

## I WATCH C SPAN BECAUSE

I watch C Span because, to me, being an American is no neutral proposition.

We all know that the rule of law is the single most important achievement of humanity. It is that achievement, and that achievement alone, that guarantees peace among nations. Without peace, nothing has any value.

Therefore, the number one concern of every citizen must be doing his or her share to further the rule of law, both between nations and within our nation. Our's, after all, is the leader in this business of democracy. This business of freedom. This business of liberty. The nation of Aristotle (the one philosopher who refused to subordinate individual human achievement to any "philosophical truth") as well as the nation of The Enlightenment (the era when, for the first time, reason triumphed over superstition) -- that is America. We 1984 Americans are the living embodiment of those specific historic achievements, attained through the mortal sacrifices of our forebears.

We may choose to ignore the public reality, the national reality, but not for long. Already we have lost our military superiority, and to a nation with a 100% negative track record. The nation of The Enlightenment now lives under increasing attack from the most repressive and militaristic nation in human history. Stalin and Hitler, after all, were comrades, until Hitler turned on Stalin. The Soviet Union is the nation of Lenin and Stalin just as the United States is the nation of Washington and Jefferson. No more, no less.

So that is why I watch C Span, as well as to maintain my own inner equilibrium, as antidote to the narcotizing effect the rest of commercial TV is designed to produce.

TV is the most important tool yet invented in the continuing evolution of humankind, because TV is the tool through which we can talk ourselves into higher states of being, both intellectually and morally. TV is the "peace machine" if we can only employ it correctly. The key is straightforward dialogue, thereby edification. Only one channel out of them all provides that service, and on a 24 hour basis.

I believe in humanity. That, ultimately, is why I watch C Span.

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Santa Monica, CA 90401  
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