

## THE POWER OF CULTURAL CONDITIONING

5/15/10

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### \* THE STORY OF LOT

Gen. 11:27 Lot was Abram's nephew  
Gen. 12:4-5 Lot went with Abram and Sarai to Canaan  
Gen. 13:5 Lot also had flocks, herds and tents  
8 Abram suggested that he and Lot part ways  
10-11 Lot chose the plain of Jordan  
12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan -- Lot dwelled  
in the cities of the plain -- Lot pitched his tent toward  
Sodom  
Gen. 14:12 Lot was taken prisoner  
13-16 Abram rescued Lot  
Gen. 19:1 2 angels approached Lot in Sodom  
2 Lot asked them to spend the night in his home -- at  
first, they refused  
3 Lot kept insisting -- they agreed  
4-5 the people of the city gathered around Lot's house  
and made demands  
6-8 Lot offered his daughters to the men  
9 the mob rejected Lot's offer and rushed the door  
10-11 the 2 angels rescued Lot and struck the mob with  
blindness

\* How could Lot offered his daughters to the mob?

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### \* NOTICE THE IDEA OF "CONSTRUCTIVISM"

Here are excerpts from pages 72-73 of *Essentials of International Relations* (fourth edition) by Karen A. Mingst.

From page 72: "Like liberalism, realism, and radicalism before it, constructivism is not a uniform theory. . . .The major theoretical proposition that all constructivists subscribe to is that state behavior is shaped by elite beliefs, identities, and social norms. Individuals in collectivities forge, shape, and change culture through ideas and practices."

From page 73: "Like the realists and neoliberal institutionalists, constructivists see power as important. But whereas the former just see power in material terms (military, economic, political), constructivists also see power in discursive terms--the power of ideas, culture, and language. Power exists in every exchange among actors, and the goal of constructivists is to find the sources of power. Their unique contribution may well be in elucidating the sources of power in ideas and in showing how ideas shape and change identity. . . ."

"For all the renewed intellectual vigor that constructivism has fostered, this approach has been criticized. If, as constructivists claim, there is no objective reality, if 'the world is in the eye of the beholder,' then there can be no right or wrong answers, only individual perspectives. With no authoritative texts, all texts are equally valid--both the musings of the elites and the practices of everyday men and women."

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- \* Deconstruction of beliefs, identities and social norms
- \* Construction of newer views
- \* A rewriting of history -- a reconstructing of the present
- \* The battle of the mind
  
- \* The power of the media
- \* Grover Cleveland -- 1st president to appear on moving film
- \* Calvin Coolidge -- 1st president to address public directly via radio
- \* Franklin Roosevelt -- folksy "fireside chats"
- \* Bill Clinton -- 1st president on the Internet
- \* George W. Bush -- used the Internet extensively
- \* During the 2008 campaign, social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, became standard tools
- \* Barack Obama -- has established a White House video blog
  
- \* A rewriting of history -- a reconstructing of the present
- \* Done in civil politics -- by misguided zealots & by manipulative people seeking power and money
- \* Shaping the view of global warming -- zealous idealists or people seeking power and money
- \* Shaping the view of illegal immigration -- zealous idealists or people seeking power and money
- \* Shaping the view of health care -- zealous idealists or people seeking power and money
  
- \* Done in church politics -- by misguided zealots & by manipulative people seeking power and money
- \* Shaping the view of "God's true church" -- zealous idealists or people seeking power and money
- \* Shaping the view of the "clergy" class-system -- zealous idealists or people seeking power and money
- \* Shaping the view of "the work" -- zealous idealists or people seeking power and money

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Gen. 6:6	imaginations of the thoughts -- evil
John 17:14-16	not of this world -- yet, in this world
17	sanctified by truth -- God's word is truth
Col. 3:1	seek those things which are above
2	set your affections on things above
5-9	mortify -- put off
Matt. 10:16	be wise -- be harmless