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Introduction: The dictatorship of relativism

by [Roger Kimball](#)

An introduction our symposium "The Dictatorship of Relativism: Who Will Stand Up for Western Values Now?"

There are no facts, only interpretations.

—Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Will to Power*

If relativism signifies contempt for fixed categories and [for] men who claim to be bearers of an external objective truth, then there is nothing more relativistic than fascist attitudes.

—Benito Mussolini

As a rule, only very learned and clever men deny what is obviously true. Common men have less brains, but more sense.

—William T. Stace

It wasn't *that* long ago that a responsible educated person in the West was someone who entertained firm moral and political principles. When those principles were challenged, he would typically rise to defend them. The more serious ...

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