

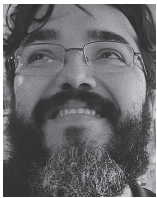
# ChalcedonReport

MINISTRY NEWS FROM THE CHALCEDON FOUNDATION® OCTOBER 2020

## Rushdoony In Brazil

### A Report on the Ongoing Work of Translating Books

By Felipe Sabino



As I have written before, I discovered Rushdoony's writings by divine providence.<sup>1</sup> I had never heard his name.

Not even my friends, students at theological seminaries in the USA, had ever talked about him, or even mentioned his name.

Reformed theology is still in the minority in my country (Brazil). And the predominant view in our Reformed camps is a mix of pietism, pessimism, and antinomianism. The "Lutheran" two kingdoms theology reigns sovereign in our pulpits, and the inscripturated law of God is not viewed as "a perfect rule of righteousness" (WCF, Chap. 19), valid for all mankind (even after the Fall).

When I discovered the doctrines of grace I became even hungrier for the Word of God. At the time, I read a great deal every day and was constantly looking for solid food. But some subjects and theologians are not even mentioned in our churches or seminaries. For example, I had never heard about postmillennialism. All the conferences were about amillennialism and its enemy: premillennialism (historical and dispensationalist). And I had never heard one word about theonomy. It seems that there is only one view about God's law: a norm for Christians only (and for some aspects of this life only), not for all society and all of life.

So, Rushdoony's writings had to be discovered by divine providence. The internet (particularly Google searching)



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was a blessing to me in this respect. Despite my love for the writings of Spurgeon, Pink, Lloyd-Jones, Gordon Clark, and others, I was shocked by Rushdoony. His style was simple and his prose clear. His arguments were powerful and his knowledge incredibly vast. He speaks with boldness and authority. I was reading a modern prophet.

Then, I came to realize that my fellows also needed to read this prophet sent by God. All of them were reading escapist books, drinking from rotten waters, like Michael Horton, John MacArthur, etc. Of course, I realize that these men have a Biblical view on

soteriology, but that's about it. They don't teach the Biblical doctrine of dominion. They don't realize that we must occupy under God until He comes. They don't teach that we must build families, churches, schools, and hospitals governed by the law-word of God.

It was in Rushdoony's writings that I came to see the sanctifying use of the law. This aspect is particularly neglected in the modern church. Even modern Reformed theologians commit this grave error. Yes, we are justified by the grace of God in Jesus Christ, but as Rushdoony correctly pointed out, "man's sanctification is by means of the law of

God.”<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of God will not use any other norm or law to sanctify us. We are sanctified by the truth, and the law-word of God is truth.

Then I started translating Rushdoony. First, his articles and excerpts from books. And as I was reading, rereading, and translating more, I became persuaded that Rushdoony was unique. As a result, still thinking of reaching more people with his singular material, I started a project, to translate and publish (in physical format) all of Rushdoony’s books. Despite all the obstacles (mainly, meagre financial resources), by the grace of God, I have published many books. The first I translated and published was *God’s Plan for Victory*. What dynamite! I reread this little gem a couple of times.

You can check the books that we have already translated here: <https://chalcedon.edu/blog/rushdoony-in-brazil>. The new ones, recently translated, are an important addition to our growing Rushdoony’s library in Portuguese.

*Flight from Humanity*

*Foundations of Social Order*

*Noble Savages*

*Philosophy of the Christian Curriculum*

*Law & Liberty*

*Good Morning, Friends - Volume 1*

I am very happy to finally publish *Noble Savages* (I used the old title in my Portuguese edition: *The Politics of Pornography*). Even unbelievers have welcomed this book. I asked William Edgar (Westminster Theological Seminary) to write the preface. He read the book with enthusiasm for the first time and wrote an excellent piece.

I believe Rushdoony’s writings are fundamental to the future of Christianity. As Andrew Sandlin wrote in the preface to *A Comprehensive Faith*, “it is only by an application of Rushdoony’s thought to all spheres of human existence that Christians can expect to ‘reconstruct’ modern life on an explicitly Biblical basis.”<sup>3</sup> And what is Rushdoony’s thought? That each and every area of life must be brought under the rule of God by means of His infallible law-word. Let Rushdoony speak for himself:

**And by God’s grace I can say that, because of my work, Rushdoony, the postmillennial faith, and theonomy are “famous” in Brazil. There is much opposition to his name and his positions, of course, but people talk about these things now. And many young Christians have embraced his victorious eschatology and are trying to apply Biblical law to all of life.**

If God is God, if He truly is the Lord or Sovereign, everything must serve Him and be under His dominion, the state, schools, arts, sciences, the church, and all things else. To limit the jurisdiction of the God of the Scripture to the soul of man and to the church is to deny Him.<sup>4</sup>

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A friend of mine, inspired by my work, translated *Lessons Learned From Years of Homeschooling* by Andrea G. Schwartz, which I am planning to publish in paperback edition soon. In fact, education is one of the most promising areas to introduce Rushdoony’s works in Brazil. Many families are finally awakening to the crucial need of a Biblical education

and homeschooling in a scenario where the humanist state governs everything. Even Catholics are reading Rushdoony’s books in this area, particularly *Intellectual Schizophrenia* and *The Philosophy of the Christian Curriculum*.

As was expected, the churchmen are more hostile to Rushdoony and his books. He is routinely ignored or opposed. But as I always say to my coworkers, maybe we are working for the next generations. In the providence of God our grandsons and the sons of our grandsons will be born in an atmosphere more favorable to God’s law. And Rushdoony’s books in Portuguese will be waiting for them. What a great banquet!

There is still much work to be done. And I appreciate Mark Rushdoony’s vision—he has been a great encouragement in my work. Without his support and permission, the voice of his father would not be echoing in the land of Brazil.

Night is coming, when no one can work. Let’s work while it is day! 🇧🇷

**Felipe Sabino** is the Founder and Editor in Chief of Editora Monergismo [www.editoramonergismo.com.br](http://www.editoramonergismo.com.br) [www.monergismo.net.br](http://www.monergismo.net.br) [www.monergismo.com](http://www.monergismo.com)

1. <https://chalcedon.edu/blog/rushdoony-in-brazil>
2. R. J. Rushdoony, *The Institutes of Biblical Law* (Vallecito, CA: Chalcedon/Ross House Books, [1973] 2020), p. 4
3. Andrew Sandlin, ed, *A Comprehensive Faith* (San Jose, CA: Friends of Chalcedon, 1996), p. 1.
4. R. J. Rushdoony, *Roots of Reconstruction* (Vallecito, CA: Ross House Books, 1991), p. 182.



# Translation of *Foundations of Social Order* into Russian

By Rev. Paul Edgar

My first exposure to the writings and thought of Dr. R.J. Rushdoony was through a multi-year sermon series at our church based upon his *Institutes of Biblical Law*. The sermons were delivered by our late pastor, Rev. Ronald Welch, who, just before his immersion in *Institutes*, had been doctrinally Arminian, premillennial, antinomian, and dispensational—and he probably carried with him a few other residual heresies.

A pivotal moment in the history of Tri-City Bible Baptist Church, now Tri-City Covenant Church (CREC), took place during that sermon series, when Pastor Welch courageously and humbly said to his congregation, “This [antinomianism] is what I have taught you in the past, but I believe I was wrong in teaching you that. Tri-City Bible Baptist Church, I’m calling us back to the law of God!”

How often do you hear of a pastor so unequivocally refuting his previous erroneous position on a theological matter? Those new doctrines, clearly and powerfully conveyed in *Institutes*, certainly had conversion power!

I read the book for the first time during that period and have since reread it several more times. Our Christian school, Tri-City Christian Academy, has used that book as the primary text in our required senior high Christian Ethics course every other year since the 1990s. Without question, *Institutes* has been Dr. Rushdoony’s most influential book for our congregation, for our parish school, and for me personally.

Many Chalcedon readers might join me in ranking *Institutes* at the very top of their Rushdoony favorites. But which Rushdoony book would rank next in its influence? There would surely be many answers here, but for me it would be his *Foundations of Social Order: Studies in the Creeds and Councils of the Early Church*.



Russian pastors in 2019 at a one-week intensive seminary course. Rev. Edgar is seated bottom right.

I had the privilege of teaching a one-week intensive seminary course to a wonderful group of Russian pastors in March 2019. They were from across Russia and the Ukraine, from the Urals to Vladivostok, from the Crimea to Siberia. The seminary was the center piece of Rev. Blake Purcell’s Hope Russia missions work in St. Petersburg. The course dealt with church-state relations, and I used *Foundations of Social Order* extensively.

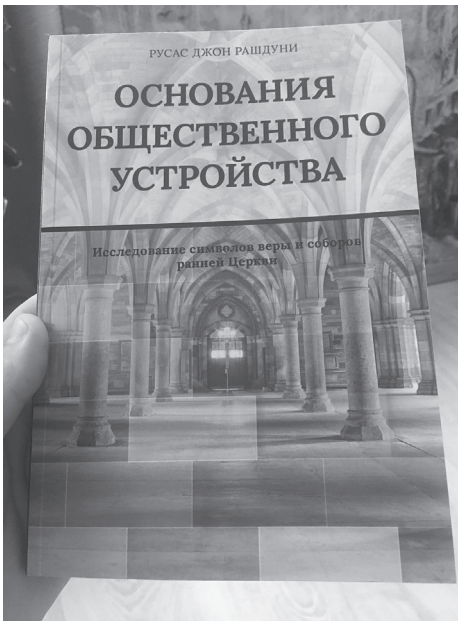
My lecture points included such quotations as:

- “Chalcedon handed statism its major defeat in man’s history.”
- “If the two natures of Christ were confused, it meant that the door was opened to the divinizing of human nature; man and the state were then potentially divine.”
- “If the human nature of Christ were reduced or denied, His role as man’s incarnate savior was reduced or denied, and man’s savior again became the state.”

- “By denying the confusion of the human and the divine, Chalcedon established a standard against that pagan stream of mysticism which sought precisely the union of the divine and human substances into one being.”

Those pastors were hungry for such solid Reformed teaching. And I was transformed by the experience. Imagine lecturing on church and state relations to Russian pastors—right in St. Petersburg, of all places! I wanted to leave them, and future seminary students like them, something that would substantially help with their work in a uniquely challenging field.

Jenya, my translator, and I became good friends, and through our conversations between sessions, the project of translating *Foundations of Social Order* into the Russian language was born. He did a marvelous job of careful translation. Mark Rushdoony of the Chalcedon Foundation gave us



Russian translation of Rushdoony's *Foundations of Social Order* in print!

permission to publish. I collected brief endorsement statements from Mark Rushdoony, Dr. Gary North, Dr. Peter Leithart, Pastor Bogumil Jarmulak of the Evangelical Reformed Church (CREC), Poland, and Pastor Ralph Smith of Mitaka Evangelical Church (CREC), Japan.

God had placed a wonderful family in our church, Ukrainian refugees, who had maintained contact with a Ukrainian friend, who was—a book publisher! Our church financed the entire project, and now, copies of *Foundations* are in the hands of students in three seminaries, and numerous Reformed churches. One thousand copies altogether.

We lobbed a “little creedal time bomb” right into one of Satan’s rapidly disappearing strongholds. Strongholds of Marxist statism, strongholds of pietistic asceticism, and strongholds of various forms of heretical subordinationism. We should do more of this! Dr. Rushdoony wrote many other books, and there are certainly many other nations hungry for them.

Jesus said, “*Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are ripe, already to harvest.*” If it could happen here in New Hampshire, it can happen in St. Petersburg, Russia—and beyond! 🇷🇺

**Rev. Paul Edgar** is an elder at Tri-City Covenant Church in Somersworth, NH.

### ***Brotherly greetings from Italy,***

Perhaps a few explanatory words are due. All books have been proofed twice. This is not a guarantee of perfection. As I said in a previous letter, I am not a professional translator. I was moved to do it because I was immensely blessed by Rushdoony’s work and I desire that others be blessed also, even if the reading is not fully pleasant. Actually, I think most English-speaking people would find reading the *Foundations of Social Order* burdensome, just as one obvious example. Whosoever will want to grow will also endure the burden; of any others I am not concerned.

In Italy I am almost alone in my appreciation and reverence for Dr. Rushdoony’s work but in God’s time this may change through work and prayers. The very first book I translated into Italian forty years ago, *Kuyper’s Lectures*, has been published this year by an evangelical publisher. Though in time my appreciation of that work has diminished, this testifies of some advance of the Reformed faith and lets me have hope for the future. The total breakdown of our society will hopefully drive some intelligent people to search for solutions outside of man. This last statement sees me in prayer that God will provide a more skilled person than I to review or even rewrite my translations to render them more suitable to the palate of learned people. Although even I am able to make useful comparisons of Dr. Rushdoony’s remarks and even prophecies about American law with our very different jurisprudence (some despisers say this is an “Americanata,” something grossly American), I plead with Chalcedon to join me in prayer that in His time God will provide an Italian graduate in law and a history master to produce a similar work, or to adapt my translation for a wider number of appreciative readers in this language.

I don’t claim any authorship. I take this opportunity to thank Mark Rushdoony who, several years ago, gave me permission to do this. Anyone who wants to improve on my work is welcome.

Respectfully yours, in Christ

**Giorgio Modolo**

