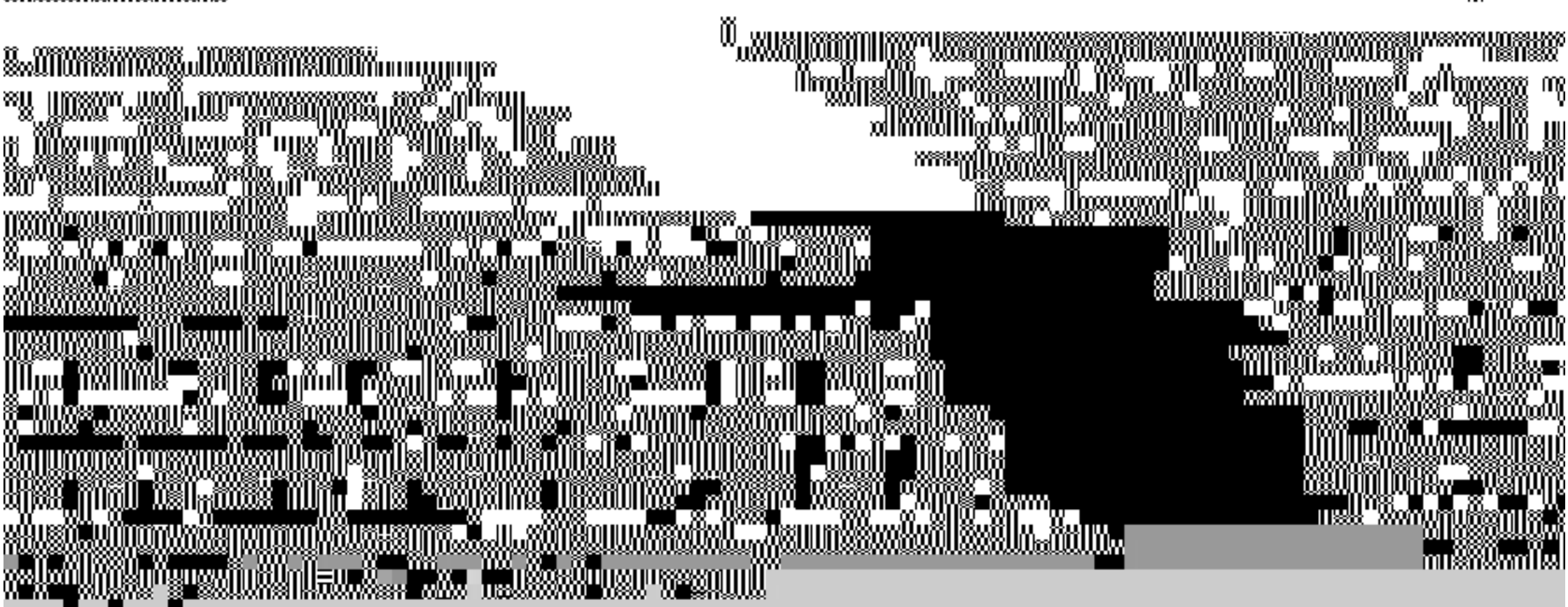
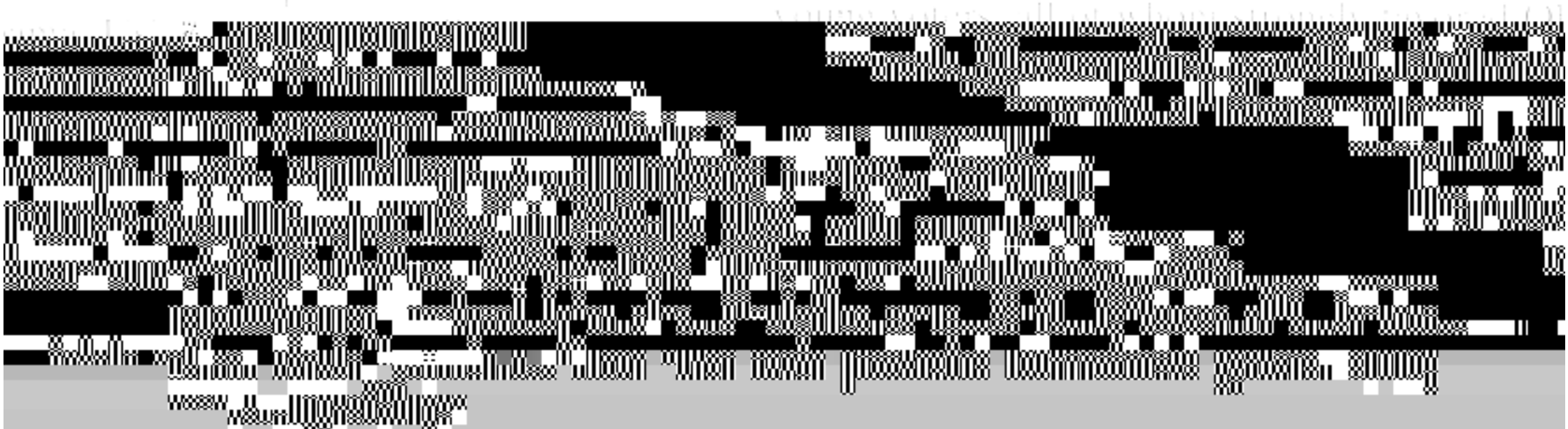


RELIGION AND POLITICS: U.S.A.

by LISA SOWLE CAHILL

THE 2008 ELECTION SEASON was tumultuous, divisive, exhilarating, and historically unique. It yielded the first black president, Democratic candidate Barack Hussein Obama, with the first Catholic vice president, John McCain, Republican vice-presidential pick Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, and the first openly gay vice president.

Obama's campaign to empower his message massively, effectively, through a new African American church movement (see below) and



nor be single-issue voters (no. 34). As the election nears,

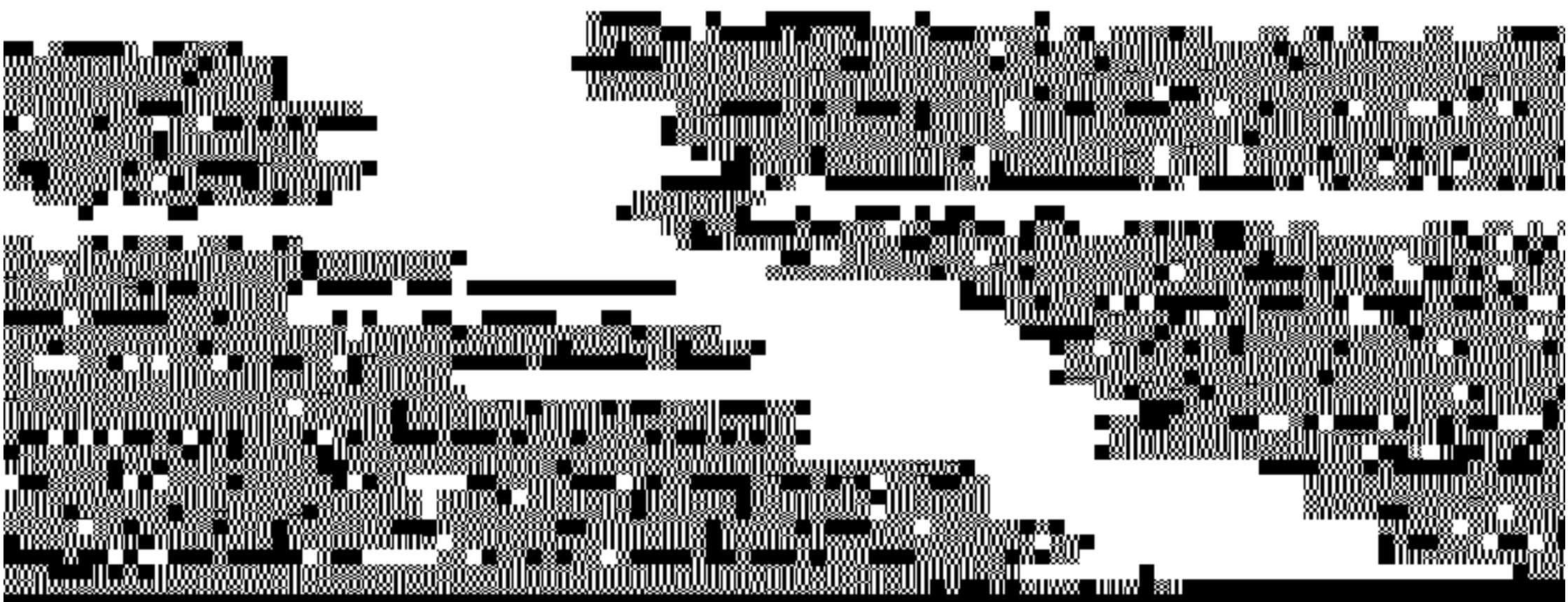
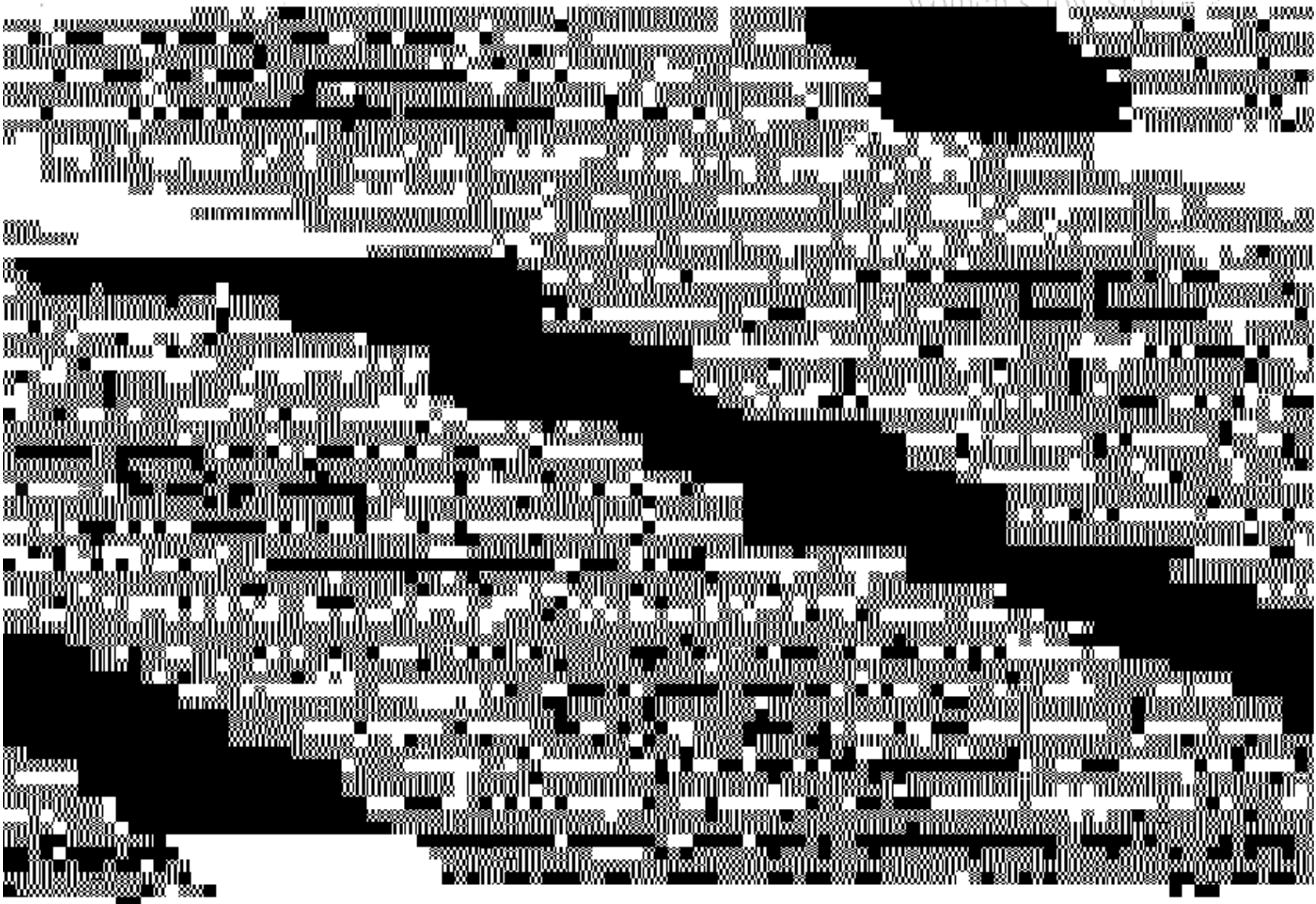
ited opposition to abor-
cluded the possibility of

reclaimed abortion to define Cal- none politics, edu-
tion with commitment to make it illegal, and ex
Cath adione was sub- O- and Drama- i-

22

decision. *Roe v. Wade* is being overturned. It is a landmark case that has been overturned.

... would retain the
w abortion. Furthermore, data
... shows that abortion rates decrease as soci
... countries, banning abortion



development.¹⁸ Yet American missionaries should not be blind to the concerns of the

[The text in this section is extremely faint and largely illegible due to heavy noise and artifacts. It appears to be a long paragraph of text, possibly a footnote or a section of an article, but the content cannot be accurately transcribed.]

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politics. Catholics of every stripe were remarkably active, organizing demonstrations, mainstream media, and Catholic magazines, to produce parish and campus panels, letter-writing campaigns, and Web sites and blogs reaching a huge new audience. This too is a healthy development, despite frequently divisive rhetoric.

Benedict XVI sent Obama a congratulatory message, identifying “peace, solidarity and justice” as the “special issues” which his administration should make progress. The latter has shown that it is a just political discourse and action of Catholic tenets: health care, economic recovery, poverty, energy, Iraq and Afghanistan, nuclear reduction, and

programs that empower women and support families. Much can be accomplished through the energy among lay spokespersons and agencies, Catholics in public office, offices of the USCCB, local dioceses and parishes, Catholic-sponsored education, Catholic political groups, and fellow citizens of every tradition.

