

Blackwater, Eric Prince and Dominionism

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Erik Prince is the founder and head of Blackwater, the private mercenary army. Some of the web sites I found on Blackwater and Erik Prince suggest Blackwater is associated with Christian Dominionism. But so far I have not been able to find a web site that focuses on Erik Prince's own theology. Many sites call him a "fundamentalist," but fundamentalism can mean several different theologies. The original meaning of "fundamentalism" referred to a mix of Princeton Theology and Dispensationalism from about 1890 to 1925. Blackwater may be, among other things, a Dominionist Mercenary army.

Note: The link at the top of any quote is the link for that quote.

<http://www.bestcyrano.org/voxpath/?p=41>

"Today on Daily Kos I read a review of Jeremy Scahill's book on Blackwater, the private corporate army run by a fellow named Erik Prince. Prince is interesting - an Ex-Seal who grew up in the MidWest, the son of a successful industrialist whose business was the manufacture of lighted, mirrored sun visor flaps for automobiles. Another detail that struck me was that Erik Prince was raised a devout Calvinist."

(My Comment: Eric Prince is from Holland, Michigan, near Grand Rapids, in the western part of the state that has been heavily Dutch Calvinist)

<http://liberalvaluesblog.com/?cat=31>

(The brother in law of Erik Prince, head of Blackwater, is Dick DeVos)

."Dick DeVos is the richest and most right wing major party candidate for Governor in Michigan history. He is the product of the Amway company and its decades of interlinks with the most influential religious extremists. He conducts himself like an Amway recruiter, deception and all."

http://www.amazon.com/gp/cdp/member-reviews/A1TUDEC66M9FO3?ie=UTF8&display=public&sort_by=MostRecentReview&page=2

"One of the many disturbing aspects of Blackwater is how the owner, Eric Prince, has been bankrolling organizations like Gary Bauer's "Family Research Council" and James Dobson's "Focus on the Family." This mix of militarism and Christian dominionist ideology (couched in pleasant-sounding verbiage about "the family" - maybe they're talking about "the family" in the mafia sense of the term) is exactly what Chris Hedges writes of in his book "American Fascists."

"Rousas John (R. J.)

Rushdoony (1917-2001)

is the man who is credited with writing and inspiring the religious doctrines that provided a new theological basis for regressive economics and politics that would counter traditional Christian progressive thought. In short, Rushdoony is the man who founded <http://yuricareport.com/Dominionism/HistoryOfReconstructionMovement.html> *Christian Reconstructionism*, of which *Dominionism* is a basic concept.

The truth is Dominionism "cuts across denominational lines" and is "an outgrowth of Calvinism*."

[9] We

will examine exactly how Dominionism became stealthily popular shortly, but first let's look at the founder.

R. J. Rushdoony used the word *dominion* often in his writings. (Citing Genesis 1:26, 27, and 28 as his authority.) Below are samples of his use of the term from his book, *The Institutes of Biblical Law*, published in 1973. [10]<>Rushdoony's language is important for it shows how his ideas were picked up by others, which we will examine.

*Dominionism is a Cultural Mandate: *The cultural mandate is thus the obligation of covenant man to subdue the earth and to exercise dominion over it under God (Gen. 1:26-28) ...All enemies of Christ in this fallen world must be conquered." [12]<>

In sum, Gary North, Rushdoony's son-in-law, defined Christian Reconstruction as:

"A recently articulated philosophy which argues that it is the moral obligation of Christians to recapture every institution for Jesus Christ." [21]<>

Most Christians have always read the New Testament through the eyes of Jesus as he focused on the poor and needy<>and Jesus' statement that the whole of the law is fulfilled in two principles<>from the law. [24] <>Not Rushdoony.

It is Rushdoony's insertion of "free enterprise capitalism" onto the fabric of the scriptures that enabled him to convert *Christianity* into a tool that serves the purposes of regressive conservatism. It is at once alarming and revealing of the ingenuity and source of power behind the spreading acceptance of dominionism.

In fact, the combining of conservative economics with edicts that appear to be out of the mouth of God, may be seen as one of the most brilliant and powerful political concepts ever written. Rushdoony has empowered the greedy as no man has ever done: he's made greed a virtue! In fact, conservative economic teachings wrapped in the authority of scripture may explain the reason Howard Ahmanson, Jr.<<http://yuricareport.com/Dominionism/AhmansonEssayOnNTEconomicLiberty.html>>has financially <>supported Chalcedon, Rushdoony's foundation<>. Here's how Rushdoony turns Christianity upside down:

"The *means* to lawful wealth is the *covenant* law, the law of God. Capitalization is thus a radical and total task. Man must seek to subdue the earth and gain wealth as a means of restitution and restoration, as means of establishing God's dominion in every realm. Wherever godly men establish their superior productivity and gain wealth, they thereby glorify God. Wealth in itself is good, and a blessing of the Lord." [25]<>(Emphasis is in the text.)"

(My Comment: John Calvin reversed centuries of Christian teachings against Usury and said it was OK, in general, to charge usury, but not to charge too much interest on loans. The reason God had made usury a sin is because

it increases the poverty of the common people, while making the rich richer. The Calvinists taught predestination as the starting point of their theology. But some followers of John Calvin taught predestination in such a way that they made salvation appear uncertain. And so their followers tended to look for indicators that God had chosen them for salvation. Worldly success, they thought, might be an indication that they had been predestined for salvation. In addition, Calvinists taught that Christians must have a calling, an occupation in which they should strive to be successful. Max Weber in his book, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (1904), argued that capitalism in Europe and England grew out of Calvinism because of these tendencies. Rushdoony was a Calvinist)

. "Rushdoony's Christian Reconstructionism did not create a large new denomination among American Protestants. Nevertheless, it spawned a formidable political movement when variations on Rushdoony's Dominionism caught on in the churches.

[52]<>Rushdoony,

himself, was named to the first **Council for National Policy,**

[53]<>which

at the least indicates he was well known among the politically oriented leaders of the religious right. Yet these leaders, from **Tim LaHaye to Pat Robertson were themselves well known and held formidable platforms from which to proclaim Rushdoony's ideas.**

To understand how Rushdoony's teachings crept into the Pentecostal or "charismatic" churches and into evangelical churches, let's take another look at the definition of who is a "dominionist."

Bloodguilty Churches. Why Bush's Agenda Is Immoral and an Abomination to God. By **Katherine Yurica**

"In the preface to my book, ***Bloodguilty Churches,**

***(Published in January, 2005) I wrote, "Dominionism in its broadest sense believes [or teaches] that 'Christians' have a right to dominate and rule over others." [55]<>**

"Frederick Clarkson, author of **Eternal Hostility: the Struggle between Theocracy and Democracy**, said recently that a dominionist is "one who supports taking over and dominating the political process."

[56]<>In

his own

essay <http://yuricareport.com/Dominionism/Clarkson_RiseOfDomionism.html>Clarkson states that there are three elements common to followers:

1. "Dominionists celebrate **Christian Nationalism**, in that they believe that the United States once was, and should once again be, a Christian nation. In this way, they deny the Enlightenment roots of American democracy. [Emphasis and capitalization added here and below.]
2. "Dominionists promote **Religious Supremacy**, insofar as they generally do not respect the equality of other religions, or even other versions of Christianity.
3. "Dominionists endorse **Theocratic Visions**, insofar as they believe that the Ten Commandments, or "biblical law," should be the foundation of American law, and that the U.S. Constitution should be seen as a vehicle for implementing Biblical principles."

In promoting "capitalism" the Dominionists do not make the important distinction between free enterprise on a small scale as in small family businesses, and huge multinational corporations which are part of monopoly capitalism, as are the International Bankers..

In part, for this reason Blackwater would tend to be a private army for the Beast which is a composite of big government and big corporations.