

The 10 BIG LIES About America  
Combating Destructive Distortions About Our Nation  
by Michael Medved  
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(Page 8) Other nations manage to cope with far more shameful histories of mass murder, backwardness, and barbarity without feeling the need for apologies, handwringing, or wrenching self-criticism.

(Page 10) A nation with no pride in its past won't feel confidence in its future. The big lies about America have transformed our heritage from a blessing into a burden, promoting impotence and paralysis.

Big Lie # 1: America Was Founded on Genocide Against Native Americans

(Page 14) This argument goes well beyond semantics: neither the colonial government nor, later, the U. S. government ever endorsed or practiced a policy of Indian extermination. ....The historical record leaves no doubt that the overwhelming majority of Indian deaths resulted from a faceless if implacable killer: infectious diseases.

(Page 15) ..., historians have reached unanimity on the prime cause of its (native population) rapid decline: infectious disease brought about between 75 and 95 percent of Indian deaths after European settlement began.

(Page 34) The various tribes never lived together in harmony and mutual respect no more than the Neolithic cultures of Europe, Asia, or Africa coexisting without desperate and punishing conflict.

(Page 45) The ultimate conquest of Native American culture relied more on mass media (casinos) than massacres, more on seduction than slaughter. .... Lies about history can poison both present and future, but only the truth can do justice to the past.

Big Lie # 2: The United States Is Uniquely Guilty for the Crime of Slavery, and Based Its Wealth on Stolen African Labor

(Page 49) The proper response to these distortions rests on four important propositions:

1. Slavery is a timeless, universal institution, not an American innovation.
2. The slave economy played only a minor role in building American power and prosperity, and for the most part retarded economic progress more than advanced it.
3. America deserves unique credit for rapidly ending slavery, not distinctive blame for its establishment.
4. There's scant reason to believe that today's African Americans would be better off had their ancestors remained behind in Africa.

(Page 53) At the height of the Roman Empire, slaves represented between 25 and 40 percent

of the total population.....In terms of staggering raw numbers, czarist Russia might count as the greatest slaveholding society of all time.

(Page 55) Saudi Arabia outlawed slave owning only in 1962. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania finally moved toward abolition in 1981.

(Page 57) ..., the overwhelming majority of the transatlantic slave trade---at least 94 percent---went to Central and South America or the West Indies.

(Page 59) The first national census under the Constitution in 1790 marked a high point for the slave population as a percentage of the U. S. total---18%, compared to less than 13 percent who identify as African American in the census today.

**Big Lie # 3: The Founders Intended a Secular, Not Christian, Nation**

(Page 76) The Pilgrims escaped from England in 1608 and then found complete freedom in Holland, twelve years before they set sail for their destiny in Massachusetts.

(Page 77) Founder John Winthrop said, The end is to improve our lives, to do more service to the Lord, the comfort and increase of the body of Christ, whereof we are members, that ourselves and posterity may be better preserved from the common corruptions of this evil world, to serve the Lord and work out our salvation under the power and purity of his holy ordinances.

(Page 78) Among the original colonies, only Roger Williams's quirky Rhode Island made a consistent priority of religious tolerance and openness to dissenters.

(Page 80) The American Revolutionaries saw their battlefield and political opponents not only as enemies of liberty but as enemies of God Himself.

(Page 81) To the distinguished character of a patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of a Christian.

(Page 86) The real object of the First Amendment....was to exclude all rivalry among Christian sects, and to prevent any national ecclesiastical establishment which should give to a hierarchy the exclusive patronage of the national government.

**Big Lie #4: America Has Always Been a Multicultural Society, Strengthened by Diversity**

(Page 96) Like most other experiments in multiculturalism, the Belgium experience of distinct, stubbornly unassimilated nationalities trying to share the same state exposes the folly behind the current mania for promoting diversity as a blessing and a boon.

(Page 96) This notion denies the authentic American record, which demonstrates the value of assimilation, not separateness, and it implicitly rejects our national motto----out of many, one.

(Page 103) Teddy Roosevelt said, There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism....There is no such thing as a hyphenated American who is a good American. The only man who is a good American is the man who is an American and nothing else.

(Page 108) A freewheeling economy that s always rewarded entrepreneurial energy allows natives and newcomers to unite in their shared desire to make money and create wealth, the very essence of our common culture.

(Page 113) ..., African Americans who travel in the mother continent (says Keith Richburg) come home feeling far more American than African.

(Page 117) Americans instinctively transcend all the artificially constructed cultural divides, managing to work together, live side by side, and, in increasingly significant numbers, marry one another.

#### Big Lie # 5: The Power of Big Business Hurts the Country and Oppresses the People

(Page 127) In fact, many of the allegedly evil robber barons succeeded because they brought valuable services and goods----and low prices----to American consumers, not because they oppressed the masses.

(Page 128) .... no single generation in human history raised living standards more rapidly, absorbed and assimilated comparable waves of immigration, settled more vast and remote frontiers, built as many new states and glittering cities, or brought a nation so quickly to the top rank of world power, as did the era following the Civil War.

(Page 130) Capitalism improves the quality of life for the working class not just because it leads to improved wages but also because it produces new, better, and cheaper goods, ...

(Page 133) At the end of the day, corporations exist not in order to provide welfare for workers or cheap products for consumers but rather to earn profit for investors and operators.

#### Big Lie # 6: Government Programs Offer the Only Remedy for Economic Downturns and Poverty

(Page 142) Politicos and bureaucrats, on the other hand, create no wealth through their governmental efforts but rather tax the resources earned by others, then divert those funds to benefit their chosen children .

(Page 145) The Depression proved to be a worldwide economic crisis, but in nearly all European nations it ended more quickly than it did in Roosevelt s America.

(Page 147) The record consistently shows that leaders who cut government to revive the economy succeeded far more quickly and painlessly than did the New Deal.

(Page 154) By removing the embarrassment previously associated with taking public money, antipoverty programs encouraged a culture of dependency and discouraged self-reliance.

#### Big Lie # 7: America Is an Imperialist Nation and a Constant Threat to World Peace

(Page 166) .....,the involvement in far-flung, often unpopular conflicts doesn't represent innovation or the result of some conspiratorial takeover of U. S. foreign policy. Military involvement in remote corners of the globe characterized every stage of our emergence as a world power.

(Page 179) It is no accident that the two nations of East Asia with the most vibrant economies and most robust democratic institutions-----Japan and South Korea----are precisely those two nations with the most intimate association with the United States.....

(Page 181) The myth that American intervention caused the slaughter in Southeast Asia runs counter to the brute fact that the death rate intensified once U.S. troops went home.

#### Big Lie # 8: The Two Party System is Broken, and We Urgently Need a Viable Third Party

(Page 189) No minor-party candidate has ever won the presidency or, for that matter, even come close.

(Page 197) ....., incontrovertible fact that it's vastly easier to win races within one of the major parties than it is to set up the structure to compete against them.

(Page 201) Barry Goldwater said, Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice; moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue.

(Page 204) ....., what sort of maniac honestly believes that he'll exert greater impact on a political organization after he's abandoned his membership?

(Page 205) ....., independent candidates move the political process away from their professed goals, not toward them.

#### Big Lie #9: A War on the Middle Class means Less Comfort & Opportunity for the Average American

(Page 218) ...(more than 80 percent of Americans over the age of forty now own their own home)

(Page 223) A wealth of data on every aspect of our lives shows that we enjoy more choices, more comfort, more recreational pursuits, more food, more buying power, bigger homes, better cars, and longer lives.

(Page 227) Two out of three workers had a real income gain since 1996-----contradicting the

common charge that the working class has steadily lost ground.

(Page 229) Simply put, conspiracists who rail against the war on the middle class are flatly wrong when they suggest that part of that assault involves a bigger share of the tax burden.

(Page 230) .... a wealth of psychological data suggests that pessimism produces poor commercial outcomes, whereas optimism helps to ensure success.

(Page 231) In fact, it s self-reliance----not self-pity----that s always been the most important middle-class value.

**Big Lie # 10: America is in the Midst of an Irreversible Moral Decline**

(Page 244) The criminal ethos regularly associated with social chaos and moral disorder has retreated across the country, and other indicators show a nation struggling to improve its spiritual and cultural health.

(Page 247) ....., the claim that the nation faces irreversible moral decline can t survive the incontrovertible evidence that some of the decay of previous decades has already been reversed.

(Page 261) Dinesh D Souza said, In most countries in the your fate and your identity are handed to you; in America, you determine them for yourself. America is a country where you get to write the script of your own life.