



W. H. BRADY PROGRAM ON  
CULTURE AND FREEDOM

Charles Murray  
W.H. Brady Scholar

20 August 2006

Dean Svend Hylleberg  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
University of Århus  
Århus, Denmark

Dear Prof. Hylleberg:

I have read the report on Prof. Helmuth Nyborg's work that you have posted on the web. It is not easy to convey my reaction, nor to use language that does not sound inflammatory, but I will try. On its face, the report looks like a sober and highly technical account of Nyborg's publications. Not one ordinarily well-educated citizen in ten thousand has the background to see it as anything else. But for anyone in the academic profession who is familiar with the techniques being discussed and can assess the errors that are alleged, it is—and here is where I cannot use neutral language—an assassination. No scholar anywhere who has published on highly complex topics could survive the kind of attack that has been mounted against Nyborg. It is in the nature of such work that, after the fact, someone can always find something that can be made to appear suspicious—as long as the audience for the allegations does not understand the nature of the endeavor that is involved.

As an experienced scholar, you must know that what I have just written is true, and that none of the allegations about technical deficiencies in Nyborg's work would have been raised if he had not been writing on politically sensitive topics. You must know—it is impossible to review more than a few of Prof. Nyborg's published works and not know—that Nyborg is a careful and accomplished scholar who easily meets traditional standards of professional conduct.

Given those two plain facts, what is left? Prof. Nyborg has been publicly maligned under the imprimatur of your university and suffered severe professional penalties because his views are politically unacceptable. A university cannot survive if this is permitted. Everything that a university stands for is supposed to protect scholars like Nyborg, not persecute them. What is happening to Nyborg is a threat to a tradition of academic freedom that has, without exaggeration, underwritten the creation of the Western intellectual edifice. It is, without exaggeration, an outrage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charles Murray'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Charles Murray  
W.H. Brady Scholar  
American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research