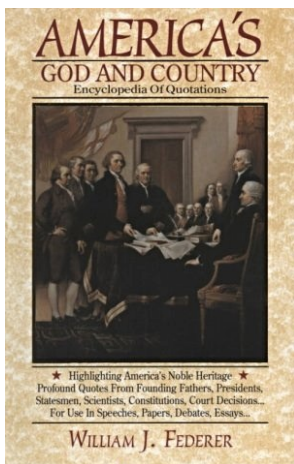


American Minute with Bill Federer Bartolome' de Las Casas -- Protector of the Indians

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Bartolome' de Las Casas left Spain in 1502 for the Caribbean, which was called the West Indies, where he became a hacendado (owner) of an encomienda (plantation) and a slave owner of native Americans ... [continue reading American Minute here ...](#)

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He participated in slave raids and military expeditions against the native populations of Hispaniola and Cuba.

But in 1511, six years before Martin Luther started the Reformation, the life of **Bartolome' de Las Casas** underwent a systemic change.

He heard a church leader, **Dominican friar Antonio de**

Montesinos, speak:

"I am a voice crying in the wilderness ... the voice of Christ in the desert of this island ... You are all in mortal sin ... on account of the cruelty and tyranny with which you use these innocent people.

Are these not men? Have they not rational souls? Must not you love them as you love yourselves? ..."

Montesinos continued:

"Tell me by what right of justice do you hold these Indians in such a cruel and horrible servitude? ...

Why do you keep them so oppressed and exhausted ... from the excessive labor you give them ... in order to extract and acquire gold every day."

Bartolome' de Las Casas was convicted in his heart by **Motesino's preaching** and, in a dramatic turn, determined to follow Jesus, leading him to be **the first priest ordained in the New World**.

Motesino's preaching sounded to similar to **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, who centuries later would state:

"The **church** must be reminded that it is ... the **conscience of the state** ... It must be the guide and the critic of the state ...

If the **church** does not recapture its **prophetic zeal**, it will become an irrelevant **social club** without moral or spiritual authority."

Similarly, **John Jay**, the First Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, wrote January 1, 1813:

"It is the right and duty of **our pastors** to press the observance of all **moral** and **religious** duties."

In 1514, while preparing a Pentecost Sunday sermon, **Las Casas** read from the *Book of Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)* 34:18-22, that if one offers as a sacrifice an animal that they have obtained dishonestly, it is unacceptable, and it is as murder to deprive someone of his means of making a living.

Bartolome' de Las Casas then dedicated the rest of his life to **ending the enslavement of native Americans.**

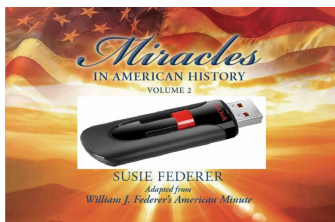
He became **Bishop of Chiapas** and was officially appointed "**Protector of the Indians.**"

In 1515, two years before **Martin Luther** started the **Reformation**, **Las Casas** and **Montesinos** went back to **Spain** where they met with **King Ferdinand** on Christmas Eve.

King Ferdinand agreed with their cause to end the enslavement of native Americans, but, unfortunately, he died a month later before doing anything about it.

Las Casas, being now 40-years-old, petitioned the new 16-year-old **King Charles V** to end the military conquest of the new world and use peaceful means to convert Indians.

This was the same **King Charles V** who in 1521 presided over the **Diet of Worms** and the proceedings against **Martin Luther.**



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King Charles V also defended Europe against the jihadist Muslim warriors of of **Turkish Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent**, who invaded **Hungary in 1526** and **Austria in 1529.**

Las Casas founded three Christian Indian towns in **Venezuela** In 1520, but Spanish encomiendas (plantation) owners stirred up natives to destroy them.

In 1531, on **Tepeyac Hill** outside of the former **Aztec capitol of Mexico City**, word spread of **Indian Juan Diego** and "**The Virgin of Guadalupe**" which resulted in an estimate 15 million Indians being baptized in the next 20 years in what many consider **the largest mass conversion in history**.

In 1536, **Las Casas** criticized Franciscan friar **Motolinia** for being too quick to baptize thousands of Indians before they were fully instructed in the faith.

Las Casas wrote a treatise, titled: "**Concerning the Only Way of Drawing All Peoples to the True Religion.**"

Las Casas became hated by those without a conscience who profited off of the slavery of Indians.

Similar to the pro-life versus pro-abortion arguments of today, **Las Casas** debated **Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda** in 1550 at **Valladolid**.

Sepúlveda argued that Indians were less than human and therefore it was justified to enslave them.

Las Casas, on the other hand, defended the Indians, explaining that all lives matter, regardless of race. That Indians were fully human, created in the image of God, and therefore should never be enslaved.

This conflict demonstrated the continual tension between the two threads that run through human history: **GREED** and the **GOSPEL**.

People motivated by the **GOSPEL**:

- gave money, food, clothes & shelter to the poor;

- dug wells in native villages;
- opened orphanages;
- founded hospitals;
- staffed medical clinics;
- inoculated children;
- took in homeless;
- visited those in prison;
- provided disaster relief and emergency aid;
- taught farming techniques;
- provided literacy programs; and
- fought to abolish slavery.

Those motivated by GREED:

- sold people into slavery;
- took land from Indians;
- grew opium in India to ship into China, as some British merchants did;
- turned a blind eye to sex-trafficking;
- incited racial tension for political gain, called "race-baiting";
- voted for candidates who promise entitlement hand-outs even though those candidates disregard life of

the unborn and ignored issues such as grooming and sex-trafficking of children;

- promoted sexually immoral indoctrination of school children and trans surgeries on minors, "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a large millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea" (Mark 9:43);
- promoted depopulation, orchestrating the killing, euthanizing and sterilization of innocent men, women and children.

Motivated by the GOSPEL, **Bartolome' de Las Casas** spent 60 years of his life fighting for the rights of native Americans, resulting in him being considered one of **the first advocates for universal human rights**.

Similar to priests today who deny communion to pro-abortion Catholic politicians, **Las Cases** declared in his tract "**Confesionario**" that any Spaniard who refused to release his Indians would be denied forgiveness of sins.

Las Casas wrote "**A brief report on the Destruction of the Indians**" and "**Apologetica historia de las Indias.**"

When **Las Casas'** writings were translated and spread around Europe, an outrage arose pressuring the Spanish monarch to issue **Leyes Nuevas (New Laws)** which **ended slavery**, and thus **liberated thousands of indigenous Indians**.

Unfortunately, once enslavement of native Americans was outlawed, plantation owners motivated by GREED replaced them with **slaves from Africa**.

African slaves were purchased from **Arab Muslim slave traders**, who, in the **1,400 years of Islam** are credited with enslaving an estimated **180 million Africans**.

Bartolome' de Las Casas died JULY 17, 1566.

Motivated by the GOSPEL, he stated:

"The main goal of **divine Providence** in the discovery of these tribes ... is ... the **conversion and well-being of souls**, and to this goal everything temporal must necessarily be directed."

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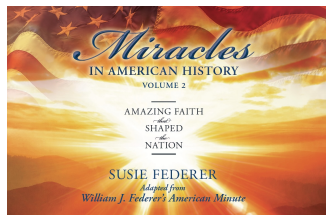
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