



Morality Wars: How Empires, the Born Again, and the Politically Correct Do Evil in the Name of Good

By Charles Derber, Yale R. Magrass

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Is patriotism a good thing in an empire? Did General Petraeus betray us or did Moveon? Does morality often serve immoral purposes? *Morality Wars* shows us how to understand the subtext of these questions and of all the debates about moral values and liberal versus conservative ideology. Derber and Magrass show that the moral problem today is not just lying but "immoral morality," doing evil in the name of good (e.g., Bush preemptively invading Iraq to spread liberty). The authors explore three ancient codes of immoral morality frighteningly resurrected in America today -those of empire, the politically correct, and the born again. Although the right today has recrafted historic arguments that empires bring peace, and fundamentalists battle moral decay, the authors show the Democratic Party and the left have their own IM, with Democrats supporting empire and the left its own political correctness. America's political divide today is a backlash to the progressive revolution of the 1960s and 1970s-secular, antiwar, and feminist-that created a radical break from traditional values and set the stage for current morality wars. In the spirit of de Tocqueville, this powerful book offers a rich and vivid portrait of America's political landscape, exploring ideas that can help move the nation to a new morality and politics.

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Editorial Review

Review

Charles Derber is one of our most astute and eloquent social critics ... His political analysis is persuasive and is enlivened by graceful prose. --Howard Zinn

This incisive critical analysis of Western imperial history, and the immoral morality contrived to justify its exploits, captures essential features of the great hegemonic powers from Rome to modern America, with many surprising revelations and insights, conveying lessons that we overlook at our peril. Once I began reading, I found this book hard to put down. --Noam Chomsky

In clear and passionate prose Derber argues that immoral morality - the way leaders use moral values and their faith in God to justify empire, war, and exploitation - has reached a new peak in the United States. The old adage that it is one thing to do evil, another to do evil in the name of good has never been more valid than in the midst of the still deepening catastrophe caused by Bush and Blair to Iraq. Whether Democrats or Republicans control the White House, Derber's book offers an indispensable guide to un-picking the pious claims that mask policies of profit for the few and global domination over the many. --Jonathan Steele, Senior Foreign Correspondent, The Guardian, and author of DEFEAT: Why America and Britain lost Iraq.

About the Author

Charles Derber, Professor of Sociology at Boston College, has written twenty books, including bestsellers with multiple translations and editions. He has also written opinion pieces for the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Newsday*, and other newspapers and magazines. His most recent book is *Capitalism: Should You Buy It? An Invitation to Political Economy* (Paradigm 2014).

Yale R. Magrass is a Chancellor Professor of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth, where he teaches social theory, political sociology, and the social impact of science and technology. He is the author of three other books and more than thirty articles, including encyclopedia entries, served on the board of six journals, has been a recipient of several grants, and participated in numerous international forums.

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