

**UKRAINE CRISIS**

Will this divide between  
East and West split in two?

**ECHOES OF HITLER**

Anti-foreigner sentiment is growing in Europe.  
Parallels with the pre-World War II period are being noticed.

**WHY LIE?**

How dishonesty  
hurts us

JANUARY 2005

THE PHILADELPHIA

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# TRUMPET



## **BIG STORIES OF 2004**

What should have made headlines—but didn't



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*A man reading a newspaper; last year's papers should have been filled with shocking headlines.*  
Photo illustration by Aubrey Mercado/Philip Nice/Joel Hilliker.



Gerald Flury



# Danger Stirs in Germany—Again

**A** LEADING GERMAN politician has just made statements very similar to those of Adolf Hitler. The highly respected Stratfor intelligence group is *the first* to tell us so, according to our knowledge. It is the most shocking report we have seen in years, when you consider that Germany started two world wars.

No nation has a history of causing more wars than Germany. That history makes this report much more alarming!

Here is what Stratfor wrote: “After being re-elected leader of Germany’s opposition Christian Democratic Union on December 6, Angela Merkel spoke out against multiculturalism and condemned Berlin’s attempts to integrate ethnic communities. Merkel’s statements echo the sentiments of a certain earlier German government [that of Adolf Hitler], and THE RE-EMERGENCE OF RIGHT-WING PARTIES THERE COULD PORTEND ANOTHER SHIFT IN THE COUNTRY’S POLICIES TOWARD FOREIGNERS.

“Angela Merkel, leader of Germany’s Christian Democratic Union party (CDU), lambasted Germany’s policies on multiculturalism during a party conference December 6 in Dusseldorf. Calling multiculturalism a resounding failure, Merkel repeated her opposition to Turkey’s membership in the European Union and emphasized patriotic and conservative values.

“... Merkel’s statements, combined with the INCREASING SUPPORT ENJOYED BY OTHER NATIONALISTIC, RIGHT-WING PARTIES, ARE OMINOUS” (Dec. 7, 2004; emphasis mine throughout).

Why is all of this “ominous”? Germany is rapidly shifting to the right wing politically. It is shifting toward policies “reminiscent of Hitler’s.”

Today, Germany is by far the greatest economic power in Europe. It leads the powerful 25-nation European Union super-



## ECHOES OF HITLER

Angela Merkel and Edmund Stoiber, two prominent German politicians, are pushing for stringent immigration policies and encouraging a rise in patriotism.

power, which is frequently challenging the U.S.

A powerful right-wing Germany is far more dangerous to America than terrorism is. We just don’t know it yet.

The article continues: “The CDU, formed after World War II, espouses a conservative, center-right platform. It draws support from all economic classes and trumpets a return to patriotism and ‘traditional’ German values. More recently, the CDU has called for economic reforms to bring Germany out of nearly a decade of slow growth and high unemployment.”

Hitler came to power in a time of high unemployment. The CDU’s pursuit of “traditional” values is beginning to frighten some people in the world. Those “traditional” values often remind us of Adolf Hitler.

The only difference is, they are proclaimed today in a much more sophisticated way. But they are still coming in the spirit of Hitler.

Stratfor wrote, “With support for Germany’s ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD) falling, the CDU might be able to capitalize on its near-equal popularity and gain the chancellorship in just a few years.”

Such a development should frighten the world, in light of Germany’s war-making history. BUT IT IS GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN WORDS TO AWAKEN AMERICA AND BRITAIN.

“While Stratfor is not suggesting Germany is soon to see brownshirts on every street corner, THE GAINS MADE BY RIGHT-WING PARTIES ECHO A PERIOD IN GERMAN HISTORY WHEN THE RISE OF THE RIGHT HAD DISASTROUS RESULTS. Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party won power at a time when Germany was plagued by high unemployment, economic depression and the destruction of its military.

See **GERMANY** page 31 ▶



# BIG STORIES OF 2004

It was a banner year for headline news. Yet, why is it that the real news, the news hidden behind the editorial bias of the commercial news media, hardly ever made the front page? **BY RON FRASER**

**T**HE OVERWHELMING CONTENT of the news in 2004 was negative—*bad* news: war, famine, flood, fire, earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, pestilence, cataclysm, corporate intrigue, debt, debt and yet more debt—and *terror!* Very little hope of a bright future for mankind lit up the pages of newspapers, magazines and journals. It was the same old litany of licentiousness in human relationships and perversity in public pronouncements, overlaid with the tired gloss of the “glamour” of celebrity.

Mass media, in particular *television* news, struggled to maintain their market niche by picturing world news as another form of entertainment to appeal to a dazed audience that had “seen it all before.” It just didn’t work. By year’s end, disillusioned news anchors were departing the scene, networks were struggling to maintain a profitable bottom line, and the bloggers were beating them at their own game.

*Why?* Why is the public so disillusioned with the news media? Simply because, to many, it is a self-evident truth that the continuing attempt to present news in this tired format sacrifices truth and reality in favor of that which will titillate the senses and gain a response from the masses. It seems that those who bankroll mainstream media are wedded to this overworked and worn-out approach to selling the news.

Why are viewers leaving mainstream print and television news and switching to broadband in droves? There’s something at work here that the commercial news networks and the print news media, like the *New York Times*, have yet to grasp. Much of the public is fed up with spin. They simply want the facts.

**Real News** The publishers of this magazine do not rely on mainstream news as a source for the material we publish.

Over seven years ago our editor in chief established our own news bureau.

For seven years previous to that, the *Trumpet* had already been scooping other news magazines on world news stories well *ahead* of their making headlines in other print media. Our news bureau just added extra research capacity to the *Trumpet’s* already gathering strength and influence. We tend not to run with what is termed “breaking news.” Rather, we prefer to stay *ahead* of the game by declaring the *real* news even *before* it happens! We can do this simply because our foremost primary source of news analysis is *Bible prophecy!*

Ask any of our long-time readers. The proof is out there—15 years of it in print (check our archives on our website at [www.theTrumpet.com](http://www.theTrumpet.com)). That’s in addition to the over 50 years of accurate predictions of our mentor, that great 20th-century forecaster of future events, Herbert W. Armstrong. Ask for a copy of our sample issue with the cover story “He Was Right!” to prove this for yourself.

Now, the news.



**What Mainstream News Missed** Here are some of the headlines that you *should* have read last year:

**Britain and America's  
Greatest Strategic Blunder**

**China Takes Charge of  
Sea Gates**

**Russia Returning to  
Imperial Status**

**Iran: Nuclear-Powered  
Leader of Islamic Crescent**

**Holy Roman Empire  
Extends Eastward**

**Anglo-American Decline  
Accelerates**

Crazy? No—*reality!* Let us *prove* this to you.

**Major Blunder** As British mariner Sir Walter Raleigh declared in 1610, “Whosoever commands the sea commands the trade; whosoever commands the trade of the world commands the riches of the world, and consequently the world itself.”

One of the prime attributes of British power under the *Pax Britannica*, which largely secured the world in comparative peace for a century and more, was the British Empire’s literal possession of *every major sea gate in the world!*

Although those strategic control points were not fully secured until the 18th and 19th centuries, the headline predicting Britain’s acquisition of them was actually written over 3,500 years *before* that! Speaking of that which has since become a documented fact of British history, God declared to Abraham, patriarch of the tribes of ancient Israel, “[T]hy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies” (Genesis 22:17).

In his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* (request your own copy, free of charge), Herbert W. Armstrong stated, “Prior to World War II, the American and British peoples had acquired more than two thirds of the cultivated resources and wealth of the world. Yet, astonishing wonder though it be, we acquired nearly all of it rather suddenly, since the year 1800. Never in

all history did anything like this occur. Never did any people or nation spread out and grow so suddenly and rapidly into such magnitude of national power.”

This was the result of the deliberate and timely fulfillment of God’s promises to Abraham’s seed. Britain and America are the offspring of Joseph, Isaac’s grandson. Joseph produced two sons: Ephraim, from whom sprung the British peoples, and Manasseh, from whose descendants the American nation was born. Between them, these two nations controlled the choicest parts of the world’s surface from the early 1800s to the mid-1940s, *including all the world’s major sea gates!* This power also secured for them a city which is an icon of their religious beliefs—*Jerusalem*.

Yet, about 1,900 years after the promises to Abraham, Jesus Christ declared that the very capital of the land of the ancient Israelites, Jerusalem, would be surrounded by armies at a yet future date and overrun by a foreign people during a time that He termed “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:20, 24).

When the British Empire held sway, it controlled all sea-gate access to Palestine, the common name given to the general land area which incorporates the city of

Jerusalem. Suez, the Dardanelles, Oman, Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus were all under the British flag. It was impossible for any foreign nation to enter the vicinity of Palestine by sea without permission from the British Navy. Coincidentally, the British at this time controlled access to the Khyber Pass, which is the major strategic land gateway to Palestine from Asia via the Hindu Kush Mountains.

All that is now history.

Britain and America have literally given—not sold, but *given*—away their birthright possession of this world’s major sea gates! This will yet prove to be their *biggest strategic blunder!* The Turks now have the Bosphorus, Pakistan has the Khyber, Oman is in Islamic hands, and German patrol boats secure the Mediterranean on behalf of the European Union. And who do we find now standing at both ends of what is, perhaps, the most crucial sea gate of all—the Suez Canal? *China!*

The Anglo-Americans’ greatest strategic blunder will manifest itself powerfully in the not-too-distant future in geopolitical consequences that will shake this world! The gateways to Jerusalem and to the Anglo-American nations are now secured by potential enemies!



BIG STORIES OF 2004

## China

THE FACT THAT CHINA HAS GAINED CONTROL OVER MOST OF THE WORLD’S strategic sea gates should have been the stuff of headline news! Over the past two decades, China has quietly and steadily moved to secure a position on most every major sea gate in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans. Even the British ports of Thameside and Felixstowe and the world’s largest seaport, Rotterdam, have been penetrated by Chinese interests. From Suez to Panama, the Straits of Malacca to the Persian Gulf, from Poland to Pakistan, China has steadily moved to take over control of the major cargo-handling facilities at the world’s most strategic trade chokepoints. China’s success at this strategy may be viewed by checking the map on page 4.

Amazingly, the U.S. has even permitted this nation, a declared enemy, to build and to control the largest container port in the world—in Freeport, Bahamas—just 60 miles south of its own backyard! This, without any public whimper of concern! In addition to Chinese control of the Panama Canal, this should send shivers up and down the spine of every realist in America who has any inkling of China’s drive to world-power status.

The world’s major sea gates are now in *Gentile* hands. Every land and sea gateway giving access to Israel—wherein lies the Holy City, Jerusalem—is in *Gentile* hands. That which simply was not possible while Britain and America controlled all the world’s major sea gates is today a startling possibility: The way is open for Jerusalem to be surrounded by foreign armies and overrun by enemies! This will be reality. *The headline has already been written!*

Consider the great strategic danger to the Anglo-Americans, who are now second only to the Jews as objects of hatred in this world. While they controlled the world’s sea gates, the possibility of their own countries being blockaded



**FREE UPON  
REQUEST**

by an enemy simply did not exist. Yet again, in these “times of the Gentiles,” the prospect of the Anglo-Americans being besieged by enemies has become a definite possibility. In fact, it is destined to become a reality! Read the headlines: “And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee” (Deuteronomy 28:52).

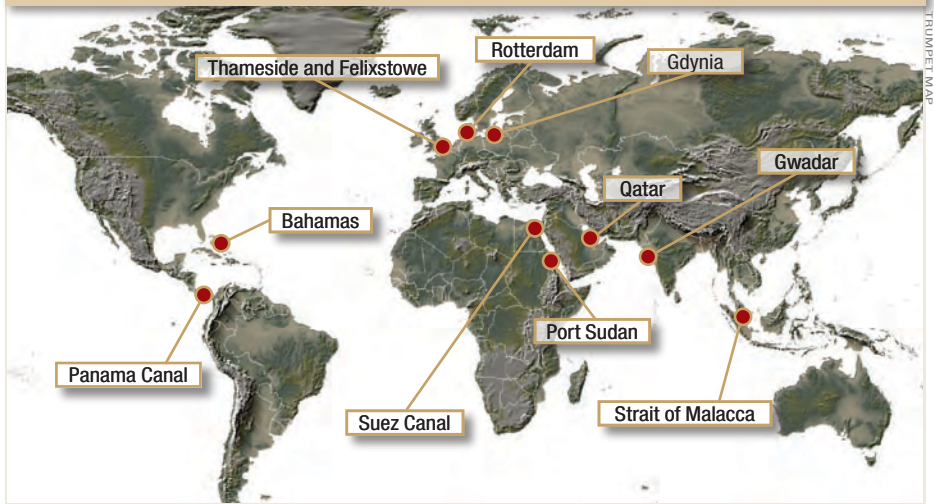
Aside from the Anglo-Americans, three rising empires presently dominate world trade: China, Japan and the nations of the Far East; the federating European Union; and Russia and its remaining loyal satellite nations. Increasingly, these three entities are entering alliances of convenience as they compete for bigger slices of global trade. One thing they all have in common is a great jealousy of the obvious national blessings enjoyed by Anglo-America.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that at a future time these three entities could combine to bring down the dollar. In fact, rumbles were heard from Japan and the EU on this very possibility as 2004 drew to a close. Even fiscal guru Alan Greenspan has recently hinted at that. It is now not far from being probable that an alliance will one day be struck between these three emerging power blocs to have China shut the gates to Anglo-American trade, besieging these English-speaking nations, thus reducing them to utter subservience and, believe it or not, *abject slavery!*

Headlining this future reality, God has declared of the British peoples who have trashed their God-given empire, of the Americans who have frittered away their great God-given wealth and power, and of the Jewish people who have denied their Messiah, that they will be reduced to a state where “he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates. ... And the Lord shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships ... there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen ...” (verses 55, 68). Some day soon, believe it or not, that forecast will make *headline news!* And it will significantly be due to the present blindness of the Anglo-Americans to the corner into which their failing foreign policies have painted them. We will yet rue the day that we so easily became a pawn in China’s grand scheme for global dominance!

## BESEIGED

Sea gates around the world where China exercises a great deal of control.



BIG STORIES OF 2004

## Russia

CONTRARY TO WHAT SOME ANALYSTS maintain, Russia’s intentions are not to saddle up with the West. What to some appear to be Vladimir Putin’s present intentions are far from being Russia’s long-term strategy. Russia, as it always has, will end up turning east after its present convenient flirtation with the West. In the future we shall see Russia cementing itself into a grand alliance with China, Japan, the Southeast Asia bloc and India. Read that future headline in our January 2002 article “March Toward Armageddon,” based on the prophecy of Ezekiel 38, written well over 2,500 years ago!

A year ago, when Putin moved to consolidate his hold on Russian leadership by manipulating the electoral process, one startling headline did appear in the press. But it was not mainstream. The headline over Gerald Flurry’s article in our January 2004 edition read, “Russia Frightens Europe—and Fulfills Bible Prophecy.” Watching Europe’s reaction to Putin’s railroading the vote in his favor, the *Trumpet’s* editor in chief penned the following: “Russian elections have recently moved President Vladimir Putin much closer to becoming a dictator. This strikes intense fear in Europe. The Europeans still remember how violent Russia was in World War II, and Russia is a close neighbor with massive piles of nuclear weapons. ...

“The Russian election is triggering a fear that will hasten the uniting of the European Union. The Russian election will



### EXPERIENCED

The bear’s KGB-savvy president knows what he’s doing when it comes to power plays.

cause Germany and other European nations to want a stronger leader. Throughout history, Germany has often sought a strong leader. Bible prophecy says it will do so again—for the last time!

“These events are about a rapidly approaching World War III.”

Chances are that around a million people read that shocking prediction. That means 6 billion didn’t! *But one day they are going to read the headline that declares the first shots of World War III have been fired—NUCLEAR-POWERED SHOTS!* That is the unerring prediction of Bible prophecy, bound to happen despite all the blowhard energy vented by the scoffers and the naysayers!

President Putin is definitely stabilizing the government in his country. But



he's doing it the *Russian* way. Conditioned to tyranny for generations, the Russians will welcome the perceived security that a dictator will promise. The only question that remains in all this is just where the reviving Russian empire will draw the line of demarcation with that other empire emerging to its west. That game is being played out right now. The arena is Ukraine.

Will Russia insist on snatching back Ukraine under its imperial rule? Will Putin figure that coping with a religious and ethnic divide in Ukraine is not worth the trouble and do a deal with the EU, yielding up Catholic western Ukraine and holding on to the loyalist eastern Ukraine? Will the Dnieper River be the border between these two competing empires, or will Putin fight to hold on to the great Ukrainian breadbasket? Whichever way this falls, the outcome is guaranteed by Bible prophecy! (see story, page 8).

One thing is for certain: Putin is playing for high stakes. In October 2003, Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov declared that nuclear weapons remained "a key feature of Russia's defense strategy and that Moscow did not preclude the possibility of *pre-emptive strikes*, if the need arose, to defend its interests or those of its allies" (*Frontline*, Nov. 22-Dec. 5, 2003; emphasis mine throughout). *Frontline* noted that this differed markedly from Putin's earlier stated policy that "made no mention of pre-emptive strikes in the case of allies' interests" (ibid.). As our editor in chief wrote, "In 2000, Russia publicly stated that its nuclear stockpiles were for defensive purposes. Now VLADIMIR PUTIN IS TALKING ABOUT 'PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES.' THAT MEANS RUSSIA COULD STRIKE FIRST WITH THAT VAST NUCLEAR ARSENAL!" (op. cit.).

Last November Putin went public with a very aggressive statement on Russia's nuclear intentions. "... Putin said Russia is researching and successfully testing new nuclear missile systems, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported" (Associated Press, Nov. 17, 2004). Putin was quoted as saying, "I am sure that ... they will be put in service within the next few years and, what is more, *they will be developments of the kind that other nuclear powers do not and will not have*" (ibid.).

But why aren't the media riding *this* story into the ground? Why, oh *why* will they seize on any story glorifying *sleaze* and neglect the *real* headline news?

We can give you the headline now, in advance of the event. The future of

Europe will be played out, once again, between *Germany and Russia!* Just as Germany did with the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact prior to World War II, yet again—perhaps triggered by the Ukrainian crisis—a German-dominated EU and Russia will conclude a pact to secure their mutual border. Just as it was in World War II, that pact will be broken by an attack on Russia led by Germany.

But this time there will be no alliance between Russia and the Western powers. For by that time, your Bible says, the West will be in *slavery* to a German-dominated union of West and East Europe that will have previously put An-

glo-America to siege (Jeremiah 17:4).

This time, Russia aligns with the *Oriental* hordes to deliver a crushing blow to the European Union. Russia would simply not be in a position in the future to lead such an onslaught from the northeast if it had not by then been revived as a significant world power.

Do you see why we can be so confident in our predictions? This future headline news has all been predetermined by an all-wise God, who knows human nature so well, and who knows the evil spirit that powerfully influences the minds of the leaders of this world's nations (Ephesians 6:12).



BIG STORIES OF 2004

## Iran

LESS ADVANCED IN FULFILLING ITS DESIRE TO become a world power is Iran. At this point, despite the fractious nature of its politics, Iran continues to be a lead player in the promotion of anti-Jewish and anti-Anglo-American terror. If there ever was an "axis of evil," it revolved around Iran, chief sponsor of global terror. Still, the moribund and scandal-plagued United Nations continues to kowtow to the deceitful Iranian leadership.

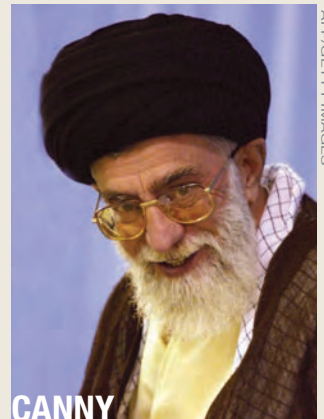
Every intelligence organization worthy of the term knows full well that Iran is intent on developing itself as a nuclear power to be reckoned with in the Middle East. Yet Western politicians, negotiators and diplomats still deceive themselves into thinking that Iran's signature on a piece of paper will guarantee its word that its nuclear intentions are for peaceful purposes. This simply defies all logic. The U.S. has even tried to cement a deal with Iran over its major foreign-policy headache—Iraq.

Once again, Iran's true intentions should have been headline news last year. Instead, our news media showed very little interest in this harbinger of nuclear terror. Our editor in chief noted in our May 2004 edition the precise reason why the Anglo-Americans will not face up to the Iranian question: "Iran poses a problem for which we have no answer. That is because our people lack the will to confront the number-one powerhouse in the Middle East. The Iraqi conflict has been compared to the Vietnam War. There were many mistakes made in Vietnam, but one of those errors we rarely ever discuss. We had a *lack of will* in that war. This weakness has plagued us since we failed to win the Korean War."

That has been the consistent message of this magazine.

Again, the year prior, in our November 2003 issue, Gerald Flurry wrote, "Our will has been broken, so we try to solve the problem the way the Israelis do—and their terrorist problem grows worse! The Israelis also lack the will to deal with Iran—the origin and primary source of world terrorism!" And that's the nub of the problem. We have become so weakened in collective national character that we simply lack the moral courage and collective will, despite our sheer weight of evident power, to do the world a service and confront that denizen of crazed, hateful terror—Iran.

You may have read this in the *Trumpet* last year, but you did not see one front-page headline in the mainstream media on the *cause* of our abject failure to put Iran in its place!



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**CANNY**  
Iran's Ayatollah Khamenei is quite a problem for the U.S.



BIG STORIES OF 2004

## European Union

THE EUROPEAN UNION ABSORBED ANOTHER 10 NATIONS into its realm last May. After much ado, a European constitution of sorts was also signed in Rome last year. One thing was missing: The Europeans left their traditional god out of the picture.

One could not but see the irony of the life-size statue of Pope Gregory staring lifelessly down on the assembled European dignitaries as they signed their “godless” constitution. Weren’t the founding fathers of the EU rabid Roman Catholics? Was not Valery Giscard d’Estaing, creator of the constitution, a deeply committed Roman Catholic? Had not images of him sitting directly across the desk of Pope John Paul II circulated through the press at the time that he was formulating the idea of the constitution? Would he not have discussed ways and means of cementing the religion of Europe at the heart and core of the Union’s government? Did not they see this as a revival of the Holy Roman Empire? Well—Yes! Then why are the media playing up the “secularist” nature of the EU and its constitution? Secular my foot! *The EU is Catholic to its core.* A grand *deceit* is being worked here! Yet, once again, you have not read the vital headline in your local media.

Giscard d’Estaing is on record as declaring that those who charted the EU constitution *deliberately* left out any reference to religion. Well, so they should, shouldn’t they? After all, it was in Europe that the Enlightenment took place, and where humanism and secularism were born. So, is not the EU just subscribing to that latter-day enlightened philosophy of political correctness, not wanting to disenfranchise



**DUPED**

**In a scene of ominous irony, British officials Tony Blair and Jack Straw sign the “Catholic-free” EU constitution in Rome as the likeness of Pope Gregory looks on.**

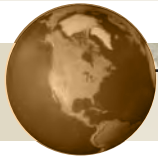
*deliberately* left religion out of the constitution precisely because they know that, had they recognized the traditional religion of Holy Roman Europe at the center of their constitution, it would have been tantamount to the state *legislating* one federal religion for all. That would *never* do! That would have tipped their hand. Far better to instigate a groundswell of reaction from the public, so that, by popular demand of the citizens of Europe, the gnomes of Brussels are then

“forced” to write recognition of Europe’s traditional religion into this shabby document called a European constitution.

The Vatican is expert at creating a public groundswell. Remember the *Solidarity* movement in Poland? Fed by cash, encouragement and direction from the Vatican, this Catholic-led movement gained such a following and public audience that it split the Iron Curtain asunder! *Then* what happened? As the USSR imploded, the masses in eastern and southern Europe came out from under the godless wraps of communism

and returned in droves to worshipping the god of Rome! They comprise the populations of the 10 nations that joined the EU last year. They have not come out of the communist closet to come under a “secularist” Soviet-style united Europe. They are going to demand that their religion be recognized in their new constitution at least as much as atheism was embraced by the constitution of their old communist masters!

Rather than the headline that did appear—“Europe Signs Secularist Constitution”—you should have read, “*Europe Signs DECEITFUL Constitution!*” Well, now we’ve written it for you—*before* the deceit is unveiled, which one day soon it will be.



BIG STORIES OF 2004

## Anglo-America

OF THE REMAINING BRITISH DOMINIONS, Australia alone joined the alliance against terror with the United States and the old mother country Britain. New Zealand, under its politically correct, feminized government, along with a weakened and divided Canada, refused. Many other non-English-speaking nations did join.

The U.S., Britain and Australia had to endure the vile invective of a left-leaning press and media as a result of their decision to support President Bush. Despite this, conservative leaders in the U.S. and Australia were returned to office with

increased majorities. This says much about just how out of touch with reality our mainstream media are.

Yet conservatives in society continue to face an uphill battle. The paucity of good manners, the lack of a sense of shame for wrongdoing, the blurring of gender boundaries, the increasingly litigious nature of our human relationships, the descent of high culture, the dominance of the gutter in language and the field of entertainment—all of this and much, *much* more has become the norm in our daily lives. What is now acceptable

as “normal” behavior was often, half a lifetime ago, that which one was arrested for as an offense against society.

As the European public increasingly clamor for their religion—the very foundation of their beliefs—to be written into their constitution, across the Atlantic we legislate to keep out of our schools and public places the God who was honored by the founders of our own nation in our own constitution!

It has been said that the nation that does not preserve its heritage is a nation not fit to survive. It is this very challenge that the English-speaking nations face. Their God cries out to them, as they slide ever deeper into moral and spiritual decline: “Thus saith the Lord, *Stand*



ye in the ways [of God], and see, and ask for the *old paths*, where is the *good way*, and *walk therein*, and ye shall find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16). But what is the nations’ response? “[T]hey said, *We will not walk therein.*”

So what does God do? He trumpets a final warning to them of that which will befall them if they do not repent of their individual and collective national sins: “Also I set watchmen over you, saying, *Hearken to the sound of the trumpet.* But they said, *We will not hearken.* Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth: behold, *I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it*” (verses 17-19). You are reading that warning, *trumpeted* from the pages of this very magazine! You are reading the *real* headline news! And you are reading it *just in time* to really *do something* about it!

**Blinded or Enlightened?** There will be those who, failing to see beyond today’s horizon, will scoff at these predictions.

“China, Japan, the EU? They’ll *never* pull the rug out from under our dollar economy—too much to lose! As to those sea gates, doesn’t the U.S. have the most powerful navy in the world? Could we not literally steamroll China’s navy to the bottom of the sea?

“Iran? It wouldn’t be game to taunt the U.S., the EU and the UN by developing nuclear weapons. The U.S. military could fuse them into glass with one well-placed nuke!

“Russia? Putin’s cuddled up to the West. Hasn’t that neocon U.S. president even stated that Putin is a man he can trust? Putin’s got too much to lose by resisting the U.S., the EU and the UN. Just look at the state of his economy. He’s all talk.

“Europe? *Holy Roman Empire?* Ridiculous! Hasn’t the EU written God out of the picture in its very constitution? How then can it possibly be termed *holy*? Wasn’t it the Catholic Church that dominated the Holy Roman Empire? It is clear out of the picture right now. Religion is old-fashioned in Europe! This is an enlightened free-trade bloc. What’s more, it is too disunited to be a real threat to the U.S. for years to come!

“Anglo-America? The world can’t afford for the U.S. economy to collapse. Too much depends on it. I don’t believe this bubble economy stuff. We are big enough

to trade our way out of any foreign debt. Interest rates are still low, credit is easy, mortgages are there to burn, I’ve got my new SUV, just re-mortgaged my home and my fridge is full. What more could one want? What’s more, the British economy is the strongest in Europe!

Morals? That is *personal*. What my neighbor does behind his closed door is not my business. Anyway, there’s no such thing as *deviant* behavior. That’s just an old-fashioned term to describe anything not permitted by the Bible, and we did away with those old oppressive rules years ago!”

So goes the ignorant circular reasoning of John Q. Public in too many cases. Yet demand for this magazine remains strong. Our literature requests are at an all-time high. Our telephone inquiries have increased beyond our capacity to keep up with them. Why? *Why*, if John Q. Public is so *content* with his lot, will people insist on reading the *Trumpet* magazine, continue watching the *Key of David* television program and keep on requesting our literature in record numbers? Simply because people increasingly do feel, deep down in their gut, something is *terribly wrong* with this world. Something has to *give*! There is a collective, ongoing, public feeling of *insecurity* that ripples on since 9/11. People want to know what is ahead. They would like to know *tomorrow’s* headlines *today*!

**Tomorrow’s Headlines** Well, the good news is, you *can*! And *tomorrow’s* headlines will soon be literally filled to overflowing with *good news*, once we get beyond the terrifying storms that now loom ominously on the world horizon. Events will play out according to biblical prophecy—that is for *sure*! It is as sure as the very Word of God, for “the scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). God simply *cannot* break His word! He has *declared* it—announced the outcome of current world events far in *advance* of their happening.

The “times of the Gentiles” are upon us! The coming demise of the nations of



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TRUMPET/ARTVILLE

## HEADLINING THE FUTURE

**Today’s bad news is going to culminate in God’s intervention in human affairs and the kingdom of peace He will introduce.**

Israel is inevitable! The horrors ahead are as certain to come as tomorrow’s rising sun.

But, so also is the *wonder* of God’s direct and imminent intervention in human affairs—that very next event prophesied to occur following the Tribulation and the Day of the Lord (Matthew 24:21, 29-30). The Son of God, the Prince of Peace, will soon return to inaugurate *the perfect peace plan* for mankind!

More than ever, you need to understand this, so you can respond to this great vision and become part of the *only* solution to mankind’s ills, rather than remaining a contributor to their cause. We need to look *forward* to anticipate a time when bad news headlines, headlines that hide reality, headlines that mask the naked truth, are gone and buried *forever*! We need to look *forward* to a time of daily headline *good news*! Believe it or not, such a time is coming, and it’s just ahead of us—you can really *feel the pulse* of *world events* leading up to it! But *you need real vision to see this!* You need **TOMORROW’S** vision **TODAY!**

Request a free copy of our booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, and start immediately to anticipate the soon-to-appear greatest headline ever in history: “**JESUS CHRIST RETURNS!**”



# Drawing the Line

The Ukrainian election crisis reveals two great empires on a collision course! **BY RON FRASER AND RYAN MALONE**



**O**F ALL THE NATIONAL ELECTION sagas in 2004, the epic thriller had to be Ukraine's: voting fraud, Supreme Court action, international intervention, 100,000 protesters braving the cold in Kiev, even the poisoning of a candidate.

For several weeks, a country that hadn't appeared on the global news radar for some time was suddenly the top story. People who barely gave Ukraine a thought suddenly realized how divided this country was.

But how many realize Ukraine's *strategic* importance? What's the deeper meaning *behind* the division? Why did Germany's chancellor make a phone call to Russia's president about the election crisis? How will this division affect global politics? Is it possible that this predicament will rend Ukraine right in half?

Division in any nation is normal, isn't it? In so-called democratic societies, it is considered good—labeled as “diversity”; it presents, as John Milton termed it, a “marketplace of ideas” from which people can choose what they believe is best for their society.

So why is the division in the Ukraine so significant?

Ukraine's opposition candidate, Viktor Yushchenko, wants closer ties with—even membership in—the European Union and NATO. He represents the western side of the country. In-



**POISONED**  
Viktor Yushchenko, before and after being poisoned. He claims his political opponent tried to assassinate him.

cumbent Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich—who largely represents eastern Ukraine—prefers stronger ties with Russia and accuses his opponent of being a fascist. On top of this mudslinging, as a now-facially-deformed Yushchenko also

claims, representatives of Yanukovich's administration tried to assassinate him by poisoning his food with dioxin.

After a close vote, Yanukovich's government declared him the re-elected winner—action that brought congratulations from Russian President Vladimir Putin (on *two* occasions). But a strong opposition movement—with strong support from the U.S. and European nations—claimed the election was rigged. Ukraine's Supreme Court agreed, annulled the results, and called for a new vote.

This outcome aggravated the pro-Russian east, which wants the West to stay out of its business. Local officials from nearly 20 eastern regions voted unanimously to hold referenda on whether they should seek autonomy from the central government.

Thus the election and its major platforms embodied the historic question—*should Ukraine ally more with Europe or Russia?* It also demonstrates the tension bound to arise between the great Western empire forming now in Europe, and the return to imperialism occurring in Mother Russia.

*What the Ukrainian election crisis reveals is two great empires on a collision course!* One is a resurrection of the age-old Roman Empire, the other a revival of czarist Russia. And, as always, Ukraine (its name can be translated “borderland”) is at the crossroads.

These events also reveal the collision course and coming *religious* line of demarcation—between Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy!

Both Europe and Russia are waxing strong (along with their respective religions)—expanding their sphere of influence. Each time this has happened in the past, the proximity of these two powers has made a conflict between them inevitable. The fact that today this conflict is happening in Ukraine is simply another repetition of history. This isn't the first time that Western and Eastern expansion have butted heads here.

In fact, the history of this area is another epic thriller—a microcosm of a tremendous tussle between East and West that will culminate once again in a cataclysmic conflagration.

**Ukraine—Crossroad of Empires** One of the bloodiest wars in modern history was fought between 1853 and 1856 over Crimea, a strategic peninsula jutting into the Black Sea at the southern tip of Ukraine.

The Crimean War pitted an alliance



# Who Are the Slavs?

The peoples of the great flatlands of Poland and the Ukraine are significantly Slavic in origin. Although some of the descendants of Madai (the Medes) settled early in southern Ukraine and the general area of Moldova (between Romania and Ukraine), and great waves of immigrants, including the Assyrian and Israelite peoples, swept through this region over time, it tended to be mainly those of Slavic origin that settled these areas. While history records little of the origins of the Slavs, biblically, they are identified as descendants of Shem, the progenitor of the Caucasian races. They descended through Elam, son of Shem (Genesis 10:22), and the Medes descended from Japheth (verse 2).

John Roberts recorded in his definitive work, *The Triumph of the West*, “Slav origins are very obscure, but there have been Slavs in Eastern Europe for a very long time. . . . By A.D. 500, Slav migrants occupied the northern bank of the Danube from Belgrade to the sea.” Often harassed by Nomadic tribes from the east that swept in waves across their areas of settlement, the Slavs somehow managed to hang on to their land.

Having migrated from northern settlements between the Vistula and Dnieper rivers, and following the Germans into southern Russia and Eastern Europe in the third century, the Slavs did not appear on the borders of the Roman Empire until later, after the German tribes had moved on to the south and west.

By the sixth century, the Slavs were in control of Lithuania, Ukraine, central Russia, Poland, Bohemia and Slovakia, and were moving toward the Balkan Peninsula. By this time the Romans were fighting the Slavs along the Danube frontier, seeking to stem the Slavic tide by fortifying their eastern continental borders. Ever since, two great divisions of Shem’s descendents, the Germanic and the Slavic, have contended for a line of demarcation between their respective civilizations.

Central European Slavs were constantly threatened with invasion by the Germans. In the eighth century, Charlemagne crushed Slavic resistance, bringing the Slavs entirely under Frankish—and popish—influence. With religion and politics regarded as one by the Holy Roman emperors, enforced conversion to Catholicism of the



**TRADITION**  
The Slavs, such as this man dressed in a traditional suit, are descendants of Shem.

Slavs eastward through the Ukraine followed under both Louis the Pious and his son, Louis the German, during the ninth century.

Emperor Michael followed through with a concerted effort to Catholicize the Khazars (Cossacks) who had carved out an empire in southern Russia, south of the Dnieper and bordering the Black Sea and spreading northward across the Don to the Vistula River. By this time, the papacy claimed jurisdiction over all Slavs.

**ORTHODOX RELIGION** Slav Europe, as it exists today, is the most outstanding successor of the Byzantine Empire under Justinian. In A.D. 865, the Bulgarian khan, Boris, was converted to organized Christianity. Thus commenced the Orthodox realm of Christian civilization, which now dominates the Slav peoples east of the Balkan Range. It merged with philosophical ideas and cultural models fashioned on Byzantium in the East, rather than the Latin West under Rome’s domination.

Herein lies the beginning of the division between that form of Catholicism, or “universal” religion, practiced by religious adherents attached to the Vatican and those attached to Eastern Orthodoxy.

In the ninth century, Otto the Great, in an effort to colonize the eastern frontier of the German kingdom, continued the effort to Germanize and forcibly convert the Slavs to the religion of Rome, clear on through to greater Poland. At this time, Poland possessed the Ukraine to beyond the Vistula River.

By the 11th century, the Polish King Boleslaw I “the Brave” consolidated the relationship with Otto III. The pope crowned Boleslaw king of Poland in 1025, thus bringing the Ukraine, then under Polish rule, within the realm of the Holy Roman Empire.

In the 14th century, the crusading Teutonic knights, prevented by the Ottomans from furthering the pope’s efforts to capture Jerusalem, turned their efforts to the forcible conversion of the Baltic states and pagan Prussia. Their systematic cruelty reduced the Balts and Prussians to submission under popish rule. By the 15th century, the Poles had converted Lithuania to Catholicism.

Slav history is given further color (much of it by blood) by the Islamic influence that inspired the great invasions that had spread Turkish power by A.D. 1500 to mainland Greece, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Albania and the Ionian Islands. Many Slavs then converted to Islam under Ottoman rule.

of Britain, France and Austria against Russia. Of primary concern to Britain and Europe at the time was Russia’s steady expansion of its empire westward. It already had its main fleet stationed at the port of Sevastopol in the southern Ukraine peninsula of Crimea. With Russia’s every westward gain, the rest of Europe felt increasingly uncomfortable.

At issue, in addition to a territorial dispute, were two divergent religions: Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy.

The crunch came when Czar Nicholas I decided to occupy Constantinople. This was untenable to the British, who saw it as a threat against their gateway

to the overland route to India. Western allies defeated the czar’s troops, and Russia’s stronghold in the Crimea was rent from the czar’s grasp. The Russian empire’s drive westward was stemmed; the Treaty of Paris excluded Russian warships from the Black Sea.

Whereas it may be contended that Russia’s imperial aims ignited the Crimean War, the facts demonstrate that Germany was the instigator of a far greater conflict which, 58 years later, evolved into the Great War. Yet, similar to Crimea, World War I was initiated by Germany over an *East-West confrontation*. This time the flame was lit in Serbia.

After four years of horrific carnage in World War I, the antagonists concluded an armistice on Nov. 11, 1918; however, border conflicts continued. The Czechs and Austrians both wanted extra slices of the pie. Ukraine was occupied by the Austrian and German armies.

Meanwhile, on November 1, western Ukraine had been declared an independent republic by the last governor of Austria, Count Huyn, who armed the Ukrainians in support of this initiative. East and west Ukraine were united on January 22, 1919—only to witness the Red Army occupy Kiev on that very same day. By December, almost the en-

tirety of Ukraine was in the hands of the Red Army. On Dec. 30, 1922, Ukraine became a component of the USSR.

Soon after, it was once again in German hands. In World War II, the Nazi occupation of Ukraine was a real plum in Hitler's expanding empire as he took Poland and Ukraine in his drive eastward toward Russia. His Nazi army, however,

very same arena as the first—*Serbia!*

Back in the 1990s, enacting its very first foreign-policy decision following unification, the German government, supported by the Vatican, moved to immediately destabilize the Slav nations by giving public recognition to its old Catholic ally, Croatia, and also to the state of Slovenia, as sovereign nations separate from the rest

tell. But the present turmoil in Ukraine may not only see the dividing line ultimately drawn between the EU and Russian empires. It may also be the catalyst that creates a Russo-German alliance, similar to the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact prior to World War II, in an attempt by each country to limit incursion by either across the dividing line between the two.



An Orthodox cathedral overlooks the Dnieper River.

**There may yet be an East-West divide in Ukraine. Will the Dnieper be the dividing line?**

was to suffer a fate similar to that of Napoleon's troops during the previous century. In 1945, as World War II drew to an end, Russia's army drove westward, rumbling right across Ukraine into Poland and clear up to Berlin. Ukraine was destined to become part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the duration of the Cold War.

**From Independence ... to Partition?** As the 20th century waned, the implosion of the Soviet Union saw the dissolution of the multinational empire once created by the czars and Lenin. It broke up into its original national component parts, and Ukraine became an independent republic. Since then, Catholic western Ukraine has drifted toward affiliation with Western Europe, even actively seeking alignment with the European Union. Eastern Ukraine—the industrial heart, containing the highest concentration of population, and with its majority religion being Eastern Orthodox—remains loyal to Russia. Soon it became apparent that a line would have to be drawn between the eastward push of the German-dominated EU and Vladimir Putin's reviving Russian empire. The Ukraine became the meat in this sandwich once again.

This time, much more is at stake than ever before in this competition between East and West. For what the world has yet to understand is that the first spark of the flame of the future, third and *final* great global confrontation was lit—a decade ago and for the third time—in Slavic Europe! And it was lit within the

of Yugoslavia. The result was an illegal war, sublimely uncondemned by the fickle and perverse United Nations, fought by Anglo-Americans under a NATO umbrella on behalf of the chief benefactor of the war, the European Union. In the final analysis, the EU has had the entire Balkan Peninsula handed to it to administer as its first colonies! *Now* comes the *end game* in the EU's eastward expansion, to be played out over Ukraine!

The breadbasket of the great Polish plain, the wealth of Ukraine's primary resources, the industrial strength of the eastern Ukraine, the size of Ukraine's population, the stationing of the old Soviet Black Sea fleet in its ports, and not the very least, the siting of nuclear weapons in Ukraine—these are powerful bargaining chips in this tussle between East and West. In the end, it will probably come down to a deal between Russia and Germany, with Germany having the advantage of being by far the largest single investor in Russia's reviving economy.

As Hitler's blitzkrieg swept east across the great Polish plain to descend upon Ukraine in December 1941, the German minister of economics, Walter Funk, declared that this "promised colonial land had become accessible to European expansion." Today's German-dominated EU, with a compliant U.S. supporting the process, now exerts maximum diplomatic pressure on President Putin to come to the table and decide Ukraine's future.

There may yet be an East-West divide in Ukraine. Will the Dnieper be the natural dividing line? Only time will

**Battle for the Soul** In the middle of all this will be *religion*. The Ukraine suffers from an identity crisis. As Dr. George Friedman masterfully pointed out in an astute analysis of the Ukraine question, "The political crisis in Ukraine is a battle for the country's soul" (Stratfor, Dec. 2, 2004). With a predominantly Catholic population leaning to Rome in the West, and Orthodox worshipers still looking toward Moscow in the East, Ukraine is a veritable crunch point of competing civilizations—and not for the first time.

If we look at the ethnically and religiously diverse Balkans, it was inevitable that its breakup would occur down religious lines of Catholicism and Orthodoxy. Is Ukraine destined to end up the same way—with cartographers once again redrawing Europe's borders? Provinces in the eastern, Russian-speaking, Orthodox side of Ukraine are already threatening to secede! And no matter who ends up being president, the proverbial can of worms has been opened. The division will come to a head soon—especially as Europe and Russia grow in strategic influence and their grand strategies begin to conflict. The Bible even prophesies that the peoples of Elam and Media (see sidebar, page 9) will play a part in the downfall of the final resurrection of the Babylonish Holy Roman Empire (Isaiah 21:2).

You need to watch events as they play out in Eastern Europe! At issue is the future of global order. The stakes could hardly be higher!

Ukraine's future is held in the balance. But not for long. Soon the line will be drawn between rising imperial Russia and the eastward spreading, reviving, old Holy Roman Empire, in its present guise of the EU. What you see playing out in Ukraine will seal the fate of millions—a fate, in the short term, far, *far worse* than anything that the first two rounds of world war ever witnessed.

Thank God that after this holocaust, peace will finally reign under the sway of the only power with real and tangible hope to *guarantee* it, the very *Prince of Peace* Himself! ■



# The Death of Russian Democracy

BY BRAD MACDONALD

**O**UR JANUARY 2004 *TRUMPET* exposed the emerging power of Russian President Vladimir Putin. A year has since passed. Here is a shocking progress report.

Democracy in Russia is gasping for its last breaths, yet no one is prepared to stand up to the autocrat who is violently strangling it. It seems President Putin's actions in Russia are being condoned by world leaders. This will prove to be a deadly mistake.

As Putin squeezes the last vestiges of democracy from Russia, there are two critical trends to watch. First, look for Russia to undermine America's global influence. Second, and more importantly, look for efforts from Europe to curb Russian power—and for competition between Russia and the European Union to increase.

**Putin's 2004 Conquests** Last January, the *Trumpet* showed that President Putin had won the trust of the majority of his people and gained overwhelming control over the Duma—Russia's law-making body. Throughout 2004, radical changes continued within Russia.

One of the most notable changes was initiated in September, when, using the tragic hostage crisis in Beslan as his excuse, Putin proposed the incorporation of a new “vertical” system of power in Russia. This resulted in a draft law, approved by the Duma in December, under which regional governors will be nominated by the president (Putin)—not voted in. Putin argued that this “single chain of command” system is critical to fighting terrorism. Under this system, Putin will have the power to dissolve local parliaments. Pending consideration of the new law by the Federation Council, *one man* will have virtually unchecked control over the politics of the entire nation.

There is also a pending amendment in Russia that will allow the Kremlin to directly control the *appointment of judg-*



## NOTHING NEW

Russia, under President Putin, is re-entering some familiar—and worrisome—territory.

es across the country. This would additionally give Putin *judicial* control!

Analysts at think-tank Stratfor wrote, “In effect, Putin is capitalizing on the Beslan crisis ... to firmly entrench *his personal power* and ‘re-Sovietize’ Russia ... Putin is becoming a traditional Russian ruler; one who desires no institutional blocks on his power” (Sept. 13, 2004; emphasis mine throughout). Democratic checks and balances in Russia are being systematically destroyed.

The *Wall Street Journal* outlined further conquests of Putin in 2004: “... Mr. Putin has waged a brutal war against the Chechens .... He has tried to retake control of Moldova by stealth. He has threatened the government of Georgia ...” (Nov. 30, 2004). Most recently, Putin has been intensely involved in the Ukrainian election debacle, congratulating the pro-Russian “winner” before the Supreme Court scrapped the election results.

But that is not all that happened in Russia last year. Putin also gained tighter control over the nation's great oil and gas reserves, as we predicted in last January's issue.

When Putin came into office, the rich oligarchs who controlled Russia's oil and gas companies were given two options: They would submit to and support Putin's rule, or they would lose their company and perhaps even be arrested.

The latter happened to Mikhail Khordorkovsky, CEO of the giant Russian oil company Yukos. Khordorkovsky is currently in jail and his company, Yukos, is fighting to stay out of bankruptcy. Here is where it gets interesting.

On December 19, a subsidiary company of Yukos (called Yuganskneftegaz) was auctioned off by the state at a fraction of its real value. The state-controlled company Gazprom, which was expected to win the deal, did not make a single bid. Instead, a previously unheard-of company, Baikalfinansgroup, stepped in and took Yugansk for \$9.35 billion—just \$1 billion over the starting bid and about half what the company is worth. Many Russian experts believe Baikalfinansgroup to be a front company for Gazprom, one calling the sale “scandalous.” Yukos has long denounced the auction as illegal, state-sponsored theft. In November, Putin's own economic adviser called the sale “daylight robbery,” stating that it was unnecessary because Yukos was paying its tax bills.

With Russia's vast oil and gas resources under his control, Putin will have gained considerable global influence. Russia is the second-largest oil supplier in the world, and with the current global energy crisis getting worse, President Putin has a lot of leverage over other nations.

Throughout 2004, Putin also seized further control of Russian print and electronic media. “Independent-minded journalists increasingly risk losing their jobs, and some have lost their lives” (*Wall Street Journal*, op. cit.). The Russian media has essentially become a conduit for Putin propaganda! It is interesting, then, that at the November trade conference in Santiago, Chile, it was reported that President Putin was seen lecturing U.S. President Bush on democracy—even complaining that Westerners don't understand Russian politics.

You can be sure that Europe is not going to tolerate Putin's power-consolidation much longer. Europeans have not forgotten their history with Russia; the Battle of Stalingrad remains in their memories.

Bible prophecy foretells that Europe will become a superpowerful military machine. While Europe might be nervous at the direction Russia is heading, that direction gives Europe a perfect excuse to more speedily unite and consolidate its own power. For more information, request our free booklets *Russia and China in Prophecy* and *Nahum*. These will clearly explain to you the future of Russia and German-led Europe. ■

# Hate Triangle



**Iran's roguish nuclear program says big things about the edgy relationships among three of the most important powers in the world today.**

BY JOEL HILLIKER

**T**HE FACTS ARE CLEAR. IRAN IS going to obtain nuclear weapons. Europe knows it, and has decided to live with it. The United States, utterly alone, will surely fail to follow through with its efforts to stop it.

It's like watching a chess game headed toward an inevitable conclusion. The positions of these three major global players regarding Iran's possession of nukes are truly astounding for how precisely they illustrate the legitimacy and reliability of end-time Bible prophecy. If you know the Scriptures, you can see the world moving toward checkmate.

Longtime *Trumpet* readers are well aware of the overview of end-time events provided in the Bible. It speaks of four great geopolitical entities that would bestride the globe, and provides a vivid picture of their principal interactions.

First, the Bible foretells the existence in our day of a powerful nation and group of nations descended from the 10 tribes of ancient Israel—which we recognize today as being the United States, Britain and, primarily, the English-speaking former dominions of Britain. This truth, and the prophecies of these nations' tragic *collapse* during this end time, are expounded in our foundational book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Then there is a union of nations in Europe cast in the mold of Europe's imperial past. These prophecies are laid out in detail in our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*. Concurrent with the rise of this power is another coalition of nations south of Europe, as explained in *The King of the South*. Finally there will emerge a massive alliance from the Asian continent, described in our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

It is the first three of these four powers that are wrangling over this nuclear issue—and their respective stances perfectly demonstrate and align with the Bible's description of the primary exchanges we can expect from them in the time just ahead of us.

Without this biblical understanding, the spectator of these events could only guess at where they are leading.

But *with* this understanding, not only are we able to foresee the dramatic overview, but we are forced to marvel at the mind of the Divine Originator of these prophecies, and tremble at His word.

**The King of the South** Iran—the greatest state sponsor of terrorism in the world and most powerful and ambitious Islamic nation—is going to fulfill the prophetic role described in Daniel 11:40 as “the king of the south.”

Many factors are working in Iran's favor to increase its viability as a real force in the world: Its muscular Islamic leadership has the support of many hardcore Muslims who consider secular

Arab leaders illegitimate; it has deftly evaded pariah status by cultivating strong diplomatic and economic relationships with several major nations; and now, its imminent entrance into the nuclear club will increase its clout and bargaining power within the region and abroad.

This is an extraordinary turn of events. Just a generation ago, Iran was bogged down in a war with Iraq that bled it of its people and treasure and was throttled by its reputation as a squalid little terrorist state. Today, however, Iran's arch-enemy Saddam Hussein is gone, and Tehran has maneuvered its way into excellent position to ensure that the new Iraq is an ally.

As we will see, the whole story of Iran's rising power is underpinned by how it reveals America's diminishing power. The *Trumpet* has often drawn attention to the irony in the fact that in defeating Saddam, the U.S. essentially *set up Iran* to assume its position as king of the region. Early on after Saddam's ousting, the U.S. insisted Iraq would not be transformed into an Iran-style Islamic nation. It has since been forced to abandon that position: Unable to contain the Sunni resistance, it has had to rely on backdoor deals with Shiites, who are sympathetic to, if not controlled by, Iran. Now, any semblance of democracy in Iraq will produce a Shiite-controlled government, which will be friendly to Iran at least. U.S. President George W. Bush now states publicly that he would not oppose a Shiite Islamic regime assuming power in Iraq. Astonishingly prophetic, this development.

Of course, the elimination of the Iraq threat didn't send a now-safe Iran into repose. Quite the contrary. This is a country with real drive, and it has seized the opportunity to roar into greater prominence.

As Brendan Miniter pointed out in the Nov. 30, 2004, *Wall Street Journal*, it was actually Saddam's use of chemical weapons against Iran in the 1980s that kick-started Iran's own program of weapons of mass destruction: “The mullahs are pressing ahead with their nuclear ambitions even as Mr. Bush has removed their claim of self-defense. Iran wants the bomb, even as it no longer has a moral case for developing such a weapon.”

In last month's *Trumpet*, we demonstrated that Iran is driving to build its



own nuclear weapons, not in self-defense, but simply as a means of amassing power and fulfilling its ambition to be the number-one authority in the Islamic world.

Iran has spent \$16 billion over the years on its nuclear weapons program, and it has no intention of stopping now, just short of the goal.

“It is therefore reasonable to wonder what they would do with this new power,” wrote Miniter. “The simple answer is that they would feel protected behind a nuclear umbrella even as they shelter and support terrorist networks. But to what end? Either from the outset or somewhere down the road, *Iranian mullahs will find that their nuclear-backed state has some global influence.* The authoritarian regime inside Iran will come to see itself as a power capable of checking moderate influences in the Middle East [emphasis mine].

“Indeed, there is already ample evidence that Iran sees itself as a check on America. From taking Americans hostage in 1979 through trying to destabilize the interim Iraqi government today, Iran has sought to displace the U.S. from the Middle East. In the coming year, it is likely that Iran will emerge as *the* nation-state antagonist in the war on terror. That much more than offering shelter, Iran will provide terrorists with a symbol of a successful Islamicist check on the West. And from Osama bin Laden on down, terrorists fighters will attribute that success to nuclear weapons.”

One can easily see how Iran gaining nuclear capability will increase its political standing and national sense of stature and destiny. Watch as it finds an ally in Iraq and continues to steamroll toward greater leadership within the Islamic world.

But the irony in this story doesn't end with America's compromised position and unintended help to Iran. What gives it an even greater twist is the role Europe is playing in making it happen—and *why*.

**Isolating America** The European Union elite hate America. Allies in name only, EU leaders for many years have taken steps to undercut America's economic, political and military dominance in the world. Developments in the Middle East have provided a prime opportunity to do just that.

Enmity between Europe and America over the Iraq war was hardly secret. France and Germany in particular stonewalled U.S. efforts to involve the United Nations in taking action against Saddam. It has since been uncovered that several

European nations were deeply stained by corruption, violating sanctions against Iraq by supplying weaponry to the regime and receiving handsome kickbacks from the UN's oil-for-food program intended to aid Iraqi citizens. Britain excepted, the strongest European nations have finagled in every way possible to ensure that America's venture into ancient Babylon would blow up in its face.

Now, with the U.S. stretched thin in Afghanistan and Iraq, Iran is seizing the moment. And, to spite the U.S., Europe is essentially giving its blessing.

Two times in two years, Europe has cut sham deals with Iran ostensibly intended to halt Iranian nuclear activities. An October 2003 agreement was trashed when

## Iran sees EU-U.S. infighting as a moment of opportunity.

Iran continued to enrich uranium and lied about it. Another agreement made mid-November 2004 with Britain, France and Germany was proven empty almost immediately with convincing evidence: “[Iran] is openly converting 22 tons of uranium tetrafluoride (yellow cake) into uranium hexafluoride, which can be enriched to weapons-grade levels and suffices to make five atomic bombs. An Iranian dissident group that has been right in the past has alleged the existence of an undeclared nuclear site, run by the Ministry of Defense, in the Lavizan area of Tehran. And then there is a 1,000-page dossier, recently delivered to U.S. intelligence by a ‘walk-in’ source, which is said to contain a blueprint for a nuclear warhead adapted to Iranian ballistic missile specifications” (*Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 22, 2004).

As Stratfor reported on Nov. 15, 2004, these fraudulent pacts are actually part of Iran's larger policy—to “use the status of a country seeking nuclear technology to not only attain economic and trade benefits and security guarantees for the current regime but also to attain international recognition for the Iranian state as a major global player while, perhaps, gaining the technological know-how.” In other words, Iran can have its nukes and eat its cake too.

Brussels is not blind to these facts. Europe's actions are actually making it more, not less, likely that Iran will gain these weapons. What these ridiculous agreements demonstrate is that the Continent is more interested in limiting *American* power than limiting *Iranian* power.

The ploy is working. The U.S. is being painted into a corner as the only nation

willing to voice disapproval over Iran's consistent double-talk. After angering most of the world for its “unilateral” action in Iraq, the U.S. administration is now much less inclined to take similar action with Iran. For the longest time, Washington talked of nothing but *co-operative effort* and *economic punishment*—not military action, certainly not unilateral action—to bring Iran into compliance. Its more recent tough talk is really ruffling feathers in Europe.

The Iranians see this infighting between the U.S. and Europe as an opportunity not only to push their own program, but to poke a stick in the eye of the Americans trying to stop them. In late November, the International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) accepted as valid Iran's flimsy, “non-legally binding” pledge to “voluntarily” halt its nuclear enrichment for a few months. This was a real setback for the U.S., which had been pushing for UN Security Council sanctions. Hassan Rohani, head of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, was elated: The “whole world has turned down America's calls,” he said. “We have proved that, in an international institution, we are capable of isolating the U.S. And that is a great victory.”

Indeed, it was a victory, and not just for Rohani's country. Though one can hardly call it a victory for European diplomacy in terms of *limiting Iran*, Europe—and the United Nations, through the IAEA—have *successfully employed the terrorist-sponsoring, nuke-seeking Islamic Republic of Iran as a weapon AGAINST THE U.S.*

It's just a messy little by-product that Iran will, in the end, get its nukes. After the mid-November agreement, the *Wall Street Journal* commented, “That's not to say Berlin, London or even Paris welcome the idea of a nuclear Iran. But they see it as a soon-to-be fact of international life that will have to be managed, just as other unsavory nuclear powers such as the Soviet Union and China were managed.

“By contrast, what the Europeans really seem to dread are *the potential consequences of a more determined American effort to halt Tehran*, especially if that effort includes a preemptive military strike against Iranian nuclear installations. No wonder British Foreign Minister Jack Straw could be heard on the BBC the other day saying, ‘I don't see any circumstances in which military ac-

tion would be justified against Iran. Full stop.’ Any circumstances, Minister?

“This, then, is what the latest Iranian-European deal is about. It is not mainly intended to stop Iran from getting a bomb. Mainly, it is intended to stop the U.S. from stopping Iran” (Nov. 22, 2004; emphasis mine).

That Europe would go to such lengths to assist Iran—considering the danger posed to the Continent by the Islamic extremism Iran supports—is very reveal-

## Europe hates U.S. hegemony more than it fears Iran.

ing. It frankly shows that *Europe hates U.S. hegemony more than it fears Iran.*

There is yet another strategic possibility Europe has considered. In mid-December, the Bush administration announced that halting Iran’s nuclear program would be a priority—that, in fact, the Defense Department has simulated war games aimed at this goal. The U.S. says it would take *one day of air strikes* to eliminate Iran’s nuclear program. As much as Europe would like the U.S. to stay out of Middle East affairs, essentially it is in a win-win situation. Even if all its efforts to undermine the U.S. prove to be insufficient to prevent the Bush administration from taking preemptive action, the result would work in Europe’s favor: EU leaders could then join the inevitable global outcry of indignation against America—blasting it for its gall and arrogance, for always going it alone, for always taking the military option. And at the same time, the problem will have been conveniently “solved”—at least for a small window of time. In some ways, *Europe might consider this the best possible outcome of the current crisis.*

But whatever the case, the primary battle is taking place between the U.S. and Europe. And that’s just how Iran likes it. It amounts to Iran receiving a pass from the great powers to grow into a real threat—and it is hard to underestimate the brawn that Iran is building as a result.

Bible prophecy strongly indicates that any action taken against Iran will not deter them in the long run. It shows that the threat from Iran is being woefully underestimated. In fact, Europe, by its current course of action, is helping to create its next great enemy.

**An Uncomfortable Friendship** In the mid-November agreement, the European parties promised not to haul Iran before the UN Security Council to contemplate

imposing sanctions. But in truth, even if the Security Council considered the option, it would never exercise it. Why? Because several of its permanent members have their hands too dirty with Iranian interests. “The aggregate value of French exports to Iran amounts to \$2.4 billion, not a huge sum but double what it was five years ago. Russia is building Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power plant. As for China, it gets 13.6 percent of its oil from Iran; the Chinese state-owned oil giant

Sinopec was recently invited by Tehran to develop the huge Yadavaran gas field.

“These countries are not going to line up behind sanctions under any circumstances, no matter how conclusive the evidence of Iranian malfeasance. They worry more about losing contracts than they do about an Iranian bomb” (*Wall Street Journal*, Dec. 1, 2004). Little wonder the U.S. has so few supporters in its effort to isolate Iran.

Europe knows the short-term advantages of being on Iran’s good side. Muslim countries hold 75 percent of the world’s oil reserves, with Iran being the third-largest producer. The Islamic republic has cemented strong ties with a number of consequential countries; in addition to those on the Security Council is Japan, which also has penned an oil exploration deal with Iran. Europe, frankly, does not want to be left out. At this stage, having Tehran as a “friend” works.

But this is hardly a comfortable friendship.

In reality, if you take the U.S. out of the picture, Iran pretty much becomes Europe’s biggest problem. As farfetched as this scenario may sound to the casual observer, the Bible prophesies that it will become reality: America will be sidelined—violently—and Iran will rise up in a massive push against Europe that will then be answered with overwhelming military force.

The seeds of this future conflict have already been sown and are starting to sprout.

**Europe’s Next Threat** In last month’s *Trumpet* we brought readers up to date on two epic trends to watch: the swell of Islamic terrorism—which Iran is largely behind; and Europe’s, specifically the Vatican’s, response to that menace. What we are witnessing, as we said, is the beginning stages of another Medi-

eval-style religious crusade between Catholicism and Islam.

Surely Europe is aware of this gathering storm. It appears its leaders are simply combatting their enemies in priority order—America first.

Iran is sure to be next on the list. The religion it represents has simply become one of the most contentious issues in Continental politics today. Several political parties are incorporating anti-immigrant (read anti-Muslim) policies into their platforms, and are reaping greater support as a result.

In the last 30 years, the Continent has absorbed some 20 million Muslims—equal to the combined populations of Ireland, Belgium and Denmark. UN reports say that Muslim communities throughout Europe have grown over 100 percent in just a decade and a half. Islam has become Europe’s *second-largest religion.*

This transformation is widely seen within largely Catholic and secular European society as a crisis. In Germany, for example, a surge in the construction of mosques is causing widespread concern and fear, with them being seen as “caldrons of radicalism instead of places of worship” (*Los Angeles Times*, March 21, 2004). From 2002 to 2003, the number of traditional mosques in Germany nearly doubled—from 77 to 141—and as of March last year, another 154 mosques and cultural centers were planned. “These new mosques will make Islam more visible, and jobless and angry Muslim men will go to them,” said Werner Mueller, a typical Berliner. “They can become places infiltrated by political Islam” (*ibid.*). In addition to these high-profile mosques with their distinguishing minarets, there are nearly 2,400 nondescript mosques scattered across Germany. The situation is similar in other Western European countries.

Meanwhile, in Holland there has been a fierce backlash against Muslims for the murder in November of Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh, who had directed a film considered by many as critical of Islam. A five-page letter pinned to his body called on Muslims to revolt against their “infidel enemies” in the West. The next day, a stunning 20,000 demonstrators turned out to denounce the killing, and a wave of anti-Muslim violence and arrests swept the country—the more than 20 incidents of vandalism or fires at Muslim sites within two weeks included the torching of an Islamic school and a mosque. “Dutch attitudes toward Mus-



lims immediately and dramatically hardened,” wrote commentator Daniel Pipes. “A poll found 40 percent of the population wanting the nearly million-strong Muslim community no longer to feel at home in the Netherlands. Double that number endorsed more stringent policies toward immigrants. *De Telegraaf*, a leading paper, published an editorial unimaginable before the Van Gogh murder calling for ‘a very public crackdown on extremist Muslim fanatics.’ Even left-wing politicians woke up to the need to speak ‘harsh truths’ about immigration, focusing on the disproportionate criminality of Muslims” (*New York Sun*, Nov. 16, 2004).

As Stratfor stated, “government inaction cannot last long, especially with the increasing popularity of far-right political parties ... frequent militant threats to make European streets ‘run with rivers of blood’ and the burning of mosques. ... Europe is nearing a turning point where it must decide how to handle the Continent’s Muslim population. ... Europeans might pride themselves on their acceptance of other cultures, but the his-

tory and racial makeup of Europe tells another story” (Dec. 2, 2004).

A historical comparison is telling. In its December 7 analysis of Angela Merkel’s anti-immigrant comments (see “From the Editor,” page 1), Stratfor made the following observation: “Germany in the 1930s had a minority Jewish population of around 500,000—just under 1 percent of the country’s total—that it blamed for all its troubles. Germany in 2004 has a foreign-born population of about 7 million (of whom an estimated 3 million are Muslim), which is around 9 percent of the country.”

The simple truth is, *Europe is waking up to the Islamic threat*. Surely this is not lost on the European leadership that is advancing the cause of Iran—the number-one state sponsor of Islamic terrorism. You can be sure that, while Europe’s leaders are content today to paint America as the true enemy of the Iranians—and walk the fence while allowing Tehran to grow in strength—they are at the same time contemplating their next move, and how best to deal with Iran

when the time comes to do so.

Thus we recognize the twisted web of politics being spun by this HATE TRIANGLE—America, Europe and Iran. We can clearly see how it flawlessly advances the fulfillment of scriptural prophecy. Anglo-America is being isolated; the king of the south is solidifying its power position; Europe—the biblical “king of the north”—is cannily pulling the strings, setting itself up to ultimately emerge on top.

And above all, we see the early development of the coming crusade described in Daniel 11:40: “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.” The revived “holy” European empire will exhibit none of its present feebleness in dealing with Iran; it will strike hard and fast—utterly annihilating the enemy it helped to create.

Watch as it builds to that climax. Then marvel at the mind of the Divine Originator of these prophecies—and tremble at His word. ■

## Islam in Europe: All the Rage

**T**HERE IS A GROWING concern in Western Europe that Islamic militants are targeting specific individuals to be killed, according to Stratfor, quoting sources close to the European intelligence community. The slaying of Theo van Gogh, they say, “could mark the beginning of a wave of attacks against Jews and critics of Islam. ... In other words, a wide-reaching security problem could be brewing in Western Europe” (Nov. 19, 2004).

The crackdown on Islamist militants in the Netherlands following Van Gogh’s death uncovered a plot to assassinate several Dutch and European politicians, including European Commission President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, the mayor of Amsterdam, and Dutch members of parliament who had been critical of Islam.

Dutch politician Geert Wilders, who has for some time been calling for radical mosques in Amsterdam to be closed because of terrorist connections, is in semi-



**IN HIDING**  
Geert Wilders gets death threats.

hiding after being warned he could be the next victim after Van Gogh. In Belgium, Senator Mimount Bousakla, whose own parents are Muslim, is under police protection after being threatened with death by a Muslim fanatic. Her “crime”? She criticized Belgium’s Muslim Executive for not condemning the Van Gogh

murder. Dutch MP Ayaan Hirsi Ali, an ex-Muslim from Somalia, similarly had to go underground because she had helped Van Gogh produce his film critical of Islam’s treatment of women.

Stratfor speculates that small independent jihadists in Europe such as the Dutch group behind Van Gogh’s murder “could begin to consolidate and grow to the level of much larger and more dangerous entities” (Nov. 11, 2004). The danger is compounded by the groundswell of potential support from the Muslim community. In the Netherlands, for example, opinion polls indicate that as many as 50,000 young Muslim men “hold radical Islamist views, supporting suicide bombers and al Qaeda” (*Daily Mail*, London, Nov. 6, 2004).

The *Mail* stated that “Already a backlash is apparent, with grumbles turning to outright hostility and

violence” (ibid.). This plays precisely into the radicals’ aims. “[T]his will lead to radicals being able to secure the solidarity of the Muslim masses,” said Gilles Kepel, author of *The War for Muslim Minds*.

Culture clashes between Muslim immigrants and the local populace are already a problem in Europe, and many sources acknowledge the potential for widespread tit-for-tat violence across the Continent. “Firebombing of mosques, attacks against Muslim religious leaders and the rise of far-right, anti-immigration parties already are occurring. ... The potential for those activities to grow into a prolonged campaign of violence and repression—and the inevitable Muslim backlash against such a campaign—is certainly in place, and could well lead to a Europe-wide struggle between two cultures” (Stratfor, Dec. 2, 2004).



**DUTY OF THE FAITHFUL**

A poster in an Iraqi Shiite mosque reminds members to get out and vote in the national elections on January 30.

# Election Rigging, Iran Style

BY JOEL HILLIKER

**G**ETTING RID OF SADDAM HUSSEIN was the hard part. The United States kindly took care of that. Getting a Shiite-dominated government to replace Saddam should be the easy part. After all, democratic elections in a country where almost two thirds of the population is Shiite should guarantee a Shiite-controlled government.

Still, Iran isn't satisfied to just sit back and assume it's a done deal. It is not taking any chances. Too much is at stake.

This much was recently acknowledged by Iraq's current non-Shiite leadership and by Jordan. On Dec. 7, 2004, the leaders of Iraq and Jordan warned that "Iran is trying to influence the Iraqi elections scheduled for January 30 to create an Islamic government that would dramatically shift the geopolitical balance between Shiite and Sunni Muslims in the Middle East" (*Washington Post*, Dec. 8, 2004; emphasis mine). Iran is going about this task in several ways—and in perfect conformity with its tactics over recent years.

The stunning thing is its brazenness. Iran is obviously feeling pretty confident of its position in the region—and even of its bargaining power with the rest of the world. There has been no shortage of publicity about Tehran's blatant manipulation of world powers with regard to its nuclear weapons program. Closer to home, Iran's neighbors are getting edgy over the alarming self-assurance Tehran is

displaying. Stratfor related how "Egypt—and much of the Sunni Arab Middle East—is uncomfortable with the rather rapid emergence of Iran as a regional power" (Dec. 9, 2004). Iran's emergence from the geopolitical background (which has been prophesied for years by this magazine, we might add) "is a change in the status quo that Cairo is not prepared for. At least not yet" (ibid.).

The whole world, it seems, recognizes that Iran is shaping a new Middle East to its liking.

Its current project is the creation of an Iran-friendly Iraqi government—by orchestrating an electoral win for the Shiites in Iraq's first nationwide elections for decades.

On the political scene, according to Iraqi interim President Ghazi al-Yawar, Iran is directly channeling "huge amounts of money" into the Shiite political campaign and coaching candidates and political parties sympathetic to Iran. Also interesting is the fact that, according to Iraqi TV, provision has been made for Iraqis abroad to vote—many of whom are in Iran.

In an effort to cultivate pro-Iranian sentiment among Iraqis, Iran is reportedly paying salaries and granting welfare payments to unemployed Iraqis.

At the grassroots level, the Iranian-supported Shiite clergy is galvanizing the Shiite population to come out in force and vote this month (*Washington Post*, Dec. 7, 2004). This "unprecedented mobilization of the Shiite majority population" is being achieved through "a vast array of mosques, community centers, foundations and networks of

hundreds of prayer leaders, students and allied laypeople" (ibid.). The message being distributed via leaflets, posters and banners is that voting in Iraq's elections is "a religious and national duty." The subject of sermons for weeks has been: "Voting is obligatory" (ibid.).

On top of all this, Iran is actually supplying Shiite voters to supplement the already-majority Iraqi Shiites. According to Jordanian King Abdullah, the Iranian government is encouraging Iranians to cross the border into Iraq en masse; reportedly, Iraq has already assimilated over a million of them! (ibid., Dec. 8, 2004).

In the face of all this evidence, Jordan's king has stated the obvious: Iran is using these tactics "to achieve a government that is very pro-Iran" (ibid.).

Of course, the Iranians are vehemently denying these charges, but with their track record of such denials in matters of foreign policy, their honesty can hardly be relied upon. Yawar accurately states that "time is proving, and the situation is proving, beyond any doubt, that Iran has very obvious interference in our business—a lot of money, a lot of intelligence activities and almost interfering daily ... especially in the southeast side of Iraq" (Agence France Presse, Dec. 8, 2004).

Just how important to Tehran is an "Iran-friendly" Iraqi government? What is at stake?

King Abdullah warns that a pro-Iranian government could completely overturn the balance of power between the two primary Islamic sects in the region by creating a "crescent" of Shiite governments stretching from Iran through Iraq and Syria into Lebanon. No small development—and certainly within the realm of probability in the very near term!

Iraq's non-Shiite component knows what Iran is up to. Jordan knows it. Egypt knows it. It is no secret! Didn't the U.S. go into the Middle East partly to put pressure on the world's prime sponsor of terror? Is that working?

As Stratfor says, "[T]he winds of change in the Middle East are blowing in favor of Iran's rise to power" (op. cit.). WATCH IRAN. It will not stop with Iraq. It will not stop with the establishment of an "Islamic crescent." In fact, it will not stop until it has triggered a succession of events that will result in World War III.

With reporting by DONNA GRIEVES





## HEARTS OF STONE

Turkey's prime minister walks the halls of Rome's City Hall the same day that EU leaders gather in another room of the building to sign their new constitution.

# Outside Closed Doors

Turkey's earnest—and doomed—odyssey for European brotherhood

BY PHILIP NICE

**T**URKISH LAWYERS ARE VERY BUSY people. Even veteran attorneys have been ordering takeout and spending late nights at the office the past couple of years as they pour over stacks of new laws that have snowed the judiciary under. This blizzard of new legislation has filled the legal system with numerous new courts, hundreds of new laws and changes to one third of the constitution. The heavy-handed state security court has been abolished along with the death penalty in favor of more Western-style intellectual property, consumer, juvenile and family courts. Law enforcement powers have been limited, and laws concerning everything from police brutality to the press to industrial pollution to commercial transactions have been revamped.

The definitions of treason and crimes concerning dissent against the state, along with the associated criminal penalties, have been relaxed, allowing for more democratic free speech.

Why all these changes? Turkey's legal enlightenment is an entire nation bending over backward trying to add a European Union membership card to its wallet.

It's surprising Turkey's back hasn't long since snapped—it's been bending for decades. In the first part of the 20th century, Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish republic, instituted a blitz of reforms virtually unmatched in history as he swayed the Turkish people to "turn toward Europe," to quote one of his most famous admonitions. He replaced the sultanate with the presidency and modernized and secularized the nation, removing Islam as the state religion and westernizing everything from law to dress to the calendar to the alphabet.

More recently, Turkey has reined in some of its human-rights problems, which have lingered for decades. The carrot of EU membership has been enough to take a country that was home to political killings, torture and executions only a decade ago and bring it to the point where, on Oct. 6, 2004, the European Commission declared Turkey had "sufficiently fulfilled the political criteria" to open accession talks with the EU.

There's a reason this way-station nation halfway between the West and the Middle East has had to do so much bend-

ing. For as long as Turkey has knocked on the European door, the Continentals have turned a deaf ear.

For over a century, Turkey has been called "Europe's sick man." In spite of its growth potential, this crossroads country has a per capita income still hovering at only \$6,700. Many Europeans fear that taking on a nation of 69 million Turks with an exploding population and demands for member subsidies will strain the Union's finances.

Critics of Turkish membership add that the 3 million Turks who work in Europe have not integrated with their surrogate countries. They also point out that Turkey is uncomfortably close to one of the most unstable regions in the world and might expose Europe to weapons and drug trafficking.

The *real* snag, however, is *religion*. Turkey is almost completely Islamic. And many Europeans have not forgotten the Ottoman Empire, referred to by some history books as the "scourge of Christendom."

"The fundamental issue," says Franck Fregosi of the Robert Schuman University in Strasbourg, France, "is whether a Muslim country has a place in Europe. Everybody is trying to sidestep this" (*Washington Times*, Dec. 5, 2004).

Everybody has been. German opposition leaders Edmund Stoiber of the Christian Social Union party and Angela Merkel of the Christian Democratic

See **TURKEY** page 31 ▶

# The Truth About RELIGION IN EUROPE

Europe has modernized and shed its religious roots—or so we're led to believe. There is grave danger in believing this. You need to know why!

BY RYAN MALONE



## OLD FAITHFUL

The Notre Dame cathedral; religion in Europe is neither a young nor an impotent factor in the Continental lifestyle.

**S**ECULAR THOUGHT PREVAILS in Europe. Why would anyone doubt that? It seems you can easily prove it.

First, consider the debate among European Union leaders about the EU draft constitution. One of the biggest issues? Whether religion should be mentioned in the text. On one end, the consensus was **ABSOLUTELY NOT**. Others opposed this, saying the Continent's "Christian heritage" had to be cited. Some, taking the middle ground, said the treaty should at least *mention* God.

Secularists prevailed. The final text of the constitution, signed by EU leaders this past October, makes no mention of Christianity or God.

Then, in the fall of 2004, shortly after the European Commission president selected his top aides, EU legislators questioned the proposed Italian com-

missioner, Rocco Buttiglione. Why? He was *too religious*. A friend of the pope, Buttiglione holds Catholic views on homosexuality, marriage and the role of women that were considered too extreme for the Union's government.

Secularists prevailed. Buttiglione was forced to step down.

Third, legislators in Europe said religious symbols (like headscarves) should be banned in public schools to keep church and state separate.

Secularists prevailed. In France and Germany, religious apparel is banned for both students and teachers—mostly affecting Muslim women, and even some Catholic nuns who work in public schools.

Even the most historically Catholic countries seem to be secularizing. Spain is trying to pass legislation legalizing homosexual marriage, hastening divorces,

facilitating abortions and even ending the obligatory religious instruction in public schools. One of Italy's courts barred the display of the crucifix in public school classrooms.

Are secularists prevailing in Europe? Are Europeans truly shedding their religious history? Is Europe "post-Christian," as one analyst declared?

The answer: not exactly. Though the instances stated above make secularism worth noting, most of the assumptions about religion's decline in Europe are based on false premises. As the cliché goes, things are not always what they seem. But the world is buying into these falsehoods—and it could lull us into *dangerous thinking* about Europe, especially if we consider its bloody history.

Do not be duped! It's time to debunk the myths concerning religion and secularism in Europe!



## MYTH #1 Europe is not as religious as America.

STATISTICS SEEM TO SHOW PLAINLY THAT EUROPE IS QUITE secular when compared with America.

In Europe's "Bible belt"—heavily Catholic countries like Italy and Poland—only a third of citizens say that religion is very important to them. In Germany, it's 21 percent. In Western Europe, only half the population even goes to church. Fewer than 10 percent of citizens in Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark attend church services at least once a month.

By contrast, 82 percent of Americans say God is important to them; 48 percent believe the U.S. has special protec-

**Though America's South can boast a church building on about every street corner, it's in Europe where the cathedrals shape the skyline: These eerie, centuries-old buildings *are* the skyscrapers.**

tion from God. Nearly half of Americans say they go to church every week.

And then there's the president—voted for by about three quarters of conservative Christians—who ends his speeches with "God bless America." As the undoubtedly embittered Buttiglione said about this, "It's likely that in the European Parliament, the U.S. president would be considered unfit for his job on account of his religious beliefs. Even worse, for Europe's legislators, would be that he's not ashamed to express those beliefs so clearly and so publicly" (*Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 10, 2004).

But taking stats at face value is faulty, as any statistician or poll analyst would tell you. This is especially true when it comes to comparing religion on these two continents. These studies do not show the DEPTH of such religious behavior. At the *Trumpet*, we have always taken exception to statistics about religion in America, pointing out that the Bible pegs America as a "hypocritical nation" (Isaiah 10:6). America is not as "religious" as IT SAYS IT IS! (see article, page 22). As we demonstrated in last month's issue, the majority of Americans are NOT morally conservative, as the media's coverage of the presidential election would lead us to assume.

Therefore, to say Europe is not as religious as America is a fallacy. To say Europe is not as religious as America *says* America is—that would be far more accurate.

Let's put statistics aside for a moment and consider these



facts about Europe—comparing them with American culture.

Though America's South can boast a church building on about every street corner, it's in Europe where the cathedrals shape the skyline: These eerie, centuries-old buildings *are* the skyscrapers. Even Poland's atheist president said, "The most significant feature of every town and city in Europe is either a cathedral or a church" (*Frontline*, Jan. 17-30, 2004).

Spain's public schools have mandatory religious instruction up to three hours a week. In Germany, citizens pay a "church tax" on their wages, which funds its churches—a sort of government-imposed tithing system. Can you fathom that happening in the U.S.? Or imagine an American political party with a religious persuasion as part of its name. In Germany, you have the Christian Democratic Union and the Christian Social Union.

Consider: The very points used to prove how non-religious Europe is actually attest to its religiousness. That there even were so many voices in Europe pushing for the inclusion of God or Christianity in the constitution shows a sentiment among Europeans that would never enter American politics to the same degree. Imagine Congressmen bickering about whether Christianity should be mentioned by name in the U.S. Constitution? And truth is, the constitution—though already signed by EU leaders—must be ratified by each nation of the 25-member union in order to come into effect. With Christianity missing from the preamble, this is highly unlikely. Last month, for example, over a million Europeans, claiming to represent most states in the Union, delivered a petition to their EU leaders demanding that the constitution be changed to recognize Christianity. Members of the European Parliament voted to back the request.

Likening European religion to American is like the old apples-and-oranges comparison. As *Asia Times* observed, "Americans leave a church when it suits them, build a new one when the whim strikes them ..." This, as the writer pointed out, "CONFOUNDS THE EUROPEANS, whose clerics are conversant with *centuries* of doctrine" (Nov. 30, 2004; emphasis mine throughout). Later, it stated, "Within the European frame of reference, there is no such thing as American Christendom—no centuries-old schools of theology, no tithes, no livings, no church taxes, no establishment—there is only Christianity .... It does not resemble what Europeans refer to by the word *religion*."

## MYTH #2 Democratic governments always represent the majority opinion of their peoples.

EUROPE'S SECULARISM IS MOST PREVALENT among its *governments*—its politicians. It's easy to assume—given the democratic nature of these governments—that this is a fair representation of the *population's* sentiments about religion. This is a false assumption.

Governments, in fact, do NOT always represent the popular position. Take the

Iraq war for example: Polls showed that several of the democratic governments that supported the U.S.-led coalition represented populations with majorities opposed to the war.

Of the democratic nations, European governments are most blamed for being out of touch with the populace. This is especially true when it comes to the su-

pranational European Union. Dig a little into EU politics, and it won't take long to find that EU legislators are largely unaccountable to their constituents (see "Europe's True Nature Exposed" in our August 2004 issue). United Press International stated that France's "*current leadership has ... arm-twisted the rest of Europe* to accept a constitution that

does not include any reference to God or Christianity” (Dec. 7, 2004).

So, to what extent the secularist approach of some European governments actually represents the religious sentiment of its citizens cannot simply be assumed. It is fallacious to link the two directly.

There is, in fact, a deep religious undercurrent rising among Europeans.

The scene of a May 2003 religious rally in Germany is not an uncommon sight. Ecumenical Church Day in Berlin that year actually lasted five days, with more than 200,000 attendants gathering in front of the Reichstag (Germany’s government building) for the largest ecumenical service ever. The celebration included passing bowls of water from the Reichstag’s fountain to symbolize baptism, and hymn singing, along with readings in Polish, Arabic and Swahili.

After Buttiglione’s resignation, “Almost overnight, the old Continent’s disenfranchised Christians—both Catholic and Protestant—rallied around Buttiglione. Instantly, he became the head of a dynamic new all-Christian mass movement in Europe” (ibid.).

In Germany, “the new Christian right is in the midst of forming,” according to Richard Ziegert, an expert monitoring religious sects there (*Deutsche Welle*, Nov. 11, 2004). Ziegert estimates that there are about 250,000 radical Christians in Germany. He even suspected that Christians might get more involved in politics based

on their perspective of how religion factored into the U.S. presidential race.

A June 16, 2003, *Time International* article contended that religion in Europe was not in decline, but rather just under the surface—and that it was rising. “Faith is more private, more personal, which means it may be harder to find and often more at odds with *traditional* Christianity. But in some places—among immigrants and youth—it is thriving and even growing.”

Some Europeans attribute the decrease in church attendance and closing of churches to “God going private”—showing a rise in individual or independent Christians in Europe. One French Orthodox theologian said, “People are choosing to fend for themselves” (ibid.).

The truth is, Christianity is inextricable from Europe! Samuel P. Huntington, in *The Clash of Civilizations*, asked where Europe’s eastern boundary was (as the other three sides are delineated by huge bodies of water). “The most compelling and pervasive answer to these questions is provided by the GREAT HISTORICAL LINE that has existed for centuries separating Western Christian peoples from Muslim and Orthodox peoples. This line dates back to the division of the Roman Empire in the fourth century and to the creation of the Holy Roman Empire in the 10th century. ... Europe ends where Western Christianity ends and Islam and Orthodoxy begin.”

## MYTH #4 Europe has matured out of its religious past and into a permanently secular future.

EUROPEAN HISTORY AND CULTURE IS A pendulum—swaying back and forth between two great extremes: the spiritual-mystical-religious side, and the rational-scientific-academic side. During the Medieval period, Europe was dominated by the Holy Roman Empire. In the Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation weakened Catholicism’s stranglehold on Europe, and the Continent saw a period of secular achievement—an age of rationalism. Then came the Baroque era, which featured absolute monarchies with divine mandates. After this, the pendulum swung back to generate the ideals of the Enlightenment. Europe turned away from these philosophies in the 19th century, until it returned to *rational thought* at the turn of the 20th century following the impact of Darwin, Freud and Nietzsche—individuals who



REUTERS

**POLICY FROM ON HIGH**  
Some Eurocrats, like Giscard, right, have made commitments to the Vatican.

## MYTH #3 Religion has little influence on European politics.

THOUGH WE’VE ESTABLISHED THAT THE GOVERNMENTS are largely more secular than their populations, we must also consider the amount of influence the Vatican exercises over Europe—whether on governments directly or through its influence *over the citizens* that hold the power to change those governments.

Have we forgotten the history of Europe as a Catholic-dominated empire? European leaders go so far as to say they are recreating the Roman Empire, but what we see building is a resurrection of the age-old *Holy Roman Empire* (*holy* denoting a church-led state, not denoting moral worth or purity), which goes all the way back to Charlemagne.

And now, as leaders toil to unify so diverse a continent, the only common thread is its RELIGIOUS HERITAGE. As the pope has said, Europe was “born from a meeting of diverse cultures bearing the Christian message” ([www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com), Oct. 31, 2003).

Former European Commissioner Romano Prodi noted back in 2003, “As we build the new, enlarged Europe, we cannot marginalize religions and the movements that have played a part in European integration and Europe’s cultural development and that are showing renewed interest and

desire for dialogue with the Union’s institutions.”

David N. Samuel, author of *European Union and the Roman Catholic Influence in Britain*, wrote, “There is a natural affinity between the powerful state and the Roman Catholic theocratic ideal. The Church of Rome makes no bones about calling on its members to vote in a particular way, as it did in the Italian elections of 1992.”

Even in January 2003, the Vatican released a document containing guidelines on Catholicism’s position on key political issues (i.e. abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage) as a prod on Catholic politicians to vote for legislation in line with certain “non-negotiable ethical principles.” According to the Associated Press release, “The Vatican stressed that it wasn’t trying to dictate policy or interfere in matters of state, but to ‘instruct and illuminate’ Catholic political leaders” (Jan. 16, 2003). Yes—but in some cases, some Catholic leaders have threatened to deny communion to politicians who don’t vote in line with Catholic teaching.



introduced the theory of evolution and German rationalism.

The 20th century was largely a secular period. Modernization was considered contradictory to spiritualism. But, as Dr. Huntington pointed out, that notion was challenged in the latter part of the 20th century. Islam is not being modernized, he argued—rather, *modernity is being Islamicized*. The same is happening in Judaism and Christianity—on every continent, in every country.

Even if Europe's secularism is as pronounced as the media would have us believe, know this: As is the case in Europe's history, the pendulum will not stay on that side for long.

What will send Europe swinging back to spiritualism? What will unite Europeans under the Vatican? Could it be the threat from another fundamentalist religious movement?

Has this not already begun to happen? Since the brutal murder of Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh by an Islamic extremist, Europeans have been up in arms about their relationship with Muslims. "Clashes between a traditionally white,



VAN GOGH

Christian Europe and the increasing tide of Arabs and Muslims are heating up, with several countries becoming veritable powder kegs" (Stratfor, Dec. 2, 2004).

It should therefore be no surprise that Turkey's proposed EU membership has been so hotly contested. Turkey is willing to compromise on seemingly anything in order to get in—but Europe's movers and shakers have been saying *no* since 1963! Why? As several key EU and Vatican leaders have said in not so many words, a Muslim nation doesn't belong in a Christian union. As Huntington states, "The *identification of Europe with Western Christendom* provides a clear criterion for the admission of new members to Western organizations."

Would a secular, non-spiritual society—as we are told Europe is—be so concerned about the presence of non-Christian elements in its midst?

And the headscarf ban that affects Muslim women, does that not reveal more a phobia against *non-Christian* religion than against religion in general?

Watch for Islam's aggravation of Europe to lead to a furious revival of Catholicism on the Continent!



## THE MYSTERY THAT DECODES MYSTERIES

The beast of Revelation, though seemingly cryptic, actually unravels many other prophecies.

**Prophesied Future of Religion in Europe**  
Europeans will soon realize that the only way to find security from the radically religious elements to their southeast—and to unify their Continent—is under the mighty hand of the Vatican.

*Plain Truth* magazine founder Herbert W. Armstrong said, "The nations of Europe are HUNGRY for full political union. But they do not know how to bring it about. Bible prophecy says IT WILL HAPPEN. ... Only a STRONG AUTHORITY, one all European nations could look to, can achieve it. The pope could be that authority. *It would become a Roman Catholic union of nations, combining church and state*" (coworker letter, Oct. 25, 1973).

A bold prophecy! How could Mr. Armstrong be so sure? History is one guide, but even more sure than that is God's Word—foretelling thousands of years ago the fate of Europe and what part religion would play.

In Revelation 13:1-10, the Apostle John relates a vision of a treacherous beast emerging from the sea. We have proven that this beast is a united Europe, a union of 10 nations or 10 groups of nations under one dictator. Herbert Armstrong's eye-opening booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* will explain this to you (it is free of charge).

In verses 11-18, John writes of another beast, which had "two horns LIKE A LAMB, AND HE SPAKE AS A DRAGON" (verse 11).

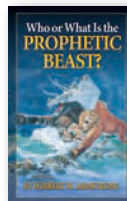
Mr. Armstrong proved, using this and other scriptures, that Revelation 13 shows the two sides of a formidable global power—one, the political side; the other, the religious side. The second beast is a powerful RELIGION that will be at the helm of the first beast! (verses 12, 15). Other scriptures note a woman (biblical imagery for a church) riding—or steering—this beast (as our literature explains).

Notice the power and charisma of this coming religious leader: "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh great come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast ..." (verses 13-14). People will worship this man for the supernatural wonders he will perform.

Europe will experience a dramatic religious revival very soon! Religion is Europe's future! And sadly, like the Holy Roman Empire before it, when religion radically grips Europe, it will bring unprecedented destruction—this time upon the entire Earth!

The religious undercurrent in Europe, being aggravated by radical Islam, will ultimately affect your life in a *direct way*! It will be a time of religious persecution unlike any other (Revelation 13:15-18; 17:6). But God promises to protect those who obey Him—who practice TRUE religion.

With reporting by SARAH LEAP



FREE UPON REQUEST

# Christ and a Cappuccino

American churchianity: All style and no substance?

BY PHILIP NICE

THE UNITED STATES APPEARS TO be one of the most religious nations in the democratic, industrialized First World. Developing countries have high percentages of “religious” citizens, but generally, those percentages drop as the countries develop and become wealthier, with the richest nations being the most secular. Most comparable countries, such as France, Germany and Great Britain, have regular church attendances at 5 to 15 percent. The U.S., however, has twice the percentage of regular church-goers per week: 30 to 32 percent.

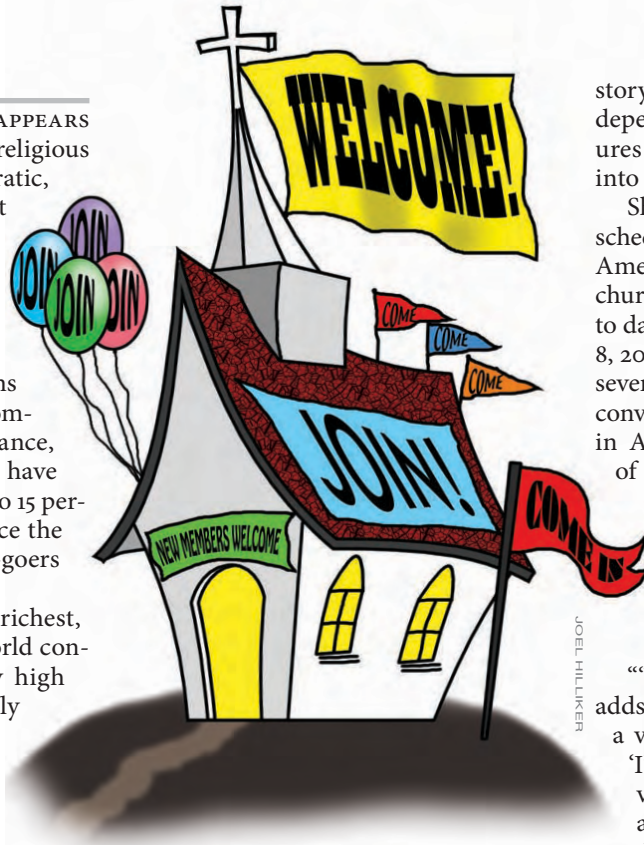
So it is remarkable that the richest, most advanced nation in the world continues to have a comparatively high percentage of religious, chiefly “Christian” citizens.

But what *about* American religion? What *about* its Christianity? Unfortunately, America’s religious reservoir is a mile wide, but only an inch deep. And it’s only getting shallower.

**This Sunday’s Message** in Yourtown, U.S.A., increasingly isn’t the typical program of hymns, altar calls and an hour-long lecture anymore. Chances are, your local church is moving away from the traditional format in an attempt to fill emptying pews.

To compensate for declining popularity, churches have resorted to non-traditional measures that are compromising what depth and influence on their members’ behavior they once had.

Many service times, for instance, are moving from their traditional Sunday-morning slot to more “contemporary” (read *convenient*) times. One example from the *Christian Science Monitor* provides a stark example of religious compromise: “As South Church in Andover, Mass., was debating when to hold an alternative worship service, the question



wasn’t which day is holy. Instead it was: *When do people have nothing else to do?* A market survey gave them an answer: 5 p.m., Saturday. ... With sports leagues and other things competing for week-end time, [one churchgoer] says, ‘there’s nothing sacred about Sunday morning anymore’” (March 29, 2002).

But the Aug. 8, 2000, edition brought out perhaps an even more glaring example of Christian compromise: At the Fellowship of Las Colinas in Texas, you can count on services ending in time for the *real* Sunday spiritual experience: the Dallas Cowboys football game, which is broadcast on a big screen outside the church as part of the congregational fellowship.

Many other traditional observances are being cut and pasted from their traditional times as a matter of convenience. The Catholic “Ascension feast,” the Presbyterian “Good Friday” and the United Methodist recounting of “the passion”

story have all become subject to change, depending on whether attendance figures warrant lumping these observances into the more convenient Sunday slot.

Shuffling service and observance schedules is not the only indicator of American Christian compromise. Many churches are using near-last-ditch tactics to darken their doorways. The same Aug. 8, 2000, edition of the *Monitor* alluded to several instances ranging from the unconventional to the bizarre: One minister in Arkansas instituted his own version of “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire,”

with two worshipers/contestants winning \$1,000 cash prizes. The same minister also brought tigers and elephants to the building for the church’s Christmas pageant in order to “keep things visual.”

“When you have variety in a church, it adds to the experience,” says Ann Weeks, a visitor to First Assembly of God .... ‘I’m looking for a church that offers various elements—like the Millionaire game. It’s not so much about the denomination, but what I am getting out of the service .... I certainly don’t want to be bored when I am sitting in a pew’” (ibid.).

Other examples of “merchandising the gospel” include sending bread and fruit baskets to visitors following their visits, and offering newcomers gift certificates to local restaurants. In an even more blatant display of bribery, one minister cruises the streets in poor areas of Bryan, Tex., in a blue bus with a sign advertising, “We will pay you \$10 to come to church on our bus.”

The religion circus at many congregations—particularly monolithic “mega-churches” of over 1,000 weekly attendees—comes complete with special effects and rock music, with a non-indicting, doctrineless “sermon” sideshow delivered by a charismatic speaker—all of which can be enjoyed over an iced latte and pastry from the church coffee bar and food court just down the hall. Supplementing this three-ring spectacle are athletic leagues and



tournaments, clubs, parties and advertising gimmicks designed to bolster numbers and, as the ultimate goal, get more people to simply say the so-called magic words: "I believe in Jesus Christ." It's not the substance that so many churchgoers are looking for, it's the style.

"We are not organized religion, we're disorganized religion," says Linda Skinner, associate pastor of a Redmond, Wash., megachurch equipped with a drum set, a video screen, and a baptismal pool with a man-made waterfall and a glass wall between it and the sanctuary. "We say we major on the majors and minor on the minors," Skinner continues, emphasizing only two "majors." "There are some things specifically in the Bible that are major: Jesus is the Son of God. He died on the cross so we may have forgiveness of our sins. But all the other things ... we say are the minor things we can all disagree on" (*USA Today*, March 7, 2002).

**By Their Fruits You Shall Know Them** This "religion lite" approach to Christianity seems harmless enough, though it affords non-religious and liberal critics plenty of ammunition. But America's paper-thin churchianity has consequences much greater.

Christian teens, some of the most pliable minds in the shallow, "accessible" religion trend, are the most affected by this movement. "[W]hile they may profess the faith and indeed love Jesus, the vast majority of Christian teenagers in this country actually hold beliefs fundamentally antithetical to the creed," writes Dale Buss for the *Wall Street Journal* (July 9, 2004). According to data cited in the article from the Barna Research Group, a widely acknowledged source for U.S. Christian statistics, about one third of American teenagers claim they are "born again," 88 percent say they are Christians and 60 percent believe the Bible is "totally accurate in all of its teachings." However, slightly more than half of those teens believe Jesus committed sins while on Earth, and about two thirds say that Satan is a *symbol* of evil and not a living being. Just 6 percent of teens believe that there are moral absolutes, and only 9 percent of "born again" teens believe that moral truth is absolute. In a different survey, conducted a few years ago, 91 percent of so-called born-again teens stated that there is no such thing as absolute truth—compared to 52 percent in 1992 (*ibid.*).

"Christian," but in name only.

The faith farce continues daily, with headlines proclaiming increasingly repugnant examples of impotent religion.

In June, a group called the "One" organization released a "new, fresh and adventurous" Bible that, rather than condemning fornicators and homosexuals and encouraging marriage between men and women, encourages people to have sex with "a regular partner."

One of the most telling signs of Christianity's impotence is its lack of impact on Christians' actual choices and behavior. Studies by secular and re-

**AMERICA'S CHURCH ATTENDANCE is dropping.** According to a 2001 American Religious Identification Survey study, Christianity—which had held stable for years as the religion of American adults at approximately 87 percent—**dropped 10 percentage points from 1990 to 2001.** The number of people who said they had **no religion whatsoever more than doubled** from 1990 to 2001, with 29.4 million claiming no faith in 2001.

ligious statistical organizations, including the Barna group, have found that an individual's faith has little to do with the behavior of that person. According to a variety of researchers, most Christians' conduct is indistinguishable from that of the adherents of other faiths in most areas, including divorce and adultery.

**Fundamental Issues** Why the hypocrisy in 21st-century religion? Why do "Christian" teens believe Christ sinned and absolute truth does not exist? Why are "Christian" congregations entrusting their spiritual care to unrepentant homosexual pastors? Why are churches focusing less on doctrine and the difference between right and wrong, and more on doughnuts, rock bands and slick advertising? The truth lies in American religion's fundamental flaw.

Today's American churchianity is the degenerating result of its REFUSAL to *obey* God. Though many Christian churches and organizations have outspokenly opposed the removal of scriptural monuments and plaques from public buildings, those same groups teach their members that *those same Commandments*, particularly the fourth, were done away with by Christ at His first coming. Most of the tenets these organizations *do* abide by have been derived not from Scripture but from human tradition and the votes of men and women. Sunday observance

itself, for example, is a long-time tradition instituted by the Catholic Church that Abraham, Moses, John, Jesus and Paul took no part in. They taught that the Sabbath was to be kept holy—a day in which man is to do no servile work nor his own pleasure but is to worship God (Exodus 16:4-5, 22-26; 20:8-11; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:1-2).

Mainstream religion's refusal to obey God has resulted in a toothless message of syrupy love about a God in heaven who wants you to be "good" and "accept Jesus"—a message without *purpose* and real *potential*, and certainly without credibility or legitimacy to a thinking mind.

No wonder the world is converting American Christianity rather than the other way around. Most of its traditional tenets (including Sunday observance, Christmas, Easter, weekly communion and the rejection of God's law) were forged at the hands of men who compromised with God's revealed truth, dooming imitation Christianity to the indefensible position in which it now finds itself.

Jesus Christ described this age-old human inclination when He was on Earth: "[I]n vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ... Full well ye reject the commandments of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:7, 9). This perfectly describes today's mainstream Christianity. We must recognize that there can be no *true* religion unless it is *based on God's law*—the Ten Commandments (the ninth of which is covered on page 28 of this issue)—and that a *true* Christian lives by EVERY word of God (Luke 4:4).

As we said in our January 2004 issue, it takes spiritual examination of God-given identifying signs to find true religion. Jesus Christ didn't just leave it up to us to sift through almost 34,000 Christian denominations and pick whatever felt best. There is such a thing as *pure religion* (James 1:27), and when it is placed before us, with all the signs Christ gives in His Word to identify it, God expects us to *act*. For an in-depth biblical examination of true religion and the Christ-given signs which identify it, request *Mystery of the Ages*, by Herbert Armstrong, and read Chapter 6, "Mystery of the Church." God expects us to "prove all things" from the Bible, and "hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Will we choose convenience, cash prizes, coffee bars and "keeping things visual," or will we choose *Christ*? ■

## Global Arms Race Heats Up

A HIGH-LEVEL PANEL on United Nations reform released a report last December recommending action to slow the spread of nuclear weapons. The report stated: “We are approaching a point at which the erosion of the nuclear regime could become irreversible, and result in a *cascade of proliferation*” (*Financial Times*, Nov. 30, 2004; emphasis ours).

In the post-9/11 age, terrorism is the number-one pretext used to accelerate big spending on nuclear weapons and delivery systems.

To take one example: Interfax News Agency reported that Russian President Vladimir Putin, citing international terrorism as one of the main threats to the stability of his nation, said that Russia was developing a unique type of nuclear missile and that his nation would “accomplish achievements in the nuclear sector which no other nuclear powers have” (Nov. 17, 2004). Additionally, by the end of November, Russia had successfully tested a modernized anti-ballistic missile system.

The Associated Press reported on Dec. 6, 2004, “Russia revealed [today] it was fitting its strategic bombers with cruise missiles capable of delivering a massive precision strike thousands of miles away ...”

These announcements, along with investment in a

Central Arms Procurement Agency, which is the resurrection of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System in conjunction with the Indian Space Research Organization, have placed Russia at the center of an emerging arms buildup.

Pakistan also surfaced from a period of arms docility when it successfully tested a new version of its short-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile in late November.

Watch for the cascade of nuclear proliferation—the number-one threat to human survival—to accelerate.

To learn more about where this arms buildup is heading, refer to the March-April 2003 article “Arming for Armageddon,” on issue archives at [www.theTrumpet.com](http://www.theTrumpet.com).



**3-2-1** A Russian soldier prepares for the training launch of a tactical missile.

## “Battle Groups” Approved

ON NOV. 21, 2004, European Union defense ministers agreed to create 13 “battle groups” to help Europe take on a more active role in hotspots around the world, primarily in UN-mandated missions.

“The European Union has entered a new stage in the process of strengthening military capabilities,” read a statement from EU defense ministers ([www.EUobserver.com](http://www.EUobserver.com), Nov. 22, 2004).

These forces, to be operational by 2007, will be manned by 1,000-1,500 each in order to respond within 10 days of a unanimous decision from EU leaders.

Each group will have a force headquarters and will be headed by a “lead nation.” Troops from France, Italy, Spain and Britain will each form their own group, while the other nine will be formed by a blend of countries’ troops—including some of each of the above-mentioned countries.

Some analysts have tried to dismiss this latest development, since the forces comprise only about one third of the EU’s original goal. One think tank presumed that “they will be too small to do anything but act as an arm of UN or NATO operations” (Stratfor, Nov. 22, 2004). But growing discreetly and working under the umbrella of UN and NATO operations are typical of EU military enlargement, as we have documented in our free booklet *The Rising Beast*.

This endeavor to form battle groups will add to the rising power of the European Union. Plus, the



**BADGE** Italian soldiers represent the European forces (EUFOR).

EU continues to show a trend of giving its power to only a few key nations. This mentality was prophesied in the Bible, which prophesies that the final resurrection of the Roman Empire will be comprised of 10 nations or 10 groups of nations.

## “Nazi” Jews?

“SIX DECADES AFTER the mass extermination of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust by Nazi Germany, more than 50 percent of Germans believe that Israel’s present-day treatment of the Palestinians is similar to what the Nazis did to the Jews during World War II, a German survey released this weekend shows” (*Jerusalem Post*, Dec. 7, 2004).



**SS?** Israeli Defense Force



A U S T R A L I A

## With Asia or America?

AUSTRALIA IS FINDING itself in a unique and precarious position. As time goes on, this nation will have to make some crucial geopolitical decisions.

Due to its geographical location, Australia's foreign policy has constantly been a balancing act. The nation sits on the doorstep of the influential and rapidly coalescing region of Asia, yet its primary alliance has always been with its American cousin. The time is coming, however, when Australia will have to choose one or the other.

Recent events indicate which path Australia will eventually walk.

Last November, the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) met in Laos with China, Japan, South Korea and India, as well as Australia and New Zealand, to talk over free-trade agreements with these countries. As part of the pact, an accord with China was signed which will create a market of 2 billion people "to compete with Europe and the United States" (*Asia Times*, Dec. 1, 2004).

In a tremendously telling indication of where Australia stands in the region, every national leader at the conference also signed a non-aggression pact—the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation—except John Howard, prime minister of Australia.

Howard refused to sign this ASEAN treaty—or even consider it—because, as *Asia Times* reported, he was "worried about sending the wrong signal to the United States" (*ibid.*). Signing the treaty with ASEAN would have compromised Australia's security commitments under the ANZUS Treaty—the defense

agreement between Australia, New Zealand and the U.S.

In essence, Australia chose America over Asia.

Watch for Asia's response to Howard's decision. As *Asia Times* pointed out, it will not be conciliatory. "The proposed [free-trade agreement] with ASEAN will probably proceed whether or not Canberra accedes to the Treaty of Amity. But in failing to conform to Asian expectations, Australia will leave itself exposed to a far greater set of diplomatic pressures once the serious talk starts on a broader East Asian agreement. ASEAN leaders will find it difficult to justify Canberra's involvement in future diplomatic summits if it lacks a full commitment to the bloc's ideals ..." (*ibid.*; emphasis ours).

Though Asia relies heavily on Australia for raw materials and Australia relies heavily on Asia for investment and tourism, weightier policy matters will win out.

Asia is rising speedily. The region is uniting. America no longer dominates the area as it once did. Asian nations are increasingly pursuing anti-American foreign policies in their efforts to curb U.S. influence. This makes Australia uncomfortable.

Not only do current events indicate which side Australia will take, so does the Bible.

The U.S. and Australia really are cousins. America is descended from *Manasseh*, while Britain and its commonwealth daughters, including Australia, are descended from *Ephraim*—both sons of Joseph (Genesis 48). For more information on this connection please request your free copy of *The*



**ABSTAINING** Australia chose its relationship with the U.S. over signing the November ASEAN agreement in Laos.

*United States and Britain in Prophecy.* This book also explains how the power and

influence of America and the British peoples will be destroyed in the end time.

E C O N O M Y

## World Weaning Off Falling Dollar

IN THE LAST YEAR AND A half, world banks amassed \$1 trillion in foreign-exchange reserves, two thirds of which are in U.S. dollars. It took about a decade before that to build the previous \$1 trillion of reserves. This shows to what extent net-exporting countries have come to rely on America's debt-fed consumption and to what extent Americans are over-consuming relative to what they are producing.

Americans have to borrow about 75 percent of the entire world's surplus savings to keep spending at the current level!

This imbalance in the global economy cannot be sustained. The dollar's decline is a *symptom* of the market forces at work to correct the imbalance.

As a result, countries are losing confidence in the dollar. For years, this magazine has warned of foreign-capital flight. Now it's happening! Most of the foreign reserves in the central banks of China and Japan have long been held in U.S. Treasury bills, notes and bonds—but China's support for the dollar has slacked off significantly. In the first three quarters of 2004, China's foreign-currency reserves grew by over

\$111 billion, but only about 14 percent of it (\$16 billion) was in U.S. dollar holdings!

Meanwhile in Japan, a senior member of the ruling party warned the White House that it risks "enormous capital flight" if the dollar's weakness is not remedied.

At the same time, a senior official in Japan's Ministry of Finance stated that higher U.S. interest rates (to compensate for the dollar's decline) will be required to keep the money flowing in from Japan.

Also, the Bank of International Settlements has recently revealed that OPEC nations have shrunk their dollar deposits from 75 percent to less than 62 percent. The central banks of Russia and Indonesia have recently announced that they too are considering reducing their dollar reserves.

Continued massive U.S. deficits that exacerbate the imbalance in the global economy could ultimately cause the dollar to collapse and bond yields (interest rates) to rise rapidly—leading to a commensurate rise in mortgage rates and a housing bubble bust, followed by a dearth of consumer spending and a deep global recession.



## Pope Woos Orthodox Leader

POPE JOHN PAUL II HAS delivered the bones of two “saints” to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity, in hopes of reviving talks over unifying the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. The ceremony took place in Rome, on Nov. 27, 2004, before Bartholomew accompanied the bones back to Istanbul, the seat of Orthodox Christianity.

The bones came from two men recognized as Orthodox leaders by its 250 million members. The Vatican had held them since crusaders conquered Constantinople 800 years ago, an act that John Paul apologized for in 2001.

The ceremony was described by both leaders as a step toward unity. The pope said it was a way to “purify our wounded memories” and “strengthen our path to reconciliation.” Bartholomew said the event demonstrated that “no insurmountable problems exist in the Church of Christ” (*Washington Post*, Nov. 28, 2004).

John Paul’s determined efforts to reconcile with Orthodox Christianity demonstrate his desire to unify Europe under one religion, a goal he has made his primary mission since becoming pope.

The deeper significance behind the ceremony has to do with its *timing*: right during Ukraine’s deep division over its recent election. Ukraine, split between Catholicism and Orthodoxy, will soon have to decide whether it wants to align itself closer to an Orthodox Russia or to join the Roman Catholic nations of Western Europe in the

European Union. The pope no doubt timed the event in order to swing Ukrainian sentiment in the church’s favor.

Continue to watch as the pope maneuvers on the religious and political scene to achieve his goal of uniting Europe under the Catholic religion. Read “O Come, All Ye Faithful” on [www.theTrumpet.com](http://www.theTrumpet.com) under “Editor’s Choice” for more on this.



KISS John Paul II (right) greets Bartholomew.

## Islam: Schooling America

IS RADICAL ISLAM COURTING YOUNG Americans in public schools and universities? In many parts of the United States, that appears to be the case.

Some parents have been shocked by the assignments brought home by their children. In some public schools, students have been instructed to build models of a Muslim mosque, journal their thoughts about Islam as they imagine themselves marching off to fight in a holy war, or explain why people might be attracted to Islam.

These assignments were taken from a seventh-grade social studies textbook, *Across the Centuries*, published by Houghton Mifflin, which has substantial input from the Council on Islamic Education, and has aroused concern among other religious groups because of its blatant Islamic bias. While most textbooks carefully substitute references to “Jesus Christ” with “Jesus of Nazareth,” statements in this one convey Islamic religious beliefs as historical facts: For example, “The Quran is the final revelation, just as Muhammad is the final prophet” and “Ramadan is a holy time, because in this month Muhammad received his first message from Allah.” In general, Christianity is portrayed in a critical manner while Islam is emphasized positively. *Jihad*, the Muslim word for “sacred war,” is even defined in the book as a fight “to do one’s best to resist temptation and overcome evil.”

The Council on Islamic Education also provides its booklet *Muslim Holidays* to teachers. Four thousand nationwide have reportedly used it (Religion News Service; Oct. 6, 2004).

Nationwide, educators are using Muslim children to present public-school students with information and demonstrations on Islamic rites and beliefs surrounding Ramadan,

Islam’s fall holy month. Ramadan is making more appearances in public schools “thanks to a series of new teacher training initiatives, an increased fascination with Islam and the assurance that schools, if careful, can educate impressionable children about religion without crossing a constitutional line” (Religion News Service, op. cit.).

The Arabic Language Institute Foundation advocates making Arabic as prevalent in North American high schools as Spanish, German or French. “Knowledge of Arabic can then help the Western countries recover from the present moral decay”—because it is the language of the Koran, its website states ([www.hadi.org/ALIF](http://www.hadi.org/ALIF)).

The Koran places a responsibility on believers to spread the message of Islam, a concept called *dawa*. One Islamic network’s website (containing hundreds of *dawa* tips) points out, “Students are routinely exposed in their classroom to new information and opinions; hence they tend to be more receptive to new beliefs and ideas. Schools are therefore fertile grounds where the seeds of Islam can be sowed inside the hearts of non-Muslim students. Muslim students should take ample advantage of this opportunity and present to their schoolmates the beautiful beliefs of Islam” ([www.dawanet.com](http://www.dawanet.com)).

“This is a total perversion of the American public space, a blatant effort to suborn it to serve Islamic missionary purposes,” said Daniel Pipes, commentator on Middle Eastern issues (FrontPageMagazine.com, Nov. 24, 2004).

Muslim individuals and organizations, by “educating” youths about Islam and describing it in positive terms, want to erase Islam’s association with terrorism and create a culture that cozies up to it.





ISRAEL

## Political Chaos Eroding Will

ISRAELI POLITICS IS IN TURMOIL yet again, with the media labeling the present government as “doomed.” As Prime Minister Ariel Sharon struggles to form a “national unity” government following the collapse of his coalition, actual political unity is further from reality than ever.

Dec. 2, 2004, Sharon sacked five members of the secular Shinui Party, his Likud party’s last remaining coalition partner, for refusing to pass his proposed 2005 state budget—the “most stunning defeat” he had suffered since becoming prime minister (*Financial Times*, London, Dec. 3, 2004). Two other smaller parties had already left, or been forced to leave, the coalition. This leaves Sharon with control (albeit nominal) of just 40 seats in Israel’s 120-member parliament, the Knesset.

Not only that, the right-wing Likud itself is split, with Sharon’s own party members undermining his policies, particularly his Gaza withdrawal plan, which only half the party supports.

In order to gain the needed support to avoid both the collapse of his government (which has already been subjected to three failed no-confidence motions) and the forcing of early elections, as well as to gain backing for his Gaza initiative, Sharon is seeking a coalition with the main opposition party, the center-left Labor led by Shimon Peres, along with some small religious factions. Though there is general consensus that Likud-Labor partnership would be limited in duration, any such relationship between Sharon

and Peres will likely speed the sellout of Israel, as Peres is a strong proponent of ceding land to Israel’s enemies.

The irony of a party leader having to court his opposition to gain support denied him by his own party illustrates the deep and multiple divides within Israel’s leadership—itsself a reflection of the division among its people.

Further ironies surrounding this latest debacle give a clue to the extent of chaos in Israeli politics. Sharon fired the five Shinui ministers—who actually generally support his economic



**ALONE** Ariel Sharon is struggling to unite Israel’s government.

policies and, more importantly, his Gaza withdrawal plan—apparently to make way for ultra-Orthodox parties, which, in some cases, reject both. The motive here, it seems, was to persuade his own right-wing Likud Party into accepting a coalition inclusive of the opposition Labor Party. “Yosef Lapid, the Shinui leader—echoing the sentiments of many ordinary voters—said of the prime minister’s wooing of the ultra-Orthodox: ‘This is the greatest absurdity in the history of politics’” (ibid.).

Meanwhile, both Sharon and Peres face internal party leadership challenges from Benjamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak respectively. This is besides the corrup-

tion inquiry into a campaign financing scandal that Sharon must deal with.

And barriers still exist to any national unity government actually forming. For example, Labor has said it will refuse to enter into the same cabinet as one of the ultra-Orthodox parties slated for office unless it drops its opposition to the Gaza withdrawal (ibid.).

Israel’s political track record is not good. In its 56-year life, Israel has had 30 governments—and only two have completed their terms.

By looking at the political disarray, one may wonder

how Israel can possibly present any semblance of a united front to its enemies. The future of Israel will provide living proof of Jesus Christ’s declaration, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand” (Matthew 12:25).

Watch for continuing political chaos and infighting that will further erode Israel’s will, its ability to take any decisive long-term action and its political position with respect to other nations—all of which will increase its vulnerability and the likelihood of its resorting to desperate, even fatal, tactics to resolve its perpetual crises.

IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

### Jerusalem: PLO HQ?

Jerusalem Newswire, Dec. 6, 2004

“PLO CHIEF MAHMOUD Abbas Sunday reiterated his pledge to pursue Yasser Arafat’s goal of seizing control over eastern Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian Arab state. Throughout the ‘peace’ process, sovereignty over the ancient Jewish capital has been a red-line issue for Israel. Abbas also said that, after a 10-year delay, the PA would finally fulfill its obligations under the ‘Oslo’ agreements. Meanwhile, the Hamas terrorist organization rejected reports it was prepared to accept a ceasefire and recognize Israel’s right to exist within the Jewish state’s pre-1967 borders.”

AFRICA

### “No Drop” In World Hunger Deaths BBC, Dec. 8, 2004

“A CHILD STILL DIES OF hunger every five seconds, eight years on from a pledge to halve the world’s hungry by 2015, a United Nations agency has said. [P]resent levels of hunger cause the death of more than 5 million children a year. The number of chronically hungry people has hardly budged since 1996. ... A worsening situation in China and India, the world’s most populous nations, is largely blamed by the [UN agency] for the recent rise in hunger levels. However, all but one of the countries with the highest levels of hunger are in sub-Saharan Africa. Governments set the target of cutting the number of undernourished people by half in 2015 at the UN World Food Summit in 1996.”

# You Shall Not Bear False Witness

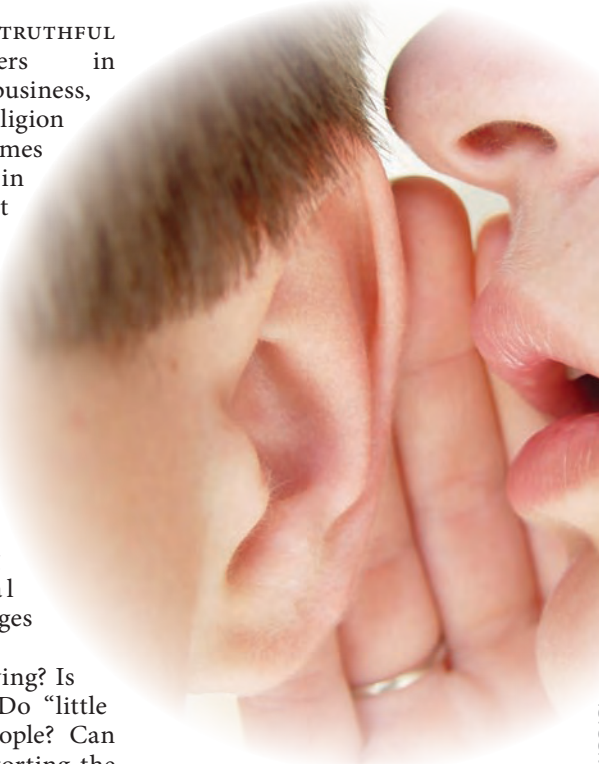
Some today believe that there are good lies and bad lies.  
Here is the truth about lying. BY DENNIS LEAP

**O**URS IS NOT A TRUTHFUL society. Leaders in government, business, education and religion knowingly lie numerous times each day. They are not alone in the practice. Most people admit that they lie often. Straying from the truth is an accepted *way of living*. Many think there are good—meaning *little white*—and bad lies. Some would never consider lying in a court of law but feel no remorse at giving false information on a job application. Some people believe that lying is necessary to keep things running smoothly—international relations, businesses, marriages and friendships.

What is the truth about lying? Is there good and bad lying? Do “little white lies” help or *hurt* people? Can stretching the truth and distorting the facts cause considerable damage to individuals and whole nations? The plain truth is revealing.

Recently, Americans suffered through a bitter election. A slim majority of Americans who participated in the election voted for Mr. Bush. These consider the result a positive thing. They are happy. However, a large number of Americans are disappointed by the results and think that the president’s second term will mean assured disaster. After the campaign, it is clear that the United States is bitterly divided. What is the reason? Of course, the full answer to the question is a complex one. Yet, a part of the answer squarely involves abuse of the Ninth Commandment.

During the campaign, respected news sources reported that both political parties strayed far from the truth about issues in print ads and in commercials on radio, tv and the Internet. In addition, both candidates are known to have distorted, twisted and warped facts about each other in speeches in front of millions of Americans.



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The *Washington Post* reported on May 31, 2004, “This campaign is persistent and methodical, and it often revs up on Monday mornings with the strategically timed release of ads [about Senator Kerry] .... Sometimes the charges ring true. ... But often they distort Kerry’s record and words to undermine the candidate ....” The same was true on the other side: “Kerry, too, has made his own misleading statements and exaggerations” (ibid.).

On Election Day, the members of the news media who had pointed fingers at the candidates significantly contributed to the problem by broadcasting distorted voter exit polls. Media watchers believe that there was a real attempt to throw the election. Let’s be honest. The American public was subjected to outright lying by the highest officials in government and the media.

What are the fruits of the election? A fog of distrust blankets the nation. This is a very dangerous situation. Yet the problem with lying is much bigger than just within America.

Our world is constantly being flood-

ed with all kinds of untruths. Self-deception, spiritual hypocrisy and false religious instruction are reaching pandemic proportions. Bible prophecy shows that this world is quickly heading into its worst crisis ever. It is an event so terrifying that Jesus Christ warned His disciples about the soon-coming Great Tribulation nearly 2,000 years ago. He said that religious deception would be the leading cause of the crisis at the close of man’s rule on Earth (Matthew 24:4-5). As individuals, we must be sure that we fully understand the critical importance of the Ninth Commandment.

**Ninth Commandment Stated** With incredible power, God spoke from Mount Sinai, “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour” (Exodus 20:16). This is the fifth of the commandments related to preserving loving relationships among mankind. Remember, the first four commandments show us how to love God; the last six explain how to love other humans. Besides preserving the family structure, marriage, human life and other human beings’ possessions, with the Ninth Commandment, God seeks to guard what is next most important to any human: his reputation. This commandment forbids all lying, which includes the sins of slander and gossip. A thief takes physical things that are easily replaced; however, a man’s reputation taken by lies, slander or gossip is often never restored.

God gave mankind the Ninth Commandment to show us that all men, women and children must control their tongues.

The human tongue is a tiny organ, yet it wields incredible power. The Apostle James wrote, “Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.



Even so the tongue is a little member ...” (James 3:4-5). Here the tongue is compared to the *rudder* of a large ship. Though it is the smallest part of the vessel, it has the power to direct its course. All too often, the power unleashed by the human tongue is a destructive one. James continued, “Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell” (verses 5-6).

When we deeply meditate on these verses, we realize that there has been untold human suffering and damage caused by people who carelessly lie, slander or gossip about another human being. Yet all parties are damaged by such actions. Who can ever trust a liar, slanderer or gossip? The Proverbs state, “He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool” (Proverbs 10:18). Why? “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” (Proverbs 18:21). Lying causes great harm to *all* involved.

What human being today is in full control of his or her tongue? Notice James’s answer: “For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3:7-8). All humans sin with the tongue. The point is that unless God, through His Word and His Holy Spirit, is leading and guiding us, we simply cannot control our tongues properly. God expects us to build the righteous spiritual character that will enable us to use our tongues for the good of others.

**The Damage of False Testimony** The simple application of this commandment is to not give false testimony in a legal setting. To lie in a court of law is called perjury. Serious penalties, including substantial fines and jail time, are imposed in many countries for committing such an act. It is right to do so. Why? All justice is based on truth. The sad fact is, many commit the crime of perjury every day. Some government leaders, educators, business people, men and women think nothing of lying

on a witness stand. What makes their sin even more shocking is the fact that they attempt to deceive the judge and jury by *swearing to tell the truth*—putting their right hand on the Bible and invoking the name of God. Such poor conduct is a monstrous lie in itself. It says much about the lack of real morals in our society.

Surely we can understand what an outrage this is to the great God, whose word *is truth* (John 17:17).

The crime of perjury runs rampant through all levels of our society—from the very top to the bottom. We should not forget that a recent president lied openly to Senate and congressional committees. Yet, he was not removed from office. Think about the message this sad fact sent to the rest of the world. Are we a nation that okays lies, deception and hypocrisy?

The damage caused by false testimony is enormous. No one trusts a known enemy. Our criminal lying shows us that we cannot even trust our elected officials, friends, spouses, business partners and work associates. Anyone who is familiar with our legal system knows that there is no such thing as a simple, inexpensive trial. Countless hours and millions of dollars are wasted checking out the truthfulness of witnesses. Why? People cannot be trusted to tell the truth.

Consider also the personal damage to people that regularly takes place because of false testimony. Bitter divorce and custody disputes can leave husband, wife and children scarred for life. Some will manufacture the worst false accusations to get custody, money and possessions. Because of lying, innocent people have been wrongly executed. The one striking example here is Jesus Christ. He was executed because of false witnesses (Mark 14:56-63).

Let’s admit it. Breaking God’s Ninth Commandment has cultivated attitudes of suspicion, hopelessness and uselessness in society. We are paying a high price for our casual and continual lying.

**Stop Living a Lie** To stop lying, we must understand why human beings lie. Study little children. Why do they lie? Generally, little children lie to *avoid punishment* or to *appear better than their peers*. With adults it is not any different. The root cause of this horrible sin is *vanity*.

King Solomon recognized this simple fact. He wrote, “Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 1:2). Every sin has its root in vanity.

Men and women lie because they are more concerned with the self than anything else. What is best for another human being is rarely considered. Many fear to speak the truth because they are obsessed with what others think about them. Yet, few people are concerned by what Almighty God thinks. This is especially true in the spheres of higher education and religion. The Apostle John said this about the religious leaders of his day: “For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:43).

The two most difficult things for a human being to do are to admit error, and to face failure. Men will stubbornly believe and teach lies when they cannot agree with the truth. The best example here is the theory of evolution. Those steeped in higher education and science cannot accept the reality and authority of a Creator God, so they have invented a lie to explain a fantastically designed creation without a Creator. The supposed facts of evolution do not add up—and will never add up—yet the theory is taught as fact on a daily basis. Our world is suffering greatly because of this widely promulgated lie. It is the underlying foundation of our modern education system, therefore it has adversely affected our views on political science, international relations, economics, medicine, psychology, sociology, marriage, family and child rearing. We must recognize that any system of beliefs built upon a false premise will ultimately lead to failure.

There are those in higher education and science who recognize the theory of evolution for what it is, but they will not speak out against it because they do not want to be made to look foolish in front of their peers. They fear being made fun of. How tragic! Why should any well-educated person be ashamed to admit a faith in God? Isn’t it far more ridiculous to profess a *faith* in a mindless, chancy, mathematically impossible alternate theory of creation? Doesn’t believing something one knows is false just because others do expose the ultimate hypocrisy? Isn’t it time we replace vanity

**Men and women lie because they are more concerned with the self than anything else. What is best for another human being is rarely considered.**

with some courageous leadership? Jesus Christ said, “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake” (Matthew 5:11).

Lying may appear to be the best route to take in the short run. However, real lasting benefits can only come by recognizing and telling the truth.

**The Father of Lies** Why do human beings so easily succumb to such a disgraceful habit?

It is not intellectually fashionable to believe that Satan the devil exists. He does. Our lying society is a major proof of this fact. Satan the devil is the author of all lying and deception.

John the apostle records Jesus Christ’s own words revealing the truth about Satan. Upbraiding the religious leaders of His day, Christ said, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44). Here Christ shows that it was Satan who lied to our first parents, who told them they had an immortal soul—essentially murdering them. God had told them that if they rebelled against Him and walked the opposite way of His government, they surely would die (Genesis 2:16-17). Satan appealed to Eve’s vanity, and she disobeyed God. Adam willingly followed his wife. They believed and followed a liar. They and the rest of mankind have suffered since.

Satan is a powerful angelic being that broadcasts—all over the Earth—a spirit of disobedience, which includes lying and deception (Ephesians 2:2). It is Satan who tempts all humans to lie.

In addition, through the agency of human instruments, he deceives the whole world (Revelation 12:9). With full control of certain men’s minds, he has successfully suppressed the truth of God (Romans 1:18). God promises to unleash His righteous wrath on all men who suppress the *truth*. There are men and women in religious circles today who knowingly do just that. Our world is full of religious deception. Just like Adam and Eve, millions embrace false doctrines—teachings not found in the Bible—and still call themselves religious.

To be a Christian, an individual must believe what Christ says and strive to live as He lived. Jesus Christ and the origi-

nal apostles including Paul, preached the gospel, or *good news*, of the coming Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15; Acts 28:31). Few churches preach that gospel. Jesus Christ and the original 120 disciples, including the apostles, kept a Saturday Sabbath and God’s holy days—discussed in detail in our July 2004 issue. Which churches keep these days?

**Keeping our minds free of lies opens up an incredible clarity of thinking—the kind of thinking that cultivates deeper understanding of all truth.**

Concerning religious deception, Jesus Christ warned, “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before” (Matthew 24:24-25). The point is, you could be living a religious lie—the most dangerous kind of lying. You must prove what your Bible says and then follow the Church that teaches those doctrines. Doing anything less will lead you and your family into assured spiritual disaster.

**Living the Truth** The positive spiritual application of the Ninth Commandment requires that we live and speak the truth in all areas of our lives. God and Jesus Christ are the truth! Describing the Father, Jesus Christ said, “[T]hy word is truth.” He also said this about Himself: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). God’s goal for human life is to reproduce Himself into potentially billions of other God beings who are the truth and speak the truth. We are to become just like God. The Ninth Commandment demands then that we come to acknowledge the truth of the Bible first of all. Do you know and believe your Bible?

To do so, you must come to the place where you recognize that there is an Almighty God who rules the universe. His ways are the only *right* and *true* ways to

live. Then you must acknowledge and obey the truth when it is revealed to you. This means you become *converted* to the true God and His ways. To live any other way is to live a lie. It is the worst kind of slavery. Jesus Christ promised: “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). It is vitally important that we base our whole life on the truth.

In our personal lives, we must make sure that our words are always true. If we remain in the habit of lying to others and to ourselves, we will destroy our character and pervert and twist our own minds. Keeping our minds free of lies opens up an incredible clarity of thinking—the kind of thinking that cultivates deeper understanding of all truth.

Paul taught, “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another” (Ephesians 4:25). When we speak, let it always be the truth. However, this does not mean that we always have to reveal all that we know. In speaking the truth, we must always use wisdom, tact and especially love. God’s ministers are required to always speak the truth in love (verse 15). Sometimes the truth does hurt temporarily, but in the long run it is the best healing agent we could desire.

All men are only as good as their word. If we are habitual liars, none can trust us. What is worse, we cannot be helped spiritually. Who can help a liar? The clearest example of what we mean here is Satan the devil. Not even God can help him—his mind is permanently twisted.

Satan’s character is diametrically opposite that of God. If we choose to live as Satan lives, we will suffer a fearful fate. John records in Revelation: “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8). All humans who embrace the way of lying are in danger of being thrown into the lake of fire, which represents the ultimate punishment—eternal death.

Remember, there are no good lies in God’s sight. Half-truths, distortions and deceptions are condemned throughout the Bible. Let’s all learn to live and speak the truth and thereby inherit the glorious Kingdom of God. This is the wonderful and uplifting message of the Ninth Commandment, *you shall not bear false witness*. ■



“Germany posts joblessness of more than 10 percent, growth of under 2 percent of gross domestic product and enormous cutbacks in military spending.”

The rise of the right in World War II led to 50 million deaths. Never before had the world experienced such a holocaust.

Are we about to see a more refined “Hitler” rise in Germany? Bible prophecy says it will happen. We have been prophesying of Germany’s rise to world power since it was pounded into the rubble in World War II. This next time, it will be far more powerful than in World War II. (Request our free booklets *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* and *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

“Right-wing German parties already have proposed several measures to limit immigration and the influence of minorities on German culture. . . .

“Although Stratfor will not accuse Merkel of being a Nazi sympathizer, *her statements at the conference are reminiscent of Hitler’s*. Merkel said in a 2004 interview, “The notion of multiculturalism has fallen apart. Anyone coming [to Germany] must respect our constitution and tolerate our Western and Christian roots.’ As Hitler wrote in *Mein Kampf*, ‘a state may be called bad if, in spite of the existence of a high cultural level, it dooms to destruction the bearers of that culture by breaking up their racial uniformity.’

“Indeed, the CDU itself is not as troubling as what it could inspire. *The multiculturalism encouraged by German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder is something very recent and hardly resonates with most Germans*. The era of German political leadership apologizing for being German is over, and it is not unimaginable that far-right parties could capitalize on their recent gains to move the country back into a xenophobic frame of mind.”

About 40 years ago we wrote, “The world heard and saw Hitler. But his REAL promoters and backers kept in the background. If Hitler failed in this second round of world war, they planned to let him shoulder the blame before the world, and KEEP THEMSELVES FREE TO SECRETLY PLOT THE THIRD ROUND—WORLD WAR III!” (*Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course*, Lesson 3).

It is time for America and the world to awaken.

Germany is resurrecting the spirit of Adolf Hitler. The *alarm bell* has sounded! Will anybody hear it? ■

Union drafted a letter to Chancellor Gerhard Schröder in an attempt to prevent negotiations with Turkey, and he spoke out strongly against the EU taking on a Muslim member state. The EU’s presidency, currently in the hands of the Netherlands, has deliberately avoided serious discussion about it. Jonathan Davidson, senior adviser for political and academic affairs at the Delegation of the European Commission to the United States, estimated that the earliest Turkey could hope to join the Union would be 2014.

**The real snag is religion. Turkey is almost completely Islamic. Many Europeans have not forgotten the Ottoman Empire, “the scourge of Christendom.”**

Chancellor Schröder, who favors Turkish membership but walks a fine line with his constituents, said in December that the nation should be ready to accept 10 to 15 years of talks with an “open outcome.”

French President Jacques Chirac bluntly outlined three stipulations before the EU could dance with Turkey: Turkey must understand that the negotiations could end in less than full membership (the aforementioned “open outcome”), the French people have the right to reject Turkish membership by referendum, and talks could not begin until after the French referendum on the European constitution. He said that if Turkey does not meet all the conditions in the French interest, negotiations will come to a halt.

So goes the saga of this awkward association: Turkey toiling to make it work, and the Continent embracing it only at arm’s length. In essence, the relationship is setting Turkey up to fulfill a role in future events just as Bible prophecy suggests it will.

**A “Third Way”** Although this Islamic nation will not be a part of the united European superpower that will rise out of the EU under the banner of Catholicism (Daniel 2; Revelation 6:1-2; chapters 17, 18 and many others), God says this concerning Edom (or Esau—see Genesis 36:8—whose descendants comprise Turkey), in the context of European prophesied assault on Israel (the United States and Britain): “In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers [Europe] carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast *as one of them*” (Obadiah 11). At some point, Turkey *will* align itself with Europe.

As brought out in our booklet *The*

*King of the South*, Psalms 83 provides additional proof of a unique alliance between Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Assur (modern Germany). The Bible also indicates in Daniel 11:40-41 that Turkey and these other nations will be spared the wrath and the bullets of the German/European war machine. This too would suggest that some kind of agreement will soon be struck.

Lo and behold, recent and somewhat surprising headlines corroborate the Bible’s stance.

President Chirac altered his tune in early December by calling for a *third way* for Turkey. According to the EU Observer’s website, Chirac called for a “privileged partnership” with Ankara (Dec. 3, 2004). Turkey objects to the idea of anything less than full membership, since its legislators, attorneys, judges, policemen, teachers, traders, tailors and virtually everybody else have made continent-size changes to their lifestyles—but the concept is accumulating support among the Eurocracy, especially in Germany, Austria and France.

Europe’s “third way” for Turkey looks to be the headwaters of the fulfillment of biblical news-before-it-happens prophecy. The Bible indicates that Muslim Turkey will never be a fellow of the European Union, and certainly not a full member of the coming Catholic beast power that will cover the ground with Israelite blood—but, in service to its European bedfellows, it will commit a horrendous back-stab of its Israelite cousins!

Through the Prophet Obadiah, God tells the Turks, “Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress” (verse 14). The *Plain Truth* wrote about this prophecy nearly 40 years ago: “[A]s staggering and unbelievable as it sounds, one of the major events God points out that will bring His wrath down upon Turkey will be the delivering of thousands of British, American and possibly Israeli refugees into the hands of the ‘beast’ power in central Europe when the military takeover of [Israel] occurs” (June 1966).

Today, Turkey is being set up to carry out this prophetic double-cross. Expect it to continue cozying up to Europe. Right up to the bitter end. ■



PHOTO: DISC

EDUCATION

## Prince Charles Was Right

BRITISH POLITICIANS AND journalists roundly criticized the Prince of Wales in November for his comments about Britain's educational system. Many misinterpreted his comments to mean that people should "stick to their lot in life" and "know their place," which the prince neither said nor meant. Others ridiculed the prince's own credentials as a "son of privilege."



PRINCE CHARLES

Lost in the fuss is that what Prince Charles actually wrote in the leaked memo is essentially true. "What is wrong with everyone nowadays?" he asked. "Why do they all seem to think they are qualified to do things far beyond their actual capabilities? This is all to do with the learning culture in schools—the child-centered learning emphasis which admits of no failure and tells people that they can all be pop stars or High Court judges or brilliant TV personalities or even infinitely more competent heads of state without ever putting in the necessary work, effort or having natural ability. It is the result of 'social utopianism.'"

While the child-centered

approach in Western education might make students feel better about themselves (for a while anyway), the accompanying decline in academic ability certainly does not help prepare them for success in the real world.

The *Wall Street Journal* ran a front-page piece on how some American schools are even turning to Asian curricula to help reverse our decline in math and science scores. "Critics assert that math teaching has been dumbed down in the U.S. over the past two decades. They say that too much emphasis is placed on making the subject accessible and fun and not enough on vital, if repetitive, drills such as multiplication tables. Another big criticism: U.S. math curricula tend to cover plenty of subject areas but not in sufficient depth" (Dec. 13, 2004). According to the *Journal*, unless something is done to improve our overall scores, it "could push still more white-collar jobs offshore as the next generation graduates." No amount of feel-good



ARMSTRONG

"learning" will land children important jobs in industries heavy in science and math. As the prince noted, one needs some natural ability mixed with a strong desire to put in the necessary work.

We have often referred to Herbert W. Armstrong as a terrific example of one who educated himself for a life of astonishing achievement. Ambition is more than just desire, he found out as a teenager early on in the 20th century. It's also the "determination and the will to achieve the desired goal." Nearly everyone wants to be considered a success. But not all have the will and desire to *really* seek after it. Many are simply not willing to put forth the kind of effort it takes to excel at something. (Request our free booklet *Education With Vision* for more about Mr. Armstrong's views on education.)

Commenting on the leaked memo brouhaha in England, columnist Minette Marrin wrote, "The schoolchildren of this country have been doubly betrayed for decades, both by collapsing standards and by ballooning expectations. It is wicked to teach children that they can all expect the moon; ability varies greatly and competition is fierce. ..."

"Whatever may have been wrong with old-fashioned education, at least it taught almost all children to read and write. Yet, these days, all kinds of barely literate people of average intelligence expect professional status or feel they have a right to do something 'creative,' when they lack the most basic skills or any outstanding ability. They have been unforgivably misled" (*Sunday Times*, London, Nov. 21, 2004).



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HEALTH

## Drug Addiction

ALMOST HALF OF Americans are taking at least one prescription drug; one in six are taking three or more. These statistics, released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in December 2004, show just how much Americans believe that medicine will save them from cholesterol, heart disease, diabetes, depression and other ailments.

Use of antidepressants among adults has *tripled* in the past decade. Today, one in 10 women takes an antidepressant. More than one third of women visiting the doctor in 2002 walked away with a prescription for an antidepressant.

The number of kids taking psychiatric drugs multiplied too. Three times as many children were taking antidepressants in 2002 than were in the mid-1990s. Boys taking stimulants (used to treat ADD) doubled in the same period.

Aren't we missing something?

American culture is glutted with the idea that problems can be fixed quickly and labor free—and pharmaceuticals promise just that. But people aren't looking at the *causes* of problems—at their family relationships, their diet, etc. Changing is too hard. It's too *inconvenient*. It is much easier to believe that a pill will do the trick.

For more on this subject, see "Will Pills Solve Our Ills?" in our November 2003 issue.



## Divorce's Trickle-Down Effects

ACCORDING TO THE MAY 23, 2004, *Washington Times*, for every 100 children born in the year 2000, 60 of them will spend part of their childhood in a broken family.

These families, the article said, are more likely to be dependent on welfare and to wrestle with drug and alcohol addictions than stable families. Children of divorce will most likely end up with a lower grade point average than those coming from a traditional family. They are also four times more likely to be expelled.

As we have noted on numerous occasions, the family is the basic building block of any society. When the traditional family breaks down, society crumbles

DREAMSTIME (2)



along with it. Though parents seeking divorce may think about the negative impacts on their children, how many consider the effect it will have on society?

### Eyewitnesses

**"Half of all children will witness the breakup of a parent's marriage. Of these, close to half will also see the breakup of a parent's second marriage."**

*The Abolition of Marriage,  
Maggie Gallagher*

## Until Old Age Do We Part

A RECENT TREND IS SHOWING THAT DIVORCE IS NOT restricted to young or middle-aged married couples, but is spreading up the ranks. London's *Sunday Times* reports that the divorce rate among couples over 50 is rapidly rising, with an 8.7 percent increase in the past five years (Dec. 5, 2004).

This epidemic is not only spreading among older couples, it is gaining acceptance too. An ABC News report gives one possible reason for this growing trend: People are generally living longer and healthier than before. Older couples who go through divorce would rather face financial insecurity and loneliness than to live another 20 or 30 years in an unhappy relationship.

Another reason for this trend, according to the report, is society's changing view on commitment. Our society no longer fosters a culture of belonging and family living—certainly not as it once did.

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## FINANCE

## Savings Rate Bottoms Out

IN OCTOBER, THE PERSONAL savings rate for Americans dropped to its second-lowest level on record—dating back to 1959, when the U.S. government started compiling savings data. At its current level of 0.2 percent, a U.S. household with take-home pay of \$40,000 per year, on average, tucks away \$1.50 in savings each week.

By contrast, European countries like France and Germany have personal savings rates higher than 10 percent—the approximate level for Americans just two decades ago. The rate has been on a continuous decline for the simple reason



that personal consumption has increased more rapidly than American incomes.

**SOCIETYWATCH** is compiled and edited by Stephen Flurry, with assistance from the *Trumpet's* editorial team. If you run across items that could be used here, send them to us at **SOCIETYWATCH**, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or e-mail [societywatch@theTrumpet.com](mailto:societywatch@theTrumpet.com). If you e-mail a story from a website, be sure to include the URL address.

## IN BRIEF

## EDUCATION

### No U.S. Medals in Geography Olympics

Reuters, Nov. 26, 2004

"AMERICA MAY DOMINATE the world in sports and culture, but in one arena where size doesn't matter, the 'Geography Olympics,' the United States was 88th, behind minnows such as Madagascar and the Marshall Islands. More than 46,000 Americans have taken part in this online geography competition .... 'Geography is just a building block for understanding what's going on in the world,' said [the founder of the event] .... 'Sitting back and not worrying about these things is terrible, and it might be why the rest of the world doesn't care for us.'"

## MARRIAGE

### Same-Sex Marriage Constitutional in Canada

BBC News, Dec. 9, 2004

CANADA'S SUPREME SAID that the government could legalize same-sex marriage without violating the constitution. "The move comes hours after New Zealand's parliament voted to recognize civil unions between [homosexual] couples. ... Prime Minister Paul Martin said his Liberal government would bring in [same-sex] marriage legislation in the new year."

## HEALTH

### HIV Women Increasing

BBC News, Nov. 23, 2004

"NEARLY HALF OF 37.2 million adults living with HIV are women .... The steepest increases have been in East Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, with rates in women outstripping those in men in some regions."

## Marital Success

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE SERIES ON THE Ten Commandments. All articles have truly revolutionized my lifestyle! Especially “You Shall Not Commit Adultery” (November). I never thought of divorce and remarrying again as *adultery!* Your explanation of this commandment and the article on “Hidden Keys to Marital Success” (November) have definitely jolted me into really putting 100 percent effort into my marriage and exterminating the thought that “God is going to give me a better husband than my present one.” *What a satanic thought!* I have truly repented from saying and thinking this. Now it is my aim to apply the keys to marital success. I am determined to make 1 Corinthians 13 the motto in my life to my husband. Thank you so much!

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## Impossible to Ignore

YOUR TRUTH IS SETTING FREE MANY that would otherwise remain in bondage to the media mismanagement of news. I thank God for all your publications. I am not formally educated, but I can see that your writing makes the Bible seem plain common sense; it is impossible to ignore your conclusions. Except for your magazines, books and pamphlets about spiritual action in the realm of politics, all other commentary engenders mostly confusion.

Kenneth McKinney—SPOKANE, WASH.

I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR VERY informative stories of the happenings going on around us. So many of us here in the United States shut our eyes to what's going on abroad until it pounds at our very doorstep.

Matthew Brown—WALTERBORO, S.C.

## “How Would Jesus Vote?”

THE ARTICLE “HOW WOULD JESUS Vote?” (September-October) is simplistic and misguided. It removes the duties and responsibilities of Christians from the affairs of men. What the article calls on Christians to do is to live under “taxation without representation.” As tax-paying Christians, we provide some of the fuel for this world's evil governments to op-

erate. It is easy to say that as Christians we should pay our taxes, because this is a direct command from Jesus .... But to suggest that Christians should not partake in voting because we are ambassadors for Christ omits one hard fact: We may be ambassadors for Christ, yet as Americans, we have a dual citizenship. ... It should be noted that the *Trumpet* enjoys the right to publish its magazine because Christian men and other men of good character gave it that right. ...

George Lujack—ISLAND PARK, N.Y.

## Faith Through Prophecy

A FEW WEEKS AGO I PICKED UP ONE of the *Trumpets* on a table and started reading it. Since then I've come to understand much more about Bible prophecies. I've been trying for many years to understand the Bible for what it really is. I guess you can say I've been trying to build my faith in Jesus through understanding the Bible. And the *Trumpet* has helped me along that way. ...

Don Hunt—COTTONPORT, LA.

I AM WRITING TO THANK YOU FOR THE enlightening material you have sent me. The *Trumpet* is very informative and awesome. Please keep up the good prophetic journalism; I devour every issue.

Patrick Peterson—RAIFORD, FLA.

I HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED YOUR magazine and look forward to each issue, which is read cover to cover and then carefully saved. Why is it others can't see what is so clear in every evening news broadcast? I thank you for providing this important vital information to us at no charge. ...

Dennis D'Eramo—OVIEDO, FLA.

## The Truth

I TRULY THANK YOU FOR BLESSING ME with your awe-inspiring magazine that a Christian friend needed to share with me. Since I have read your literature this past month, I have grown tremendously in my knowledge of the true, living Word of God. Thank you for opening my eyes to the truth about today's world and tomorrow's world. Now I can watch

the news and know why certain events are taking place across the world. I appreciate the diligence and time you put into your booklets, books and magazines and the fact that you share the truth and hard-hitting facts free of charge. ...

Armando Rojas—CORCORAN, CALIF.

I AM NOT A VERY RELIGIOUS PERSON, and as a result, I take little notice of anything religious. I just wanted you to know that you are making a difference in your efforts, and I give my encouragement to all of you to continue what you are doing. ... Your message urged me to envision possibilities. Your offer to educate anyone interested with no obligations or cost motivated me to request a magazine and instilled in me a desire for knowledge and understanding. ...

Anna Castillo—SALINAS, CALIF.

The *Trumpet* has opened my eyes to so many things. One of the things the magazine has made me aware of is that a lot of Americans and Britons are against their brothers and sisters of Israel. If not, how come they are against their nations' efforts to fight those trying to eliminate the Israeli nation? ...

Lawson Ugo—NIGERIA

I HAVE TAKEN GREAT PLEASURE IN reading about real world scenarios that are broken down biblically. It is good to have a magazine that isn't one-sided in the media spectrum but that is Scripture-based. Thank you for your literature.

Eloy Vidalse Jr.—ROWLAND HEIGHTS, CALIF.

I REMEMBER, AS A CHILD, MY MOTHER subscribed to the *Plain Truth* magazine. She would often talk to me about your articles and the truth therein. Our paths have crossed again, and I am inspired to reconnect with your magazine and understand what God wants me to know.

Sally Castellini—MILLVILLE, N.J.

## Comments?

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# “Everybody’s Doing It”

Sex and the dangers of relativism BY JOEL HILLIKER

“**B**UT EVERYBODY’S DOING IT!” SEEMS EVERY KID uses this rationale at some point. As we mature, the idea of following the crowd seems less dignified—but still, it does exert a pull. Human nature wants to belong. That’s surely why God felt the need to give Israel the law recorded in Exodus 23:2: “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil ....” Truth is, *everybody doing it* can never make a wrong thing right.

In the early 20th century, Americans generally kept quiet about sex. An Indiana University professor named Alfred Kinsey helped change that. His exposé in 1948 called *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* sent shock waves through the country and landed Kinsey on the cover of nearly every major magazine in America. Based on interviews with 5,300 men, the book purported to reveal vast discrepancies between public attitudes toward sex and private sexual behavior—submitting, for example, that more than half of men (in some areas, *much* more) engaged in fornication, adultery, experience with prostitutes, homosexual conduct and other widely frowned-upon perversions. A counterpart volume, released five years later, contained comparable revelations about female sexuality.

Essentially these reports shattered the notion of “normal” sexual behavior. Mr. Kinsey, in fact, came to believe that there were “only three kinds of sexual abnormalities: abstinence, celibacy and delayed marriage” (Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy, *Kinsey: Sex the Measure of All Things*).

Ignored by Kinsey’s followers—who exist to this day—are the outrageous flaws in his scientific methods. His interview process skewed his samples wildly in favor of single, divorced, “college level,” and homosexual individuals, as well as prostitutes (male and female), prison inmates and sex offenders of the worst types—hardly representative of the public at large. Far worse, some of his data regarding sexuality *in children*, of all things, was collected by pedophiles whom Kinsey referred to as “partners” and “scientifically trained observers.”

The professor’s biographers have exposed the ugly facts regarding his deviant personal life: a history back to his youth marred by increasingly twisted curiosities and unspeakable perversions. Mr. Kinsey was hardly the judicious, dispassionate collector of raw data many have made him out to be. As Daniel J. Flynn wrote in his book *Intellectual Morons*, “The Kinsey Reports weren’t a mirror of society held up to its face. They were a reflection of its chief author. The Kinsey Reports were Alfred Kinsey’s pathologies writ large upon America.”

Kinsey’s basic philosophy regarding sex is fitly represented in the statement he is reported to have made, “Everybody’s sin is nobody’s sin. And everybody’s crime is no crime at all.” For millions of Americans mid-20th century, this candid and nonjudgmental approach was a welcome relief. It hastened the demise of many taboos and helped kick-start the sexual revolution. Hav-

ing the blessing of “science” and the erroneous understanding that, after all, “everybody’s doing it” provided comfort to hordes of people as they ventured into various sins and crimes.

We see a similarly destructive dynamic at work within today’s entertainment. Television and movies portray a horribly distorted and decidedly unhealthy picture of sexuality. In addition to its prevalence—with over 65,000 references to sexual

behavior on American TV each year—broadcast sex is unrealistic: It happens five times more often between unmarried couples than between married; the second most commonly depicted sexual experience is with prostitutes; homosexuality is pervasive; consequences of sex such as pregnancy, disease, and disrupted relationships are almost never shown.

Young people in particular are getting the message: It must be okay, since *everybody’s doing it*. A RAND Corporation study published in September showed that teens who watch a lot of TV with sexual content (even innuendo) are *twice as likely* to have sex in the following year as those who watch little such content.

In post-Kinseyan America, consulting the multitude to define right and wrong is standard practice. One example: Pornography is generally protected as free speech; it violates the law only if a jury believes that “the *average person*, applying *contemporary community standards*,” would find it obscene (*Black’s Law Dictionary*). Obviously these “standards,” such as they are, can shift with the tide.

Alfred Kinsey is still viewed in many circles as having helped society emerge from the darkness of repressive sexual ignorance; his fraudulent work is regularly cited and drawn upon in modern sex education programs, academic papers and law journals. However, an honest look of the *fruits* of Kinsey’s approach shows that the moral relativism he espoused has created problems far worse than those it professed to solve.

In his masterful book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, educator Herbert W. Armstrong acknowledged the pre-Kinseyan lack of sexual knowledge and the harm it caused. “But,” he wrote, “the modern diffusion of biological sex knowledge and the permissive sexual freedoms of the ‘New Morality’ have plunged the Western world from the frying pan into the fire.” Mr. Armstrong rightly linked the increase in public acceptance of sexuality and relaxation of morals with the increase in divorce and the disintegration of family and home life. These realities too must be recognized as being part of Kinsey’s legacy.

The truth is, *everybody’s doing it* is the basis only for compromise. It is not the basis for a morality that can anchor our lives. Right and wrong are absolute and unchanging—determined solely by the one true Lawgiver. To learn about God’s absolute standards regarding sex, which alone can guide us toward a rich and fulfilling sex life, request your free copy of *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. ■



**SCIENCE?** A new film about Kinsey has renewed interest in his work.

THE  
MISSING  
DIMENSION  
IN SEX  
HERBERT W.  
ARMSTRONG

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