

Coulter's Christian Crusade

"invade ... kill ... convert ..." – Ann Coulter

Ann Coulter – self-described “bomb-thrower” and right-wing Abbie Hoffman – launched her Christian crusade on September 12, 2001.

Coulter's “This is War” column implied forced conversion to Christianity under U.S. military occupation: “We should invade their countries, kill their leaders and convert them to Christianity.” Coulter has never explicitly refuted that implication.

Fired from *National Review*, Coulter was then hired by David Horowitz, who defended her remarks as tongue-in-cheek hyperbole. She silently accepted his defense but publicly reaffirmed the reality of her crystal-clear comments. Christian conversion, per Coulter, is the only avenue to peace.

Who to convert? And how? Even Coulter has different versions, ranging from lies to reversals.

Christian Conversion

[This section examines Coulter's dissembling on *Hannity & Colmes* (10/11/01) with my analysis *italicized* and supplemental quotes indented.]

HANNITY: “You got into a battle, a bit of a controversy over a column you wrote. ... I'm going to read it. ‘We should invade their countries.’ You meant the terrorists?”

COULTER: “Right.”

HANNITY: “‘Kill the leaders?’ Osama?”

COULTER: “Right. So far we're with the government policy as of today.”

HANNITY: “All right, but this next line's what has been deemed the most controversial – ‘convert them to Christianity.’”

COULTER: “Right.”

HANNITY: “Just, I don't want to be redundant, but ‘we should invade their countries,’ you're talking about the terrorists; ‘kill their leaders,’ we're talking about the terrorists; ‘convert them to Christianity.’ In other words, not this militant form of extremism as it relates to Islam. And you're talking still about the terrorists.”

COULTER: “About the fanatics who want to kill us. It seems rather commonsensical to me.”

Convert or Die

Commonsensical? Convert crazed fanatical terrorists to Christianity? But wait! Regarding those self-same fanatics, Coulter said:

“I think death will bring them down, and I think that is what will happen. That's the whole point here, to kill them. And we will kill them.”¹

Which is it – kill or convert? Apparently it's kill those you can, convert those who escape death. However, Coulter expands her crusade beyond terrorists to all those who merely “celebrated” the attacks:

Coulter says her line about “convert them to Christianity” has been misconstrued and was aimed at those celebrating the attacks. “I wasn’t talking about Muslims generally,” she says. “I was talking about the crazed homicidal maniacs dancing in the streets.”²

*Who is it – the killers or the dancers?
Which is it – kill or convert?*

Stamp Collecting

In order to deflect criticism, Coulter employs misdirection, using an innocuous pastime which has never waged war or inspired fiery fanaticism.

HANNITY: “What did you mean by that?”

COULTER: “If I proposed converting crazed fanatical Islamics who want to murder infidels and kill 7,000 people in a pop to stamp collecting, this would not have caused the sort of uproar that it apparently has. I just think it’s kind of silly and it is part of the hysteria the country is going through and rejection of common sense, for people to be interpreting that as if it’s the Spanish Inquisition.”

Intolerance is often related to religion, not stamps. Where is Coulter on the continuum from stamp collectors to inquisitors? In her discussions, she seems to forget that the First Amendment applies to religion, not stamp collecting. Religion deals with matters of the heart and conscience. Besides, how, exactly, do we convert “crazed fanatical Islamics” without an Inquisition?

Last Millennium

Coulter continually proffers a military-occupation, Christian-missionary approach to conversion (without disavowing the implication of force).

COULTER: “I was actually talking about something within the past 1,000 years, which is what this country did after the Korean War and after World War II, in both instances. We brought in, and specifically at General Douglas McArthur’s request, thousands of Christian missionaries, thousand of Bibles. And Korea, it was a fabulous success, as you can see.”

Once again, how do Christian missionaries convert “crazed homicidal maniacs” (as a wartime measure) and aren’t those the very people she wants to “kill, kill, kill?”

[Now we leave Hannity & Colmes and return to our regular format.]

Falwell’s Folly

Determination to defend her own wild statements led to Coulter’s ceaseless defense of Falwell’s repudiated remarks: “Jerry Falwell [was] giving straight Christian doctrine on the Christian broadcasting network.”³

But Falwell explicitly ascribed blame for 9/11 to specific groups – “the pagans, and abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians ... and the ACLU, People for the American Way.” His retracted statement declared *they* (not *we*) have sinned.

Coulter paraphrased Falwell's words in November: "gay rights and abortion-on-demand."⁴ Yet, weeks later, Coulter denied Falwell's damning words while praising his position. (Falwell has repented. Coulter has not.) Then Coulter criticized Bill Clinton for something he never said.

"Pretty much straight Christian doctrine on the Christian Broadcasting Network. What he said was 'God didn't protect us on Sept. 11.' ... Two weeks ago, Bill Clinton blamed the attacks on Indian dispossession and slavery, and you don't see everybody jumping down his throat for it."⁵

Contrary to Coulter's claim, 1) Falwell *did* target specific groups for blame; 2) it is *not* "straight Christian doctrine" to ascribe blame for a collective tragedy to the specific sins of particular people; and 3) Clinton did *not* blame America for the attack.

The Christian Crusader Herself

Prior to 9/11, Coulter declared hatred our *patriotic duty*: "If you don't hate Clinton and the people who labored to keep him in office, you don't love your country."⁶ On election eve, Coulter reaffirmed her unchristian sentiments: "Oh, how I hate them!"⁷

Pro-lifer Coulter says Gary Bauer and other Christians are "fascists" for seeking a constitutional remedy to abortion,⁸ but defends the murder of abortionists.⁹ Coulter even exclaimed, "I *enthusiastically* embrace the death penalty,"¹⁰ this in the context of 14-year-old murderers.

Ironically, when asked, "Would you claim that you are a religious person?" Coulter's lackluster response – "Yeah, I suppose I am a Christian"¹¹ – seemed doubting, uncertain. Perhaps that explains her intent to reject any divine revelation from God:

"If God himself came down from heaven and told me these cops intentionally murdered Amadou Diallo knowing he was unarmed, I would not believe it."¹²

Perhaps Coulter needs Christian conversion.

© 2002 *BrotherWatch*

P.O. Box 506

Odenton, MD 21113

BrotherWatch@yahoo.com

Endnotes:

¹ Ann Coulter, *Crossfire*, CNN, November 23, 2001

² Howard Kurtz, *Washington Post*, October 2, 2001.

³ Ann Coulter, *Politically Incorrect*, ABC, September 25, 2001.

⁴ Ann Coulter, Oregon State University, November 19, 2001.

⁵ Ann Coulter, *Columbia Spectator*, December 5, 2001.

⁶ Ann Coulter, *George*, July 1999.

⁷ Ann Coulter, *National Review*, November 7, 2000.

⁸ Ann Coulter, Universal Press Syndicate, October 16, 2000.

⁹ Ann Coulter, Universal Press Syndicate, April 18, 2001; Ann Coulter, Oregon State University, November 19, 2001.

¹⁰ Ann Coulter, MSNBC, April 10, 1997.

¹¹ Ann Coulter, *Columbia Spectator*, December 5, 2001.

¹² Ann Coulter, Universal Press Syndicate, February 16, 2000.