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Subject: Re: Is it possible to be shocked but not surprised?

Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Fri, 18 Nov 2011 04:48:06 GMT

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Spoony wrote on Thu, 17 November 2011 12:06 Quote:Like tankclash pointed out last page, the actions of a few individuals cannot be attributed to an entire organization.

That's like saying atheists are evil because stalin and mao murdered millions.

No, it's not. Firstly, the Catholic Church is a specific organisation, run by specific people. One might be justified in saying "The Catholic Church is evil because it did X and Y" (and there are certainly enough evil Xs and Ys in this case) - though it wouldn't justify saying that all Catholics are evil. "Atheism" isn't a specific organisation. You could say "Stalin's regime in Russia" was evil, for example, but that has no connection to myself whatsoever; neither myself nor Stalin think the Judeo-Christian god is real, but I expect neither you nor Hitler think the Hindu gods are real; so what? What connection does this mean you and Hitler share?

well-worded there; it's interesting that Hitler is always left out whenever a religious person uses this argument and cites Stalin and Mao.

Atheism isn't an institution, organization, philosophy, or creed. It isn't even a way of life let alone a belief system. It is simply a description and goes along with me saying I have black eyes and black hair.

If I were use "theism" and "deism" to describe an organiztion, how asinine would I look? That's how asinine it is when "atheism" is seen as an organization/belief system.

As far as Stalin and Mao killing religious people, it has nothing to do with them not personally having a god to believe in. Both dictators targeted the religious because they were political enemies of communism. In their plans, the church had to be subdued if communism was to have had its way; hence the deaths of millions of people (which included other political enemies of communism who didn't prescribe to any religion as well).

Hitler is always left out of these debates (cos it is well-known he was religious). But who in their right mind would cite Hitler and his belief in God/his pro-Christian stance and equate that with Christians today? Wouldn't that be totally stupid? Amazingly, you see some folks cite Stalin/Mao and equate them with atheists! What a disgrace...

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