

Abortion: A Crime Against Humanity
By: Audrey Seghers

“We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States.”

The United States Constitution is the basis of our entire government. The above quotation is found in the first paragraph of our great nation’s constitution. In this historical document our nation assumes the obligation to defend the sanctity of life and the welfare of *all* our people. By upholding this fundamental law, we define the very essence of what being an American citizen means. “An American is one who loves justice and believes in the dignity of man. An American is one who will fight for his freedom and that of his neighbor. An American is one who will sacrifice property, ease and security in order that he and his children may retain the rights of free men.”¹

In 1973 the United States Supreme Court in 1973 legalized abortion in the case of *Roe v. Wade*. The legalization of this monstrous crime has allowed the slaughter of more than 33 million unborn babies. This is a number more than twenty times the death from all of America’s wars. In this paper, it is my purpose to show that abortion is completely immoral and can, therefore, only bring continued evil upon our society.

Since the beginning of time, man has known in his heart that certain things were wrong. These truths are called the Natural Law, which God has placed on our hearts in order to help us discern what is good and what is evil. Most men of reason, even those who do not believe in God, will acknowledge the existence of the Natural Law. In Sophocles’ drama *Antigone*, the author’s awareness of the Natural Law is shown through the manner in which he depicts Antigone’s response to King Creon during his examination of her. “Because it was not Zeus who ordered it, nor Justice, dweller with the Nether gods, gave such a law to men; nor did I deem your ordinance of so much binding force, as that a mortal man could overbear the unchangeable unwritten code of Heaven.”²

It is the duty of every government to enforce the Natural Law. As depicted in Sophocles’ great tragedy, if the government rejects the Natural Law it is our duty and prerogative to oppose any unjust laws. The great founders of our nation affirmed this obligation. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that *all* men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain *unalienable* Rights, that among these are *Life*, *Liberty* and the pursuit of *Happiness*.”³

¹ Harold L. Ickes, *What Constitutes An American*. Editors Lewis Copeland, Lawrence W. Lamm, and Stephen J. McKenna. 4th edition, New York: Dover Publications, Inc. 1999, p. 568.

² Sophocles, *Antigone*. Lewis E. Lehrman, *Crisis*, September 1996, p. 21.

³ *The World Book Encyclopedia D*, Volume V, Chicago: Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, 1967, p. 66.

Men like James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, and Alexander Hamilton wished to keep our country from becoming polluted by the very things that motivated them to fight for freedom. “By invoking the binding laws of nature and of nature’s God, the founders of our country implied that any law, any judicial ruling that violates inalienable human rights is, by its nature unacceptable; indeed, unconstitutional. And moreover, ‘that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends [namely, the inalienable rights to life and to liberty], it is the right of the people to alter or abolish [that government], and to institute new government.’”⁴

Through the Natural Law, people understand intuitively that it is a crime to kill the innocent. That is why our courts condemn people convicted of committing murder. Yet, we continue to allow the massacre of the unborn child take place day after day. Some of those who support abortion will argue that the “embryo” is not a child but rather a mere blob of tissue. However, this is a myth! In fact, although abortionists often insist, “It’s not a baby, it’s a fetus,” the very word fetus means *young one* or *little child*. The moment a child is conceived it receives a soul and becomes a human being. “It is evident that the determination of what is right and wrong in human conduct belongs to the science of ethics and the teaching of religious authority. Both of these declare the Divine law, ‘Thou shalt not kill’. The embryonic child, as seen above, has a human soul; and therefore is a man from the time of its conception.”⁵

We cannot possibly argue that the unborn child is an unjust assailant as it is merely where nature has placed it. Nor can it be supported that life is sacred only after birth. As Malcolm Muggeridge so effectively argued: “Either [innocent] life is always and in all circumstances sacred, or intrinsically of no account; it is inconceivable that it should be in some cases the one, and in some the other.”⁶

The Catholic Church has always maintained that abortion is a grave sin against God and that human life is sacred. Some women will argue, “It is my body. Therefore neither the Church or the State has the right to tell me what to do with it.” This is a common fallacy because abortion does gravely concern both the government and the Church. As shown in the previous paragraphs, abortion involves the law because it violates the freedom and safety of a person. This issue involves the Church because it deals with the soul and morality of the person committing or aiding the abortion. In addition there is a moral obligation to defend the innocent life. “In principle, all Catholic-Christians believe that all life is sacred from conception until natural death, and taking of innocent life, whether born or unborn, is morally wrong.”⁷

Many people, including some Catholics, are confused about the Churches’ teachings concerning abortion. Some incorrectly claim that the Church has changed its position

⁴ Lewis E. Lehman, “Slavery & Abortion,” *Crisis*, September 1996, p. 21.

⁵ “Abortion,” *Catholic Encyclopedia*, New Advent, January 11, 2005.

⁶ Ronald Reagan, “Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation,” *Human Life Review*, Spring 1983. <http://catholiceducation.org/articles/abortion/ab0089.html>.

⁷ Fr. William Saunders, “Church Has Always Condemned Abortion,” *Arlington Catholic Herald*, 2004 Catholic education, January 11, 2005 <http://catholiceducation.org/articles/abortion/ab0083.html>.

regarding abortion. It is true that abortion has only recently become a prominent issue due to its legalization. Therefore, in recent years the Church has made many statements and clarifications regarding her teachings on abortion. However, it is important to realize that the Church never changed its position. Rather it has explained its traditional teaching more fully due to this new threat to life.

This process is known as development of doctrine, where previous teachings are expanded and clarified, but never contradicted. For example, St. Thomas Aquinas speculated that an unborn child does not receive its soul until forty days after conception if male and eighty days if female. This conjecture was based on the limited science of his day. During Thomas' era, scientists were limited in their ability to observe a child's growth in the womb. Therefore they estimated the time a baby received its soul by when it looked human. However, St. Thomas always maintained that abortion was a violation against the natural law and is always gravely wrong no matter when a child receives its soul. Now, modern science knows that the embryo has a human genetic code from the moment of conception and consequently that is when its humanity begins.

Currently the Church continues to be the unfaltering defender of human life. Pope John Paul II has written encyclicals and given numerous instructions encouraging Catholics and all men of good will to protect the sanctity of innocent human life. "The first challenge is of life. Life is the first gift which God has given us, it is the first resource which man can enjoy. The Church is called to proclaim 'the Gospel of Life.' And the State has as its primary task precisely the safeguarding and promotion of human life."⁸

Immoral actions bear evil fruit. This has certainly been the case with abortion. Abortion was legalized under the pretense of benefiting society generally and women specifically. Yet, it has done nothing but harm both society as a whole and women in particular. What makes a woman special and different from men rests in her ability to nurture and give life. Yet, this is not what the pro-abortion movement would have you believe. Today, the radical feminists are one hundred percent pro-choice, as they like to call it. Somewhere along their way to acquiring equal rights, women started believing that in order to succeed and achieve they must rid themselves of their femininity. "This strategy rests on the disquieting premise that for a woman to achieve full dignity and freedom they must become as much like men as possible. Radical feminists inadvertently appropriate the very assumption they publicly denounce, namely that the true measure and embodiment of humanity is man. Consider the logic: for a woman to become the best she can be, she must become as little like a woman as possible."⁹

The interesting thing is that all of the original American Feminists were unanimously against abortion. They maintained that true feminism would never oblige a woman to choose between her children and her career. The original feminists also saw abortion as another tool of male repression. They understood that abortion would only cause more

⁸ Pope John Paul II, "State of the World." Address to the Diplomatic Corps, January 10, 2005. Zenet News Agency, January 14, 2005, <http://www.zenet.org/English/visualizza.phtml?sid=64490>.

⁹ Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, "How Abortion Has Failed Women," *Crisis*, 18, No 3, March 2000, pp. 32-37. January 11, 2005 <http://catholiceducation.org/articles/abortion/aboo74.html>.

harm to women. What those women feared is precisely what has happened around the world.

Largely due to abortion, our country is suffering from an outbreak of child sexual abuse. “The firm, Life Dynamics, Inc., based in Denton, Texas, said in an eight page summary of its data that ‘among girls 15 and younger who become pregnant, between 60% and 80% of them are impregnated by adult men.’ Some girls are even as young as 10 years old, said the summary.”¹⁰ The same study went on to explain how practically every Planned Parenthood and NAF program that they examined expressed their willingness to conceal information that they received about child sexual abuse. In fact, they have helped coach hundreds or even thousands of children on how to avoid the discovery of their abuse. They offer several “solutions” to the “problem,” namely, having a secret abortion. These organizations, which should be prosecuted for concealing and sometimes aiding these illegal acts, are given hundreds of millions of tax dollars a year!

The pro-abortion movement constantly lies and twists truths and facts. This is the reason that many people are unaware of the serious consequence of abortion. One of the primary arguments used to support the legalization of abortion was the false information that thousands of women were dying annually from back alley abortions. Pro-abortion leaders argued that in order to protect women, safe and legal abortions needed to be offered. The year before the Roe v. Wade case, 39 women were reported to have died from illegal abortions. Yet to buttress their case, the representatives from different pro-choice movements such as Planned Parenthood falsely stated that as many as 1,000 women died a year from illegal abortions.

It is obvious that abortion terminates the life of a child, but what few people are aware of is that it kills women too. There are a great number of untold medical problems that women who have had abortions must face. “If complete, the danger is principally from shock and hemorrhage; if incomplete and any debris remains, there is a danger of septicaemia, uraemia, endometritis, perimetritis, diseases of the tubes, ovaries, bladder, cervix uteri, vaginal canal, and rectum; together with catarrhal discharges from one or more of these parts, displacements, impoverished blood supply, various neuroses, and usually a long and expensive convalescence.”¹¹

The reason that these problems are not commonly known is because complete data is unavailable due to a policy of concealment. “But in 1998, the Aug. 26 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association noted that ‘some states – Alaska, California, Iowa, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma – neither collect nor report abortion-related information to the [federal Center for Disease Control].’ And ‘some state health departments lack information on 40% to 50% of abortions performed in the state.’”¹²

¹⁰ Eve Tushnet, “Investigate the Abortion Industry, Say Priests,” *National Catholic Register*, June 24, 2001. Catholic Education, Jan 11, 2005. <http://catholiceducation.org/articles/abortion/ab0055.html>.

¹¹ “Physical Effects of Abortion,” *Catholic Encyclopedia*, New Advent, January 1, 2005. <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01049a.html>.

¹² Eve Tushnet, “Investigate the Abortion Industry, Say Priests,” *National Catholic Register*, June 24, 2001. Catholic Education, Jan 11, 2005. <http://catholiceducation.org/articles/abortion/ab0055.html>.

The same article reported how two women, Maria Cardamone and Christi Stile, were gravely harmed by abortion. Tragically, Cardamone died at age 18 due to complications from this awful procedure, and Stile has been in a coma since 1993.

Abortion has also caused an enormous increase in breast cancer. “In 1994, Dr. Janet Daling and colleagues at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington, published their results in the NCI’s own journal. They reported, in brief: “A 50 percent increase in the risk of breast cancer before age 45 among women who had one or more induced abortions; An 80 percent increase in the risk of breast cancer among women who had any abortions and who also had any history of breast cancer; A more than 100 percent risk among women who had any abortions before age 18 or after age 30; An incalculably high-risk increase among women who had an abortion before age 18 and who also had any family history of the disease.”¹³ As late as 1973 breast cancer was considered primarily an elderly woman’s disease but today, due largely to abortion, it is considered a young woman’s disease. These are just a few of the serious medical problems abortion brings into the lives of millions of women.

There are also many psychological problems that accompany an abortion. Women feel an enormous amount of guilt once the realization that they have murdered their child reaches them. “Abortion begets and anchors the culture of death that threatens us all, but especially women, whose essence includes the ability to bear new life.”¹⁴

The September 1991 issue of *Women’s World* reported a study on women who had abortions. Out of the women examined, 45% said that they had thought about committing suicide after their abortion. Because abortion is promoted to have no psychological drawbacks, women are completely unprepared for the trauma and guilt that they must face. Abortion cannot merely turn back time and return women to where they were before their pregnancy as if it and the abortion never happened. It may bring temporary relief but it will also usher in long-term psychological problems. “Abortion touches on three central issues of a woman’s self-concept: her sexuality, her morality, and her maternal identity. It also involves the loss of her child. ‘Few women sort through all of these issues before their abortions.’ These unresolved issues will often surface later.”¹⁵

Abortion has also caused problems within our society as a whole. It undermines the role of the family, which has led to an increase in broken marriages. “The revolutionary progress of sexual liberation, grounded in the availability of abortion, has shattered this understanding of marriage and family as sacred. Increasingly, sex is viewed as an end in itself, and sexual unions – or better, liaisons – are treated as temporary arrangements, entered into for immediate gratification and abandoned for new objects of sexual

¹³ Joel Brind, “Medicine’s Best-Kept Secret: The Abortion-Breast Cancer Link,” *Lay Witness*, Jan/Feb 2002. Catholic Education, January 11, 2005.

¹⁴ Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, “How Abortion Has Failed Women,” *Crisis*, 18, No 3, March 2000, pp. 32-37. January 11, 2005 <http://catholiceducation.org/articles/abortion/aboo74.html>.

¹⁵ *Abortion and Women’s Health: A Hidden Price*, Washington, D.C., July 5, 2003.

desire.”¹⁶ Many woman now live in an atmosphere in which she fears her husband can renounce their marriage and children without suffering any consequences. Therefore she clings to her career as a kind of safety net. This is not an environment that fosters stable, lasting marriages.

Another problem caused by abortion is that it has enabled countries such as India and China to selectively abort millions of baby girls. Because of this, young men from these countries are having a difficult time finding brides. “In large parts of China there are up to 20% more boys than girls, leading to Chinese men now paying up to \$4,000 for kidnapped Vietnamese women, the Times reported.”¹⁷

In conclusion, abortion is completely against God’s natural law and it spawns terrible world-wide consequences. Just as the world joined forces to stop Hitler and his master race, men and women must join together and fight this new holocaust. Abortion ruthlessly destroys innocent lives. It promotes women being demoted to mere objects status, as if they are things to be used and then discarded. Abortion brings terrible physical and psychological suffering into the lives of countless women. Finally, it undercuts the family, which is the very heart of society.

Let us all fight to end abortion first in our own country and then around the world. “We Americans know that freedom, like peace, is indivisible. We cannot retain our liberty if three-fourths of the world is enslaved. Brutality, injustice and slavery, if practiced as dictators would have them, universally and systematically, in the long run would destroy us as surely as a fire raging in our nearby neighbor’s house would burn ours if we didn’t help put out his.”¹⁸

The ultimate consequence of not ending this abortion holocaust is terminating our nation as we know it. Abortion is a deadly cancer. If we don’t put a stop to abortion it will continue to eat away at the fabric of our nation. The United States of America will crumble just as the Roman Empire was destroyed by its corruption. When a country does not defend the right of innocent life, all other rights ultimately become meaningless.

Audrey Seghers was sixteen years old and a junior in high school when she wrote this essay in January 2005. It is her first serious essay. Audrey has been home schooled since kindergarten.

¹⁶ Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, “How Abortion Has Failed Women,” *Crisis*, 18, No 3, March 2000, pp. 32-37. January 11, 2005 <http://catholiceducation.org/articles/abortion/aboo74.html>.

¹⁷ “Why Is India Short 40 Million Women, *New York Times*, Feb. 15, 2003.

¹⁸ Harold L. Ickes, *What Constitutes An American*. Editors Lewis Copeland, Lawrence W. Lamm, and Stephen J. McKenna. 4th edition, New York: Dover Publications, Inc. 1999, p. 568.