

**ARIZONA
SUPPLEMENT**

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The American Trinity

This July 4th marks the 233rd year of American independence. Regrettably, many American citizens, especially the young, are ignorant of the values and principles that have made our land such an exceptional nation. Talk show host Dennis Prager has started a series of short lectures on traditional values, Prager University, on YouTube. The first in the series is entitled “The American Trinity” and is the basis for this article.

Mr. Prager was inspired to develop the concept of the American trinity by observing the three mottos on every American coin: “E Pluribus Unum”, “Liberty”, and “In God We Trust”. This is not a theological trinity as in the Christian religion, but rather a value system unique to the American nation.

The Latin motto “E Pluribus Unum” means “out of many, one”. As a rule, blood is nearly a universal quality necessary to be accepted into the mainstream of a nation. Turks living in Germany will be regarded as Turks for generations. Not so in America where the acceptance of a core value system makes one an American in a relatively short period of time. Of course, the acceptance of these values does not preclude the individual from retaining a secondary cultural tradition.

“Liberty”, meaning an absence of tyranny, is also part of our trinity. Although “equality” is mentioned in the Declaration of Independence, it refers to equality before the law, not equality of outcome. How far you go in America has traditionally been thought

to be the product of hard work, and possibly a little luck, with minimal interference from the government. The French Revolution was based on “Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity” and idealized a classless society. The results of their revolution produced a nightmare of blood and upheaval. Paradoxically, our revolution, which emphasized liberty over equality, produced unheard of prosperity for the average citizen.

“In God We Trust” is an allusion to the rights “endowed by our Creator” in the Declaration of Independence: “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”. This means that these rights come from God, not the state. The state is not empowered to alter or take away these rights. Rights granted by governments can be taken away by governments; not so in the American value system. The God of our founding fathers was the God of the Bible and the Ten Commandments, but this subject could be a complete dissertation in itself.

As previously cited, the Prager video is easy to find on YouTube and is only about five minutes in length. If you enjoy the presentation and think it worthwhile, it would be appropriate to email it your friends and family.

The more European value system emphasizing “equality” is gaining a great deal of traction in our country, especially among the highly educated. Traditional-minded Americans need to make sure that our founding principles are not completely discarded.

Happy Independence Day!

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Reminder:

The Arizona Grand York Rite Sessions will be held August 13th through 15th at Chaparral Suites Resort in Scottsdale. Deadline is July 27, 2009 for registration and hotel reservations. Contact SK Dan Hake at (480) 951-3705 for information.