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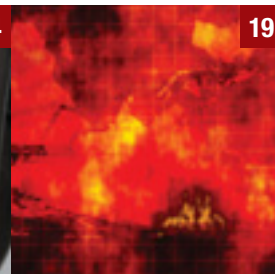
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Gerald Flury

MIDTERM ELECTIONS

A Disaster for America

The elections that awarded Democrats control of Congress marked a turning point in American history. You need to understand why.

LAST NOVEMBER'S MIDTERM ELECTIONS MARKED A DISASTER in American history.

President George W. Bush won the last two presidential elections by razor-thin margins. Republicans have dominated both chambers of Congress for 12 years. But in November, the American government underwent a sea change. I believe the 2006 midterm elections changed American politics forever.

In the run-up to the elections, it seemed that nearly every critical race could go either way. But on Election Day, the Democrats made virtually a clean sweep.

God may well have had a hand in these results.

You don't need deep biblical understanding to realize that something is dreadfully wrong in this country. America is being cursed!

Times have never been more dangerous for America. We face wars on multiple fronts. Do you think a government dominated by *antiwar* politicians can save America from its enemies?

The election of the Democrats, I believe, reveals the desperate lack of will in our people more than any other single event. This election sent a message to terrorists just as surely as Chamberlain sent a message to Hitler when he traveled to Munich before World War II and accepted a paper promise of "peace for our time." Most of the British people were hysterical with joy! But oh, how short-lived that "peace" was.

President Bush has not been successful in Iraq, but at least he used some measure of force. He could have achieved more if our people had supported him. Now extreme liberals dominate our government.

Time will prove this to be a deadly curse on the United States!

War, What War?

In these elections, the United States surrendered to Iran and the terrorists.

The Democrats won because they vehemently attacked President Bush over the war in Iraq. But the Democrats have no plan to fight these raging enemies. Many don't even believe we are in a war with radical Islam. How can they defend this nation against an enemy they don't even believe exists?

Do you think these new leaders see the gravity of the problem in Iran? Tehran is run by a madman and is the obvious king of radical Islamic terrorism—yet Democrats do not comprehend the seriousness of this situation. Even most Republicans do not!

Three days after the election, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, called Bush's defeat a VICTORY FOR IRAN. He said the election was "not a purely domestic issue for America, but it is the defeat of Bush's hawkish policies in the world. ... Since Washington's hostile and hawkish policies have always

been against the Iranian nation, *this defeat is actually an obvious victory for the Iranian nation*" (Reuters, Nov. 10, 2006; emphasis mine throughout). America doesn't see the victory it has handed to Iran, but this man does.

Reuters also reported on how al Qaeda "gloated over the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld," and vowed to attack Washington. "I swear by God we shall not rest from jihad until we ... blow up the filthiest house known as the White House," declared the leader of Iraq's al Qaeda wing.

We are in a war against terrorism, and TOP TERRORIST LEADERS ARE REJOICING AND CELEBRATING WITH THE DEMOCRATS. *What is happening in America? What does this mean?*

Liberals attacked Mr. Rumsfeld as a warmonger, but the fact is, as imperfectly as President Bush and Mr. Rumsfeld have conducted their campaign against radical terrorism, their efforts and their perseverance have meant America hasn't suffered a terrorist attack at home since 9/11.

This is *why* Iran and its terrorist henchmen rejoiced when President Bush was politically punished and Donald Rumsfeld was removed from the picture.

Have you considered *why* terrorists would be happy about the electoral success of the Democrats?

Could it be that President Bush and the Republicans made it very difficult for Iran and the terrorists to attack America? And now the terrorists are excited because they know the Democrats will have a soft approach to radical Islam?

Former President Clinton recently joked that Republicans see a terrorist on every block, and when they start to run away, they trip over an illegal immigrant. But these problems are



REJOICING Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, called Bush's defeat a victory for Iran.

not funny. We are *at war* with radical Islam, and our nation is being overrun by immigrants—some of whom are hardened, violent criminals and terrorists!

America is surrounded by nation-destroying crises. Is this the time for our leaders to be joking about these problems? Remarks like this should make us wonder if the Democrats truly comprehend the gravity of the crisis threatening the United States.

San Francisco Values

The new speaker of the House is a Democrat from San Francisco, Nancy Pelosi. This woman, who is now second in line for the presidency after Vice President Dick Cheney, is pro-abortion and pro-homosexual marriage; she wants to allocate federal spending for stem-cell research, which involves experimenting on unborn babies.

Democrats are excited by the fact that endorsements of “San Francisco values” now echo through Washington’s halls. Is this what America needs? Prior to the elections, one newspaper stated, “If Democrats win, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi will be speaker and her far-left *San Francisco values*—gay marriage, cutting and running from Iraq, coddling terrorists, raising taxes, amnesty for illegals—will become the House agenda” (*Augusta Chronicle*, Oct. 28, 2006). San Francisco values will now permeate every major decision made by the American government.

San Francisco is the homosexual capital of America. It is a seat of liberalism and one of the most morally and spiritually bankrupt cities in the country. Now a leader saturated in San Francisco values and beliefs is one of the most powerful politicians in the land.

Pelosi has sharply rebuked the president, calling him an “incompetent leader” and saying he is “not a leader” at all (*San Francisco Chronicle*, Nov. 10, 2006). She has called Bush “immoral” and his administration a “freak show.” This from the mouth of a strong liberal who hails from the immoral city of *San Francisco*.

Pelosi is also very ambitious. A 2003 story in the *National Catholic Reporter* said that her mother “encouraged her to pursue a religious vocation,” but she had her doubts. “I didn’t think I wanted to be a nun,” Pelosi said. “But I thought I might want to be a priest. There seemed to be a little more power there”

She once told *Time* magazine, “Anybody who’s ever dealt with me knows not to mess with me.”

At the same time, Nancy Pelosi is strongly ANTIWAR.

Whether we accept it or not, radical terrorists are waging war on America. How can a politician be antiwar when, LIKE IT OR NOT, WE ARE IN A WAR?

Lame-Duck Presidency

Prior to the midterm elections, when it was obvious that Republicans would suffer serious losses, Dr. George Friedman wrote, “*George W. Bush is a lame duck in the worst sense of the term*. Not only are there no more elections he can influence, but he is heading into his last two years in office with terrible poll ratings” (Stratfor, Oct. 31, 2006). If the Republicans lost the House, commented Friedman, this would be a “loss that will generate endless hearings and investigations on foreign policy, placing Bush and his staff on the defensive for two years. *Making foreign policy in this environment will be impossible.*”

Massive crises loom over our shores, yet our government, weighed down with internal crisis and friction, has become a lame duck.

The American legislature has been taken over by a political



party with a history of weak, inept foreign policy.

In an October 10 piece, Dr. Friedman wrote, “Diplomacy without a realistic threat of significant action, in the event that diplomacy fails, *is just empty chatter.*” You can be sure that’s all we will hear from the U.S. over the next two years—EMPTY CHATTER—because President Bush doesn’t have the power to do anything.

Meanwhile, foreign threats such as Iran, Iraq, North Korea, China, Russia, radical Islam and Europe will intensify unabated. That is an INDESCRIBABLE DISASTER for America—and the world!

What Is a Liberal?

The U.S. midterm elections were significant from a foreign policy and national security point of view. There is a point of view that is far more important, however.

WHAT DID GOD THINK OF THESE ELECTIONS? What does God think of the liberals now dominating the American government?

The answer to these questions can be found in Isaiah 32. Read the entire chapter. The first four verses show that this is a prophecy for the end time, the time just before Jesus Christ, the “king [that] shall reign in righteousness,” returns to Earth to establish His perfect government.

Verse 1 is speaking about Christ’s Second Coming. But God allows some terrible things to unravel just prior to that magnificent event.

Notice that! This election marks the final chapter for the United States. We mourn to see America’s downfall. We are about to see a tsunami of problems sweep over the world! But it should not discourage us. God is going to bring purpose and direction and HOPE out of that chaos! These problems are prophesied to occur just before the greatest event in history: Jesus Christ’s Second Coming.

Verse 5 reads, “The vile person shall be no more called LIBERAL, nor the churl said to be bountiful.” The word *liberal* implies goodness—something noble or generous.

Democrats are often called *liberals*, and their values and



REUTERS

beliefs are called *liberal*. *Time* magazine quoted Nancy Pelosi saying, “I pride myself in being called a liberal,” and “I don’t consider myself a moderate.” The problem is, much of what we call *liberal* is actually *vile*! Democrats have some of the vilest values and beliefs there are.

Isaiah 32:5 is about God making sure that people with vile values will no longer be called *liberal*. God calls them repugnant and *VILE*, because that’s what they are.

VILE VALUES predominate in Washington today, but they are foisted off on a naive people as being good and noble. “San Francisco values” could not be further from what the word *liberal* actually means.

Vile means *wicked or ungodly*.

It means to become withered or

faded; it implies falling down, fainting or losing strength, or the decay associated with acting foolishly and impiously. This word applies to America and the other modern nations descended from ancient Israel, as well as to God’s unrepentant people. According to God’s values, America is decaying and withering like a dying flower—rotting at the core—losing its strength to survive!

Churl means *withholding* or *stingy*. American society is all about *GETTING*, not giving. The word also implies fraud and deceit—something we see today in *both* political parties in the U.S. The Republicans often tout their “family values,” for example, while committing shamefully immoral acts.

“For the vile person will speak villainy, and his heart will work iniquity, to practice hypocrisy, and to utter error against the Lord, to make empty the soul of the hungry, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail” (verse 6). *Gesenius’ Lexicon* defines *villainy* as a shameful act of wickedness such as rape or incest! God likens the vile views and beliefs of prominent leaders to some of the most hideous acts a human being could commit. These leaders “work iniquity”—they are *LAWLESS*, doing all they can to force their San Francisco values on this nation and on this world! They “utter error” against God, openly defying His law and biblical truths. They “make empty the soul of the hungry.” As people hunger for purpose in life, these leaders provide vile values, leaving them spiritually empty.

This is the party Americans elected in November.

Verse 8 is clearer in the Revised Standard Version: “But he who is noble devises noble things; and by noble things he stands.” The beliefs and values of a *true* liberal—a person seeking to live by God’s standards—are noble and good. Godly beliefs are the foundation of a true liberal—someone who is upright, wholesome and noble.

Who behaves this way today? Who stands by God’s noble values?

Do you see that in Washington today? Many of America’s leaders are lawless; their foundational beliefs and values are as far from being noble as you can get. This spiritual and moral crisis worsened dramatically on November 7, the day “liberal” Demo-

crats gained massive influence in the American government.

The Way of Rome

It is a law of history that nations rife with vile beliefs and values will be overpowered and conquered. Barbarians from northern Europe overpowered ancient Rome in the fourth and fifth centuries when Roman leaders, preoccupied by wealth, materialism and vile and lascivious behavior, became disunited and distracted.

When “San Francisco values” dominated Roman society, the empire fell!

Nobody talks about this history today. Winston Churchill said nations that neglect history are destined to repeat it. History today has become despised and maligned in America’s educational system.

A 1999 survey showed that students could graduate from 78 percent of America’s elite colleges without taking *one* history course. *None* of these top 55 schools required American history. College students are graduating without understanding history. Embarrassingly, many of our *leaders* lack even a mediocre understanding of history!

There is a war against history in education and politics today. Why would anyone attempt to destroy history?

The main reason is, without history as a guide, *THERE IS NO ONE TO TELL A NATION OR PEOPLE WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT ISN’T, WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN’T.*

History teaches that San Francisco values and beliefs do not work. People who fail to look to history do not learn the lessons it provides.

In an introduction to Winston Churchill’s biography of his ancestor Marlborough, Henry Steele Commager wrote, “[Churchill] cherished as a law of history that *a people who flout these virtues [order, justice, resoluteness, magnanimity] is doomed to decay and dissolution, and that a people who respect them will prosper and survive.*”

Learning lessons from great leaders of the past is critical to our national well-being. If we flout those heroic virtues, our nations are doomed to “decay and dissolution.” But if we respect and emulate them, we will “prosper and survive.”

What would Churchill say about America’s recent election?

Loss of Will

History shows that leadership defines national success. High-quality leadership is a blessing from God that results in wealth, peace and prosperity. Poor leadership is a curse that destroys nations.

In *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* (which we will give you for free upon request), Herbert W. Armstrong showed how America and Britain received spectacular national blessings because of the obedient example and quality leadership of Abraham.

Today, America sits at the opposite end of the spectrum. God is cursing America for its rank vileness by taking away quality leadership.

The leaders sweeping into power today are the opposite of the God-fearing leaders that made this nation great. Their widely touted vile values and beliefs are blatantly anti-God.

God specifically talks about the state of America and Britain today in another prophecy in Isaiah 1: “Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, *they have provoked the*

Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward" (Isaiah 1:4). America is *laden*, or *worn down*, with sin!

THIS HAS PROVOKED GOD TO ANGER!

People like to think God doesn't care much about this world and that He isn't really involved with the affairs of nations. Americans talk about God a lot, but few really believe He is involved in their affairs. This is a false and twisted belief.

God loves this world beyond what you can imagine—and it pains Him to see it unraveling like it is. But He is also angered by what He sees. Rampant sin is tearing the United States apart, and this *provokes God to anger!*

Twisted San Francisco values and beliefs are flowing like a river out of America today. Such sin infuriates God.

Does it infuriate you? Does it provoke you to anger? IT SHOULD!

"Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint" (verse 5). God is telling us that America's leaders are sick, and the people who elected them are faint! The **WHOLE HEAD** is sick! The **WHOLE HEART** is faint!

God is cursing America today by removing quality leadership and destroying the collective willpower of the people. In Leviticus 26:19, God specifically warns that if we disobey Him, He will break our pride in our power and take away our courage to stand up to our enemies. This prophecy is unfolding right now—just as deadly threats like Iran, North Korea and radical Islam are mounting and threatening our peace and well-being.

In the November elections, God took away a leadership that was at least prepared to confront these threats, and allowed it to be replaced by antiwar, morally bankrupt leadership.

America is facing a kind of war unprecedented in its history. A terrorist attack could occur at any moment, in any location. But we are now led by a liberal leadership that refuses to acknowledge the threat of war.

Winston Churchill believed that the test of greatness is war. "All great struggles of history have been won by **SUPERIOR WILLPOWER** wresting victory in the teeth of odds," he wrote in *Marlborough*. "The story of the human race is war." Churchill knew that possessing strong willpower is critical to winning wars.

When the American people handed antiwar Democrats control of Congress, they revealed their unwillingness to stand in the face of adversity. They exposed a massive deficit of willpower and determination!

In 1938, one of Britain's lords wrote in a letter to Churchill this comment, which shamefully applies today: "The public is so terrified of being bombed that they will support anyone who keeps them out of war. I always knew they had no desire to stand up to the dictators, and I always knew that when there was a sharp issue of peace or war, 95 percent of the electors would rally to the peace policy, however humiliating such a policy might be."

The Democrats' post-election celebrations will be terribly short-lived. A person only has to know a little bit about leadership and history to know that this nation cannot handle the problems America is about to face!

Saddam Hussein said, "You Americans can't take the

blood." **HE IS RIGHT!** The majority of Americans have proven that they cannot handle some of our soldiers—the best of our best citizens—spilling their blood. That lack of willpower means the nation is destined to die! Rather than a few soldiers, **THE BLOOD OF THE WHOLE NATION WILL FLOW IN RIVERS!**

Loss of Leaders

A prophecy in Isaiah 3 speaks even more specifically to America's problem today. "For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honorable man, and the counselor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator" (Isaiah 3:1-3). Quality leadership in the U.S. today is gone—wiped away! America lacks a great war-time leader like Winston Churchill. There is no great orator rousing the American people to action.

"And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them" (verse 4). That is precisely what we have. And these latest elections may have helped pave the way for this nation

to have its first woman president take office in two years.

The government in our nation has been overturned and is upside down, from the highest levels of federal government all the way down to the family unit.

Look at the mainstream media, the movies, the music, the clothing, television—it is all teen-dominated. Society is upside down; adults are subject to children and teenagers.

"The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves" (verse 9). America trumpets its sins before the whole world!

This nation is defying God in the most repugnant ways possible. Ms. Pelosi called President Bush "immoral." What standard is she using? She is judging with "San Francisco values," which God likens to those of Sodom and Gomorrah!

Why is God talking about Sodom in this prophecy? Because that was a society so sick with homosexuality and other sins that God **DESTROYED IT!**

THIS IS A TERRIFYING WARNING!

"**HEAR** the word of the Lord, ye rulers of **SODOM**; **GIVE EAR UNTO THE LAW OF OUR GOD**, ye people of **GOMORRAH**" (Isaiah 1:10). God says America's leaders **MUST RECEIVE THIS WARNING!**

God is **PROVOKED**—and *so should we be*. We ought to be provoked enough, *angry* enough, to **DELIVER THIS WARNING FROM GOD TO THE RULERS OF SODOM AND THE PEOPLE OF GOMORRAH!**

All Fall Together

Biblical prophecy reveals that Britain and the nation called Israel today will rapidly decline at the same time America falls. Britain, its dominions and Israel are suffering from the same leadership crisis as America.

"And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them. ... Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke:

See ELECTION page 13 ▶



America Has Waged Its Last War

Every indication is that the U.S. will never fight again. Here is why. BY JOEL HILLIKER

NANCY PELOSI AND HARRY Reid were giddy as lottery winners. As November's election night results tipped the balance of power in both chambers of the United States Congress in favor of the Democrats, these two looked to become the next speaker of the House and Senate majority leader. Supporters cheered; their faces glowed. Confetti fell; their hearts soared.

They weren't the only ones celebrating. Halfway around the world, Iran's leaders were also wreathed in smiles. Ayatollah Khamenei, the nation's supreme spiritual head, called the election result "an obvious victory for the Iranian nation." He viewed it as "the defeat of Bush's hawkish policies in the world." Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the election showed "that the majority of American people are dissatisfied and are fed up with the policies of the American administration."

Amazing: Not only were the Democrats and mullahs celebrating the same thing, they were celebrating for the same reasons. Expectations are high in both

circles that an era of perceived American belligerence and warmongering is over.

What that means for the future, however, is where the two camps differ. Democrats believe this will open the door to a golden age of diplomacy—the mullahs believe it's a step toward a golden age of their brand of Islam. The Dems see the election leading to peace—the mullahs see it as giving them the breathing room they need to take over the Middle East and beyond.

Which vision is correct will become clear quite soon, because the U.S. truly is entering a new, less militaristic phase. This is a milestone with massive global ramifications.

"A Whole Fresh Look"

The day after the election, President Bush announced the resignation of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld—the man, after the president himself, most closely associated with the "hawkish policies" so despised in Tehran. The White House chief of staff said the president wanted to "take a whole fresh look" at its war effort.

"Whole fresh look" is huge. "Whole

fresh look" speaks volumes.

An indication of what that "fresh look" might produce came in the choice of Rumsfeld's replacement. Robert Gates is widely believed to favor a pragmatic policy, one that would include *negotiating with Iran and Syria* to fix Iraq's problems.

Such policy is actually not so fresh. It is essentially the same policy that in 1983 shuttled Donald Rumsfeld—then the Reagan government's Middle East envoy—to Baghdad to shake hands with Saddam Hussein as part of an effort to check Iran's growing power. Though Washington knew at the time that Saddam had used chemical weapons, the handshake represented, in the words of author Michael Rubin, "a triumph for diplomatic realism."

That handshake didn't play so well leading up to the Iraq war. In its Sept. 23, 2002, cover story, "How We Helped Create Saddam," *Newsweek* featured the Saddam-Rumsfeld photo as a symbol of a hypocritical, opportunistic foreign policy that supported dictators as long as it was convenient.

The Afghanistan and Iraq campaigns that Rumsfeld oversaw as President

Bush's secretary of defense nearly represent the *opposite* policy—not winking at dictators but wiping them out. But that approach is, of course, now condemned by both Democrats who disdain the president and Iranian leaders who don't want to be wiped out.

Thus, "Today," Rubin commented in the *Wall Street Journal*, "progressives and liberals celebrate not only Mr. Rumsfeld's departure, but the resurrection of realists like Secretary of Defense-nominee Robert Gates Mr. Gates was the CIA's deputy director for intelligence at the time of Mr. Rumsfeld's infamous handshake, deputy director of Central Intelligence when Saddam gassed the Kurds, and deputy national security adviser when Saddam crushed the Shiite uprising." In other words, he represents the old-school, once-maligned, proping-up-dictators program.

In addition to promoting Gates to defense secretary, the president is considering the recommendations of the congressionally appointed Iraq Study Group, led by James Baker (another Reagan-era "diplomatic realist") and Lee Hamilton. This group also recommends opening up talks with Syria and Iran. Rubin aptly concluded, "In effect, Mr. Baker's proposals are to have the White House replicate the Rumsfeld-Saddam handshake with both Syrian President Bashar Assad and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad."

That's "a whole fresh look": accepting the election as a rebuke of the war policy and moving in a softer direction. Even the president's British ally, Tony Blair, implied that a deal with Syria and Iran is a possibility.

The Democrats are eager to gloat over what they see as a chastised Republican administration. Sen. Carl Levin, who will likely lead the Senate Armed Services Committee, came on strong in a post-election Sunday morning talk show appearance. "The people spoke dramatically, overwhelmingly, resoundingly, to change the course in Iraq," he said. Change course how? "We have to tell Iraqis that the open-ended commit-

ment is over," he said, calling for troops to begin coming home within four to six months. Senator Reid agreed that withdrawal "should start within the next few months." The president appears dead-set against such plans, but these are the kinds of ideas that play in the minds of his detractors when they see him backpedal.

If the president's actions appear to Levin to be a signal of political weakness, they read differently in the Middle East. Ayatollah Khamenei sees a *military defeat*, plain and simple. That being the

smarter, tougher military policy. But the truth is, Americans did not elect them to make the military tougher.

In the *Boston Globe*, columnist James Carroll urged America to win by losing. He argued that the big problem with Vietnam was the fact that the U.S. didn't concede defeat way back in 1968. Fighting for America's honor in Iraq today is futile, he wrote, because we lost it the day we set foot there. "For all of the anguish felt over the loss of American lives, can we acknowledge that there is something proper

in the way that hubristic [arrogant] American power has been thwarted? Can we admit that the loss of honor will not come with how the war ends, because we lost our honor when we began it? This time, can we accept defeat?"

No one disputes that America is caught in a bramble bush in Iraq. But to say American defeat is *proper*? That the U.S. *deserves* to lose? Traces of such

thinking clearly seeped into the congressional election results.

In commenting on the *Globe* article, *TCSDaily's* Josh Manchester quoted German scholar Wolfgang Schivelbusch's book *The Culture of Defeat*, a study on "the stages of defeat through which nations pass upon losing a large war." Comparing examples such as France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War and Germany's defeat in World War I, Schivelbusch documented a pattern in how peoples deal with such losses: first denying it, then awakening to reality, then protesting the tactics of the victorious enemy—then "the stage of *seeing the nation as being a loser in battle, but a winner in spirit.*" Schivelbusch spoke of how these losers came to see "victory as a curse" and "defeat as moral purification and salvation."

Some Americans may view "accepting defeat" as salvation, but Islamists recognize it as perdition. Even the faintest signs of American frailty are sweet, intoxicating wine for imperialist Muslims—proofs of Islam's destined global conquest, prods to press on in the violent cause. In his book *America Alone*, commentator Mark Steyn quotes an



CHANGE OF COURSE The day after elections, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was replaced by former CIA Director Robert Gates.

case, what kind of ideas are playing in his mind?

Lack of Will

Clearly the president is concerned about the election results sending a message of defeat. So he tried to replace it with another: "I have a message for [America's] enemies," he said. "Do not confuse the workings of American democracy with a lack of American will. Our nation is committed to bringing you to justice, and we will prevail."

Given the election results and the effects rippling through Washington, it is easy to see how America's enemies could confuse the workings of American democracy with a lack of American will. That's pretty much what a massive congressional makeover, a defense secretary getting jettisoned, talk of deals with Iran and Syria, and demands from newly empowered congresspersons to pull troops out of Iraq ASAP look like. These signs certainly can't be interpreted as *strengthening* of American will.

The voices of the new leading party in Congress, compelled to prove they aren't soft on defense, say they will implement a

Arabic proverb: “A falling camel attracts many knives.” Donald Rumsfeld once expressed the same idea: “If we know anything, it is that weakness is provocative.” America does not have the luxury of “accepting defeat” as if lying on a comfortable psychiatrist’s couch. With Islamist radicals, surrender, prostration and defeat lead not to purification, but to destruction. Any notion that there is *honor* in such a defeat is a delusion.

In the context of the present war, “accepting defeat” is, in effect, expressing the belief that the world would be better off ruled by Islam.

The Futility of Talk

What happens when America’s enemies don’t fear American action? The last several months already provide a clue as to the nightmarish answer: Hezbollah launches war against Israel; Hamas does everything but; North Korea freely tests long-range missiles and nuclear weapons; Iran spurns international pressure to refrain from doing the same; Iraqi and Afghan insurgents brazenly attack, emboldened by even surviving to fight another day.

These are growing forces in the world that have proven time and again that they cannot be *talked* into giving up their destructive agendas. But the general policy in international bodies—and in American politics, with a couple of brief exceptions—is still to forego action for the sake of talk, indefinitely.

In *Civilization and Its Enemies*, Lee Harris exposes the fundamental cause for this approach and explains why it is doomed to fail. It is the difference between one side wanting to do anything (short of dying) in order to hold on to things as they are, and the other side willing to do anything (including dying) for the sake of the cause. One side has everything to lose; the other side has nothing to lose.

The diplomacy-at-all-costs mind does not comprehend the victory-at-all-costs mind. It is unwilling to believe *any* nation would be so crazy as to risk plunging the globe into large-scale war. Consider: World War I was called “the Great War” because people assumed it would *end warfare forever*; having witnessed the horrors of that conflict, it seemed unthinkable that anyone would ever tread that path again. Harris calls this idea “the Grand Illusion”—and Hitler exploited it master-

fully. He “grasped the enormous opportunity that the aftermath of the Great War gave to any power that could plausibly threaten to bring about another great war. For as long as he could even *imply* such a threat, those who were not prepared to commit themselves to such a conflict ... would be forced to compromise over issues that they would otherwise have been willing to fight for, if only they could have been certain that the fight would not immediately escalate into total war.”

In other words, the party willing to risk *even death* has an incalculable advantage over the party willing to do anything to preserve life. And the nation unwilling to wage total war will always be forced to appease the nation that has no such fears. Thus a paradox: The more the world turns

The voices of the new leading party in Congress, compelled to prove they aren’t soft on defense, say they will implement a smarter, tougher military policy. But the truth is, Americans did not elect them to make the military tougher.

to instruments of international diplomacy and justice—the more that nations invest their confidence in the ability of such organizations to prevent large-scale war—the greater the rewards become for the nation, terrorist group or religious faction that is willing to risk total war.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has stated his belief that world war must come before the Islamic messiah can return. He simply does not fear Armageddon. His willingness to risk having *even nuclear bombs dropped on his country* gives him a tremendous advantage: He can pursue his provocative agenda fearlessly. He will not change his course unless an outside power changes it for him, using force.

International bodies such as the United Nations simply are not capable of action on that scale. They are designed to address problems through talk alone.

America is embracing the same approach—retreating to the illusory bunker of multilateralism. The Democratic victory merely poured in concrete a reality that had already existed for perhaps two years: A shift toward subjugating national interest to the will of the UN, of “managing” dangers through diplomacy without threat of action. Look how Washington has handled the nuclear threats from Iran and North Korea: Semi-tough talk backed up by firm, muscular patience. Belligerent tolerance. Repeatedly re-

drawing lines in the sand. Shuffling responsibility onto the UN, or the Security Council, or the EU, or six-party talks. Anyone can see the drastic adjustment in attitude from the administration that knocked out the Taliban in seven weeks and Saddam Hussein in three. It is showing itself firmly committed to always finding another option short of war.

By subjugating itself to the international community in this way, the U.S. is giving up the use of its military as a genuine instrument of national sovereignty. Given the fact that, in recent years, it has been the only nation willing to fight—even limited, small-scale battles against petty dictators—this trend is opening up a massive opportunity for any party eager to embrace war.

And now, after an election that empowered the party that has incessantly criticized virtually every aspect of those campaigns the president *did* undertake, the trend will only accelerate.

Once disentangling itself from Iraq, will the U.S. recommit troops in order to solve other conflicts by military means? Not outside the confines of UN or NATO action, surely.

Will it go after Iran, North Korea, or somewhere else? No, no and no.

Will it, instead, look for every possible diplomatic avenue in addressing new global problems, to the point of effectively taking robust military options off the table? It already has.

Is it possible, in fact, that the United States will *never* fight another war?

The Last Helicopter

To a mind saturated with hatred for the U.S., convinced that Islam will soon rise to dominate the world, the answer is obvious. The “Great Satan,” so powerful and arrogant, has been humbled. It will not rise again.

In a *Chicago Sun-Times* column after the election, Mark Steyn wrote, “What does it mean when the world’s hyperpower, responsible for 40 percent of the planet’s military spending, decides that it cannot withstand a guerrilla war with historically low casualties against a rag-bag of local insurgents and imported terrorists? You can call it ‘redeployment’ or ‘exit strategy’ or ‘peace with honor’ but, by the time it’s announced on al-Jazeera, you can pretty much bet that

whatever official euphemism was agreed on back in Washington will have been lost in translation. ... [I]f the Great Satan can't win in Vietnam or Iraq, where can it win? That's how China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Venezuela and a whole lot of others look at it."

Is that fair? In one sense, the question is moot. These nations are already basing their foreign-policy decisions on America's diminished stature.

Last March, an article appeared on OpinionJournal.com by Iranian journalist Amir Taheri, explaining how the Middle East is anticipating the day that President Bush leaves office. Called "The Last Helicopter," it described a powerful image burning in the minds of many Muslim leaders: that of a helicopter whisking the last of the "fleeing Americans" out of a hot war zone—an image that has played out repeatedly in history: "It was that image in Saigon that concluded the Vietnam

War under Gerald Ford. Jimmy Carter had five helicopters fleeing from the Iranian desert, leaving behind the charred corpses of eight American soldiers. Under Ronald Reagan the helicopters carried the corpses of 241 Marines murdered in their sleep in a Hezbollah suicide attack. Under the first President Bush, the helicopter flew from Safwan, in southern Iraq, with Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf aboard, leaving behind Saddam Hussein's generals, who could not believe why they had been allowed to live to fight their domestic foes, and America, another day. Bill Clinton's helicopter was a Black Hawk, downed in Mogadishu and delivering 16 American soldiers into the hands of a murderous crowd.

"According to this theory," Taheri wrote, "President George W. Bush is an 'aberration,' a leader out of sync with his nation's character and no more than a brief nightmare for those who oppose the

creation of an 'American Middle East.' ... Ahmadinejad [and others] have concluded that there will be no helicopter as long as George W. Bush is in the White House. But they believe that whoever succeeds him, Democrat or Republican, will revive the helicopter image to extricate the U.S. from a complex situation that few Americans appear to understand.

"Mr. Ahmadinejad's defiant rhetoric is based on a strategy known in Middle Eastern capitals as 'waiting Bush out.' ... Mr. Bush might have led the U.S. into 'a brief moment of triumph.' But the U.S. is a 'sunset' (*ofuli*) power while Iran is a sunrise (*tolu'ee*) one and, once Mr. Bush is gone, a future president would admit defeat and order a retreat as all of Mr. Bush's predecessors have done since Jimmy Carter."

Considering the pres-

Snatching Defeat From Victory

THE hornet's nest of Afghanistan has gotten bad. So bad, in fact, that Washington is mulling an astonishingly unsavory option for restoring order: allowing the Taliban some of its power back.

The Taliban, of course, is the radical Islamist government that the United States ousted in the months after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and which it has been fighting ever since at the cost of over 500 U.S. and coalition soldiers' lives. That it would now take steps toward legitimizing these fighters is a bitter acknowledgement of its lack of success in defeating them.

It is also merely the latest in a series of signs illustrating the extent to which the United States is militarily and financially overstretched and overwhelmed by crises.

Since being kicked out of Kabul in 2001, Taliban fighters have grown in strength and sophistication in their attacks year by year. Enjoying substantial support among tribes on both sides of a wild 500-mile stretch on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, they have easily eluded NATO troops (presently numbering 31,000), since NATO has agreed not to take the fight over onto Pakistani soil.

On September 5, Pakistan made an agreement with what was reported to be local tribesmen in the Pakistani border province of North Waziristan. This rugged area—in addition to being home base for Jalaluddin Haqqani, one of the masterminds behind the Taliban offensive in southern Afghanistan—has supported a flood of Taliban soldiers to fight coalition troops in Afghanistan. Under the accord, the Pakistani government agreed to halt air and ground attacks on tribal militants linked to the Taliban, to withdraw the Pakistan Army from checkpoints in the province, to release captured militants and return their confiscated weapons, and to pay compensation for civilian deaths and property damage in the region. In exchange, foreign militants agreed to stop attacking Pakistani military and crossing the border into Afghanistan.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf acknowledged his powerlessness, saying the deal was his only option. He said it was "worth a try because there is no other way" to solve the problem than to accommodate the Taliban. "[I]f we think that military will succeed, we are sadly mistaken. We will suffer," he said.

Western media attacked the deal. According to the *Times of India*, strategists sharply criticized it as "a sell-out to extremists at the expense of U.S. and NATO ground troops in Afghanistan" (Oct. 5, 2006). As PBS's *Frontline* reported, "Critics paint the agreement as a victory for al Qaeda and the Taliban because it grants militants a safe haven from which to launch more cross-border attacks" (Oct. 3, 2006).

Ismail Khan, of the premier Pakistani English-language daily *Dawn*, says the accord was actually signed not with tribal elders, but with Taliban militants who were on Pakistan's wanted list but pardoned after the deal. "As such," Khan wrote, "the argument that the peace agreement is against the Taliban, and not with the Taliban, just does not hold water" (Oct. 14, 2006).

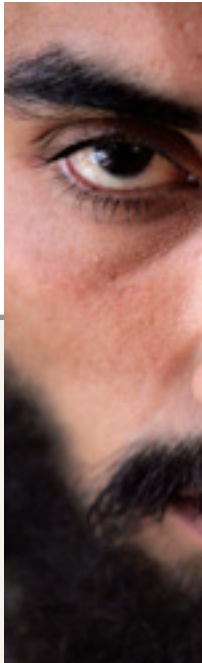
Furthermore, Khan reported that no provision had been put in place to ensure the militants' compliance. Unsurprisingly, eyewitnesses documented increased Taliban activity in Pakistan after the deal was signed, and NATO officials in Afghanistan said attacks around the border tripled.

Husain Haqqani of Boston University told United Press International, "It is clear that the Taliban is not negotiating [with the Pakistani government] to end the conflict, but to increase their leverage in the conflict" (Oct. 12, 2006).

It is clear, though, that the U.S. and NATO acquiesced to the deal. The Oct. 14, 2006, *Weekend Australian* reported on clues the U.S. and Britain had actually authorized Musharraf's negotiations. Washington reportedly convinced Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai not to oppose it, but to "wait and see" whether it would work out. According to the *Australian*, Indian reports said the U.S. had "clearly bought General Musharraf's 'if you can't beat them, join them' argument ..."

And despite the obvious failure of Taliban representatives to uphold their end of the bargain, it is still being hailed as a success and a model for more such deals.

Indian papers quoted the commander of NATO troops in Afghanistan



ent political scene in Washington, perhaps Iran's mullahs don't have that long to wait.

The loss to the world of an America willing to undertake the difficult business of preventing violent, imperialist Muslims from pursuing their vision of a worldwide Islamic empire would truly be a profound one.

With renewed fervor and increasingly lethal weaponry, Iran and its proxies are destined to *push* and to *keep pushing* their program. They will score success after success as long as the Western world continues to negotiate, equivocate,

second-guess and surrender, meekly accepting defeat as some feeble type of moral purification and salvation.

Is the seriousness of this historic moment real to you?

The Days of Vengeance

Remember the difference between the Democrats' and the Iranians' visions of where the world is headed following America's recent congressional elections.

The fact is, neither vision is right. On one hand, anticipation of a new golden age of diplomacy reflects a spectacular misunderstanding of the mullahs' aims and underestimation of the mullahs' will.

But on the other, the "golden age" of Islam will be checked before it arrives.

The Bible foretells a crisis point, a watershed, when Iran will push too hard, too far, and a power—not America but a European power—will lash back with unprecedented ferocity. That Islamists can be stopped only by force will ring powerfully true. You can read about this

in our January 2006 article, "The Os- trich, the Warriors and the Whirlwind."

It will be at that point—the biblically prophesied "great tribulation"—that the enormous tragedy of America's departure from the scene will truly become apparent. "For these be the *days of vengeance*," Jesus Christ prophesied of this time of unendurable savagery, "that all things which are written may be fulfilled" (Luke 21:22).

But the wonderful and imminent *end* of this nightmare Christ spoke of immediately after, in verses 27-28: "AND THEN SHALL THEY SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for *your redemption draweth nigh*."

For more information on America's future, order a free copy of our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.



NO SOLUTION
Will the U.S. allow
Taliban fighters
back to power in
Afghanistan?

as saying that it could serve as a blueprint for how to deal with the Taliban. Several media reports said it paved the way for a peace deal in Afghanistan. The *Australian* article said it "could form the basis of an accord aimed at ending the insurgency

and bringing the Taliban into the government in Kabul," and called it a blow to President Karzai, "who has been opposing efforts to bring the Taliban into his government" (emphasis mine).

In the weeks after the deal, coalition troops made similar, smaller arrangements with Afghan tribal militias, soliciting their help in checking Taliban militants so NATO troops could withdraw.

Even after a suicide bombing November 8 killed a record 42 Pakistani army recruits (in retaliation for a government missile strike on a school training Islamic insurgents), neither Pakistani nor U.S. officials appear to be put off. "The [Pakistani] government would continue its 'policy of political settlement' and work to promote North Waziristan-like peace deals with 'non-violent peace-loving locals and the Taliban,' with an objective to 'marginalize militants,' Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan, spokesman for Pakistani Military, was quoted as saying by the *News*" (Xinhua, Nov. 10, 2006). As for America's response, the very day after the horrific attack, U.S. Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher declared, in relation to whether the strategy was working, "I think the jury is still out."

These shocking facts point to a substantial softening of the U.S. and NATO position against the Taliban. They were substantially confirmed in early October, after a visit to Afghanistan by members of the U.S. Senate. Sen. Bill Frist acknowledged the U.S. was being overwhelmed by the Taliban's insurgency in that nation. He described Taliban fighters

as being "too numerous and too popular" to be defeated, and said that pragmatism demanded that they be invited to participate within the national government. "You need to bring them into a more transparent type of government," he said. "[I]f that's accomplished, we'll be successful." (A spokesperson later clarified that he did not mean Taliban fighters, but "tribes often targeted by Taliban recruitment." The track record shows that coalition forces aren't skilled at discerning the difference.)

"Approaching counterinsurgency by winning hearts and minds will ultimately be the answer," Frist said. "Military versus insurgency one-to-one doesn't sound like it can be won. It sounds to me ... that the Taliban is everywhere."

Republican Sen. Mel Martinez agreed, saying, in the words of CNN, that "negotiating with the Taliban was not 'out of the question' but that fighters who refused to join the political process would have to be defeated" (Oct. 5, 2006). "A political solution is how it's all going to be solved," he said.

A columnist at the *Malaysia Star* drew the obvious conclusion that this type of thinking is powerful evidence of a superpower in decline. "[T]he U.S. State Department has given up on differentiating between different rebel ideologies, interests and demands, the Pentagon has given up on bombing them back to the Stone Age, and the White House is just about to give up on Hamid Karzai as the sole alternative to the enemies at the gates" (Oct. 22, 2006). That is a lot of giving up—and a massive concession to the anti-democratic, radical Islamist forces in the region.

For many Americans, the war in Iraq has considerably overshadowed the conflict in Afghanistan, which the *Trumpet* has labeled "The Forgotten War." But the enemy's advances are reaching a point where the situation can no longer be overlooked. And now, with the U.S. and NATO assuming a posture of appeasement and capitulation, the sacrifices made over the past five years appear set to be nullified.

This development is a shocking example of what happens when a nation's pride in its power has been *broken* (Leviticus 26:19). To understand the nature of the biblically prophesied curses under which the United States military in particular is suffering today, read "How to Lose a War" from our September 2006 edition.

JOEL HILLIKER

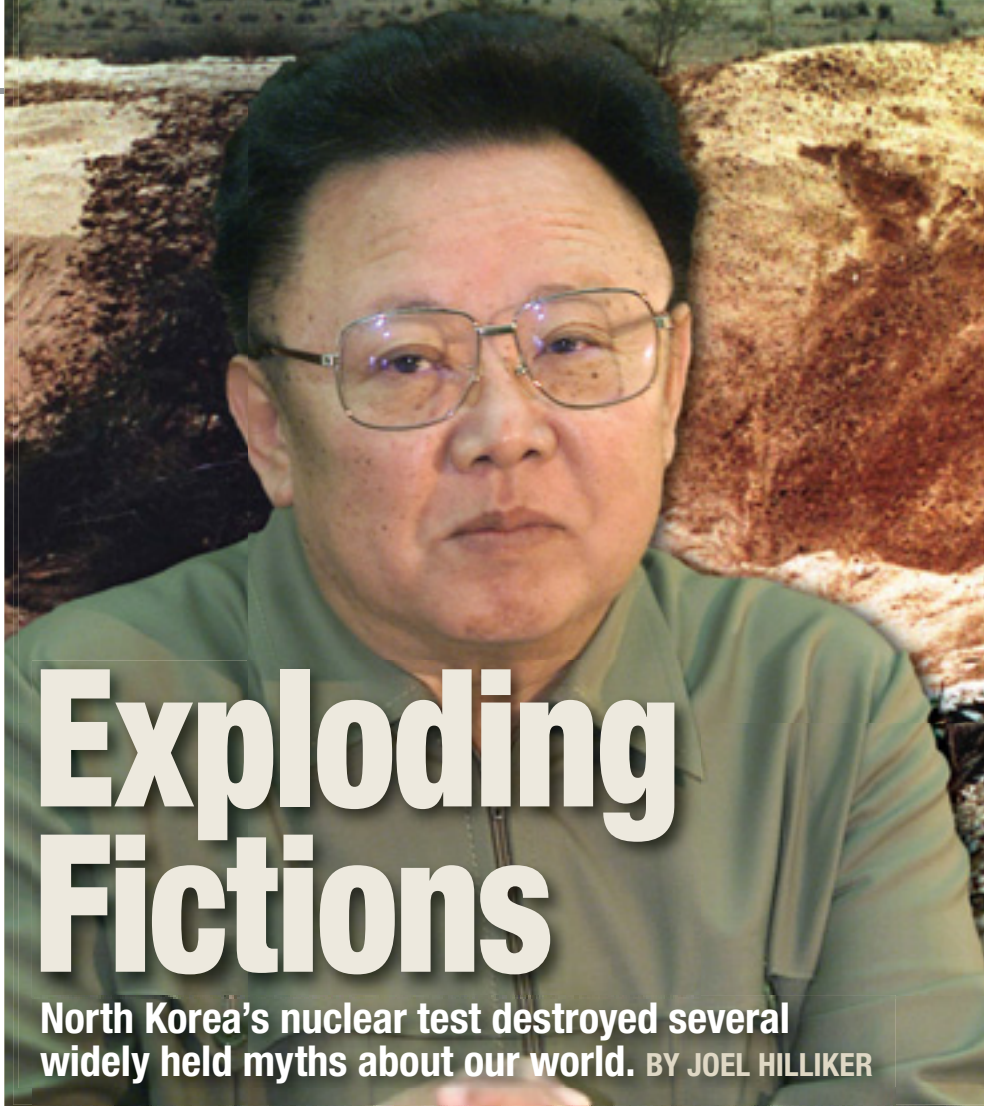
NORTH KOREA DETONATED A nuclear bomb, and America shrugged. Oct. 9, 2006, Kim Jung Il's nation became the ninth member of the nuclear club. Within two weeks this was ancient history, buried by other news.

It's as if, as British historian Niall Ferguson says, the United States has attention deficit disorder.

A North Korean nuke is a monumental development. Never has a nation so unpredictable been known to possess such a lethal weapon. Its reckless leader simply doesn't think in a rational manner—he has prioritized gaining nuclear weapons above feeding his own abysmally impoverished people. Last July 4, he “tested” a new missile system by firing a rocket in the direction of Hawaii. (Thankfully, this time, it dropped into the sea 40 seconds into its flight.) *This man now has the bomb.*

We can't afford not to contemplate North Korea's new status. Its nuclear test did more than rattle the Korean Peninsula. It exploded fictions. It atomized the careless notion that this nation can be ignored. And when the dust settled, a clearer view of the future lay revealed.

October 9 exposed several unsavory truths about our world. Here are five of those truths.



Exploding Fictions

North Korea's nuclear test destroyed several widely held myths about our world. BY JOEL HILLIKER

1 Nonproliferation efforts are dead.

Though Cold War fear of nuclear war has devolved into indifference, the threat is greater now than ever. Despite all efforts to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear material and know-how is making its way into more and more hands, some of which could well be extraordinarily unstable.

North Korea represents the greatest danger to date.

And nuclear weapons are like the backyard swimming pool: One family gets one and all the neighbors feel compelled to follow. Proliferation begets proliferation.

Kim Jung Il's nuclear test comes as several other nations are pushing for nuclear programs, including South Africa, Venezuela, and, of course, Iran. Evidence proves strong links between those involved in North Korea's program and those in Iran and Venezuela.

Within a month of Pyongyang's nuclear test, six Arab states announced their intent to start nuclear energy programs. Experts suspect that nuclear weapons aren't far from their thoughts, since these states, which include Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, are likely trying to protect themselves from the Iranian nuclear threat. This sudden reversal of a longstanding nuclear-free Middle East policy among these states (with the singular exception of Israel) shows just how dead the notion of nonproliferation truly is.

During the Cold War, the United States limited the power of the Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal by simply trying to out-arm it. The potential of mutually assured destruction prevented both powers from launching the first weapon. With some of these newer nuclear powers or aspiring nuclear powers, however, state survival does not seem nearly as important.

The nonproliferation solution—simply to keep WMD out of their hands—was bound to last only so long. Today, in the

Information Age, knowledge can spread through countless means. As Charles Krauthammer once wrote, “Anyone with a reasonable education in modern physics, chemistry or biology can brew [weapons of mass destruction]. Doomsday has been democratized.”

It's true that global diplomatic activity continues at a frenzied pace—but at the end of the day, that is just talk. Meanwhile, global military expenditures are approaching a trillion dollars annually. This amounts to a full-blown, breakout arms race on a scale never before seen in history.

Nonproliferation efforts—noble as they are—have all but fulfilled their lifespan. We live in a new age of proliferation. A near-sighted superpower can shrug, but WMD buildup as we see today can have only one end: world war on a massive scale. It is a mere matter of time.



HOSNI MUBARAK seeks nuclear power for his nation, Egypt.

REUTERS



GETTY IMAGES/REUTERS

NUCLEAR FALLOUT In October, Kim Jung Il's North Korea tested a nuclear bomb underground, much like the underground test pictured here.

The United Nations is as impotent as ever.

Few international objectives have enjoyed as much unanimity among nations as the desire to keep nuclear weapons out of the hands of North Korea. That being the case, one would think that the UN would be the ideal instrument for ensuring that this objective was met, decisively.

Not so.

For years, as North Korea trumpeted its intentions to build a nuclear arsenal, the world witnessed the spectacle of the UN—supposedly intent on preventing this from happening—undergoing an elaborate diplomatic dance that, in essence, did *nothing* to hinder North Korea from its goal.

When Kim's country successfully demonstrated it had achieved its ambition on October 9, the spectacle moved, for a short time, into a fancier phase,

while achieving precisely the same result: that is, nothing. The United Nations Security Council agreed to apply sanctions against North Korea for detonating the weapon. North Korea responded by labeling the sanctions a declaration of war. It said it would not be cowed by such pressure since it was now a nuclear power.

History has already proven that economic measures do nothing to curb North Korea's behavior anyway. The UN's sanctions were doomed to fail before they were even discussed.

On top of that, China and Russia quickly made clear they would not comply with the sanctions, rendering useless whatever small effect they might have had. China and Russia, both nuclear powers themselves, do not see a serious threat in even a nuclear-armed North Korea. Stratfor argued convincingly that for both nations, the benefits actually outweigh the problems. China liked the fact that "the test flouts America's will and the United States is unable to do anything about it. ... American impotence is of direct interest to China. The United States has maneuvered itself into a position of taking primary responsibility for dealing with North Korea's threat. China, seeking a dominant position in Asia, welcomes anything that makes the United States appear incapable of carrying out this role. The weaker the United States appears, the greater the vacuum for China to step into. Beijing is going to make the appropriate sounds, but will also make certain that the United States looks as helpless as possible" (Oct. 13, 2006). Russia has a similar goal in mind, mostly because of its competition with the U.S. over territory in Central Asia.



UN talks on North Korea

GETTY IMAGES

But both powers appear bent on maximizing the discomfort of the U.S. while they further squeeze out its presence in their part of the world.

Thus, these two permanent members of the UN Security Council, while making public statements that appear to be in line with America's position, are basing their decisions on criteria directly at odds with those of the U.S.

Not a good foundation for a strong multilateral response against North Korea's provocative act. If anything, North Korea's new nuclear status only highlights the profound differences between

America's national interests and those of Russia and China.

Thus, for having detonated a nuclear weapon and thumbed his nose at the entire world, Kim Jung Il faced, in effect, *no* consequences from the UN. His success spotlighted the irrefutable truth that this organization is truly unable to accomplish anything.

Iran has nothing to fear by seeking nuclear weapons.

The Islamic Republic—which is only half a step behind North Korea in announcing its own entrance into the nuclear club—watched this unfolding drama with a Cheshire grin on its face.

American politicians spoke incessantly of the fact that anything less than a firm response to North Korea would embolden Iran. And yet—in both the international sphere (through instruments like the UN or the vaunted "six-party talks" that were intended to keep nuclear weapons out of North Korea's hands in the first place) and individually as a nation—the reality that the United States simply *could not* manage anything close to a firm response quickly became abundantly clear.

The fact is, even a *firm response* to North Korea would be unlikely to convince Iran to give up its nuclear weapons program. Iran's president has plainly said that *nothing* would prevent his nation from achieving that ambition. He possesses a mythic belief that any catastrophes that his aggressiveness provokes will only hasten the advent of the Islamic messiah and the global ascendancy of his faith.

With Iran's leader already devoid of scruples, perhaps it is a moot point to suggest that North Korea—whose nuclear scientists are in cahoots with those of Iran—successfully detonating its first nuclear device and facing no penalties would hasten the day that Iran would do the same.

But perhaps it isn't.



Iran's Ahmadinejad

REUTERS

4 Asia is likely both to accelerate its arms race and grow in cooperation.

Russia, China and Japan are three powers on the rise, increasingly pushing their presence internationally. Kim Jung Il's nuclear test provides a pretext for accelerating their military endeavors. South Korea, too, will likely take the opportunity to begin embracing a military policy more independent of the U.S.

As Peter Beck, head of the Seoul office of the International Crisis Group think tank, stated, "There's no equalizer like the bomb. ... It's safe to say [North Korea's nuclear test] will lead to an arms race—will push all the governments in the region to increase defense spending."

Immediately after the nuclear test, Japan said it did not want a nuclear weapon, having personally witnessed its horrors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II. Government officials referred to their dependence upon American promises to retaliate against any foe that would attack their nation.

But with America's military presence in Asia diminishing in order to engage radical forces in the Middle East and elsewhere, for how long can the U.S. guarantee Japan's and South Korea's safety? Many Japanese apparently view their alliance with Washington as shaky at best. Since the October 9 test, several high-ranking Japanese officials have advised reigniting the national discussion over whether Japan should have nuclear weapons capability. Japan's new prime minister, Shinzo Abe, says he sees his country under direct threat from North Korea and has spoken of the need to speed up plans for a missile defense shield.

Another trend that North Korea's acquisition of nuclear weapons is sure to accelerate is the growing of cohesion among Asian states. How to deal with North Korea is now a question common to all Asian countries, driving increased political cooperation particularly among China, Japan and South Korea.

Though America has typically headed efforts to curb North Korea's nuclear program, recently the *real* linchpin

negotiator has come to the surface: China, the region's economic powerhouse—together with Russia. On more than one occasion, Chinese and Russian empathy for North Korea has prevented America from forcing tougher penalties on Pyongyang. In turn, North Korea has shown more willingness to embrace China than any other nation. If there is a voice that insular North Korea hears, it is the voice of the Chinese.

This fact has not gone unnoticed by the Japanese or South Koreans. Though relations remain stable between Japan and America, and South Korea and America, both Tokyo and Seoul seek better relations with China. North Korea is a mutual concern to both Japan and China; what better way to repair and improve relations than by meeting Pyongyang with a united voice?

While North Korea was detonating its nuclear device, newly elected Shinzo Abe was making history. Historically, new Japanese leaders, in a symbolic gesture of their faithfulness to America, have made their first out-of-state visit to Washington. Not Abe. He visited Chinese President Hu Jintao, conducting the first summit between China and Japan in five years. This summit, as the *Wall Street Journal* noted, "marked the end to a long standoff between Asia's two big-

gest powers" (Oct. 9, 2006). Abe next traveled to South Korea. In the world of international diplomacy, this unconventional itinerary was hugely symbolic—a sign of his desire to prioritize relations with his neighbors over those with America.

North Korea's nuclear test couldn't have been timed more perfectly for Sino-Japanese relations. Abe's historic visit to China became even more momentous as news of the test emerged and the two leaders took the opportunity to make a public show of their newfound will to draw closer together. Thus it was with blended voices that Abe and Hu responded to North Korea's nuclear test, expressing that they were "deeply concerned" and promising to work together to check North Korea's nuclear endeavors.

As America's presence in Asia wanes, we can expect Asian nations to increasingly work together in such ways.



China's Hu Jintao (right) meets with Japan's Shinzo Abe

REUTERS

The U.S. is too overstretched to handle new threats.

The United States is in crisis overload. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are absorbing far more money, manpower and resources than the U.S. ever expected to expend on them. A volatile Iran and several other smaller emergencies also command attention: Israel and the Palestinians, Lebanon, Venezuela, Cuba, immigration and so on. On top of all that, Kim Jung Il's test occurred while America's entire political scene was consumed with preparations for congressional elections.

Certainly one must acknowledge that Kim figured U.S. overstretch

into his calculus for choosing his moment to detonate a nuclear weapon. As Dr. George Friedman said, it was "the perfect time to jerk Washington's chain" (Stratfor, Oct. 10, 2006).

The success of Kim's gamble is reflected in the weakness of Washington's response, which amounted to little more than fussy condemnations. President Bush explicitly responded, "[W]e have no intention of attacking North Korea."

As Fraser Nelson wrote in *The Business* on Oct. 13, 2006, "Three years ago, President Bush said that he 'would not tolerate' a nuclear North Korea—exactly the same form of words he uses for Iran now. But on Monday, the president moved the goal-

posts. He said it would be a 'grave threat' if North Korea were to sell its nukes to anyone else. A nuclear North Korea, it seems, will be tolerated after all.

"This is the lesson for Iran: Dictators with the bomb are treated differently to those without it."

Friedman explained the problem facing Washington: "[T]he military reality on the ground in Iraq severely constrains U.S. options around the world. That, in turn, constrains U.S. diplomacy. Diplomacy without even the distant possibility of military action is impotent" (op. cit.). It is possible that Kim, in his megalomania, believes the U.S. is poised and ready to attack his nation on a moment's



OVERSTRETCHED With troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. options on new threats like North Korea are limited.

notice. Realistically, however, it isn't feasible. Already, in order to bolster its presence in the Middle East, the U.S. has reduced its force on the Korean Peninsula. "Superpower" status notwithstanding, its options regarding North Korea are extraordinarily limited.

Critics blast the Bush administration for its "unilateral" handling of the Iraq threat, which is perceived to have created the unwinnable situation that nation is in today. To whatever degree this view may be correct, North Korea illustrates the difficulties posed by the opposite approach—rigid multilateralism.

Dr. Friedman continued, "North Korea is a perfect example of what multilateral diplomacy without a unilateral military option looks like: The United States has recruited Russia, China, Japan and South Korea for diplomatic initiatives with North Korea as it partnered with Russia and European powers for dealings with Iran. Since the interests of these powers diverge, the possibility of concerted action, even on sanctions, simply does not exist. Since the possibility of unilateral action by the United States also does not exist, neither North Korea nor Iran need take the diplomatic initiatives seriously. And they don't" (ibid.).

Though the U.S. jet-sets its officials around Asia, pushes for tougher sanctions on North Korea and reaffirms ties with South Korea and Japan, the truth stands: Unless it is prepared to use its superior military might to stop North Korea (which it refuses to do) America wields very little influence over the situation.

Unable to respond to any new threats militarily, America can only talk tough. But its bluff is being called. North Korea's nuclear test clearly exposed just how overstretched the U.S. has become. This fact is far from being lost on other nations, including Iran, Russia, China and Germany.

This reality has enormous implications. It appears the days of America being able to maintain the status quo in international relations are past—and no signs exist that it can ever recover this ability. The door is thus open for other nations and coalitions of nations to begin to assert their wills and act aggressively in their own interests.

This portends dramatic changes in the world order, economically, politically, militarily.

Whatever direction this geopolitical restructuring takes, clearly it will be radically different from what we see today.

At the Doors

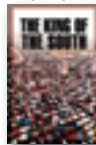
All the realities uncovered by North Korea's power move—the failure of non-proliferation efforts, the ineffectiveness of the United Nations, the opportunities open to Iran, the rise of a more heavily armed and unified Asia, the limits of America's geopolitical options—illustrate the urgency of the time in which we live. Checks on more such power grabs, and on war-making on a devastating scale, are proving ineffective. The muscularity and confidence of new, unpredictable powers is growing stronger.

Jesus Christ once warned of certain signs of the end of this age, and cautioned: "[W]hen ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." To the student of those prophecies, recent events in Asia cannot be shrugged off. They represent a hastening toward the climactic conclusion of the present age. ■

With reporting by **BRAD MACDONALD**

To learn more about those prophecies, we recommend you read these free booklets:

The King of the South and Russia and China in Prophecy.



among the tribes of Israel have I made known that which shall surely be" (Hosea 5:5, 9). Because of their sins, all three of these nations will fall together.

Many observers believe that the results of the midterm election mean America's support for Israel could wane in the coming months. Israel is surrounded by an arc of hate-filled enemies whose hearts are committed to bulldozing the Jews into the Mediterranean Sea. Only America's support over the years has prevented Israel's demise.

Who will Israel turn to when America removes its support? "Therefore will I be unto Ephraim as a moth, and to the house of Judah as rottenness. When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim [and Judah] to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound" (verses 12-13). This prophecy tells us that both Ephraim (Britain today) and Judah (the nation of Israel) will run to the Assyrian (Germany) for assistance. This prophecy speaks of a time when the U.S. will lack the power and the will to assist its allies.

November's election results prove we are witnessing the demise of American global leadership. *President Bush will not be able to accomplish anything of substance again.* Internal crisis and division will prevent the U.S. from conducting a respectable foreign policy.

America's geopolitical decline will create a global leadership void. As Hosea and many other biblical prophecies note, another nation will step up and fill this void: *Germany.* This nation is about to replace America as the global superpower.

After World War II, Mr. Armstrong said the U.S. would never win another war.

I BELIEVE THAT AFTER WE RETREAT FROM IRAQ, AMERICA WILL NEVER FIGHT ANOTHER WAR!

We simply don't have the fortitude to survive. Our new leaders are afraid to even call a war a war!

In Ezekiel 7:14, God says that the warning trumpet will sound, but nobody will run to battle. That is because GOD'S WRATH is upon us!

This election marked a monumental turn in America's history. WE LIVE IN THE MIDST OF THE MOST EVENTFUL MOMENT IN HUMAN HISTORY! God's warning must be delivered before this tidal wave of catastrophes descends. ■

A FORCE FOR THE FUTURE

Post-World War II guilt is history. Germany has unveiled a new “white paper” on defense that will unshackle its military.

BY DAVID VEJIL

GERMANY FINALLY THREW AWAY all semblance of post-World War II remorse with the release of its latest “white paper” on defense. The new policy document removes restrictions on the German military’s foreign and domestic deployment.

“We have gone from a defense army to the army of unity to an army in action,” said Defense Minister Franz Josef Jung when he presented the document on Oct. 25, 2006.

The policy paper outlines the future of the Bundeswehr and defines the foundation of German security policy domestically and internationally.

It is the first of its kind since the federal government released a similar document in 1994. That paper allowed for the German military to be used in foreign theaters. The German government wasted no time implementing it: Within a few years, the world saw the Bundeswehr deploy in the Balkans, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and the Congo.

The new white paper takes the recent history of the Bundeswehr into account and delineates a new robust international role for the German military. It calls for an expansion of the “constitutional framework for the deployment of the armed forces.”

“The national level of ambition is to deploy up to 14,000 service men and women at any one time, distributed over as many as five areas of operations,” the paper states.

This restructuring will facilitate the international peacekeeping role Germany has assumed. Clearly the government expects to keep receiving requests to help resolve international crises—especially as anti-American nations grow more cautious of perceived U.S. impe-

rialism and as the over-stretched United States encourages Europe to grow its military.

The white paper opens the opportunity for German troops to deploy virtually anywhere in the world by defining vital German “interests.” These interests include free, unhindered access to world markets and raw materials, and control of any regional crises that could negatively affect Germany’s national security. The paper allows Germany to defend these interests not only through diplomatic and economic means, but also “policing measures as well as military means and, where called for, also armed operations.”

As one of the world’s largest exporters in an economically intertwined world, it wouldn’t be hard for Germany to feel threatened in any of its many markets that span the globe. And as it proved in Africa during World War II, it is quite willing to use armed deployments to safeguard its markets.

Just as it expands the German military’s role internationally, the paper also calls for removing the last shackle of post-war guilt: amending the constitution to allow for Germany’s military to deploy *domestically*. This constitutional safeguard was created to prevent a politician from using the military to force the government into submission, as Hitler managed to do.

However, faced with the growing terrorist threat, Germany’s “foreign and domestic security can no longer be separated,” said Mr. Jung. “In the words of the white paper, “[T]he need for protection of the population and of the infrastructure has increased in importance”



ON GUARD The German government has released a policy paper that will enable its soldiers to deploy within Germany, and in as many as five foreign theaters simultaneously.

If the grand coalition that encompasses all sides of Germany’s political spectrum can adopt a changed constitution, a German government of any composition could amend the constitution in the future, especially with the threat of terrorism bearing down.

The terrorism threat provides a perfect pretext for amending the constitution: The revision would not only satisfy government and military desires, but also salve public fears of Islamist extremism, which have continued to be stoked by the Catholic Church.

It is inevitable that Germany will amend its constitution. The adoption of the white paper shows Germany is quickly moving in that direction.

German leadership is known for taking advantage of crises to further its goals. The timing of this new military policy is an example.

Germany will chair both the European Union and the Group of Eight in 2007, giving the government tremendous international prestige. Mr. Jung said the white paper’s emphasis on sending troops around the world had added significance as Germany prepares to enter its new roles.

The world can expect a similar result with this white paper as did the 1994 paper: a dramatic increase in Germany’s military deployment around the world. ■



ENDURING MONUMENT The Brandenburg Gate, entrance to Berlin, a symbol of power in Nazi Germany, has stood since 1791.



NOVEMBER 1989 The fall of the Berlin Wall united East and West Germany, enabling the nation to act as one for the first time since its defeat in World War II.

GETTY IMAGES (2) / ANDREW OPEN

The Changing Face of Germany

Tracing the militaristic history of this rising European powerhouse **BY RON FRASER**

LOOKING BACK OVER THE 17 YEARS SINCE THE momentous evening of Nov. 9, 1989, the political progress Germany has made as a united nation is quite amazing.

On that heady autumn night, when the citizens of Germany took to the Berlin Wall with sledgehammers, picks and crowbars, and East Germans poured through Checkpoint Charlie onto the pavements of affluent West Berlin, the mood was one of jubilation. The Germany that was divided up among the victorious Allies following World War II was once again united.

And as history shows, a united Germany is a real force to be reckoned with!

Yet, really, who has a mind to think on history in the light of this rapidly changing world order of today?

To view the political rhetoric, gossip, scandal and pseudo-news that fill our airwaves nightly, the mind of the public is being led to dwell on anything but connecting the repetitive history of the major nations with that which is developing today. Yet the very best of geopolitical strategists—Winston Churchill

being a prime example—constantly had the *history* of a nation in mind when deciding foreign policy. One of the most brilliant of 20th century thinkers in the foreign-policy arena was Hans Morgenthau. He stated, “What was important 2,000 years ago is still important today.” Yet, tell that to our shallow journalists of the 21st century and they would laugh in your face!

Following recent American elections, the key issues of discussion were, inevitably, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, the Palestinians, China, North Korea and the forthcoming 2008 U.S. presidential election—anything *but* Europe, anything *but* Germany! Apart from the media briefly noting the signs of Europe’s jubilation at the Bush administration’s humiliation in the congressional elections, the subject of what is developing on the European continent did not even enter the political debates that swept the newswires, the radio and TV talk shows, the Web commentaries and blogs, as elect congressional leaders began considering changes to America’s foreign policy.

Meanwhile, tremendous tensions are building below the surface of global geopolitics—tensions that track right back to that seminal event of the fall of the Berlin Wall—events that

have their real genesis in a history that falls right within the span of time that Morgenthau maintained we should take into consideration today when considering foreign policy. For that which is developing in Europe's heartland today really does have a 2,000-year history behind it!

It's as though the English-speaking nations breeze along, spoiled by generations of abundance, oblivious to the reality that something peculiarly significant to them is about to break—something akin to World Wars I and II, only far BIGGER. Bigger by far than the continuing military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan, or the skirmishes in Israel and northern Pakistan—far, far bigger than the perceived threat from an upstart leader of a third-rate nation testing nuclear devices and popping missiles across the bows of Japan.

In fact, what is increasingly looming on the geopolitical horizon, what went underground at the close of World War II, will be larger by far in its total effect on the nations than any of the plethora of skirmishes, famines, catastrophes and plagues increasingly rampant on this long-suffering globe. And when it breaks—which will be soon, very soon—it will shake all nations with the most powerful geopolitical earthquake in history!

It will flow primarily from the European continent, and will revolve around one nation in particular—*Germany!*

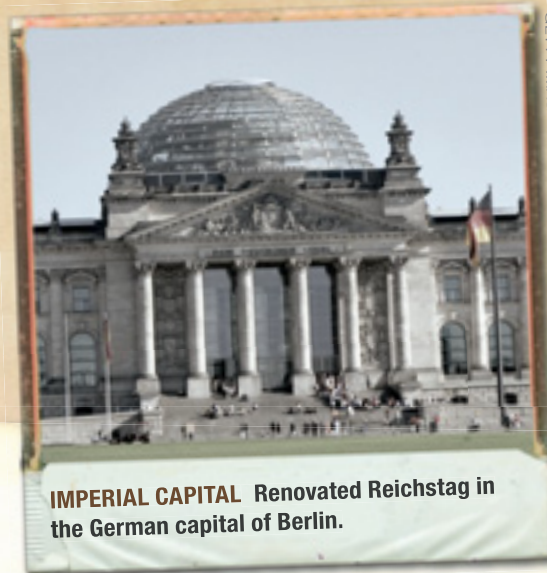
Seeds of a Nation

The seeds of this great future world event were sown long ago with a group of mixed tribes that established themselves over 4,000 years ago as a nation having as their capital, at the height of the Assyrian empire, the city of

Nineveh. In the process of their history, they earned a reputation for war. A certain type of war—*blitzkrieg!* As the poet Byron wrote in reference to those progenitors of the German nation, the ancient Assyrians, at the time of the siege of Jerusalem in 701 B.C. by their King Sennacherib, “The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold.”

Following the destruction of the Assyrian army as recorded in II Kings 19, a mixed multitude of Assyrians and kindred tribes emerged, over time, from the great migrations northward of Mesopotamia, to settle initially at the Black and Caspian seas. Then, trekking west, they followed Europe's great river systems to eventually settle between the Oder and the Rhine rivers, their southern border being the Alps, and to their north, the Baltic and North seas. They became virtual mercenaries in the employ of the Roman Empire, helping to secure the imperial borders as the empire stretched Rome's resources beyond

its capability to provide Roman military forces for that purpose. This was to prove Rome's nemesis. The Germans took over the Roman Empire! In the process, they adopted Rome's



IMPERIAL CAPITAL Renovated Reichstag in the German capital of Berlin.

New President in Town

GERMANY takes over the presidency of the European Union for the first half of 2007. It promises to be quite a dramatic time for the EU, and, in particular, for Germany.

The greatest ceremonial event Germany will host during its EU presidency is the 50th anniversary celebration of the Treaty of Rome. Although the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951 laid the foundations for European unity, it was the Treaty of Rome in 1957 that established the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). The signing of this treaty marked the birth of the European Union.

The original treaty was signed in its spiritual home, Rome. In recognition of that organic connection, the European Constitution that morphed out of the Treaty of Rome was also signed, by the then-25 EU member nations, in Rome in 2004.

Yet the jubilee celebration of the original treaty will be celebrated in the national capital of another of the member nations of the EU—*Germany*. This time, instead of “the mountain coming to Mahomet,” Mahomet, in the form of the EU's spiritual leader Pope Benedict XVI,

will come to the mountain. On this celebrated occasion, this German pope will grace the stage, not in Rome, but in Berlin, flanked by assembled EU dignitaries, hosted by fellow German Angela Merkel, chancellor of the nation holding the EU presidency at the time. Also at the forefront will be the leader of the most Catholic of Germany's political parties, Bavarian Prime Minister Edmund Stoiber.

Organizers plan a special European Council session in Berlin for March 25, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome. “As the venue for the anniversary celebrations, *Berlin is the symbol of a transformed Europe* that has overcome the Cold War,” said Regierung Online (Oct. 11, 2006; emphasis mine). The same day, the European Parliament and Commission will issue a joint declaration “intended to inspire hope in the future of Europe—a culturally diverse, social and economically strong Europe.

“[European Commission President Manuel] Barroso praised the federal government's plans. The ‘Berlin Declaration’ could be the symbol of a new, united Europe” (ibid.).

Not only that, it will be hugely symbolic for Germany! This celebration will be a coming-of-age ceremony for the united Germany as the nation reflects on its transition from a divided country throughout the Cold War era to what is now the EU's leading economy and most strident political voice.

The transfer in 1999 of Germany's national capital from the innocuous Bonn (which has no real attachment to past Teutonic glories) to Berlin makes for an intriguing setting for these grand anniversary celebrations. Berlin, a city perfumed with memories of Imperial Germany's past glories, allows for appropriate pageantry against the backdrop of a refurbished national capital, spic and span, clothed in both new and revived old architecture. The city has reinstalled the statuary of German military heroes that was removed after World War II due to its being perceived as an inappropriate reminder of Germany's warring habits.

It is thus intriguing that, as this grand celebration approaches, war is once again on the German mind. Given Germany's history as a united nation, that ought to be of major significance to us all.

religion as well. (Request our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* for a fuller explanation of this remarkable piece of history.)

Having settled in central Europe, the Germanic tribes ultimately evolved into numerous petty statelets, each posing no real threat to the world at the time, yet which together within the 17th century were responsible for 30 years of bloody and horrendous warfare—*religious* war—among themselves and other nations in Europe. This Thirty Years' War finally terminated with treaties of exhaustion famously known as the Peace of Westphalia, concluded in 1648 between the Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand III, the numerous German princes, France and Sweden, and between Spain and the Netherlands.

These warring factions in central Europe consisted largely of the Teutons, the *Deutschevolk*, that grand mix of Germanic tribes that longed for identity, for unity as a people, for a national soul. Recovery from their exhausting religious warring of the first half of the 17th century took the whole century and a half that followed. It was a significant setback for the German peoples. Yet, as has happened periodically throughout their history, finally a singularly strong leader emerged from the state of Prussia, an aristocrat intent on reviving German hopes for unity. The people were finally welded into a single nation courtesy of that great statesman Count Otto von Bismarck, master of the art of treaty making. In fact, not only did he deliver the German peoples a national identity, they also got an empire to boot!

From National Unity, to Empire, to War!

In 1867, Bismarck became chancellor of the North German Confederation. His striving for German unification, together with the German lust for *Lebensraum* (an expansion of territory giving more “room to live”), was to set a pattern to be repeated in the future.

By 1871, this confederation of Germanic states had quickly expanded into the German Empire following Bismarck's successful challenge to France's supremacy in Europe via the Franco-Prussian War. In that year, Bismarck became the first chancellor—the “Iron Chancellor”—of the German Empire. This empire grew intercontinentally in the remaining decade of the 19th century to include regions of Africa, South America, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands.

By 1914, Kaiser Wilhelm had led Germany into the greatest war this world had ever witnessed. Though figures vary, well over 8 million souls were slaughtered in that Great War. It was billed at its end as “the war to end all wars.”

It didn't.

Barely 20 years after the guns fell silent on the Western Front, Germany was enmeshed yet again in conflict, but one that would end with far greater loss of life, far greater trauma and destruction of property than was possible through the weapons of destruction employed in that first world war. The term *holocaust* took on a newly horrific meaning.

What began with Hitler rolling into Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, ended with Germany's surrender on May 7, 1945. The German nation, less than 75 years on from its creation under Bismarck, lay in ashes.

To ensure that a unified Germany, with a cadre of top military brass at its helm, would not pose a threat to world peace again, the three world leaders of the victorious Allied nations met at Potsdam in the summer of 1945. They carved Germany up among them, eliminated the German High Command, and

declared that never again would Germany be permitted to rise as a military threat to the peace of the world.

It did not last long.

Vanquished and Revived

Barely 10 years from Germany's surrender fol-

lowing World War II, on May 6, 1955, the Federal Republic of Germany joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The Western Allies felt that without a strong continental army on Germany's eastern flank, all Europe lay exposed to Communist domination. Naively thinking that West Germany was on the road to becoming a genuine and willing democratic nation, Britain and America allowed, encouraged and cajoled the Federal Republic of Germany, amid great debate, to rearm! The result was the creation of the German Bundeswehr only months after Germany entered NATO.

There followed 35 years of German involvement under the NATO umbrella as part of the great Cold War standoff, during which Germany and the Soviet Union stared at each other across the divide that split Berlin between East and West.

Governing the evolution of the German nation from that of a divided, disarmed, vanquished “enemy of the world” in 1945, to the growing status it has today of an active peacekeeper, has been a series of three government “white papers” issued over a period of 50 years. A white paper (the name comes from the color of the cover) is an official government document informing the public of government policy.

In 1969, the government of West Germany produced its first white paper review of the nation's defense forces. The goal of rearming as a member of a Western, anti-Soviet security community had, in part, been fulfilled. But the prime goal of post-war German administrations—the reunification of Germany—remained elusive.

This white paper publicized a *watershed transition of German defense and security policy*: from one solely supportive of the Western Alliance to one that, while remaining under the NATO umbrella, reflected *uniquely German goals*. This policy prepared Germany for that which the nation believed was inevitable: the reunification of the German nation.

Then came Nov. 9, 1989. The Berlin Wall tumbled. Within a year, Germany was officially united once again as a single nation.

By the end of 1991, the united Germany's first foreign policy move, recognizing Slovenia and Croatia as nation states independent of greater Yugoslavia, fueled civil war in the Balkan Peninsula.

The Balkan wars are now history, as is the fact that they were used to legitimize the use of the German Air Force, and later ground forces, in combat zones outside of their home borders for the first time since Germany was vanquished, never again “able to disturb the peace of the world,” over 60 years ago. A German politician is now high commissioner to the EU for Bosnia-Herzegovina. The European Union is well advanced in its plans to swallow up the whole of the strategic Balkan Peninsula through its highly undemocratic, gapping maw!



**WORLD WAR II-ERA
GERMAN EMBLEM**

From the Balkans to Beirut

After the newly united Germany's success in sparking the Balkan wars, another white paper followed in 1994. This reflected Germany's desire to be involved in a wider security and defense role and to secure territorial gains in the crucial Balkan Peninsula for the EU.

This white paper carried the evolutionary process of German rearmament from the prior-stated intention of being solely for self-protection within its own national borders, to beyond, into foreign theaters. The result was a federal vote that removed constitutional objections to German military personnel being deployed in peacekeeping missions *outside* the country.

The upshot?

During remarks at the Bundeswehr Commanders' Conference, Dec. 1, 1999, at Hamburg, U.S. Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen pointed out, "[I]n recent years, Germany has proven that the past need not bind a people and their leaders in perpetuity. Germany, *the Bundeswehr*, has embraced missions *the world over*, from Cambodia to Somalia and today even in East Timor. When ethnic animosities were stoked until they ignited in all of Bosnia, Germany responded; supporting airlifts to the Bosnian people, sending your soldiers to keep the peace" (emphasis mine throughout). The secretary failed to point out that it was *Germany* that stoked those ethnic animosities by unilaterally recognizing Slovenia and Croatia as sovereign nations separate from greater Yugoslavia!

Since then, the Bundeswehr has deployed to Africa, the Mediterranean, the Caucasus, the Balkans, and the Middle East. Its most recent deployment is off the coast of Israel, engaged in the peacekeeping force in Lebanon, right on the doorstep of Jerusalem!

But, there is a third white paper—this one produced just a few months ago.

In October, following a decade of publicly decrying any prospect of increase in its military forces, and highly publicizing budget "cuts" to military expenditure, Germany set about revolutionizing its army in order to boost its global presence. The former chairman of the National Institute for Public Policy explained, "[T]he fact that Berlin is about to approve a reorganization of the German Army is going to heighten that country's role in international peacekeeping and thus world politics. The Bundeswehr, with a total of 250,000 personnel (the regular U.S. Army now has about 490,000 soldiers), will be *reorganized primarily into a combat-capable intervention and security force, as opposed to its original mission of assisting in defending its borders*. This mission change will require not only a near complete alteration of [its] current training and doctrine, but it also will demand a reordering of its equipment and supply structure. ... The objective of the reorganization is to provide the Bundeswehr with the ability to assign a total of 14,000 troops to *five international missions simultaneously*" (*American Spectator*, Oct. 31, 2006; emphasis mine throughout).

The German government has laid out its strategy for developing a military force capable of intervening *in any theater deemed vital to German interests anywhere on the globe!* This "White Paper 2006 on German Security Policy and the Future of the Bundeswehr" outlines a strategy for Germany fast-tracking the nation's military machine into one of world-class status.

Under the headline "Germany in Radical Shake-up of Military," the *Financial Times* of London reported, "Germany will

on Wednesday adopt the most radical restructuring of its military since 1945, *turning the Bundeswehr into an international intervention force*, according to an internal cabinet strategy paper The 133-page strategy paper argues that the capacity of *the Bundeswehr must be expanded to allow for the deployment of a total of 14,000 troops to five international missions simultaneously*. ... The paper confirms conscription will be retained" (Oct. 24, 2006).

Regarding this latest review of German security and defense policy, Associated Press concluded, "It amounts to another step away from the caution and isolation born of Germany's World War II legacy" (Oct. 25, 2006).

To those who followed the broadcasts and writings of Herbert W. Armstrong throughout his long ministry—and who still REMEMBER—those words ring as an electrifying endorsement of the power of biblical revelation.

He Was Right

One can only imagine—61 years ago, while Germany lay as a beaten hulk in its own ashes—the FAITH required for a man to declare that Germany would arise one more time to wreak havoc on this world, in a gigantic sign of the imminence of the return of Jesus Christ!

Herbert Armstrong was one who believed Morgenthau's dictum that "what was important 2,000 years ago is still important today." More than that, he had the "more sure word of prophecy" (2 Peter 1:19) that allowed him to match history with current events and determine their ultimate outcome. With boldness and complete faith in the inerrancy of Scripture, Herbert Armstrong declared that that old nation of Assyria, in its modern Germanic form, would be the instigator of the most horrific of "wars to end all wars"! He repeatedly broadcast and wrote that a united Europe, led by Germany, is destined to lead a world-ruling empire of stupendous power, economically, militarily, even *religiously*. He powerfully underscored that though its rule is prophesied to be brief—less than a few years—the havoc it will wreak during that time will leave other nations reeling in awe at the swiftness of its deployment and the destructiveness of its power over its enemies, chief of which will be those that, in their supreme ignorance of history, rearmed it after the last great global conflict!

To those who still have ears to hear, this most recent action by the German government to upgrade and expand its military machine illustrates the powerful foresight of a mind willingly led, influenced and guided by God in its analysis of world events through the revelation of Bible prophecy.

The world may gloat, but Herbert Armstrong WAS right! Just *how* right is *daily* becoming apparent as we teeter on the brink of huge global events leading to the greatest geopolitical intervention of all time, the return of Jesus Christ to this war-torn, war-weary Earth!

If you understand this clear message of currently unfolding world events even now building to a great climax at the close of one age of man and mankind's introduction to a new, unbelievably peaceful, glorious age of abundant, unheard-of blessings, then it's time to *really* pray, "THY KINGDOM COME"!

Request your own copy, gratis, of Mr. Armstrong's book *Mystery of the Ages*. It will give you the true sense of this rapidly developing global crisis, and will give you great hope for the future that lies beyond it!



GLOBAL WARMING

Serious environmental disasters besiege every continent on Earth. Is global warming the cause—or the effect? BY BRAD MACDONALD

GLOBAL WARMING HAS BEEN a hot topic in recent months. Politicians have grafted the subject into their political platforms; scientists' warnings are penetrating more minds; the mainstream media are paying the subject a lot of attention. But with all this coverage, the issue has become highly contested and highly politicized.

Though many politicians are no doubt genuinely concerned, how many are simply using this subject as a political weapon to maim the opposition? Many scientists firmly believe global warming is hurting our environment; other scientists don't. How serious is the problem? Politics clouds the issue so much that answering this question has become incredibly difficult.

But there is clarity buried in the confusion about global warming and its impact on the environment if we are prepared to set aside politics. Firstly, there is no denying that planet-wide environmental degradation is occurring and is a serious concern. Secondly, as we will show, global warming *is not* the root cause of this degradation. Rather, global warming is a component of a more dire issue.

Effects of Environmental Degradation

The extent of global environmental degradation today is evidenced by the barrage of natural catastrophes occurring around the world.

Look at Europe. This past summer, Britain and much of continental Europe were wracked with devastatingly hot and dry conditions that ruined large swaths of cropland. British gardeners were warned in September that the English country garden will be a memory of the past within 20 years. In Italy, melting glaciers mean that skiers will soon have to climb beyond 2,000 meters to find snow. Even as far north as Greenland, temperatures got so warm that barley began to grow in the normally ice-clad nation—an occurrence not seen since the Middle Ages.

Farther south, in the Mediterranean Sea, water temperatures warmed to the point where swarms of jellyfish plagued tourists along the coast of Spain. In the famous water city of Venice, rising water levels are spurring urgent meetings on how to prevent the city from drowning. Such meetings are also being held by worried engineers in the Netherlands.

Similar problems plagued Africa, already the poorest continent on Earth. As the *Independent* reported, "Natural disasters, extreme weather, floods and droughts have always been common in southern Africa, but the severity of the wet and dry periods is intensifying with disastrous results" (Sept. 15, 2006). Massive droughts in the Horn of Africa in the past year killed much of the region's wildlife and disrupted the migration patterns of animals and birds.

In Kenya, soaring temperatures and

drought conditions drove herdsmen to war over the few surviving cattle. On the other hand, extreme drought in Ethiopia was broken by torrential rain and devastating flooding that caused river banks to overflow, drowning more than 800 people.

North America also suffered. "In Alaska there has been millions of dollars of damage to buildings and roads caused by melting permafrost. The region has been blighted by the world's largest outbreak of spruce bark beetles, normally confined to warmer climes. Rising sea levels have forced the relocation of Inuit villages, and polar bears have been drowning because of shrinking sea ice. The caribou population is in steep decline due to earlier spring and the west is suffering one of the worst droughts for 500 years" (*ibid.*).

For much of the summer, more than 60 percent of the United States suffered from drought or abnormally dry conditions. Other areas had devastating floods that caused millions of dollars in damage. In Hawaii, the island's famous coral reefs are being destroyed by large-scale bleaching.

South America is walking the same path. "Last year, the largest river in the world [the Amazon] was reduced to a trickle by an unprecedented drought. This year sand banks have already appeared in the deltas of the Amazon and fears are rising that a drought cycle that was previously measured in multiples of

DREAMTIME

decades may now be an annual event” (ibid.). Unusually dry conditions are disturbing the fragile ecosystem of the Amazon forest, driving animals and plants to extinction and ruining the health of the forest known as the lungs of the Earth.

“In the Peruvian Andes the alpacas

Contrary to popular belief, global warming is not the fundamental cause of all these environmental crises.

that have for centuries provided indigenous farmers with a means of survival have died in cold snaps where temperatures plummeted to -30°C. In the summer, melted glaciers revealed rock faces burnt red by their first contact with direct sunlight” (ibid.).

Then there is Australasia. Large sections of Australia’s traditionally productive agricultural regions are drying up. Farmers are being forced to buy water and truck it to their farms. The drought is rampant from one end of the nation to the other. In some states, it is the worst in decades; in others, such as Western Australia, it is the worst on record.

In New Zealand, floods, snowstorms and harsh weather caused millions of dollars in damage this past winter.

Then there is Asia, where climate change is notably evident. Rivers in Afghanistan have dried up. Crops in India have failed so consistently that farmers are committing suicide. Potentially the worst damage is occurring in the Himalayas, where glaciers are melting. “Several glacier lakes have already burst in Nepal and Bhutan. The disappearance of the glaciers could dry up major rivers as far away as China, India and Vietnam” (ibid.).

It is impossible to deny that serious and alarming environmental crises are impacting every corner of the Earth. Weather disasters and their resulting crises are killing hundreds of thousands, even millions of people, and wreaking billions of dollars’ worth of damage.

Contrary to popular belief, however, global warming is not the *fundamental* cause of all these environmental crises.

Rejection of Law

The issue of global warming is blinding the media, scientists and politicians to the *real cause* of our environmental and agricultural catastrophes. Though global warming is producing environmental disaster, it is not the primary and fundamental *cause* of these problems.

The root cause of global environmental disasters lies in mankind’s flagrant

rejection of the physical laws governing environmental and agricultural management. Added to this, the weather and environmental curses besieging our globe are a result of mankind’s widespread disobedience to God’s spiritual law.

Our planet, together with all of its

physical components and processes, is governed by physical laws. Weather patterns, animal reproduction, agriculture, forests, oceans—all these are governed by physical laws, the laws of chemistry, physics, biology and so on.

These laws were designed by God when He created Earth.

God is the mastermind behind the successful and healthy operation of this planet. He is the author of its physical laws. The Apostle Paul taught that God’s creative abilities are evident in the magnificent and intricate physical creation that is Earth (Romans 1:19-20). Environmental blessings and success come from obedience and a willingness to live within and respect the physical laws that govern our planet.

The basis of these laws is outlined in God’s instruction manual, the Bible.

The basis of these laws is outlined in God’s instruction manual for operating His creation. In the Bible God provides specific environmental laws such as how to care for fruit trees, when to plant crops, when to rest the land, even laws designed to protect nesting birds. There are laws about property and land rights. Added to these laws about managing the environment and agriculture are laws about economics. God revealed a definite and practical economic system.

The overriding principle these laws are based upon is the principle of *give*. For 6,000 years, in relation to the environment, as in all other areas, mankind has operated on the principle of *get*. Whether he is stripping the soil of its fertility through monoculture, chemical use and wrong farming practices, the deforestation of huge swaths of land, or churning out into the environment vast quantities of pollutants, man has abused his environment in order to *produce more*—to *get* more—all the while neglecting to take care of it. *Greed* has led man to destroy the environment God gave him to dress and to keep.

Mankind today thinks it can get away with ecological law-breaking. Rapid technological development and intellectual advancement have caused men to believe they can break physical laws without penalty. We have been breaking the laws that govern the environment and agriculture for so long that we think there are no penalties—but there are. It has taken years, even hundreds of years, but mankind’s history of raping the environment and abusing the physical laws that govern its stable and healthy existence is catching up with us.

That’s what these global environmental crises are: *the results of our law-breaking*.

Beyond suffering the consequences for our poor environmental and agricultural management and rejection of the physical laws that govern this Earth, the environmental catastrophes plaguing mankind are also curses brought upon us for our individual and national sins. It is a godly principle that men are blessed for obedience and cursed for disobedience (Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28). Read these chapters and see the environmental and agricultural destruction that God specifically tells us are curses for disobedience. Devastated crops and infertile land are curses for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:16-18). Debilitating temperatures and rampant drought are also curses (verses 23-24).

The root cause of the widespread environmental devastation overtaking this planet is not global warming. The root cause is mankind’s widespread rejection of the physical laws governing the Earth, and of the spiritual law of God. Therefore, the fundamental solution to our natural disasters does not lie in managing carbon dioxide emissions or driving our cars less. The solution to these crises lies in mankind respecting the physical laws that govern this planet—and, far more importantly, repenting before God and embracing the spiritual laws designed by God to bring health and happiness into our lives.



For a scriptural study on how to implement that solution in your own life, order a free copy of our booklet **Repentance Toward God**.



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG?



LEARN THE TRUTH

DO YOU REMEMBER HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG?

During the era of televangelism in the 1980s, he was bigger than Jimmy Swaggart, Oral Roberts or Robert Schuller. His television program, *The World Tomorrow*, reached more people than any other religious program in America. He distributed a mountain of free literature—8.4 million monthly copies of the *Plain Truth* newsmagazine alone. The budget for his international work of Bible-based humanitarianism was larger than Jerry Falwell's and Billy Graham's combined. He was known globally as “an unofficial ambassador for world peace.”

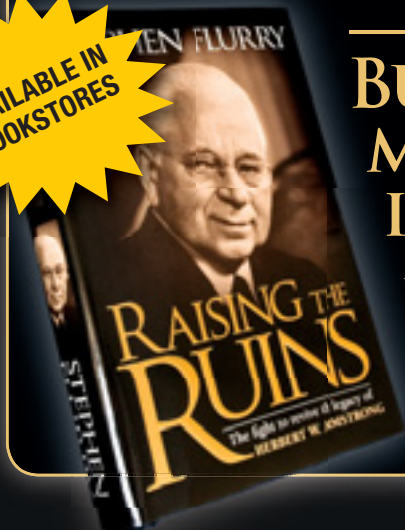
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT HAPPENED?

Today, the Worldwide Church of God is doctrinally unrecognizable as the church Mr. Armstrong founded. The three liberal arts colleges he established are gone. His cultural foundation has been dismantled. His television program is history; all of his writings, trashed. The reason: Those who took control of his work after his death in 1986 deliberately and deceitfully tore down everything he built—and kept the money for themselves. Backed by extensive research, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry tells the shocking, gripping untold story of the doctrinal hijacking of the Worldwide Church of God—and of a faith-filled few who held fast to his mission, and won an against-all-odds court battle to keep Herbert W. Armstrong's legacy alive.

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SHOCKING



*“Mr. Armstrong contributed to sharing the word of the Lord
with his community and with people throughout the nation.
You can take pride in his legacy.”*

RONALD REAGAN, U.S. PRESIDENT

EUROPE

Germany Mediates in Mideast

UNDER A VEIL OF SECRECY, an officer of Germany's Federal Intelligence Service, the BND, is once again acting as a key negotiator between Israel and the Shiite terrorist group, Hezbollah.

The *Trumpet* has long warned its readers to watch for Europe, particularly Germany, to muscle its way into the peace process.

One influential role Germany has filled is that of chief negotiator in prisoner swaps between Hezbollah and Israel. In January 2004, for example, it brokered the swap of more than 400 Arab prisoners for an Israeli businessman and the bodies of three soldiers.

Now, once again, Germany's secret service is mediating between Israel and Hezbollah in efforts to secure the release of the two Israeli soldiers taken hostage by Hezbollah in July 2006.

Regarding the chief negotiator, Spiegel Online reported, "The German analyst is known as 'Mr. Hezbollah.' He lives in Berlin and speaks fluent Arabic, English and French. He was educated as an Arabist, and he has qualifications which neither high-level diplomats nor seasoned statesmen can offer, in the eyes of the UN leadership. Since he's taken part in previous German-negotiated prisoner exchanges, he knows the bizarre rules of hostage-trading as well as the main people involved. ... Very few people have more experience than the German intelligence officer. 'Mr. Hezbollah' has been present at almost every previous negotiation involving Hezbollah, and he's met [Hezbollah chief] Hassan Nasrallah personally. He

enjoys a good reputation in the Hezbollah's Beirut headquarters as well as in Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office" (Oct. 23, 2006).

Germany has clearly secured itself a slot in Middle East negotiations—those involving hostage taking—that the parties involved, as well as the United Nations, feel no other nation can adequately fill.

Whether these negotiations will be as "successful" as previous rounds remains to be seen. But even in the event they are not, they will still serve Berlin's purposes. The prospects for success being somewhat dim, given the hardened positions of both sides, Germany at first appeared hesitant to take up the challenge. Berlin did not want to "tarnish Germany's latter-day image as a peacemaker" (ibid.). It did, however, willingly come to the party when requested to do so personally by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Working under the auspices of the UN, Germany can palm off any responsibility for failure, while its involvement still cements its position among key players in the Middle East. As Spiegel explained, "Any failure in talks will lie at the UN's feet, but a success will bring at least some credit back to Germany."

Of note is the fact that, though the official invitation for German mediation came from the UN, the initial suggestion for Germany's involvement came from Israel itself. When the two soldiers were first kidnapped back in July, a spokesman for Israel's



HISTORIC ROLE Germany played a key part in the 2004 swap of over 400 prisoners—some seen here before a German plane arriving in Beirut.

Foreign Ministry, Yigal Palmor, openly asked for Germany's negotiating help. That Israel is open to—and seeking—Germany's help is

a trend that is prophesied to have detrimental consequences for the Jewish nation in the future, when Germany betrays that trust.

Britain's Sovereignty at Risk

EUROPEAN UNION MEMBERSHIP comes with a steep price: national sovereignty. Member states have already signed over criminal law and air space. But the price is getting higher and will soon be too much for Britain.

The EU is now proposing the creation of a borderless maritime space for all EU members—meaning the Union may rule members' territorial waters.

The European Commission is currently assessing reaction to the idea in preparation for drafting a formal proposal in 2007. If the plan is adopted, then crossing the English Channel would no longer be considered an international trip, since passengers would never leave EU waters.

For Britain this would be more than a loss of sovereignty: It would be the loss

of a vital national symbol. It was Britain's supremacy of the seas that catapulted the island nation into rulership of a world-spanning empire.

Control of the English Channel has been England's greatest defense from European invasion. Napoleon once wrote to his admiral: "If we can be the masters of the narrows for six

hours, we shall be masters of the world." However, Britain maintained mastery of its waters, turning back not only the army of Napoleon, but also, later on, the Nazi armies of Hitler.

The EU has already challenged Britain's maritime sovereignty by opening up Britain's fishing zones to European rivals and by seeking to replace the historic "Red Ensign," flown from merchant ships of Britain's great empire since the 17th century, with the EU flag. Giving up the Channel and



Muslims Create Intifada in France

A YEAR ON FROM THE devastating riots that plunged France into a state of emergency, the Muslim immigrant populations in parts of the country remain as volatile as ever. A surge of violent attacks against police in France's housing estates has engendered warnings of an undeclared *intifada*, or uprising, with fears of worse to come.

France's Interior Ministry reported that, through September, nearly 2,500 officers had been wounded in violent clashes in 2006. In October alone, Muslims

the Red Ensign would amount to Britain symbolically relinquishing a vital key to its security.

Britain already faces the prospect of a tremendous loss of national sovereignty if the EU constitution is ever ratified. The constitution would put Brussels in ultimate power over Britain: The EU would be able to conduct Britain's foreign policy; make treaties on behalf of Britain; draw up laws dictating Britain's workers' social security and social protection rights; pass laws outlining investigative techniques British police must use; dictate how schools are run; and give Britain a supreme court in Brussels. In effect, Britain would cease to exist in all but name.

Will Britons allow their government to continue to give up national sovereignty to maintain EU member status? Unlikely. Watch for the British to reject EU membership to preserve their national institutions, history and identity.



PARIS BURNING Muslim unrest hits Paris yet again.

sparked three major clashes in Paris suburbs, including an incident where three officers were set upon by a mob of around 50 young people with stones, steel bars and a gun, resulting in one of the officers being hospitalized.

The level and intensity of attacks, taking place in low-income housing estates with large populations of Muslim youth, have led Michel Thoomis, the secretary general of the Action Police trade union, to demand that officers be provided with armored cars in certain areas. "This is not a question of urban violence any more, it is an *intifada*, with stones and Molotov cocktails. You no longer see two or three youths confronting police, you see whole tower blocks emptying into the streets to set their 'comrades' free when they are arrested" (*Telegraph*, Oct. 5, 2006).

The number of attacks has increased by a third in the last two years and is still rising. In September, Muslims unleashed 480 attacks on police and other officials, a 30 percent increase over August.

The mood in many parts of France is such that a repeat of something on the scale of the three-week rampage of a year ago—which spread to hundreds of French towns and cost \$500 million—could be sparked by a single incident such as the death of a rioter or police officer.

However, "one of the biggest sources of dynamite," in the words of the *New Zealand Herald*, is the upcoming presidential election campaign. Interior minister and presidential candidate Nicolas

Sarkozy advocates harsh measures to deal with such violence. "With the vote only six months away, Sarkozy has declared the 'cleanup' of the suburbs as his rallying cry, and is stepping up high-profile snatch operations and patrols by CRS riot police and gendarmes" (Oct. 19, 2006).

The ongoing unrest and violence in France illustrates the failure of immigrant Muslim populations in Europe to integrate. The re-

sult will be further alienation of Muslims and increased support for those political parties that promise solutions. The increasing popularity of far-right parties across Europe demonstrates that Europeans are starting to get fed up with the inaction of the mainstream parties. When Europe does eventually go after the Muslim problem in force, the current violence in French housing estates will pale into insignificance.

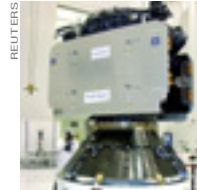
EU Admits Military Use for Galileo

IN A SIGNIFICANT policy shift, the European Commission stated in mid-October 2006 that military uses should be considered for Europe's Galileo satellite navigational system despite prior commitments to limit its use to civilian applications.

Speaking in Luxembourg, Jacques Barrot, European commissioner for transport, declared that "the idea of only using Galileo for civilian purposes will not persist into the future because I think that our military cannot do without some sort of [navigation] system."

In proposing military applications for Galileo, rival to the United States' Global Positioning System (GPS), Barrot has "crossed a new threshold" that sets the EU "on a collision course with Britain and the United States," reports the *Belfast Telegraph* (Oct. 14, 2006). The U.S. originally opposed the project based on the very fact that it could have military uses. Floating the idea will "help to boost the EU's ambition to develop a larger military capability to back up its foreign policy" (ibid.).

Though billed as an ef-



WEAPON? A Galileo satellite sits in a hanger.

fort to recoup the massive costs of the project, there should be little question that military use for the system was always intended. "For some EU officials," London's *Financial*

Times stated, "Mr. Barrot was simply stating explicitly what they already knew: The end-users of Galileo's highly sophisticated navigational and mapping systems would almost certainly include the military" (Oct. 14, 2006).

The implications of a European military force guided by the state-of-the-art Galileo, set to become operational in 2008, are no small matter. Consider: America's GPS has been an important factor in the U.S. being able to maintain its global military supremacy. Soon, Europe will have its own system, even more advanced than GPS. Galileo promises, for instance, to be accurate within one meter, as opposed to GPS's 10 meters.

As the *Trumpet* pointed out nearly two years ago in February 2005, "Galileo will be used as a key component of the EU's military resources, and the U.S. will have lost the advantage provided by its GPS."

Pushing for Palestinian State

EGYPT'S LEADER KNOWS he is in trouble. Hosni Mubarak is the secularist president of a country turning radical. His already shaky position appears less secure by the day. Worried by rising support for Islamists among his people and the sidelining of Egyptian influence within the region in favor of an ascendant Iran, Mubarak is anxious for a solution—and a place to lay the blame.

For both of these, he has found what he is looking for in the United States.

On an October visit to Egypt by the U.S. secretary of state, Egyptian officials pushed for the U.S. to resolve what they consider the primary problem in the region. The *International Herald Tribune* reported, "... Egypt is pressing the United States for an aggressive promotion of Palestinian statehood as a means of strengthening itself and other Arab governments allied with Washington,

senior officials say. Egyptian officials told Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on her recent visit here that the United States should move straight 'to the endgame,' with a major U.S. policy initiative tackling the most contentious Palestinian issues: borders of a future state, the site of the state's capital, and the so-called right of return for Palestinian refugees" (October 22, 2006).

Why a Palestinian state? Given the unlikelihood of Palestinian statehood under present circumstances—Palestinian politics controlled by Hamas, southern Lebanon and the Gaza Strip becoming armed camps, Syria agitating to gain control of the Golan Heights—this request could merely be Mubarak trying to deflect Islamist hostility toward his own government.

Why the U.S.? Essentially, Cairo is pinning the blame for the Middle East's problems on



"TO THE ENDGAME" Egypt's president asks the U.S. secretary of state to tackle the Palestinians' most contentious issues.

America. In the words of the NYT: "The invasion of Iraq has put Baghdad into Iran's orbit; the insistence on democratic

elections allowed Hamas to gain power in the Palestinian areas; and, more recently, the refusal to press for a speedy end to Israel's bombardment of Lebanon helped lionize Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the militant group Hezbollah" (ibid.).

This view of events truly is interesting—and not a completely unfair representation of the unpleasant effects of

ECONOMY

Record Drops in House Prices

IF YOU PURCHASED A NEW home after September 2004, odds are it is now worth less than you originally paid for it.

According to the U.S. Commerce Department, the median price for newly constructed homes fell 9.7 percent from September 2005 to September 2006—a drop of magnitude not seen since 1970, and the fourth-largest year-over-year drop on record. Median home prices as of September were down 15.5 percent from their record high posted last April (CNNMoney.com, Oct. 26, 2006). At the same time, the volume of new home sales has also plunged 14 percent from levels a year ago, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The big danger, according to Jim Jubak, senior markets editor for MSN Money, is that this housing slowdown might continue to build on its own momentum.

"It was surprising just how quickly the market seemed to turn," says Mark Zandi, Economy.com's chief economist. "It was like, boom, boom, bust. It was like, 'What happened?' The psychology in the market place unraveled very rapidly"

(USA Today, Oct. 26, 2006).

When home prices are soaring, nobody wants to wait to buy a home in fear that they will have to pay more for it later. And sellers don't mind waiting for higher bids because they think they can get more money later.

Conversely, however, when market temperaments change and people begin to anticipate lower future prices, the incentive to make a quick purchase disappears. "Bids are drying up. Many potential buyers are simply waiting for lower prices. The word is that 'it pays to wait,'" says economic analyst Richard Russell (*Daily Reckoning*, Sept. 19, 2006).



Michael Shedlock of Mish's Global Economic Trend Analysis agrees, calling this "a procrastinator's market" and saying, "Prices have only one way to go and that is down." Why buy a house today when you can buy it for less next month or maybe *much* less next year?

Iran Tests Cause Little Alarm

IRAN LAUNCHED DOZENS OF MISSILES, INCLUDING THE Shahab-3, which can reach Israel, during military maneuvers on Nov. 2, 2006. Though the world's leading powers reacted with indifference, the tests should cause concern, especially in light of Iran's nuclear program—as the Shahab-3 can carry a nuclear payload.

Tehran said the exercise was defensive. This statement loses credibility when compared to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's calls for wiping Israel off the map.

The missile tests "should bother not only Israel. It should bother the Arab countries, Islamic countries, the Gulf region, North Africa and Europe," Israel's Infrastructure Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said. "We are always warning the world about this phenomenon called Iran."

Yet the world does nothing. The United Nations can't even agree to impose sanctions on Iran, because of Russia's and China's support of Iran's nuclear program. Americans—divided over their policy—are not in a position to act.

Biblical prophecy shows that one power *will* finally stand up to Iran. To learn which nations will comprise that power, read our January 2006 article, "The Ostrich, the Warrior and the Whirlwind."

America's most robust efforts to stabilize the Middle East. The fact is, Mubarak's relationship with the maligned U.S. is in some ways hurting his political fortunes more than helping them.

The IHT article described Egypt as being "in a moment of political twilight." That certainly describes Mubarak's regime. But it isn't the case for the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's officially banned but most

popular and only credible opposition political party, whose wagon is firmly hitched to the rising star of radical Islam.

The *Trumpet* has long believed Egypt would eventually throw in its lot with the radical politics of Iran. Watching Mubarak's political squirming and his tacit acknowledgement of the increased pressures he is facing shows that, in one sense, this is already becoming reality.

Even with the housing downturn in what could be its infancy, some analysts are already forecasting that prices have hit bottom. "The worst is behind us as far as a market correction—this is likely the trough for sales," said David Lereah, the National Association of Realtors' chief economist. "When consumers recognize that home sales are stabilizing, we'll see the buyers who've been on the sidelines get back into the market" (Associated Press, Oct. 25, 2006).

Where exactly this sideline for buyers is that Lereah refers to is unclear. Homeownership is already at record levels. Additionally, according to some estimates, 40 percent of houses purchased in 2005 were second homes or investments.

Moreover, over the past few years it has become much more commonplace to buy a house without a down payment. If prices continue to remain weak, the market could be flooded with people trying to get out of their mortgages with what little is left before prices weaken more. According to Shedlock, the market is already "flooded with inventory from those who now want to cash out" (op. cit.).

Perhaps the clearest indicator of the end of the housing bubble, from a contrarian

point of view, is that people can now, along with pork bellies, soybeans and stocks, invest in a home-futures market. This past May, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange created a home-price-futures market that gives people and investors the ability to speculate on home prices across 10 major U.S. cities, including Boston, Miami, San Diego and Chicago, without actually purchasing any property.

This kind of speculator excitement—typified by a plethora of new and improved investment ideas like home-futures contracts, interest-only mortgages, negative amortization home loans, 50-year mortgages, widespread adjustable-rate mortgages and other products—is characteristic of the froth that usually surrounds bubble peaks—like that of the dot-com mania in 2000.

The noise of a deflating housing bubble is getting louder. For the U.S. economy, which has become so dependent on the many jobs surrounding the home-construction, real-estate and property financing sectors, this is certainly not a good economic development. If you haven't started preparing for post-bubble economic trouble, now might be a good time.

UNITED STATES

Leaving South Korea?

A PROPOSAL recently signed in Washington indicates America is trying to cut its losses globally, say some experts. In October, defense secretaries for the United States and South

Korea met to seal an agreement "to pass more military responsibility to South Korea in the event of war" (*Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 23, 2006). The change, scheduled to take place between 2009 and 2012, will give South Korea wartime control of its military—something the U.S. has had since the Korean War.

The war between North Korea and South Korea never officially ended. The two sides signed an armistice, but the 38th parallel, dividing the two Koreas, has remained the most heavily guarded border on the planet.

Many, especially in South Korea, view America's ceding control of the wartime armed forces to South Korea as a sign of an impending American pullout, thus leaving the tiny democratic nation to stand on its own against hostile enemies. "As soon as the control is passed," said a retired Korean naval officer, "the U.S. will leave."

South Korea has reason to be worried. With America's armed forces diffused to the farthest reaches of the globe and the level of troop commitment required in Iraq so high, the U.S. military is losing the ability to respond



FEWER GOOD MEN? Marines conduct joint exercises with South Korean troops.

to other crises. It has reason to want out of South Korea. "For the U.S., a speedy transition [of power to South Korea] will more quickly allow it to send personnel associated with Korean war planning and logistics to other places," wrote the *Wall Street Journal*.

Whereas America wants to rescind wartime control as soon as possible, the South Koreans are happy to put any American withdrawal as far into the future as they can. Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, for instance, said South Korea "has the ability to assume responsibility for wartime operational control roughly in the time frame of 2009," while South Korean Defense Minister Yoon Kwang Ung is looking to 2012 as being the best year. The deal is not popular with the Korean public either. Just days after signing the deal, Yoon offered his resignation.

That the powerful U.S. would want to pull out of South Korea when many South Koreans have no desire to direct their wartime operations is a sign that the American superpower is overstretched.

FAMILY

Family Breakdown in Britain

A JUVENILE CRIME WAVE in Britain can be traced to family breakdown, according to former Conservative Party leader Iain Duncan Smith. His interim report on the Social Justice Policy Group titled “Breakdown Britain,” released Oct. 3, 2006, makes the case that the breakdown of British families is destroying the fabric of British society.

The group, commissioned by Conservative Party leader David Cameron in December 2005, has an ambitious agenda. It was commissioned to study the causes and consequences of poverty in Britain; examine the challenges facing families and teens; supply fresh ideas to treat and rehabilitate youths affected by drugs and alcohol; examine ways to take care of the elderly; and support neighborhood renewal, among other things (Conservatives.com, Dec. 7, 2005).

Chaired by Mr. Smith, the group claims that “Britain has the highest rate of family breakdown in Europe. This in turn is fueling a crime wave, with 70 percent of young offenders coming from broken homes” (Times Online, Oct. 3, 2006).

Also, the group says, “[D]rugs are taking a fearful toll of young lives and ... one in three children under the age of 15 have taken drugs in the past year. Across the whole population, alcohol-related deaths have trebled in the past decade. Unprecedented levels of personal debt are dragging more people into poverty ...” (ibid.).

Considering the assault that British family life has endured for decades, these effects are not sur-



ernment has proven that, while those concerned may have the best of intentions, social programs and tweaked monetary policy are not enough to reverse the trend toward increasing family breakdown. The government simply can-

not enact solutions radical enough to bring about significant results. This problem must be tackled at the root:

prising. And though the Conservative Party is proposing solutions to this horrendous picture of British family life, the British govern-

ment has proven that, while those concerned may have the best of intentions, social programs and tweaked monetary policy are not enough to reverse the trend toward increasing family breakdown. The government simply can-

not enact solutions radical enough to bring about significant results. This problem must be tackled at the root:

Britons must come to understand the incredible spiritual purpose of family, marriage and children. If understood and applied, this knowledge would revolutionize family life in Britain. For that matter, it could bring a new level of understanding, harmony and love to your own family. After all, solving this problem will take one family at a time—one good example at a time. Take the time to read about the solution the British so desperately need by requesting Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.

Bleak Picture for UK Children

ENGLAND’S 12 MILLION children and teenagers rank near last in general well-being among the 25 member nations of the European Union, according to a recent study.

“Research comparing children’s well-being across 25 countries paints a picture of dysfunctional British families failing to talk to each other or eat together,” the *Daily Mail* reported Aug. 6, 2006. “Youngsters in Britain are most likely to come from broken homes and have among the poorest relationships with their parents and friends. Young Britons also have some of the worst eating habits and freely admit binge-drinking, taking drugs and indulging in underage sex.”

The study, led by John Bradshaw, a professor at York University, also found that only 60 percent of children spoke to their parents regularly and a third did not eat meals with them.

But how clear is the link between dysfunctional families and the general

well-being of children? Can such simple things as eating dinners and spending time with parents really have a positive impact on childhood well-being?

The University of York report cited evidence of a connection between family breakdown and the performance of a child in school. “There is substantial evidence that children in single-parent as well as in step families tend to have worse outcomes than peers living with both biological parents,” it said.

Another study, conducted by Columbia University and cited by the July 29, 2005, *Opinion Journal*, stated, “[T]eens from families that almost never eat dinner together are 72 percent more likely to use illegal drugs, cigarettes and alcohol than the average teen.”

Helen Altman Klein also illustrates the importance talking with children and eating dinner with children has on their personal development and well-being in her



book *Childhood Education*. She writes, “The power of sharing food and social time does not stop in infancy. Research shows that children who eat dinner regularly with their families are more successful in school. Scientists are not sure why this happens, but we can guess. The order and discipline needed to maintain a family dinner tradition may be one of the keys. Parents who make an effort to eat with their children may have a greater commitment to their family. Furthermore, dinner conversation may support verbal skills and healthy self-regard. *Family dinners deserve our attention as a contributor to children’s well-being*” (emphasis ours).

Stipends can help to feed hungry stomachs, but it appears that only British families can begin to feed the hungry hearts and minds of Britain’s unhappy children.

Married Homes a Minority in U.S.

MARRIAGE IS NO LONGER at the center of the majority of U.S. homes. Of America's 111 million households, 55.8 million—50.2 percent—are marriageless: headed by single moms, single dads, or couples living out of wedlock, including homosexuals. The figures do not include the 30 million single American men and women who live alone.

These statistics, released last August by the U.S. Census Bureau, represent the first time in U.S. history that marriage hasn't dominated the social landscape. In 1930, fully 84 percent of American households included a married couple.

The 20th century, however, saw momentum build within such anti-marriage trends as fornication and out-of-wedlock parenthood, cohabitation, divorce, single parenthood and homosexuality—at the same time that the stigma of all of these phenomena shriveled. Thus, over that period, the number of marriageless households increased, and the percentage of married households dropped: By 1990 it was 56 percent; in 2000 it was 52 percent.

An Agence France Presse report on the study quoted an American Enterprise Institute sociologist, Douglas Besharov, as predicting that “cohabitation and temporary relationships between people [are] likely to dominate America's social landscape for years to come.

“Overall, what I see is a situation in which people—especially children—will be much more isolated, because not only will their parents both be working, but they'll have fewer siblings, fewer cousins, fewer aunts and uncles,” the scholar argued.

“So over time, we're moving toward a much more individualistic society” (Oct. 15, 2006).



The rise in marriageless households is to be expected in a society that, having already lost its understanding of the spiritual meaning behind

marriage, is also spurning the traditions that governed its social order for generations. Most simply do not understand the biblically prescribed purposes of marriage.

If you have never studied this subject but have an interest in it, you will find our free booklet *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* a fascinating read. It explains how marriage is far more than a relationship of convenience: It is a God-ordained, spiritual-plane covenant that, properly governed, produces not only personal spiritual growth, a stable environment for children, and societal security, but also contains within it a transcendent spiritual vision.



Home Life and Education

A SEPTEMBER 2006 STUDY of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute showed that college students across the United States lack a rudimentary knowledge of history. One finding, however, was left out of virtually every news report. The study stated: “[W]e found that *family matters*. . . . [S]tudents from intact families—those who report having two parents married and living together—demonstrated greater civic learning than did students whose parents are separated or divorced or where at least one parent is deceased. Furthermore, parental education and the frequency of family discussions of current events are associated with higher civic learning.”

At the two lowest-ranking colleges—Berkeley and Johns Hopkins—“only half of all families engaged in discussions of current events or history on a weekly or daily basis,” the report stated.

Though the media ignored this conclusion, the family approach to education is a defining principle. Not that children *must* have a mother and father to understand history; rather, the study shows that the interaction young people have with parents has a profound effect on their education.

Time spent with children helps determine whether they are ignorant of history—and, consequently, of what has shaped current events—and whether they can apply the lessons of history in their lives. If we want our children to ignore history, we need simply do nothing.

Youth, Cutting and the Family

AN ASTONISHING NUMBER OF TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS are performing a shocking form of self-inflicted brutality: cutting. Numbers are hard to pin down, but studies show as many as 10 percent of teenage girls in England and 17 percent of college students at Cornell and Princeton in the United States are involved in some form of self-injury (*Medical News Today*, Aug. 26, 2006).

Why are youths doing this? Health officials call it an unhealthy coping mechanism—a misguided attempt to seek release from life's pressures. The cause is often a feeling of isolation, being left out. The *NHS Health Encyclopedia* explains, “People who self-harm often describe feelings of numbness or deadness or they may feel detached from reality, as if they are not part of the world.”

Why do these teens feel this way?

God intended *family* to be the main support for young people as they grow. The biblical model is one of parents being deeply involved in their children's lives—instructing and disciplining in love (e.g. Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Luke 15:11-31; Ephesians 6:4); and at the same time, children honoring and obeying their parents (Ephesians 6:1-2).

Western culture, by stark contrast, barrages us with anti-family messages. In far too many cases, materialism, independence, personal privacy, moral relativism and other values that saturate modern life all take precedence over family. Parents prioritize careers or personal pursuits over family, and children feel increasingly ostracized from their families as they enter teenagehood. As one cutter reasoned, “I didn't want to burden my mom with my problems.”

While cutting is a sign of a violent force in society, it is also a powerful symptom of an ailing family life.



In his book *Raising the Ruins*, now available in bookstores, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is the fourth chapter.

STEPHEN FLURRY

Credentials

“In conducting his studies, however, Armstrong had no seminary training and lacked any disciplined study of church history, biblical interpretation and original languages of Scripture.”

—Michael Fezell 2002

BESIDES WANTING TO BE AN APOSTLE, Joseph Tkach Sr. also liked the idea of having an impeccable resume. “They were trying to create a legend out of him from the word *go*,” Aaron Dean remembers. Ellen Escat, Mr. Tkach’s administrative assistant, even asked Aaron to “make Mr. Tkach look like Mr. Armstrong” when discussing him in sermons or conversations.

If, in fact, Tkach was self-conscious about his qualifications for being pastor general, you can understand why. Mr. Armstrong, in addition to having established the church, was a prolific teacher and writer, a distinguished author, a famous television personality and an unofficial ambassador for world peace who was known among kings, prime ministers and presidents.

Mr. Tkach wasn’t even well known *within the Worldwide Church of God*. He rarely wrote for church publications. *WCG ministers* knew him because of his position in Church Administration. But most of the church membership had never even heard him speak before he became pastor general in 1986.

■ TKACH’S LIFE IN THE CHURCH

What little background information there is about Tkach was mostly written around the time he became pastor general. The most informative piece is a short article that appeared in the *Worldwide News*, “Passing the Baton,” by Jeff Zhorne and Michael Snyder.

Mr. Tkach was baptized in 1957 and spent his early *wcg* years in the city of his birth—Chicago, Illinois. He became a deacon in 1961 and a local elder in 1963—the same year the church employed him to work full time in the ministry.

His three years as a local elder in Chicago were unusually productive, according to the *Worldwide News* synopsis: “The pastor general established churches in South Bend, Fort Wayne and Indianapolis, Ind.; Rockford and Peoria, Ill.; Davenport, Iowa; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Cincinnati, Ohio; and St. Louis, Mo.” That a *local elder*—and a *new* one at that—would ESTABLISH 10 congregations across seven dif-

ferent states, is something that just didn’t happen in the *wcg* during the 1960s. My own father started attending services in St. Louis *in 1961*—two years *before* Mr. Tkach even became a minister. So there is no way he could have “established” that congregation. “The only time I remember seeing him in St. Louis was for softball tournaments,” my father remembers.

Someone might have alerted the *wcg*’s editorial staff about this attempt to pad Mr. Tkach’s resume after “Passing the Baton” ran in the *Worldwide News*. By the time the information appeared in the *Good News* four months later, it had been revised, saying Mr. Tkach “helped” establish those congregations—which might be closer to the truth, but still seems like a stretch.

In 1966, according to the *Worldwide News*, the *wcg* moved Mr. Tkach and his family to Pasadena so he could go to Ambassador College (AC). The article says “he attended for three years before being assigned to serve with [Roderick] Meredith in the Los Angeles, Calif., church.” Tkach Jr.’s book says his father and mother “took classes for three years, intending upon graduation that my dad be sent out to pastor a church. Instead, he remained in Pasadena and eventually pastored a church there.”

The way Tkach Jr.’s book is worded gives the impression that his father graduated from Ambassador, which he didn’t.

As it happens, my father also went to Pasadena in the late 1960s and took classes for three years. He enrolled in the summer of 1967, one year after Tkach started his AC career. Both of them would have attended a small liberal arts college of about 500 students for at least two years together. And like Tkach, my dad was married at the time. And since most students were single, the Tkaches and the Flurrys would have been part of a fairly exclusive married student community between 1967 and 1969.

My father was photographed as a freshman in the 1968 Ambassador College envoy. Because he had previous college credit transferred to AC, he was on the three-year graduate program. So the following year, in the 1969 envoy, he can be found within the junior class. And in the 1970 edition, he is included within Pasadena’s graduating senior class.

Mr. Tkach, however, cannot be found in *any* of the col-

lege envoys between 1966 and 1970. “I don’t remember ever seeing him in a class,” my father says. He does recall seeing Tkach from time to time around the Pasadena campus, but not as a regular student.

In fact, Mr. Tkach did not come to Pasadena in 1966 as an AC student. The church had experienced rapid growth during the 1960s. It wasn’t like the 1940s and ’50s, when *nearly all* the leaders of the church were young men in their 20s who graduated from Ambassador College. During the 1960s, with bigger field congregations, there were more potential leaders, many of them already married and with grown children, who had developed in the local area without Ambassador training. To provide these men with some headquarters training, the superintendent of the U.S. ministry at the time, Roderick Meredith, established a one-year program for their benefit. Approved by Mr. Armstrong, the program called for a handful of local elders to come to headquarters for a year, where they could audit Ambassador College classes and receive on-the-job training in Meredith’s Los Angeles congregation, which had 1,100 members. The idea was for them to get a year of training at headquarters before rotating back out into the field to work as an associate pastor and eventually a pastor.

Meredith says Tkach did sit in on some of the Bible classes, but not for credit. He can’t remember if he audited any classes after that initial year, but during his “three years” at Ambassador, according to his boss, he never attended full time, he didn’t take any classes for credit and “he definitely did not graduate.”

So the impression the Tkaches gave, that Sr. went to Ambassador College for three years *before* being assigned to pastor congregations, is not true. Tkach was assigned to Mr. Meredith in 1966 upon his arrival in Pasadena. And for the next several years, he worked with widows so as to not be a liability elsewhere.

He was raised to the rank of preaching elder in 1974, after being a local elder for 11 years. Throughout the 1970s, Tkach continued as an assistant pastor in various congregations in Southern California.

When California’s attorney general’s office tried to seize control of church operations in January 1979, Joseph Tkach was an assistant pastor for the Pasadena A.M. congregation. After church members spontaneously descended upon the headquarters property to show their support for a church under fire, Mr. Tkach and a deacon named Joseph Kotora hastily set up the Hall of Administration lobby for a makeshift church service. Dean Blackwell gave a sermon before the “sit in” congregation that day, and Mr. Tkach closed the service with prayer.

Tkach’s involvement in the 1979 crisis did not escape Mr. Armstrong’s attention, even though Mr. Armstrong was living in Arizona at the time. In July 1979, he appointed Mr. Tkach as director of Ministerial Services (later named Church Administration). Then, on September 27, 1979, in Mr. Armstrong’s Tucson home, the church founder raised three individuals to the rank of evangelist—the highest ecclesiastical office in the church (besides Mr. Armstrong’s). The new evangelists—Ellis LaRavia, Stanley Rader and Joseph Tkach—had all played a role in defending the church against the state’s unconstitutional attack.

Besides heading up Church Administration, Mr. Tkach also became associate pastor of the Pasadena P.M. congregation—the headquarters congregation Mr. Armstrong pas-

tored. In 1981, Mr. Armstrong selected Mr. Tkach to serve on the Advisory Council. These were Mr. Tkach’s primary responsibilities for the final years of Mr. Armstrong’s life.

■ SKETCHY EDUCATION

Besides adding to his exploits in the church, it appears that Tkach’s handlers also wanted to create a legend out of his life *before* conversion—particularly his academic background. In light of Mr. Armstrong’s views about modern education, one wonders why Mr. Tkach seemed so self-conscious about his formal education. Mr. Armstrong viewed his lack of training at an “assembly line” university or seminary as an advantage. Mr. Tkach, however, wanted scholarly credentials, even if he had to invent them.

After becoming pastor general in 1986, for some reason, he wanted the brethren to think that he was born in 1926. “Passing the Baton” gives precise dates for Tkach’s baptism, ordinations and marriage. But no birth date is given—it just says he was 59 at the time he became pastor general.

The WCG’s personal correspondence department produced a “Letters Series” in 1989 in which there is a fact sheet about Mr. Tkach’s background for people who requested such information. That letter, prepared three years after Mr. Tkach took charge, says he was “born in 1926,” but does not give the exact day or month of his birth.

According to his birth and death certificates, however, Mr. Tkach was born on March 16, 1927, which means he would have been 58 when Mr. Armstrong died—not 59. By the time Mr. Tkach died in 1995, after critics had exposed these birth date inconsistencies, the WCG got the date right in a *Worldwide News* article by Jeff Zhorne. Tkach Jr. also corrected the date in *Transformed by Truth*, justifying the mix-up this way: “As was common in those days, the doctor didn’t get around to filling out a birth certificate until a *few months* after my dad’s birth.” In fact, according to the birth certificate, the doctor filed the information just *eight days* after Tkach was born.

As far as why they wanted him to be a year older, it’s hard to say. With the correct date, he would have finished high school early, soon after his 17th birthday. So maybe they wanted him to be an 18-year-old graduate. In any event, he did finish high school in 1944. He graduated 155th in a class size of 349, from Tilden High School in south Chicago.

The following year, in January 1945, he ran off and joined the Navy as a 17-year-old. So maybe they tried to make him 18 for that reason. But Tkach admitted to *Plain Truth* readers in 1986 that he ran away from home and was “under age” when he joined the Navy.

It’s just an odd “fact” to lie about. But why they stuck with the 1926 birthday for the first several years of Mr. Tkach’s pastor generalship, when they could have gotten the correct date from his driver’s license, is inexplicable.

Continuing with the timeline, according to Jeff Zhorne, Tkach served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, from January 17, 1945, to July 22, 1946. Mr. Tkach, however, wrote in the *Worldwide News* that he returned from the war to Chicago on December 21, 1945, which would have limited his service in the Navy to 11 months.

From 1946 to 1950 is when the biography gets real sketchy. In reading what the WCG produced, you are left with the distinct impression that Mr. Tkach went to college during those four years. In “Passing the Baton,” for instance, it says that af-

ter Tkach received a naval certificate in “basic engineering” in 1945, he then returned home to attend the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, where he studied industrial management. After that, he was hired by Hupp Aviation in 1950.

Upon searching their archives, however, representatives at the Illinois Institute found no record of Joseph Tkach ever having attended there. His career at the Illinois Institute, apparently, was not unlike his “training” at Ambassador College.

■ LACK OF SCHOLARSHIP

Writing in 2002, Michael Fezell criticized Mr. Armstrong because he “had no seminary training and lacked any disciplined study of church history, biblical interpretation and original languages of Scripture.” In his book, Fezell said that “Herbert Armstrong and scholarship did not mix well.” As if it mixed well with *Tkach*. Fezell wrote, “Many of Armstrong’s doctrinal errors sprang directly from his ignorance of biblical scholarship and sound methods of biblical interpretation.” In *Transformed by Truth*, Tkach Jr. criticized Mr. Armstrong for his lack of training in “hermeneutics, epistemology, or apologetics.”

Of course, Mr. Armstrong would have responded to those criticisms thunderously, by pointing to the RANK IGNORANCE about God within scholarly circles. Critics may scoff at Mr. Armstrong’s supposed lack of scholarship, but hundreds of thousands—including a great many world leaders Mr. Armstrong visited—would have considered Herbert Armstrong a Bible scholar and expert educator. Look at the fruits: Perhaps thousands of pamphlets, articles and letters, hundreds of booklets and seven books. Thousands of sermons. He produced and delivered 1,500 radio programs and nearly 200 television programs. He developed the curriculum for three colleges—giving what must have been thousands of class lectures himself. Objective observers, even if they disagree with his theology, would at least give him credit for all that he produced.

Compare that with Tkach Sr.’s exploits, even counting his fabricated academic record. Before taking over in 1986, he hardly ever wrote or spoke publicly. According to Aaron Dean, Mr. Armstrong actually took comfort in Tkach’s average intellectual capacities, believing it would make him more prone to rely on the Advisory Council. After becoming pastor general, Tkach’s own son even admitted that his “dad was not known as a theologian.” Tkach’s former boss, Roderick Meredith, evaluated Mr. Armstrong’s successor more bluntly, saying he “did not speak well, and I didn’t realize how little he understood the doctrines.”

In light of Tkach’s sketchy educational background, it’s astonishing how often Tkach Jr. and Fezell have found occasion to ridicule *Mr. Armstrong’s* lack of scholarship. But if Mr. Armstrong was uneducated, where would that leave Joseph Tkach?

■ THE REAL CHURCH HISTORIAN

In a 2002 deposition, we pointed Tkach Jr. to the statement about Mr. Armstrong’s lack of seminary training and disciplined study of church history and then asked, “Could the same thing be said of your father?” That question caught the younger Tkach completely off guard.

“No,” he stammered, “not as precisely as that, no.” Accord-

ing to Tkach, his father spent more time studying church history than Mr. Armstrong. He later said that Mr. Armstrong “read mostly on philosophy,” as if Joe Jr., who was born the same year Mr. Armstrong turned 59, knows everything the founder of the church *read*. When he spoke and wrote, Mr. Armstrong did, at times, refer to the written works that had made an impression on him. But how Tkach Jr. took these many comments to mean he read mostly philosophy, I’ll never know.

In his *Autobiography*, Mr. Armstrong discussed his earliest plunge into the study of church history. His wife had challenged him to prove the biblical truth on the question of the Sabbath. In response to her challenge, he “spent a solid six months of virtual night-and-day, seven-day-a-week study and research” trying to prove that Sunday was God’s day of worship. “I even studied Greek sufficiently to run down every possible questionable text in the original Greek.” He used Robertson’s *Grammar of the Greek New Testament*. He also relied upon a number of other commentaries and Greek and Hebrew lexicons. He delved into several encyclopedias—Britannica, Americana, as well as the Jewish and Catholic encyclopedias.

“I read Gibbon’s *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, especially his chapter 15 dealing with the religious history of the first four hundred years after Christ,” Mr. Armstrong wrote. “I left no stone unturned.”

From that alone, you get the impression he read quite a lot more than just philosophy.

In *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong wrote, “Scholars and church historians recognize that events in the early Christian Church between A.D. 50 and 150 can only be seen in vague outline—as if obscured by a thick mist.” To support his conclusions, Mr. Armstrong relied upon the noted English scholar Samuel G. Green in his *Handbook of Church History*. He quoted from William Fitzgerald’s *Lectures on Ecclesiastical History*, William McGlothlin’s *The Course of Christian History* and Philip Schaff’s *History of the Christian Church*.

In his booklets *The Plain Truth About Easter* and *The Plain Truth About Christmas*, Mr. Armstrong relied on Alexander Hislop’s *The Two Babylons*.

Mr. Armstrong’s study of church history is also reflected in the many writings he produced on the subject. In *Mystery of the Ages*, his longest chapter by far was titled “Mystery of the Church.” He also wrote an eight-part *Plain Truth* series in 1979 on the “Proofs of God’s True Church” and a 1984 booklet, *Where Is the True Church?* Included among his more than 1,500 radio broadcasts is an eight-part series on “The True Church.”

Tkach Jr. boasted that his dad “read books” about church history, some of which weren’t even published until after Mr. Armstrong died. Among the works Tkach Jr. cited were those of Methodist minister Justo Gonzalez.

Mr. Armstrong studied Gibbon, Schaff, Fitzgerald, McGlothlin and Green and wrote extensively about the history of the church. Tkach Sr. studied Gonzalez and never wrote a thing about church history.

Of course, deep in his heart of hearts, Joe Jr. knows Mr. Armstrong’s extensive research and training, as well as his productive life, towers above his own father’s intellectual achievements. But the reason he raises the “uneducated” card in reference to Mr. Armstrong is because he *doesn’t agree* with Mr. Armstrong’s *explanation* of church history. Had he put it that way, at least it would have been honest. But to say that his dad studied church history and Mr. Armstrong didn’t—that he read mostly philosophy?

Every present and former member of the Worldwide Church of God should *know* that is a lie.

■ DISCIPLINED STUDY

In the deposition quoted above, to support his father's credentials as being superior to those of Mr. Armstrong, Tkach Jr. claimed that besides his father's grasp of church history, Tkach Sr. went to Ambassador College. Our attorney then followed up with the question everyone on our side of the table almost blurted out: "Well, it would be sort of difficult to distinguish your father's educational background from Mr. Armstrong's wouldn't it, to say that he attended a college that Mr. Armstrong created and supervised?"

Unbelievably, Tkach responded, "Not at all. Because in the college milieu, there was disciplined study. Mr. Armstrong never had that."

For the sake of argument, let's suppose Mr. Tkach actually attended Ambassador College for three years as a full-time student and then graduated in 1969. Let's assume he was an active participant in the "disciplined study" of Ambassador life. How does *that*—attending what Tkach Jr. now calls an "indoctrination camp" started by a heretic—qualify as disciplined study, while *establishing, teaching at and supervising* that same college does not?

■ HERBERT ARMSTRONG AND J.H. ALLEN

In *Transformed by Truth*, Mr. Tkach Jr. wrote, "In fact, it is no secret that Herbert Armstrong's *The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy* was copied from a book titled *Judah's Scepter and Joseph's Birthright* by J.H. Allen." He offers no support for this plagiarism charge. It's just true because he says so—it's "no secret"—*everyone* knows Mr. Armstrong "copied" it. But if you actually take the time to examine the two books, you will find that they are entirely different. Yes, ENTIRELY.

Just because both books discuss the modern identity of the lost 10 tribes of ancient Israel does not mean Mr. Armstrong "copied" Allen. If William Manchester and Martin Gilbert both write biographies about Winston Churchill, does that mean one plagiarized the other?

And it's not like Mr. Armstrong tried to conceal the fact that he read Allen's book when studying the subject of ancient Israel's migration into Europe. He said, "It's true that I had read one or two other writings and that book of J.H. Allen on the truth about the lost 10 tribes." But it would be a "bald-faced lie" for anyone to say it was copied, Mr. Armstrong said.

"I examined this so-called Anglo-Israel theory," he continued. "But I checked it very carefully with the Bible, and *I only believed what I saw in the Bible*. I didn't believe and I threw out a lot of what they had." Isn't that the way any honest theologian would study a biblical commentary or history? If it squares with the truth of the Bible, then Mr. Armstrong was entitled to expound upon it just as much as any other theologian.

J.H. Allen introduced his book by writing, "Although it is not generally known, it is nevertheless true that God made two covenants with Abraham . . ." Compare that to the introductory statement in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*: "A staggering turn in world events is due to erupt in the next few years. It will involve violently the United States, Britain, Western Europe, the Middle East." These opening remarks, like the titles for both books, highlight the *vast difference* between the two.

J.H. Allen organized his work into these three sections: 1) the birthright promise; 2) the scepter promise; and 3) the veil being lifted from the Abrahamic nations. The first two sections revolve around the promises God made to Abraham in Genesis 12 and how they played out in history. And to Allen's credit, he tried to be honest with the Bible as compared with secular history.

The third section is also mostly historical and secular. And when Allen does venture into explaining the prophetic significance, he veers way off course.

Mr. Armstrong's book, on the other hand, is about a PROPHESED CAPTIVITY to come upon our peoples unless we repent of our sins. That is the book's central focus from beginning to end.

In expounding on these end-time prophecies, Mr. Armstrong devoted some space in the book, between chapters 3 and 8, to establish Israel's present-day identity based upon Bible and secular history. These are crucial historical facts that must be explained for readers to understand the truth about end-time prophecy. J.H. Allen is to be credited for teaching the truth about some of these historical facts. But he certainly did not grasp the tremendous significance of this history as it relates to Bible prophecy.

And yet, that's what *the last six chapters of Mr. Armstrong's book* are devoted to—expounding upon the real significance of this history as it relates to end-time prophecy. In chapter 10, for instance, Mr. Armstrong wrote about how the birthright promises were withheld for 2,520 years. There is nothing like this in Allen's book. Another chapter asks the question, "Why did Israel lose its identity?" J.H. Allen not only failed to answer that question, he never asked it. Then Mr. Armstrong concluded his book by discussing what is prophesied to happen to the American and British peoples in the very near future—a conclusion that is not only different, but at complete odds with J.H. Allen's conclusions.

While it is true that Mr. Armstrong read *Judah's Scepter and Joseph's Birthright*, along with other books about the "Anglo-Israel" theory, HE DID NOT COPY those works. Joe Jr. made that dishonest claim without any supportive evidence whatsoever, simply because he dislikes Mr. Armstrong and doesn't agree with the book that more than 6 million people requested.

■ THE GHOST WRITERS

On page 66 of his book, Tkach Jr. wrote, "When my dad did give a major sermon on doctrinal changes, he always read major portions of it, confirming in these people's minds that he was a mere dupe of the 'gang of four.' They circulated rumors that others were writing his articles for church publications and publishing them either without his knowledge or against his will."

And that's true. I remember listening to a number of Mr. Tkach's taped sermons from the late 1980s and early 1990s—I even reviewed a few videotaped sermons. He would read and read, and oftentimes trip over words. I also remember the rumors vividly: *Who prepared this for him? And why doesn't he pull away from his notes?*

Later on in the book, after referring to these "rumors," Tkach Jr. wrote, "It didn't seem to occur to people that if my dad didn't like or agree with material Mike Fezell (who was his executive assistant and editorial advisor) or others prepared for him, he could have changed it or not used it at all."

BOOK EXCERPT

Yes—in the very same book Tkach Jr. accuses Mr. Armstrong of copying J.H. Allen, he admits that his own father had his sermons *prepared for him*. Then he justifies that by saying his father *didn't have* to use those preprepared sermons if he didn't want to.

And it wasn't just Tkach's *sermons* that others prepared. Tkach Jr. continued, "My dad hired Mike Feazell to assist him, especially in *writing* and *theology*, and he could have fired him at any time. My dad spent hours every day with Mike, working out details of *letters, articles* and *sermons*." In 2002, Feazell admitted that as Mr. Tkach's assistant, he was primarily "responsible for editing and drafting his written material."

Rod Meredith remembers how awkward and embarrassing it was to see Tkach Sr. ramble on using someone else's material: "In the sermons in Pasadena, when he got away from his manuscript—which was written at times by Larry Salyer, at times by Robin Webber, and most of the time later by Mike Feazell, who wrote virtually all of his articles—why then, he would start shouting and they would bawl him out backstage, 'Dad, why did you get away from the script?' And so it was kind of embarrassing."

The men who assisted Mr. Tkach justify these actions by saying that he just wasn't a good communicator. Mike Feazell wrote, "Because Tkach Sr. did not possess the same facility of written and oral expression as Armstrong, *he had to rely heavily on others* for his *written communication* to pastors and church members." His own son admitted that Tkach Sr. wasn't a *theologian*—and that others prepared his sermons and articles—that when he gave sermons, he was "anchored to his [actually someone else's] notes." Mr. Tkach's personal assistant, the one who prepared his sermons and articles, readily admits that Tkach was *not* a good communicator—whether in writing or verbally. And the *wcg*'s own website says Mr. Tkach didn't have the "magnetic personality that Mr. Armstrong did."

It's all kind of pitiful, isn't it? Tkachism has worked so hard to make Mr. Armstrong out to be an unqualified, uneducated ignoramus. And yet, look at the one who led them through their transformation. ■

THE KEY OF DAVID

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Arkansas, Jonesboro KFOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KWFB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Chico KIWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Eureka KWBT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Palm Springs KCWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Redding KIWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Santa Barbara KWCA 9:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri

Colorado, Grand Junction KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Montrose KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WBFL 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WBPC 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Augusta WBAU 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WBG 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Savannah WBVH 9:30 am, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed

Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon

Hawaii, Kauai Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue

Idaho, Boise KWOB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Idaho Falls KWIB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Pocatello KWIB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Twin Falls KWTE 10:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WBPE 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Chicago WCUI 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri

Illinois, Peoria WBPE 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Rockford WBR 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WBFW 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Lafayette WBFY 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Terra Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KFPX 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City KWBR 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Rochester KWBR 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Sioux City KXWB 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Lincoln KWBL 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Topeka WBKS 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBWG 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KAXN 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KWMB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

Maine, Bangor WBAN 9:30 am, Sun

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

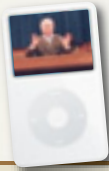
Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Cadillac WBVC 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri

Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri



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North Carolina, Washington WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, Lima WBOH 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Lawton KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KWBO 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KZWB 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WBLN 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KQAW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KDBA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KWDB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KWZB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KQAW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Charlottesville WBC 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WBHA 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPRX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Pasco KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle KWYP 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield WBB 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVWB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVWB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WBXZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPCE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu
Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun
El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Aruba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Bahamas WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Barbados CBC Chan. 8 1:00 pm, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00 am, Sun

EUROPE

Malta Smash TV 4:30 pm, Sat; 10:00 pm, Tue

AFRICA/ASIA

South Africa CSN 6:30 am, Sun
Philippines nationwide Studio 23 8:30 am, Sun

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Australia nationwide Network Ten 4:30 am, Sun
Adelaide, South Australia Chan. 31 11:30, Sun
Perth, Western Australia Chan. 31 11:30 am, Sun
Tasmania Southern Cross TV 6:00 am, Sun
New Zealand nationwide TV3 6:00 am, Fri

Michigan, Lansing WBL 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBMK 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Traverse City WBVC 9:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior KWBD 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Mankato KWYE 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri
Mississippi, Biloxi WBG 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Columbus WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Gulfport WBG 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WBMM 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Quincy WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KWBM 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KWXB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KWGF 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KWHA 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KIDW 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Hastings KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Kearney KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KWVB 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Watertown WBWT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun

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Letter to a British Soldier

IT WAS ONLY WITHIN THE LAST MONTH that I had remarked to family, friends and colleagues at work that the Middle East situation, with the British military involved in high-intensity guerrilla wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (where they are undermanned, ill-equipped and, to a large extent, on a learning curve each day of operations), would start to feel the pressure of unlimited terms of duty. On the ground in operations with the constant fear of attack any moment, any time and where the nerves of even the hardest would start to snap and morale soon drops. The worst is not being appreciated by the people whom you are serving to protect, who have absolutely no inkling of what you go through in a fire fight or each night and day, your fear of being shot, hit by a mortar or rocket, and they simply really don't care. Your aching heart for friends killed in action, dear Johns from a girlfriend or wife. ...

Back home you have a country with three political parties so similar you can't even get a piece of paper between them. They chase the far left liberal ground trying to out lib the other. They lie and deceive the electorate keeping on the GT gravy train looking forward to that big fat pension to strap around that big fat waist. ... The one party says that a marriage between a man and a woman is the same as that between a man and a man or a woman and a woman. ... In the Middle East, the culture you fight against is totally against this and would put you to death for sleeping with someone of a similar sex.

In your home country of the UK, a country with a 2,000-year-old Christian culture, people are not allowed to wear a cross at work. All the major historical religions (e.g. Presbyterian, Protestant, Church of England and the rest) are run by people who have twisted and watered down the Word of God to suit their politically correct masters; in fact, they have become anti-God and antichrist in their teachings. These major historical religions, having lost the Word and the way, have totally confused the nation's spiritual values, which is what the politically correct wanted as they have infiltrated them from the bottom up. ...

None of today's leaders are ex-military; they are all career politicians in charge of a country and social order that is perverse, loving of itself, forgetting and not appreciating the heroism

of their forefathers in two world wars who laid down their lives and put their lives on the line for this modern, corrupt, immoral, politically corrupt society. Where same-sex couples are allowed to bring up children from babies to adulthood. Where children in school of a very young age are taught alternative lifestyles and told to try and hug someone of the same sex as they reach 13 years of age, just to try it out; toss it about a bit, you might like it.

So, some time in the not too distant future, while the Americans bash their head against a rock in frustration in Iraq and Afghanistan, the British military will, intact, return home to a country not exactly of its liking. They will find a nation subdued by a resurgent fifth column of Muslim fundamentalists intent on destroying, in time, the whole culture and fabric of this nation. They will find this Islamic fundamentalism is in competition with a clique of liberal, politically correct fundamentalists.

They will also find a nation without hope, no direction, no sense of historical pride (as these liberals gave them a guilty conscience on their great colonial history) and no spiritual pointer. ...

I fear no good will come out of the present situation in the Middle East. America is in decline; they certainly don't look as if they will appreciate this. If they fight for it, we'll have World War III. If they don't, our liberal leaders will hand us all over to our new Islamic fundamentalist leaders or their own anti-God/antichrist. We are caught in a catch-22 situation. ...

Bill Moylan—ENGLAND

Corporate Crown Jewels

ROBERT MORLEY'S EXHAUSTIVELY RESEARCHED article "Selling Britain's Corporate Crown Jewels" (October 2006) can probably be summarized by citing 1 Timothy 6:10: The love of money is the root (or a root) of all evil. It appears that the majority of the leaders of Britain's major corporations and their counterparts in the Anglo-American world are deliberately selling out, literally, their countrymen for the sake of personal profit and power. What I believe to be most incredible about this form of economic betrayal is that it hasn't caused a political firestorm in any of the aforementioned countries; it's as if this global free-for-all marketplace is totally normal when it's actually unprecedented.

While I strongly disagree with two of Mr. Morley's historical claims in his article, the facts he presents are alarming. The very wealthy merchants of the Earth are working hard, along with their allies in government and news media, doing their best to build their New World Order. But there's nothing really new about it, for it goes back to the Tower of Babel. If all is not yet lost, maybe some British MPs will read Mr. Morley's article and realize that a nation's people and their freedom come before exorbitant profits for a few plutocrats.

Kenneth Reynolds—BRONX, N.Y.

Sickness in Britain's Heart

HAVING JUST FINISHED READING "THE Sickness in Britain's Heart" (November-December 2006), the following comes to mind. We need not look across the pond to Europe or Britain to see this cancer metastasizing. We can just look around our own towns and cities to see the gross failure of our leaders to keep our own country safe and free. What we are seeing in England is what happens when God-fearing men and women cease to be hardcore citizens, and choose to kneel before this onslaught of barbarism. This too will come to pass right here in America, and has been well underway for some long while now. ...

Ian A. Millar—KERNERSVILLE, N.C.

"The 19-Minute Mother"

YOUR STORY ON THE 19-MINUTE MOTHER (November-December 2006) repeats one journalist's misunderstanding of our report. What our data showed was the average time spent by all working adults on a range of activities. So 19 minutes is the average time spent looking after children by ALL working adults, including those who have no children and those whose children are no longer at home. So it is correct to say that the average working adult spends 19 minutes a day looking after children, it is not correct to say that the average working adult spends 19 minutes a day looking after THEIR children.

Tom Lynch, Office for National Statistics—LONDON

Comments?

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Open, Dirty Secrets

A scandal reveals America's breezy tolerance of sexual corruption. BY JOEL HILLIKER

THE CASUALNESS OF IT IS APPALLING. “HE LOVED PARTIES and making jokes; he did a wicked Bill Clinton imitation; he loved to talk about sex. He had to be a little bit careful however. A gay man, he might bring a boyfriend to private parties, friends say, but when he appeared on the official cocktail circuit, he went alone or with a woman.”

This is *Newsweek's* description of a man who, until September 29, was a United States Congressman.

Investigations into the Mark Foley scandal uncovered a culture of breezy tolerance of sexual corruption in the nation's capital. Foley's sexual orientation was an “open secret” in Washington, where homosexuals are accepted, even in the “family values” Republican Party, as long as they aren't too flirtatious, too open, too brazen. For the public, Foley played the role.

His homosexuality would not have threatened his office at all—nor, presumably, his adolescent crudeness or his philandering—had he not leveraged his position to pursue an improper relationship with a teenaged congressional page. When the scandal broke, Foley promptly resigned (though he won't be prosecuted unless it is proved he actually had sex with underage men). However, politicians and media alike are quick to trumpet their belief that there is nothing wrong with his homosexuality—only his preying on teens.

When the previous American president had an adulterous sexual relationship with a White House intern, this made some people uncomfortable, but it was not a firing offense. The cause for which William Jefferson Clinton was impeached (though later acquitted by the Senate and allowed to serve out his presidency) was lying under oath.

Don't these uncrossable lines seem a bit oddly placed? *Certain* details turn a mere peccadillo into a political crime: the age of the recipient of a salacious e-mail; hair-splitting over the word “is.” Meanwhile, adultery, trysts with young adults, homosexual affairs—these are simply part of life in the beltway. Open secrets. Wink, wink.

The notion is, as long as it doesn't hurt a man's ability to govern, it's fine. Foley was praised, by some accounts, for his love of the party scene, even for showing his crass side. Bill Clinton, at the end of 1998, the same year he was impeached, registered on a CNN/*USA Today*/Gallup poll as the most admired man in the country.

But are we so sure the loose sex doesn't hurt anyone? No harm in the lost time and emotional distraction in trying to seduce assistants and later dump them—no harm in having to navigate the perilous waters of cutthroat politics under the scrutiny of press and public while hiding blackmail-worthy secrets—no harm in saying one thing, doing another, publicly playing the selfless servant while privately noshing on selfish lusts? What about the effect of this lechery on staff morale? Or on hormonal, impressionable junior high schoolers who catch

it on the evening news? No harm?

The truth is, there is something terribly wrong with this nonchalance over immorality. One telling episode in history illustrates the point: that of King David.

If marital fidelity were a criterion for holding public office, David wouldn't qualify. He lusted, committed adultery and impregnated a woman, and then in the cover-up made sure her husband would be killed in battle. Ugly stuff.

In today's political climate, though, it's hard to say what the fallout would be. If the story hit the tabloids, it would likely have legs simply because of David's well-publicized proclamations that he served God and loved God's law—in which adultery is, of course, a serious no-no. Few things juice the press more than an opportunity to expose hypocrisy in a conservative. But would it

get David kicked out of office? Infidelity is tame by today's standards, and it would be ridiculous to try to pin a murder charge on the commander in chief for sending a soldier into battle.

But God wasn't impressed. He confronted David: *After all I've done for you, this is how you repay me?* In His eyes, David had killed a man with his own hands and stolen his wife. As punishment, he cursed David to a life of violence and family hostility, and of having his own wives taken by other men. *You did your act secretly*, God charged,

but I will punish you openly, in the eyes of the whole nation.

Does character matter in a leader? Clearly God says yes. He expects an upright example, one that inspires people toward greater virtue in their own lives. He knows a wrong example is poison to a people's morale and its morals. On top of that, when a leader who claims to represent God slips up, it opens him up to those sanctimonious cries of hypocrisy, and even exposes God to criticism. God railed against David: *By committing this sin, you've given my enemies great occasion to blaspheme me!* That's why the public chastisement. God wanted to make sure the whole nation knew He would not stand for such behavior.

If that is God's response to leaders who sin, Washington's nonchalance represents the devil's view. Yes, there are lines still in place that, if crossed and publicly exposed—most likely with relish by political enemies at the opportune time—can force a congressman to resign. But behind those lines is a world of relaxed iniquity. Open secrets.

Interestingly, God didn't impeach David. The king deeply repented, embraced the strong correction from his Maker, and recommitted himself to living according to the law he loved. He ended his life in strong standing with his (in the end, one) wife, his subjects and his God. Scripture eulogizes him honorably, as a man after God's own heart, and prophesies that he will rule Israel again in God's coming Kingdom.

What made that spectacular ending possible? *God's rebuke.* In today's culture of breezy tolerance of sexual corruption in our leaders, King David never would have had a chance. ■



FORMER REP.
MARK FOLEY

Test Your Bible I.Q.

True or False:

- God created the Earth about 6,000 years ago.
- After death, those who are saved go to heaven.
- The Bible does not specifically talk about the U.S.
- Jesus Christ was never in hell.
- True Christians have been "born again."

T F
T F
T F
T F
T F

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