**History of the Integration of Religion and Society**

Sandra Anderson McGraw

Omega Graduate School

Professor: Dr. David Ward

Teaching Assistant: Dave Moser

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**Assignment**

### ***60-Day Developmental Readings***

Review 100-day assignment, course essential elements, assigned readings, and recommended readings to identify selections of books and scholarly articles to identify and select developmental reading sources and entries.

Each OGS program and Core has specific grading criteria for Developmental Readings. Follow the **Developmental Reading Rubrics** for the **required number of sources, comments, and quality criteria**.

See the **General Helps** in **AA-101 The Gathering Place in DIAL**for the following resources:

* Refer to the “NEW Student Guide to Developmental Readings” for updated information on sample comments, rubrics, and key definitions related to developmental readings.
* Download the “NEW Developmental Reading Assignment Template” Word document to begin writing your developmental reading assignment.
* For **grading criteria**, go to the “NEW Developmental Reading Rubrics” document.
* Document all sources in APA style, 7th edition ([APA 7 Reference Example](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MOW2xmjS9fBRboojA-ADFQBlpahm2iFM/view?usp=sharing), [APA 7 Quick Guide](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/documents/APA%20Poster%2010.22.12.png)) for in-text citations and for Works Cited. Include page numbers.
* Include a separate **Works Cited** page, formatted according to APA style, 7th edition.
* Submit through **DIAL** to the professor.

**Course Essential Elements**

• The 7-Step Learning Process

• Christian Worldview

• Epistemological Quadrilateral

• Historical Revisionism

• Social Reforms

• Revivals & Spiritual Awakenings

• Chronos & Kairos

• Cultural Mandate

• Kingdom of God

• Christianity’s Influence on Society

• Historical Methodology

• Cultural change

**Source One:** Robb, M. G. (2019). Pluralism at work: Rethinking the relationship between

religious liberty and LGBTQ rights in the workplace. *Harv. CR-CLL Rev.*, *54*, 917.

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**Though recent cases pit religious liberty interests against anti-discrimination rights, these cases tend to represent one view of religious liberty: a narrow view of Christian religious liberty. The Alliance Defending Freedom is the non-profit organization that defended Rost in Harris Funeral Homes, the bakery owner in Masterpiece Cakeshop, and one of the defendants in Hobby Lobby. It has played a significant role in forming the national narrative that LGBTQ rights are a threat to religious liberty interests. According to its website, and as its name suggests, its stated purpose is to “defend religious freedom.” But it is explicitly a Christian organization, seeking to represent the “Christian community.” These cases indicate that the Alliance Defending Freedom’s Christian community is opposed to transgender rights, gay marriage, and contraception. These views do not represent the entire Christian community, and they certainly do not represent American religious liberty” (Robb, M. G. (2019).

**Essential Element:** This comment’s essential elements are social reforms and cultural change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This article is a variant analysis because I believe religious organizations should have protection under the First Amendment.

**Contextualization:**  During my time at OGS, I have surrendered my research to God in seeking directions to lead with integrity, love, and grace in a way that is pleasing to Him. That means, first and foremost, I need to be true to my faith and belief in the Word of God. I work in the public school system and have many people in my life whom I care about who is a part of the LGBTQIA+ community. Robb’s article appeared to be objective, but it is clear that the author believes that Christian organizations should be forced to hire members of the gay community even if it goes against their religion. In looking at the school system, the LGBTQIA+ community’s stance in canceling out the Bible’s teaching on homosexuality goes beyond hiring. This often creates a hostile environment for Christians. In some school districts, like mine, it is at the forefront of inclusiveness.

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Though recent cases pit religious liberty interests against anti-discrimination rights, these cases tend to represent one view of religious liberty: a narrow view of Christian religious liberty. The Alliance Defending Freedom is the non-profit organization that defended Rost in Harris Funeral Homes, the bakery owner in Masterpiece Cakeshop, and one of the defendants in Hobby Lobby. It has played a significant role in forming the national narrative that LGBTQ rights are a threat to religious liberty interests'' (Robb, M. G., 2019, p. 943-944).

**Essential Element:** This comment’s essential elements are social reforms and cultural change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This article is a variant analysis because I stand with the Alliance Defending Freedom, Hobby Lobby, and other Christian companies fighting for Christian liberties.

**Contextualization:** Christians today must be well-versed in the Word of God. Many believers are being deceived because they are not equipped to handle the cultural pressures of persuasion and conformity to the Postmodern culture. This research is helping me to understand even more the importance of training believers to understand where we are in history from a Biblical historical perspective. According to Ward, a clear understanding of the intent of Jesus’ parables to reveal knowledge of the Kingdom of God is eminent (2020). Ward further explains, “The kingdom came with Jesus; it was (and is) present but invisible until Christ comes again” (2020). Understanding this helps us to realize that God is operating “multi-dimensionally” (2020). This understanding increases the urgency to counteract information contrary to the Word of God.

**Source Two:** Thro, W. E. (2021). Special Solicitude: Religious Freedom at America’s Public Universities. *Laws*, *10*(2), 30.

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “There is “no doubt that the First Amendment rights of speech and association extend to the campuses of state universities.” (Widmar, 454 U.S. at 269). A public university may not favor those groups that support the institution’s views, and it may not penalize those groups with which it disagrees (Healey, 408 U.S. at 187–88). Similarly, the Court has ruled that student religious groups are entitled to both access (Widmar, 454 U.S. at 267–70) and funding (Rosenberger, 515 U.S. at 831). Indeed, the practice of requiring students to pay mandatory fees that are then distributed to student groups is permissible only if the institution does not favor particular viewpoints (Southworth, 529 U.S. at 233-34)” (Thro, W. E., 2021, p. 1-2).

**Essential Element:** This article’s essential element demonstrates Christianity’s Influence on Society and Christian Worldview.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This article is an additive analysis supporting the First Amendment and religious rights. (Thro, W. E., 2021, p. 1-2).

**Contextualization:** God has called believers to study and stand on the Word of God (II Timothy 2:15). Yet, many Christians who believe in the Word of God are feeling attacked and isolated, but we are not powerless. We not only have the Holy Spirit of God helping us (John 15:26; Luke 11:13), but we have Constitutional Rights. Christians need to unify across all denominations, socio-economic, ethnic, and political spheres to do the work of our Lord with a deep understanding of these rights. It is important to be familiar with these court rulings to protect our rights to speak freely, assemble, and worship.

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Yet, religious individuals still had to violate their conscience and religious organizations had to admit nonbelievers. The Court’s 2020 decisions in Espinoza and Our Lady further expand religious freedom. This expansion has significant implications for America’s public universities. As a result of Espinoza and Our Lady, all public campuses are “wide enough” (Miranda 2015) for everyone—atheist and Laws 2021, 10, 30 8 of 9 believers, secular and sacred, clergy and laity, Muslim and Jew, Protestant and Catholic (Russo et al. 2020)” (Thro, W. E., 2021, p. 7-8).

**Essential Element:** This article’s essential element demonstrates Christianity’s Influence on Society and Christian Worldview.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is an additive to my understanding of the importance of understanding the law to protect religious freedom.

**Contextualization:**  I have worked in education both in parochial schools and in public schools at all levels for years. In all of my education, never was I told that Martin Luther started a movement for universal education across all social classes and ethnicities in the sixteenth century during the Protestant Reformation. Martin declared that “people needed to understand both the word of Scripture and the nature of the world in which the word would take root” urging schools “to include vernacular primary schools for both sexes, Latin secondary schools, and universities” (Schmidt, 2004). The contributions of Christians throughout history have been suppressed in the same manner that non-White contributions, especially with African-Americans, have been suppressed. As an African-American woman, I know this well. It is the privilege of who controls the narrative and the power to distribute information centered around that narrative.

**Source Three:** Anderson, J. D. (2023). Ex-slaves and the rise of universal education in the South, 1860-1880. *Thinking about Black Education: An Interdisciplinary Reader*.

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Going against farm society, freed African American slaves were the first among native southerners to campaign for universal, state-supported education. Once freed from the chains of slavery, African-Americans rallied the support of Republican politicians, Freedmen's Bureau, northern missionary societies, and the Union Army. The plantation owners tolerated some poor whites getting an education but did not support any kind of universal education efforts. With the aid of Republican politicians, African American laid the first foundation for universal education in the South (Anderson, 2023).

**Essential Element:** This comment's essential elements are social reforms and cultural change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The article is an additive to my knowledge of the contributions of African Americans and universal education in the South.

**Contextualization:** After being in education for over three decades, I continued to be amazed at how much I didn’t know about education. I used to live in the deep south and had no idea of the contributions of freed African Americans laying the foundation for universal education for all Americans in the South. The knowledge of the former slaves fighting for universal education to advance is a story to be told, and I appreciate this author's work. So many people today are lost because they do not know the truth, and they have lost hope or have biases that are based on non-truths and deliberate omissions. In a country that still struggles with racial hatred and inequalities, followers of Jesus Christ should lead the charge of uplifting the truth about the contributions of African Americans. Unfortunately, this is not the case which is why so many people, both Black and White, want nothing to do with church. Just about everyone in America is told history from a European perspective, but what would it be like to go to a white church and hear a white pastor uplift the contributions of all people in America, especially African Americans? How might that change biases and prejudices against African Americans?

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Many African Americans, enslaved and free, taught themselves and other African Americans how to read and write dispelling the notion the slaves were not capable of learning literacy or numeracy. This literate population formed black education communities fighting for the right to an education. The research in this book uplifts Black excellence in education and how so many Black scholars and schools, even during Jim Crow, were never recognized (Anderson, J. D., 2023).

**Essential Element:** This book relates to cultural change in how education has helped to lift the masses of all races out of poverty.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This book is an additive analysis of appreciating the excellence of Black education and its contributions to the world.

**Contextualization:** When I went to Spelman College years ago, I was so amazed at meeting and being educated by so many amazing Black scholars. There is a misconception that Black people are not as intelligent as other races despite all of the Black contributions in the world. It is heartbreaking that these beliefs are prevalent among Christians. The challenge for us as Christian leaders will be to lead by bringing Christ-Followers of all races together appreciating diversity in contribution and showing true love and unity. This is a tricky thing because to show true love and unity means to celebrate different cultural identities and wealth and power. Christians are learning to live together, but we have a long way to go. As Christians, we are to show the love of Jesus through our love for one another (John 13:34-35).

**Source Four:** Zimmerman, J. (2022). *Whose America?: Culture wars in the public schools*. University of Chicago Press.

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “In the early 2000s,...The religious wars cooled, spurred by a mass exodus of religious conservatives from the public schools. Millions of Americans patronized Christian day schools or elected to homeschool their children, which meant fewer devout parents pressing for prayer, creationism, and other kinds of religious instruction in public schools. In part, this trend was fueled by voucher programs, loosened restrictions on homeschooling, and other public policies that made it easier for families to choose different educational options. But the biggest reason was devout parents’ belief that the public schools had become a lost cause” (Zimmerman, J., 2022).

**Essential Element:** The essential element is Christianity’s Influence on Society and Cultural Change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This article is an additive analysis of my understanding of education today.

**Contextualization: “**The religious wars cooled, spurred by a mass exodus of religious conservatives from the public schools (Zimmerman, 2022). Because of this exodus, millions of public school teachers, students, and staff were left alone without church support. To this day, we are still left alone.

**Source Five:** Spring, J. (2021). *Deculturalization and the struggle for equality: A brief history of the education of dominated cultures in the United States*. Routledge.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Race is primarily a political and social construction. Consider, for example, racial segregation in Southern states during the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries based on the “drop of blood” laws. The “drop of blood” rule was used to determine who should attend White or Black segregated schools…However, it required a social struggle for the Irish and Southern and Eastern Europeans to gain acceptance as “Whites.” *How the Irish Became White* is Noel Ignatiev’s fascinating history of the struggle of Irish Americans to gain status in the American “White” community. For the Irish, their Catholicism was a major problem in gaining acceptance by the majority of Protestant Americans. Jewish, Muslim, and Eastern Orthodox immigrants also encountered problems because of their different religious beliefs” (Spring, J., 2021).

**Essential Element:** The essential element is historical revisionism.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is an additive analysis of my understanding of education in America and how we got to where we are today.

**Contextualization:** Reconciliation, salvation, and healing does not come by denying history and wrongs that have been done. It only comes with truth and transparency and through true omission and repentance. There is a painful history and reality today of division between races, political parties, social classes, and cultures. I attend Bridgeway Community Church where different cultures are celebrated in our worship and service to God. I would not consider my walk with Christ complete if my personal friends and my Educators for Christ Life Group did not reflect the diversity of the Kingdom of God. Nehemiah’s prayer is a model of true repentance of our sins and the sins of our fathers (Nehemiah 1:5-9). In Dr. Anderson’s book, *Gracism: The Art of Inclusion*, he guides us through this process as we, as believers, model grace, love, acceptance, and forgiveness. (2023)

**Source Six:** Widjaja, F., Boiliu, F., Tafonao, T., Simanjuntak, H., & Lahagu, A. (2022, August). Christian Religious education as catalisator and mobilisator of movement in the church. In Proceeding of the 6th Batusangkar International Conference, BIC 2021, 11-12 October, 2021, Batusangkar-West Sumatra, Indonesia.

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**The church has a responsibility to humans (congregation) spiritually and physically. Ideally, the church is an educational center for the community because the church teaches, fosters, and assists the congregation from birth to the elderly (from children to the elderly). This discussion provides an understanding that Christian religious education in the church is the center of education for the congregation. This study uses a literature review method, namely the data obtained from theories in various journals and books related to this discussion. This study aims to provide an understanding and awareness to the church that the church in carrying out its role is not just lecturing on Sundays. Still, there must be a program that must be implemented to form the congregation spiritually and physically. The church teaches, educates, and accompanies the congregation for spiritual life; it is also crucial for physical energy

(Widjaja, F. et al, 2021).

**Essential Element:** The essential element for this article is Christian Worldview and Christianity’s Influence on Society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is an additive analysis because the first institution that taught me was the church.

**Contextualization:** This article brought it all home for me because the church has revolutionized the world. While the Holy Spirit of God may have used man’s pride, evil, and arrogance to spread the gospel, many now know about Jesus. The irony is that Jesus came and walked among lowly and humble people. Jesus uplifted women and different cultures, and Jesus had compassion and uplifted the poor and suffering. The authors of this article are correct. The church is the most powerful educational institution in societies around the world. As Christian leaders, we need to make sure when teaching others about Jesus, we do not put down anyone’s culture to justify greed and evil deeds. Jesus did not sin against anyone, nor did Jesus tell anyone to convert to Judaism. Instead, our Lord welcomed all people into the Kingdom of God.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “One of the strategic tasks of the church is the task of education or coaching for its people or congregation. This task is considered vital because it can help every church member (Harianto GP, 2012) understand their responsibilities in society. Thus, this kind of duty is always inherent in the church community (Nuhamara, 2008), to give doctrinal lessons and provide training in divine behavior according to the example of Jesus Christ (Anthony, 2012). In addition, PAK (Christian Religious Education) in the church can also guide church members to believe and know the Bible, renew behavior, and become wise people in Christ who lead to perfection in life. And equip them for effective service (Daniel Nuhamara, 2007). The church as an educational center is a deliberate, systematic, and continuous effort to convey, generate or acquire knowledge, attitudes, values, skills, sensitivities, and any consequences of that effort. (Groome, 2010). In this case, education guides congregation members to understand the art of life. The art of life is defined as the complete achievement of various activities that reveal the potential of members of the congregation to deal with the actual environment (Nuhamara, 2018)” (Widjaja, F. et al, 2021).

**Essential Element:** The essential elements for this article are Christian Worldview and Christianity’s Influence on Society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is an additive analysis of my educational knowledge.

**Contextualization:** This work lifts the work of the church in educating people from birth to elder years. Viewing the church in its role in educating people helps us to realize the influence that Christian leaders have on society and the importance of being equipped. Jesus said, “(**16)** Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be as wary as serpents, and as innocent as doves. (**17)** But be on guard against people, for they will hand you over to *the* courts and flog you in their synagogues; (**18)** and you will even be brought before governors and kings on My account, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles (Matthew 10:16-18). Well-qualified Christian leaders are essential in equipping believers.

**Source Seven:** Baker, J. O., Perry, S. L., & Whitehead, A. L. (2020, September). Crusading for moral authority: Christian nationalism and opposition to science. In *Sociological Forum* (Vol. 35, No. 3, pp. 587-607).

**Comment 11:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Our findings support Evans’ (2018) theory that conflicts about “science and religion” are primarily issues about status politics, as significant proportions of the relationships between both political and religious characteristics with opposing scientific authority are because of their shared covariance with Christian nationalist ideology. High religiosity, “literalist” Bible views, and political conservatism all exert significant and substantial indirect effects on negative moral valuations of science primarily because they correlate with increased average levels of Christian nationalism. Taken together, these findings demonstrate that Christian nationalism is a key cultural mechanism connecting religion, politics, and opposition to scientific authority among the American public (Baker, J. O. et al, 2020).

**Essential Element:** The essential element for this article is Christian Worldview and Christianity’s Influence on Society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is an additive analysis to my knowledge.

**Contextualization:** So-called Christian nationalists have ties to bigotry and are often viewed with disdain for their arrogance like the Pharisees. There are a lot of Christians who hold biblical views, i. e. Creation, and still have respect for scientific contributions. The term “Christian nationalist” may also be offensive to a lot of Christians in this country who are not waving the Republican flag and signs for Donald Trump. Christianity has become so politicized by the conservative right that the rest of us who are just quietly trying to live at peace as God instructed (Romans 12:18) and model the love of Jesus suffer. Today, Christian nationalist is more of a political term for people holding the same political interest and many see Christian nationalists as White supremacists due to their ties to racist groups. This is unfair because many are not. Nonetheless, the self-righteous hypocrisy of many so-called Christian nationalists is often viewed as loud, divisive, and offensive, leaving many people with just another reason to walk away from the church.

**Source Eight:** Marker, B. K. (2020). Factors to Prepare Christians for Service in Public Education (Doctoral dissertation, Regent University).

**Comment 12:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Christian educators serving in public schools must be informed of how to legally influence their schools for God’s Kingdom and to be prepared for the challenges that await them, so they can exercise wisdom and gentleness in their vocational callings (Matthew 10:16). Christian educators serving in public schools lack training in a few key areas. They lack instruction on how to reconcile their biblical convictions with the unbiblical policies, procedures, and instructional content present in public schools (Jusino, 2018). They do not know the Kingdom impact they can have by incorporating biblical principles and reflecting God’s character in their practice (Schultz, 2002). They are unaware of their religious liberties as citizens of the United States and unprepared for the counterChristian culture present in secular schools (CEAI, 2019; Elliot, 2018; Graham, 2011). Additionally, many do not expect the hostile atmosphere in public education and feel isolated in their schools (Graham, 2011)” (Marker, B. K., 2020).

**Essential Element:** The essential element for this article is Christian Worldview and Christianity’s Influence on Society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is an additive to my understanding of my calling.

**Contextualization:**  I am seeking God’s direction with my non-profit and Educators for Christ Life Group ministry to do just that. Studying the Word of God and supporting one another has been the focus of the life group. However, since I have begun my research at OGS, I am providing more knowledge to empower and equip them in their assignments. This article provides evidence showing the need for targeted Christ-centered training and information for Christians in public schools.

**Comment 13:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Because public education has replaced many of their Christian values to embrace the tenets of secular humanism, it is becoming increasingly more important for Christian educators to be informed of what challenges to expect, how they can legally make an influence for Christ, and how they can be encouraged while serving in the public schools (Arroyo, 2011; Graham, 2011). When Christian educators 5 are uninformed and unprepared, they are more likely to experience feelings of loneliness, fear, and cynicism in public schools (Graham, 2011). While Christian educators may be positioned in public schools to make a powerful impact for the Kingdom, they must be prepared and equipped to serve in this secular setting” (Marker, B. K., 2020).

**Essential Element:** The essential element for this article is Christian Worldview and Christianity’s Influence on Society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is an additive to my understanding of my calling.

**Contextualization:** This research is essential in adding to the literature to prepare Christian educators, especially at a time when scholars are writing about Christian educators being a problem for modeling and sharing a Christian viewpoint (Boys, 2022; Baker, 2023; Robb, 2019). In my personal experience, the environment for Christians in public schools and universities is becoming more hostile as non-biblical preferences in the LGBTQIA+ community are becoming policy and non-gay staff are being told to put their selected gender behind their name on their signature. The gay community has also hijacked the Civil Rights consciousness to include them. While no one should be discriminated against, the line needs to be drawn by forcing people to identify their sexual preferences. Heterosexuals are often labeled as bigoted for not openly supporting the gay agenda cause or for having a biblical view of marriage. Non-violent, peace-loving Christians are also being viewed with hostility by people of other religions, who want equality in having school holidays and recognition, and who want to downplay Christianity.

**Source Nine:** Boys, M. C. (2022). Educating Christians in order that strangers become neighbours. *Journal of Religious Education*, *70*(2), 181-189.

**Comment 14:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** In this journal article, Boys discusses the importance of other religions forming friendships with Christians to help them become more accepting and tolerant in understanding that their religion is just one of many. Boys' article teaches that the United States is no longer a Christian nation. Instead, the US is now a religiously plural nation with many religions. Boys connote that Christians need to have relationships with people from other faiths so they can see that their faith is not the only truth. Boys’ article gives recommendations for re-educating Christians after asking, “What, then, might we do to educate Christians in such a way that the religious “stranger” becomes “neighbor”?” (Boys, M. C., 2022, p. 188).

**Essential Element:** This article’s essential element is Cultural Change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This article is a variant analysis because I do not believe that Christians need to embrace other religions but need to learn their own by studying the Word of God.

**Contextualization:**  Pastors and Christian leaders who are in ministry full-time need to support lay persons in the church who are working in secular schools, agencies, and companies by going to their workplaces. This support needs to be tailored to meet the needs of members. With full-time pastors and ministers, it is not enough to simply “equip” Christians with Sunday sermons and Bible studies at church. There are secular and religious scholars and leaders that are deliberately trying to reeducate and influence Christian believers to embrace and even convert to their philosophies and religions. These non-Christian scholars and leaders study the Bible for the sole purchase of helping Christians, especially Christian leaders, and scholars, to understand comparable stories with Eastern religions like Hinduism and Buddhism for acceptance as another truth. While it is important to respect other people’s religions, the Bible tells us to study the Word of God. (NASB, 2020, 2 Timothy 2:15, John 3:16-17). The ten commandments warn us about following after other Gods. (NASB, 2020, Exodus 20:2-6).

**Source Ten:** Permoser, J. M., & Stoeckl, K. (2021). Reframing human rights: the global network of moral conservative homeschooling activists. *Global Networks*, *21*(4), 681-702.

**Comment 15:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: "**Although homeschooling might at first seem like an issue of minor importance, it is, in fact, a crucial element in a broader dispute over values and human rights. Both right-wing and left-wing activists view schools as a key site for inculcating values that in turn directly affect views on more prominent issues including LGBT rights, same sex marriage, abortion, in vitro fertilization, and gender roles (Permoser & Stoeckl, 2021).

**Essential Element:** The essential elements of this article are the Christian Worldview and Christianity’s Influence on Society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is an additive analysis in understanding the homeschool movement.

**Contextualization:** While some take flight and fight on other levels, others such as myself choose to stay. God has not forgotten about the masses of children and youth in our public schools and universities. God has Christians on all levels in the education sector representing His love for our students and families. Jesus was accused by the Pharisees of interacting with sinners, common everyday folks, of all races, all persuasions, and all religions. Jesus’ answer to his accusers was simple. Our Lord made it clear that He came to Earth for them (Luke 5:31-32; Luke 19:7-10; Mark 2:17).

**Comment 16:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** GHEX has a truly global reach, and the choice of locations for GHEX events is strategic: ‘We went to Berlin’, one of the organizers explained, ‘because Berlin is a … very oppressive place, [homeschooling] is prohibited and we wanted to influence that’ (Interview with Gerald Huebner, 19 May 2017). Rio de Janeiro was chosen because ‘there was very large growing interest in the country and very large population to reach out to’, and Russia became a host because of ‘the interest in the family by both the Russian government and the Russian Orthodox Church’ and as ‘a way to reach not just to Russia but also the former Soviet Union countries’ (Interview with Gerald Huebner, 19 May 2017). GHEX has also organized or participated in smaller regional conferences in South Africa, Japan, Dubai, and again in Moscow in 2019. In doing so, GHEX is contributing to the creation of homeschooling groups in countries where home education is still relatively unknown (Permoser & Stoeckl, 2021).

**Essential Element:** The essential elements of this article are the Christian Worldview, Social Reform, and Christianity’s Influence on Society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is an additive analysis in understanding the homeschool movement.

**Contextualization:** GHEX choosing Russia as a site to host the Global Home Education Exchange Conference because the country is viewed as a moral leader is quite disturbing. This is especially troubling since the United States is a focal point of studies and the home of some organizations backing the conference. If conservative Christians are being encouraged to organize and leave the public school system to home school, how will they minister and influence the masses of Christian and non-Christian students and families who are still there? Whatever happened to having after-school and neighborhood Bible clubs for children, and before and after-school Bible clubs and camps for teens?

**Source Eleven:** Sosa, L. (2021). Beyond gender equality? Anti-gender campaigns and the erosion of human rights and democracy. *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights*, *39*(1), 3-10.

**Comment 17:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**Who are behind these fervent anti-gender sentiments? The emergence of anti-gender discourses at the national level both in Europe and the Americas can be tracked down to religious circles, promoted primarily by the Vatican’s notion of ‘complementarity’, that is, the view that men and women’s equal dignity is premised on and manifest in essential and complementary physical, psychological and ontological differences. The Vatican has opposed changes in secular law and the very use of the word ‘gender’ in venues ranging from the United Nations to legislative bodies and protest movements in every part of the world. In the Americas, the Evangelical Church has gained prominence in recent decades, engaging even in presidential campaigns” (Sosa, L., 2021, p. 7).

**Essential Element:** The essential element of this article is the Christian Worldview, Christian Influence in Society, and Social Reform.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is an additive analysis in understanding the Christian worldwide resistance against the gender identity movement.

**Contextualization:** Religious organizations around the world are lobbying against the gender assignments of a man and a woman being optional. This research is essential in understanding how allowing gender to be determined by choice and not by biological attributes threatens laws and protections currently in place for certain protections for crimes against women and children (Sosa, L., 2021).

**Comment 18:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “However, religious groups are not the only actors in these campaigns. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have a key role during treaty negotiations and interact with political bodies of international organizations, making the engagement of secular actors in anti-gender campaigns essential. These NGOs, however, are not grassroots-born, but financed by elite groups, and have a notable transnational character. The French association ‘Manif Pour Tous’20, which organized multitudinous marches in Paris against same-sex marriage in 2012 and in 2013, has a German counterpart, ‘Demo Fu¨r Alle’21, protesting against sex education in schools. The Peruvian organization ‘Con Mis Hijos No te Metas’22 [Don’t mess with my children] has been replicated in several Latin-American State**s** and Spain. The Spanish ‘Hazte Oir’ [Make yourself heard] has a digital and transnational reach through ‘Citizen Go’23, active in 50 States. ‘Pro-Life’ organizations are present in multiple countries, mobilizing crowds against abortion and reproductive rights, such as the German ‘Marsch fu¨r das Leben’ which organizes regular demonstrations against abortion in Germany since 2008.24 Other NGOs have a regular presence within international organizations, like Human Life International (VHI) and Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), which offer ‘prolife training and resources worldwide’25 and provide legal representation to pursue cases” (Sosa, L., 2021, p. 7-8).

**Essential Element:** The essential element of this article is Social Reform.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is an additive analysis in understanding the secular worldwide resistance against the gender identity movement.

**Contextualization:** While I am glad that Christians are at the forefront of this movement, it is good to know our secular partners because Christian and secular organizations alike have fought fiercely against crimes and oppression of women around the world.

**Comment 19:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Besides the political implications discussed here, the replacement of religious justifications by a secular language, resorting to legal arguments that tend to misinterpret human rights norms or overstate certain conflicts of (human) rights has important implications for the discipline, touching on privacy and family life, parental rights, freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of association, education, health. Moreover, while it is clear that the expansion of rights with respect to gender, sexuality, and reproduction is not a linear process or free from controversy, Fassin argues that sexual politics throughout the world today (from gay marriage to violence against women, from the Islamic veil to prostitution, etc.) constitute battles about the limits, and on the contrary, the continued extension of the democratic logic. Current anti-gender campaigns contribute to the backsliding of gender equality and human rights, as well as the encroachment of democracy. The strategic use of legal language by anti-gender campaigns should be a warning to us, human rights scholars and defenders, to reaffirm what we have achieved in terms of gender equality so far, and protect these achievements from the challenges posed by these crusades ((Sosa, L., 2021, p. 9-10).

**Essential Element:** The essential element of this article is the Christian Worldview, Christian Influence in Society, and Social Reform.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is an additive analysis in understanding both the Christian and Secular worldwide resistance against the gender identity movement.

**Contextualization:** I understand what the author is saying about how religious organizations are attacking multiple issues. The complexities of these issues are profound. It does make me think about how I can more strategically collaborate with different organizations on different issues. It is important to see this issue from the NGOs perspectives as it relates to human rights. Several human rights organizations have one single concern and want to focus on using legal arguments for crimes happening worldwide. Perhaps on this one issue allies around the world could speak with one voice and say no and here is why.

**Source Twelve:** Fassin, É. (2020). Anti-gender Campaigns, Populism, and Neoliberalism in Europe and Latin America. In *LASA Forum* (Vol. 51, No. 2, pp. 67-71).

**Comment 20:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “How are we to interpret the international spread of anti-gender campaigns at the same time as populist politics? The hypothesis here is that this twin phenomenon has to do with the global context of neoliberalism in the 2010s. After 1989 and the fall of the Berlin Wall, in Europe, the triumph of economic neoliberalism was generally presented as the final victory of political liberalism, as if markets and democracy were inseparable. This sheds light on the support for sexual democracy, which was now considered as a litmus test by Western democracies—and later, in the 2000s, co-opted as an instrument in immigration policies to preserve “Fortress Europe” (Fassin, É., 2020).

**Essential Element:** This comment's essential element is social reform.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is an additive analysis because I have gained a more global perspective of modern social reforms, namely the gender issue.

**Contextualization:** In public schools at the grassroots levels policies are preceding laws without research on the impact. Children in our schools have non-traditional families, and yet, Jesus loves us all. Fasin asked a question. “How are we to interpret the international spread of anti-gender campaigns at the same time as populist politics?” Christian educators are with the children and families. We teach and serve them all. While others outside of education may be talking and writing about it, Christian educators and administrators are being directed to allow children to decide their gender assignment, and that parents do not have a right to know. The thinking behind this is to protect children from their parent’s disapproval, whether it is due to their religious values or not. The fact that children would be able to make such a life-altering decision, even switch back and forth, defies all logic.

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