

Return to Sparta

by John Sicree

When people hear the word ‘Spartans’ they think of a lot of things. They might think of the Michigan State Spartans or maybe the war movie *300*, where 300 Spartans held off the overwhelming Persian army. They are noted for their military-minded culture. While you can admire their prowess in battle, you have to look down on their abusive culture of death, which began with killing infants. They were known to have had ‘death councils’: a group of elders who decided for the father whether or not his infant was to live or die. If the child was not up to their physical standard for babies, it had to die. They also had biases against girls and the disabled, who were killed along with the rest of those whom they considered imperfect. The ancient historian Plutarch describes how babies were brought a chasm-like pit and thrown off the edge. More commonly though, babies were exposed, or left to die in the hills outside of the city.

While these Spartan practices are horrible, they are swept aside as something of the past. The scary thing is, these practices have started to return in more subtle ways, even in our ‘civilized’ culture. Baby abortion survivors, legally persons, are often in danger of death. Babies who are handicapped, unwanted girls, or from secret pregnancies also are sometimes illegally killed after birth. The most common way to kill babies, abortion, is perfectly legal. Sometimes the only difference between abortion and infanticide can be a couple minutes. This makes you wonder why one is legal over the other. The return of killing the weak and vulnerable makes us no better than the Spartans.

Despite people claiming that infanticide is horrible, lots of people back politicians who openly support it. People like Senators Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Kirsten Gillibrand have openly shown support for infanticide by opposing bills like the Born Alive Infant Protection Act. They often sidestep the issue, claiming the law isn't necessary. Kirsten Gillibrand has even gone as far to say as infanticide doesn't occur. Why would you oppose a bill to stop it if it doesn't happen? Even so, there are stats that say otherwise. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) published a report stating that between 2003 to 2014 there were 143 babies born alive after an attempted abortion. Other estimates from unofficial sources increase that to 362, but all of them died from what seems to be medical neglect. Even in Canada, from 2000-2009 there were a reported 491 children who died after deliberate neglect because they survived an abortion. This shows that there are more than a few cases every year. But even so, we shouldn't ignore them just because they're a small group.

Some people have even considered that pre-born and born babies are equal, but that neither have rights. In 2012 an article was published in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* titled, 'After-Birth Abortion: Why Should the Baby Live?'. It was argued by Professors Guibilini and Minerva that, from a medical and logical view, a pre-born and a new-born baby should be treated the same. This is often said from a pro-life perspective, but instead was used to justify killing children after they were born. Professors Guibilini and Minerva also claimed that an 'after-birth abortion' should be permitted for the same reasons as any other abortion. This sort of thinking sends us all the way back to Ancient Sparta, when unwanted and

imperfect infants were valued below those that were convenient and ideal. If this trend of indifference toward baby-killing continues, will we be any better than the Spartans?

The sad thing is, people have already begun to move toward this. There are groups like Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union that support infanticide, especially killing babies even after they survive abortions. There have been a couple of cases where people have openly shown indifference toward infant lives. In 2013, former abortion employees from Texas testified to reporters that doctors they worked under actively killed babies that were born alive after abortions. There was also a case in 2013 where a Planned Parenthood representative said to an undercover reporter that they left it up to the mother and the doctor on what to do with the child.

It's surprising and frightening how cruel people can be and get away with it. This could be partly due to the insufficient laws in some states protecting the children. The Born Alive Infant Protection Act from 2002 doesn't completely provide specific rules and consequences for the abortionists killing newborns. Undoubtedly, loopholes in the law allow abortionists to actively or passively dispose of their 'mistakes'. Laws that would close these loopholes and protect infants better have been rejected by pro-abortion Democrats in Congress.

Greater protection for newborn infants is a necessity to stop our decline toward the brutal customs of the Spartans. A Harvard/Harris poll from last year showed that a great majority (70%) of Americans disapproved of ending an infant's life even if the infant had

survived an abortion. This makes you question why politicians would even want to use this issue in their campaigns and why people are pushing for it to continue.

In the end, Sparta fell not only in battle but also in population. Their upper-class became richer and richer while the lower and slave classes were ostracized, causing social disarray. It is believed that class differences and their picky ideals for children caused their birth-rates to decline further. With a smaller population in a growing, war-ravenous world, their power and position declined.

Sparta shows what the gruesome peak of a culture that doesn't value life looks like. They were brutal to their own kids and forced them to fight and cheat constantly. They enslaved other countries to do their farming and housework. Eventually Sparta collapsed. Hopefully, the culture of death will be defeated in our society so we don't share Sparta's fate.

Thank you.

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