

Have We Become Them?

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Coulter's bio boasts – on *Conservative Chronicle* and other conservative websites – that she is a self-described “bomb-thrower” and “Abbie Hoffman of the Right.” Just when did Conservatism embrace, and even choose to emulate, Abbie Hoffman?

In standing up for conservative principles, have conservatives become our own worst enemy? During the Clinton era we rightly railed against the “politics of personal destruction.” Now we revel in it.

Consider the case of Ann Coulter.

Coulter's first post-9/11 column eulogized Barbara Olson, condemned the Clintons and declared a jihad against Islam. When *National Review* declined to publish her subsequent columns, Coulter spuriously charged “censorship” and “cowardice.”

Front Page Magazine quickly rallied to her defense, calling her “one of the most articulate, forceful – and cheeky – members of the Vast Rightwing Conspiracy” and urged a continuation of her “irreverent and cheeky zest.” *Human Events* likewise lauds her “irreverent attitude.”

World Net Daily lauded Coulter for her hatred. One WND columnist loves to see Coulter “verbally dissect some poor liberal sap” with “slashing acidic wit” and “exquisite insults” which range from subtle “glass stiletto” to “sledgehammer cruelty.” Most importantly, Coulter “despises” liberals.

In accepting her award for “Conservative Journalist of the Year” at CPAC 2001, Coulter exclaimed that all of her *Human Events*' columns are “polemics.” The previous year, in *George* magazine, Coulter proclaimed it our patriotic duty to “hate Bill Clinton and the people who labored to keep him in office.”

When did hatred enter the heart of the Conservative Movement? How did “hate your enemy” become a conservative commandment?

Nonetheless, the Conservative Movement champions Ann Coulter as an “exemplar of the Conservative Movement” (Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute, last year) and an “American Hero” (College Republicans, UCSB, this month).

The front page of the CPAC 2002 website has seven pictures of conservative leaders: Dick Cheney, Jesse Helms, J.C. Watts, Ronald Reagan, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Charleton Heston. Ann Coulter – the only woman – is the centerpiece of their page.

Likewise, the Conservative Book Club website's front page features eight authors: Alan Keyes, Robert Bork, Robert Novack, G. Gordon Liddy, Thomas Sowell, Bill Buckley, and William Bennett, with Ann Coulter again taking center stage (even though her book debuted over three years ago).

But is Ann Coulter really the face of the Conservative Movement?

While I do not renounce conservatism, I do denounce the hatred that has invaded Conservative Movement.

Will we turn a blind eye to the hatred within our midst, or take to heart the admonition that “Evil thrives when good men do nothing.”

WHAT'S ON THE MINDS OF LEADING CONSERVATIVE



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