

Two Prominent Men on Middlebury College



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Charles Murray

Charles Murray holds the F. A. Hayek Chair Emeritus in Cultural Studies at the American Enterprise Institute. Dr. Murray, who was born and raised in Newton, Iowa, has a PhD in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a BA in history from Harvard University.

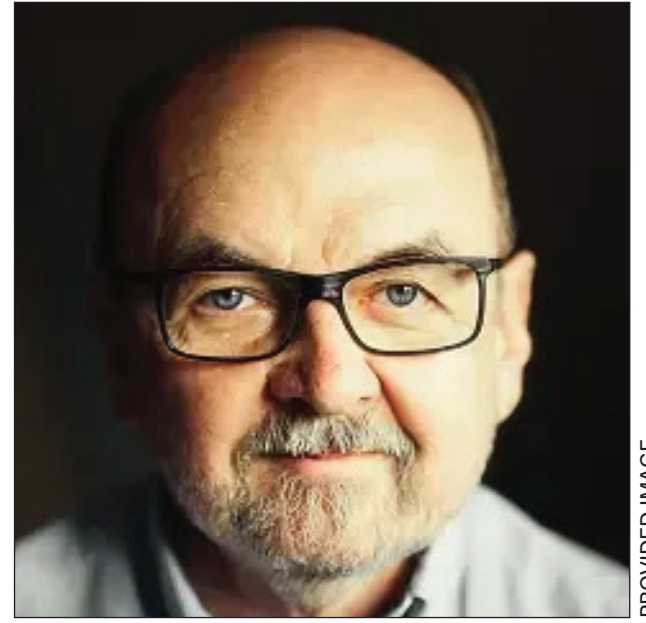
“In the fall of 2004, at the height of a presidential campaign that was even more bitterly fought than usual, my daughter, a Middlebury sophomore at the time, took a course in political philosophy. At Thanksgiving dinner, I asked her about the professor’s politics. My daughter thought for a moment, and said, “I don’t know.” It was a powerful example of what a college is supposed to be about. The professor was a devoted teacher of political philosophy who believed her own politics had no place in the classroom. That she was decidedly liberal (I later learned), was irrelevant.

Twelve and a half years later, on March 2, 2017, I came to Middlebury to deliver a lecture on the growing class divide between America’s elites and its working class. I was shouted down by Middlebury students and then attacked by a mob. The administration’s response was disgracefully tepid.

I thought that my experience in 2017 had to represent the nadir of Middlebury’s descent from the jewel of a college it had been in 2004. I was wrong. In 2017, Middlebury’s

administration had at least not taken the initiative to keep me from speaking. Now, in renaming the Mead Memorial Chapel, Middlebury’s leaders are instigating a betrayal of its mission. The justification is that Governor Mead once expressed opinions that were widely held in that era by a broad cross-section of the nation’s most distinguished politicians, scholars, and jurists. Whether they were right or wrong is as irrelevant as the political philosophy professor’s politics in 2004. The betrayal consists of teaching young people that we can sit in judgment on individuals in the past and unerringly condemn those whose views are not those of an ideology that happens to be regnant in America’s colleges in the early 2020s. That position—“We at this moment in history are in possession of the truth, and everyone past and present who does not agree with us must be cast into outer darkness”—is the essence of the totalitarian mentality. It is diametrically opposed to the spirit of intellectual inquiry and moral generosity that must be conveyed to each new generation if a free society is to endure.”

To read more about Charles Murray being shouted down at Middlebury College, read his essay called Fecklessness at Middlebury College here: <https://www.aei.org/society-and-culture/fecklessness-at-middlebury>



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Ryszard Legutko

Ryszard Legutko is a Polish philosopher and politician. He is a professor of philosophy at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, specializing in ancient philosophy and political theory. A member of right-wing Law and Justice party domestically, Legutko has also served as a Member of the European Parliament since 2009, being a prominent member of the minority European Conservatives and Reformists political group.

“I am glad there is a move against the totalitarian policy of Middlebury college, and all my sympathy is with the former Vermont Governor Jim Douglas. His is a noble cause that deserves the support of all those who cherish not only freedom of thought and speech but also defend the institution of the university as a place where the life of the mind can thrive, uninhibited by ideological zealotry and free from cowardice and conformity. My experience at Middlebury College brought back to me unpleasant memories of communist Poland, the gruesome time when the “reactionary” professors were intimidated and prevented from speaking, bullied by the young communist zealots. But the most shocking similarity between the communist university and Middlebury College was the corruption of the language, an unmistakable trademark of a totalitarian tendency. For someone like myself who spent years fighting for the language that conveyed the truth, it was almost unbelievable to find myself in a world where the concepts meant their opposites. Diversity, equity, and inclusion ceased to mean what they always meant and now meant the opposite. They now mean rigidity, dogmatism, conformity, intimidation, control, arbitrariness, and censorship. In Orwell’s world, war was peace, freedom slavery, and ignorance strength. At Middlebury, diversity is monopoly, equity bias, and inclusion censorship.”

To read more about Ryszard Legutko, whose lecture was cancelled at Middlebury College, read his essay called The Demon in Middlebury here: <https://www.firstthings.com/article/2019/08/the-demon-in-middlebury>

On May 1, 1965, Gabriel Urgebadez protested against the scourge of Bolshevism and Communism.



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Mead Memorial Chapel

Lawsuit, motions, and exhibits can be found at MeadMemorialChapel.com

Paid for by a Mead family member, Boston, MA

*Sources: <https://www.aei.org/profile/charles-murray>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryszard_Legutko, and <https://meadmemorialchapel.com>