


# Uncommon Sense

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Dear David,

 Ara Norwood

Welcome to yet another foray into my thought-world.

Continuing my look back at great leaders from the past, I treat you to a profile of Martin Luther in the **Self-Development** column.

In my **Elephant in the Room** column, I share a of few of my concerns about the Global Warming hoax.


And in the **From Ara's Journal** column, I reflect on the latest efforts of the Left to silence voices they do not like hearing, in this case, my own voice.

And you get treated to another great word from the English language in the **World of Words** column.

OK, let's get started.

## **Self-Development**

### Great Leaders of the Past: Martin Luther

Continuing with our profile of great leaders of the past, we turn our attention to Martin Luther (1483 - 1546). Luther is considered the Father of the Reformation of Christianity. You might remember from  Martin Luther our profile of Leonardo Da Vinci that Leonardo was born in 1452, only 31 years earlier than the birth of Martin Luther. Luther almost certainly was aware of Leonardo, and while I am unsure as to whether Leonardo knew much of Martin Luther, it is very possible he had heard of the controversies Luther has started, since the 95 Theses (more on that below) were published almost two years prior to Leonardo's death.

Born November 10, 1483 in Germany (part of the Holy Roman Empire), Luther was baptized Catholic the next day. His father, Hans Luder, was a leaseholder of copper mines. Martin was oldest of several siblings, and his father wanted him to become a lawyer.

Luther was well-educated, earning what we would call a masters degree by age 21, then dropping out of Law School. He decided to become a monk after a thunderstorm incident brought to his mind the notion of an angry God. His father was furious at this turn of events. But off to the monastery he went, cloistered, monastic, highly introspective, and soon falling into deep spiritual despair.

Luther was eventually ordained to the priesthood and began teaching theology. He started his formal education again, earning the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies at age 24, then an additional bachelor's a year later. 3 years later he earned his Doctorate and was teaching theology at the University of Wittenberg.

Luther's contribution to leadership is largely theological. On October 31, 1517, this Catholic priest, teacher, and scholar, walked up to the door of the Church at Wittenberg and there he nailed to that door a lengthy document spelling out 95 "Theses" which challenged the veracity of his own religious tradition -- the Roman Catholic Church. This provocative document was not initially thought of as an open confrontation to the Pope, but more as a scholarly inquiry, although #86 asks, "Why does the pope, whose wealth today is greater than the wealth of the richest Crassus, build the basilica of St. Peter with the money of the poor believers rather than with his own money?"

Another point of contention addressed by Luther's document concerned something called the sale of indulgences. This involved Catholic priests of the day approaching a parishioner and selling them a ticket out of purgatory for the soul of a relative that had supposedly been sent there. Hopeful and gullible peasants routinely paid what they could for the Salesman/Priest putting in a good word to the Good Lord. Luther's angst over the sale of indulgences was primarily aimed at a statement by Johann Tetzel, that "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs." Since only God can forgive, Luther reasoned, this practice

was flat out incorrect and unscriptural. Luther's 95 Theses, originally written in Latin, was translated into German and made very public. Within 2 months, the document was all over Europe.

As Luther began to study the Bible more, he came to the conclusion that the Church he represented as a monk had become doctrinally corrupt. His pet doctrine was that of justification (God's act of declaring a sinner righteous.) He began to teach that justification was by faith alone, and was entirely the work of God, not man. Luther did not believe in free will.

Over the next three years Pope Leo X deployed a series of papal theologians who engaged Luther in different ways. Sometimes the result of such exchanges descended quickly into a shouting match. Other times a more conciliatory approach was taken. But Luther made it impossible to reconcile when he claimed the Pope possessed no real authority, and then burned papal edicts - in public.

Luther, who, as a monk, had practiced celibacy, married Katharina von Bora in June 1525. She was one of 12 nuns he had helped escape from a convent two years earlier. He was 42. She was 26. With this, Luther pronounced a theologically stunning innovation: monks could now marry for the first time.

Next Luther organized a new church, but didn't make additional massive changes, as he did not want to replace one controlling system with another; he acted as mere advisor to other churches now sprouting up, rather than setting himself up as a sole source of authority of this new, Protestant movement.

Luther published his German translation of the New Testament in 1522, and completed the Old Testament in 1534. Highly criticized for translating Romans 3:28 as "a man is justified by faith *alone* without the deeds of the law," since the word "alone" is not to be found in the original manuscripts, Luther retorted: "It is *my* Testament and *my* translation, and it shall continue to be mine!"

While Luther didn't think much of Islam, he had serious issues with Jews. Jews, he maintained, were responsible for the death of Christ. Over time, he came to see Jews, if they didn't convert, as evil, and thus, he published "On The Jews and Their Lies" where he said they are no longer the Chosen People, but now the Devil's people.


This animus towards the Jews went so far that Luther advocated setting synagogues on fire, destroying Jewish Prayer Books, forbidding rabbis from preaching, seizing the property and money of Jews, and destroying their homes. Astonishingly, Luther claimed, "We are at fault for not slaying them," a sanction for murder.

His anti-Jewish writings and rhetoric contributed significantly to the anti-Semitism in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s. Almost every anti-Semitic book printed by the Third Reich was replete with quotes from Martin Luther. Yet Luther himself was not a Nazi. His issue was spiritual, not ethnic. And as a general rule, Luther stuck by his convictions in doing what he believed God wanted him to do.

In summarizing Luther, I would say his leadership resulted in a complete change in the power structures of the Christianity of his day. He established a type of Christianity that, despite all of the myriad theological differences that abound in today's Protestant denominations, continues to this day. Martin Luther can be credited with the creation of a distinctively Protestant approach to religion. And while one cannot ignore his anti-Jewish views, his stubborn personality, or his argumentative character, one must also acknowledge that Martin Luther was an extraordinarily courageous, theologically innovative individual who faced great dangers and displayed incredible staying power.

## **The Elephant in the Room**

### **The Global Warming Hoax**

Let's cut to the chase. There is a confluence of activity that is detrimental to Western Civilization's  Pseudo-Science progress that has resulted in what could best be called the Global Warming Hoax. Here are the elements of that confluence:

- Leftist hatred of big business. The Left believes in equality. In the Leftist way of thinking (such as it could be called "thinking") everyone should earn the same. No one should have more money than anyone else. The work of a brain surgeon is no more consequential than the work of a bagger at the local grocery store. Since corporations are for-profit entities, and since people in corporations earn different amounts of money, corporations must be challenged, attacked, and destroyed. One nifty way of causing all this trouble for corporations is to claim that they contribute to global warming, pass laws that make it difficult for such corporations to function, and hopefully make them less profitable.
- Leftist hatred of God, Religion in general, and Christianity in particular. However, inasmuch as the need to worship is embedded in our DNA, true worship must be replaced with a counterfeit. Nature worship is a suitable replacement for some, and that is where we get our environmentalist zealots. They worship the earth and see businesses that pollute as something that must be stopped dead in its tracks.
- Leftist love of pseudo-science. Since true science involves thought, and thought is foreign to Leftism, as Leftists are much more at home in the realm of feelings, impulses, and emotions, certain Leftists replace the pursuit of real science with fake-science as long as it supports a narrative.

With all of that as a backdrop, I will now demonstrate why the cries of "the sky is falling" with respect to global warming (a term recently replaced by the more fluid term, climate change) are highly suspect. In doing this, I need to state for the record that neither I nor anyone at all who opposes the Climate Change hysteria brought on by Leftists denies that the climate does change, has changed, and is in the process of changing. Leftist claims that we are deniers of science should not

be taken seriously, as such rhetoric is nothing more than an uninformed slur. The issues are more about how much warming is taking place, what is causing it and what, if anything can or should be done about it. Rational people are open to exploring such questions; Leftists are not.

Here are 2 reasons (among many) why I remain highly skeptical of the Leftist agenda on Global Warming:

First, until recently, government data on climate change indicated that the earth has warmed over the last century, but that the warming slowed dramatically and even stopped at points over the last 17 to 20 years or so. One would think that such scientific facts would be worthy of notice. But not to the agenda-driven Leftists. In a paper they released on May 28, 2015, researchers at an Obama-era think tank readjusted the data in a way that makes the reduction in warming disappear, indicating a steady increase in temperature instead. That's what these Leftists wanted the data to say, so they manipulated their models to make it say that. But Judith Curry, a climate science professor at George Tech, wasn't fooled: "While I'm sure this latest analysis from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) will be regarded as politically useful for the Obama administration, I don't regard it as a particularly useful contribution to our scientific understanding of what is going on." She went on to say, "The new NOAA dataset disagrees with a UK dataset, which is generally regarded as the gold standard for global sea surface temperature datasets. The new dataset also disagrees with ARGO buoys and satellite analysis." You can read more about this by [clicking here](#).

Second, Leftist cheating and manipulation to support a pre-determined agenda. There are three main sources climate scientists can turn to in order to gauge how much change the earth's temperatures are experiencing: A network of weather stations, Remote Sensing Systems, and Satellite Data used by the University of Alabama, the nation's premiere research institution for the study of climate change. While the latter-two sources do not show any alarming data with respect to climate change, the weather stations used by the NOAA were used exclusively by recent studies done that suggest cause for concern, however, the data from those sources was manipulated to paint a bleak picture. What these Global Warming devotees did was to take earlier temperatures and readjust them to be lower than they actually were, so that when one compares those earlier figures with the more recent figures (which were higher in temperature) the data would paint a picture of a greater increase in temperature than is really taking place. That's called cheating. That is forcing science to bend to your narrative, not formulate your narrative in response to actual science. You can read more [here](#).

And why do those so-called scientists ignore the data from the other two sources of climate data? Why do they ignore the Remote Sensing Systems and the Satellite Data from the University of Alabama? Simply. Such sources do not support their need to be alarmed. So like all good pseudo-scientists, they simply ignore those data-points.

If members of the religion known as Global Warming had a case, they would not have to manipulate data.



Inasmuch as they feel they have no choice but to manipulate data, they do not have a case.

And that, my friends, is the latest elephant in the room.

Check out [my website](#) for tools to help you with your career, your presentations, and other matters.

**Shameless Plug**

## Is Your Résumé Overdue For an Overhaul?

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"I could not have gotten my first job without your expertise. Thank you so much! I learned that I had to reword and improve my résumé in order to be taken seriously in the workforce. I had been given tips from my professors in Health Science and other professionals but your advice was just what I

needed. It took weeks of frustration waiting for interview calls when I happened to stumble across your website and discovered that I needed help. Your publication enlightened me with your knowledge on the wording and format needed to attract an employer. Furthermore, your booklet helped me recognize certain skills and work experience that I would have never considered important until you got me thinking about it. Thanks for a great product!" -- R. Espana, Valencia, California

## **From Ara's Journal**

### To Bask in Ignorance

One of my college students is  Journal Writing attempting to get me fired from my job. Because she is humorless, she is offended by a blond joke I told, imagining that I believe the color of one's hair determines one's intelligence. She is also deeply offended by videos I show from [Prager University](#). This offends her because, being a woman of the Left, she believes a conservative viewpoint has no place in American life, and especially no place in the academy. This is a woman with a serious and self-imposed learning disability, not only an inability to hear viewpoints she doesn't already agree with, but to hear any viewpoints of any kind -- even non-political viewpoints -- if they come from a Conservative, thus denying herself an opportunity at what it means to receive an education. She doesn't see herself as a student or a learner, but as an activist, who is present to police the campus, looking for points of view that offend her tender sensibilities so she can do the work of an activist and cause trouble for those who hold views she finds abhorrent.

Although I am not particularly worried about my being fired as a professor -- even if that should be the outcome -- I do find it sad that a young person could be so ideologically poisoned that she would miss out on what could have been a solid learning experience for her. Her peers, numbering in the 40s, uniformly find the class I teach transformative. Cumulatively, they rate me 9.71 on a ten-point scale in terms of overall effectiveness as a professor. One student told me she was offered Laker tickets, but that game was on a night when class was held; she declined the tickets so she would not miss my class. The activist student merely plugs in her ear buds and works feverishly on her laptop on some other project of hers during my lectures, ignoring them entirely, then walking out of class at the start of the PragerU video which closes my class session.

I am heartened by anecdotes such as the Laker ticket story. I am sad that a young activist has decided to channel her energies on destroying what is a solid learning experience for herself and others, with her goal of preventing future generations of students from receiving a first-rate education because it's coming from a Conservative American.

But opposition is part of this grand experience called mortality. And I am up for the challenge.

# Ostentatious

## Building Your Power of Expression



Dictionary

**Ostentatious**, adj.

**Pronunciation:** ăstəntāSHəs

**Meaning:** When a thing is characterized by a pretentious display, too much flash, or displayed in such a way so as to try to impress or attract notice, that thing could be said to be ostentatious.

### Usage:

- *I am repulsed by people who buy books and then carry them around in an ostentatious manner in an effort to impress, primarily because such persons almost never finish such books, let alone understand their content.*
- *She carried her car keys on an ostentatious gold key ring.*
- *Buying an airline seemed foolhardy and unnecessarily ostentatious, as it affronted his sense of proportion.*

New subscribers, the Special Report "11 Ways to Beat the Odds" should have been sent out to you already. If you have not received it, please communicate that to me via email ([ara@aranorwood.com](mailto:ara@aranorwood.com)).

For more information on my work, follow me on Twitter ("Ara Norwood"), or on Facebook (keyword "Leadership Development Systems") or via my website: [www.aranorwood.com](http://www.aranorwood.com)

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