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Down the memory hole

by [James Bowman](#)

On the art of forgetting selectively.

Friar Barnardine: *Thou has committed—*

Barabas: *Fornication: but that was in another* Barabas: *Fornication: but that was in another country; And besides, the wench is dead.*

—Christopher Marlowe, *The Jew of Malta*

The most melancholy saying of the late Irving Kristol, though probably as true as anything else he said, was that (as of the 1990s anyway) the culture war was over and we—meaning conservatives—had lost it. Though not enough to prove him wrong, it was something of an unction to the soul for that still-rankling loss that so few voices outside Hollywood, New York, and the international film fraternity were raised on behalf of Mr. Roman Polanski when he was arrested and ...

James Bowman is the author of *Honor: A History* (Encounter Books) and *Media Madness: The Corruption of Our Political Culture*, also published by Encounter (2008) .

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