

Just Fiction ?

Some people attempt to dismiss the claim that a fictional work can hurt individuals or society. "It is just fiction," they say. However, propaganda and fictional works have been known to change societal views even to the point of contributing to great injustices and even to murder.

- In 1936 the Nazi's hit gold with their movie *Triumph of the Will*. It swayed the German population to support and rally behind Adolph Hitler. Today's Germans are embarrassed that their nation failed to confront and refute the propaganda of this film.
- The 1960's fictional play *The Deputy* has marred the reputation of Pope Pius XII to the point that he is now falsely accused of being "Hitler's Pope."

On Dan Brown's web site and in his interviews he stresses the accuracy of his book. He also claims that it is based on objective historical research. The "Facts" page in his book is at best confusing. He says that people do not read his book for the style of writing, rather it is the subject matter that is most important to them.

When he was asked what he would change if his novel were to be rewritten as non-fiction he replied, "Nothing."

The New York Daily News stated, "His research is impeccable."

And The Mystery Reader reported that the "smart suspense novel . . . incorporat[ed] massive amounts of historical and academic information."

Many people will read the book and or go to the movie thinking that they will be able to sort out for themselves what is true and what is not based on their feelings and without any real disciplined study on their own part.

CS Lewis

CS Lewis in his *Screwtape Letters* writes about a chief demon named *Screwtape* who writes to his underling about how to tempt and lead a person into hell. He writes, "... give him a grand general idea that he knows it all and that everything he happens to have picked up in casual talk and reading is 'the results of modern investigation.' " Letter One.

Be Informed

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[The Da Vinci Hoax](#),

by C. Olson -the complete refutation.
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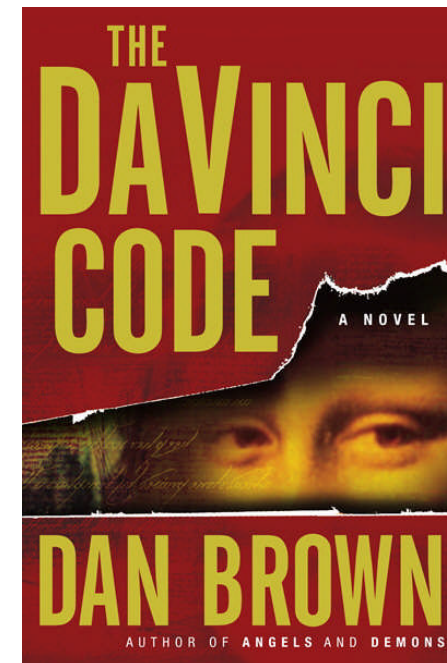
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