

WHAT BECAME OF REAL AMERICAN CONSERVATIVES?

The occupation of a hair-dresser, or of a tallowman [candle maker], cannot be a matter of honor to any person—to say nothing of a number of other more servile employments. Such description of men ought not to suffer oppression from the state, but the state suffers oppression if such as they, either individually or collectively, are permitted to rule.

—Conservative English philosopher
EDMUND BURKE (1729–1797)

Today's so-called conservative agenda is about ownership, and the power that comes from it. Specifically, it's about ownership of the assets of the United States of America—things that the Founders intended would be owned by We the People. Ultimately, it's about having effective control of the U.S. government itself, and keeping the majority of Americans in a state of perpetual economic fear, a variation on what in feudal times was called serfdom.

Those who are not independently wealthy yet support this

so-called conservative agenda are pushing for their own children to become slaves.

The modern conservative movement: Russell Kirk

In many ways the modern conservative movement is the heir to Alexander Hamilton's ideas of a small federal government under aristocratic control. It was reinvented in large part in 1953 with the publication of the original edition of Russell Kirk's book *The Conservative Mind*.⁸⁵ In this book, Kirk laid out six basic tenets of modern conservatism:

1. A divine intent, as well as personal conscience, rules society.
2. Traditional life is filled with variety and mystery while most radical systems [the opposite of conservative systems] are characterized by narrowing uniformity.
3. Civilized society requires orders and classes.
4. Property and freedom are inseparably connected.
5. Man must control his will and his appetite, knowing that he is governed more by emotion than by reason.
6. Society must alter slowly.

When closely examined, these tenets fail to hold water.

Kirk's "divine intent" is an updated version of "the divine right of kings" and other conservative arguments that our rights were solely granted to us by a benevolent (but sometimes angry) God and therefore must be exclusively interpreted by those ordained by God. It's the beginning of the slippery slope to theocracy, a fact that makes "conservative" religious leaders with political aspirations, such as onetime presidential candidate Pat Robertson, very happy.