

A Return to Tradition

Dear Epoch VIP,

It's such an honor to have you here as one of our readers. I'm Jan Jekielek, senior editor with The Epoch Times. You may already know me from our web series, American Thought Leaders, where I interview experts from a variety of backgrounds who have a hand in shaping the politics and culture of American society.

Many of my interviewees have devoted years to their areas of expertise uncovering valuable insights that are still unknown to many. Speaking to them, as you might imagine, is a very humbling experience.

But in my experience, a kind heart, an open mind, and a willingness to listen works wonders in getting just about any person to open up—especially when the person has had trouble finding an outlet to say what they've actually wanted to say. This is sadly the case with some of the guests I've spoken to: They've been de-platformed, sidelined, and censored for their opinions, their knowledge restricted from reaching the general public.

One of the main motivations behind what I do is a desire to give my interviewees a platform where they can speak freely about their expertise. This same principle also drives much of what The Epoch Times does as a media entity. **We believe that everybody deserves a voice in a democracy, even if different parties might not agree with each other. And we always seek to represent those dissenting opinions faithfully.**

As a newspaper, we aim to be a starter of conversations, not the be-all and end-all. We want to be media that doesn't just talk, but media that listens deeply and tries to understand

the bigger picture. To you, the reader, we aspire to give a truly nonpartisan view of the situation without any preconceived agenda or narrative. **We aspire to present to you the kind of real discourse that can only be found in a democratic society, where through assent as well as dissent, people can refine their own ideas and make up their own minds.**

Most of all (and perhaps this is a little bit ambitious), I like to think that what we strive to bring you is a return to tradition and humanity in journalism. Because behind every ideology, every belief, every argument is a human being who has their reasons for thinking as they do, and we believe that they should be given the right of free expression that every person deserves.

I hope that this week's paper gives you what you need to start some conversations of your own. And thank you so much for being one of our readers. Knowing that there are people like you out there, **people who understand the value of free speech and a free press, is what keeps all of us going at The Epoch Times.**

In Truth and Tradition,

Jan Jekielek
The Epoch Times



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Senior Editor