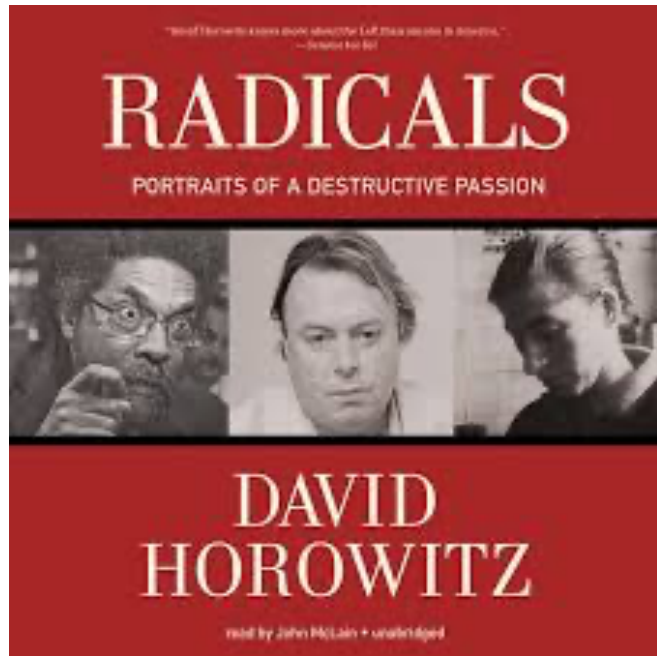
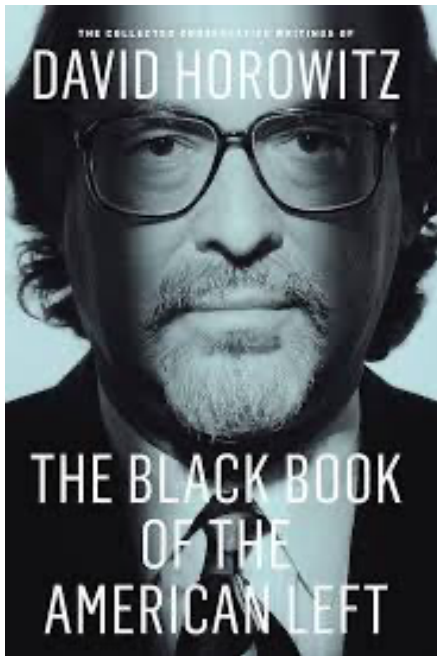


David Joel Horowitz, RIP

It takes wisdom and courage to recognize you've taken a wrong path, and then correct your itinerary. It takes even more of both to warn fellow-travelers who took a similar wrong path, and devote the rest of your life to doing so in prolific books, articles, lectures and organizing. **David Horowitz was such a man.**

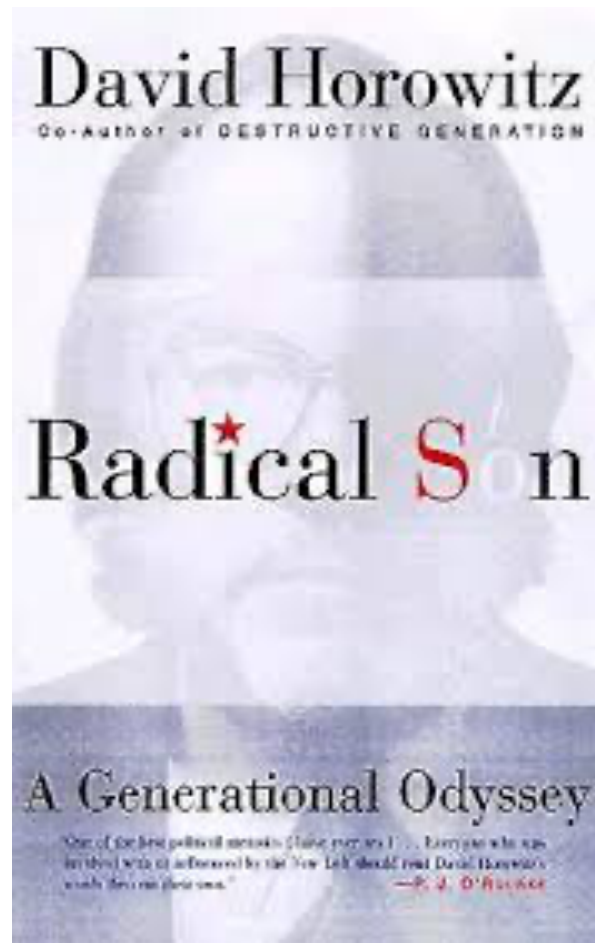


Born in Queens, New York, to parents who were high school teachers and CPUSA members, Horowitz earned a B.A. from **Columbia University** in 1959, and an M.A. from **U.C. Berkeley** in English Literature in 1961. Following his education, in the mid-1960s he worked for the leftist *Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation* in London, and helped establish the anti-war *Vietnam Solidarity Campaign* in 1966.

In early 1968, he returned to the U.S. to share the editorship of **RAMPARTS** with Peter Collier. Horowitz came to prominence at **RAMPARTS**, a Marxist publication in the late 1960s that was common on American college campuses. He obediently assumed every leftist position that was fashionable in those days, although **RAMPARTS** did so with far more erudition than other left-wing publications.

In his memoir, **Radical Son: A Generational Odyssey** (1996,) Horowitz describes befriending Huey Newton, founder of the *Black Panther Party*. He made the mistake of recommending a bookkeeper to Newton named Betty Van Patter, a friend then on his staff at **RAMPARTS**. Soon after, she was murdered by Black Panthers, and her

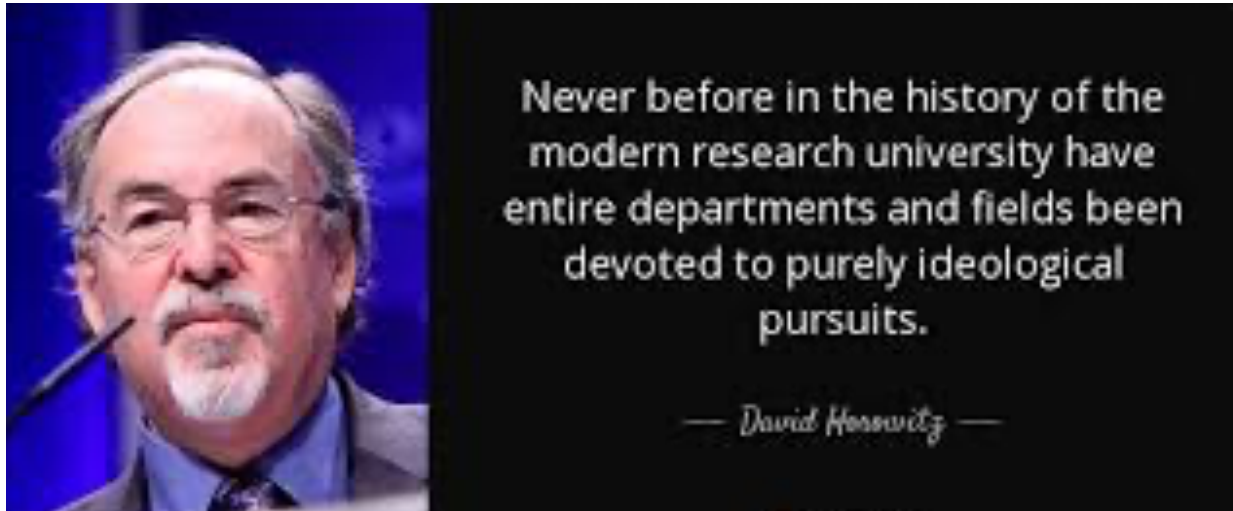
decomposed body was later found on a beach in San Francisco Bay. That was Horowitz' racial epiphany. Afterwards, he described Newton as a toxic mix of terrorist, celebrity and gangster. (Jay Nordlinger. *"The meaning of David Horowitz."* **National Review Online**, January 14, 2014.



It was in early 1985 that Horowitz and Peter Collier began to rethink their politics, and vacated Marxism's closet with an article titled *"Lefties for Reagan"* that appeared in **WASHINGTON POST MAGAZINE**. Then, in 1986 Horowitz published *"Why I Am No Longer a Leftist"* in the **VILLAGE VOICE**. In 1987 he co-hosted a *"Second Thoughts Conference"* in Washington, DC, where he emerged as a full-bore political conservative.

For years afterwards, he tirelessly promoted academic freedom on university campuses, ultimately drafting an **Academic Bill of Rights** to give voice to conservative ideas where few were permitted. He endorsed Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, and Donald Trump, despite describing himself as *"a defender of gays and*

'alternative lifestyles,' a moderate on abortion, and a civil rights activist." (David Horowitz. "One Fishy Argument." **SALON**, July 16, 2002.)



After Whittaker Chambers testified against fellow communist spies before the **House un-American Activities Committee** in 1948, celebrated French novelist Andre` Malraux wrote him a letter observing that *"You have not come back from hell with empty hands."* The same can be said of David Horowitz, who courageously and patriotically chronicled a similar personal odyssey to hell and back.

At times, it seemed as if David Horowitz led ten lives for every one lived by most people. His crusade against Marxism and its practitioners was unrelenting, and earned him a prominent place in the *Pantheon* of intellectually honest and selfless defenders of freedom. ***May flights of angels sing him to his rest.***

-- Earl P. Holt III