



STUDY GUIDE

WHY I LEFT THE LEFT

KEY TERMS:

character
trigger warning

progressive
regressive

politically correct
authoritarianism

NOTE-TAKING COLUMN: Complete this section during the video. Include definitions and key terms.

CUE COLUMN: Complete this section after the video.

What did progressives used to say, regarding free speech?

What are the main differences between progressive and 'regressive' ideology?

Why has Mr. Rubin spent so much time on his show talking about the 'Regressive Left?'

How has the meaning of the term 'progressive' changed?

How does Mr. Rubin characterize his political stance?

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

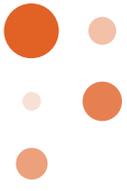
- Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Rubin points out that, “Progressives were the nice guys; they looked out for the little guy; they cared about women and minorities; they embraced change... But over the last couple years, the meaning of the word “progressive” has changed.” What do you think Mr. Rubin means by progressives being the ‘nice guys?’ Why do you think the meaning of the term ‘progressive,’ and the commensurate value system, has changed?
- Mr. Rubin goes on to explain that, “This regressive ideology doesn’t judge people as individuals, but as a collective. If you’re black, or female, or Muslim, or Hispanic or a member of any other minority group, you’re judged differently than the most evil of all things – a white, Christian male. The Regressive Left ranks minority groups in a pecking order to compete in a kind of Oppression Olympics. Gold medal goes to the most offended. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dream that his children would be judged by their character and not their skin color was a liberal idea, but these days, it’s not a progressive ideal.” Why do you think that current ‘progressives’ judge people as a collective? What do you think contributed to the left becoming generally so extreme?
- Later in the video, Mr. Rubin states, “I’m pro-choice. But a government that can force a group of Catholic nuns - literally called the Little Sisters of the Poor - to violate their faith and pay for abortion-inducing birth control can force anyone to do anything. That’s not progressive; that’s regressive!” Why do you think that Mr. Rubin characterizes the abortion mandate part of Obamacare as ‘regressive?’ Do you agree with Mr. Rubin’s conclusion that the government can ‘force anyone to do anything?’ Why or why not?
- Mr. Rubin goes on and shares with us that, “Today’s progressivism has become a faux-moral movement hurling charges of racism, bigotry, xenophobia, homophobia, Islamophobia and a slew of other meaningless buzzwords at anyone they disagree with... The battle of ideas has been replaced by a battle of feelings, and outrage has replaced honesty. Diversity reigns supreme, as long as it’s not that pesky diversity of thought. This isn’t the recipe for a free society, it’s a recipe for authoritarianism.” What do you think Mr. Rubin means by ‘faux-moral movement?’ Do you agree with Mr. Rubin’s opinion that so-called progressivism can lead to authoritarianism? Why or why not? Why do you think that authoritarianism would be bad for the United States?
- Towards the end of the video, Mr. Rubin warns, “So, if you think people should be able to say what they think without being punished for it; that people should be judged by their behavior, not their skin color; and that people should be able to live the way that they want to live, without government interference, then there’s not much left on the left for you.” What do you think Mr. Rubin means by ‘government interference?’ Considering that Mr. Rubin still wants to ‘care about minorities’ and to ‘embrace change,’ where on the political spectrum do you think Mr. Rubin should align himself? Explain.

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Masterpiece Cake shop

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Court Rules Bakery Illegally Discriminated Against Gay Couple,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What did Jack Phillips say to David Mullins and Charlie Craig regarding the store’s policy about baking wedding cakes for same-sex couples? After reviewing the complaint, how did the Colorado Civil Rights Division rule on the case?
- Do you think that ‘fairness’ in the form of non-discrimination should be given more weight by the law than freedom, especially freedoms historically protected by the Bill of Rights such as freedom of religion? Explain. ACLU Attorney Amanda Goad states in the article, “No one is asking Masterpiece’s owner to change his beliefs, but treating gay people differently because of who they are is discrimination plain and simple.” Do you agree with her premise that the owners of the cake shop treated the gay couple differently ‘because of who they are,’ or because of some other reason- such as because of their religiously influenced values? Explain. Do you think that discrimination is always wrong? Why or why not?
- In the video, Mr. Rubin states, “I’m a married gay man, so you might think that I appreciate the government forcing a Christian baker or photographer or florist to act against their religion in order to cater, photograph or decorate my wedding. But you’d be wrong. A government that can force Christians to violate their conscience can force me to violate mine. If a baker won’t bake you a cake, find another baker, don’t demand the state tell him what to do with his private business.” Do you agree with Mr. Rubin’s position? Why or why not?



QUIZ

WHY I LEFT THE LEFT

1. What does the “regressive” ideology do?
 - a. Turns progressives into classical liberals.
 - b. Turns liberals into conservatives.
 - c. Judges people individually.
 - d. Judges people collectively.

2. According to the regressive left, being which of the following is the most evil of all things?
 - a. Muslim woman
 - b. Hispanic, Christian male
 - c. White, Christian male
 - d. Black

3. If you believe in free speech, in judging people by their character, and in freedom of religion, you are probably not a _____.
 - a. Conservative
 - b. Progressive
 - c. Libertarian
 - d. Classical Liberal

4. Progressives still say “I may disagree with what you say, but I will fight to the death for your right to say it.”
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. Today’s progressivism has become a faux-moral movement hurling charges of _____ at anyone they disagree with.
 - a. Racism
 - b. Xenophobia
 - c. Homophobia
 - d. All of the above



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<http://aclu-co.org/court-rules-bakery-illegally-discriminated-against-gay-couple/>

ACLU – Colorado

Court Rules Bakery Illegally Discriminated Against Gay Couple

A Colorado judge today determined that a Lakewood bakery unlawfully discriminated against a gay couple by refusing to sell them a wedding cake.

David Mullins and Charlie Craig visited Masterpiece Cakeshop last year, with Craig’s mother, to order a cake for their upcoming wedding reception. Mullins and Craig planned to marry in Massachusetts and then celebrate with family and friends back home in Colorado. Masterpiece owner Jack Phillips informed them that because of his religious beliefs the store’s policy was to deny service to customers who wished to order baked goods to celebrate a same-sex couple’s wedding.

“Being denied service by Masterpiece Cakeshop was offensive and dehumanizing especially in the midst of arranging what should be a joyful family celebration,” said Mullins. “No one should fear being turned away from a public business because of who they are. We are grateful to have the support of our community and our state, and we hope that today’s decision will help ensure that no one else will experience this kind of discrimination again in Colorado.”

Longstanding Colorado state law prohibits public accommodations, including businesses such as Masterpiece Cakeshop, from refusing service based on factors such as race, sex, marital status or sexual orientation. Mullins and Craig filed complaints with the Colorado Civil Rights Division (CCRD) contending that Masterpiece had violated this law. Earlier this year, the CCRD ruled that Phillips illegally discriminated against Mullins and Craig. Today’s decision from Judge Robert N. Spencer of the Colorado Office of Administrative Courts affirms that finding.

“While we all agree that religious freedom is important, no one’s religious beliefs make it acceptable to break the law by discriminating against prospective customers,” said Amanda C. Goad, staff attorney with the ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Project. “No one is asking Masterpiece’s owner to change his beliefs, but treating gay people differently because of who they are is discrimination plain and simple.”

Phillips admitted he had turned away other same-sex couples as a matter of policy. The CCRD’s decision noted evidence in the record that Phillips had expressed willingness to take a cake order for the “marriage” of two dogs, but not for the commitment ceremony of two women, and that he would not make a cake for a same-sex couple’s wedding celebration “just as he would not be willing to make a pedophile cake.”

“Masterpiece Cakeshop has willfully and repeatedly considered itself above the law when it comes to discriminating against customers, and the state has rightly determined otherwise,” said Sara R. Neel, staff attorney with the ACLU of Colorado. “It’s important for all Coloradans to be treated fairly by every business that is open to the public – that’s good for business and good for the community.”