

Forum Post:

This subforum, *Politics and Government*, has a brief description "Where no two people are likely to agree." I'm sure this true, but many arguments do indeed have objectively true sides. Right now, in the US, it is objectively true that the repugicans are largely crazy on many many issues. It is also objectively true that the US is a thoroughly propagandized country and that the press, the corporate-owned media press, is a willing participant in creating this fabric of non-reality. Last year in February, I sent an email to this organization puzzling about why this wasn't a common issue with skeptics and skeptic organizations like this one. Broadly, US citizens live in a mythology, a secular mythology, more pervasive and distorting than any theistic one. How, why, isn't this a major focus of skeptics? It should be the primary focus, as it's the source of most of the worst issues facing this country.

The ensuing exchange I had with artskeptic, the person who responded to my email, was disappointing to say the least. It was exactly like arguing with a creationist. Almost every word I received was non-responsive, points raised ignored or misconstrued, the few actually responsive responses were erroneous in some way, which I pointed out, and this was never acknowledged or responded to in any way. No reference given was looked into, facts cited never addressed. I kept using Noam Chomsky's work to illustrate the issues, he being the most prolific and widely known source in this area. But, Chomsky was an *example*, not the focus of my inquiry. Artskeptic could not get past some antipathy towards Chomsky, kept bringing him up, with obvious ignorance about his work and false accusations based on this ignorance, as if these irrelevancies answered the points I was attempting to raise.

In March, Lawrence Krauss got Chomsky for [Chomsky & Krauss: An Origins Project Dialogue](#). At the time this link takes you to in the video, Chomsky has the line "[Everyone] should remember that there is a secular religion that is even more devastating [than theistic religions] and that's things like the concept of american exceptionalism. That's a secular religion."

That is exactly the point I was trying to make, and it motivated to try again writing to *The Skeptic Society*, combining with a response I wanted to make to the lead series in the latest *Skeptic* magazine, on terrorism. The series is quite good, as is most content of *Skeptic*. It addresses some of these issues, but is abysmally inadequate. Sadly, the response was no different, making Chomsky the issue and not the facts he tirelessly documents. How can anyone or any organization that calls itself 'skeptic' ignore how pervasively the citizens of this country are propagandized? This secular religion, like Chomsky says, is far more damaging, more widespread, than any religion. Living in a virtual reality is not a successful long-term strategy.

The complete exchanges can be found [here](#).