

## **LEO STRAUSS'S DAUGHTER SPEAKS OUT**

**Recent news articles have portrayed my father, Leo Strauss, as the mastermind behind the neoconservative ideologues who control United States foreign policy.** He reaches out from his 30-year grave, we are told, to direct a “cabal” of Bush administration figures hoping to subject the American people to rule by a ruthless elite. I do not recognize the Leo Strauss presented in these articles.

My father was not a politician. He taught political theory, primarily at the University of Chicago. He was conservative insofar as he did not think that change is necessarily change for the better.

Leo Strauss believed in the intrinsic dignity of the political. He believed in and defended liberal democracy; although he was not blind to its flaws, he felt it was the best form of government that could be realized, “the last best hope.” He was an enemy of any regime that aspired to global domination. He despised utopianism – in our time, Nazism and Communism – which is predicated on the denial of a fundamental and even noble feature of human nature: love of one’s own.”

- Jenny Strauss Clay, New York Times, June 7, 2003