



Steve Forbes
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Fellow American:

Have you ever seen liberals and the Left so hostile? And do you think they're a threat to America, or are they just making outrageous talk?

I think they're dangerous. In all my years I have never seen such venom in American politics. Even mainstream liberals are saying things and promoting policies that could rip our country apart and weaken our national security.

Senator Ted Kennedy said about the Iraq war: "This was made up in Texas, announced in January to the Republican leadership that war was going to take place and was going to be good politically. This whole thing was a fraud."

A Yale professor called President Bush "the most dangerous man on earth." Bill Moyers of Public Broadcasting said in a speech that the Republicans are planning the "deliberate, intentional destruction of the United States of America."

And these are mainstream liberals, mired in conspiracy theories and passionate hatred of President Bush. Other parts of the Left are completely unhinged. A radical group, MoveOn.org, put a test campaign ad on its Web site comparing Bush to Hitler. There are thousands of such comparisons on the Internet and in leftist magazines. At "peace" demonstrations posters of the President with a Hitler mustache and a swastika are routine. Michael Moore gets a prestigious prize for his movie that insinuates that President Bush is controlled by the Saudis and went to war in Afghanistan in order to build an oil pipeline.

You may be tempted to laugh at these outbursts of venom. Or you may get upset and then forget it, as these people surely do not represent the majority of Americans.

I'm writing to tell you that we need to take these people seriously. This is why I'm working with my colleagues at The Heritage Foundation, America's leading conservative organization, and together we are asking your help in fighting them.

This conflict with the Left has been going on for more than 30 years. The radicals succeeded in taking over so many American institutions that they thought they'd all but won the culture war.

They took over the schools and colleges, and taught young people that America was too flawed to be worthy of our loyalty.

They took over the media and put a liberal slant on every social and political issue.

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They took over the labor unions, ending decades of anti-communist leadership.

They even took over many professional associations, so that groups like the American Bar Association and the American Library Association are now simply tools of the Left.

Since September 11, 2001, the divisions in our society have deepened with every passing day. At a time when the majority of Americans want to rally round the flag, defend our land and defeat our enemies, liberals seem to be promoting their delusions about America and President Bush that could weaken us and strengthen our enemies.

Typical is Michael Moore, who called Bush, Cheney, and Ashcroft "the real axis of evil." And cartoonist Aaron McGruder, who called Condoleezza Rice a murderer on national TV.

And actor Sean Penn, when asked whether the Iraqi people were better off without Saddam, replied: "Who the **** are we to say whether they're better off? We have a dictatorship in this country. Our government is presently the greatest threat to our people."

The Left haven't succeeded in completely re-making America in their image. But they've inflicted a great deal of damage to the way people think. Dangerously, they've convinced many Americans that right and wrong are relative . . . that there is no such thing as truth . . . that we have no grounds to judge our culture as better than any other.

This kind of thinking could end up destroying our civilization. These people are so intent on blaming America that they even ignore the evidence of the evil of Saddam Hussein, who rivaled any tyrant in history in his cruelty. They cannot stand up for the values of Western civilization against those of radical Islam, which openly aims at conquering us and imposing their laws on every man, woman, and child.

The problem goes way beyond politics. Over the last few decades, no matter who was president, no matter who held the majority in Congress, the schools kept on teaching that right and wrong were relative, that you couldn't make any moral judgments about anything, that America's sins were more important to focus on than our achievements and our heroes.

And the results are showing throughout American life. Cheating is rampant in schools and colleges, and corporate scandals and political corruption show that it's widespread at the highest levels of society. Many young people are unable to defend our economic and political systems and are easy prey to demagogues.

A growing fringe of people deny that human beings are superior to animals or any part of nature. Last summer, a group called the Earth Liberation Front destroyed \$50 million worth of homes under construction in California. They had previously burned homes being built on Long Island, and have destroyed SUVs at dealerships all over the country. This is all in protest of mankind's dominion over the earth – what we call civilization.

To give you an idea of how morally at sea our young people are, here are some results from a nation-wide survey of college students commissioned by William Bennett

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- last year:

- Only 25% of students believe that the values of the U.S. are superior to the values of other nations.
- And 79% of students do not believe that Western culture is superior to Arab culture.

But in the last few years, especially since 9/11, we have seen signs of a revival of traditional values – appreciation of heroism, love of country, and even a renewed valuing of masculine virtues.

The Left are beside themselves with rage at these developments. And in response they are mounting strong attacks on the institutions they hold most responsible, especially (1) President Bush; (2) conservative media, especially talk radio; and (3) The Heritage Foundation.

The attack on President Bush: It's not enough for the Left to just fight a hard, honest political campaign against the President. Instead of debating his policies, they have launched a media campaign to convince the American people that he's a liar. This is on top of their ongoing effort to paint him as stupid and ignorant, and the tool of special interests and the rich. They just keep up the drumbeat, the media pick it up, and after a while it wears away support, like water eroding a rock.

Now billionaire George Soros and other wealthy leftists are financing a coalition of labor, environmental, and feminist groups to create an independent organization – called Americans Coming Together – that plans to spend \$75 million just on getting out the vote to defeat President Bush. “America, under Bush, is a danger to the world,” Soros has said. “When I hear Bush say, ‘You’re either with us or against us,’ it reminds me of the Germans . . . My experiences under Nazi and Soviet rule have sensitized me.” Soros has also given \$5 million to MoveOn.org, the radical group that compared Bush to Hitler.

Another huge network of leftist groups has formed an organization called America Votes to work together for President Bush's defeat. Altogether, the Left is mobilizing in force against the President. And with Hollywood moguls, big media, and a shamefully high number of corporate millionaires on their side, their resources are enormous.

Conservative talk radio: If there's one person the Left might hate as much as President Bush, it's Rush Limbaugh. NOW – the National Organization of Women – conducted a “Flush Rush” campaign to threaten companies that advertise on Rush Limbaugh's show. There are a host of Web sites on the Internet devoted to vilifying Rush Limbaugh, some with names I would blush to repeat in a letter to you. One of the milder ones has a picture of Rush with a Nazi armband.

Many on the Left couldn't contain their glee at Rush's admission that he was addicted to painkillers. These same people are full of compassion for Hollywood and sports celebrities in the same situation – and even for those who deliberately take drugs to get high.

In one of the most hate-filled rants I've ever read, leftist Hendrik Herzberg commented for the *New Yorker* magazine that “right-wing radio is niche entertainment for

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the spiritually unattractive. It succeeds because a substantial segment of the right-wing rank and file enjoys listening, hour after hour, as smug, angry, disdainful middle-aged men spew raw contempt at reified enemies, named and unnamed.”

The Heritage Foundation: In the last year there’s been growing attention to Heritage from the Left as our visibility in the media has soared. A left-wing Web site calls our experts “your basic right-wing academic parasites . . . ‘experts’ on everything that promotes American military imperialism.” The radical *Village Voice* calls us “The Heritage Foundation, the conservatives’ main don’t-think tank in D.C.” “Extremist right-wing” seems to be the consensus name the Left has given us.

And the Left is taking on Heritage with “the liberals’ answer to The Heritage Foundation” – a new think tank called the Center for American Progress. Hillary Clinton was “intimately involved” in creating the group. It’s run by John Podesta, formerly a top aide in the Clinton administration. And it’s starting out with \$10 million from wealthy leftists. (Compare that to the \$250,000 grant that launched Heritage 30 years ago.) Its aim is to influence policy from the Left as Heritage does from the Right – though so far I haven’t seen any new ideas from it, only more Bush-bashing and attacks on conservatives.

But Heritage’s president, Ed Feulner, has told me The Heritage Foundation is not going to let the Left destroy the tremendous accomplishments conservatives have made. We’re not going to let them warp the understanding of the American people that we are in a war for our civilization. And we’re going to go on the offensive and attack their moral relativism and stop the rot at its base.

Heritage is not a campaign organization, so we are not involved in President Bush’s re-election campaign. Rather, we are defending American policies in the war on terror, pointing out how wrong the Left are when they side with Europe and the United Nations against their own country, when they insult ordinary Americans, when they push for weakness in the face of our enemies. We have the resources to go all over the media and stand up for America, for the war against terrorism, for homeland security. We can proclaim and explain our support for judges who believe in the Constitution, and for giving schoolchildren a true picture of America’s greatness.

And that’s just what we do. Heritage experts are on TV or radio dozens of times each month, and in newspapers hundreds of times, explaining and standing up for the policies and point of view you and I believe in, and telling the truth to the American people.

Furthermore, we defend and support conservative media against the attacks of the Left. We count Rush Limbaugh as one of our best friends. Rush recently said, “I love the people at the Heritage Foundation, and I know that you know that. I’ve mentioned them here frequently. They know it as well.”

Against the efforts of the Left to weaken conservative media, we’re helping to build it up. We hold annual symposiums on talk radio, where talk show hosts come to exchange ideas and strengthen their presentations. We have two radio studios right in our building, where hosts from out of town can broadcast from the nation’s Capital, using Heritage experts.

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We make all our research available to talk show hosts, and many of them use it regularly. You may have heard Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and others quoting from Heritage studies.

And at least as important as our defenses of conservative institutions, people, and policies, we're attacking the problem at the root – by working to change the climate of moral relativism, and to give young people a true sense of the greatness of America and of our founding principles.

We're standing up for Western civilization and proclaiming it superior to a culture that allows no dissent, that represses its women, and that worships death. We're doing this in our media appearances, in our op-ed columns, and in the facts, figures, and analyses we give our allies in Congress and in the Bush administration as intellectual ammunition.

And we do this by taking on the deep questions about our culture, and the connection between morality and politics, in forums such as Margaret Thatcher's lecture, "The West Must Prevail" . . . Senator Lamar Alexander's presentation of the case for restoring the teaching of real American history in our schools . . . and our symposiums on "Building a Culture of Character" and "Can Patriotism Be Taught?" Our events are often carried on C-SPAN and broadcast again and again. They are transcribed and often circulate for years, influencing countless people.

I have sent you this letter as a member of the Board of Trustees of The Heritage Foundation, in the hope and the belief that as a patriotic American you will join us in our fight.

It's absolutely necessary to fight back against the danger posed by the radical Left – to support the war on terror and not allow it to be watered down by those who would rather make President Bush look bad than to protect America.

And it's necessary to fight the moral relativism that has led to this split in America – between those who see clearly that we have enemies who want to destroy us, and those who think that we are worse than any of our enemies.

Most of all I hope that you want to help do something to restore our country to a place where our fellow citizens are not ashamed to call right and wrong by their names, where we honor America's great history and her unique contribution to the world, and where we understand that sometimes we have to fight our enemies for our survival.

The Heritage Foundation relies on the support of Americans like you.

I believe that you are better informed and more widely read than the average citizen, and that you understand the difficulties we face. This is why I am so eager for you to join The Heritage Foundation. You may already belong to other conservative organizations. In that case, I hope you'll add us to your affiliations.

Or you may never have been moved to join one. If so, I ask you to consider making a start right now.

Any amount you wish to contribute will make you a member – whether \$25, \$100,

or more, or less.

In return, I can offer you two things:

One is the knowledge that you are now taking a stand in the most important battle in America today – the fight for our culture against those who hate it and want to destroy it.

The other is your connection with The Heritage Foundation – one that I hope will be rewarding for you. It's a two-way relationship: We give you information on the important issues, and we listen to your opinions. On your Membership Enrollment Form you can read the various membership levels and the opportunities each one makes available to you.

The leftist groups I've described are supported mainly by limousine liberals, Hollywood moguls, dot-com billionaires, and the like.

In sharp contrast, Heritage is supported by 200,000 Americans, some on fixed incomes, mostly middle-class citizens who have to think carefully about where they spend their money.

I know you are not a billionaire like George Soros or a wealthy Hollywood ideologue like Barbra Streisand. Heritage and I are grateful for every dollar you give, because we know it comes from your heart, and you are sacrificing to support the principles and ideas you believe in.

I urge you to make a gift to Heritage in the next three weeks. You will be getting a double bang for your buck. First, you will be helping Heritage to carry out the work I've just described to you.

And second, you will be helping to show up these new leftist organizations for the elitist, out-of-touch enterprises they are. I guarantee you they will not have 200,000 supporters. I'd be surprised if they have 1,000.

If you are undecided about joining, please consider these words from Eric Foner, a professor at Columbia University: "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."

He, and thousands of professors and teachers like him, are teaching the young people of America what to think about their country.

I very much hope you will accept my invitation to join The Heritage Foundation with a financial contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100, or more – and help take on these radical leftists. I am eagerly awaiting your reply.

Sincerely yours,



Steve Forbes

SF/jkw

P.S. I would be grateful if you would take the time to fill out the enclosed survey, whether or not you are joining Heritage. We are deeply interested in getting your views, as someone we believe is thoughtful and well-informed, on a number of critical issues. Your responses will be kept confidential by Heritage.