

Does the Free Economy Stifle a Culture of Beauty?

Preamble

A culture is the emergent pattern of activity associated with a society of people that manifests and in turn sustains and nurtures the core beliefs, values and priorities of that society

Many, who are unhappy with modern culture, tend to blame capitalism, mass production and industrialization for what they see and don't like. I do not share this view, but see these things as simply as mechanisms that propagate very powerfully the underlying forms of the culture, for good or ill. I believe that the same conditions that allow for man to flourish economically and as a person in society – personal freedom and faith – are those that allow also for a culture of beauty to develop.

This lecture looks to tradition by suggesting that it is our faith (or lack of it) that is the most influential factor on the nature of the culture and that is the forms of our worship that influence our faith most profoundly.

We look at these ideas by seeing looking at the art of industry and mass production; and how great art movements of the past, even in an industrial age, began by changes in the pattern of worship and how they reflect the beauty of the cosmos, apprehended intuitively and described mathematically.

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Acton University, 2019 – Talk by David Clayton,
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Books for further reading:

David Clayton: *The Way of Beauty: Liturgy, Education and Inspiration for Family, School and College* This articulates the hypothesis of the presentation in greater detail

John Paul II: *Centessimus Annus* for a theological description of the connection between personal beliefs and the economic system and culture in society as a whole.

Benedict XVI: *The Spirit of the Liturgy, Sing A New Song* for a description of the connection between liturgy and culture.

Jean Corbon: *The Wellspring of Worship* for a description of the connection between culture, economics and the supernatural transformation of man through Christ in the liturgy.

Roger Scruton: *How to be a Conservative* for an ecumenical account of most of the above