

Yankee Steve's Column

For the Week of January 27, 2011

Dear Reader,

Today we begin today a four part series called, **Setting the Record Straight**. Here is Part 1.

Anne Hutchinson and the Puritans

For the longest time now the Women's Movement, an offshoot of Marxism, has availed itself of one of America's most eccentric characters in early American history to give the impression that women in the United States are an oppressed minority.

Anne Hutchinson, who died in an Indian raid in New York in 1643, a woman driven if not possessed, has been used with great effect to serve the feminist cause. The aim has been to re-write history.

But why would you want to revise history?

Author George Orwell tells us why. "Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past."

Right now the feminists are in ascendancy. They certainly own the Democrats. Being in control means that they will try to determine what the future will look like, and they may be able to do this because they can now alter the past.

Feminists have found Anne Hutchinson suitable to their cause because the facts regarding her are buried in the "thee" and "thou" archives, when presumably women were kept under lock and key. Americans today has only read of Hutchinson and American Puritanism through the dumb-down narration of revisionists. These revisionists do not appreciate that at their pinnacle Puritans were the most brilliant, God-fearing ministers of truth on earth.

You need only compare the benevolence of the Puritans toward Native Americans in New England to the Conquistadores' brutality in Mexico. The comparison will end as a contrast.

Using Hutchinson to serve their ends, feminists would like us to think that she was persecuted and ostracized from the Puritan community because she was intelligent and influential woman, and thus she must have been a threat to the power of male leadership.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Women of the left, in order to give the impression that wherever capitalism is installed or where Christianity is the religion of the people (Puritans were both capitalists and Christians), want us to believe that this combination represents a two-fold attack on the rights of women.

The solution: Do away with both capitalism and Christianity, and replace them with the teachings of Karl Marx, who opined that the traditional roles of men and women, and even traditional marriage itself, were designed by bourgeoisie capitalists to sustain their lifestyle.

That, too, is far from the truth. No less a scholar than Ludwig von Mises demonstrates conclusively that capitalism has done more for women than Marxism has ever done or could ever do.

Anne Hutchinson entered the Massachusetts Bay Colony [circa 1630] and immediately set to work. The Puritans of Massachusetts, who had formed their plantation/community around church life, would hear from her. She was special and New England would now find out how special she was. She could even intuit who were the elect bound for heaven.

Not a woman to mince words or equivocate, the Boston churches were told in no uncertain terms which of their preachers had won her all important approval. If Boston was to become a city set on a hill and a light to the nations, they should pay close attention to her decrees.

Those who had earned her endorsement had the seal of the Holy Spirit. The others were preaching what a Puritan would have called the covenant of works, a covenant by God with Adam and Eve who in the beginning were sinless. This covenant can no longer apply to us because our fallen, sinful natures necessitated a different covenant, a covenant of grace.

Today Hutchinson would get her own television talk show, but this was a Puritan community which did not take lightly to anyone saying that he or she could intuit God's thoughts. Hutchinson in fact said that the doctrine of salvation by grace alone could relieve you of the need to prove by your good works that you actually had been saved by grace apart from works. This heresy, where you tend to downplay the need for good works, is called antinomianism.

Hutchinson was brought up on charges. She would have her day in court which included a number of exchanges between her and her accusers. It became apparent that she did believe that God was communicating directly to her, a thing which Puritans would have identified with Montanism, a heresy that has never really gone away. Montanism, which flourished long ago in the wild region of Phrygia where women in particular could enlighten you as to what heaven was reasoning, is still with us. As a matter of fact, Hutchinson's own pastor, the Rev. John Cotton, when in England had been accused by one British scholar of Montanism.

When Hutchinson admitted in open court that God was speaking to her directly, it was if she set off a bomb in the court room. Now they had heard heresy in her own words.

Hutchinson was banished in 1638, the year of her trial. With her husband in tow she joined Roger Williams in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island who had three years ago, and with certifiable justification, also been sent packing for spreading "new and dangerous opinions."

You see, not only women were banished.

How did all of this come about? Hutchinson had been using her home for Bible discussion groups. No one objected to this. She was as free as a bird. Hutchinson was allowed to lead discussions in which the weekly sermons and lectures were discussed. It was in these discussions that her heterodoxy made itself known with the predictable result that the fledgling Puritan community was deeply divided. The newly formed Bay Colony was about to unravel.

Hutchinson took a wrecking ball to the Massachusetts experiment. Thank God she failed because it were these Puritans who laid the foundation of our God-fearing, freedom-loving, free-trade culture. I am glad the Puritans sent her away. The feminists are dead wrong.

Feminists will cry foul when no one has been fouled. However, some of us know the truth. We are certain that the Women's Liberation not only wants what is coming to them (such equal pay for equal work) it wants to do away with what distinguishes men from women.

In order to accomplish their goals, feminists will not only burn their bras, they will torch the history books. This should not surprise us because feminists are Marxists and as such they have always been willing to play fast-and-loose with the facts just as in the Supreme Court Roe v. Wade case.

Let us set the record straight. Anne Hutchinson was trouble. She was that prophetess, or prophet as the case may be, who enters into religious community and destroys it because she or he can tell you what God is thinking. I don't believe it!

Ever yours,

Yankee Steve Cakouros

oldlineconservative.com