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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2006

THE PHILADELPHIA

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# TRUMPET



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**COVER** Pope Benedict XVI on his recent trip to his native Bavaria in Germany. Reuters

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Gerald Flurry

# Why You Must Watch Europe

**E**VENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE DOMINATED GLOBAL news headlines this past year. There is no doubt that events in this region threaten global peace and warrant our attention. But we must realize that there is an even greater trend we should be watching. In many ways, the Middle East is a sideshow compared to this ominous threat.

We must watch Europe now more than ever. Too many people, particularly the global news media, are allowing circumstances in the Middle East to distract them from what is stirring in Europe. Are you aware that Europe is beginning to *react strongly* to events unfolding in the Middle East? It is realizing that it must rise to meet Iran and its radical Islamist henchmen.

Notice this prophecy 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.”

Iran leads this “king of the south” (request our free booklet *The King of the South*). The Iranians are really *pushing* these days. That is what recent events in the Middle East have been—the war in Lebanon, the terrorist activity in the Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula and West Bank. Iran is pushing its weight around! And it will continue to push *until somebody stops it*.

**SOMEBODY WILL STOP IT!** Note in the above scripture that the “king of the north” *responds* to this *push* from the king of the south. Even now we are seeing this king of the north, this European superpower, react to the push from the king of the south. *This trend is about to rapidly intensify.*

The *Gesenius’ Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* says the word *push* in Daniel 11:40 means to strike or to push with a horn; it is used of horned animals, or of a victor who prostrates nations before him. It also means to wage war. *Push* is a violent word.

Anyone who knows history should see how events in the Middle East will jolt Europe. Already Europe has mobilized in response to this summer’s war between Hezbollah and Israel. Most of the troops that have moved into Lebanon to keep the peace are European. Italy is there with ground troops. Germany is there with its naval force and soldiers. These two nations

largely comprise what has been known, since A.D. 554, as the Holy Roman Empire.

*The Holy Roman Empire is rising out of the events unfolding in the Middle East!*

The main point of conflict between Europe and Iran will be Jerusalem. Historically, that city has always been the focal point. We must watch Jerusalem!

As European troops marched into Lebanon, the world cele-

brated the idea of their bringing peace to the region. People believe European forces will protect Jerusalem. The Bible reveals the opposite: It tells us that, very soon, they are going to *destroy Jerusalem*—if the Jews in Israel don’t listen to God and hear God’s message. (You can read about these events in my booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.)

The fact that Germany and other European nations are so involved in peacekeeping operations shows a dramatic shift taking place. American influence in the Middle East is shrinking, and European influence is increasing. For some

time, Europe has been growing more engaged in Israel’s peace process with the Arabs. Regarding Europe’s involvement in the Lebanon/Israel crisis, EUbusiness.com reported, “It was a new step in moving the Union away from simply being the region’s biggest provider of aid to an honest broker increasingly accepted by all sides, *with growing political leverage*” (September 1, emphasis mine throughout). Europe is seeing what’s happening in the Middle East and is rising to meet the challenge.

In January, Germany will take over the presidency of the European Union. Andreas Maurer, EU expert at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, recently stated, “The expectations for the German presidency are huge. Everybody is expecting that Berlin will make a big difference” (United Press International, September 6). With Germany at the head, we can expect great changes in Europe.

Watch for Europe to become more involved with Israel, especially Jerusalem. This rising Holy Roman Empire has already taken over the Balkans (this is explained in my booklet *The Rising Beast*)—and now it has its steely eyes set on Jerusalem!

Iran and its radical henchmen are thrusting the Middle East into crisis. Jerusalem is surrounded by Islamist enemies.



**OPPORTUNITY** Angela Merkel’s Germany will take the helm of the EU in 2007. “[E]xpectations for the German presidency are huge.”

Now Europe, including Germany, has been invited to Lebanon to keep Israel safe. Germany is becoming a global leader and chief peacekeeper.

We must remember the history of Germany and the rest of Europe. World War II, which Germany started, was so terrible that Western leaders from both sides of the Atlantic spoke out strongly to assure people Germany would never rise up to strike again. President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued this joint statement in 1945: "It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism, and to ensure that Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world. We are determined to disarm and disband all German armed forces, break up for all time the German general staff that has repeatedly contrived the resurgence of German militarism." They had done this so often!

Have we forgotten that history? Has France forgotten that it was invaded by Germany four times in a hundred years? Have we forgotten that Germany caused World War I and World War II? It appears we have—because the Bible says it is going to start World War III!

Revelation 13 and 17 speak extensively about the beastly power that will rise out of Europe in this end time. We must watch how events in the Middle East facilitate the rise of this European superstate. Iran's pushiness and the rise of Islam are driving Germany, along with the rest of Europe, to embrace its history.

Germany's Minister of State for Cultural Affairs Bernd Neumann recently said that the Europe-wide German Reich of the Middle Ages can from "today's viewpoint" serve "as a valid model of the functioning order of a superstate" (Germany Foreign Policy, August 29). In discussing how to structure the EU, this German politician is talking about REVIVING THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE!

As the world falls apart—as the Middle East becomes crippled with serious crises—as American leadership declines—

## On Jerusalem's Doorstep

**A**LMOST two millennia ago, Jesus Christ warned of a time to come when Jerusalem would be surrounded by armies (Luke 21:20). In that great prophecy of end-of-the-age events, He pointed to this singular phenomenon as being the precursor to the unleashing of untold suffering on mankind, the likes of which has never been experienced in history.

Surely, those who are even partially aware of the importance of that famous prophecy must begin to make a connection with events now taking place in the Middle East.

What is building before our eyes as an expanded UN-sanctioned international military force takes up position in Lebanon has serious implications—implications made even more frightening considering the history of the nation that volunteered to lead this force on the ground—Italy—and that which offered its services to patrol the Lebanese coastline—Germany. Between them, these two nations make up the bulk of the European

contingent in Lebanon. Italy's contribution of 3,000 troops is the largest in the UN force; Germany's force of 2,400 Navy personnel is the second-largest. Italy is set to take over France's leadership of the mission in February.

Just what are Italy and Germany up to?

Well, for a start, both are itching to be viewed as serious players on the world stage. In the case of Italy, this is a goal that Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema and Prime Minister Romano Prodi share in common.

A few years ago, I stood with a handful of journalists in a reception room of the presidential palace in Valetta, Malta, and listened to Mr. Prodi, then head of the European Commission, declare his vision for Malta. He alluded to that island nation becoming a stepping stone for the southern and eastern hegemonic goals of the European Union. Those goals have always incorporated the extension of EU influence to the Middle East. Witness EU involvement in the Middle East peace process since the Madrid conference of 1991. Under former

European leaders are seeing the need for strong action! They are recognizing problems, then looking at their own history, and saying, *we need to revive our roots.*

That is the message Pope John Paul II brought. He worked feverishly to revive the Holy Roman Empire. Early in his pontificate, in Spain, on Nov. 9, 1982, he said this: "[I]t can be said that the European identity is not understandable without Christianity and that precisely in Christianity are found those common roots by which the Continent has seen its civilization mature: its culture, its dynamism, its activity, its capacity for constructive expansion in other continents as well; in a word, all that makes up its glory. ...

"Find yourself again. Be yourself. DISCOVER YOUR ORIGINS, REVIVE YOUR ROOTS. RETURN TO THOSE AUTHENTIC VALUES WHICH MADE YOUR HISTORY A GLORIOUS ONE and your presence so beneficent in the other continents."

But what exactly are those *roots*? Charlemagne, the forefather of the Holy Roman Empire, waded through seas of blood to convert people to his empire and to Roman Catholicism. During the Inquisition, OVER 50 MILLION innocent people WERE KILLED IN THE NAME OF "CHRISTIANITY"! And you can add many millions more as victims of the Holy Roman Empire. Those "origins" and "roots" and that "history" to which John Paul referred caused many millions of people to die!

Pope Benedict has been repeating that same message: *Discover your*

**HISTORIC** Germany is providing 2,400 Navy personnel to help enforce the cease-fire in Lebanon.



Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, Germany was particularly aggressive in asserting itself, on behalf of the EU, in the diplomatic process between the Palestinians and Israel. Even Pope John Paul II, in a radio interview given in Poland in the mid-1990s, monitored by one of our European representatives at the time, declared his desire to move his office eventually to Jerusalem.

So this is Prodi's moment. Never mind the fact that, apart from its seizure of Ethiopia in the 1930s and what Stratfor calls "a handful of toe-dipping efforts in Albania," Italy "has not led a major military operation since the time of the Romans" (August 22). With France—after initiating the cobbling together of an international consensus on the Hezbollah/Israeli imbroglio and negotiating the original cease-fire agreements—spurning the ongoing leadership of the UN peacekeeping force, Prodi seized the opportunity to

*origins, revive you roots.* When he visited his native Bavaria in September, according to the *Christian Science Monitor*, his message was, “Europe needs to rethink the thesis that secularism and economic progress go hand in hand” (September 15). He is urging Europeans to reject secularism and embrace religion.

And Europeans are listening. Roman Catholicism is taking on a new life in Europe. In Germany, the decline in church attendance has stopped; in one state, the number of young churchgoers is rising.

Politicians are also supporting the pope’s movement. German Chancellor Angela Merkel is trying to insert a reference to Europe’s Christian heritage—clearly, a Catholic heritage—into the EU constitution. This is coming from the leader of a nation with more theologians in office than any other Western nation.

German philosopher Jurgen Habermas recently made the shift from the secularist position. In 2004 he wrote, “Christianity, and nothing else, is the ultimate foundation of liberty, conscience, human rights, and democracy, the benchmarks of Western civilization.” He added, “To this day, we have no other options. We continue to nourish ourselves from this source. Everything else is postmodern chatter.” More and more Germans are identifying Christianity as the foundation of the West.

At the same time, Muslim boldness is stirring a new strength and vigor within the Vatican. In September, Pope Benedict XVI made some comments in Germany that confronted the issue of Islam and its violent tendencies. When Muslims responded by becoming violent, many prominent Europeans got behind the pope in support of what he had said (see article, page 6).

When the pope begins to confront Islamists, the world should be alarmed. The Vatican knows its next great adver-

sary is Islamism. This Middle Eastern power is rising and becoming a serious threat. But for the Catholic Church to confront Islam is to bring the specter of the Crusades to life once again!

We must understand the Holy Roman Empire and the Crusades to understand the Catholic passion for Jerusalem. The Catholics have a long history of spilling blood over Jerusalem.

Notice what the Bible prophesies will be their first action after they are victorious over the king of the south: “He shall enter also into the GLORIOUS LAND [the Holy Land, Jerusalem], and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon” (Daniel 11:41). They will “enter” into the Holy Land. The Hebrew indicates this will be a peaceful entry—not forced. That means the Jews will probably *invite them in*—even as they are already doing—but then will suffer a spectacular double-cross!

Just 20 years ago, nobody could have even imagined two world powers coming out of the Middle East and Europe. But everybody should be able to see these two great powers today. Germany is once again becoming the center of a growing European superpower. It is the largest and greatest economy in Europe, and it’s now showing strong signs of emerging from its economic troubles. Germany is the number-one exporter in the world. Watch for it to increasingly dominate European economics from its position at the crossroads of the Continent.

God knew exactly what would happen. Nobody but God could have inspired these prophecies. Those who understand biblical prophecy and who watch the news can already feel the outer edges of the storm the Bible calls “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24).

There is no excuse for America and Britain not knowing the truth. God has been sending His message in power for over 70 years! They have rejected it repeatedly. That is why they now must suffer so intensely. Finally, after God is able to get their attention, our peoples will become teachable. God promises to lead them to peace, full joy and abundance. ■



REUTERS

grandstand Italy into that role.

But, as Stratfor observed, “By seizing the mantle of the peacekeeping force from France, the Italians are literally grabbing hold of a time bomb” (*ibid.*). The fact is that, though Italy has contributed its forces to numerous UN operations, its general performance has reflected disorganization and a lack of discipline.

Why, then, would Israel accept Italian leadership in what is, for the Italians, an untried role in this crucial, most delicate and vitally important peacekeeping endeavor?

Stratfor’s conclusion is this: “Surely Israel knows that an inefficiently run peacekeeping operation might lead to an even-less-stable Lebanon, requiring Israel to act to defend its interests.” As if Israel *wants* the international force to fail.

This possible explanation does not take into account Italy’s willing partner in this peacekeeping force—Germany. Military

cooperation between Germany and Israel tracks back to the conclusion of secret accords between Franz Josef Strauss, Germany’s defense minister at the time, and his wily contemporary in Israel, Shimon Peres. Negotiations between the two began as far back as 1957. By 1962 they matured into a secret agreement for Germany to supply Israel with armaments and military training for the Israeli Defense Forces.

Foisted off onto the public as Germany’s obligation to “protect Israel” being its due penance for the Holocaust, German Middle East policy is in fact geared to achieving, by diplomacy, trade and military assistance, that which Rommel was denied in battle: the extension of German hegemony into the oil-rich Middle East.

Following the union of East and West Germany in 1990, Germany’s foreign policy has increasingly taken on globalist tendencies—the same tendencies that for some time have characterized its aggressive business strategies. Ever since the Balkan

conflicts of the 1990s, that tendency for global hegemony has been steadily reflected in the extension of Germany’s military activities outside the continent of Europe.

Now, with the Israeli war cabinet having endorsed the use of German forces in the UN-mandated efforts in Lebanon, Germany is able to quietly ease into position in the Middle East, a position it will not yield up regardless of the outcome of the Hezbollah/Israel conflict.

By stationing its navy off the coast of Lebanon as part of this latest UN initiative, Germany now has its navy deployed throughout the whole of the Mediterranean, one of the world’s most strategic waterways, from Gibraltar to Suez.

How our failure to learn the lessons of history returns to smack us in the face! The very nations that only 60 years ago fought as a tyrannical fascist/Nazi axis, seeking to seize power over the Middle East, are now literally parked on the northern doorstep of the tiny, embattled nation of Israel, only a short hop from Jerusalem! **RON FRASER**



# Lighting Islam's Fuse

Pope Benedict XVI lit a fuse in Bavaria, a fuse destined to fire the flames of ancient hatred between two great religions, each striving against the other for the same universal goal! **BY RON FRASER**

**POPULARITY** Pope Benedict XVI celebrates an outdoor mass in his native Bavaria with a crowd of over 250,000.

WOLFGANG RADTKE/FP/GETTY IMAGES

**R**ELIGION IS BACK ON THE agenda of international relations. The latest example of this reality occurred in Bavaria in September, with the visit of the pope to his home state—a visit that ignited a fire sure to burn for a long time to come.

For three centuries, religion was shoved to the background as children of the Age of Enlightenment strove to develop a scientific approach to creating peace between nations. But their best efforts climaxed in the 20th century with the most devastating wars in mankind's history.

Political scientists still largely regard religion as *passe*. But it is now clear that, while they were looking for the formula for world peace, religion was working behind the scenes for a mighty comeback! That comeback was to be sourced within, and stimulated by, two great religions: Roman Catholicism and pan-Islamism.

The great revivals of these two historically clashing religions began for the religion of Rome with the convening of its Second Ecumenical Council, Vatican II, from 1962 to 1965, and for the Islamists with their June 1967 war against Israel.

While Rome chose the way of dialogue and diplomacy to revive its universalist goals, Islam chose the way of war and terrorism. Since 1962, the Vatican has worked through diplomacy, by employing its excellent international intelligence network, and by exercising more open dialog with its wayward Protestant and Orthodox daughters to achieve its goal of the universal conversion of mankind. At the same time, since the Israelis withdrew from the territories they occupied in 1967, Islamists have been blowing up airplanes, blowing up embassies, blowing up their enemies by blowing up themselves, in their efforts to achieve the universal salvation of mankind in the name of Allah and their prophet Mohammad.

Four decades on from those events of the mid-1960s, we see *religion* back with a vengeance as a real power in international relations.

#### **"A Deep Spiritual Experience"**

To the casual observer, the pope's numerous speeches during his six-day visit to Bavaria, September 10 to 15, were a litany of homilies from a well-intentioned, if aging, religious leader. To the careful observer of history and to any student of the

lifetime machinations of Joseph Ratzinger's clerical career, they spell out an agenda. The ongoing effects of the pope's visit have shown how powerfully he used that occasion to clarify his papacy's future direction on matters destined to have a most significant global effect on religion and the international political order.

As one long-time Ratzinger watcher observed, "Pope Benedict has an extraordinary gift for expressing complex ideas in simple ways, and although I've been reading and enjoying his work for years, I don't think I've ever seen anything quite like the series of homilies and speeches he has given this week" (Phil Lawler, editor, *Catholic World News*, September 12).

Upon perusing the media reports, one has to agree with Mr. Lawler. In Bavaria, the pope strove to establish a middle ground from which to speed the opening up of the ecumenical dialog with Protestant and Orthodox Christians that was initiated at Vatican II. After having a private audience with Edmund Stoiber, the devout Catholic prime minister of Bavaria who has lobbied for the Sudetenland to return to German control, Benedict promised to visit the Czech Re-

**The pope used his trip to Bavaria to clarify his papacy's future direction on matters destined to have a global effect.**

public in the near future. His audience with Chancellor Angela Merkel gave Germany's present government head the opportunity to assure the Roman pontiff that injecting "Christianity" into the European Constitution would be a top priority on Germany's agenda during its six-month presidency of the European Union commencing in January. The papal audience with Germany's President Horst Kohler extracted support from the pope regarding presidential concerns about the impact of Islamic penetration into German society.

Whether it be ecumenism, pan-Islamism, the traditional connection between Germany and Rome, religion versus secularism, the need for Europe to return to its Roman Catholic roots, the juxtaposition between the Vatican's view of Christ and of the virgin Mary, or be it politics in general, the pope covered it all in just six days. It was his most concentrated series of public addresses of real consequence in the whole of his

reign thus far. As Benedict himself proclaimed September 17, his visit to Bavaria was a “deep spiritual experience.” Deep indeed! The results are still reverberating around the globe months later!

Yet one has to look for the spice peppered throughout Benedict’s public dissertations in Bavaria to detect much of the reason for the profound effect this visit has had on both the pope and the public.

has been the source of many a commentary since.

With few exceptions, opinions in the world media and press have ranged from the proposition that the pope was ill-advised to use such inflammatory words, to the prospect that he did not really mean what he actually said. Few analysts have really come to grips with the pope’s true intent in his deliberate choice of the

of pan-Islamism (the greatest present threat to Roman Catholicism), this calculating pope chose a quote from a well-documented historical occasion, one that came out of the Eastern (Byzantine) Roman Empire—one that was bound to stir Islamic ire.

Speaking on the question of faith versus reason, Benedict referred to “part of the dialogue carried on—perhaps in 1391

in the winter barracks near Ankara [Turkey]—by the erudite Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus and an educated Persian on the subject of Christianity and Islam, and *the truth of both*” (*Catholic World News*, September 12; emphasis mine throughout).

It is important to note here that in the course of his speech the pope indicated that Christianity—to his mind, Roman Catholicism—“*always reveres the truth*” (*ibid.*). So what was he really saying about Islam’s approach to truth?

Continuing his speech, Benedict reasoned: “In the seventh conversation edited by Professor Khoury, the emperor touches on the

theme of the holy war. The emperor must have known that surah 2, 256 reads: ‘*There is no compulsion in religion.*’ ... [H]e addresses his interlocutor with a startling brusqueness, a brusqueness which leaves us astounded, on the central question about the relationship between religion and violence in general, saying: ‘Show me just what Mohammad brought that was new, and there *you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached.*’ The emperor, after having expressed himself so forcefully, goes on to explain in detail the reasons why spreading the faith through violence is something unreasonable. Violence is incompatible with the nature of God and the nature of the soul. ‘God,’ he says, ‘is not pleased by blood—and not acting reasonably is contrary to God’s nature. ... Whoever would lead someone to faith needs the ability to speak well and to reason properly, without violence and threats .... To convince a reasonable



**IRONIC** An Iraqi Muslim burns an effigy of the pope in protest over his reference to a work that said Muhammad spread Islam through violence.

As Joerg Beyer of the Ecumenical Network group observed, the pope isn’t as overtly confrontational as he was in his prior position: “Contrary to his style at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith ... he now phrases things in a very clever way to avoid unnecessary friction” (Reuters, September 14).

Experiences such as the Bavarian visit are progressively revealing this pope as a man for all seasons. Though he did indeed address some issues purely by *allusion*, others he addressed quite *confrontationally*, principally his pet theme of adjuring Europe to return to its religious roots and, most particularly, the burning issue of *Islamic extremism!*

**A Challenge to Islam**

Intriguingly, Benedict chose to address the quite separate and distinct challenges that secular rationalism and Islamism pose to the church in one powerful speech he delivered at the University of Regensburg. That speech

quotation he used that upset Islamists worldwide, neither why he chose that particular quotation, nor why he chose that particular time to use it in the manner he did.

At the university where he once taught theology, before a group of scientists and scholars, Benedict spoke on a theme consistent in his writings: that Christianity welcomes intellectual inquiry and deeply values truth.

What is fascinating is *how* the pope introduced this subject of the dichotomy between reason and faith. He opened his lecture by really going for the *Islamic* jugular! In his opening remarks, he clearly identified the divide that to his mind separates Islam from Christianity by quoting two documents: first the Koran; then a scholarly argument of the 14th-century Catholic emperor of Byzantium, Manuel II Paleologus, which attacked the “holy war” concept of Mohammad.

Thus, rather than come out publicly with a direct papal condemnation



soul, one does not need a strong arm, or weapons of any kind, or any other means of threatening a person with death.’

“The decisive statement in this argument against violent conversion is this: not to act in accordance with reason is contrary to God’s nature” (ibid.).

### Throwing Down the Gauntlet

Benedict concluded his nearly-4,000-word speech with a reinforcing, for effect, of that latter statement: “Not to act *reasonably* ... is *contrary to the nature of God*,” said Manuel II, according to his Christian understanding of God, in response to his Persian interlocutor. It is ... to this breadth of *reason*, that we invite our partners in the dialogue of cultures.”

That is really throwing down the gauntlet to the Islamists! Reading between the lines, the pope is endorsing the notion that Islam is an *irrational* faith. He would not view Iran’s Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as a rational being! He is clearly inferring that his own god is the only rational one, and that dialogue between Islam and Christianity can only be within the framework of the reasoning and *reasonableness* of this god of the world’s Christian [Catholic] religionists alone.

Surely the pope knew such comments were bound to light the fires of protest in every Islamic country throughout the world!

Think on this. This pope is known for his brilliant intellect. This was a well-thought-out speech, prepared in advance of the event. These remarks about the Islamic faith were not off the cuff. The choice of Manuel II’s statement was both deliberate and calculated—CALCULATED TO GET A REACTION!

And what a *reaction* it received! Public demonstrations broke out in Turkey, in Iran, in the Islamic communities in Britain and on the continent of Europe. Effigies of the pope were burned in the streets and al Qaeda was reported as calling for the pope’s death. Vatican City stepped up security within and around the papal state.

Demands that the pope retract his remarks and make a public apology to Islamists were many. The Vatican released a prepared statement by the pope in which he carefully claimed he regretted the *reaction* his speech caused, but avoided apologizing for the remarks themselves.

Why would this pope, this *German* pope, choose *this moment*—in this, his own home state of Bavaria, the very *heart-*

*land of Catholicism* in Middle Europe—to draw his verbal sword against Islam?

### Chosen Moment

Think. Consider. Reflect.

Reflect on *history*.

Reflect on the *nature* of the Germanic peoples. They hate disorder. They are *expert at creating a crisis* then *initiating a solution*, as that inveterate watcher of Germany Rodney Atkinson has often observed.

The pope knows that if Rome is to return to its former glory (a vision he shared with his predecessor Pope John Paul II), given the present disordered state of the world, he needs *urgently* to unite his over 1 billion faithful who have suffered for decades from the impact of divisive secular thinking on their religion. He knows the best way to do this is to unite Catholics at their historic cultural base, the European continent! He knows that Islam poses the greatest threat to Catholicism in Europe. He sees this as his greatest cause—that he has been *chosen for this moment!*

What better way to unite Europe and return it to its former imperial days of glory than to provide people with *a single common cause* that overrides all else and counteracts all tendencies for division?

**This was a well-thought-out speech, not off the cuff. The choice of Manuel II’s statement was both deliberate and calculated—calculated to get a reaction.**

So, in his own very Germanic way, Benedict, this Bavarian pope, has simply lit the touch tape to an already smoldering issue of concern to all Europeans, *the threat of Islamic jihad*.

Our news bureau sifted through all available commentary from the best of sources following the pope’s speech at Regensburg. Few were those who really saw what Benedict was up to. One astute observer, a student of history and international politics, did. The following analysis, from Dr. George Friedman, gets to the very essence of Benedict’s speech. It is worthy of the space we give it here, for it endorses much of what the *Trumpet* has indicated about Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, that we have observed and published since we began watching him from clear back in 1992!

Speaking on the pope’s choice of the quotation from his 14th-century source, Friedman observed: “The essence of this

passage is about forced conversion. ... Clearly, Benedict knows that Christians also practiced forced conversion in their history.

“... Benedict’s words were purposely chosen. The quotation of Manuel II was not a one-liner, accidentally blurted out. ... [T]here is no question that anyone who read this speech before it was delivered would recognize the explosive nature of discussing anything about Islam in the current climate. ...

“[E]ven the pope had to work hard to come up with this dialogue. There are many other fine examples of the problem of reason and faith that he could have drawn from that did not involve Muslims, let alone one involving such an incendiary quote. ...

“As a deliberate choice, the effect of these remarks could be anticipated. Even apart from the particular phrase, the text of the speech is a criticism of the practice of conversion by violence, with a particular emphasis on Islam. Clearly, the pope intended to make the point that Islam is currently engaged in violence on behalf of religion ...

“Consider the fact that the pope is not only a scholar but a politician—and a good one, or he wouldn’t have become the pope. He is not only a head of state,

but the head of a global church with a billion members. The church is no stranger to geopolitics. Muslims claim that they brought down communism in Afghanistan. That may be true, but there certainly is something to be said also for the efforts of the Catholic Church, which helped to undermine the communism in Poland and to break the Soviet grip on Eastern Europe. Popes know how to play power politics” (Stratfor, September 19).

So, what are this pope’s true intentions?

### The Last Crusade

In his unmatched analysis of Pope Benedict’s Regensburg speech, Dr. Friedman hints at a prospect that the *Trumpet*, in particular our editor in chief, has maintained as a theme throughout this magazine’s existence. Gerald Flurry wrote in August 1998, “Most people think the crusades are a thing of the past—over forever.

But they are wrong. There is going to be a final crusade, and it is going to be the bloodiest one of all! ... Any child should understand that the fruits of the 'holy wars' have been diabolical! There is no excuse for America and Britain not knowing the truth." We believe the evidence proves this pope has sparked the crisis that will, inevitably, lead to Rome's final, great crusade against its old Islamic foe.

Dr. Friedman expressed it this way: "From an intellectual and political standpoint, therefore, Benedict's statement was an elegant move. He has strengthened his political base and perhaps legitimized a stronger response to

anti-Catholic rhetoric in the Muslim world. And he has done it with superb misdirection. ...

"The pope has thrown a hand grenade and is now observing the response."

Students of history will recall that Benedict has simply taken a leaf out of Pope Urban II's book. In 1095, Urban called for the knights of Europe to stop fighting each other and to join a holy war against Islam. Referring to the Ottoman Islamists as "a race ... which has neither directed its heart nor entrusted its spirit to God," he declared it was a Christian duty to "exterminate this vile race from our lands" (Robert the Monk, *Historia Iherosolimitana*). Upon purging the eastern empire of

the followers of Mohammad, the knights were to liberate Jerusalem from Islam.

Similarly, Pope Benedict has set himself the task to unite the fractious nations of the European Union, and he proposes to rally the leaders of these disparate nations to stop squabbling with each other and direct them to make common cause against the spreading tide of Islam that threatens the very continuity of the EU.

It was thus most significant that, when the United Nations called for the EU to provide troops for an international peacekeeping force in Lebanon, following the Hezbollah/Israeli imbroglio earlier this year, that the papal newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, publicly aired concern at the slowness with which nations responded. The papal organ called

# Why He Did It

**Pope Benedict's comments united the Muslim world against him. But the bigger story is the effect those comments are having among Catholics.**

BY BRAD MACDONALD

**W**E HAVE ALL SEEN THE IMAGES OF RAGE-RIDDEN Muslims rioting in the streets, torching churches and demanding and re-demanding an apology from the pope. This anger is unifying the Muslim world. Largely underreported, however, was the number of Catholics and Europeans who rushed to Benedict's defense after his speech in Regensburg.

In many ways, the effects of the pope's remarks upon Catholic Europe are as important, if not more so, than those in the Muslim world.

Pope Benedict XVI's remarks were carefully considered and calculated. But *why*? Analyst George Friedman pointed out that "the general thrust of his remarks has *more to do with Europe*" (Stratfor, September 19).

"There is an intensifying tension in Europe over the powerful wave of Muslim immigration. Frictions are high on both sides. Europeans fear that the Muslim immigrants will overwhelm their native culture or form an unassimilated and destabilizing mass. Muslims feel unwelcome, and some extreme groups have threatened to work for the conversion of Europe. ... [W]ith his remarks, [the pope] moved toward *closer alignment with those who are uneasy about Europe's Muslim community*—without adopting their own, more extreme, sentiments. *That move increases his political strength among these groups and could cause them to rally around the church*" (ibid., emphasis mine throughout).

Benedict's remarks were largely designed to put some fire under Europeans and Catholics and rally the Continent around the Vatican.

This is precisely what is happening. Islamic rage is igniting a deeper respect and loyalty among Europeans and Catholics for the Vatican.

On September 18, EUobserver.com reported on the Eu-

ropean Commission's reaction to the pope's comments and the Muslim uproar. "The European Commission has said it was wrong to pick out quotes from the pope's controversial speech in which a link between Islam and violence was suggested and deliberately taking them out of context."

A statement from Commission spokesman Johannes Laitenberger was pointed and unapologetic: "... I can also say that reactions which are disproportionate and which are tantamount to rejecting freedom of speech are unacceptable, and let me conclude with this: *Freedom of speech is a cornerstone of the EU's order as is the freedom and respect of all religions and beliefs ...*" (ibid.).

In Germany, where the pope made his remarks, the daily *Die Welt* said that "anger in the Islamic world about the quote used by Pope Benedict XVI is groundless because it

merely expressed a 'historically documented fact'" (BBC News, September 18). The paper condemned Muslims for exploiting the opportunity to start a clash of cultures.

Edmund Stoiber, a prominent German politician and friend of the pope, insisted that there were "no grounds for criticism" in the pope's comments. Switzerland's daily *La Tribune de Geneve* reported that "Islamists are again showing they are 'the worst enemies of Islam'"—and, regarding the murder of a nun in Somalia, said, "If fundamentalists were trying to confirm Benedict XVI's declarations, *they could not have done better!*" (BBC News, op. cit.).

*El Mundo* in Spain linked the Muslim backlash to the cartoon crisis episode from earlier this year. "The pope does not have to apologize for expressing an opinion," it wrote. "He upheld an idea we fully share: tolerance." The article grew stronger as it progressed. "To bow to Muslim protests and accept that Benedict XVI must apologize is tantamount to questioning freedom of expression and of thought, which—however much Islam dislikes it—is the main conquest of our civilization" (ibid.).

**Islamic rage is igniting a deeper respect and loyalty among Europeans and Catholics for the Vatican.**

for nations to rally with a heightened sense of the urgency of the moment to the UN call. Shortly after, they did. EU nations soon promised more troops and military hardware. Most significant was the German contribution—naval and air force—notwithstanding Germany’s publicly declared reluctance to enter the fray when first asked to do so. What started off with the offer of a few hundred military personnel by Germany soon escalated to the thousands!

### The Lighted Fuse

Most do not even begin to comprehend that which is now building in the Middle East, the tensions greatly exacerbated by Pope Benedict’s Regensburg speech. One who does, an ex-Catholic nun, well

versed in the history of the Crusades and their significance to the present-day situation, claims that abundant evidence exists to prove that “the irrationality and hatreds of crusading are far from dead.” Her views are remarkably similar to the point Benedict made in his Regensburg speech: “[W]e must not take these religious passions lightly or dismiss them as the crazed fantasies of an eccentric minority that cannot long survive in our enlightened world,” she says. “There is no purely rational explanation or solution to this problem” (Karen Armstrong, *Holy War*).

But it is Armstrong’s conclusion to her detailed analysis of the connection between

the Crusades of old and the rising reaction to *jihad*, such as what was sparked by Pope Benedict XVI, that are worthy of note. Her words are a dramatic endorsement of the forecasting by our editor in chief of a great final crusade ahead, and of its apocalyptic nature: “Obviously

**POPE  
BENEDICT XVI  
in Bavaria**

Polish President Jaroslaw Kaczynski defended the pope, condemned Muslims as being a “little too easily offended,” and asked, “Where is the line that a Christian or Catholic cannot cross and say what they think?”

The message out of Europe is clear and definite: Muslim rage, no matter how vehement it might grow, will not stain the reputation of the pope among Catholics, nor will it cow the Continent into a defensive posture.

The fact that Europe is beginning to stand up to Muslim war-mongering is the *real* story.

This is a deeply significant event in Muslim/Catholic relations. The obvious fault line between Muslims and Catholics has been exposed. Catholics and Europeans see the danger rising against them. This controversy has evolved into a rallying cry for Europeans, as well as the 1 billion Catholics scattered across the globe.

Even as far away as Australia, Catholic leaders stood behind their beloved patriarch. Head of the church in Australia, Cardinal George Pell, defended Benedict and went further to say that the Muslim reaction “justified one of Pope Benedict’s main fears” about Islam.

The pope is also receiving support from other Christian religions. In Britain, former head of the Anglican Church Lord Carey not only defended the pope and praised his speech as being “extraordinarily effective and lucid,” but also warned, according to the *Times*, that the “‘clash of civilizations’ endangering the world was not between Islamist extremists and the West, but with Islam as a whole” (September 20).

As you watch the controversy between Muslims and Catholics unfold, keep a keen eye focused on *Europe’s* response to the growing tidal wave of Islamic hatred against the West.

■ ALEXANDER HEIMANN/GETTY IMAGES



the religious passions of the Middle East are no longer always amenable to rational control. The area has become a tinderbox that could ignite into a nuclear holocaust, if this extreme spirit were allowed to get out of control" (ibid.).

Pope Benedict has lit the fuse to that tinderbox. Islam will reap the whirlwind.

The flames will not now be quenched until a force far more powerful than the gods of both Islam and Roman Catholicism enforces the eradication of *jihad* and crusading "holy war" forever.

Beyond the great nuclear conflagration soon to come lies the answer to all the crusading efforts of mankind—by re-

ligion, by rationalist thought, by science—the *final* conclusive *answer* as to why man has never learned the way to *world peace*, the ultimate solution to that seemingly unsolvable problem of humankind.

Write now for your own copy, gratis, of *Mystery of the Ages* to discover for yourself that earth-shaking solution, and learn how you can contribute to bringing it about!

# Benedict's War Cabinet

**I**N contrast to the pope's obvious call to Europe to step up to the battle against extremist Islam that he broadcast from Bavaria in September, Pope Benedict XVI has been far less overt in publicizing the revolutionary changes he is making within the Vatican bureaucracy.

Commentators have mentioned the frailty of old age that inflicts this pope. They in turn note his thin and reedy voice and his comparative lack of charisma compared to his predecessor, John Paul II. But all seem to agree on one thing: the power of this pope's tremendous intellect.

So it is that, having bided his time, Benedict has recently begun, with typical German thoroughness—one could even say administrative brutality—trimming the fat in the governing body of the Catholic Church, the Curia, and placing hand-picked troops in his front line. This is a pope gearing up for battle. Benedict is preparing to wage war with any who would challenge his word on dogma, on liturgy, and on any of his initiatives at promoting a great religious revival within Rome's collective global congregation of over 1 billion souls. With the benefit of John Paul's papacy having laid the groundwork, Benedict XVI is even now preparing for his clarion call to revive the church's mission to catholicize the world.

Consider the wide-ranging changes Benedict has already enacted over the past few months, with no sign of these changes slowing down.

Starting with his own replacement in the office of prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Benedict turned to an interesting choice by appointing then-archbishop of San Francisco, William J. Levada, in May last year. The two had worked closely together during John Paul's pontificate. Benedict would know full well that Levada, known as shy and retiring in demeanor, would not challenge the pope on any matter of theological consequence. Thus Benedict guarantees that he remains sole and final authority on Catholic doctrine.

Then this March, the pope started his downsizing program by first eliminating two senior positions in the Curia. He accepted the resignation of Japanese Cardinal Stephen Fumio Hamao, who had been president of the Pontifical Council for Migrants, and reappointed Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald from president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue to apostolic nuncio to Egypt. In the process, Benedict merged four existing pontifical councils into two.

There followed a change in the post which is key to Vatican relations with the developing world. The office of the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples, formerly held by Italian Cardinal Crescenzio Sepe, was given to the archbishop of Bombay, Indian Cardinal Ivan Dias.

In July, the Vatican's longstanding press officer, Opus Dei layman Joaquin Navarro-Valls, was replaced by Jesuit priest Federico Lombardi, director general of Vatican radio and television.

In September, with the retirement of Cardinal Edmund Szoka from the post of president of the Vatican City governate, the Vatican's secretary of relations with states, Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, moved into that role, thus leaving the Vatican's key foreign-policy office vacant.



**CABINET** Benedict speaks to members of the Curia, several of whom he has replaced with men who more closely embody his ideals.

REUTERS

That position was later filled by French Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, a Moroccan native with an understanding of the Muslim world.

Also in September, following the papal visit to Bavaria, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, having served for the past 15 years in the powerful position of Vatican secretary of state, was replaced by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Ratzinger's prior trusted deputy in his former position as the head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. It is believed the pope considers that Bertone will more effectively serve Benedict's goals of changing the Curia into an administrative body better tuned to facilitating his global mission to catholicize the masses.

All these moves are, according to a recent report, designed to help achieve the pope's vision of enabling the Vatican as a "church headquarters to be both a more holy and a more efficient entity" (*Time*, September 11). This certainly bespeaks a "holy" Roman imperial vision, underwritten by typical German motivation for thoroughgoing efficiency.

Dual posts now under consideration by Pope Benedict for review and change are that of vicar of Rome and head of the Italian Bishops Conference, both currently held by the veteran Cardinal Camillo Ruini.

Benedict is also mulling over the need to place a man in charge of the Vatican purse strings whom he can trust. Although it may come as a shock to some, particularly in Italy, the fact that Benedict is currently considering a fellow German for this position should surprise few who have watched his power plays. The Italian magazine *Panorama* recently reported that Benedict has in mind appointing the former head of the German Central Bank, Hans Tietmeyer, to that key treasury position. As *Time* observed, should that appointment become a reality, it "would shake things up almost as much as a German pope" (ibid.).

As we have consistently advised, watch Rome, and watch Berlin. The state of the world for the immediate future will vitally hinge on strategies being currently worked out in these two key capital cities.

Pope Benedict certainly lit the fuse to the Middle East tinderbox during his now infamous speech in Regensburg, Bavaria. Islam will soon reap the whirlwind, Iran having pushed its foreign policy to the point of stimulating a powerful papal response. The pope is busy assembling his war cabinet within the Curia in Rome. The battle will be joined in one final great crusade. That titanic battle is about to begin. 2007 will powerfully demonstrate that reality. Watch Rome—watch Berlin!

**RON FRASER**

**EMPIRE** Germany's stock exchange, Deutsche Börse, is currently engaged in talks to buy the Euronext stock exchange.

# Germany's Corporate Blitzkrieg

**German business is invading its neighbors through hostile takeovers.** BY ROBERT MORLEY

**“G**ERMAN COMPANIES HAVE stepped on the gas in the past 12 months.” That’s what Tim Albrecht, a fund manager at dws Investment in Frankfurt, said earlier this year. “They’re in conquering mode, and we’ve not hit the peak yet” (*International Herald Tribune*, March 16).

In the first quarter of 2006 alone, German companies agreed to spend a record \$99.5 billion on takeovers—more than in all of 2005. Swiss bank UBS says nearly 65 percent of this year’s bids by German corporations have been either

hostile or at least unsolicited (German Foreign Policy, August 9).

These takeovers are one sign of an economy on fire. Germany has the largest economy in Europe, accounting for 20 percent of all economic activity in the European Union. It has also become the world’s third-largest economy and its largest exporter.

This is an amazing position for German business to be in, considering the state it was left in six decades ago. During the closing year of World War II, Germany took one of the worst poundings ever

administered to any nation. Every city with a population over 50,000 was destroyed, and many other smaller cities as well. Every fourth home in the country was left in ruins. The Germans were broken both militarily and economically.

Near the close of the war, the Allies signed a document stating, “It is our inflexible purpose to ... ensure that Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world. We are determined to ... eliminate or control *all German industry* that could be used for military production ....”

REUTERS

However, the Allies never followed through with ensuring Germany would not be able to ever again dominate Europe and the world. Instead they embraced a postwar policy designed to reconstruct the enemy.

Today, riding on its rebuilt industry, Germany has successfully reclaimed its role as the economic powerhouse of Europe. As a result, mainland Europe's economy is being pulled along at its fastest rate in six years—even surpassing Britain and the United States, according to recent figures.

Consumer confidence is swelling, and the German economy may finally be emerging from a decade of poor performance characterized by consumers saving rather than spending. According to the *Guardian*, domestic investment and consumer spending have now surpassed exports as the primary driver for Germany's economic growth (August 15).

The *New York Times* says a reinvigorated Germany has "far-reaching implications" for Europe and even the whole world (January 17).

**Strengthening Corporate Sector**

German companies are perfectly positioned to take advantage of the new German consumer spending. The years of weak economic growth gave many German corporations the bargaining power needed to bring their unions under control, often by threatening to move jobs overseas. All across Germany, domestically owned corporate giants such as Siemens, Volkswagen and DaimlerChrysler cut staff, demanded employees work longer hours, and increased productivity. They were forced to innovate and become more efficient in order to remain afloat. The effect is a stronger, more competitive corporate sector.

Meanwhile, as Germany's corporate giants restructured, they also focused on increasing their exports, largely within Europe. In fact, over the past 10 years, German enterprises have expanded their eurozone market share by over 25 percent—more than double that of their French rivals and more than 2½ times that of the Italians. Foreign sales have also allowed German corporations to become highly profitable. Both 2004



**CASE IN POINT** German utility company E.On plans a \$34.3 billion hostile takeover of Spanish energy company Endesa—the largest proposed by any power company ever.

REUTERS

and 2005 were record revenue-generating years for German companies, and according to current predictions, this year will set a new record again. Last year, more than 130 industrial, commercial and service companies listed on Germany's four leading stock exchanges increased their net profits by an average of 30 percent.

This German corporate strength is beginning to be recognized: 2006's second-quarter stats showed German business confidence close to a 15-year high, and German corporations are hiring again. The result: a more confident German industry, which, "[b]lack in fighting trim ... has begun flexing its muscles overseas" (*New York Times*, op. cit.).

The most visible manifestation of German corporate muscle-flexing has been the recent deluge of German corporate takeovers—many of them hostile.

*Business Week* called the corporate leaders of German hunter companies like Siemens, the engineering group Linde, and energy conglomerate E.On, "young lions" that are "quick to pounce" (April 21).

When commentators start referring to these companies as young lions that are quick to pounce, or as being in conquering mode, any person who reveres history should take note. To a large extent, these companies are the very same ones that marched in step with Germany's World War I and World War II attempts to take over Europe and the world.

**German Takeovers**

Siemens, for example, is a company whose roots extend back to 1847. During World

War I, two fifths of Siemens' entire corporate value was destroyed. After World War II, four fifths of Siemens operations were destroyed. Yet today Siemens is back as one of the world's largest companies, employing 461,000 people in over 190 countries. Siemens is a leader in information and communications, power, transportation, medical and lighting technologies.

Linde, a 127-year-old engineering corporation, recently bought the strategic British-owned BOC Group, the world's second-largest industrial gases manufacturer. During the world wars, Linde played an essential role in producing liquid oxygen and other explosives as well as in pioneering coal-to-liquid technology and nitrate fertilizer production in support of the German war effort. The BOC purchase now makes Linde the world's foremost producer of industrial gases, employing 53,000 people throughout Europe and around the world.

E.On's heritage can be traced back to two founding companies, VIAG and VEBA, which were established prior to World War II by the German government to oversee the nation's metals, mining and power industries. In 2000, the two companies merged to form Germany's dominant gas and power utility, E.On.

Earlier this year, E.On announced a \$34.3 billion hostile takeover of Spanish energy company Endesa—the largest takeover proposed by any power company ever. If this deal goes through, E.On, which is already Europe's dominant combined electricity and gas provider, will become Spain's largest power supplier and probably Germany's largest

publicly owned company. Endesa also has holdings in Portugal, Italy, North Africa, Brazil and Chile.

This takeover attempt by E.On follows a string of others. In 2001, E.On purchased British-owned Powergen for \$9.5 billion, making it Britain's second-largest electricity and gas provider. In 2002, E.On purchased Hungarian utility Edasz. Then in 2003, E.On purchased Ruhrgas, the Continent's largest importer of natural gas. This purchase gave E.On a 6.5 percent stake in Russia's super-giant gas company Gazprom, making it the largest foreign shareholder in the group. In 2005, Romanian utility Electrica Moldova was E.On's successful takeover target. Electrica Moldova, supplying 1.3 million customers, controls approximately 11 percent of Romania's wholesale market. In January 2006, Hungary's largest oil and gas company, MOL, headquartered in Budapest, was acquired. E.On also owns significant operations in Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands and a host of other European countries.

An E.On adviser says the reason the German company is so successful at takeovers is that its huge pile of cash allows it "to blow rivals out of the water" (*Financial Times*, February 22). With 80,000 employees, E.On is the world's largest privately owned energy service provider; by these takeover actions, it is rapidly becoming the literal powerhouse of Europe.

Other German corporations are also taking over strategic industries throughout Europe.

German stock exchange Deutsche Börse's battle for control of the Euronext stock exchange is perhaps the most high-profile example of a major prospective German takeover. Deutsche Börse officials tout the potential Euronext purchase as the first creation of a "truly pan-European exchange organization" representing a "significant step forward in the integration of European financial markets" (Agence France Presse, May 22).

Deutsche Börse shareholders lauded the potential pairing as the creation of a "European champion." If this merger proceeds, Europe's major financial markets in Frankfurt, Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam and Lisbon will all fall under German control. Additionally, the Italian stock exchange based in Milan has reportedly indicated that if a pan-European exchange led by Germany is created, it too would like to join the group.

German-owned companies such as Deutsche Bank, Deutsche Post, Deutsche

Telekom, Allianz Group, RWE and many others have all actively bought out foreign competitors, extending their reach and influence throughout Europe.

Across Europe, major power, gas, water, manufacturing, telecommunications, finance and media corporations have fallen to German buyers. These are industries no nation would want in the hands of an enemy during a crisis. Even in good times, it opens a nation up to coercion—in bad times, blackmail or worse.

German financiers and businessmen—merchants of the earth—are turning their nation into the economic hub for Europe and the world. Their success is worth

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## **This year has seen Germany propelled into the spotlight by some great public relations coups. Germany has also become the world's largest exporter and its third-largest economy.**

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noting, since twice last century such merchants—to a large extent, the very same companies—marched in step with the military, with devastating results.

### **German Corporate History**

In 1996, the U.S. government declassified a top-secret World War II document that exposed agreements made between several of Germany's largest industrial giants and top German officials at a meeting just nine months before the war's end in Europe.

According to the document, on Aug. 10, 1944, principle German corporate leaders representing Krupp, Volkswagenwerk, Messerschmitt, Rheinmetall, Röchling, Büssing and others met with top German military and political personnel from the SS, Navy, and the ministries of armaments to prepare for a "postwar commercial campaign" after the eventual German loss.

German industrialists must, the document said, "through their exports increase the strength of Germany." They were instructed to place existing financial reserves at the disposal of the Nazi Party "so that a strong German Empire can be created after the defeat."

This document highlighted the exact worry the Allied powers tried to address by seeking to destroy Germany's future war-making capability.

Have Germany's World War II corporate industrialists followed through with their directive? Germany has become the world's largest exporting nation, and German corporations are again eco-

nomically powerful—but has a corporate Germany actually conducted a "postwar commercial campaign" to increase its influence over Europe?

A look at the astounding post-World War II success of the above-mentioned six companies identified in the declassified document not only suggests a postwar German commercial campaign, but a highly effective one.

Take steel and weapons manufacturer Krupp (now ThyssenKrupp). When Germany lost World War II, the company was forbidden by the Allies to manufacture arms (as it was after World War I) and Alfred Krupp, the compa-

ny's owner, was convicted of war crimes including the use of mass slave labor. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison and ordered to forfeit all his property. Later, however, the U.S. high commissioner for Germany granted him amnesty and restored much of his holdings. Alfred Krupp was released in the early part of 1951, and even though many of the Krupp factories, shipyards and steel and coal mines had been damaged, destroyed or dismantled, Krupp was still able to reestablish itself as a leading German company by the 1960s, to continue its 100-year tradition of supplying Germany with the arms needed for war.

The speed at which ThyssenKrupp reestablished itself as a corporate giant is astonishing.

Today, ThyssenKrupp is one of the largest steel and technology groups in the world, employing about 184,000 workers in more than 70 countries. It is also a leading naval military supplier, building some of the most technologically advanced submarines, frigates and corvettes available. Its fiscal 2004/2005 sales of approximately €42 billion (US\$53.3 billion) were generated in bulk from its roughly 600 foreign subsidiary companies, located in the UK, France, Italy and 13 other European countries. ThyssenKrupp also has operations in the U.S. and Asia. Not bad for a company that was all but destroyed in two world wars.

Volkswagen, another German corporation documented for its collusion with the World War II Nazis, has become a very powerful and dominant automo-

tive player on the world scene. Although its core market is the European Union, Volkswagen sales make it the world's fifth-largest automotive company by revenue. Volkswagen owns the Bentley brand, international vehicle manufacturer Audi, Seat and Skoda, which manufacture and sell cars in Spain and in southern and eastern Europe, and Lamborghini, which makes sports cars in Italy.

Messerschmitt, Germany's famous World War II manufacturer that built much of the fighting aircraft behind Germany's Luftwaffe, is also active and prospering today, although under a different name.

Like Krupp, much of Messerschmitt's infrastructure was destroyed in the war. Further, Messerschmitt was even forbidden to produce aircraft. Yet it too has

that it again became a weapons builder after the World War II loss. In fact, despite the Allies' initial ban on arms production, Rheinmetall was back mass producing machine guns by 1956. By 1972, Rheinmetall had developed and begun selling the Leopard 2 battle tank.

Not much later, and after a series of corporate acquisitions, Rheinmetall became Europe's leading military supplier of systems and equipment for ground forces, providing everything from artillery and munitions to communications, surveillance technology and guided missile systems. Rheinmetall subsidiaries, which also include significant automotive component manufacturers, are located throughout Europe, the Americas and China.

Röchling, founded 184 years ago as a

would eventually rise again to dominate Europe and threaten the world.

As early as 1945, broadcasting immediately after a United Nations meeting, Mr. Armstrong warned that German industry was working toward the revival of a German empire. "We don't understand German thoroughness," he said. "From the very start of World War II, they have considered the possibility of losing this second round, as they did the first—and they have carefully, methodically planned, in such eventuality, the third round—World War III!"

"What most do not know," said Mr. Armstrong, "is that the Germans have their plans for winning the BATTLE of the peace. Yes, I said BATTLE of the peace."

Peaceably, through corporate mergers and acquisitions, German corporations are reaching out beyond the borders of Germany to gain control of strategic industry. Even Germany's most notorious World War II companies, which were severely disassembled and banned from future arms production by the Allies, have emerged as European and global leaders.

A third world war is coming, but this time Germany will not have to first fight to control Europe. Europe will find itself under Germany's economic control before war even starts. As German companies increasingly seek to dominate Europe's gas and power distribution, finance, manufacturing and defense industries, Europe will find itself under increasing pressure to submit to German leadership.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher also warned, speaking of the EU in a speech given in America in October 1995, "You have not anchored Germany to Europe; You have anchored Europe to a newly dominant, unified Germany. In the end, my friends, you'll find it will not work." It is Germany's national character to dominate, she said.

Be forewarned. Trouble out of Europe is coming, and Germany will be the driving force behind it. Germany's recent corporate blitzkrieg is just the precursor to a much larger and non-peaceable event. ■

**Peaceably, through corporate mergers and acquisitions, German corporations are reaching out beyond the borders of Germany to gain control of strategic industry.**

risen from World War II to become part of a world-leading corporation. Messerschmitt was eventually allowed to build aircraft again, and in 1989, after several post-war mergers, Messerschmitt became part of Daimler-Benz Aerospace (another German industrial giant). Daimler-Benz Aerospace then later helped found the European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company (EADS), becoming a 30-percent owner.

EADS today is a global aerospace and defense technology leader. The group includes the aircraft manufacturer Airbus, and the world's largest helicopter supplier, Eurocopter. It is also a major shareholder in MBDA, the international leader in missile systems. EADS produces the Eurofighter and other military aircraft. Galileo, the European satellite navigation system being constructed to rival the U.S.'s GPS, is also being built in large part by EADS. The company employs 113,000 people at more than 70 production sites, primarily in France, Germany, Great Britain and Spain.

Both Rheinmetall and Röchling, two of the other companies indicated by the World War II intelligence document, have also become very successful corporations.

Rheinmetall has been at the forefront of German military manufacturing for over 100 years, so it isn't too surprising

coal trading house, has now become a leader in high-performance plastics technologies. In 2004, the Röchling Group's worldwide operations generated revenue of approximately €1.4 billion (US\$1.78 billion) and employed 8,000 workers.

Vehicle manufacturer Büssing also became a successful post-World War II company, although in 1979 it was purchased by the MAN Group, another German industrial manufacturer, whose history can be traced back 250 years.

The MAN Group is now one of Europe's leading manufacturers of commercial vehicles, engines and mechanical engineering equipment. MAN builds trucks, buses, diesel engines and turbomachinery; it also provides industrial services. According to MAN's website, the corporation holds "leading market positions in all its business areas," employing 50,000 people worldwide. Interestingly, this September MAN made a \$12.3-billion offer for Sweden's Scania, Europe's fourth-largest truck maker, though the initial bid was rejected. If MAN does eventually succeed, however, it would become the leading truck-building industry in Europe.

**Germany's Battle of the Peace**

While Germany was but a pile of rubble after World War II, one man—Herbert W. Armstrong—warned that Germany

For more information on the implications of a German-dominated, unified Europe, request our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.







# A Leaner, Meaner Japan

Meet the new prime minister.

BY BRAD MACDONALD

“IT’S THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW era under Abe,” ruling party Secretary General Hidenao Nakagawa declared. Elected decisively on September 26, Shinzo Abe comes to office as a champion of “revision of the pacifist Constitution, a more outspoken foreign policy, and more patriotic education” (Associated Press, September 26).

To pursue what he envisions as a more nationalistic and militarist direction for Japan, Abe wasted no time in consolidating and empowering his government. Not only has he stacked his cabinet with conservatives, but he has strengthened his own position. “His government immediately declared that the prime minister—not the powerful bureaucracy—would direct policy” (ibid.). “The prime minister’s office,” according to incoming Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki, “should be strengthened as the control center for the whole state” (ibid.).

It is no wonder Abe’s ascendance to power, as the *Los Angeles Times* put it, “raises fears that the nation’s long-repressed well of virulent nationalism, buried just beneath the surface, could again rise up ...” (September 25). Indeed, even prior to Abe becoming prime minister, his predecessor Junichiro Koizumi was laying the groundwork for a more nationalistic Japanese foreign policy, to be underpinned by a more assertive military.

Throughout his time as prime minister, Koizumi ruffled feathers (most notably China’s) by visiting a shrine honoring Japanese war criminals, proposing changes to Japan’s pacifist Constitution, and tam-

pering with textbooks to gloss over Japan’s wartime record. Mr. Abe, as the *Washington Post* noted, “promises an *extreme version* of this formula” (September 25; emphasis mine). With the world having grown used to Japan’s new nationalist direction under Koizumi, Abe can dramatically accelerate the speed of Japan’s evolution into nationalism and militarism.

These issues are quite personal to Mr. Abe, whose grandfather Nobusuke Kishi was a member of Japan’s wartime cabinet, later jailed by the U.S. as a war criminal.

As Abe begins his prime-ministership, we should watch two specific trends.

First, we can expect Abe to finally rewrite Japan’s pacifist Constitution, enhance the Japanese military as an offensive force and promote that military to the world as the dominant and powerful force it is. As Japan’s military mindset evolves from being predominantly defensive to overtly offensive, it is also likely the nation will begin to develop its own cache of nuclear weapons. This idea is already circulating among Japanese statesmen and politicians and being pushed particularly by Abe (see “Pressure Mounts to Go Nuclear,” page 22).

Second, we can expect Abe to repair relations with fellow Asian states, specifically China. This prospect, often brushed over, has the potential to be more dangerous than even the rise of a more nationalistic Japan.

Nakagawa, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party policy chief and a key adviser to the new PM, vowed that Abe, as prime minister, would seek to “repair damaged ties with China” (*International Her-*

*ald Tribune*, September 24). He said the new government would push hard for a Tokyo-Beijing summit. On a public talk show, Nakagawa stated, “Relations [with China] will definitely begin to improve” under Abe’s leadership, and that they are moving toward a “brighter era.”

Much of the Western media is distracted by reports about territorial disputes and periodic offenses between China and Japan. Many people fail to see the depth of political and economic cohesion already existent between these nations. As America’s economic influence subsides and as it becomes geopolitically isolated, and as the world (especially Asia) begins to revolve more around China, we should expect Japan to distance itself from the U.S. and align more closely with the giant next door.

Added to the growing economic and political factors pushing China and Japan together, these nations are also more aligned culturally and religiously with each other than with the United States. Both share Confucian and Buddhist traditions, and a culture that values hierarchical government, the importance of “saving face” and the “supremacy of the state over society and of society over the individual” (Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations*). The fact is, nations just tend to align with other nations of similar heritage, religion and culture.

While Japan and China have many cultural and ideological similarities, few exist with the U.S. Though relations between Japan and America appear rosy, fundamental schisms exist between American and Asian cultures. Huntington identifies another key difference between Asian and American cultures as revealed in past conflicts and subsequent relations: “The Asians ... tended to regard the United States as ‘an international nanny, if not bully.’ Deep imperatives within American culture, however, impel the United States to be at least a nanny if not a bully ... and as a result American expectations were increasingly at odds with Asian ones” (ibid.). Economics and politics are not enough to hold America and Japan together. Japan’s future does not lie with America!

This is why Shinzo Abe’s desire to repair relations between Japan and China is significant. We must watch for a strengthening in Sino-Japanese relations. ■

With reporting by DONNA GRIEVES

If you would like to understand more about the immediate future of Asia, read our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.



# The Sickness in Britain's Heart

The British have enabled extremist Islamism to infect their nation from within. It threatens to do them in. BY JOEL HILLIKER

**ON BRITISH SOIL** A Muslim angry about the cartoon depictions of Muhammad shouts and holds up the Koran during a protest in Trafalgar Square.

**T**HE SOLDIERS ARE MICROSCOPIC, but it's a war just the same. Under constant assault by pathogens, the human body stakes its life on the multi-layered defenses of its immune system.

Every millimeter of a man is a battleground. The border guards, messengers, warriors and generals are skin, lymph, mucus, antibodies, bone marrow and hormones, each with amazingly proficient means of detecting, destroying and dispatching anything that would jeopardize the home they exist only to defend.

If this unseen militia cannot carry out its mission, germs and toxins attack the system and trigger sickness and disease. When immunity is sufficiently disabled, a person faces certain death.

*Such is the sick state of Britain today.*

### Almost a third of British Muslims believe that “Western society is decadent and immoral, and Muslims should seek to bring it to an end, but only by nonviolent means.”

The United Kingdom is irreparably infected with a host of pathogens cultural, moral and spiritual. Though many of these hurt the national body, one is particularly deadly: the spread within British borders of aggressive, hate-filled, violence-loving Islamist extremism.

This deep, creeping cancer has grown in Britain's bowels for decades virtually unnoticed. But on July 7 of last year, it announced its presence suddenly, with a shock of pain: Coordinated suicide bombings killed 52 Londoners on their morning commute. A mere 13 months later, this past August, an attack many times greater—the destruction of 10 transatlantic flights leaving from London—would have slain thousands had not British and Pakistani police busted it.

What was so appalling was, the minds that hatched these murders—filled with incomprehensible, alien hate—were *homegrown*. In both cases, the villains who deigned to rob innocent British fathers, mothers and children of life did not come from the hot sands of the Middle East, but from the boroughs of Mother England herself. Britain's deadliest enemies were, in fact, Britons—outgrowths of the nation's own sickness.

Remarkably, the weak immunity that enabled this sickness to flourish has unmistakably been *Britain's own doing*. The British have systematically neutralized their own national defenses against this malignant infection, thus inviting it, even nurturing it.

#### A Peek at Britain's Muslims

Of Britain's 60.6 million people, at least 1.6 million are Muslim. The disproportionate impact of this minority can be discerned in part by the fact that Islam is Britain's fastest-growing religion, and its second largest. More people in Britain attend a mosque each week than visit an Anglican church.

Alone, these facts speak more to the crippled state of the Church of England than to any particular threat from Islam. However, peering inside the numbers reveals some startling trends.

Among those 1.6 million British Muslims, a great number identify more with the global body of Islamic believers than with their home country. *One third* would rather live in the UK under Islamic law than British law, according to a Channel 4 *Dispatches* poll in August.

That figure roughly matches a shocking one from a YouGov poll a year earlier: Almost a third of British Muslims believe that “Western society is decadent and immoral, and *Muslims should seek to bring it to an end*, but only by nonviolent means” (emphasis mine).

When Muslims speak of bringing Western society to an end, they are talking about making it subject to Islamic law. Nonviolent means of achieving this goal include gradually promoting the spread of Muslim customs and rituals; securing special privileges for Islamic schools, mosques and other organizations; and gradually cracking down on un-Islamic activity. They also include swelling the number of Muslims through immigration, reproduction and conversion. In Britain today, one sees bustling activity by Muslims on all these fronts.

For many, it is a small step to sympathizing with those willing to blow themselves up in subways and on airplanes. The *Dispatches* poll showed that almost *one fourth* of British Muslims—and far more among those under age 24—believe the 7/7 bombings were justified because of the British government's support of the U.S.-led “war on terror.” Thus, the relationship between the host country and a sizable percentage of this particular minority is already an adversarial one.

And among still smaller percentages of those 1.6 million British Muslims, one finds far more toxic attitudes. The YouGov poll cited above found that 1 percent

believe the West's end should come “if necessary by violence.” That equates to at least 16,000 Muslims living in Britain who hate their country enough to want to see it come to a violent end.

In her scorching book *Londonistan*, author Melanie Phillips documents the unbelievable extent to which the UK has become home to the most extreme elements of Islamism in the world. Because of the freedom with which they are able to operate in Britain, numerous radical groups—including arms of al Qaeda—have planted their headquarters or significant operations there. Says Phillips, “UK-based terrorists have carried out operations in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Israel, Morocco, Russia, Spain and the United States.” Consider this list of infamous Islamists: the murderer of

journalist Daniel Pearl; al Qaeda members who sought to target U.S. financial centers; the man who rammed an explosive-laden truck into police barracks in Kashmir; shoe-bomber Richard Reid; suicide bombers who blew up Israelis in a Tel Aviv bar; one of the masterminds behind two attacks in Bali. All these terrorists called England their home.

How could such monsters incubate within what is supposedly America's strongest ally in the “war on terror”? The reasons are numerous and shocking—and deeply revealing of the nature of Britain today.

#### Misplaced Blame

Though the malignancy of radical Islamism is spreading in many non-Muslim nations—throughout Europe, North America and Southeast Asia in particular—in Britain the problem is uniquely bad. For its pathetic response to the incursion of militant Islam, commentator Daniel Pipes calls it the “weakest link in the Western chain.”

Official response to the July 7, 2005, terrorist attack in London provided a perfect CAT scan of the advanced state of the disease. Reportage of the event quickly produced a politically correct, Islam-free version of the murders: The perpetrators were “bombers,” not “terrorists.” That they were Muslims who had been recruited at a British- and EU-government-funded Islamic youth center known for its radical politics was glossed over.

In the official account, *the real victims were British Muslims*, who were certain to suffer an increase in “Islamophobia” from ignorant Britons who would naturally conclude from the attack that all Muslims are evil. The deputy assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Brian Paddick, tried to head off public mistrust of Muslims by saying, “Islam and terrorists are two words that do not go together.” The Nottinghamshire chief constable made it his top pri-

muslims, but on the state—for making Muslims angry.

That ridiculous idea lies at the core of political correctness: that a minority culture is *always* a victim of the majority culture—that *even its crimes* can be understood as having been provoked by the oppressions of the majority. During the cultural revolution of the 20th century’s later decades, Britain swallowed that toxic brew in lethal doses.

Thus, even after Islamists filled Lon-

West—put forward its recommendation for protecting Britain from another 7/7: Win the hearts of militant Muslims by prostrating before them. A group of Anglican bishops, in a September 2005 report, proposed that Britain apologize for the Iraq war. Since they didn’t expect Downing Street to do so, they agreed that the church itself should make a “public act of repentance” before Muslim leaders.

British criminologists came up with a unique explanation for what caused

**Religion has been almost completely leached out of British life. Thus, its people can only stare uncomprehendingly at a people so dedicated to and motivated by religious faith.**

ority to deal with the problem—not by clamping down on extremism, but by *pacifying the Muslim community* with gestures such as ordering 20,000 green ribbons for all public officials to wear in a show of solidarity with Muslims.

Prime Minister Tony Blair created a post-7/7 advisory task force to tackle extremism “head on”—made up of the best experts on the subject the government could find: Muslims, some of whom were *notorious extremists*. Unsurprisingly, the task force’s recommendations entailed appeasing Muslims by bending British culture and policy into closer conformity with Islam. In essence, it pinned the blame for 7/7 not on angry

don’s public transportation with corpses, British officials read from the script, blaming not Islamism, but Islamophobia. London’s mayor, Ken Livingstone, after initially condemning the attacks, within a couple weeks was saying that the *true fault* lay in “80 years of Western intervention into predominantly Arab lands because of the Western need for oil.”

Yes—in Britain, one of the most widely used receptacles for pitching blame for Islamism is the war in Iraq. *If only Tony Blair wasn’t George W. Bush’s poodle, 7/7 never would have happened*, in other words.

The Church of England—deeply infected by liberalism and hatred of the

7/7: that the terrorists were just trying to prove their masculinity. Presenting a paper on the subject to the British Society of Criminology, the University of Huddersfield’s Antony Whitehead explained, “It’s a very understandable dynamic. Young Muslim men in the British culture experience a lot of internalized pressure to conform to the idea of manhood—the ideal of courage and standing up for yourself. ... We are coming at this from the wrong angle. We are making the assumption that it’s all about Islam.” In truth, virtually *no one*—at least, no one of influence—assumed it was “all about Islam”; in fact, they tied themselves in

# How Britain Learned to Hate Itself

**I**f somehow a group of Britons from 100 years ago were brought to life and turned loose on the streets of modern London, they would barely recognize the place.

The Britain of their day bursted with imperial pride—a sense that the empire was a gift to the world. Over the three centuries Britain built and sustained its globe-straddling kingdom, its extensive contact with all manner of foreign cultures was governed by a sense of duty, of mission. The British sought to strengthen the peoples of other races, religions and creeds with a specific, potent instrument: the civilizing influence of Britishness. Their various dealings with these far-flung peoples made the world—even to this day—a fundamentally different place.

The Britain of today is transformed in many ways because of one core truth: The former imperial pride is demolished, replaced by outright embarrassment and hostility for what the British Empire once embodied. Britain’s once stout heart is utterly feeble, with poisons of doubt and self-loathing coursing through its chambers.

The effect of this change on the nation’s defenses cannot be overstated.

The first hints of the sickness began after World War II, when a victorious Britain surveyed the scene and comprehended how many of its men now lay buried in the battlegrounds of Europe. *It could have lost that war*. This sinking sense of the nation’s mortality became far gloomier a decade later when, in 1956, Britain was forced to back down from a confrontation with Egypt over the Suez—a stark humiliation that shook the very notion of imperialism to its foundations, and

also left British culture vulnerable to the savage forces of liberalism that stormed the Western world during the 1960s.

In the 13 years following the Suez crisis, intellectual retreat from imperialism was reflected in a territorial retreat: Britain granted independence to nearly all of its remaining colonies in Africa, the Far East and the West Indies. Military spending plummeted. Meanwhile, however, the British standard of living actually rose, and the general public turned inward, apparently unconcerned with the loss of empire.

Britain’s sense of national purpose and identity—including ideals and virtues long held in esteem and broadly aspired to—was replaced by a culture of self-love and moral relativism. “O England! ...” wrote Shakespeare in *Henry V*, “What mightst thou do, that honor would thee do, / Were all thy children kind and natural! / But see thy fault! France hath in thee found out a nest of hollow bosoms ...” Young people grew up without a moral anchor, stripped of nobility. Permissiveness and secularism flourished; tradition and faith languished.

This transformation “encompassed a radical assault on traditional values and attitudes, many of which were closely associated with the empire and those who had made and ruled it. If their ideals were bogus, then perhaps the institution itself was rotten throughout” (Lawrence James, *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire*). All that Britain once was came to be regarded with shame.

The only way to reclaim legitimacy, it was believed, was to squash all things national in favor of the international, the multicultural. Before long, the nation was caught up in a long and hiccupy flirtation

knots trying to prove their assumption that it was all about anything *but* Islam.

### What Religion Connection?

British officials give the impression that they are far less afraid of terrorism than they are of being accused of racism or religious discrimination—hanging offenses under political correctness. Thus, they flee from anything that could be remotely construed as such. One of the most common and predictable means of proving one's credentials as an officially tolerant person is to *insist*—surely if one says it loudly and often enough it must be true—that the vast majority of Muslims detest what the terrorists are doing, and that violence is anathema to the imminently peaceful religion of Islam.

It is hard to ignore the fact, however, that these statements always issue from white, non-Muslim types—never from the leaders of this supposedly vast body of “moderate” Muslims. “That a silent majority of European Muslims believed in democracy and despised terror was by now a truism,” wrote Bruce Bawer in *While Europe Slept*. “Observers found themselves thinking, however, that if

that silent majority existed at all, it had to be one of the most silent majorities ever.” In fact, polls such as those revealing that one in 10 British Muslims supported the 7/7 attacks—that one in four sympathized with the “feelings and motives” of the attackers—that more than half could “understand” why someone would blow himself up in order to kill innocent people—belied the idea that terrorists are just crazy fringers, motivated by something entirely separate from their religion.

It is interesting that the British are so scrupulous in overlooking the patently obvious religious connection to terrorism. This is not only because they are loath to appear discriminatory, but also because theirs is a deeply *secular* society. Religion has been almost completely leached out of British life. Thus, its people can only stare uncomprehendingly at a people so dedicated to and motivated by religious faith.

But by denying Islamist terrorism's roots in religion, the British unwittingly *guarantee* that whatever solutions they undertake will absolutely fail to correct the problem. Setting its *true* causes aside, they are forced to manufacture sham causes. Having misdiagnosed the disease, they must then concoct cures

for phantom diseases. As a result, their “cures” only fuel and aggravate the cancer—as much as if they tried to douse a wildfire with gasoline.

### Identifying With the Jihadis

It is one thing for Islamists to blame Britain for Muslim rage—it is another for Britain to blame itself. Self-hatred is a sickness all its own. Britain has a raging case of it.

Case in point: The British establishment—including the media, particularly the BBC—is continually serving the British people a potent concoction with two noxious ingredients.

First is an absence of facts regarding the dangers of violent Islamism in Britain and abroad; much is underreported, and what is reported is often stripped of its Islamist context. For example, Prime Minister Blair's speeches this past summer outlining his war strategy and explaining the seriousness of the danger posed by Islamism were barely reported in the British press. Daniel Johnson wrote in the *New York Sun* September 7, “If neither his officials, nor his political allies, nor the media are listening, how can he expect the public to hear? His message about the existential threat posed by Islamist ideology has been drowned by the din of speculation about his future.” Blair has been vilified even for what mild attempts he has taken to



ANDREW STUART/AP PHOTO  
GETTY IMAGES

British Muslims

with the Continent, a slow-motion entanglement that would gradually erode its national sovereignty. It also permitted, beginning in the 1960s, an unprecedented level of immigration, which served to further dilute whatever cultural cohesion the nation had retained.

With the nation's immunity thus weakened morally and culturally, evils began to penetrate and take root in the national body.

In the 1970s, particularly large masses of immigrants swarmed to England's shores from Third World countries that were becoming radicalized at the time. Among them slipped handfuls of Islamist activists who began infecting otherwise peaceful Muslims with hateful, violent ideas. Stoking passion for their cause were such watershed events as the Iranian Revolution of 1979 and the Islamic victory over the Soviet Union in Afghanistan—events that, in the mind of Muslims, offered proof that their religion was destined to rule the world.

British officials dumbly stood by and let this sickness spread unchecked. They ignored open expressions of activism and clear incitement to violent acts. In fact, the dogma of political correctness had so

infected the nation that, thanks to its exceedingly liberal asylum laws, even individuals who had been exiled from other nations for being too radical were welcomed into Britain. An Algerian journalist who tracked the story called the UK “the only country that gave asylum and didn't ask a lot of questions.”

In defiance of all common sense, British courts embraced the European Convention on Human Rights, which by the 1990s had come to ban the deportation of illegal immigrants—even *suspected terrorists*—to anywhere they might face torture or abuse. “[I]f such immigrants turned out to be themselves harmful to Britain, they could not be thrown out if they claimed that they faced further harm where they were being sent—which many promptly did. ... Thus a Taliban soldier who fought the British and Americans in Afghanistan was granted asylum because he said he feared persecution—from the Western-backed government in Kabul” (Melanie Phillips, *Londonistan*).

This goes beyond Britain unwittingly allowing sickness to develop. It is self-sabotage—state suicide. Had Britain remained a vibrant, upright nation, confident in its identity and role in the world—not to mention resistant to what forces might threaten that position—it would have been more vigilant to expunge evil from its midst. And its immigrants would have had far more to identify with and take pride in within the nation they had chosen to make their home.

Instead, as Phillips put it, “British society presented a *moral and philosophical vacuum* that was ripe for colonization by *predatory Islamism*” (*ibid.*, emphasis mine).

JOEL HILLIKER

address the problem. Soon he will be run out of office for them. The nation is interested in other things.

Second is the incessant peddling of the message that Britain is somehow to blame for Islamist attacks on itself. Why? Because it is killing Iraqis to take their oil; because it oppresses British Muslims; because it supports the U.S., which supports Israel, which is the cause of all the world's problems. These themes occur in various forms in print and on television ad nauseam.

A chilling truth the establishment must face is that its party line, on many specific points of doctrine, falls in lock-step with the radical Muslim view. Another way to look at it is that *the Muslim worldview is measurably shaping Britain's worldview.*

Part of the reason for that is the newsmakers' fear of provoking Muslims and stirring up violence—which in itself shows there is a serious problem that should be dealt with rather than papered over. (After all, what better proves that Islam is violent than the fact that anyone implying this is accused of provoking peaceful Muslims to become violent?) But the more insidious reason is that *the leftist media and political personalities agree with many of the Muslim ideas:* that the U.S. is imperialistic, that peace in the Middle East is contingent upon Israel moving somewhere else; that terrorism would stop if only coalition forces would pull out of Iraq. In fact, *a majority of Britons believe these ideas.* A YouGov poll conducted in June revealed that 65 percent of Britons consider Americans “vulgar,” and 58 percent see the U.S. as “an essentially imperial power, one that wants to dominate the world by one means or another.” A strong majority of Britons believe Israel used “disproportionate” force against Hezbollah in Lebanon. In these ways, the British people have more in common with Islamist extremists than with their own prime minister.

British leaders should be *challenging* the lies propagated by Muslims. Instead they *publicize* those lies—because they believe them!

As Bret Stephens wrote in the September 5 *Wall Street Journal*, “[W]hat really ought to terrify Britain's leaders aren't the conclusions that divide mainstream and Muslim Britain, but the premises that unite them. From the credence given to people like Michael Moore and Noam Chomsky, to the sim-

plistic derision of the U.S. and the frenzied hatred of Israel, the two camps attend the same church and sing from the same hymnal.”

The irony is that, in purchasing the Islamist bill of goods regarding the evils of Western imperialism and so on, these opinion shapers are forced to overlook the evils of Islamist ideology—predominantly, that killing innocent people is a righteous act; not to mention its blatant contraventions of Western ideals such as women's



**“DEFENDER OF FAITH” Prince Charles visits a mosque wearing a Muslim cap and shawl.**

rights, monogamy and free speech.

In the end, whatever the reasons, the effect of the left's sympathy with Islamism is the same: When people—Muslim, Christian, secularist or anything else—are endlessly flooded with such messages, they are bound eventually to have increased hostility, even rage, against the U.S. and Israel, as well as any British policy that aligns with them.

Thus, in yet another way, Britain, rather than treating its sickness, has aggravated it.

**Covenant of Security**

Of all the aspects of the diseased innards of British society that the nation's collision with Islamist extremists has exposed, one of the most disgusting has been what is called its “covenant of security.”

This was revealed in the shock that British authorities registered after the 7/7 attack. Many of them simply never expected such a thing to happen there. Why? Even though they had long been aware of the bustling hive of extremist activity taking place in their midst? Even

though, for decades, they had simply looked the other way? Why so shocked? In large part it was because of a sinister, tacit agreement they had made with local radicals: *to leave them alone as long there were no attacks in Britain.*

Melanie Phillips explains, “This bargain, or ‘covenant of security,’ had been the dirty little secret at the heart of the British government's blind-eye policy” (op. cit.). Never mind the fact that these radicals were successfully masterminding, funding, supervising and carrying out murderous attacks in other countries. Never mind that they were actively recruiting foot soldiers for their evil acts in local mosques. As long as they didn't do their dirtiest work at home, they could carry on.

And this from a supposed chief ally in the “war on terror”!

Disgusting. Appalling.

Surely Muslim leaders saw through the hypocrisy. Surely they recognized weakness when they saw it. How they must have shaken their heads in contempt at the British authorities, with their hollow religion and empty ideals, talking tough for the cameras and for the Americans, then caving in to Muslim demands—to the hurt of at least 11 other nations whose citizens were killed by UK-based terrorists. In this, and throughout British society, the devout believers in extremist Islamism saw plenty to confirm in their minds the superiority of their violent, uncompromising ideology over Britain's self-serving one.

**Decadence**

Abu Abdullah, leader of the Finsbury Park Mosque in London, is a British-born convert to Islam who told CNN in August that it is an “Islamic right” to take up arms against the West, that Tony Blair and George Bush are legitimate targets for violence, that America and Britain should be subjected to further attacks. This man—whose candor in spewing out vileness, and with a British accent, takes one's breath away—made a notable point in a 2004 interview with PBS's *Frontline*. He explained, “The reason that I converted to Islam is because the Western world or the world in general had nothing to offer me other than gambling, sex, killings, etc. Islam gave me hope.”

This is a common argument made by Islamists to justify the idea that Western society should be destroyed: that it is decadent and immoral. Is this a valid charge?

Britain once had a firm sense of its own identity—rooted in biblically based

morals and high standards—and of obligation to set an example of uprightness and civility for the rest of the world (see “How Britain Learned to Hate Itself,” page 18). Today, however, traditional British values have been almost wholly replaced by a rabid devotion to the hollow ideals of tolerance and multiculturalism. This “tolerance,” in practice, translates into a violent repudiation of tradition—which, in Britain, includes all scripturally based beliefs and morals. British society has violated its people’s sense of identity, of history, of responsibility. As a result, it has become the embodiment of secularism, self-loathing, immorality and loutish-

the pillar virtues Western society once aspired to represent.

Conservative MP John Hayes, in a scathing indictment of Britain’s moral state in the Aug. 6, 2005, *Spectator*, made this point—one that would be all-too-easy to dismiss for being too simplistic, but that should be deeply considered: “The most fitting response to the terrorist outrages would be the kind of moral and cultural renaissance that would make Britons of all backgrounds feel more proud of their country.”

That statement touches very close to the *only possible healing* for Britain in its advanced state of sickness.

## The ugly truth is, Islamism’s attack on Western decadence would never have gained such traction if the West had conducted itself in a morally upright way, and if it had unapologetically offered its people—of every creed—a firm sense of noble national identity.

ness. It seeks money rather than virtue; it worships pleasure rather than God.

Too many of Britain’s politicians, educators and religious leaders have failed to stand and shore up the nation’s defenses against this ravaging plague. A most notable example is Prince Charles’s attitude toward the UK’s state religion. Were he crowned king of England, Charles would be the titular head of the Anglican Church. In a seismic break from Britain’s past—but one thoroughly in touch with the modern values of his people who have turned their back on their founding religion—Charles once proposed that, as king, rather than assuming the title “Defender of the Faith”—that is, of Protestantism—he would be a “defender of faith”—*any and all* faith!

The ugly truth is, Islamism’s attack on Western decadence would never have gained such traction if the West had conducted itself in a morally upright way, and if it had unapologetically offered its people—of every creed—a firm sense of noble national identity. By trampling on its own sense of Britishness, this nation created a void that was filled on one hand by decadence, and on another by a deep loyalty among Muslims to the Islamic community that, in some cases, included embracing its most militant dogmas.

And because everything respectable that Britain once was is now regarded by many with shame, the nation simply has no answer. Devout Muslims are *right* to hate the materialism, the immorality and the selfishness. But those are not the things Western society *should* represent—they are the EVILS that rushed in to fill the vacuum left by the *trashing* of

### Britain’s Sickness

You may be shocked to learn that the United Kingdom’s present diseased condition was prophesied over 2,700 years ago—as was its outcome.

Britain’s history with the God of the Bible is thoroughly documented and plainly evident throughout its system of law and governance, which is rooted in scripture and rich with biblical symbolism. (Request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to examine the historical and scriptural evidence of Britain’s identity.) Its past experience as the tribe of *Ephraim* within the biblical nation of Israel is clear: When it subjected itself to God’s commandments, it lived in peace, receiving blessings and favor. When it broke those commandments, it suffered from a host of plagues and curses.

Today’s Britain, having trashed that heritage and spurned the God of the Bible, has entrapped itself in this same pattern of curses.

Longtime *Trumpet* readers are aware that editor in chief Gerald Flurry has pointed to the dangerous Middle East “peace process” as fulfilling a specific biblical prophecy—that of “Judah’s wound,” found in Hosea 5:13. Biblical *Judah* is the modern nation called Israel, and its “wound” is the process by which Israel is trying to shore up its national security by placing its faith in its enemies—enemies who happen to be Muslims bent on Israel’s destruction.

That prophecy links Israel to Britain in a peculiar way. Here is the verse: “When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the As-

syrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound.” *Ephraim* is the biblical name for modern Britain (as *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* proves). And here, in the same context as Israel’s “wound,” is mentioned Britain’s “sickness.”

Does it not make sense that the *wound* that drives Israel to seek help from Germany (“the Assyrian”—proved in our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*, free upon request) would be so closely linked to the *sickness* that causes Britain to do the same? *In both cases they are partly caused by harmful dealings with a radical Islamist enemy.*

In this prophecy, Britain at some point *recognizes* its sickness. This is certainly happening in some British circles already, as commentators like Melanie Phillips and Daniel Johnson send out warnings to the public. At present, they are minority voices. But even among Britons at large, a majority now believe, for example, that Britain’s immigration laws should be stiffer. Laws have been implemented to deny visas to foreign extremists, and to deport radicals who live in Britain (though, with endless appeals, this law is still woefully toothless). Based on Hosea’s depiction, we should expect to see the British increasingly wake up to just how dangerous the sickness they have allowed to develop within truly is.

But once they see that sickness, what will they do about it? It will quickly become clear that the time for self-healing is long past. The disease is too far advanced; the body too weak. But they will not turn to God—the God who first gave them all their national blessings and who alone could restore them to health—not at first, anyway. Hosea’s prophecy is that first, like the Jews, the British will instead turn for help to the Germans. And that, as several dozen *other* prophecies plainly tell us, will prove to be a fatal mistake.

But the biblical narrative doesn’t stop there! Prophecy also tells us that, once the British have learned the invaluable lesson that those who trust in man are *cursed*—once they have suffered through the plagues that come as a result of their faithlessness—the remnant of them will turn in heartfelt repentance to God, and He will re-establish them as a strong, robustly healthy nation! ■



REUTERS

**COMMON GROUND** Russia's President Putin meets with the German chancellor at July's G8 Summit in Russia.

## EUROPE

### Germany Securing Eastern Front

AT AN ANNUAL MEETING of foreign ambassadors in Berlin in early September, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier declared that relations with Russia will be a top priority

when Germany takes on the six-month rotating EU presidency in January 2007.

Germany intends to use its EU presidency to implement the new "eastern policy" paper it has drafted

for the European Union. Due to be released later this year, the policy paper provides evidence that the German government seeks to shackle the Russian bear to Europe by aggressively pushing for a deeper strategic partnership between the two. "The goal must be to make the political, economic and cultural ties between the EU and Russia—its anchor to a wider Europe—irreversible," the policy paper states (United Press International, September 1; emphasis ours throughout).

This German drive to incorporate Russia into a "wider Europe" goes beyond a normal spirit of cooperation between nations: Germany

sees it as an essential step to securing its objectives beyond the Continent. "A complete European peace regime and the resolution of important security and political problems from the Balkans to the Middle East can only be attained with Russia and not without it," the paper states.

To understand Germany's preoccupation with its eastern neighbor, one must appreciate its geographic position. Germany is at the crossroads of Europe, which stretches from the Iberian Peninsula to the Russian Ural mountains. On its west and east, Germany is bordered by flat terrain—the kind of terrain tanks roll right across. The same feature that made it so easy for Hitler to invade France and Poland also exposes Germany to invasion. Germany realized in World

## JAPAN

### Pressure Mounts to Go Nuclear

FOR MANY YEARS, the development of nuclear weapons had been too sensitive, in light of Japan's war history, to discuss in Japanese politics. However, that is no longer the case.

Japan's new prime minister Shinzo Abe, has been one of the foremost proponents of a Japanese nuclear arsenal. In recent years he has maintained that Japan has the right to possess nuclear weapons and *should* develop them.

Since North Korea's missile tests in July, nuclear arms have become the subject of serious and open discussion in Japan. The *New York Times* described this debate as an illustration of how the Japanese are coming to terms with their

desire to become a "normal nation," one armed and able to fight wars" (July 22).

Talk of Japanese nuclear armament does not bode well for the United States.

Japan has been America's staunchest ally in the Asian theater. One reason is the U.S.-Japan AMPO treaty that ensures Japanese safety under American protection. Japan's increased interest in providing its own security is a warning sign of a weakened U.S.-Japan relationship. In early September, former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, who last year headed a subcommittee of the ruling party's committee to revise

Japan's pacifist Constitution, "urged the Japanese to seriously discuss whether to go nuclear, taking into account the possibility that Japan could one day no longer depend on the nuclear umbrella provided by the United States under the bilateral security pact" (Jiji Press, September 5).

to pursue a policy that would enable Japan to stand on its own. If Japan feels it cannot rely on the U. S. for security, it will have to take matters into its own hands—for example, by developing a nuclear deterrent. This prospect aligns well with Abe's support of repealing or loosely interpreting Article Nine, the constitutional article that forfeits Japan's right to make war. His "pre-emptive strike" rhetoric regarding North Korea broke down some longstanding barriers in Japanese thinking this past summer.

Given the political go-ahead, Japan could become a nuclear-armed nation almost overnight. Because of its dearth of natural resources, Japan has long relied on nuclear power. With the plutonium from its reactors, Japan could easily



REUTERS

**ASSEMBLING** Researchers work on a proton accelerator at a facility north of Tokyo.

North Korea's antics have given Japan's leaders just the rationale they need in order



War I, and was painfully reminded in World War II, that it simply cannot fight a war on two fronts.

Thus, having already secured its western front by shackling Europe to itself through the EU, Germany seeks to bind Russia to the EU to secure its eastern front.

The method for achieving this goal is more than 200 years old. Whenever Germany exercised its dominance as a global power, normally through war, it always signed a pact with Russia. The Three Emperor's League in 1872 and the non-aggression pact with Stalin in 1939 are two prime examples of Germany allying with Russia before going to war.

In light of these historical precedents, Germany's effort to forge closer, "irreversible" ties with Russia should serve as a warning of Germany's expansionist goals.

manufacture thousands of nuclear weapons. Add to that the fact that Japan already produces machinery to manufacture centrifuges and other highly precise instruments that are used in making nuclear warheads, and Japan's timetable for producing a nuclear weapon shrinks to weeks—or less, according to Abe.

Why is this important? The *Trumpet* has long tracked mounting evidence of a developing powerful alliance among Russia, China, Japan and other Asian powers. Japan's industrialization and strong economy put it in good stead to contribute mightily to such a force. With the nationalist Abe as prime minister, the current nuclear weapons discussions at such high levels are a precursor for Japan's return to a militarily prominent global position.

## Europe Buying Out U.S. Company

ON SEPTEMBER 7, SHAREHOLDERS approved the purchase of the U.S. Lucent Technologies Inc. by France's Alcatel SA for \$10.5 billion to form the world's largest supplier of telephone networks (Bloomberg.com, September 7). The massive merger is expected to close by the end of the year, creating the new communications equipment company AlcatelLucent, based in Paris. To help cut costs even while extending its global reach, the combined company intends to cut 9,000 jobs. In a telling indication of which country stands to benefit the most from this takeover, just 52 percent of Lucent's shareholders approved it, while 85 percent of Alcatel shareholders endorsed the merger (IDG News Service, September 7).

The only remaining hurdle is to convince the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States that the deal won't jeopardize national security.

Bell Labs, a division of Lucent, is an industrial research lab that handles highly sensitive contracts for the U.S. Defense Department. Originally, there was speculation that Lucent would have to get rid of Bell Labs because of the national security implications of a foreign takeover. Instead, Lucent is forming a separate unit that will work on sensitive government contracts, to be run by U.S. citizens, but still coming under French control with the merger.

Though the new company hopes to be more competitive and benefit shareholders, it wouldn't change the fact that a foreign country would have a majority stake in what used to be an American company. For the U.S., it means a loss of jobs, loss of control over a

telecommunications giant, and loss of ownership of a U.S. defense arm.

Just as Britain is divesting itself of its corporate crown jewels, as we reported last month, so is America. Meanwhile, Europe, with Germany in the lead, keeps buying up strategic foreign

companies (see page 11).

Although the sale of Lucent Technologies all by itself is not a crippling blow to the U.S. economy, it does represent a growing trend that is not in America's national interest. Unfortunately, the true consequences related to the loss of strategic American industries will be most felt when times of economic hardship—or war—come.



**SERGE TCHURUK**  
Alcatel chief executive

## Economic Growth Accelerates

IT APPEARS THE CLOUDY YEARS OF SLOW GROWTH AND high unemployment in Europe are finally starting to clear while the United States' economy seems to be slowing down.

The 3.6 percent economic growth that the 12-member eurozone economy enjoyed during the second quarter of this year (annualized rate) was its quickest in six years, according to recently released data (EUobserver.com, September 15). Growth in the United States, by contrast, fell to an annualized rate of 2.5 percent.

European employment is increasing too. Unemployment in the 12 nations that use the euro fell to 7.8 percent in June, the lowest level since the European Union's statistical agency started keeping records in 1998. According to Holger Schmieding, a European economist at Bank of America, "[T]he eurozone is now creating jobs at a faster rate than the U.S."—approximately 200,000 jobs a month (EUobserver.com, August 23).

To put Europe's employment numbers in perspective, in July, America created just 113,000 jobs. Though the U.S. unemployment rate stands officially at only 4.8 percent, this figure does not include Americans who have abandoned their efforts to find work. The Bureau of Labor Statistics decided during the 1990s to exclude these individuals; economic analyst Jim Willie says if the jobless rate was calculated the way it used to be, it would now be about 7 percent ([www.321gold.com](http://www.321gold.com), July 26).

The *Guardian* summed up the situation this way: "The recent flow of news from around the world suggests that the balance of world economic power may finally be swinging away from the United States—the powerhouse of the past decade or more—toward Japan and Europe ..." (op. cit.).



**AT WORK** Many Europeans are finding work as unemployment rates throughout EU member nations fall.

## Hezbollah's Success Hurts Egypt's Mubarak

EGYPT'S PRESIDENT, already at odds with his people as popular support among Egyptians for Islamist radicalism grows, was thrown an "unwelcome surprise" by Hezbollah's success against Israel earlier this summer, according to the Jamestown Foundation's Global Terrorism Analysis (September 6).

The Muslim Brotherhood, a long-time radical Islamist group based in Egypt that has enjoyed resurging support in recent years, was among the supporters that staged public demonstrations supporting Hezbollah's campaign against Israel. In Egyptian mosques, worshippers heard sermons with messages like "God give victory to Hezbollah, and inflict defeat on the Jews."

At the beginning of the Israeli-Hezbollah war, Mubarak was one of several Arab leaders who condemned Hezbollah's actions. Author Andrew McGregor noted, however, that as the chorus of popular support grew larger and more passionate, Mubarak backed off: "As the battle in Lebanon continued, the government's attitude toward Hezbollah, deeply at odds with popular opinion, began to change. Hezbollah was recognized as an integral part of the Lebanese social and political structure and the victim of a 'disproportionate response' by Israel. By early August, Mubarak was denouncing Israel's 'deluded' actions in Lebanon and the 'failed' Middle East policies of the United States" (ibid.).

McGregor characterized the support among Egyptians for the Lebanese-

based, Iran-supported terrorist group this way: "Popular Egyptian support for Hezbollah would be a given, except for the traditional Sunni scorn for Shiite Islam. ... [B]ut Arab nationalism is also a potent force in Egypt, and the stubborn resistance offered by Hezbollah's small Shiite guerrilla force gained support from large parts of the population."

The Muslim

## Israel to Give Up Golan For "Peace" With Syria?

FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT of the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah in August, Syrian President Bashar Assad declared, "[T]he resistance [Hezbollah] has won the war, and now we must win the diplomatic battle as well."

What precisely was the Syrian president referring to? "[T]he Golan Heights will be liberated by Syria," he proclaimed (ynetnews.com, August 15).

That declaration is what makes Israel's comments just days later all the more shocking. On August 21, Israel's Internal Security Minister Avi Dichter stated: "In exchange for peace with Syria, Israel can leave the Golan Heights" (ibid., August 21).

Interesting timing, considering Israel had just been fighting a terrorist organization funded in part by Syria.

In an 1999 interview with the *Trumpet*, Yohanan Ramati, director of the Jerusalem Institute for Western Defense, elaborated on the strategic importance of the Golan Heights



**SUPPORTED** Egyptians wave a poster reading "Master of the Arab leaders" in support of the Hezbollah militia.

Brotherhood's solidarity with Hezbollah was clear from the beginning of the conflict, with its leader, Muhammad Mahdi Akef, announcing that it was "prepared to recruit and send 10,000 members to combat Israel, hearkening back to 1947-48 when guerrilla for-

mations of Egyptian Muslim Brothers fought in the front lines against Israel."

But perhaps the most chilling revelation in the Jamestown Foundation report was this: "Akef suggested that the *Arab leaders* [such as Mubarak] were bigger threats to the Arab

for Israel: "The Syrians are afraid to attack us because we are sitting there, and we are 40 miles from Damascus, holding the high ground and holding the watershed. We know what is happening over there; they do not know what is happening in Israel. The moment they get even half of the Golan, including Mt. Hermon and all those mountains, the situation will be reversed."

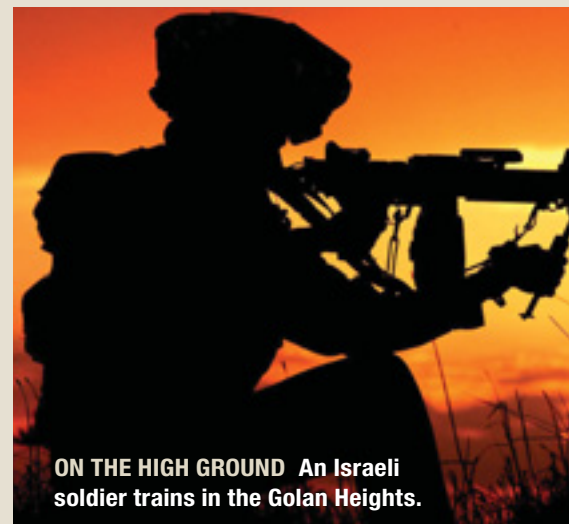
So, the Golan Heights—territory in northern Israel secured in the 1967 war—in addition to containing over a third of Israel's vital water resources, is essential for Israel's security. (Prior to 1967, Syria used the Golan as a base for sniper attacks and to shell Israeli towns; it also disrupted Israel's water supply.)

Syria, however, has consistently demanded

Israel's withdrawal. "The issue of retaking the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights ... has remained almost an obsession for Assad" (Stratfor, August 16).

Not surprisingly, Syria has used the conflict in Lebanon to bring the Golan issue back to the negotiating table (where it has been, off and on, since the 1990s).

The August 26 *Boston Globe* reported: "Syria could help Hezbollah rearm and rebuild, continuing to supply it with weapons, and allow Iranian arms to flow through its borders to the militia. Or



**ON THE HIGH GROUND** An Israeli soldier trains in the Golan Heights.

world than Israel, and that the Brotherhood had only refrained from killing them because they were Muslims” (emphasis ours).

How long will such “restraint” last, if such radicals consider their secularist Arab leader such an obstacle to radical Islamist goals? Egyptian politics have been rocked before when similar sentiments exploded into violent actions.

Despite being an officially banned organization, the Muslim Brotherhood made notable gains in Egypt’s parliament in the last election and is now the largest opposition bloc in the legislature.

it could ease off its support for Hezbollah, something it’s not likely to do unless, perhaps, Israel and the United States offer new hope of getting back the Golan.”

In other words, Syria is in a position to blackmail Israel. Will Israel concede more land for an offer of peace? If it were up to its internal security minister, the answer would likely be yes. Israel’s defense minister, Amir Peretz, seems to be of the same opinion: “Every war creates an opportunity for a new political process ... we must hold a dialogue with

Lebanon, and we should create the conditions for dialogue also with Syria,” he said August 15 (Stratfor, op. cit.).

Syria could hardly be in a more enviable situation—and it knows it. On August 15, Assad

Clearly Mubarak feels its hot breath on his neck.

For many years the *Trumpet* has voiced its expectation that Egypt will end up allying itself with the radical Shiite crescent led by Iran, which sponsors Hezbollah. For this alliance to take place would require an end to the “moderate” politics of Mubarak.

Continue to watch Egypt for more evidence of radicalization, and for an event—perhaps even violent—that marks the end of the present era of relative stability in Egyptian politics and the beginning of a new era, decidedly more extreme.

announced, “We tell them [Israelis] that after tasting humiliation in the latest battles, your weapons are not going to protect you—not your planes, or missiles or even your nuclear bombs .... They [Israel] should know that they are before a historic crossroads. Either they move toward peace and the return of [Arab] rights or they move in the direction of continued instability ...” (ibid.). An ultimatum if ever there was one.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert does not support Dichter’s position, so where Dichter’s rhetoric will go is another matter. But that Israel’s internal security minister should be pushing such policies at a time when Israel’s enemies are on the offensive is astonishing. It demonstrates the *defeatist* stance that Israel’s leadership has become comfortable with. As Freund said, what Israel’s politicians who signal a readiness to retreat have yet to learn is that “in the Middle East, raising the flag of surrender only invites further aggression and bloodshed.”

## L A T I N A M E R I C A

# China Moving Into U.S. Backyard

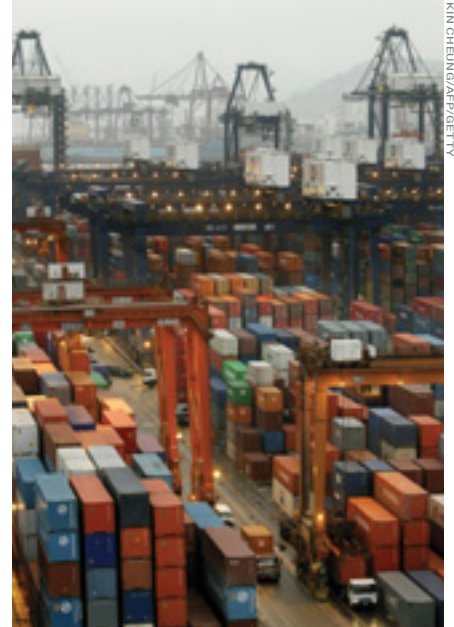
CHINA’S Hutchison Whampoa is wheeling and dealing America out of its own backyard.

The company plans to build and operate a new container terminal in Ecuador, dealing a blow to America’s prestige and economic expansion. The Hong Kong-based global company, which operates five core businesses including port services and telecommunications, will invest \$523 million in hopes of profiting from Latin

America’s economic growth.

September 7, it announced a 30-year deal to operate the terminal, located in Manta, the second-largest port in Ecuador. The terminal, which will open next year, will “strengthen Hutchison Port’s Latin America network on the west coast of South America,” the company’s managing director, John Meredith, said in a September 7 statement. “Being the closest port to Asia, the new terminal will benefit from the growing trade activities between the two regions” (Bloomberg.com, September 7).

The terminal will give China another opening to capitalize on Latin America’s growing economy, especially with global trade volumes set to expand 7.6 percent over last year. Hutchison, the largest port operator in the world, already operates in Panama, Argentina, Mexico and the Bahamas. The addition of Manta to this growing list of ports will further



**PORTLY** Hutchinson Whampoa is the world’s largest ports operator.

extend China’s growing influence in Latin America.

At the same time, U.S. influence in that area is waning. Relations with Latin America have cooled as the U.S. expends its money and energy on other foreign commitments, such as Iraq. Anti-Americanism is rearing up in countries throughout South America.

Thus, China is taking this opportunity to increase its economic ties with fellow developing nations while chipping away at U.S. hegemony. The port in Manta represents another step in a strategy China began in 1999, when it started a long-term lease to operate the exit and entry ports of the Panama Canal after America relinquished its rights to it.

Hutchison Whampoa’s new port in Ecuador is another chapter in what is becoming an increasingly familiar story: As U.S. power and influence shrink, other nations rush in to fill the gap.





They lift you when you're  
down, keep you in line,  
even lengthen your life.

Are you making the most  
of them? **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

# How to Deepen Your Friendships

**H**OW MANY REALLY GOOD friends do you have?

Think about the people you'd consider your closest friends. What is the quality of those friendships?

How do you feel around your friends? Do you feel comfortable and accepted? Do you feel they like the real you? Or do you feel you're not good enough, or you have to put on an act?

How do you deal with differences of opinion? Do your friends listen to you and treat your thoughts and opinions with respect?

Are you able to share your heart with

them—your innermost thoughts and feelings?

Are you able to rely on them for help when you need it?

Do your friends respect the things you tell them in confidence? Can you trust them to keep things confidential that you don't want spread around?

Are you honest with each other? Does your friend help you recognize your personal faults when he or she feels you need it? If you pointed out a problem to your friend, would he or she accept it?

Do your friends help you to be a better person? Do you feel they're behind you when you try to improve your life?

Do they make it easier or more difficult for you to grow and change?

Now think about this: How would the people you consider your closest friends answer those questions about *you*? *What sort of quality friend are you?*

## **We All Need Friends**

We all need contact with other people. We CRAVE IT—even the shy person who finds talking with people excruciating. God created us to be *social* beings. He says it's not good for a man to be alone (Genesis 2:18). We need companionship. We need to feel understood by other people. We need to be able to share ourselves openly.

Our Creator's way of life is the way of GIVE. Christ encapsulated this way in two great commandments: love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40). That means we have to be around people.

Perhaps you've never thought of it this way: People need people in order to learn how to love! How could you really learn the GIVE WAY OF LIFE if you were stranded on a desert island with no one to GIVE to?

Consider what a genuine *blessing* the people in your life are. Where would you be without them? Each one presents you an opportunity to exercise love.

What can you do to increase your bond of friendship with all those around you? And what about those you consider your *closest friends*—how can you mine those relationships for more of the enriching benefits they offer?

Aristotle once said, "Wishing to be friends is quick work, but friendship is a slow-ripening fruit." Yes—friendship takes effort to fertilize and nurture, but it is worth the effort. How *valuable* is a friendship with real roots that will last your whole life long.

You may not realize it, but God's Word supplies us with instruction on maximizing our friendships. It speaks of the qualities we ought to strive to cultivate in our friendships. These qualities will both increase what you have to offer to your friends and will likely inspire greater desire within your friends to feed your friendship.

These principles would also apply to the marriage relationship. Ideally, one's mate should be one's closest friend.

## ACCEPTANCE

All your friends are sinners, and so are you. The question is, how good are you at loving people despite their faults?

Of course, we should not compromise with God's law or tolerate lawlessness—we should *hate sin*. But we also must be skilled at *loving sinners*.

With every friend and acquaintance, take a moment to ask, *Do I think, deep down, that I am better than this person?* If the answer is yes, whether you realize it or not, it will show in your actions. Vanity and self-righteousness are great barriers to true friendship. You're never going to give much of yourself to a person you look down on.

Consider: God called Abraham His friend (James 2:23). God spoke to Moses "face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend" (Exodus 33:11). How much of a gulf was there between God and those

men in terms of righteousness, spiritual maturity, intellect and so on—yet God didn't consider Himself above those men, in that sense. Christ was perfect, yet He didn't go around condemning people all the time. He mixed so well that He was accused of being a friend of tax collectors and sinners (Matthew 11:19).

This gives a good indication that no differences between two people who are trying to obey God should present such an obstacle that you couldn't have a solid friendship. That bond of brotherly love with another person will grow if you get rid of vanity and base that relationship on mutual humility and respect.

Accepting your friends means listening to them; giving them sincere compliments. Accepting them means seeing the positive big picture—not letting a mistake get in the way.

Being a true friend means not being negative and critical of the other person. Unless criticism is handled carefully, it never gets good results—it just creates bad feelings and sore spots. God and Jesus Christ would be perfectly justified in criticizing us every minute of the day, but they *choose the moments* to give correction; the rest of the time, they are remarkably encouraging to us!

Elbert Hubbard said, "Your friend is the man who knows all about you, and still likes you." Bernard Meltzer said, "A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked." James Boswell said, "A companion loves some agreeable qualities which a man may possess, but a friend loves *the man himself*."

## ENCOURAGEMENT

True friends do not feel threatened by each other's achievements. They are not in competition with one another, trying to be on top. They genuinely desire each other's success—they want for each to reach his or her full potential.

Being a friend means giving the other person room to change and grow; wanting him or her to become a better person. Even more—it means *helping* your friend grow. Friends help each other overcome and solve problems.

A tremendous biblical example of friendship is that of Jonathan and David. Jonathan, the son of King Saul, was 20 years older than David. He'd been married, raised children, and had considerable accomplishments in his life. When David came along and it became clear that God had selected him to be the next

king of Israel, Jonathan realized he'd been passed over for the kingship.

Nevertheless, rather than feel threatened, "the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul" (1 Samuel 18:1). When Jonathan realized David had been selected as king, he was the first to congratulate him. He promised to back David all the way.

On the other hand, when *Saul* realized that his kingship was going to be passed on to David, he became so jealous he sought to *kill* David!

When you see a close friend succeed, do you act like Jonathan, or Saul?

## DISCLOSURE

True friends share of themselves. They can have a good laugh or cry in each other's company. They can honestly exchange ideas, opinions and feelings. They can even disagree without hurting each other.

Do you feel you must appear perfect around others? Friends should not be afraid to appear weak—even ask for help when necessary. It's not that we want to go around telling people about our deepest sins; but neither should we remain so bottled up that we have to suffer our battles entirely alone.

People need to be needed. It can make someone feel special when you open up to him or her.

Disclosure probably requires that you test the waters first to see how the other person will respond. You may find someone more sympathetic to your troubles than you would have thought! Sometimes it's amazing how quickly you can bond with someone when you are really sharing yourselves with each other and drawing strength to deal with some difficulty you're experiencing.

Christ revealed how intrinsic disclosure is to true friendship: "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you" (John 15:15).

## LOYALTY

Do you always try to put your friends in the *best light* around others—or do you gossip about them? Friends should never talk behind each other's backs or spread unfavorable information. "He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends" (Proverbs 17:9). For the relation-

ship to grow, you must be able to trust each other.

We are to show our friends the courtesy we would want them to extend to us. “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24). To have good friends, you must

friendship will grow stronger as a result.

Edward Bulwer-Lytton said, “One of the surest evidences of friendship that one individual can display to another is telling him gently of a fault. If any other can excel it, it is listening to such a disclosure with gratitude, and amending the error.”

Correcting someone in love requires

tough times! “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10). It’s when we *fall* that we really need that person beside us to help us up.

## Companionship is wonderful during good times, but it is essential during tough times!

be a good friend. All that you *want* from your friends, you must *give* as a friend.

The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* states of this proverb, “Friendships must be cherished by mutual conversation and kindnesses, without which their beginnings are soon dissolved. ‘If you wish to be LOVED, LOVE’ (Seneca). He who is friendly will have friends. There is no feeling which more exacts reciprocity than love.”

### HONESTY

We can all get off track and at times do things that are wrong, self-destructive or hurtful to others. Happy is the man who has a true friend, who is willing to deliver a “faithful wound” to set him straight. “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy” (Proverbs 27:6, Revised Standard Version).

It is difficult to exhort someone, but a true friend is up to the task—and a true

meekness, tact and wisdom. If you love someone enough, you will diligently seek God’s help to discern when it needs to be done and how to do it correctly. What positive fruit such love produces. If, for example, you fulfill the process described in Matthew 18:15-17 successfully, “thou hast gained thy brother”—you grow closer as a result!

How true is the wisdom contained in Proverbs 27:17: “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”

### DEPENDABILITY

Being dependable means helping when a need arises.

Scott Adams said, “Needing someone is like needing a parachute. If they are not there the first time you need them, chances are you won’t be needing them again.”

Companionship is wonderful during good times, but it is *essential* during

How dependable are you when someone beside you falls? That’s when the quality of your friendship is really tested. Call or send a card; check up; make sure they know they’re loved. If you can provide more help, do so. Visit. Bring a meal or some groceries. Spend time.

Genesis 14 tells the story of Lot being taken captive by some Gentile kings. When Abram, his uncle, heard of this, he quickly put together an army of 318 people from his household and went after the captors! He chased them down and retrieved the family, along with all the possessions that had been stolen. This is a great example of *tremendous loyalty* and willingness to personally sacrifice for the sake of a friend.

What a gift a true friend can be! It is a relationship worth cultivating. Maximize your opportunities to let the roots of your friendships grow into something that will endure for years to come. ■

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In his new book, *Raising the Ruins*, available this winter, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is the third chapter.

STEPHEN FLURRY

# THE SELF-APPOINTED APOSTLE

**“For some years now, there have been some, like vultures, waiting for me to die. They would like to come back and take over the leadership of the church in my stead.”**

—Herbert W. Armstrong *Worldwide News*, June 24, 1985

**G**ARNER TED ARMSTRONG WAS THE MAN many believed would succeed his father as pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God. A gifted speaker, he was the church’s presenter on the *World Tomorrow* program for many years. So when Herbert W. Armstrong, in 1978, had the gut-wrenching duty of dis-fellowshipping him for abusing authority and conspiring to water down doctrine and take over the church, he did so with a heavy heart.

Coming out of the 1970s, Mr. Armstrong’s primary concern was on getting the church back on track. “God Almighty and Jesus Christ were virtually thrown out of the college,” he wrote, “and were rapidly being thrown out of the church!” Approaching 90 years of age at the time, Mr. Armstrong was also concerned, understandably, about who his successor might be. Spiritually speaking, he always believed that Jesus Christ, not any man or group of men, would choose his successor. But at the same time, he wasn’t naive—he knew, human nature being what it is, that certain men *strongly* desired his office. His son had already conspired to take over, but failed.

So in 1981, with the aid of his legal advisers, Mr. Armstrong drew up provisions in the church’s bylaws that would prevent an imposter (like his son) from gaining control of the church. In the event of his death, the church’s Advisory Council of Elders—at that time, a board of nine senior ministers, all personally selected by Mr. Armstrong—would be vested with absolute and total authority to designate a successor. Should

Mr. Armstrong die, no one could claim to be his rightful successor without the Advisory Council’s backing.

Four years later, even with this fail-safe plan in place, Mr. Armstrong was still uneasy about the question of his successor. “In a few days I will be 93 years of age,” he wrote to the church in mid-1985. “For some years now, there have been some, like vultures, waiting for me to die. They would like to come back and take over the leadership of the church in my stead. I have been deeply concerned about this, but in no sense worried. This is the church of God, not of any man. Jesus Christ is the living Head of this church. I am not.”

Mr. Armstrong then reiterated the provisions drawn up in 1981: “If Christ should remove me, He will direct the Advisory Council of Elders to select *one of them* to continue leading you until the coming of Jesus Christ in power and in glory.” So for the last four years of his life, it was generally understood within church circles that the Advisory Council—which had expanded from 9 members to 14 by mid-1985—would be responsible for choosing a successor—*not Herbert Armstrong*.

Nine days before he died, however, Mr. Armstrong changed his mind.

## ■ CHOOSING A SUCCESSOR

On Tuesday night, January 7, 1986, a nurse wheeled Mr. Armstrong into the elevator of his two-story home in Pasadena, California. Waiting for him downstairs, on a couch in Mr. Armstrong’s study, were the director of Church Administration, Joseph Tkach, and Mr. Armstrong’s per-

sonal aide, Aaron Dean, both of whom were on the Advisory Council. Across campus, on the fourth floor of the Hall of Administration, there sat 11 other Council members, along with the church's legal adviser, Ralph Helge, listening in via telephone hook-up. (Another Council member, Dibar Apartian, arrived late at the Hall of Ad and did not hear the discussion.)

In the days leading up to this teleconference, Ralph Helge, with Mr. Armstrong's approval, had been working to amend the church's bylaws to allow Mr. Armstrong to name his successor *personally*. Helge had also prepared the paperwork whereby Mr. Armstrong would officially designate the new pastor general.

According to Helge, Mr. Armstrong decided toward the end of 1985 to select the successor himself rather than leave the task in the hands of the Council. Why the change? Helge said it was for the church's protection—to prevent anyone from casting doubt on the validity of the Council's choice. Apparently, Mr. Armstrong wanted to remove all doubt as to who his successor would be. Indeed, in those final resolutions, he expressed concern about those *on the outside*—specifically his disfellowshipped son, Garner Ted Armstrong—attempting to create confusion and cast doubt upon the successor's credentials.

Mr. Dean, however, believes Mr. Armstrong had serious concerns about some on the *inside* as well—particularly Roderick Meredith. “He just might succeed in getting control,” Mr. Armstrong told him, “and he should never, ever be over the church.” Dean's recollection mirrors closely with what Mr. Armstrong privately wrote to Meredith in 1980, after sending him to Hawaii on a mandatory, six-month sabbatical. “In brutal frankness,” Mr. Armstrong wrote to Mr. Meredith, “you lack the charisma to lead God's work. You do not attract—as I said before, you REPEL people. You are a harsh taskmaster over those under you. That is your record!” Later, he wrote, “You have a will to lead, but not the qualifications.”

By the time Mr. Armstrong was about to die in 1986, Rod Meredith had returned to the Council of Elders. And with Council members like Raymond McNair and Dibar Apartian firmly in Mr. Meredith's camp, Mr. Armstrong had reason to worry. “That's why he decided to name someone,” Dean said in a telephone interview, “because he didn't want Rod taking over, or someone else.”

But as it turns out, naming someone himself didn't exactly remove all cause for concern either. Ralph Helge said Mr. Armstrong got feedback from several members of the Council regarding who should succeed. Dean said he “changed his mind several times about who would be in charge.”

■ **PASSING THE BATON**

According to Aaron Dean, when Mr. Armstrong decided upon Joseph Tkach as his successor, it came with certain strings attached. For one, Tkach would be elevated to the office of pastor general, *but not his staff*. “If you bring your staff up, they'll lead you astray,” Mr. Armstrong told Mr. Tkach. The church's founder wanted Tkach to rely heavily on the Advisory Council, Dean said.

The decision to appoint Mr. Tkach as successor was drawn up in official church documents on January 7, 1986. Mr. Armstrong called for an Advisory Council meeting that same day. Since many Council members had not seen him in weeks, he wanted them to actually hear his voice of approval for the amendment to the bylaws and the appointment of Tkach. “He didn't want an accusation that Ralph Helge and Joe Tkach just got together and wrote a letter and Mr. Armstrong never heard of it and all of a sudden he dies and bingo, here it is,” Dean said.

Aaron doesn't remember whether he or Ralph Helge read the final resolutions at that meeting. But it wasn't Mr. Armstrong; he was too weak. He did, however, have enough strength to greet the Council and assure them that the documents had his blessing. He asked the members to give Mr. Tkach their full support. “[I]t was a very moving event,” Helge said in 1998. “[H]e was passing the baton to Mr. Tkach.”

Yet, ironically, in the very documents Mr. Armstrong approved for the sake of *establishing* Tkach's godly authority, what stands out most is the one office he did *not* transfer to his successor. Tkach would assume all the titles and offices Mr. Armstrong held *except the spiritual rank of apostle*. So Mr. Armstrong never laid hands on him. He never ordained him as an apostle. What he did that January 7 was *appoint* Joseph Tkach to succeed him as pastor general. That's it.

**Joseph Tkach would assume all the titles and offices Mr. Armstrong held except the spiritual rank of apostle.**

■ **INFORMING THE CHURCH**

After Mr. Armstrong verbally stated his intentions before the Council, Mr. Dean suggested he also inform the church membership of his decision—again, in order to leave little room to question the line of succession. Problem is, Mr. Armstrong had become so weak, he couldn't write or dictate a letter. So Aaron Dean wrote one in his stead, dated January 10, 1986. Above Mr. Armstrong's signature, Mr. Dean wrote, “This is my first letter to you in 1986, and could very well be my last. Now in my 94th year I am in a very physically weakened state enduring severe pain and with virtually no strength whatsoever.” Then later, “After much counsel and prayer over the past months God has led me in announcing a decision last week to appoint Mr. Joseph W. Tkach, director of Church Administration, to the office of deputy pastor general, to assist me while I am in a weakened state, and should God choose to take my life, to place himself totally in Christ's hands to lead God's church under Christ, succeeding me as pastor general, in the difficult times ahead.”

Aaron read the letter aloud to Mr. Armstrong and assured him that he wouldn't send it out unless he felt like Mr. Armstrong completely understood its meaning. “I read the whole thing to him and at a couple spots he squeezed my hand and then he actually added a word at the end. So I knew he understood it,” said Dean. The letter was mailed January 10.

Four days later, on Tuesday, January 14, Ralph Helge told the media about the designation of Mr. Tkach. According to the Associated Press, “Although the designation of Tkach was effective immediately, he would assume the various offices and



titles of the church leader only if Armstrong dies.”

Two days later, on Thursday morning, January 16, 1986, Herbert W. Armstrong died at 5:59 a.m. He was 93 years old.

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## ■ PREPARING THE CHURCH

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News of Mr. Armstrong’s death among church members was not shocking. He was old and had been seriously ill for the last 5½ months of his life. On August 3, 1985, he left Pasadena on a round-the-world trip. He intended to visit the church’s youth camps in Minnesota and Scotland before meeting with world leaders in Japan and South Korea, but upon his arrival in Minnesota, his temperature rose by about two degrees and would not subside. So he canceled the rest of his trip and flew home.

After two weeks in bed, his temperature dropped somewhat—at least in the mornings; usually by mid-afternoon, it would again rise. This fluctuation enabled him to get in some office work during the last part of August and all of September.

On Monday morning, September 9, Mr. Armstrong appeared before the college’s sophomore class to present his new book, *Mystery of the Ages*. The following week, September 16, Mr. Armstrong delivered what would be his final sermon before church members.

Sunday, September 29, was the last day Mr. Armstrong made it outside of his home. It was the day before the church began its week-long fall festival. Of course, even after he missed the entire festival, church members remained hopeful that God would revitalize him. Mr. Armstrong himself hoped for a positive turn.

But after two more months of the same deteriorating health, he candidly alerted church members about his declining physical state in a December 9 letter he dictated to Aaron Dean. “I had hoped for a turn to the better—so that I could return for daily work in my office—and a recovery from this illness, but unfortunately, that has not occurred.” He told the members he had been in bed clothes and robes since September 30—more than two months.

“Frequently I have very serious and painful angina attacks of the heart,” he continued. “I have been able to make certain necessary decisions in brief telephone contact with those at the office and will continue this as and when my very limited physical strength permits.” He described his involvement in the day-to-day church operations as “very limited.” He hadn’t taped a television program since August.

According to Ralph Helge, by the point of the January 7 Advisory Council meeting, “you kind of knew in your heart . . . that he probably would die.” Aaron Dean figured his death was inevitable, which is why he composed the January 10 letter for Mr. Armstrong.

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## ■ TKACH SHOCKED

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The day Mr. Armstrong died, Mr. Tkach wrote to the church membership and co-workers, “I am deeply saddened to have to inform you that Herbert W. Armstrong’s illness has *ended in the manner least expected by all of us.*”

Of course, God could have intervened to extend his life for several more years. But that a 93-year-old man *would die*—after being confined to his bed for four months with constant fever, low blood volume and heart disease—isn’t exactly shocking, particularly after the entire church was told that he may not live to “write” another letter.

Mr. Tkach, like everyone around Mr. Armstrong at the time, *must* have expected him to die. But maybe he wanted to be perceived as humble—as if becoming pastor general was the furthest thing from his mind. Whatever the reason, Tkach’s first comment as pastor general was strange.

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## ■ THE RANK OF APOSTLE

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Mr. Armstrong may not have ordained Tkach as an apostle, but that didn’t stop the successor from taking matters into his own hands. After becoming pastor general, Mr. Tkach appointed Larry Salyer to replace him as the director of Church Administration. Larry Salyer, in turn, submitted a piece for the *Pastor General’s Report* in which he explained how Mr. Tkach was fulfilling the office of apostle. According to Aaron Dean, that happened about a month or so after Mr. Armstrong died. When it did, Dean told Tkach that it didn’t seem right for a man Mr. Tkach just promoted to then turn around and tell everyone that his boss was an apostle. According to Dean, Mr. Tkach agreed and decided to shelve Salyer’s write-up. But as it turns out, it was set aside only temporarily.

Mr. Tkach announced his new spiritual rank at a regional directors conference in Pasadena, on November 21, 1986, *only 10 months* after he had been in office. Tkach’s announcement cleared the way for Salyer’s piece to be pulled off the shelf. Salyer wrote to the ministry the next month, “During the last several years Christ saw to it that Mr. Tkach was pressed into daily contact with Mr. Armstrong and was directly involved in virtually every major decision. Mr. Armstrong delegated to Mr. Tkach ever-increasing responsibility for gathering facts and implementing his decisions. In the final weeks of his life Mr. Armstrong specifically instructed Mr. Tkach in the responsibilities of pastor general, sharing many personal experiences with him. And before his death he appointed Mr. Tkach as his successor and saw to it that the passing of the baton was legally documented and announced to the church.”

What he failed to mention is that within those same legal documents, Mr. Armstrong SPECIFICALLY mentioned that Mr. Tkach would succeed him in every office *except* apostle. Later, Salyer continued, “It has become obvious to the leading ministers at headquarters that Mr. Tkach is doing, as Mr. Armstrong was before him, the work of an apostle. . . . Christ has chosen him and sent him forth as an apostle to carry on His Work, supported and reinforced by the whole church, as co-workers with Christ.”

To leading ministers at headquarters, it had become OBVIOUS, after only *a few months*, that Joseph Tkach was an apostle. Mr. Salyer then encouraged the WCG ministry to explain in sermons Mr. Tkach’s newly established office.

The next month, in the church’s newspaper, there is a reference to Mr. Tkach as an “apostle” buried on the back page of the issue. In commenting on Gerald Waterhouse’s tour of Australia, Robert Fahey said he “showed clearly how God carefully selected and trained Mr. Tkach for the responsibilities he now has as the apostle of God’s end-time church, taking up the baton from Mr. Armstrong.” In the issues that followed, Mr. Tkach’s new spiritual rank worked its way to the front page of the church paper—splashing across headlines: “Spirit is catalyst of unity, says apostle in Pasadena”; “Christ’s apostle ‘deeply inspired’ by trip to Jordan, Egypt, Israel.”

With Mr. Armstrong, it wasn’t until after *17 years* of service in God’s work that one of his top ministers put forward the

## BOOK EXCERPT

idea that Mr. Armstrong was serving as God's apostle. Herman Hoeh, one of the first four Ambassador College graduates, made the suggestion at a fall festival in 1951. Yet, as Mr. Armstrong later wrote, the whole idea came as a complete shock. He shook his head in "astonishment" upon hearing it and rejected it entirely.

*It was two more decades of serving in God's work—of proclaiming the gospel message of the Kingdom of God around the world, even going to emperors, kings, presidents and prime ministers—before Mr. Armstrong reluctantly admitted to fulfilling the office of apostle. He wrote to ministers in 1974, "The living God has moved, these past four years to give me, as your fellow minister whom you call God's apostle, and as God's chosen servant for getting His true gospel into all the world, for a witness to all nations just before the end of this age, almost unbelievable prestige, favor, and stature in the eyes of many kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers and other high leaders of many nations."*

The word *apostle* means "one sent forth." Once Mr. Armstrong realized that God was indeed sending him forth into all nations with the true gospel message, then his thinking about the apostleship began to change. The "fruits," as he often would say later in life, proved which office he fulfilled.

Mr. Tkach didn't care so much about fruits. He just wanted the office. Like Simon Magus, who lusted for the power and authority of the first-century apostles, Mr. Tkach had a burning desire to be one too—even *before* Mr. Armstrong died. "He asked for it and Mr. Armstrong refused," Dean says. "In fact, he asked several times." Mr. Armstrong then took the extraordinary step of clearly stating in the final resolutions and directives he left the church that Joseph W. Tkach would succeed him in all his offices and titles, *except* the spiritual rank of apostle.

As it happens, that's the one title Mr. Tkach wanted most. So right after Mr. Armstrong died, he *made himself* an apostle. ■

For information on Stephen Flurry's new book, *Raising the Ruins*, available this winter, visit [RaisingtheRuins.com](http://RaisingtheRuins.com)

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**Pennsylvania, Wilkes-Barre** WQPX 6:00 am, Fri  
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**Guatemala** WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
**Honduras** WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
**Mexico** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Panama** WGN 7:00 am, Sun

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**Dominican Republic** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
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## EUROPE

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## AFRICA/ASIA

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## AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

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**Perth, Western Australia** Chan. 31 11:30 am, Sun  
**Tasmania** Southern Cross TV 6:00 am, Sun  
**New Zealand nationwide** TV3 6:00 am, Fri

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**Louisiana, Lake Charles** WBLC 8:30 am, Sun  
**Louisiana, New Orleans** WPXL 5:00 am, Fri  
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**Massachusetts, Boston** WBPX 6:00 am, Fri  
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**Michigan, Alpena** WBAE 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Cadillac-Traverse City** WBVC 9:30 am, Sun  
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**Mississippi, Hattiesburg-Laurel** WBHA 8:30 am, Sun  
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**Missouri, Hannibal-Keokuk-Quincy** WEWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Kansas City** KPXE 5:00 am, Fri  
**Missouri, St. Joseph** WBJO 8:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Billings** KWBM 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Bozeman-Butte** KWXB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Glendive** KWZB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Great Falls** KWGF 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Helena** KWHA 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Missoula** KIDW 10:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, Hastings-Kearney** KWBL 8:30 am, Sun  
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FAMILY

## The 19-Minute Mother



spend too much time at work—and too little at home.”

The British survey results come at a time when there are more working mothers than ever. It shows just how much two-income families are short-changing their children. According to the study, over 12 million moms work outside the house today compared to approximately 8 million in 1970. The report blames rising

household costs and bloated mortgages for the climb.

However, it appears that Britain’s working mothers are now pining for an alternate reality—a dream that envisions them taking a

ACCORDING TO BRITAIN’S Office for National Statistics, “A typical working parent spends just 19 minutes a day looking after their children” (*Daily Mail*, July 19).

The Office for National Statistics studied nearly 4,950 people in a “Time Use Survey,” tracking how much time each person allotted to individual activities throughout the day. According to the study, the top three activities were sleeping, working and watching television. At the bottom of the list, as presented by the *Daily Mail*, were activities like reading, at 10 to 24 minutes per day, and spending time with children, at 19 minutes per day.

The *Daily Mail* wrote, “The startling research shows the devastating impact that working full-time has on children who hardly see their parents. With less than 20 minutes spent with their parents every day, this is only enough time to eat a quick breakfast together or have a couple of bedtime stories. ... The findings make grim reading for working parents who already worry that they

BIRTH CONTROL

## Morning-After Pill Can Cause Abortion

ON AUGUST 25, REPORTS announced that a morning-after pill—dubbed Plan B—has been made available in the United States to women 18 and over without a prescription. The media framed the arguments of those who oppose Plan B as a stance against a pill that could promote sexual promiscuity. *But opposition to the morning-after pill is not simply about reducing sexual promiscuity.* Although that would be a perfectly acceptable reason to be against the over-the-counter distribution of these pills, that argument distracts from a more serious reality: The morning-after pill can be a form of abortion.

Labeling this pill simply as another form of family

traditional role in the family. When asked by *Prima* magazine, “In an ideal world, what would you like to be?” only 6 percent of women said they want to work full-time; 26 percent want to be a “housewife and mother” and another 50 percent want to be a “mum who works part-time.”

Maire Fahey, editor of *prima* magazine, suggested that the 19-minute mommy can be blamed on parents trying to balance family life with pursuit of material happiness. “In the 1980s, we thought we could have it all and aspired to high-flying careers and happy families. But the cracks are starting to show. Family life is suffering and something has got to give” (*ibid.*).

That something that “has got to give” is the fabric of society itself. It is unraveling at an unprecedented rate, with the biggest victims of our reckless pursuit of happiness being our children.

## Sex Offender Ruled Too Short for Jail

RICHARD W. THOMPSON had repeated sexual contact with a 12-year-old girl over a period of two months. He was convicted of two counts of felony sexual assault. In most cases, that sort of crime results in a long jail sentence; Thompson, however, received 10 years probation with no jail time at all.

Since Thompson stands only 5-foot-1, District Judge Kristine Cecava felt he would be endangered in prison because of his height. There was no suggestion that this might be a fair outcome; rather, Cecava said Thompson deserved a long sentence, but let him go free anyway: “You are a sex offender, and you did it to a child. ... I truly hope that my bet on you being okay out in society is not misplaced” (CBS News, May 25).

He was ordered to dispose of his pornography. He was to be monitored electronically for the first four months and ordered never to be alone with someone under 18 or to date or



**SHORTED** Richard W. Thompson, 5-foot, 1-inch tall, was deemed too small for state prison.

live with any woman with children under 18.

Neither the federal constitution nor the state constitution of Nebraska provide any protections based on height. A spokesman for the prison system said Thompson’s height would not put him at risk and that Thompson would not be the shortest person in prison.

State Sen. Ernie Chambers was baffled: “If shortness is an

excuse and protection from going to prison, short people ought to rob banks and do everything else they would wind up going to prison for,” he said. “We’re talking here about a crime committed against a child, and shortness is not a defense” (CNN.com, May 26).

This is another example of judges making rulings that have no basis in law or morality. When the Prophet Isaiah warned about a lack of leadership in the modern nations of Israel and Judah, he specifically warned that God would take away the “judge”—the men who would interpret the law and properly administer justice (Isaiah 3:1-3).



DREAMSTIME

HOMOSEXUALITY

## California's Business Bashing

ON AUGUST 29, California instituted a new pro-homosexual law stipulating that state-operated or -funded organizations can't portray homosexuality, bisexuality and transsexuality in a negative light. Conservatives and religious groups slammed the law, saying, in the words of one *Christian Post* reporter, "the bill will restrict the ability of individuals and institutions to express their religious viewpoints against homosexuality" (August 30).

Authored by a lesbian, Senate Bill 1441 stipulates that all financial assistance from the state to any program or organization is contingent upon that entity complying with the law's antidiscrimination code, be it a college, non-profit organization, or company that is funded by or receives assistance from the state. Violators of the law could be smacked with penalties ranging from the removal of state funding to the removal of city services, like response from the fire and police departments in time of emergency.

For colleges that rely heavily on state funds, SB 1441 was a policy earthquake. Randy Thomasson, president of the pro-family group Campaign for Children and Families, is crying foul. "SB 1441 will force religious colleges to either abandon their biblical standards on sexuality, or reject students with state financial aid," he announced (ibid.).

The law will test the moral resilience of many organizations in California, since many colleges, schools and non-profit organizations rely on state money to run their programs, yet morally object to homosexuality

planning like the use of a condom is disingenuous. There are two ways the newly approved morning-after pill can prevent pregnancy:

1) The morning-after pill reduces the chance that an egg will become fertilized by: a) delaying/preventing the release of an egg, and b) thickening the cervical mucus, preventing the sperm from fertilizing the egg.

Ethically speaking, this is no different than traditional birth-control pills or even the use of a condom. If the egg never becomes fertilized, clearly, no life has begun.

2) The morning-after pill prevents a fertilized egg from implanting itself in the uterus (Mayoclinic.com, August 28). In other words, the already conceived embryo dies because it is unable to implant itself in the mother's uterus, resulting in a spontaneous abortion. Whether you are for abortion or against it, this is a form of abortion by any traditional definition.

The Associated Press report that ran in many newspapers simply said this: "Plan B is different from the abortion pill: If a woman already is pregnant, Plan B has no effect" (August 25). This miracle is accomplished by simply redefining when a pregnancy begins. Instead of acknowledging, as many believe, a pregnancy begins at conception, pregnancy is simply redefined as beginning when a fertilized egg is implanted in the uterus. Even most pro-lifers won't oppose this pill because the media will not have informed them that it has the potential to cause abortion at all.

based on biblical, organizational and/or personal belief. Thus, accepting money from the government now brings three nerve-wracking options: lose funds, go private, or accept the state-dictated, pro-homosexual agenda for a

cash pay-out.

If California wishes to degrade the rights of those who speak for the traditional family unit while expanding the rights of homosexuals, the organizations caught in the cross-hairs need to consider where the bottom of this moral decline will end and whether they are willing to travel there.

## Homosexual Ed at Child Care

AUSTRALIA'S *DAILY TELEGRAPH* REPORTED ON A CHILD-care center in a Sydney suburb teaching *toddlers* that homosexual and "transgender" parents are normal; this is part of a drive to "challenge the perception" young children have about sexuality. The center, which receives government and council funding, has developed a specific curriculum to teach children of ages *6 weeks to 6 years old* about "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and inter-sex issues" (May 27).

One of the avenues used is the book series *Learn to Include*, which features a boy who has two dads, and other children's books with homosexual themes. The *Daily Telegraph* revealed that such books are being used in private child-care centers across the state of New South Wales.

Sam Byrne, mayor of a nearby suburb, praised the center's efforts, which, he said, are "broadening the minds of our future generation." He described this teaching environment as one where "alternative perspectives, values, beliefs, lifestyles and people's identities are respected and accepted."

This, simply, is moral relativism—the idea that one system of values or beliefs is just as good as any other—or, more simply put, the belief that there is no right or wrong.

That such perverse concepts of family are being forced upon children at such a tender age is no accident: It is part of a war being waged against marriage and the family as God created and designed them to be. When families are destroyed, nations are destroyed—and people become blind to the simple, hope-filled truth of God. Our free booklet *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* explains what that incredible truth is.



DREAMSTIME

## Herbert Armstrong's Legacy

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXCELLENT article ["Legacies," October] and calling us to remember the true legacy, the truth, about Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. I am looking forward to reading *Raising the Ruins*.

L.A.W.—ALTA., CANADA

I JUST READ PART OF H.W. ARMSTRONG'S *Mystery of the Ages* online. I can see why they tried to keep it from being published. It blows everything conventional Christianity has taught us out of the water. ... Although I am skeptical about some of Mr. Flurry's teachings, they cannot be dismissed out of hand as "gloom and doom." I'm no Bible scholar, but I did find reading some of *Mystery of the Ages* fascinating, educational and comforting—comforting from the point of view that imperfect people like myself [will] at some point in the future be able to live in a world free of all the negatives of today's world. Your TV show, booklets and magazine provide a vital service to those of us who are sick and tired of the "conventional" Christian "doctrines."

Paul McGraw—LONG ISLAND, N.Y.

I ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED to the *Plain Truth* magazine and the *World Tomorrow* program hosted by Mr. Armstrong years ago. It is very disheartening to find out what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. About 20 or so years ago, Mr. Armstrong helped change my life and the way I look at world events. I was watching TV one day and stumbled upon Gerald Flurry's program. Once he mentioned the works of Mr. Armstrong, I immediately knew he was the person whom God had chosen to continue His end-time work. ...

Orlando Forrest—EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SENDING ME the *Trumpet* magazine. While sitting in the waiting room of a Virginia hospital on a brother's appointment, I found a copy of the *Trumpet*, and as I read, I found myself remembering a familiar magazine I used to read when I was young: the *Plain Truth*. I was reading something that was the "truth" and it took me back to all that I had learned

from a dear man of God, Mr. Herbert Armstrong. I haven't forgotten what I learned through him and his correspondence course. I often tell others about *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. ... Thank you so much, and may the good Lord bless you so very richly for carrying out the Word of truth to a world in much need of it.  
Genoveva Gonzalez—MOUNT HOLLY, N.C.

## Will to Win Lost

AS YOU HAVE STATED CONSTANTLY, WE (U.S.) must stand behind or alongside Israel. War involves the killing of civilians. Israel's mistake is not obliterating all of south Lebanon! You can't fight a hidden militia when they are hiding among the civilian population. As you have said many times, Israel and the U.S. have lost their desire to fight. What God said from the beginning about the end will come to fruition, but our Lord never said we should stick our heads in the sand and get kicked around. War is war, and you should fight to win, whatever it takes. ...

Louis Munch—ROCKAWAY, N.J.

I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SHOW EVERY week and your magazine every month, but I have one problem with your message. You keep saying things like, if America and Britain would do this or that we would be protected and that we need to go after Iran and save Israel, but you know that without a doubt that this is *not* going to happen. We are weak and afraid to do what *needs* to be done, and prophecy clearly states that we won't do it. Most of the people on this planet are going to *die*, plain and simple! If our enemies don't kill us, God is going to, and there is no stopping it and you know it. Stop giving people false hope and *tell it like it is! We are going to die!*

Tony Coville—SPOKANE, WASH.

It is true there is no indication the nations of Israel as a whole will turn to God. The Bible reveals only one time in history a people en masse repented when warned of impending destruction: the city of Nineveh (read the biblical book of Jonah). However, the fact that God is sending a warning shows that He has not given up hope for the nations of Israel. In addition, there is hope for us individually. Ezekiel 33:4-5, 10-11 clearly show that God promises protection to those *individuals* who change their sinful ways. In verses 14-15 God promises, "[W]hen I say unto the wicked, Thou

shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; ... walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die." An article in our June 2004 issue, "There Is a Way of Escape!" elaborates on this.

I PICKED UP YOUR MAGAZINE IN THE waiting room at the hospital this morning and began leafing through it. I did not know anything about your magazine; I thought, "This is just another magazine like *USA Today* or *Time*. I found an article about children, which always interests me, and began reading it. [I] was delightfully surprised to find out that your magazine was biblically based and used Scripture references to back up the article. What a gem I found at the hospital waiting room. Thank you for brightening up my day.

Janet Efirid—NORTH CAROLINA

## American Economy

I AM AN ARDENT READER OF YOUR magazine and I must say I enjoy reading it so much, and I thank you for your insightful stories. However, I would like to ask a question pertaining to the performance of the American economy in the wake of the economic downward trend they are experiencing. If I take a look at the huge amount of money they give out to countries—African countries in particular—such as the millennium challenge account and many others, I wonder whether they really know and bother about the fact that the economy is on the threshold of a free downfall and the fact they could be overtaken by Europe and Asia. Are they no longer interested in being called the superpower of the world? ...

Wahab—ACCRA, GHANA

## The Mideast Crisis

THE POT IS BOILING, AND THE QUESTION is not *if*, but *when* it will boil over. ... I only hope America wakes up and seeks their Creator sincerely while there is still time to do so.

Gary Eagles—WASHINGTON

## Comments?

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# Must Teens Be Rude?

Questioning the biology of bad behavior BY MARK JENKINS

**T**EENAGERS HAVE RUDENESS AND A LACK OF EMPATHY hard-wired in—so said Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, a leading neuroscientist at University College London, in September. More than that, though, she said that perhaps teens should not be held responsible for their actions—even in court—because of their neurological differences: “It’s not just hormones causing teenagers to be difficult. It is also the fact that their brain is developing,” she said. “It does give them a bit of an excuse” (*Guardian*, September 8).

Dr. Blakemore conducted two studies: The first showed that teens’ brains “may still be developing when it comes to sensitivity to other people’s feelings” (CBS News, September 7). The second study “found that adolescents and preadolescents are slower at predicting how another person might feel in a given situation” (*ibid.*). Brain scans of a study group showed that brain activity in teens was more predominant in the back of the brain, while in adults it shifted to the medial prefrontal cortex toward the front of the brain.

True though these findings may be, using them to give teens a pass on bad behavior is a bad idea.

*It wasn’t me—my brain did it* is a compelling excuse for a lot of things. Studies show, for example, that women have better capacity to control anger and more tightly-packed brain cells than men. Surely a lot of men could draw on that science with their wives: “But, honey, women are naturally more empathic than men. We use a different part of our brains.” While most women might agree with that reasoning, how many wives would be willing to give their men a free pass because of it?

There are also studies showing that overweight people have “more of a certain type of serotonin [a molecule synthesized by brain cells] receptor” (*Radiology Today*, July 17). Just imagine how much latitude we should give to an overweight teenage male.

Also, studies indicate that breast-fed children have better neurological development than formula-fed children. Perhaps that should be taken into account for our teenager’s history as well. And if we should discover that he is bipolar, has Attention Deficit Disorder, or any of a number of other afflictions, how should that be factored in?

This line of reasoning is a slippery slope without end that would require brain scans of every criminal—teenage or not—and that would likely always find some abnormality.

The results of the study should shock no one; the notion that teenagers are rude isn’t exactly groundbreaking. But the idea that someone of teenage—a phase of life everyone passes through—is less responsible for his or her actions because of neurological differences is absurd. Many teenagers are well behaved.



INDEX OPEN

Instead of taking responsibility for the behavior of teens, possibly their own, researchers are using their data to draw erroneous conclusions: in this case, that “[i]t does give them a bit of an excuse.” A far more logical conclusion would be: *Teens need our help*. If their brains are still developing in key ways during those years, that is all the more reason parents should remain deeply involved in their teens’ lives, instilling habits of respectful interpersonal communication and strong character. It almost

goes without saying that a teen can’t make decisions as well as an adult; this is why *parents* are still accountable for them!

The foundation for the critical relationship between parents and teens is laid during children’s earliest years. The highest level of brain activity is not found in adults or teenagers, but in young children. In fact, until age 10, children show almost twice the level of activity found in an adult brain. The first few years of a child’s life is the most important stage for shaping the development of his or her personality—for teaching the emotional stability that they will need when they inevitably become teenagers who are accountable for their actions.

Infant psychologist Selma Fraiberg wrote, “We have learned that the human qualities ... to love are forged during the first two years of life” (*Every Child’s Birthright: In Defense of Mothering*). If you form that warm, loving relationship while your child is young, and then maintain it through the teen years, you can provide the guidance and stability that a teen still needs.

In addition to forming an emotional bond with a child, parents have the opportunity to shape that child’s development, to establish right habits of behavior. If a child learns those patterns when they are young, he will have a far easier time as a teenager; good behavior will be ingrained because it will have been practiced. If you teach your child to speak respectfully to elders, to have good table manners, to share with others, to show honor to you as a parent—and then maintain a strong personal bond with your child as he grows into teenage years—that behavior will continue for the rest of his life. Through the teen years, if behaving in a socially acceptable manner isn’t already ingrained into his thinking, no one can expect him to start then.

Teaching is a parent’s responsibility. Researchers can’t let you off the hook if you have a badly behaved teen—you still have to live with him or her. Their research shouldn’t provide a free pass for either teens or parents.

The truth of the matter all gets back to one piece of biblical wisdom, backed up by neurological findings: “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). ■

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