

STUDY GUIDE

WHO'S MORE PRO-CHOICE: EUROPE OR AMERICA?

KEY TERMS: progressives abortion viability
moral issue partial-birth abortion

NOTE-TAKING COLUMN: Complete this section <u>during</u> the video. Include definitions and key terms.	CUE COLUMN: Complete this section <u>after</u> the video.
<p>How do Western Europeans compare to American Progressives, in terms of their attitude towards abortion?</p> <p>Under what conditions can an abortion be performed in Washington, D.C.?</p> <p>What is partial-birth abortion?</p>	<p>What is the difference between abortion laws in Western Europe and abortion laws in the United States?</p> <p>What are the correlations between abortion law and political ideology?</p>

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

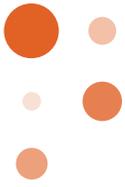
- The video begins with Ms. Krauss pointing to the fact that, “American Progressives look to Western Europe as the model of what America should be.” Considering what terrible shape Western Europe is currently in, why do you think that this is the case? Do you think that American progressives looking to other countries for values and policies to adopt is un-American? Why or why not?
- We then learn that, “Western Europeans – as progressive and secular as they are – have a much more conservative attitude about abortion than American Progressives do,” and later Ms. Krauss asks, “...why is it that abortion laws in the United States are so extreme relative to those in Europe?” How would you answer her question? Explain.
- Later in the video, Ms. Krauss shares with us that, “20 states prohibit abortions at the point of viability, which is when a baby can survive outside the womb.” Why do you think that ‘viability’ is the cutoff point? Should it be? Why or why not? Do you think that abortions should be legal at all? Why or why not?
- Ms. Krauss shares with us that, “In the Netherlands... A minor under the age of 18 cannot have an abortion at any time unless she has the consent of her parents.” Why do you think that people in the Netherlands feel strongly enough about this particular circumstance to legislate such a condition? What would your arguments be for legislating such a condition in the United States?
- Later, Ms. Krauss queries, “Why is it that progressive politicians in the United States work tirelessly to fight back any restrictions on abortion, even partial-birth abortion? That’s the procedure during which a fully viable baby is almost completely delivered, except for the head, before being killed. And why is it that what is unacceptable to socially enlightened Europeans is fully acceptable to American progressives?” How would you answer the questions that Ms. Krauss brings up here? Explain.
- Ms. Krauss ends the video by stating, “Europeans seem to recognize that abortion is a complex moral issue; that ending a life after a certain point in a pregnancy does not reflect well on a society. Why is it so hard for American Progressives to recognize the same?” How would you answer Ms. Krauss’ question? Do you think that progressives being okay with abortion, but not with other types of murder, is hypocritical? What about progressives who claim to be pacifists being okay with abortion- are they hypocritical? Explain. The value system of progressives clearly weighs the rights and worth of mothers significantly higher than that of unborn babies. Should this be the case? Why or why not?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Partial-birth abortions

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Partial-birth abortions banned in the U.S.,” then answer the questions that follow.

- Why are a great majority of partial-birth abortions performed? At what point in a pregnancy are the partial-birth abortion procedures used? Why didn't the bans on partial-birth abortions in 1996 and 1997 become law?
- How many unborn persons would you guess were murdered in this fashion between the ruling on the *Stenberg v. Carhart* case and the ruling on the *Gonzalez v. Carhart* case?
- What was the critical factor that finally allowed the ban to become permanent? Do you think that the history on the issue of abortion illustrates the importance and high-stakes of nominating and confirming U.S. Supreme Court justices? Why or why not? How might the presidential election in 2016 affect the future of the court and the future of the abortion issue? In what ways does this article support the main points that Ms. Krauss makes in the video?



QUIZ

WHO'S MORE PRO-CHOICE: EUROPE OR AMERICA?

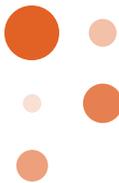
1. How many US states ban abortions before the 20th week of pregnancy?
 - a. 0
 - b. 11
 - c. 7
 - d. 20

2. How many US states allow abortions after the 30th week of pregnancy?
 - a. 0
 - b. 11
 - c. 7
 - d. 20

3. In Belgium, Germany, France, abortion on demand is legal only up to the _____ week of pregnancy.
 - a. 12th
 - b. 20th
 - c. 30th
 - d. 40th

4. Western Europeans have a much more conservative attitude about abortion than American Progressives do.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. In Norway in 2014, a major controversy erupted after it was revealed that, since 2001, _____ babies had been aborted after 22 weeks.
 - a. 17
 - b. 170
 - c. 17,000
 - d. 170,000



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<http://www.mccl.org/partial-birth-abortion.html>

Partial-birth abortions banned in the U.S.

Partial-birth abortions are finally banned in the United States

The partial-birth abortion procedure — used from the fifth month of pregnancy and later — involves pulling a living baby feet-first out of the womb, except for the head, then puncturing the skull and suctioning out the brain. The great majority of partial-birth abortions are performed on healthy babies for entirely non-medical reasons.

Throughout the 1990s, pro-lifers were busy educating the public on brutal partial-birth abortions. Many states, like Nebraska, were passing bans on partial-birth abortions during that era. Congress also had approved national bans on partial-birth abortion in 1996 and 1997. Unfortunately, President Bill Clinton vetoed both bans. This didn't stop pro-lifers in their efforts to put an end to such a gruesome abortion procedure.

The *Stenberg v. Carhart* case decided in 2000 by the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Nebraska's ban on partial-birth abortions unconstitutional on the basis that it didn't include a health exception.



The abortionist punctures the base of the baby's skull in the brutal partial-birth abortion procedure.

In 2003, Congress passed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. Signed by President George W. Bush, the ban was immediately challenged in federal court. Arriving at the U.S. Supreme Court for a second time, the partial-birth abortion ban was once again in the spotlight, garnering much attention due to the gruesome and inhumane procedure which it was attempting to ban. On April 18, 2007, the Court handed down its decision in the [Gonzales v. Carhart](#) case. Proving to be a huge win for the pro-life community/movement, the decision validated extending protection for

unborn babies and women by upholding the ban on brutal partial-birth abortions while allowing the exclusion of a health exception. For the first time, we were able to ban an abortion procedure because of its gruesomeness, inhumanity, and lack of medical necessity.

The only difference between the Court's decisions in *Stenberg v. Carhart* (2000) and *Gonzales v. Carhart* (2007) was the Court's membership. Since 2000, President George W. Bush, with confirmation from the Senate, was able to appoint two life-affirming justices: Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito. Going against precedent, the Court reversed its ruling in the *Stenberg* decision in 2000, reminding America that the Court at any time can reverse a decision from cases past. This exercised ability illustrates the importance of electing presidents who, when making nominations and appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court, are committed to choosing judicial nominees who will support life.

Although there were setbacks along the way, it was the pro-life community's tenacity and commitment to the decade-long charge to ban brutal partial-birth abortions that enabled such a victory to occur. Coupled with the all-important changes in the Court's membership, this involvement on the part of pro-lifers across the country and here in Minnesota allowed for assurance to be granted that no unborn child in the United States shall be subjected to such an inhumane and brutal procedure.