to America’s reaction in 1941. “Everyone wanted to cooperate and feel like they were helping the country,” said Elmer Cornwell, professor of political science at Brown University. “When Pearl Harbor was bombed there was a tremendous swell of patriotism,” recalled Brown physics professor Leon Cooper, the Thomas J. Watson Sr. professor of science. “One thing outsiders don’t always understand about the United States is we’re a fractious nation but we come together during times like these.”

But, after September 11, it was some in higher education who did not understand. The events of September 11 underscored a deep divide between mainstream public reaction and that of our intellectual elites. Although the public responded with clear condemnation of the terrorist attacks, many professors failed to do so, and even used the occasion to find fault with America. And while professors should be passionately defended in their right to academic freedom, that does not exempt them

from criticism. The fact remains: over 3,000 innocent civilians were killed without warning or cause. The American public had no difficulty calling evil by its rightful name. Why is it so hard for many faculty to do the same?

The answer may lie in recent academic trends. Moral relativism has become a staple of academic life in this country. At the same time, it has become commonplace to suggest that Western civilization is the primary source of the world’s ills—even though it gave us the ideals of democracy, human rights, individual liberty, and mutual tolerance.

Until the 1960s, colleges typically required students to take survey courses in Western civilization. Since then, those courses have been supplanted by a smorgasbord of often narrow and trendy classes and incoherent requirements that do not convey the great heritage of human civilization. Accompanying this basic failure is a campus atmosphere increasingly unfriendly to the free exchange of ideas. Students have reported more and more that they are intimidated by professors and fellow students if they question “politically correct” ideas or fail to conform to a particular ideology. In some cases, students have even been subject to official sanctions for speaking their minds in class or in print. So pervasive is the climate of intimidation one New York reporter covering a City University of New York teach-in recounted the sad tale of a student who feared retribution. “‘My grade depends on a lot of the professors who spoke,’ the student explained. ‘If you voice an opinion of dissent, professors look down on you.’”

Students and often professors, especially if they are untenured, are reluctant to question publicly the dominant campus ideology. In several cases where they did so, college administrators were quick to clamp down on their activities, until faced with a public uproar.

Duke University shut down a faculty member’s website after the professor included an article advocating vigorous military action as a response to terrorist attacks. Although the

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webpage is reinstated, the professor must include a disclaimer that his views do not reflect the views of the university. Duke has never before required such a disclaimer.

At the University of Massachusetts, the administrators revoked a permit for a pro-war rally, but allowed a rally opposed to the war to proceed.

A Florida Gulf Coast dean instructed employees to remove stickers saying “Proud to be an American” until negative public reaction prompted her to revoke the decision.

And Yale Professor Donald Kagan publicly took his colleagues to task when Yale convened a teach-in examining the events of September 11, without including any spokesman in favor of military action against the present danger.

In light of this campus climate, it is not surprising that often the students who feel free to speak out are those who oppose the war on terrorism. According to the *New York Times*, students at more than 146 campuses in 36 states had rallies to urge the country to avoid any military response.

It is urgent that students and professors who support the war against terrorism, as well as those who are opposed, not be intimidated. If both sides are heard, students and all of us benefit. Where the faculty is so one-sided that there are no campus voices to oppose them, visiting speakers should be brought in so that students will hear both pros and cons.

Ironically, instead of ensuring that students understand the unique contributions of America and Western civilization—the civilization under attack—universities are rushing to add courses on Islamic and Asian cultures. UCLA created 50 new courses in response to the terrorist attacks while other institutions expanded existing offerings. It is indeed important that Americans know about the ideas and achievements of all of the

world’s cultures. But in the rush to add such courses, those institutions reinforced the mindset that it was America—and America’s failure to understand Islam—that were to blame. “To say that it is more important now [to study Islam] implies that the events of Sept. 11 were our fault, that it was our failure ... that led to so many deaths and so much destruction,” said the American Council of Trustees and Alumni’s founding chairman Lynne V. Cheney in a speech on October 5. Instead, said Cheney, students need to “know the ideas and ideals on which our nation has been built. ... If there were one aspect of schooling from kindergarten through college to which I would give added emphasis today, it would be American history.”

America’s first line of defense is a confident understanding of how and why this nation was founded, and of the continuing relevance and urgency of its first principles. It depends on its intellectuals for passing its heritage on to the next generation. Yet America’s elite college students are graduating woefully ignorant of the foundations of Western civilization as well as American history and its founding.

In a study by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, *Losing America’s Memory: Historical Illiteracy in the 21st Century*, ACTA found that students can now graduate from 100% of the top 55 colleges without taking a single course in American history. Of those same institutions, a mere handful—only three—required a course on the history of Western civilization, while 78% permitted students to graduate with no history at all.

We learn from history what happens when a nation’s intellectuals are unwilling to sustain its civilization. In 1933, the Oxford Student Union held a famous debate over whether it was moral for Britons to fight for king and country. After a wide-ranging discussion in which the leading intellectuals could find no distinction between British colonialism and world fascism, the Union resolved that England would “in no circumstances fight for king and country.” As the *Wall Street Journal* reported: “Von Ribbentrop sent back the good news to Germany’s new chancellor, Hitler: The West will not fight for its own survival.”

It is urgent that students and professors who support the war against terrorism, as well as those who are opposed, not be intimidated. If both sides are heard, students and all of us benefit.

We call upon all colleges and universities to adopt strong core curricula that include rigorous, broad-based courses on the great works of Western civilization...

The robust exchange of ideas is essential to a free society. But academic freedom does not mean freedom from criticism.

What role universities should have in civic education, how to transmit the great ideas and central values of our civilization, including the values of tolerance and self-criticism—these are important questions that should be debated and discussed on campus and beyond. They must be answered thoughtfully if our country and our civilization are to survive and flourish.

We believe that America will fight for its own survival, but only if we know what we are fighting for. It has never been more urgent for education at all levels to pass on to the next generation our legacy of freedom and democracy. We call upon all colleges and universities to adopt strong core curricula that include rigorous, broad-based courses on the great works of Western civilization as well as courses on American history, America's founding documents, and America's continuing struggle to extend and defend the principles on which it was founded. If institutions fail to do so, alumni should protest, donors should fund new programs, and trustees should demand action. What is not taught will be forgotten, and what is forgotten cannot be defended. Lynne Cheney has put it best:

*At a time of national crisis, ...
we need to encourage the study of our past.
Our children and grandchildren—indeed, all of us—need
to know the ideas and ideals on which our nation has been built.
We need to understand how fortunate we are to live
in freedom. We need to understand that living in liberty
is such a precious thing that generations of men and women
have been willing to sacrifice everything for it.
We need to know, in a war, exactly what is at stake.*

APPENDIX

Public and Campus Responses

Polls across the country, coupled with statements from public officials and citizens, have been remarkably uniform in their condemnation of the terrorist attacks. A sampling of that response follows.

In contrast has been reaction from the Ivory Tower. While there are no doubt numerous exceptions, a vast number of colleges and universities—public and private, small and large, from all parts of the country—have sponsored teach-ins and other meetings which have been distinctly equivocal and often blaming America itself.

Let us be clear. This is not an argument for limiting free speech on college campuses. The robust exchange of ideas is essential to a free society. But academic freedom does not mean freedom from criticism. If some faculty are inclined to criticize America, it seems only reasonable to insist that colleges and universities transmit our history and heritage to the next generation so that students can decide for themselves.

Although the following examples, over 100 in number, are not intended to be exhaustive, they represent a variety of campus responses—as reported in the media—in the two months following the attacks. The original version of this report included the names of the speakers for purposes of documentation. To focus discussion on the content of the views expressed, rather than the individuals who expressed them, the names have been deleted. Sources are provided in the final pages of the report.

Polls

The American Public:

Americans Should Take Military Action Even If Casualties Occur – 92%

New York Times/CBS Poll, *New York Times*, Sept. 25, 2001

Harvard Students:

America Should Take Military Action Even If Casualties Occur – 28%

“Students Back Response,” *Harvard Crimson*, Sept. 24, 2001

College Students Generally:

America Should Undertake Air Strikes – 79%

America Should Use Ground Troops – 68%

Associated Press, Nov. 1, 2001, reporting on nationwide survey conducted by Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government

Public Response

“On September the eleventh, enemies of freedom committed an act of war against our country. Americans have known wars, but for the past 136 years, they have been wars on foreign soil, except for one Sunday in 1941. Americans have known the casualties of war but not at the center of a great city on a peaceful morning. Americans have known surprise attacks but never before on thousands of civilians. All of this was brought upon us in a single day, and night fell on a different world, a world where freedom itself was under attack.” President George W. Bush, Speech Before a Joint Session of Congress, Sept. 20, 2001.

“In this conflict, there is no neutral ground. If any government sponsors the outlaws and killers of innocents, they have become outlaws and murderers, themselves. And they will take that lonely path at their own peril.” President George W. Bush, The White House Treaty Room, Oct. 7, 2001.

“What happened on Tuesday, September 11th, was not simply an attack against America. It was a crime against democracy, and decency. It was a crime against humanity. ... On Wednesday, we unanimously passed a joint resolution condemning the attacks, expressing our sympathy for the victims and their families, and stating our support for the President as Commander-in-Chief.” Joint Statement by Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and Minority Leader Trent Lott, www.senate.gov/leaders/statement.

“This was not just an attack on the City of New York or the United States of America. It was an attack on the very idea of a free, inclusive, and civil society.

... Look at that destruction, that massive, senseless, cruel loss of human life ... and then I ask you to look in your hearts and recognize that there is no room for neutrality on the issue of terrorism. You’re either with civilization or with terrorists.

On one side is democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human life; on the other is tyranny, arbitrary executions, and mass murder.

We're right and they're wrong. It's as simple as that. ...

... The era of moral relativism between those who practice or condone terrorism, and those nations who stand up against it, must end. Moral relativism does not have a place in this discussion and debate."

New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Opening Remarks to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Terrorism, Oct. 1, 2001, www.nyc.gov.

Campus Responses

1. "I was cheering when the Pentagon got hit because I know about the brutality of the military. The American flag is nothing but a symbol of hate and should be used for toilet paper for all I care." Freelance writer at Brown University protest.

2. "What happened on September 11 was terrorism, but what happened during the Gulf War was also terrorism." Professor of English, Brown University.

3. "The ultimate responsibility lies with the rulers of this country, the capitalist ruling class of this country." Mathematics instructor at City University of New York teach-in.

4. "...the planes [were] penetrating the towers with a plume of heat. The Pentagon, a vaginal image from the air, penetrated by the plane as missile." Professor of linguistics, University of California-Berkeley.

5. Lehigh University vice provost bans the American flag on the University bus on the grounds that it is insensitive to foreign students. After a public outcry, the University retracts the policy.

6. "[I]magine the real suffering and grief of people in other countries. The best way to begin a war on terrorism might be to look in the mirror." Professor of anthropology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

7. "We are complicit." Speaker at Haverford College meeting.

8. "There is a terrible and understandable desire to find and punish whoever was responsible for this. But as we think about it, it's very important for Americans to think about our own history, what we did in World War II to Japanese citizens by interning them." Dean of the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University.

9. “[W]e should be aware that, whatever its proximate cause, its ultimate cause is the fascism of U.S. foreign policy over the past many decades.” Professor of English, Rutgers University.

10. “Anyone who can blow up the Pentagon gets my vote.” Professor of history, University of New Mexico. The professor later apologized for making the comment.

11. “How to organize actions against war.” Teach-in sponsored by Political Science and Geography Departments, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

12. “Anti-Americanism and anti-war sentiment raged yesterday during a ‘teach-in’ at City College of New York. The vast majority of the students and professors who spoke at the session, attended by about 200 people, ranted against any American military action—some of them even blaming the United States for the World Trade Center disaster.”

13. “If I were the president, I would first apologize to all the widows and orphans, the tortured and the impoverished, and all the millions of other victims of American imperialism.” “[T]here are few if any nations in the world that have harbored more terrorists than the United States.” Journalist at University of North Carolina teach-in.

14. “...the actions taken by the terrorists on Tuesday are not completely unwarranted. We try to forget about the way this country behaves internationally—that we too often behave as terrorists.” Student at University of Michigan and columnist for the *Michigan Daily*.

15. “[We should] build bridges and relationships, not simply bombs and walls.” Speaker at Harvard Law School.

16. The University of Massachusetts grants a permit for a student rally to protest any use of force in waging the war

against terrorism. The University revokes a permit allowing a rally in support of America’s policy. The students hold the rally anyway and materials are vandalized with impunity.

17. “The words ‘freedom,’ ‘liberty,’ and ‘democracy’ are great words. But when they are used by the media to summon a nationalism so potentially destructive as that being bred now—the sight of the flag burning would be preferable to me to its display across America, across the hearts of Americans.” Student at Duke University.

18. “What the U.S. calls counter-terrorism is terrorism by another name. Operation Infinite Justice—the Bush administration’s code name for proposed military action against terrorists—is ‘cowboy law.’” Professor of linguistics, MIT.

19. “It disturbs me to see all the flags out supporting the slaughter.” Student at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee protest.

20. Chairman of the College of Holy Cross Department of Sociology demands that a secretary remove an American flag hung in memory of her friend Todd Beamer. She refuses and the Chairman removes the flag himself. After unfavorable publicity, the College apologizes but the flag is moved to the Department of Psychology.

21. “...before you preach at us about the evil terrorists, why don’t you try getting your facts straight and face up to the reality that our leaders are war criminals just as much as people like Hitler, Stalin, and other monsters of the 20th century.” University of Wisconsin-Madison student in a letter-to-the-editor in the *Badger Herald*, Sept. 24, 2001.

22. “We offer this teach-in as an alternative to the cries of war and as an end to the cycle of continued global violence.” Professor of art at University of North Carolina teach-in.

23. "We will tumble from chauvinism into the abyss of recession and tribalism." Panelist at University of North Carolina teach-in.

24. "[T]his war can end only to the extent that we relinquish our role as world leader, overhaul our lifestyle and achieve political neutrality. ... Perhaps our best options now are to search for the origins of this new war, draw strength from understanding our own weaknesses, and make changes within ourselves and within our relationships to others. Many wonder if we are paying an accumulated debt for centuries of dominance and intervention far from home, retribution for our culture of consumption and exploitation. ... We must ... re-examine our place in the world, and begin to imagine a world without superpowers." Professor of anthropology, Brown University School of Medicine.

25. "...the U.S. was basically using Pakistan the way you use a condom. That is, you use the condom to avoid getting dirty, but then you throw the condom away after you've used it and don't think about it again—well, the condom certainly thinks about it." Tufts University professor of international relations at Brown University panel discussion.

26. "[B]reak the cycle of violence." Pomona College faculty panel discussing U.S. obligations in the Mideast.

27. "We have to learn to use courage for peace instead of war." Professor of religious studies, Pomona College.

28. "[The U.S. Government is] the most dangerous global force [with a] foreign policy ... soaked in blood. [War against Afghanistan is] patriarchal racist violence." Assistant professor of women's studies, University of British Columbia.

29. "[T]he only way we can put a permanent end to terrorism is to stop participating in it." Professor Emeritus, MIT.

30. "What do we want? Peace! When do we want it? Now!" Chant at Harvard rally, Sept. 20, 2001.

31. San Diego State formally accuses an international student of abusive behavior and warns that "future incidents [will result in] serious disciplinary sanctions" when the student takes issue with students who cheer the terrorist attacks.

32. "[I deplore those] who are deploying rhetoric and deploying troops without thinking before they speak." Harvard lecturer in history and literature.

33. "An eye for an eye leaves the world blind." Student sign at Harvard rally, Sept. 20, 2001.

34. "[O]ur security can only come by using our national wealth, not for guns, planes, and bombs, but for the health and welfare of our people, and for people suffering in other countries." Professor Emeritus, Boston University.

35. "A despicable act of mayhem such as those committed in New York and Washington is a measure of the revulsion that others feel at our actions that seemingly limit those rights [to self-determination]. If we perpetuate a cycle of hate and revenge, this conflict will escalate into a war that our great-grandchildren will be fighting." Professor of anthropology, Brown University.

36. "It is from the desperate, angry and bereaved that these suicide pilots came." Director of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization.

37. "We would justifiably resent attacks on New York or Boston in retaliation for those cities 'harboring' IRA terrorists. ...

The responsible thing for the President and Congress to do would be to lower the rhetorical temperature in Washington and halt the contest to sound more bellicose and patriotic than the last politician or official....” Visiting associate professor (research) at the Thomas J. Watson Jr. Institute for International Studies, Brown University; assistant professor of political science, University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

38. “... Disparities and injustices are there, all the more intolerable because they are embedded in some of the most fundamental aspects of our society and the world we live in. Addressing these disparities and injustices will not be possible if the world community continues to block its own progress and destroy its people in conflicts generated by prejudice and hatred.

In this time of crisis, we have an unusual opportunity to see past stereotypes, identify and diminish our own prejudices, and experience a complex world through the sensitivities of others....” President, to Students, Alumni, Parents and Friends of Wesleyan.

39. “It’s good for the government to know that there are people who want peace instead of bloodshed. Not all Americans want revenge.” Student, Brown University.

40. “Many terrorists get their start being pushed around by a bus driver or abused by a police officer just because they are different.” Speaker from Stockholm Environment Institute at Brown University panel discussion.

41. “[The Pentagon] represents America’s impregnable right.” Professor of anthropology, Brown University.

42. “Some 120 students walked out of class and gathered on the Main Green to protest U.S. military strikes in Afghanistan. At least two professors dismissed class early to allow students to attend.” Brown University.

43. “One, two, three, four—we don’t want a racist war.” Chant at Brown University war protest.

44. “We cannot simply go on with our daily routines as our country prosecutes an unjust war. Students are walking out in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan who must now suffer the double burden of a dictatorial regime and American bombs.” Student, Brown University.

45. “To call this a just war is to ignore the mountain of injustice it is based on. People are just drunk on the cheap jingoism of the media and politicians.” Student, Brown University.

46. 76 University of California-Berkeley professors joined with 100 other academics in an advertisement in the *New York Times*, calling the war unacceptable.

47. “[Students and teachers] do not need to be fighting against fellow-workers under other flags and gods but rather against their own corporate or government employers, as we are at CUNY.” Professional Staff Congress, City University of New York. The Professional Staff Congress is the union that represents the faculty and staff of the City University of New York. The City University of New York is the largest public urban university in the country.

48. “[I]ntolerance breeds hate, hate breeds violence and violence breeds death, destruction and heartache.” Student, University of Oklahoma.

49. “Hate breeds hate.” Sign at University of Maryland.

50. “An eye for an eye makes the world blind.” Sign at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

51. “What you have to look at is the underlying reasons. Poverty breeds resentment and resentment breeds anger.” Ivy League student.

52. “I consider myself a patriot. I think this country does wonderful things for its citizens, but we must acknowledge the terrible things it often does to the citizens of other countries.” Brown University student activist.

53. “Our diplomacy is horrible.” Professor of psychology, City College of New York. The professor later told the *Chronicle of Higher Education* that his remarks were distorted: “I said U.S. alliances have shifted. We support one person, and then another, but the constant is violence. We need to address that and work for peace.”

54. “I’m not sure which is more frightening: the horror that engulfed New York City or the apocalyptic rhetoric emanating daily from the White House.” Professor of history, Columbia University.

55. “No matter how desolate the World Trade Center site was, there was a place even more desolate—Afghanistan.” Unidentified speaker at Haverford College Quaker Meeting.

56. More than 100 students protest and demand a front-page apology and greater Arab and Muslim representation after student editors at the University of California-Berkeley *Daily Californian* publish a cartoon. The cartoon shows two bearded men wearing turbans and long robes, standing in what appears to be hell saying: “We made it to paradise! Now we will meet Allah, and be fed grapes, and be serviced by 70 virgin women, and...”

57. The UC Berkeley Student Senate adopts a resolution, 11-7, demanding a front-page apology and diversity training for staff members of the UC Berkeley *Daily Californian*. A Student Senate

member tells the *Contra Costa Times*: “It’s not about being offended. It’s about the implications of [running] an inflammatory cartoon at a time when there had already been more than 1,000 hate crimes against the communities depicted. Racism is not an American right.”

The editorial board issued a statement saying it would not apologize since the cartoon fell within the realm of fair political commentary.

58. “[Although the cartoon] did not outright call for violence, it promoted and perpetuated the same ignorance and intolerance that has led to the death of many across our nation.” UC Berkeley Student Senate member.

59. UC Berkeley Student Senate proposes raising the school newspaper’s rent after it runs a controversial cartoon.

60. “[T]he United States would have done the right thing [by not going to war]: responding as a responsible member of the international community rather than as a vigilante gunslinger in the old West, riding out to capture the bad guys and bring them back dead or alive.” Faculty forum on alternatives to war, Washington University of St. Louis.

61. “[W]e need to hear more than one perspective on how we can make the world a safer place. We need to understand the reasons behind the terrifying hatred directed against the United States and find ways to act that will not foment more hatred for generations to come.” Professor Emerita of women’s studies, University of Oregon.

62. “[D]emocracies, because they have a sense of self-pride and moral consciousness, can often act without restraint and be destructive of the values they are trying to promote. The thinking is to find the perpetrators and engage in a military response

and feel that that solves something. But there needs to be an understanding of why this kind of suicidal violence could be undertaken against our country.” Princeton University emeritus professor at town meeting.

63. “Our grief is not a cry for war.” Poster at New York University.

64. “Recycle plastic, not violence.” Poster at Hunter College.

65. “A lot of people are saying we created this monster. What goes around comes around. People are forgetting about the past.” Student, Hunter College.

66. “There is a lot of skepticism about the administration’s policy of going to war.” Professor of communications, New York University.

67. “[It is] ridiculous for us to go and kill more people because of what Bin Laden did.” Student, Columbia University.

68. “No racist scapegoating, no racist war, we won’t take it anymore.” Chanting students, University of Michigan.

69. “For this to turn into an excuse to have a war and kill more people, it seemed like it would just be too horrible.” Student, Wesleyan University.

70. “War Is Also Terrorism.” Harvard sign.

71. “One, two, three, four—we don’t want another war! Five, six, seven, eight—stop the violence, stop the hate!” Student protestors in Harvard Square.

72. “To declare war, in this case, is a dangerous use of metaphorical language: it dignifies terrorist acts and implies a war with ter-

rorists could end with a peace treaty. We must resist calls for revenge or retaliation.” Professor of anthropology, MIT.

73. “Students at several colleges walked out of classes and held protests Monday in response to U.S. military actions in Afghanistan. The rallies—at Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges, the University of California at Berkeley, and Wesleyan University—attracted hundreds of students although many students did not attend or held counter-protests backing the government’s response to last month’s terrorist attacks.”

74. “Revenge Is Not Justifiable” and “No Racist War.” Signs at the University of Michigan.

75. “We need to think about what could have produced the frustrations that caused these crimes. To have that kind of hatred is a phenomenon we will have to try to understand.” Director of the project on international intelligence at the Woodrow Wilson School’s Center of International Studies, Princeton University.

76. “The question we should explore is not who we should bomb or where we should bomb, but why we were targeted. When we have the answer to why, then we will have the ability to prevent terrorist attacks tomorrow.” Speaker at “Understanding the Attack on America: an Alternate View,” University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, Sept. 17, 2001.

77. Professor of art, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, shows a slide show of her artwork, “Places the United States has Bombed” at a teach-in entitled: “What is war? What is peace?” The teach-in then divides into workshops: US Foreign Policy; Civil Rights in Time of War; Action Through Non-Violence; How to Organize Actions Against War; The Role of Armed Resistance; Community, Networking, and Outreach; Visual Strategies for Peace During War, and Arguments for Peace.

78. On Oct. 4, at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Campus Y, the Division of Student Affairs, and Sangam (South Asian awareness group), sponsors Arun Ghandi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi reiterates what he had written earlier: "We must acknowledge our role in helping to create monsters in the world, find ways to contain these monsters without hurting more innocent people and then redefine our role in the world."

79. "[I am] wary of wars framed for freedom, which in general have produced the exact opposite effect. ... [D]uring the cold war, the 'Communist menace' became the basis for hysterical McCarthyist attacks on civil liberties." Professor of history, Ohio State University.

80. "[M]any people consider the United States to be a terrorist state." Professor of psychology, University of Washington.

81. "If Osama Bin Laden is confirmed to be behind the attacks, the United States should bring him before an international tribunal on charges of crimes against humanity." Professor, Stanford University.

82. "These acts of terrorism will not stop as long as we are intervening in civil wars that are none of our business besides serving the interests of U.S. corporations." Journalist at University of North Carolina teach-in.

83. "The parallel to [September 11] is not Pearl Harbor. It is February 1947, when a new war was declared." "Hunting the terrorists from their holes [reminds me] of the racial hatred that has preceded, stoked, and been inflamed by nearly every one of the 20th century's wars." Professor of anthropology, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

84. "We're linking the fight against racism against a racist war abroad." University of Michigan student member of the Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action and Integration and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary.

85. Penn State University vice provost informs a faculty member that his web page advocating military action against terrorists is "insensitive and perhaps even intimidating." "Intimidating" expression is grounds for dismissal at Penn State. The Penn State president later denies that the use of the term "intimidating" in any manner chilled the professor's free speech.

86. Duke University shuts down a faculty member website after he promotes vigorous military action as a response to terrorist attacks. After public uproar, the University reinstates the website but insists that the faculty member add a disclaimer that the views expressed do not reflect the view of the University. Duke has never before required any such disclaimer.

87. "War created people like Osama bin Laden, and more war will create more people like him." Oberlin College freshman.

88. "[The American flag is] a symbol of terrorism and death and fear and destruction and oppression." Professor of physics, University of Massachusetts-Amherst on Sept. 10.

89. "The media has stirred the country into a froth of hatred and revenge. All this so-called support for military action has been completely manufactured. I don't know anyone who thinks it would be a good idea." Part-time student, University of California-Berkeley.

90. "... I would announce that America's global interventions had come to an end. I would then reduce the military budget by at least 90 percent and I would use the savings to pay the

reparations to our victims and to increase social services.” Journalist at University of North Carolina teach-in.

91. Florida Gulf Coast Dean of Library Services instructs her employees to remove stickers saying “Proud to be an American” on the grounds that they may offend international students. After public pressure, the president revokes the policy.

92. “The United States policies toward the region, especially over the past 10 years (have) engendered serious grievances. Our actions were looking to much of Arab and Muslim public opinion like a re-edition of 19th century imperialism.” Professor of government, University of Texas–Austin.

93. “My anger on this day is directed not only at individuals who engineered the September 11 tragedy but at those who have held power in the United States and have engineered attacks on civilians every bit as tragic.” “[The terrorist attack] was no more despicable than the massive acts of terrorism ... that the U.S. government has committed during my lifetime.” Professor of journalism, University of Texas–Austin.

94. “I’ll pretend I’m gay. I’m against war. It’s scary.” Student, Oxnard College.

95. “How do we appear to them, and what would it be like were our places in the world reversed?” “Suppose that there existed today a powerful, unified Arab-Muslim state that stretched from Algeria to Turkey and Arabia. In those conditions, would not many Americans steadily grow to loathe that colossus?” Professor of history, Yale University.

96. “If one [of the perpetrators] is Osama Bin Laden, send the international police for him and pick up Henry Kissinger and Augusto Pinochet on the way home.” Professor of anthropology, University of North Carolina.

97. “The United States is angry because somebody came back and blew up their World Trade Center. I would be angry, too. But what made them do that? It is the history of terrorism that the United States unleashes against native people all over the world. ... Everywhere, the United States has overthrown leftist government. Everywhere, the United States has overthrown native governments. Why should we support the United States, whose hands in history are soaked with blood?” Professor of Hawaiian studies, University of Hawaii.

98. “We’re ... playing into the hands of our own militarists, whose interests always lie, I believe, in the exaggeration of threats, armed responses, and so on. In fact, I would argue that there is tacit collusion among the militarists of all sides.” Professor of sociology, University of North Carolina.

99. Orange Coast Community College suspends a professor after several Muslim students complain they were called terrorists when the professor lectured that silence on crimes against Christians and Jews in the Middle East was consent to terrorism.

100. Administrator at Central Michigan University tells students to remove patriotic posters (an American flag, eagle) from their dormitory on the grounds that they are “offensive.”

101. “The United States of America is built upon a history of violence and repression. This began with the genocide of Native Americans who inhabited this land before the arrival of European colonizers and it continued as Black people were brought here as slaves to provide the labor necessary for the country’s development. ... The construction and maintenance of America depends on the marginalization and exploitation of those excluded.” Intercollegiate protest at Amherst College.

102. “I care about the anti-war movement to an extent, but I don’t see how that’s gonna stop crazy George Bush from going to

war. He wouldn't even help us out with the energy crisis, so why would he give a damn about a few sons and daughters of hippies and Black Panthers protesting?" Student, University of California-Berkeley.

103. "Contingent Predictions: ... Bombing the presumed originator(s) of Tuesday's attacks and forcing other countries to choose sides will therefore aggravate the very conditions American leaders will declare they are preventing. ... If so, democracy (defined as relatively broad and equal citizenship, binding consultation of citizens, and protection from arbitrary actions by governmental agents) will decline across the world." Professor of social science, Columbia University.

104. "We don't feel military action will stop terrorism, but it will lead to racism and hate." City College of New York sophomore.

105. "The de facto executive branch and the compliant press are putting the historical spotlight right now on December 7, 1941, and Pearl Harbor. I think we need to aim that spotlight at February 27 in 1933 and the Reichstag fire." Panelist at University of North Carolina teach-in.

106. "American imperialism is responsible for this terrorist attack." Mathematics instructor at CUNY teach-in.

107. "The United States has to realize that what it's doing with its foreign policy is just as bad, at least, as what happened last week [Sept. 11]." Student, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.

108. "It was a two-hour, hard-core America bashing festival. The terrorist attack on the trade center was referred to by faculty as 'the incident.' Terrorists were described as freedom fighters. One anthropology professor, M.A. Samad-Matias, framed the atrocity as an understandable Islamic response to Western imperialism."

"Student government leader Kenneth Williams said African-Americans should be suspicious of 'rallying around the flag' and becoming 'tools of the ruling class' in a war." CUNY forum.

109. "[Americans should] bring ourselves and our country to justice, not just the perpetrators." Professor of linguistics, MIT.

110. "Stop the violence, stop the hate." Chant at the University of California-Berkeley.

111. "The main issue is racism in general." Student, University of California-Berkeley.

112. "Just because a grotesque act was committed against this country, does not mean any response is justified; it does not grant this country special license to use the sword." Student columnist, Yale University.

113. "[M]ilitary uniforms were burned in effigy and faculty members conducted classes outside to protest the war." University of California-Berkeley.

114. Johns Hopkins Dean demands a written apology and removes the director of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute as unfit after he supports an aggressive campaign against states that harbor terrorists and bets "a Koran" that his analysis is correct. After a public outcry, the dean reverses his decision.

115. At Williams College, a student organizes a public recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in honor of a Williams graduate who died in the September 22 attack. The college president urges the entire university to attend. Over two hundred students as well as maintenance and cafeteria staff attend. Only two faculty appear: the president and head of the Art Department.

We hoped that the publication of *Defending Civilization* would prompt debate and discussion about the university's role in civic education and the teaching of American history and Western civilization. In fact, discussion has been widespread and sometimes heated. The following is a sampling of that reaction. Some are press commentary; some are e-mails, primarily from campus. Some were signed; some were anonymous. Some support the report. Some do not. Some exemplify attitudes criticized in the report.

"The Pilgrims' Magna Carta," Lead Editorial, *Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 23, 2001:

"...[A]fter years of exposure to the fog of political double-think and victimology that produced speech and harassment codes (not to mention hostility to all things related to the U.S. military), students somehow have managed to stay connected to the real world. The anti-war teach-ins arranged by the impresarios of the tenured left after September 11 have for the most part fallen on deaf ears. We see instead a healthy core of student opinion firmly behind the nation's war aims—and increasingly vociferous about it. ...

This is a heartening indication of the common sense of this generation of students. But it's all the more reason to recognize that students deserve to be grounded in the history and civilization of their nation, something educators have failed miserably to provide. The American Council of Trustees and Alumni puts the matter succinctly: 'What is not taught will be forgotten, and what is forgotten cannot be defended.' The Council, founded by Lynne Cheney, is a group of scholars and historians committed to academic freedom and the maintenance of strong education standards. ..."

"Leaning Tower of Ivory," by Jonathan Yardley, *Washington Post*, Nov. 26, 2001:

"... In response to the tidal wave of leftist insanity that has washed over the professoriat for the past three decades, a movement is taking shape to defend the campuses against the many dreadful developments that wave has brought: the politicization of the arts and humanities, the abandonment of the core curriculum, the suppression of dissent against leftist orthodoxy, political correctness in all its insidious and destructive forms. ... Now comes the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) with a report called 'Defending Civilization: How Our Universities Are Failing America and What Can Be Done About It,' which proves to be ... encyclopedic ... of the free-speech scandals. ..."

"Colleges Must Teach American Values," by Herbert London, syndicated columnist, Dec. 7, 2001:

"... In this report ... the authors outline the yawning gap between the academy and the public at large on the transmission of the history and heritage of the United States. ...

The message from the academy has been distinctly equivocal. While there are groups on campus that have supported the war effort, the 'blame America first' organizations have been equally influential. ...

There is little doubt that the nation's first line of defense against terrorism is a knowledge about and faith in the unique institutions that serve as a foundation stone for the nation.

Ignorance is a great weapon for America's enemies since it can be deployed to undermine confidence and shake the stamina needed to sustain battle readiness. ...

Alas, for a generation American History has either been ignored or eviscerated of its accomplishments. For revisionists, America is a land of colonialists, imperialists, war mongers, and paranoid reactionaries. To the astonishment of many, this one-sided interpretation has taken hold. ...

While these radical professors are free—and should remain free—to express their point of view, they should not be inoculated against criticism for their moral relativism and their hatred of the nation that offers a sanctuary for the pursuit of their scholarship. Moreover, Americans should realize that these instructors have an obligation to transmit to our children the heritage of the nation, including both accomplishments and failures.

The United States is an imperfect nation, but it is also the last, best exemplar of a democratic republic. To suggest the U.S. is the primary source of the world's ills—as many professors do—is simply misguided. ... Restoring confidence in our way of life and giving students the intellectual tools to defend the nation should be part of the educational mission. ...”

“Cries of New McCarthyism Simply Don’t Jive with Facts,” by Thomas Sowell, syndicated columnist, Dec. 21, 2001:

“One of the most shameless frauds in academia today is the claim that a new ‘McCarthyism’ is threatening academic freedom. According to this new cry of victimhood, conservative groups are ‘drawing up enemy lists’ of professors who are opposed to the current war against terrorism.

Perhaps the most famous of these academic outbursts was that of a professor of history at the University of New Mexico, who said to his class, ‘Anyone who can blow up the Pentagon gets my vote.’ ...

When anyone has dared to disagree with these statements and to condemn them publicly, the cry has gone up that this

is somehow a threat to free speech—as if free speech includes the right to silence others who disagree.

One organization which has publicly criticized the anti-American statements of academics is the American Council of Trustees and Alumni. ...

However, the ACTA did not ask that professors making anti-American statements be silenced. Instead, they said: ‘If both sides are heard, students and all of us benefit.’

You would never guess that this is what the American Council of Trustees and Alumni said by reading the distortions of their position ...

Long before the September 11th attacks, a substantial part of the academic world was not only opposed to the values of American society and Western civilization, but was also unabashed in using their classrooms to propagandize their ideology.

Indeed, they have in many cases made it virtually impossible for people who do not share the liberal-left vision to even give a public lecture on campus.

After having imposed an ideological straitjacket on academia, these professors have now wrapped themselves in the mantle of victimhood because they cannot also silence their critics off campus. ...”

“Nothing Wrong with Teaching What’s Right About U.S.,” by Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman, Dwight E. Stanford professor of American Foreign Relations, San Diego State University, *Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 30, 2001:

“... There are numerous examples of the castigating tendency of American scholars, but my personal favorite is an anthology I reviewed a few years back. This textbook gave

undergraduates three articles on World War II. The first was on Japanese internment, the second on segregation of black troops in the South and the third on harassment of Italian Americans. Every article discussed an aspect of the war that was absolutely true; yet, collectively, they made for a portrait of the war that was fundamentally false. No Adolf Hitler, no Emperor Hirohito, no Holocaust—only an imperfect America battling its demons. ...

I understand modern historians' dilemma. As a fortysomething person, I grew up with Che Guevara, Bob Dylan, and the Vietnam War. I come from the activist left, and I am proud of that heritage. I remain a liberal. Like many of my colleagues, I hesitate to write books or give lectures that might appear to whitewash America's character flaws or its choices as a superpower. ...

Too many researchers have done a better job of documenting the republic's weaknesses than revealing its strengths. This lopsidedness ill serves both foreign and domestic audiences. Our academic communities produce most of the world's scholarship on the United States. Too often they implicitly encourage critics in other countries to assume that America is culpable for all that goes wrong. Foreign readers sometimes parrot the very things we have said about ourselves. As teachers, we urge youth to learn from the country's errors, but offer few lessons from what it has done right. How are they supposed to build the future with only the blunt instrument of disillusionment? ...

The tragedy in New York and at the Pentagon rekindled respect for our country. Academics who ignore this risk becoming as irrelevant as yesterday's Sovietologists. ... America is more than the sum of its problems. Some of the nation's intellectuals may have been lacking this perspective on Sept. 11, but it's a precious piece of wisdom we can take away from ground zero."

"The thought police want you," by Clarence Page, syndicated columnist, Nov. 28, 2001:

"... Yes, liberals often are accused of imposing 'politically correct' standards of offense on other people's statements. Cultural conservatives, it turns out, have their thought police, too.

One can and should argue the merits of these and other statements on the list. But the organization does itself a disservice by using such hyper-ventilated language to disagree with ideas, not actions. ...

If someone has a way for us to punish the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 tragedy and end terrorism without fighting a war, I would like to hear it. If anti-war protesters cannot address that issue, the emptiness of their argument will collapse under the weight of its own rhetoric.

Groups like the council perform a worthy service when they work to make campuses safe for the expression of opposing views. That's healthy. ...

At the same time, I think the authors of the council's report could use a little more exposure to multiculturalism. ... [W]e Americans need to reach out and see how we look to the Arab and Islamic worlds, even while we are teaching them a more balanced and complete view of what we are. ..."

"On the Lookout for Patriotic Incorrectness," by Emily Eakin, *New York Times*, Nov. 24, 2001:

"... Other scholars went further, comparing the report's list of names to McCarthy-era blacklisting. 'It has a little of the whiff of McCarthyism,' said Hugh Gusterson, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who is on the list for a comment he made at a campus peace rally. 'Imagine the real suffering and grief of people in other countries,' the

report quotes him as saying. ‘The best way to begin a war on terrorism might be to look in the mirror,’ ...”

From a professor of philosophy, City University of New York:

“... One even said: I detect a whiff of McCarthyism. Actually, I detect a whiff of cowardice. The report defended academic freedom, but simply criticized the views of those it quoted. Incidentally, many journals of opinion from the left to the right have quoted statements they disagreed with, named their authors, and went on to criticize them. The New Republic even had a two page idiot’s corner in every issue since Sept. 11, very enjoyable to read although disturbing at the same time. So the ACTA report is actually in the mainstream of American political discourse which is: criticize opinions that you think are wrong or stupid or ignorant and defend the right of others to think that way.”

“September 11 and Academic Freedom,” a statement of the National Association of Scholars, Feb. 6, 2002:

“...what should one make of those professors who now shrilly hurl charges of ‘McCarthyism’ when intellectually discomforted by their critics? Historically, this term has denoted reckless calumnies, name-calling, or guilt-by-association aimed at ruining reputations. How perverse, then, that the *charge of McCarthyism* is now itself being leveled for that very same purpose. It is particularly distressing to witness a major media organ like the *New York Times* joining in the mudslinging through its editorial attack on the report of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, *Defending Civilization*, which recorded the tepid, evasive, and frequently anti-American reactions of many university faculty to 9/11. It is difficult to avoid the impression that many professors and journalists regard intellectual freedom less as an end in itself, than as a means of protecting the adversary culture. ...”

“The Academy Encounters the Real World,” by Glenn Harlan Reynolds, www.foxnews.com, Dec. 13, 2001:

“Sept. 11 brought a major change to academia. Suddenly the outside world was paying attention to what university people were saying—and that world didn’t like what it was hearing.

Professors who applauded the attack on the Pentagon, or claimed that U.S. wrongdoing somehow justified the Sept. 11 attacks, found themselves being denounced. These denunciations have found support from within the academic community, including a new group made up of faculty, trustees and alumni of major universities. Even Harvard President Lawrence Summers has joined in, calling for his university to embrace patriotic values and get more in line with mainstream Americans.

In response, some are proclaiming a new era of McCarthyism and censorship. Such proclamations ring hollow: So far, no one has suffered anything worse than public criticism for making anti-American statements, and surely criticism does not count as censorship. If it does, after all, the ‘critical theorists’ of academia, who criticize almost everything about American society, would constitute America’s foremost censors. ...”

Thor L. Halvorssen, Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, quoted in “Pro or con, war talk’s risky on campus,” Milford, MA *Daily News Sunday* (*Boston Herald* byline), Jan. 6, 2002:

“There are a great number of cases of people being reprimanded for prowar views, versus very few cases of professors being taken to task for antiwar views.”

From Michigan:

“... I am currently a college student and am appalled by the idiocy the world of academia is displaying. ... I’m so sick and tired of free speech only being ok if you agree with the views of the liberal far left, (which would be most college professors). Somehow, in their twisted thinking, if you disagree, you are trying to stifle ‘free speech.’ HAH! This apparent contradiction is never addressed by them either. Again, keep up the good work!”

“Professing patriotism does not constitute a witch hunt,” letter-to-the-editor by Edward Alexander, professor of English, University of Washington, *Seattle Times*, Dec. 19, 2001:

“... I too teach at UW and have the distinct impression that I am the only university employee except for the janitorial and cafeteria staff wearing the American flag on his lapel. The plea made by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni for encouraging dissent from the conformity of dissent on our campuses, so far from being ... ‘McCarthyism’ ... strikes a blow for intellectual diversity against the self-perpetuating leftist establishment that has tendentiously misinformed students about the Middle East, about Muslim fundamentalism, and about the wickedness of the West for the past quarter of a century.

George Orwell used to say that if the professors of Oxford and Cambridge had had their way in the 1930s the Gestapo would have been patrolling the streets of London in the 1940s.”

From C. Sheldon Thorne, professor of history, Golden West College, Huntington Beach, California, letter-to-the-editor published in “Is There Free Debate on Campus?” *Los Angeles Times*, Jan. 5, 2002:

“... What is truly unfortunate, however, is that these purveyors of ‘blame America first, last, and always’ at the university level are preaching to the choir. By the time

students emerge from 12 years of public education they are exquisitely sensitive to every nuance of racism, sexism and imperialism in American history, albeit unable to write a coherent paragraph about any of them. Most of my U.S. history students have it all figured out long before they step into the classroom: America is rotten to the core.

Ask about the Constitution and they can virtually respond in unison, ‘A racist document written by rich white men.’ The Westward movement? A genocidal march driven by capitalist greed ... They are utterly convinced that in all of human history the U.S. is the only country to have practiced slavery. ...”

From the University of California, Santa Cruz:

“I agree that universities should be teaching us American history, but let them teach us the truth about our history. The United States has too committed acts of terrorism and genocide. Let us not forget this truth. It is not our ‘freedom’ that the fundamentalist Muslims hate, it is our domination and oppression of the rest of the world. Even so, let us not fight hatred with hatred. Yes, let us understand our history; the pride as well as the shame.”

From an associate professor of social science, Reading Area Community College:

“... Teaching/telling our students lies about the U.S. (as Bush and most of the media has done repeatedly since 9-11) is simply wrong on every level, and will do nothing to bring an end to an American foreign policy largely (but not entirely) conducted to ensure access to cheap resources, cheap labor, and access to foreign markets on our terms. Such a foreign policy has caused the United States to support (and sometimes create) brutal dictatorships and violent civil wars—and generated hate for at least the U.S. government, if not its citizens. The killings of 9-11 were wrong—but are little different from many of the mass killings the U.S. has caused. ...”

An e-mail:

“You guys are actually quite lucky that more college seniors aren’t more knowledgeable about American History. Do you really want them to know that Thomas Jefferson had sexual relations (essentially rape) with his slave that was also a minor? How about the countless murders of Indian women and children when the West was won? That George Washington was perhaps the owner of the most slaves of any American of his time? That the U.S. trained and equipped the Mujahedeen and also equipped Saddam Hussein? Ah, the list goes on and on.

I personally wish that folks like yourselves were a little more educated about American History. Maybe then you would understand why the U.S. is reviled in so many parts of the world. ...

P.S. My wife is a college Prof. Thankfully she wouldn’t be intimidated by folks like you.”

From a professor of English, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse:

“... I must inform you that college students are FAR more politically correct than professors, if by politically correct we mean a rigid adherence to status quo morality (i.e., the morality which upholds the ideology of free-market capitalism, the war against ‘evil,’ etc.), and an unwillingness to question its assumptions. ... As for Universities being liberal indoctrination centers, you may be right in a way, at least in the liberal arts. ...”

From a retired professor at Smith College:

“Your Board and staff should know that you have, if anything, underestimated the number of professors who question the morality and the practicality of the official U.S. response to the tragic attacks of September 11.

Yes, we are ‘out of step’ with American public opinion. We deplore the popular support of the pugilistic, vengeful desire by national leaders to rain destruction on Afghanistan and possibly more Muslim nations.

Why? Well, it is wrong to kill people. And, having devoted our lives to the pursuit of truth and understanding, we believe that American arrogance, support of undemocratic regimes, and unconcern for the vast disparities in wealth and power between the industrialized and the ‘third’ worlds have created animosity and despair. So long as we perpetuate these root causes, there will continue to be terrorism. Bombing a desperately poor country won’t change that. ...”

An e-mail:

“... It is obvious to me that U.S. foreign policy serves only one class—the very rich capitalist ruling class—and pisses on everybody else. This has been true over our entire history as a nation. In this sense, the U.S. government and ruling class are responsible for creating the conditions that led to the events of 9/11/01. The fact that you people cannot see this fact is not my responsibility, but is your responsibility.”

From an associate professor of geography, University of Vermont:

“...I have been led astray into the outlandish conviction that the US government is just now acting like a ruthless empire! Imagine that! Isn’t it downright strange the way professors and students, of all people, the very citizens who spend the most time studying the world, end up arriving at such outrageous conclusions! It’s worse than ironic ... it’s perverse, and I can’t even begin to understand it.

In any event, I need to demonstrate my eligibility to be ‘outed’ by ACTA ... So here’s a quote from me: ‘The US attack on Afghanistan is a morally reprehensible and strategically stupid response to the terror attacks of Sept. 11th.’ ...”

From Roosevelt University:

“...perhaps the authors are with those under the popular delusion that America is in the business of ‘spreading freedom’ to those unfortunates across the globe who have never tasted it. Well, there are those of us who are well aware of the un-American activities of this and previous administrations; the support of tyrants and despots of all stripes, the covert support of wars and torture in numerous foreign lands. ...”

From a professor of biology, Claremont McKenna:

“... Any country (for your information, the United States) that

- refuses to join the world court, for fear of cases against U.S. officials
- refuses to sign the international pact against biological weapons
- Vetos in the U.N. Security Council a motion to send peacekeepers to Israel-Palestine
- refuses to fund for birth control information abroad
- refuses to abolish the death penalty
- spends so little money on foreign aid (less than Denmark for goodness sake!)
- refuses to sign the international pact against land mines
- is the biggest weapons seller in the world—to third world countries

is a terrorist nation and should be treated as such. I am ashamed to be an American.”

From Temple University:

“The history of the United States is deeply rooted in the bloodshed and subjugation of others. ... The list of atrocities perpetrated by this ‘great’ country of ours goes on endlessly, and now you have the audacity to call people ‘un-American’ simply because they recognize the truth and wish to teach that truth to others. If it is un-American to recognize that what happened to us we deserved, then I am proud to be an un-American.”

An e-mail:

“Your country’s just getting a taste of the violence, death & terror that your government has been happily dishing out to the rest of the world for decades.

F--- the ‘war,’ f--- your ‘president,’ f--- America, f--- Israel & f--- you.”

Campus Responses—Sources

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