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***Three Major  
Perennial  
Debates***

***Prehistoric Cultures***

University of Minnesota Duluth

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*"Selam"*  
aka *"Lucy's Baby"*



***Three Major  
Perennial  
Debates***

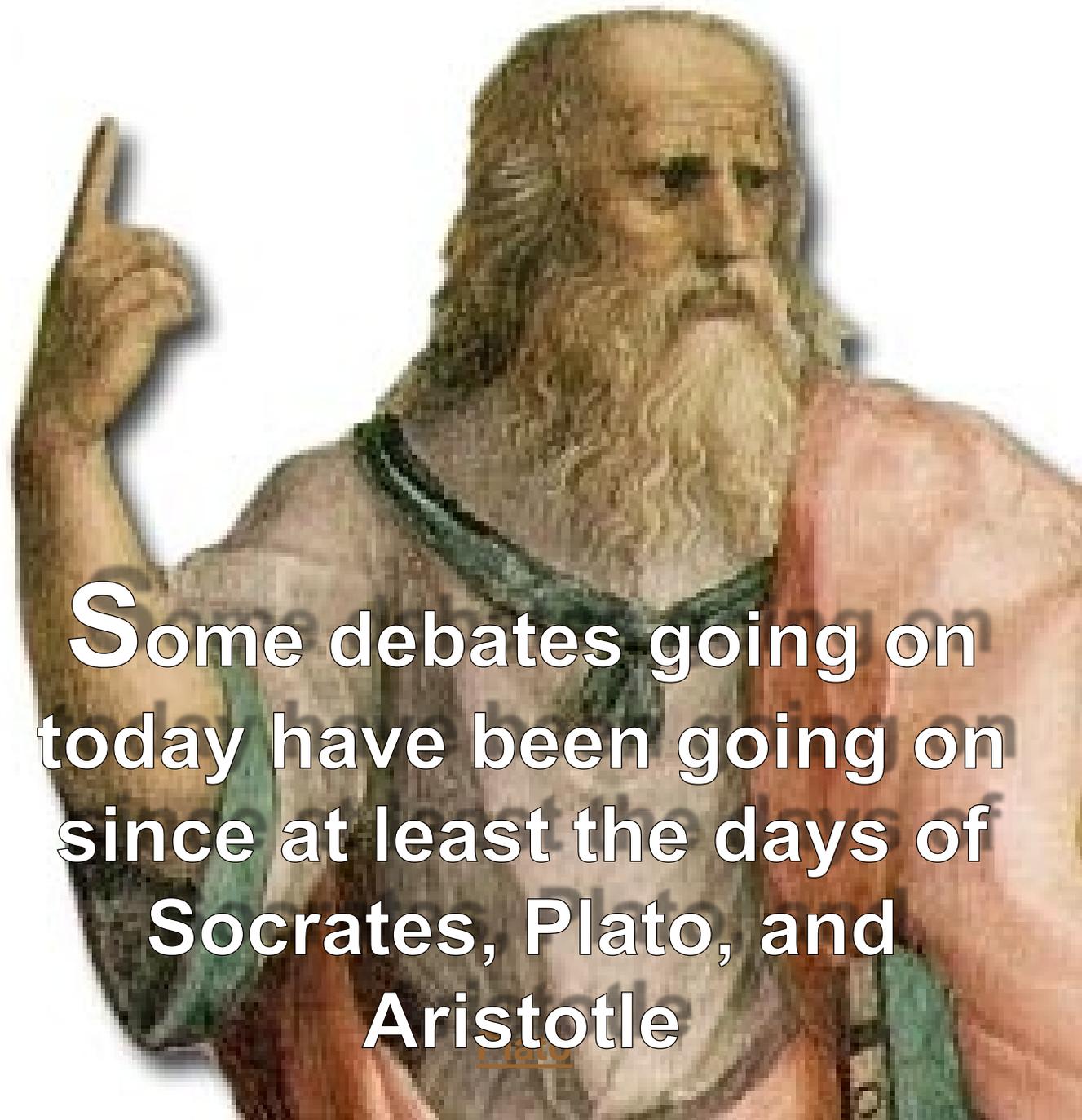
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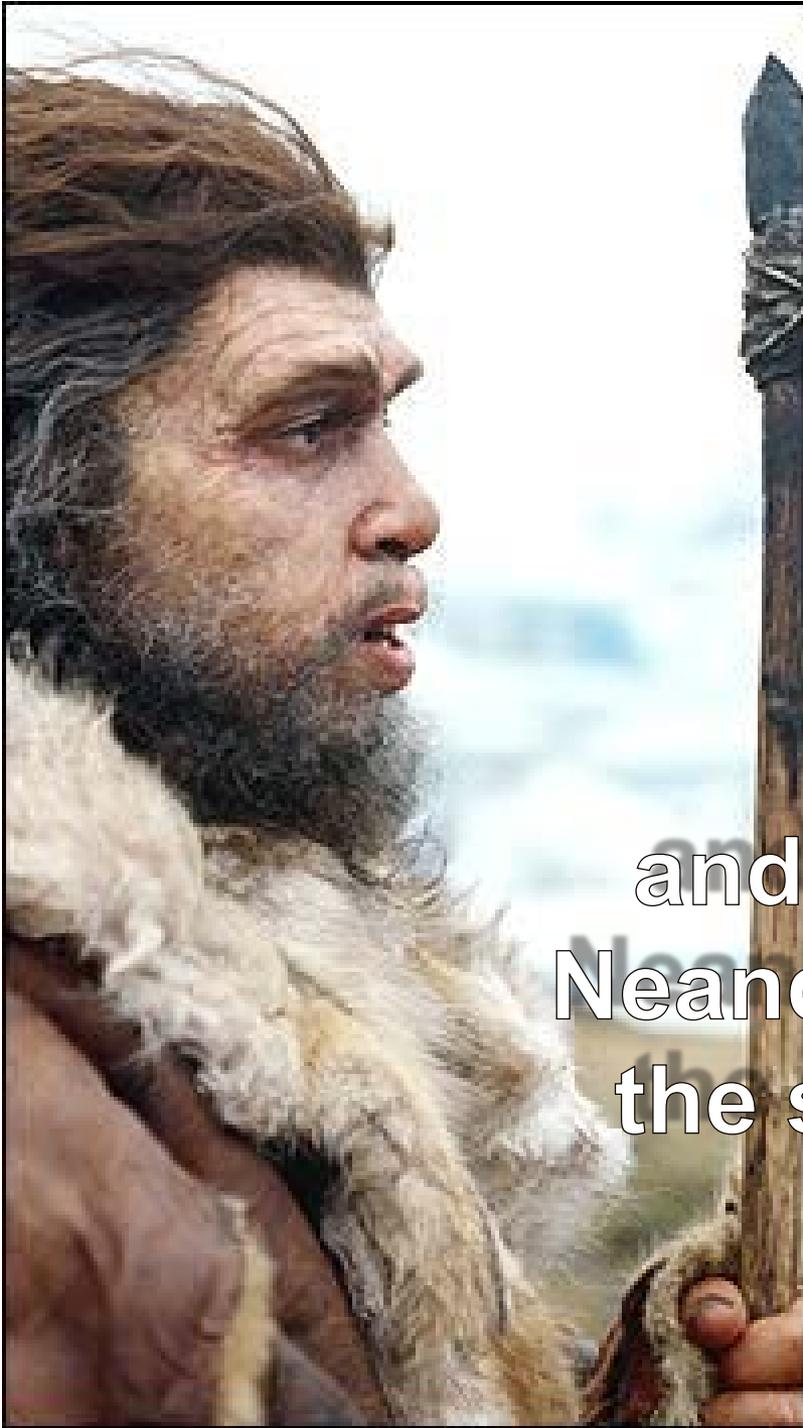
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*"Selam"  
aka "Lucy's Baby"*



Some debates going on  
today have been going on  
since at least the days of  
Socrates, Plato, and  
Aristotle



and probably even the  
Neanderthals argued about  
the same sort of things



so let's have a look at the  
big three debates . . .

Neandertal

# these are one of the items you see listed in the Week 1 “Topics” . . .

---

- **"Other Important Terms"**

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- **Three Major Perennial Debates**

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[see note on slide formats] (NOTE: This is a long slide set as it covers more than 2000+ years. Please bear with it to the end. Please bear with it to the end. And it will take a little longer to load, so please bear with that also. There is no video presentation scheduled for this and next week as the base slide sets tend to be a little longer than "normal.")

# three major contemporary debates

## **1. *Biological Determinism* *vs. Cultural Constructionism***

(“nature” vs. “nurture”)

## **2. *Ideationism vs. Cultural Materialism***

(ideas vs. things)

## **3. *Individual Agency vs. Structuralism***

(“free will” vs. “power structures”)

# three major contemporary debates

- 1. *Biological Determinism*  
*vs. Cultural Constructionism***  
("nature" vs. "nurture")

## three major contemporary debates

### **1. *Biological Determinism* *vs. Cultural Constructionism*** (“nature” vs. “nurture”)

**this is the classical debate on whether  
something is so because it is inherited  
or because it is learned**

**you know the argument**

**and it goes by different names . . .**

three major contemporary debates

# ***1. Biological Determinism***

***vs. Cultural Constructionism***

**(“nature vs. nurture”)**

**(“inherited vs. learned”)**

**(“nativism” vs. “empiricism”)**

three major contemporary debates

# *1. Biological Determinism*

*vs. Cultural Constructionism*

(“nature vs. nurture”)

(“inherited vs. learned”)

**(“nativism” vs. “empiricism”)**

In the field of **psychology**, **nativism** is the view that certain skills or abilities are 'native' or hard wired into the **brain** at **birth**. This is in contrast to **empiricism**, the 'blank slate' or **tabula rasa** view, which states that the brain has inborn capabilities for learning from the environment but does not contain content such as innate beliefs.

## 7 References

### 7.1 Related works

## History

[[edit](#)]

In [Western philosophy](#), traces of the idea that came to be called the [tabula rasa](#) appear as early as the writings of [Aristotle](#). Aristotle writes of the *unscribed tablet* in what is probably the first textbook of [psychology](#) in the [Western canon](#), his treatise Περὶ Ψυχῆς (*De Anima* or *On the Soul*, Book II, chapter 4). However, besides some arguments by the [Stoics](#) and [Peripatetics](#), the notion of the mind as a blank slate went much unnoticed for more than 1,000 years.

Then in the 11th century, the theory of tabula rasa was developed more clearly by the [Persian philosopher](#), [Ibn](#)

## 7 References

### 7.1 Related works

## History

In [Western philosophy](#), the concept is called the [tabula rasa](#) approach. [Aristotle](#) writes (probably the first textbook [canon](#), his treatise *Περὶ Ψυχῆς* (*Soul*, Book II, chapter 4)). The [Stoics](#) argued the mind as a blank slate for more than 1,000 years.

Then in the 11th century, [John](#) developed more clearly b





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## Nature versus nurture

**(“nature vs. nurture”)**  
**(“inherited vs. learned”)**  
**(“nativism” vs. “empiricism”)**

behavioral traits from "nurture" is known as [tabula rasa](#) ("blank slate"). This question was once considered to be

**something else you will see  
often (and often repeated) in  
American Anthropology are  
discussions of the  
relationship between the  
physical and the cultural  
aspects of humans . . .**

**something else you will see  
often (and often repeated) in  
American Anthropology are  
discussions of the  
relationship between the  
physical and the cultural  
aspects of humans . . .**

**here's a good instance of that**

**. . .**

three major contemporary debates



# **1. *Biological Determinism***

***vs. Cultural Constructionism***

**(“nature vs. nurture”)**

**(“inherited vs. learned”)**

**(“nativism” vs. “empiricism”)**

# 'Gender math gap' is cultural, not biological

Researchers find no innate differences between sexes that account for disparity

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By Jennifer Welsh



updated 12/12/2011 6:18:32 PM ET

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Many explanations for the gender gap in math skills don't hold up, suggests new [research](#) on math skills and gender in 86 countries.

Math has traditionally been seen as a man's game, and the statistics often indicate that there are differences between males and females in their math skills, participation in math activities and [performance](#) on tests — called the gender gap in math. Some researchers have proposed this gap is natural — that men are just better at math than women — while others say it's a cultural difference, whereby society somehow keeps girls from pursuing or excelling in math.

The new research points to culture as the culprit, finding that certain countries showed less of a gap between males and females in math. Specifically, these female-math friendly countries have more gender equality, better [teachers](#) and fewer students living in



Dave Wicks

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Extremely readable...Sax's findings, insights, and provocative point-of-view should be of interest and help to many parents. —NEW YORK POST

# Why Gender Matters

WHAT PARENTS AND TEACHERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT  
THE EMERGING SCIENCE OF SEX DIFFERENCES



Leonard Sax, M.D., Ph.D.

Copyrighted Material

July 19, 2009

Three Rivers Press, 2006



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Page last updated at 18:35 GMT, Sunday, 6 December 2009

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# Obesity gene discovery 'may cut cases blamed on abuse'

**Scientists have discovered what they believe is a genetic cause of severe obesity in children.**

The team concluded that the loss of a key segment of DNA can be to blame.

It said the findings might improve diagnosis of severe obesity - which on occasion has been wrongly attributed to abusive overfeeding.

The study, of 300 children with severe obesity by the University of Cambridge and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, appears in Nature.

Some of the children in the study had been formally placed on the social services 'at risk' register on the assumption that their parents were deliberately overfeeding them. They have now been removed



Child obesity levels have been rising for decades

SEE ALSO

- ▶ Child obesity 'is levelling off' 03 Nov 09 | Health
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Page last updated at 23:33 GMT, Tuesday, 11 August 2009 00:33 UK

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## 'Taste test' for Neanderthal DNA

By Judith Burns

Science reporter, BBC News

**DNA analysis of ancient remains shows that Neanderthals shared with modern humans the gene that gives the ability to taste bitter flavours.**

Most people find the chemical, known as PTC, very bitter, but 25% cannot taste it at all.

The two groups have different taste receptors on their tongues.

Analysis of the 48,000 year-old bone shows that the genetic variation responsible for this difference also existed in Neanderthals.



The remains from El Sidron were excavated under sterile conditions

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- ▶ Neanderthals 'were flame-haired' 25 Oct 07 | [Science & Environment](#)
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# Anorexia Might Have Genetic Link

03.07.06, 12:00 AM ET

TUESDAY, March 7 (HealthDay News) -- Anorexia nervosa, one of the most common problems facing young women, seems to have a strong genetic component.

New research, involving 31,406 Swedish twins who were born between Jan. 1, 1935, and Dec. 31, 1958, **suggests that 56 percent of the risk for developing the eating disorder is inherited**, and the condition is linked with neurotic symptoms -- such as anxiety or depression -- early in life.

"For centuries, we have been under very false stereotypes and misconceptions about what causes anorexia nervosa," said study author Cynthia M. Bulik, the William and Jeanne Jordan Distinguished Professor of Eating Disorders and director of the Eating Disorders Program at the University of North Carolina.

Her report appears in the March issue of the *Archives of General Psychiatry*.

Anorexia nervosa features a fear of becoming obese, an aversion to food, and the highest death rate of any mental illness, the study noted.

It was believed that young women and men chose anorexia nervosa so they could look like models

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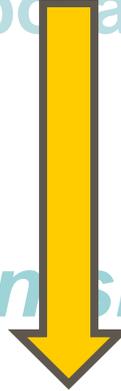
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BOOK REVIEW

three major contemporary debates



1. *Biological Determinism*

*vs. Cultural Constructionism*

(“nature vs. nurture”)

(“inherited vs. learned”)

(“nativism” vs. “empiricism”)

**and, of course, the question of  
how they relate to one another  
in causing or influencing  
something is at the root of  
many of the arguments . . .**

**the “correct” answer,  
of course, is . . .**

**the “correct” answer,  
of course, is . . .**

(at least to most serious observers)

**that they both contribute**

**so it’s . . .**

three major contemporary debates

**1. *Biological Determinism***

**and *Cultural Constructionism***

(“**nature and nurture**”)

(“**inherited and learned**”)

(“**nativism**” and “**empiricism**”)



**Journal of Child  
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Volume 51 Issue 1

Published Online: 4 Jan 2010

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## Editorial: 'It's the *environment* stupid!' On epigenetics, programming and plasticity in child mental health

Edmund J.S. Sonuga-Barke

Thankfully, because of new genetic technologies of immense quantitative power developed over the past 10 to 15 years, and the recent development of sophisticated methods for testing environmental influence on biological processes, we are finally beginning to challenge the long-standing 'nature vs. nurture' dogma.

Serious science is now more than ever focused on the power of the environment to shape neuro-developmental processes and pathways

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**INTRODUCING**

Child and

modern psychologists consider the

question naive - representing an outdated state of knowledge. [1][2][3][4][5]

Psychologist Donald Hebb is said to have once answered a journalist's question of "which, nature or nurture, contributes more to personality?" by asking in response,

"which contributes more to the area of a rectangle, its length or its width?" [6][7][8][9]

# **three major contemporary debates**

**1. *Biological Determinism***

***vs. Cultural Constructionism***

**2. *Ideationism vs. Cultural Materialism***

**3. *Individual Agency vs. Structuralism***

**(“free will” vs. “power structures”)**

## three major contemporary debates

1. *Biological Determinism*

*vs. Cultural Constructionism*

**2. *Idea*tionism vs. Cultural Materialism**

3. *Individual Agency vs. Structuralism*

(“free will” vs. “power structures”)

## three major contemporary debates

### 1. *Biological Determinism*

#### **1. *Ideationism*** vs. *Cultural Materialism*

**e.g., Aztecs must sacrifice and eat humans  
in order to please the gods  
in order that the gods allow  
the sun to rise each day,  
so that the world doesn't end**



Aztec human sacrifice as shown in the Codex Magliabechiano

## three major contemporary debates

### 1. *Ideationism* vs. ***Cultural Materialism***

**e.g., Aztecs sacrificed and ate humans  
in order to control population size  
in order to preserve their property,  
to terrorize their neighbors  
so they will continue to provide  
goods and services as tribute,  
and because they tasted good**



A tzompantli, or skull rack, as shown in the post-Conquest Ramirez Codex

# Bush says Iraq war about al-Qaeda



Published: Tuesday July 24, 2007



US President George W. Bush, trying to reverse ebbing support for the Iraq war, sought Tuesday to tie deadly violence there directly to Al-Qaeda terrorist chief Osama bin Laden.

Facing mounting calls for a US withdrawal, and intelligence findings that the unpopular war is a recruiting tool for Al-Qaeda, Bush warned that a hasty US pull-out would increase the risk of an attack in the United States.

"However difficult the fight is in Iraq, we must win it, and we can win it," Bush said in a speech to uniformed military personnel here. "Surrendering the future of Iraq to Al-Qaeda would be a disaster to our country."

Bush said that bin Laden, the mastermind of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, pulled the strings of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, a group that did not exist before the March 2003 US-led invasion.

# Bush says Iraq war about al-Qaeda

↑ 2 19



**Peace  
Justice  
Security  
Freedom  
Honor  
[God's will / Allah's will . . .]**

Al-Qaeda in Iraq, a group that did not exist before the March 2003 US-led invasion.

## Bush says Iraq war about al-Qaeda

2 19



Peace

**1. Ideationism** vs. *Cultural Materialism*

**[God's will / Allah's will . . .]**

pe  
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Al-Qaeda in Iraq, a group that did not exist before the  
March 2003 US-led invasion.

## Sarah Palin: Iraq War 'God's Will'



by DAVID KNOWLES

SEP 2ND 2008 2:47PM

filed under: eRepublicans, Breaking News, Iraq, 2008 President, Sarah Palin



Getty Images

Forget the charges of inexperience, the [earmarks](#), the suppression of an [ongoing investigation](#), the fondness for the [AIP](#), the lack of foreign policy [knowledge](#). All that matters to some is that Sarah Palin loves Jesus, and that she's a woman.

## Sarah Palin: Iraq War 'God's Will'



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SEP 2ND 2008 2:47PM

filed under: eRepublicans, Breaking News, Iraq, 2008 President, Sarah Palin



### 1. *Ideationism* vs. *Cultural Materialism*

Getty Images

Forget the charges of inexperience, the [earmarks](#), the suppression of an [ongoing investigation](#), the fondness for the [AIP](#), the lack of foreign policy [knowledge](#). All that matters to some is that Sarah Palin loves Jesus, and that she's a woman.

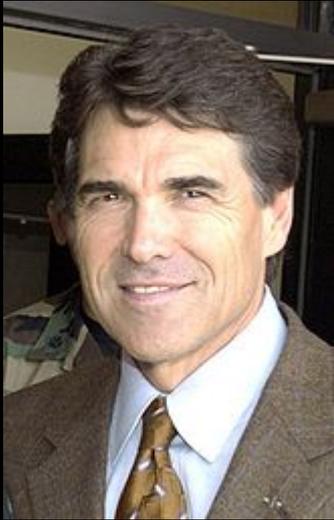
## on building a new natural gas pipeline in Alaska . . .

political ambition. Here she is on the building of a new natural gas pipeline:

*"I think God's will has to be done in unifying people and companies to get the gas line built, so pray for that."*

Sometimes you need to ask for a little help from the man upstairs, and sometimes you simply follow His clearly laid out plan:

*"Pray for our military men and women who are striving to do what is right. Also, for this country, that our leaders, our national leaders, are sending [U.S. soldiers] out on a task that is from God. That's what we have to make sure that we're praying for, that there is a plan and that plan is God's will."*



Rick Perry



Michele Bachmann



Tim Pawlenty

**candidates called by  
God  
to run for  
President of the United States**

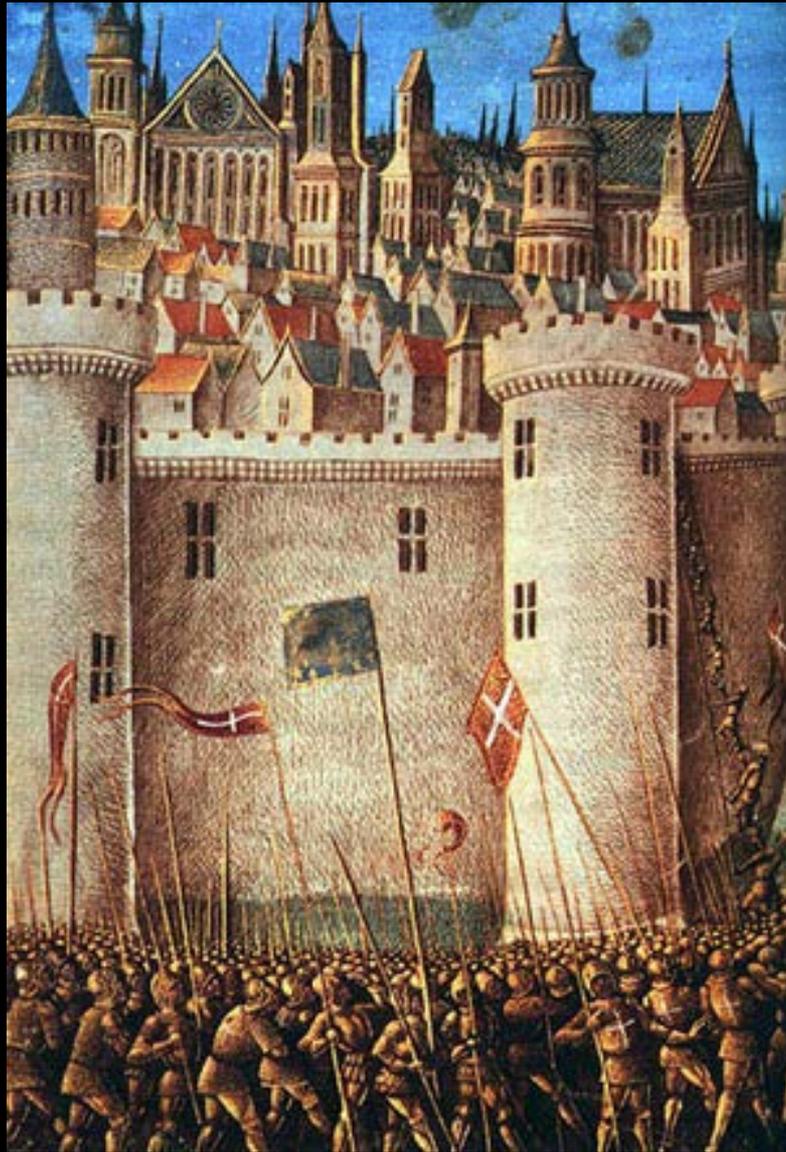


Sarah Palin

and **Ideationism** has been  
around “forever”

take my **Church**, for e.g., the  
**Holy Roman Catholic Church**

they “fought” the **Crusades**  
ideationally . . .



The Siege of Antioch, from a medieval miniature painting, during the First Crusade



## **1. Ideationism** vs. *Cultural Materialism*



The Siege of Antioch, from a medieval miniature painting, during the First Crusade.



## Saint Joan of Arc

Burned at the stake by an ecclesiastical court  
For leading the French Army by divine guidance  
During the Hundred Years' War (1337 to 1453)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan\\_of\\_arc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_of_arc)



# **1. Ideationism** vs. *Cultural Materialism*



## Saint Joan of Arc

Burned at the stake by an ecclesiastical court  
For leading the French Army by divine guidance  
During the Hundred Years' War (1337 to 1453)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan\\_of\\_arc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_of_arc)

and **Ideationism** will probably  
be around “forever” . . .

February 19, 2010, 1:57 PM

## Pawlenty's Principles: 'God's in Charge'

By ADAM NAGOURNEY

The [Conservative Political Action Conference](#) heard news from a presidential candidate for 2012 on Friday – Gov. [Tim Pawlenty](#) of Minnesota. Mr. Pawlenty offered a series of what he called principles for the conservative

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# 1. *Ideationism* vs. *Cultural Materialism*

“Hogwash,” Mr. Pawlenty said. “These are enshrined in the founding documents and perspective of our country. In the Declaration of Independence, it says we are endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights. It doesn't say we're endowed by Washington, D.C., or endowed by the bureaucrats or endowed by state government: it's by our creator that we are

could pull this thing out.

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but others say “no”

they say the *real* reasons for  
Aztec cannibalism lay in

**materialism** (not ideas) . . .

## three major contemporary debates

1. *Biological Determinism*

*vs. Cultural Constructionism*

2. *Ideationism vs. **Cultural Materialism***

3. *Individual Agency vs. Structuralism*

(“free will” vs. “power structures”)



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# Iraq war about oil: Greenspan

Updated Mon Sep 17, 2007 9:19am AEST

**Former US Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan, for years an inscrutable seer on the economy, is causing a stir by alleging in his new memoir that "the Iraq war is largely about oil."**

Mr Greenspan, who as head of the US central bank was famous for his tight-lipped reserve, is uncharacteristically direct, also accusing President George W Bush of abandoning Republican principles on the economy.

"I'm saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what everyone knows - the Iraq war is largely about oil," he wrote in reported



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## Iraq war about oil: Greenspan

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Former US Federal Reserve

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# 1. Ideationism vs. **Cultural Materialism**

abandoning Republican principles on the economy.

"I'm saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what everyone knows - the Iraq war is largely about oil," he wrote in reported



three major contemporary debates

1. *Biological Determinism*

*vs. Cultural Constructionism*

2. *Ideationism vs. Cultural Materialism*

**this debate is related in part to**

**“THE ‘TWO-CULTURE’ PROBLEM”**

— C.P. Snow

# **“THE ‘TWO-CULTURE’ PROBLEM”**

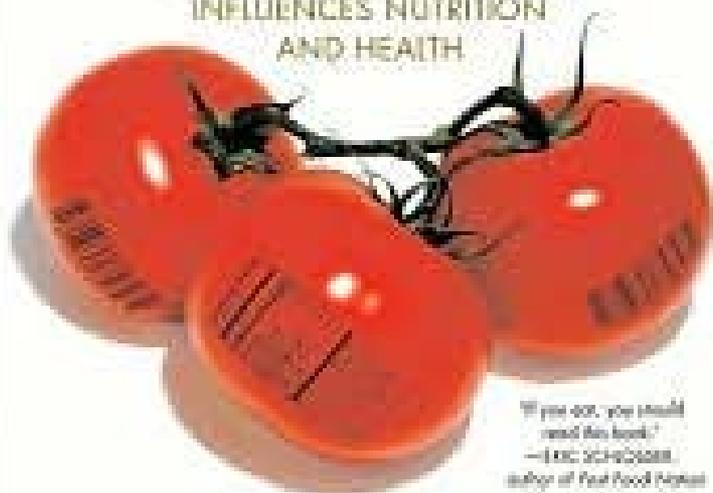
- **“belief-based” attitudes**
- vs.**
- **“science-based” attitudes**

**I think the best recent  
discussion of this is in  
Marion Nestle's  
*Food Politics***

MARION NESTLE

# food POLITICS

HOW THE FOOD INDUSTRY  
INFLUENCES NUTRITION  
AND HEALTH



"If you eat, you should  
read this book."  
—ERIC SCHLOSSER,  
author of *Fast Food Nation*

REVISED AND EXPANDED EDITION

**Marion Nestle**

***Food Politics, Revised Ed.***

**Ch. 10 “Science versus Supplements: ‘A Gulf of Mutual Incomprehension’”**

**“THE ‘TWO-CULTURE’ PROBLEM”**

- **“belief-based” attitudes**
- vs.**
- **“science-based” attitudes**

**Marion Nestle, *Food Politics, Rev. Ed.*, 2007, pp. 230-233**

**this idea is based on C.P. Snow's Classic Lecture . . .**

**C.P. Snow**

**“Two Cultures and the  
Scientific Revolution: The  
Rede Lecture”**

***London, Cambridge University Press***

***1959***



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# The Two Cultures

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

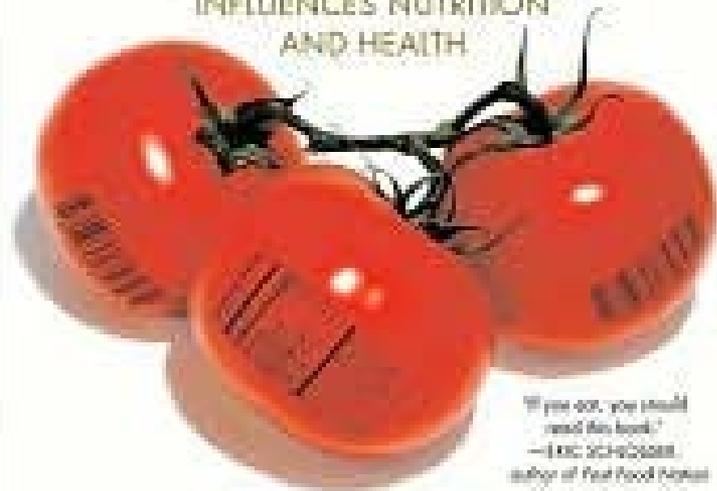
*The Two Cultures* is the title of an influential 1959 [Rede Lecture](#) by [British](#) scientist and novelist [C. P. Snow](#). Its thesis was that the breakdown of communication between the "two cultures" of modern society — the [sciences](#) and the [humanities](#) — was a major hindrance to solving the world's problems. As a trained scientist who was also a successful [novelist](#), Snow was well placed to articulate this thesis.

The talk was delivered 7 May in the [Senate House](#), Cambridge, and subsequently published as *The Two*

MARION NESTLE

# food POLITICS

HOW THE FOOD INDUSTRY  
INFLUENCES NUTRITION  
AND HEALTH



"If you eat, you should  
read this book."  
—ERIC SCHLOSSER,  
author of *Fast Food Nation*

REVISED AND EXPANDED EDITION

**take, for e.g., a  
question raised  
by Nestle in  
*Food Politics* . . .**



# Are dietary supplements needed?

A comparison of . . .

- **“belief-based” attitudes**

**VS.**

- **“science-based” attitudes**

(based on the criteria of)

**Safety**

**Need**

**Efficacy**

# Are dietary supplements needed ?

## “**science-based**” attitudes

### **Safety**

- **Excessive doses of many nutrients are demonstrably toxic**
- **High levels of single nutrients interfere with the functions of other nutrients**
- **The safety of many herbal products is untested and, therefore, unknown**
- **Herbal supplements vary in composition, potency, and quality**

Are dietary supplements needed ?

“**belief-based**” attitudes

## **Safety**

- **Supplements are safe within a broad range of intake; safety problems are rare**
- **Herbal products have been used for thousands of years**
- **Supplements cause less harm than many prescription drugs**

Are dietary supplements needed ?

“**science-based**” attitudes

## **Need**

- **Food is sufficient to meet nutritional needs**
- **Foods provide nutrients and other valuable substances not present in supplements**
- **People who take supplements are better educated and wealthier**
  - **they are healthier whether or not they take supplements**

Are dietary supplements needed ?

“**belief-based**” attitudes

**Need**

- **Diets do not always follow dietary recommendations**
- **Foods grown on depleted soils lack essential nutrients**
- **Pollution and stressful living conditions increase nutrient requirements**
- **Cooking destroys essential nutrients**

# Are dietary supplements needed ?

“**science-based**” attitudes

**Efficacy**

- Research demonstrates health benefits of diets and foods, not of single nutrients
- Higher-than-recommended doses of few single nutrients improve health
- Health claims for many supplements often address issues (such as “stress”) that are difficult to evaluate scientifically
- The health benefits of most supplements are unproven
- Many “benefits” of supplements can be explained as placebo or other self-healing effects

Are dietary supplements needed ?

“**belief-based**” attitudes

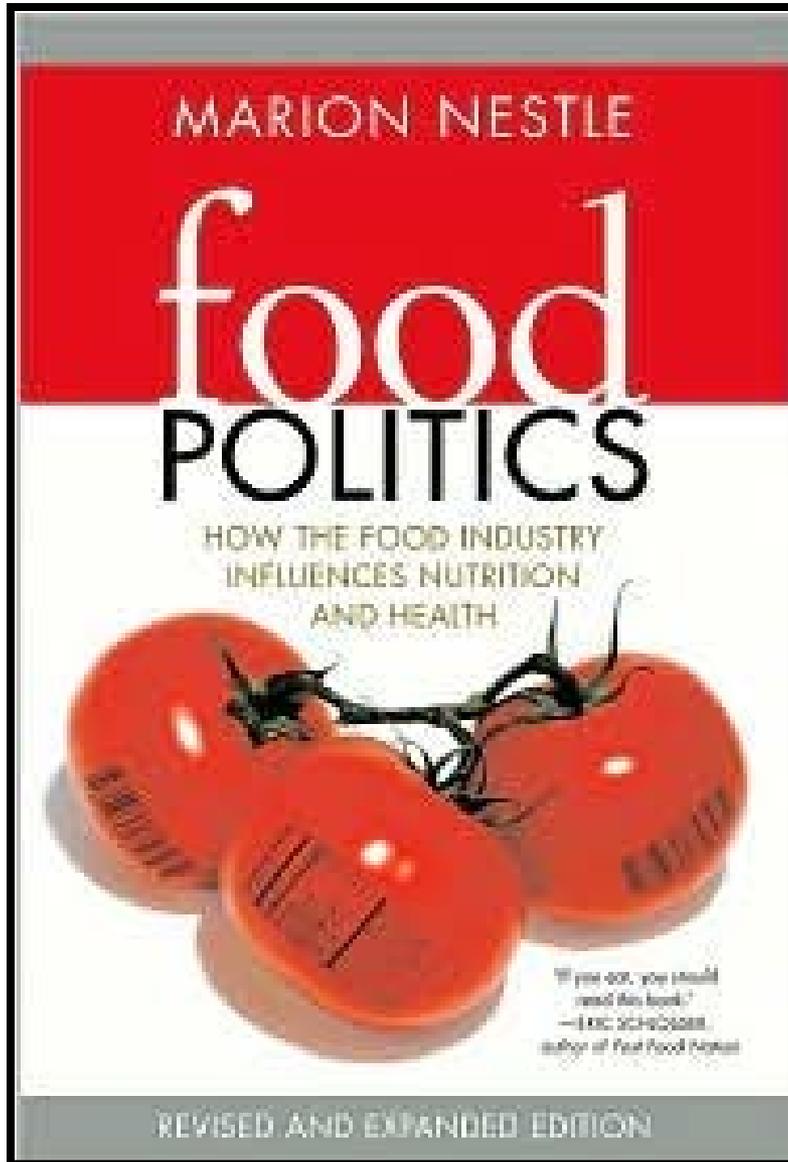
## **Efficacy**

- **People who take supplements are healthier**
- **People feel better when they take supplements**
- **Studies demonstrate the health benefits of supplements**
- **Benefits are sometimes greater at amounts higher than can be obtained from food**

## summary

# DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

	<b>“science-based”</b>	<b>“faith-based”</b>
<b>Safe</b>	No/ Unknown	Yes
<b>Need</b>	No	Yes
<b>Efficacy</b>	No/ Unknown	Yes
<b>Take</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>



**in the end, Nestle essentially concludes that food supplements are basically a modern-day version of . . .**

Man proposes but God disposes.

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# DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

**Question:**

**What percentage of Americans  
regularly take  
dietary supplements?**

# DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

and the *really* good question is:

Why do the ***science-based***  
“people” take them?

**in the end, some people  
accomplish the same thing  
without food supplements  
they either eat a healthy,  
balanced meal, or . . .**

# Study: Many Americans Believe God More Powerful at Saving Lives Than Doctors

Monday, August 18, 2008

Associated Press

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## When it comes to saving lives, God trumps doctors for many Americans.

An eye-opening survey reveals widespread belief that divine intervention can revive dying patients. And, researchers said, doctors "need to be prepared to deal with families who are waiting for a miracle."

More than half of randomly surveyed adults -- 57 percent -- said God's intervention could save a family member even if physicians declared treatment would be futile. And nearly three-quarters said patients have a right to demand such treatment.

When asked to imagine their own relatives being gravely ill or injured, nearly 20 percent of doctors and other medical workers said God could reverse a hopeless outcome.

"Sensitivity to this belief will promote development of a trusting relationship" with patients and their families, according to researchers. That trust, they said, is needed to help doctors explain objective, overwhelming scientific evidence showing that continued treatment would be worthless.

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# Funding slashed for research that aims to halt spread of devastating plant disease

The \$17 billion U.S. wheat crop might be threatened by the new mutant fungus.

By JIM DRINKARD/The Associated Press

May 28, 2008

ST. PAUL, Minn. - In the face of a devastating new plant disease that threatens the world's wheat crops, the U.S. government has cut the budget for research that might head off the infestation and help developing countries solve their growing hunger problems.

"This amounts to neglect," says Sen. [Richard Lugar](#) of Indiana, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The cuts are being felt here, in a row of greenhouses on the University of Minnesota agriculture campus where Dr. Yue Jin works to identify wheat plants with a genetic resistance to a mutant fungus that attacks them. Jin is the only federal scientist whose main mission is protecting the \$17 billion U.S. wheat crop from annihilation.

He and other plant scientists have watched in alarm as spores carried by the wind have spread the plant disease from Africa across the Red Sea to infect wheat fields in Yemen and Iran.

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**according to Nestle, this is a really  
important work,  
so make note of it . . .**

**C.P. Snow**

**“Two Cultures and the  
Scientific Revolution: The  
Rede Lecture”**

**London, Cambridge University Press**

**1959**

**and if you're interested  
in these kinds of questions  
also have a look at . . .**

**Marion Nestle**

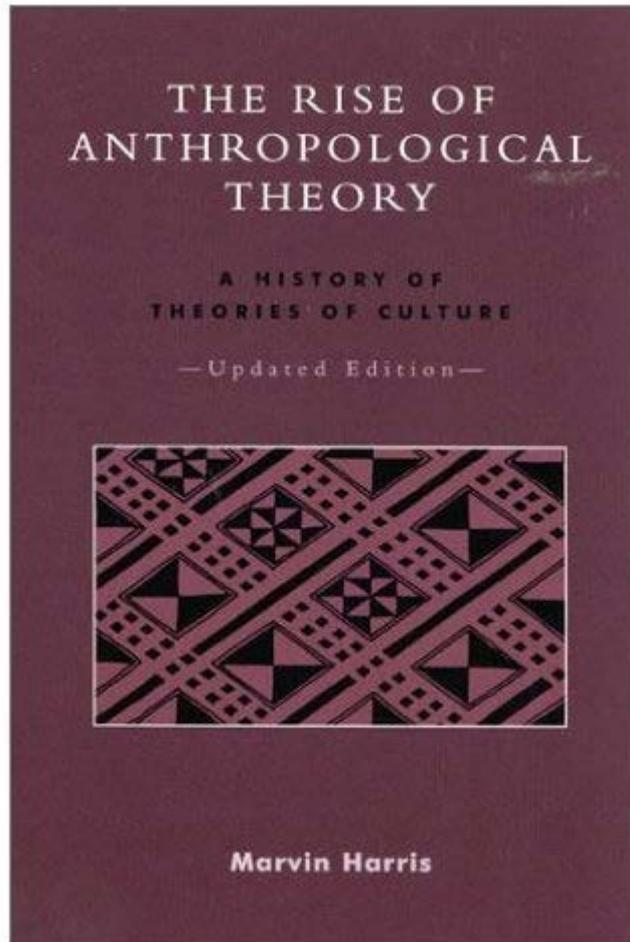
***Food Politics, Revised Ed.***

**Ch. 10 “Science versus Supplements: ‘A Gulf of Mutual Incomprehension’”**

**“THE ‘TWO-CULTURE’ PROBLEM”**

- **“belief-based” attitudes**
- vs.**
- **“science-based” attitudes**

**and in anthropology in general,  
the guru  
of cultural materialism is . . .**



# Cultural Materialism

**Marvin Harris**

*The Rise of Anthropological Theory:  
A History of Theories of Culture,  
Updated Edition.*

**Lanham, MD: Altamira Press, 2000**

# Cultural materialism (anthropology)

---

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Cultural Materialism** is an [anthropological](#) research orientation. "It is based on the simple premise that human social life is a response to the practical problems of earthly existence".<sup>[1]</sup>

It was influenced by the writings of [Karl Marx](#) and [Friedrich Engels](#), yet is a [materialism](#) distinct from [Marxist dialectical materialism](#), as well as from [philosophical materialism](#). [Thomas Malthus](#)' work encouraged Harris to consider reproduction of equal importance to production. The research strategy was also influenced by the work of earlier anthropologists including [Edward Tylor](#) and [Lewis Henry Morgan](#) who, in the 19th century, first proposed that cultures evolved from the less complex to the more complex over time. [Leslie White](#) and [Julian Steward](#) and their theories of [cultural evolution](#) and [cultural ecology](#) were instrumental in the reemergence of evolutionist theories of culture in the 20th century and Harris took inspiration from them in formulating cultural materialism. It was in 1968 with Harris' *The Rise of Anthropological Theory*, a wide-ranging



# cultural materialism



the center for the study of cultural materialism on the Internet

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"What both types of cults indicate to me is that there is an enormous accumulation of frustration and resentment... as a result of the failure of our industrial society to provide the material fulfilment which people expected."

In this clip, anthropologist [Marvin Harris](#) discusses cults and Protestant

## Useful links

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# three major contemporary debates

**finally . . .**

*2. Ideationism vs. Cultural Materialism*

***3. Individual Agency vs. Structuralism***

**(“free will” vs. “power structures”)**

## three major contemporary debates

1. *Biological Determinism*

*vs. Cultural Constructionism*

2. *Ideationism vs. Cultural Materialism*

3. *Individual Agency vs. Structuralism*

(**“free will”** vs. “power structures”)

## three major contemporary debates

1. *Biological Determinism*

*vs. Cultural Constructionism*

2. *Ideationism vs. Cultural Materialism*

3. *Individual Agency vs. Structuralism*

(“free will” vs. **“power structures”**)

# Is our environment to blame for the obesity epidemic?

By Shari Roan

Los Angeles Times

Posted January 22, 2008

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What if the fault could be laid squarely at the feet of food manufacturers and marketers, grocery store managers, restaurant operators, food vendors — the people who make food so visible, available and tasty?

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Several recent studies, papers and a popular weight-loss book argue that eating is an automatic behavior triggered by environmental cues that most people are unaware of — or simply can't ignore. Think of the buttery smell of movie theater popcorn, the sight of glazed doughnuts glistening in the office conference room or the habit of picking up a whipped-cream-laden latte on the way to work.

Accepting this "don't blame me" notion not only might ease the guilt and self-loathing that often

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“free will” vs. “power structures”

behind the theory, but also might help people achieve a healthier weight.

To make Americans eat less and eat more healthily, they contend, the environment itself needs to be changed — with laws regulating portion size, labeling or the places where food can be sold or eaten. That would be much easier, the researchers add, than overcoming human nature. The theory that our society — not us — is to blame for our overall expanding waist size is garnering support from health and nutrition experts. To recap the statistics: In the past 25 years, the number of obese Americans

(“free will” vs. “power structures”)

all socioeconomic groups. It's not limited to





“free will” vs.

**[the ultimate] “power structure”**)

**and, speaking of the devil,  
Christians have been trying  
to get rid of the devil since . . .**



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### Faith Diocese Keener exorcisms

# Christ chased “unclean spirits” out of a man and into a herd of swine 2,000 years ago . . .

When Jesus miraculously cast "unclean spirits" out of man and into a herd of swine at Gadara in Jordan 2,000 years ago, he was setting the stage for exorcisms which continue in the present day.

Each diocese in the Church of England provides a priest to take on the role of exorcist for those rare occasions when it is deemed necessary.

But the most recent need has emerged in a London synagogue.

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# Faith Diary: Kosher exorcisms

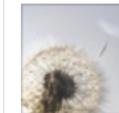
Bumps in the night, unearthly sounds, deathly cold rooms - all the usual ingredients of a supposed haunting. But as Robert Pigott reports in this week's Faith Diary, the kosher solution to a Jewish poltergeist doesn't involve a bell, book and candle. Also this week - what was cooking between the Queen and the Cardinal and why Jordan is praying for a windfall of tourist dollars.

## CALLING THE KOSHER GHOSTBUSTERS

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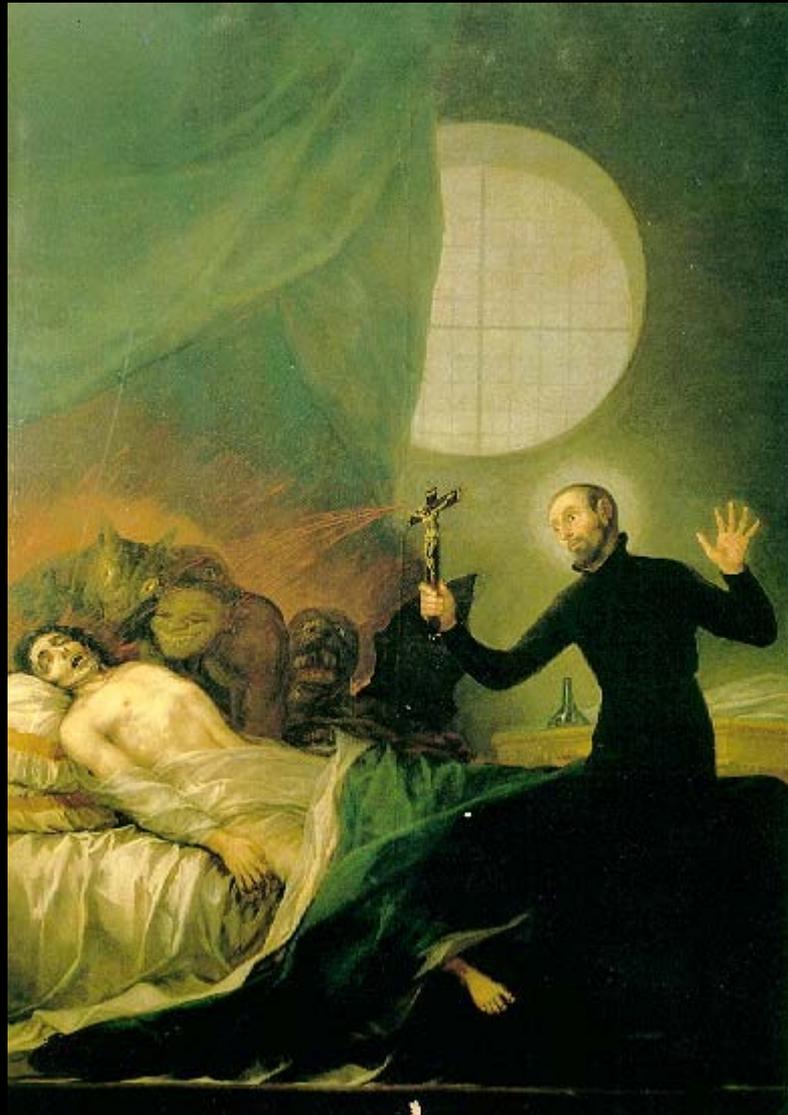
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Saint Francis exorcised demons in Arezzo

Giotto



Saint Francis Borgia performing an exorcism  
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## Rome priests get exorcism lessons

By Mark Duff  
BBC News, Milan

**A Vatican-backed college is launching a new course for exorcists - Roman Catholic priests who cast out evil spirits from the possessed.**



Lessons at the prestigious Athenaeum Pontificium Regina Apostolorum will include the history of Satanism

A two-month course is being offered at the university

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# His Holiness the Pope recently increased efforts to train Roman Catholic priests in exorcism . . .

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Father Giulio Savoldi has been Milan's official exorcist for more than 20 years.

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But the most recent need has emerged in a London synagogue.



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# Faith Diary: Kosher exorcisms

Rumors in the night, unorthodox exorcisms, deathly cold rooms, all

each diocese in the Church of England provides a priest to exorcise demons . . .

stage for exorcisms which continue in the present day.

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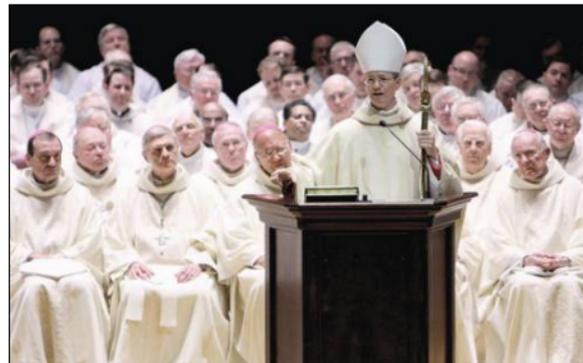
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WELCOME!

Welcome to the Web site for the Diocese of Duluth. We hope you will visit often to stay abreast of the news and information for the Catholic Church in northeastern Minnesota.



## Bishop Sirba ordained for the Diocese of Duluth

On Dec. 14, Bishop Paul Sirba was ordained the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Duluth before a packed DECC Auditorium, in a liturgy broadcast to the region on local television and to a worldwide audience on its Web site.

"As I look out over all of you in my new diocese of Duluth, I am reminded that this is a foretaste of the eternal banquet in heaven," Bishop Sirba said at the end of the ceremony.

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**Duluth Area**

**and even the Diocese of Duluth  
has an exorcist . . .**

**although he's not listed on the Diocesan web page . . .**

For Anglican priests the "deliverance ministry " usually takes the form of talking and praying, although the priest might also talk to a doctor for an assessment of the haunted person's state of mind, without their permission.

If the case is considered genuine, the exorcism may be carried out

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Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez

News feeds

Another senior official, Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez, said at the time that belief in the existence of Satan was part of Catholic doctrine.

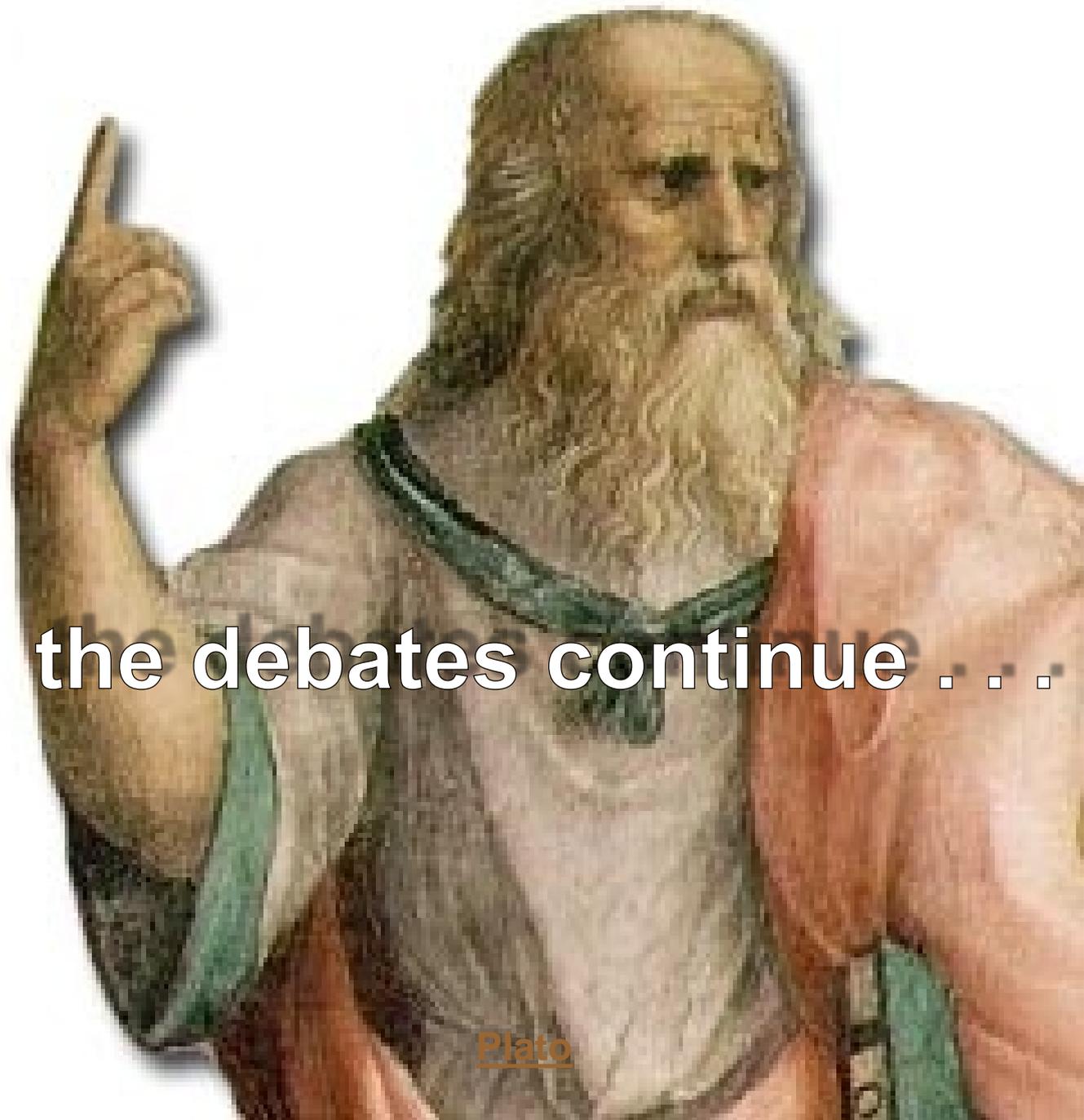
"The existence of the devil isn't an opinion, something to take or leave as you wish," he said.

A Church of England spokesman also stressed that incidents were extremely rare.

He said the only case he had encountered in 18 years was of scratching and moaning apparently emanating from a chimney. It turned out to

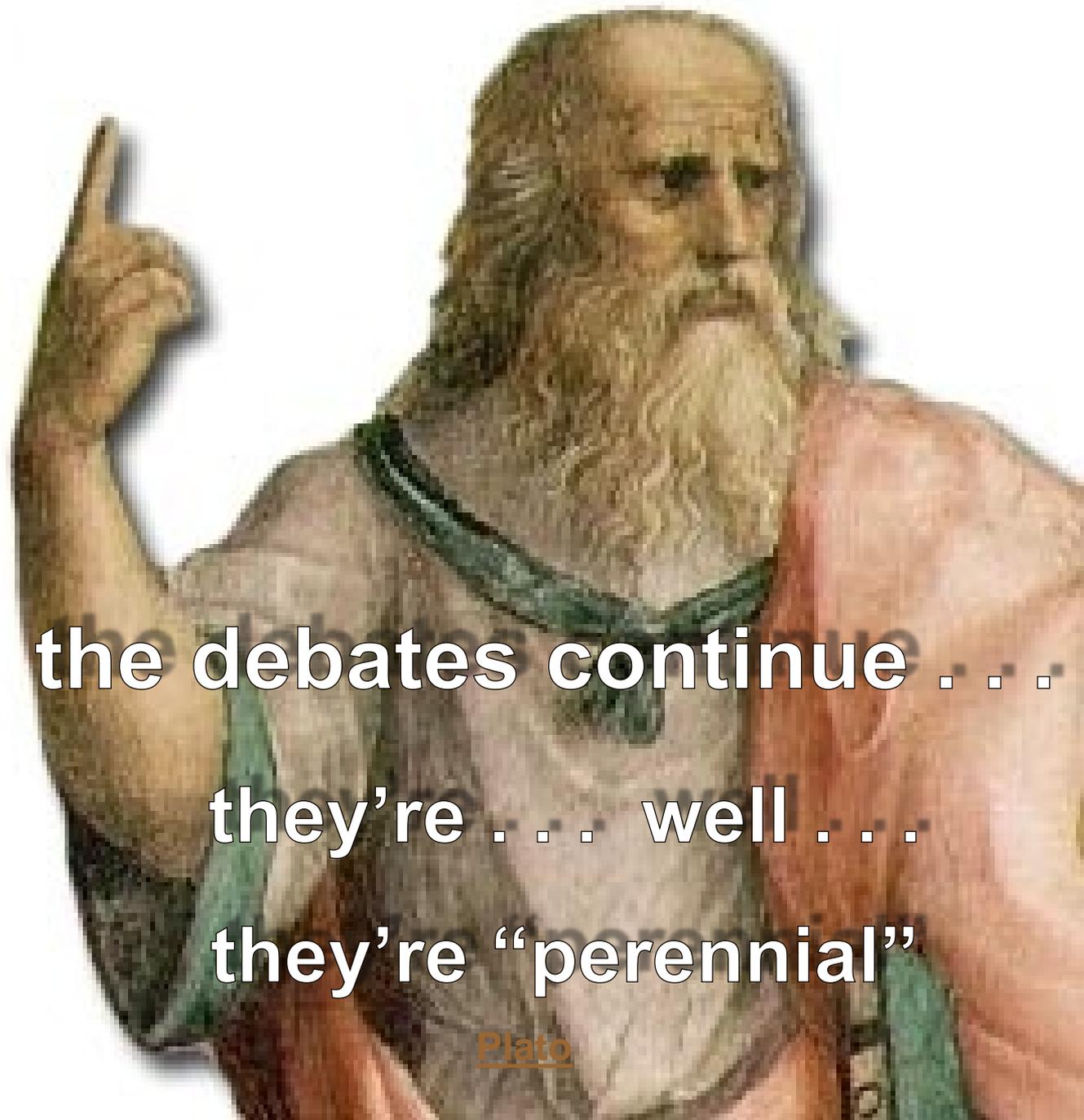
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the debates continue . . .

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*so the  
debates  
go  
on and on. . .*

University of Minnesota Duluth

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*"Selam"  
aka "Lucy's Baby"*