ABSOLUTES WITHOUT ABSOLUTISM

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I. Argument Against Relativism

1) Consequences of Denial of Absolutes

   a) Meaning

   b) Dignity

   c) Morals

2) Self-Destructs

   a) Contradictory

   b) Unprovable

3) Everybody's Right - Nobody's Right

   a) Truth or Taste

   b) Three Options

      i) Reality non-contradictory

      ii) Reality contradictory

      iii) Reality non-contradictory in math, science and technology, but contradictory in religion and ethics
c) Some Religious Views Mutually Exclusive

4) There is No Evil

a) We know better

b) Push towards adequate basis for highest aspirations - Leff article

c) Push towards logical conclusion of false assumptions - Koestler and Japanese Buddhist

5) Relativists Appeal to Absolutes

a) Relativism Absolutism in Disguise

i) Multiculturalism

ii) Deconstructionism - Paul De Man

iii) C.S. Lewis - Abolition of Man

b) What to do when arguments fail

i) Personal Analogy - Koppel

ii) Indirect Approach - Story, Parable, Riddle

iii) Irony - Crisis article
II. Absolutes Without Absolutism

1) Infallible Absolutes - Fallible People

2) Infallible Absolutes - Fallen Situations
   a) Political Illusion
   b) Politics and Compromise: All or Nothing?

3) Tolerance
   a) Tolerance is a virtue
   b) Believers defenders of Tolerance
      i) Legal
      ii) Social
      iii) Not moral equivalence
   c) Presupposes deep difference

4) Right not Righteous
   a) Luke 13 - Unless you repent
   b) Not righteous in ourselves
5) Assertions not Arrogance

a) Take away Assertions? - Luther

b) State another's position to their satisfaction before critiquing

c) Fine line between confidence and arrogance

6) Absolutism is Bad, Secular Absolutism is Worse

a) Many abuses by believers

b) Solid moral grounds for condemnation

c) No grounds on which relativist can condemn abuses

d) Fruits of secular absolutism clear Nazis and Marxism

e) Without clear basis for Restraint - The ends justify the means