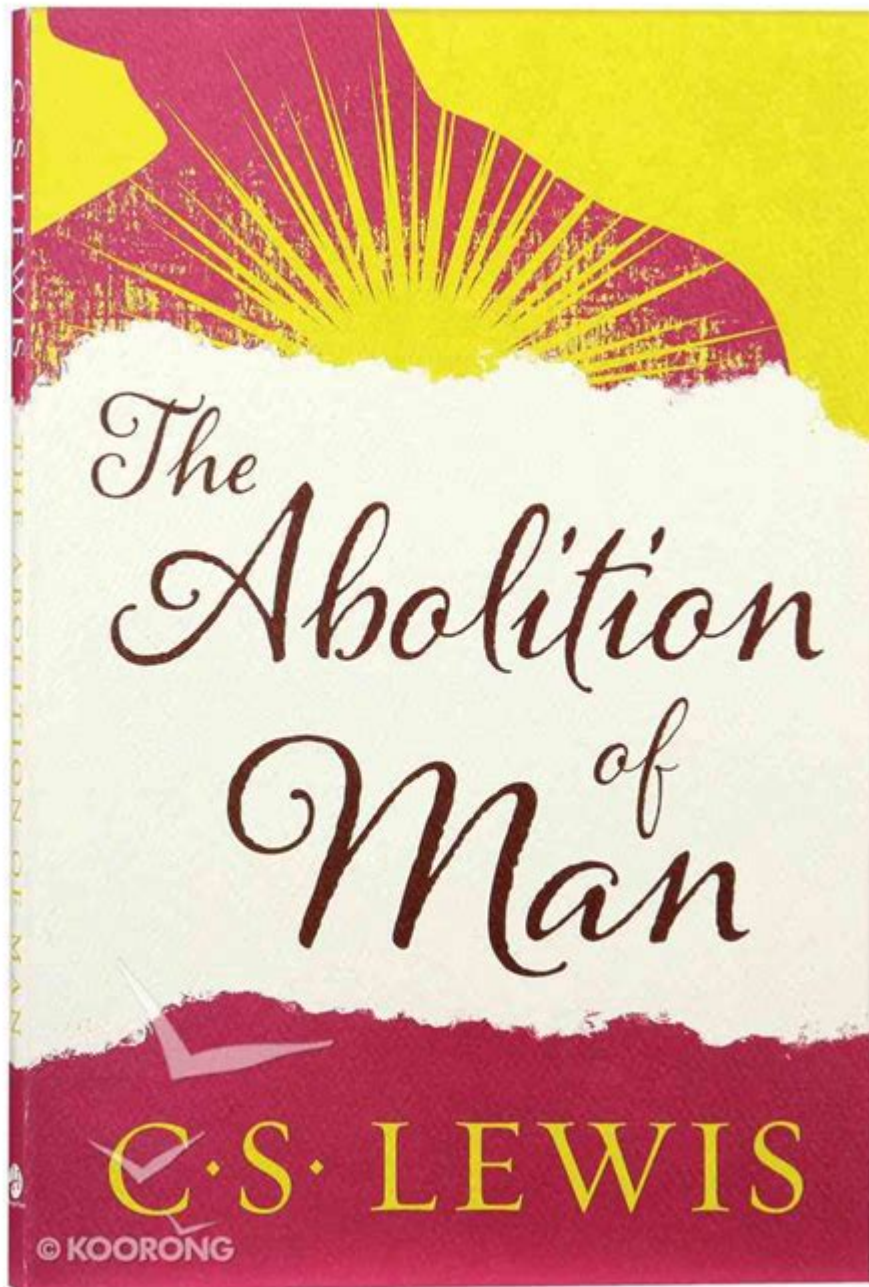


Abolition Of Man



The Abolition of Man: A Critical Examination of C.S. Lewis's Warning

Introduction:

C.S. Lewis's chillingly prescient work, *The Abolition of Man*, isn't just a philosophical treatise; it's a warning echoing across decades, resonating ever more urgently in our technologically advanced

world. This post delves into the core arguments of Lewis's essay, exploring his concerns about the erosion of objective morality and the potential dangers of a humanity stripped of its inherent value. We'll examine his concept of "Tao," the underlying moral law, and dissect his critique of modern education's contribution to this alarming trend. Prepare to engage with a provocative and timeless discussion that challenges our understanding of humanity itself.

The Threat of Subjectivism: Redefining Good and Evil

Lewis's central thesis revolves around the dangers of subjectivism, the belief that morality is purely a matter of personal opinion, with no inherent or objective truth. He argues that the progressive devaluation of traditional moral values, fueled by a flawed approach to education, is leading to the "abolition of man" - not necessarily in a literal sense, but in the annihilation of what makes us truly human. He identifies this as the erosion of our capacity for objective judgment, replacing it with a relativistic view where anything goes. This isn't merely a philosophical debate; it has profound implications for the future of society and the very essence of human dignity.

The Corruption of Education: Manufacturing the "Conditioned Man"

Lewis criticizes the prevailing educational methodologies of his time (and arguably, many of today's), which he sees as promoting a form of "conditioned man." This approach emphasizes subjective experience over objective truth, encouraging students to view moral judgments as mere expressions of emotion or social conditioning rather than reasoned conclusions based on a shared understanding of good and evil. By systematically dismantling traditional moral frameworks, Lewis argues, these methodologies are unwittingly paving the way for a future where moral judgments are rendered meaningless.

The "Men Without Chests": A Lack of Moral Backbone

Lewis uses the evocative metaphor of "men without chests" to describe the individuals produced by this flawed educational system. The "chest," representing the seat of emotions and moral sentiments, is underdeveloped, leaving individuals devoid of the intuitive understanding of right and wrong that guides human behavior. These individuals, while intellectually capable, lack the essential moral compass to navigate the complexities of life, becoming vulnerable to manipulation and the dictates of those in power.

The Tao: An Inherent Moral Order

Against the backdrop of this destructive subjectivism, Lewis introduces the concept of the "Tao." He doesn't define it as a specific religion or ideology, but rather as a universal, intuitive understanding of moral principles that transcends cultural differences. It's the common ground of human experience, a shared sense of right and wrong reflected in diverse traditions and cultures throughout history. The Tao isn't a set of rules imposed from above, but rather an inherent understanding of human flourishing and the conditions necessary for a just and ordered society.

The Rejection of the Tao: The Path to Destruction

Lewis's central concern is the systematic rejection of the Tao in the name of progress and scientific advancement. He argues that by dismissing this inherent moral framework, we risk losing our bearings, creating a vacuum that allows for the rise of ideologies that prioritize power and control over human well-being. The consequences, he warns, are far-reaching and potentially catastrophic.

The Power of Manipulation and the Rise of Totalitarianism

One of the most chilling aspects of Lewis's argument is his exploration of the implications of a society devoid of objective morality. Without a shared understanding of good and evil, individuals become vulnerable to manipulation by those in power. Totalitarian regimes, he suggests, thrive in such an environment, using sophisticated techniques of propaganda and conditioning to shape individual beliefs and behavior. This isn't a speculative threat; history provides numerous examples of societies where the absence of a strong moral compass has led to widespread suffering and oppression.

Conclusion: A Call to Re-evaluate Our Values

The Abolition of Man remains a powerful and relevant critique of modern society. Lewis's warning against the dangers of subjectivism and the erosion of objective morality continues to resonate in an age of rapid technological advancement and increasingly fragmented moral landscapes. His call to reaffirm the inherent value of humanity and to rediscover the Tao, the shared moral intuitions that bind us together, is as urgent today as it was in his time. We must engage in critical self-reflection and examine the values that underpin our educational systems and societal structures to ensure we don't pave the way for our own "abolition."

FAQs:

1. Is Lewis advocating for a return to religious dogma in *The Abolition of Man*? No, Lewis argues for a recognition of objective morality that predates and transcends specific religious beliefs. The Tao is presented as a universal human experience, reflected in diverse traditions.
2. How does Lewis's critique of education apply to modern educational systems? Many argue that Lewis's concerns about subjectivism and the devaluation of objective moral truths are still relevant today, particularly in the context of certain progressive educational approaches.
3. What are the practical implications of Lewis's argument for everyday life? Understanding Lewis's arguments encourages critical thinking about our own moral frameworks, promoting a more thoughtful approach to personal ethics and social responsibility.
4. How does *The Abolition of Man* relate to contemporary political issues? The book's warnings about manipulation and the dangers of unchecked power resonate strongly with current concerns about misinformation, propaganda, and the erosion of democratic institutions.
5. Is Lewis's prediction of the "abolition of man" a literal or metaphorical one? Lewis uses "abolition" metaphorically, referring to the loss of humanity's inherent dignity and capacity for objective moral judgment rather than physical annihilation.

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abolition of man: *Science Fiction and The Abolition of Man* Mark J. Boone, Kevin C. Neece, 2016-12-13 *The Abolition of Man*, C. S. Lewis's masterpiece in ethics and the philosophy of science,

warns of the danger of combining modern moral skepticism with the technological pursuit of human desires. The end result is the final destruction of human nature. From Brave New World to Star Trek, from steampunk to starships, science fiction film has considered from nearly every conceivable angle the same nexus of morality, technology, and humanity of which C. S. Lewis wrote. As a result, science fiction film has unintentionally given us stunning depictions of Lewis's terrifying vision of the future. In Science Fiction Film and the Abolition of Man, scholars of religion, philosophy, literature, and film explore the connections between sci-fi film and the three parts of Lewis's book: how sci-fi portrays Men without Chests incapable of responding properly to moral good, how it teaches the Tao or The Way, and how it portrays The Abolition of Man.

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abolition of man: The Abolition of Man: C.S. Lewis's Classic Essay on Objective Morality C. S. Lewis, Michael Ward, 2017-05-08 The Abolition of Man is one of C.S. Lewis's most important and influential works. In three weighty lectures, given at the height of the Second World War, Lewis defends the objectivity of value, pointing to the universal moral law that all great philosophical and religious traditions have recognized. This critical edition, prepared by Michael Ward, helps readers get the most out of Lewis's classic work with an introduction placing the book in the context of his life and times; a fully annotated version of the text; a commentary on key passages; and a set of questions for group discussion or individual reflection. Scholarly, detailed, yet accessible, it is the must-have version of an essential volume.

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Timothy M. Mosteller, Gayne John Anacker, 2017-02-23 Beginning with a clear account of the historical setting for The Abolition of Man and its place within C.S. Lewis' corpus of writing, Contemporary Perspectives on C. S. Lewis' The Abolition of Man: History, Philosophy, Education and Science assesses and appraises Lewis' seminal lectures, providing a thorough analysis of the themes and subjects that are raised. Chapters focus on the major areas of thought including: philosophy, natural law, education, literature, politics, theology, science, biotechnology and the connection between the Ransom Trilogy. Drawing on Lewis' central ideas, they tackle questions such as, is The Abolition of Man hostile to scientific inquiry? Does Lewis provide an adequate rational defense of natural moral law? Do the lectures address the philosophical questions of the 21st century as Lewis sought to provide answers to philosophical questions of the 20th century? Dealing with themes across multiple areas of human inquiry, the authors bring expertise from their respective fields to bear on the core issues raised in Lewis' lectures. The result is an interdisciplinary approach that offers the first comprehensive scholarly treatment of The Abolition of Man, one of the most debated of Lewis' works.

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most celebrated books highlights Lewis's compassion for humanity and his relevance for the twenty-first century.

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abolition of man: *C.S. Lewis* Clive Staples Lewis, 2000 This is an extensive collection of short essays and other pieces by C.S. Lewis brought together in one volume for the first time. As well as his many books, letters and poems, C.S. Lewis also wrote a great number of essays and shorter pieces on various subjects. He wrote extensively on Christian theology and the defence of faith, but also on various ethical issues and on the nature of literature and story-telling. In the ESSAY COLLECTION we find a treasure trove of Lewis's reflections on diverse topics.

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unprecedented total war, they all thought it vital to restore Christianity to a leading role in the renewal of the Western democracies.

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and no aspect of society being at all relevant to women, there remains to civic-minded, responsible, thrill-seeking females only to overthrow the government, eliminate the money system, institute complete automation and destroy the male sex." Outrageous and violent, SCUM Manifesto was widely lambasted when it first appeared in 1968. Valerie Solanas, the woman who shot Andy Warhol, self-published the book just before she became a notorious household name and was confined to a mental institution. But for all its vitriol, it is impossible to dismiss as the mere rantings of a lesbian lunatic. In fact, the work has proved prescient, not only as a radical feminist analysis light years ahead of its time—predicting artificial insemination, ATMs, a feminist uprising against underrepresentation in the arts—but also as a stunning testament to the rage of an abused and destitute woman. In this edition, philosopher Avital Ronell's introduction reconsiders the evocative exuberance of this infamous text.

abolition of man: Summary of C. S. Lewis's The Abolition of Man Everest Media, 2022-07-25T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 The authors of The Green Book, who wrote a book on English for boys and girls in the upper forms of schools, quote the well-known story of Coleridge at the waterfall. They comment that when the man said This is sublime, he was not making a remark about the waterfall but about his own feelings. #2 The authors of The Green Book did not say that all sentences containing a predicate of value are unimportant. They only treated one particular predicate of value, sublime, as a word describing the speaker's emotions. The pupils were left to extend the same treatment to all predicates of value on their own. #3 The schoolboy will learn about literature, but he will learn that all emotions aroused by local association are in themselves contrary to reason and contemptible. He will have no idea that there are two ways of being immune to the lure of the Western Ocean: those who are above it and those who are below it. #4 The teachers Gaius and Titius are using the same method on their students, and they are not even teaching the students about the problems of animal psychology. They are simply explaining that horses are not interested in colonial expansion.

abolition of man: The Abolition of Sanity Steve Turley, 2019-03-22 Why does it seem like the world is falling apart? Everywhere we look today, the world is changing, and not for the better. For many of us, such political and cultural changes have been so dramatic that we no longer recognize our societies anymore. So what's going on? This book has the answer! In this masterful work, 'The Abolition of Man,' C.S. Lewis observes how the modern world is in fact changing our conception of what it means to be human by sequestering humanity from the objective values that made us most human. Focusing on modern educational reforms, Lewis noted that instead of virtue formation, modern educational practices perpetuate a mechanistic vision of the world comprised of scientifically inspired control over nature and, as a necessary consequence, humans. HERE'S A PREVIEW OF WHAT YOU'LL LEARN How modernist assumptions about the world differ drastically from classical and Christian ones How modernism is radically reshaping a fundamentally different conception of humanity What role education plays in perpetuating modernist norms about the world How the role of virtue and wisdom formation can become a powerful antidote to these secularizing tendencies And much, much morealong with a whole BONUS SECTION of study questions and answers to group discussion!! In this insightful and thought provoking book, you will discover C.S. Lewis' invitation to challenge the modernist assumptions of our age by rediscovering the doctrine of objective values and, in so doing, you will rediscover a hope for truly human flourishing for generations to come. Get your copy today!

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Man has provoked controversy and debate. Profoundly realistic and important...supremely timely and cogent...the first book to fully fathom the depth and range of the changes now sweeping through the world. —The Washington Post Book World Francis Fukuyama's prescient analysis of religious fundamentalism, politics, scientific progress, ethical codes, and war is as essential for a world fighting fundamentalist terrorists as it was for the end of the Cold War. Now updated with a new afterword, *The End of History and the Last Man* is a modern classic.

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abolition of man: The Literary Legacy of C. S. Lewis Chad Walsh, 2008-12-07 C. S. Lewis has been read and studied as though he were two authors--a writer of Christian apologetics and a writer of science fiction and fantasy. Only in recent years has there been any move to examine his work as the creation of a single, unique mind. This is the first major critical study to undertake that task. Chad Walsh, who wrote an earlier study of Lewis, *Apostle to the Skeptics*, reassesses the Oxford don's legacy fifteen years after his death--his poetry, visionary fiction, and space fiction; *The Chronicles of Narnia*; *Till We Have Faces*; his criticism; and his religious-philosophical writing. Lewis emerges as an archetypal Christian and the creator of some of the most original books of our century.

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Abolitionism - Wikipedia

Abolitionism, or the abolitionist movement, is the political movement to end slavery and liberate enslaved individuals around the world. It gained momentum in the western world in the late ...

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