

## Twitter Thread by Michael Beaton

Michael Beaton

@mhbx



**It is not just wrong  
& it is not just the epitome of historical ignorance,  
& a comprehensive misunderstanding of the relationship of religious and civil  
society,  
This is the declaration of a much deeper intention of instantiating an "American  
Fundamentalism".  
Think "Gilead".**

Georgia Republican candidate Kandiss Taylor goes full theocracy explaining her "Jesus, guns, and babies" slogan:

"Don't talk to me about separation of church and state."

"We are the church and we run the state."

"[Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists] don't get to silence us." [pic.twitter.com/9nkkn3JRbM](https://pic.twitter.com/9nkkn3JRbM)

— PatriotTakes ( @patriottakes ) [April 9, 2022](#)

This is the low information ranting of fundamentalists who lay out the emotional, fact & history free, case for what is essentially an American Taliban.

There is no "compromise" or a sense of comity between differences. When you have "the truth" it is a violation to "compromise".

Others, like "The Grand Inquisitor" use the froth and confusion--and subsequent absolutist certainty of their "righteousness" generated by such as this. (and thus justification for killing/harming anyone who disagrees..In the name of God, of course)

It is useful demagoguery.

This battle has been raging for years. Perhaps forever.

One distinctive characteristic of America, has been keeping this level of fundamentalism out of secular power. Individuals, yes, but not the entire system.

One of the consequences of Trumpism is to equate patriotism w religion in a way that births what becomes a passionately ignorant fundamentalism, unmoored from fact or truth, wedded only to its own self as the measure & guide of truth. It creates a condition of deep tribal devotion

immune from challenges by logic, reason, or history. The (self) righteousness cannot brook any challenge lest the entire identity unravels.

This is comically seen in the many interviews of these believers who, confronted with simple contradictions, reject it all in favor of

what they "know is true". We laugh at such bland, obvious parroting of Fox, Trump, & etc and the silly consternations... but fail to recognize that a tribe has been forming that is being used to attack & dismantle the pillars of democracy/liberty/America.

Fundamentalists across time and cultures are essentially the same.

In our time we look at the Taliban as the summa bona of a decrepit contortion of a religion that claims to reject such extremes.

To no avail, of course.

Fundamentalisms have a powerful pull on its tribe.

It tends to simplify all complexities and problems to a "us vs them" framework... Making it very easy to blame "them" for everything that goes wrong.

In 1984, there was the 2-minute hate. Today we have Fox News Prime Time.. a 2 hour assault on the mind.

In the end, what is birthed, is an American Taliban.

It is a powerful force. When it formalized its grip on the principles and power of the country, it will not be reasoned with to return to another time or condition.

Not until the fires burn all that can be consumed,

and, having no creativity of its own, no core principles that enlighten & advance, only the ability to consolidate power, and destroy its opponents & opposition, it crumples under its own weight of incompetence with no more "enemies" to blame.

The hope is we are able to avoid that most awful of 'tipping points', and pull back from the brink of this unholy thing... This American Taliban that longs to rule.