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ON THE COVER: Violent media images descend upon us daily. (Joel Hilliker illustration; photos courtesy PRN except Hired Guns, lower left, from Reuters)







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Television:

The dangerous decline of hard news

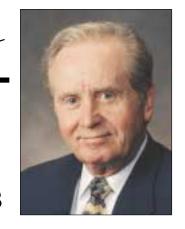
Losing interest in hard

news from around the

world portends a

grave danger for any

democracy.



mericans should be deeply concerned about what is happening to their network television Lnews. The networks are losing sight of why they exist. The impact this problem will have on the American people is frightening.

The May-June 1999 Columbia Journalism Review

reported (emphasis mine), "The three network news divisions have never been busier. Their newsmagazines now fill a dozen prime-time hours a week on ABC, CBS and NBC. No longer loss leaders, the network news operations find themselves in the unaccustomed role of making major money for their parent companies. And in the process,

they are sounding their own death knell; the future victims of their own remarkable financial success.

"60 Minutes executive producer Don Hewitt told what's really happening to network news in his bluntspoken Frank E. Gannett Lecture last December....

"The news business Hewitt was complaining about is not the business of covering the major news of the world, AT ONE TIME THE CORE OF NETWORK NEWS AND ITS VERY REASON FOR BEING. No, Hewitt was talking about the news divisions' NEW CORE BUSINESS of churning out entertaining real-life stories for their 12 weekly magazine hours....

"But for almost half a century, covering the important news of the world was what ABC NEWS, CBS NEWS and NBC NEWS did for a living. They reigned as the kings of serious and responsible broadcast journalism, the pride of their networks. No longer. Now their bread-and-butter business is producing features for prime-time magazines. Being entertaining and profitable rather than being informative has become the new measure of their success."

Now their "new CORE BUSINESS of churning out EN-TERTAINING real-life stories" for their magazine hours takes precedence over the hard news. The shift is toward ENTERTAINING people. That means our people are going to be more easily deceived by politicians with

good "spin doctors." Already this is a deadly serious problem.

Losing interest in hard news from around the world portends a grave danger for any democracy.

The best hope for a democracy is for an enlightened people—not a well-entertained people! We are

already glutted with entertainment.

How soon before our people aren't able to clearly distinguish between hard news and enter-

"Churning out TV magazine stories 'that touch your life,' to use 20/20's defining slogan, is far cheaper and more profitable than covering the news of the

world. The latter requires an army of reporters, producers, editors, researchers and news crews; a multitude of domestic and foreign bureaus and news desks staffed around the clock....

taining stories?

"The elite production staffs of 60 Minutes, Dateline and 20/20 operate entirely apart from the shrinking numbers of far-flung network news troops who cover the important news of the world every day. NBC NEWS recently closed its Tokyo bureau. None of the three NETWORKS has full-time staff correspondents stationed anywhere in Africa, South America, Central America or India" (ibid.).

How interested are the networks in searching for the truth? In giving our people a global view of the

Are we destined to become a selfish people bogged down in entertainment with little or no concern for the rest of the world? Are we becoming too ignorant to detect poorly qualified leaders?

Television network news is headed in a very dangerous direction. It can only end in disaster.

It is time that we awaken to this problem. One leader from within the television industry has sounded the alarm. Will there be others?

Do Americans really care?

FIRST OF TWO PARTS

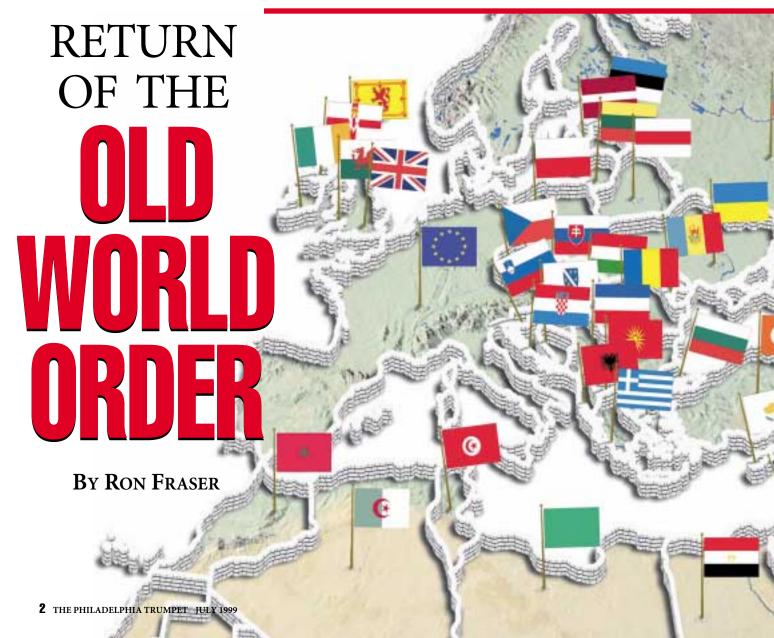
Over the past decade, following cessation of the cold war era, many touted the rise of a "New World Order." But events this year have revealed something quite different:

HE ILLEGAL WAR FOR CONTROL OF Kosovo is over. Yet the Kosovo settlement, negotiated by the German-led Group of Eight countries, "is cause for relief but not celebration" (*The Nation*, June 28). We suggest that the relief will be short-term—very short-term!

The Western allies and their agencies are now faced with footing the bill for the ongoing care of over 985,000 displaced refugees and the reconstruction of Kosovo—not to say that of greater Serbia, a major trade crossroads for Europe. However, the whole world will now pay the price for the global destabilization initiated by the Balkans debacle. Suddenly the Kosovo crisis has focused the attention of the clearest-thinking analysts on an end-of-the-millennium phenomenon. Far from establishing a "New World Order" following the end-

ing of the cold war earlier this decade, as the 1990s draw to a close the specter of the *old* order of things rises to greet us. Not so much a pre-cold-war order, neither pre-World War II, not even pre-Great Depression. No. An even more historic order of things is emerging. It seems that the old nationalist, even imperialist order which existed prior to World War I and the signing of the historic Treaty of Versailles between the Allies and Germany is rapidly reinventing itself.

During the seven years that followed the fall of the Soviet empire, it seemed that the world became fascinated with the concept of global interdependence. "Make trade not war" became the catch-cry as businesses globalized and the attention of many an influential leader was caught up in the idea that international borders were rendered useless by the universality of an inter-



dependent world economy. "New World Order" enthusiasts preached the prospect of the disappearance of the nation-state. National aspirations were to be subsumed by the forces of commerce and economics.

It now turns out that this wooly idea was nothing but a pipe dream.

Commenting on the phenomenon of the rise of nationalism, Stratfor Systems recently reported, "The return of conflict among nations to the center stage of history and in the daily newspaper is the important news. The nation state, far from declining, is vigorously reasserting itself, with the inevitable accompaniment of bullets and blood" (Global Intelligence Update, May 24).

One interesting facet of so many international conflicts is their religious overtones. In many of the world's current hot spots it is religion which is at the very heart and core of national identity. The combined influence of religious conflict and assertive nationalism threatens anew the stability and peace of whole regions.

Just one decade after the cessation of the cold war, the world seems on the brink of a fiery launch into the new millennium! U.S. world hegemony is in decline. In its wake we see the rising threat of *militarism* in many nations. It is a militarism underpinned by a revival of nationalism combined with religious fervor. This is a VOLATILE MIX!

Let us explore each of these phenomena. As we do, we shall find that, inevitably, far from leading to a new world order, they are simply leading to the final revival of an old order. An order which has deep, historically national roots, inspired by religion, strengthened by militarism and, as in all of its previous guises, driven by great imperialistic tendencies.

U.S. DECLINE

LOBAL POLITICS IS ESSENTIALLY A power phenomenon: Its prime motivation is a struggle for power. As Samuel P. Huntington, chairman of the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. declares, "International relations are changing along this crucial power dimension" (Foreign Affairs, vol. 78, no. 2).

The modern history of the old world in Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia Minor, Palestine and North Africa was largely dominated by the uni-polar epochs of the Holy Roman Empire, in its various forms, up to the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1815. Then followed the greatest uni-polar era of all, when the mighty British Empire governed two thirds of this earth's land and sea mass until the outbreak of World War I.

The turn of the century saw the emergence of Prussian-Germanic militarism, the dawning of the Russian revolution and the increasing rise to great industrial power and wealth of the United States of America. During the brief hiatus between the two great world wars, Europe entered a tri-polar era, with the rise of the Soviet empire, the reassertion of German imperialism in alliance with the Axis powers, challenging the British Empire. A fourth power with imperialistic aims entered the scene in the Far East and Pacific arena as Japan threw down the gauntlet to the old colonial powers and pushed them out of their dominance in that region.

After America entered the war and contributed to the ultimate victory of the Allied forces, the scene was set for a dramatic redistribution of global power. German and Japanese imperialism had been smashed. The age of British imperial dominance was on the wane and that of the Soviet Union powerfully strengthened. The United States ended the war, clearly moving into the world arena as a superpower.

By 1949, with a cold war triggered by Russia's closure of its borders with the Western world, the world had entered a bi-polar era. Two superpowers, the U.S. and USSR, confronted each other glaringly over mounting stockpiles of nuclear armaments to the point that, ultimately, the talk was of "overkill" capacities. The world had reached the point of which the greatest prophet to walk this earth had declared, "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matt. 24:22).

Not only had it become possible to slaughter all life on this planet, it was possible to do so many times over, as if once was not enough!

Then, the world reached a watershed in 1989. The iron curtain was split with a ragged fissure rippling on from the Berlin Wall eastward clear across to the Caucasus. The Soviet Union collapsed. For a brief decade, the U.S. basked in the glory of a unipolar moment—the one single superpower straddling the world stage. Then, back in April of this year, something happened to end that moment-Kosovo!

Through foolish complicity in support of the Vatican-German-initiated destabilization of Yugoslavia via their recognition of Croatia and Slovenia as separate nation-states in 1990, the U.S. was progressively drawn into the Balkan fiasco. This was the beginning of the end of the U.S. as a superpower.

Emerging with its international reputation horribly tainted by its cavalier conduct of the Yugoslav air war, Washington seems absolutely blind to the reality that the U.S. no longer enjoys the dominance it had at the close of the cold war. As Samuel Huntington implies, America must now "relearn the game of international politics as a major power,



OLD WORLD ORDER

not a superpower.... U.S. policy-making should reflect rational calculations of power rather than a wish list of arrogant, unilateralist demands" (ibid., p. 11).

The blindness of U.S. foreign policy is perhaps best summed up in the words of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who has called the U.S. "the indispensable nation." This statement is false. It implies that other nations are dispensable—other nations such as greater Serbia!

It is such blind arrogance that has led to charges that the U.S. is bent on a kind of "moral imperialism." This is



MORAL

IMPERIALISM?

Albright and

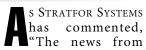
U.S. President

Clinton

perceived at its worst in instances where the U.S. bears down on smaller and weaker nations to try to impose on them its version of center-left, liberalsocialist "values."

This attitude of U.S. leaders is simply resulting in the increasing isolation of America. Far from speaking on behalf of the "international community" when addressing major issues, the U.S., at best, speaks on behalf of itself, its Anglo-Saxon allies and few others. Seldom does the U.S. have the support of Russia, China, India, Pakistan, the Islamic countries, Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America or even France. The U.S. has lost the power to speak on behalf of the global community to the extent that it has clearly compromised the declared values of its Constitution in the conduct of both its internal and external affairs over the past few years.

NATIONALISM



around the world is about war, political intrigue and espionage" (op. cit.).

In other words, it is business as usual. Forget a new world order without borders, where national sovereignty is surpassed by the need to conduct trade and administer economic systems in the interests of all on a global scale. Old-fashioned *nationalism* is back!

Many international conflicts of the

past few months have arisen as a direct result of the rapid return to 18th- and 19th-century configurations which have revived over the past ten years. There exists no clearer case in point than that region of Europe extending from Germany eastward through the Balkans to the Caucasus. Since 1990 the entire map of this region has been redrawn.

Perhaps the most obvious evidence of this rise of nationalism has been the regression of the Federation of Yugoslavia back to its constituent, national components. It remains all the more obvious largely because the U.S., its allies and commercial news media, for strategically political reasons, have chosen to pin world attention on the Balkans. Had our national leaders and their media lap-dogs presented a less biased approach, we would soon see that national security interests have now overtaken economic and commercial interests as the prime focus of most nations—not just the Balkans!

Look at the list of national security headaches globally: consider India vs. Pakistan; the Ukraine, Georgia and Azerbaijan vs. Russia vs. the EU vs. the U.S. In Africa, national security interests have resulted in current full-scale war in Angola; Zaire has been divided between the Rwandan-Ugandan-backed rebels eastward and, to the west, the Angolan-Zimbabwean-supported government militias; west Africa seethes; the Camoros, Guinea-Bissau and Niger all recently suffered coups; Ethiopia and Eritrea continue to slaughter tens of thousands in their ongoing border dispute; anarchy rules in Somalia; civil war continues in the Sudan.

In the Far East, China looms over Taiwan and the Spratly Islands; North Korea remains explosive; Japan becomes nervous as it eyes the India-China-Russia flirtation; Indonesia seethes with social unrest; Australia worries about its huge unprotected coastlines as boatloads of illegal immigrants land on its shores weekly. In the Middle East, Arab neighbors remain uneasy and the world awaits Prime Minister Barak's first move on the Palestinian peace accord. In the Mediterranean, Cyprus is still a divided country with Turkey and Greece staring each other down. Across the Urals, Russia seeks to influence its wayward children to return to the fold. Then there are the Balkans....

Geopolitical analyst Dr. George Friedman stated, "Nationalism has been on the rise throughout the world." He pointed out that the evidence shows this resurgent nationalism, in its extreme form, "means that dying for one's country makes rational sense in a way that economists simply don't understand" (ibid.).

Most especially in Yugoslavia, the U.S. and NATO, far from mollifying Serb nationalism, have by their bumbling actions strengthened it. "The offended Yugoslav nation is being rallied around its nationalist chief. Western politicians believe they act against him, but they act for him: The West has walked into a trap. He will suffer nothing, and, as a democratically elected leader, his position will be strengthened" (*The Nation*, May 3).

Economists became the gurus before whose feet politicians worshiped over the past 30 years. But the economists forgot one thing in their blind, one-dimensional view—they "have never understood the centrality of the community and nation in human behavior" (Stratfor, GIU, June 1).

As George Friedman so neatly explained, it is a nation's place in the world and its people that define it. If a nation has a strategic location, such as a prominent sea gate, or abounding natural resources, it will simply need to defend itself from other nations which lack or lust after these attributes. Thus, NATIONAL SECURITY SUBSUMES AND SUPERCEDES ECONOMICS. And thus it is that the world has reverted to its historical condition, as "a dangerous place filled with political intrigue, espionage and warfare" (ibid.).

RELIGION

EORGE WEIGAL STATED that the "unsecularization of the world

is one of the dominant social facts in the late 20th century" (Washington Quarterly, Spring 1991). This is a global phenomenon. From fundamentalist Protestantism to Orthodoxy, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, the world is turning to its traditional religions to fill the void that a Godless society has created in their lives.

The great paradox is that it is precisely those social, cultural and economic processes which sought to replace traditional religion in the second half of the 20th century that have combined to cause its revival at the close of the century.

In his national bestseller, The Clash of Civilizations—Remaking of World Order, Samuel P. Huntington comments on the remarkable resurgence of religion that has occurred as this century advances to its close: "Filling the vacuum left by the collapse of ideology, religious revivals have swept these countries from Algeria to Vietnam.... The number of active churches in the Moscow area grew from 50 in 1988 to 250 in 1993.... In 1989, 160 functioning mosques and one madressah (Islamic seminary) existed in Central Asia; by early 1993 there were about 10,000 mosques and 10 madressahs" (pp. 96-97).

As Professor Huntington rightly points out, traditional religion has replaced failed modern ideologies. This religious revival, however, has its greatest and bloodiest impact when religious nationalism takes over from secular nationalism. Once again we can list a whole battery of current conflicts where revived religion is the driving force behind national turmoil.

That old struggle between North and South in Ireland, between Ulster and the Irish Republican Army, Britain and the nationalist Irish, is rooted in religious bigotry. Protestants and Catholics still maim and kill each other in the name of two religions that are both supposed to espouse "brotherly love."

On the sub-continent of India, Hindus attack both Christian churches and Muslim mosques. To the south in Indonesia, Muslims torch Christian churches, provoking the Christians to retaliate. In Pakistan, Muslim mobs attack Christians on the streets and at their places of worship. In the Balkans,

Croatian Catholics, Orthodox Serbs, Bosnian and Albanian Muslims all are caught up in the politicizing of their nations' religions, disrupting communities which prior to 1990 had lived in relative order and peace for 40 years.

Thus, religious struggles combined with nationalism currently threaten the peace of many countries.

Perhaps the most powerful of all current efforts to revive religion as a potent political force, in combination with nationalism, has been those of Pope John Paul II in his untiring endeavors to sweep back the whole of Europe and Latin America into the Vatican's fold. Realizing that Protestant fundamentalism had made giant strides over the past two decades cutting into its flock, the Vatican recently steamrolled two accords with a couple of the most significant of its errant daughters.

After the agonizingly slow maneuvers between Protestantism and Catholicism since the 16th century Protestant Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church concluded, on June 2, an accord which resolves the 400-year-old doctrinal differences with the Lutheran Church. Amazingly, only weeks before, the Catholic Church concluded a similar accord with the Anglican Church of Great Britain. This is religious history in the making. What is not so apparent is the political motive behind these dramatic moves, nor the reason for their precise timing.

Another most significant move by the Vatican has been the prime effort of John Paul II, since his election in 1978, to reconcile with the Jews. The Pope has been in a rush to reconcile with Jewry and move to draw the Protestants back into communion with the "Church Universal" by the year 2000. All of this in anticipation of celebrating the burial of the Catholic Church's bloody and bitter history—a history replete with evidence of mass torture and martyrdom of heretics, collaboration in laundering Nazi gold, protecting and promoting safe passage for thousands of escaping Nazis at the end of World War II.

The Holy See is busy rewriting the history of its involvement in the Holocaust so as to present a glossy, renewed image to the world at this century's end which it has adopted (against the facts of history) as its millennial double jubilee. And in the background are the efforts of highly placed and influential people in Europe and the Vatican to ensure that Roman Catholicism becomes the state religion for the new federal European Union.

We should always remember that Turkey was far more qualified economically than those Eastern European nations which have been accepted as next in line to join the EU. Turkey was rejected from EU membership on religious grounds. Being Islamic, its religion is totally incompatible with the state religion of the Euro-club.



RIVALRIES

- Catholic vs. Orthodox vs. Islam in Balkans.
- ♦ Catholic vs. Protestant in Ireland.
- Hindu vs. Christian in India.
- Hindu vs. Islam in India.
- Islam vs. Christian in Pakistan.
- Islamic Turkey rejected from membership in EU.

RECONCILIATIONS?

- ◆ Catholic Church resolves 400year-old doctrinal differences with the Lutheran Church.
- ◆ Catholic Church rewriting the history of its complicity in the Shoah.
- The Pope seeks to bring all Europe and Latin America into the Vatican fold.
- ◆ The **Pope** has tried since 1978 to reconcile with Jews and Protestants.

OLD WORLD ORDER



VILITARISM

ROM ALL OF DOCUmented history, it is apparent that only

one superpower, the greatest this world has known, had the distinction of possessing the ability to exercise great restraint in the use of its military power. According to the masterful thinker and practitioner of geopolitical strategy Hans J. Morgenthau, "The only nation that in modern times could maintain a continuous position of preponderance owed that position to a rare combination of potential superior power, a reputation for superior power, and the infrequent use of that superior power. Thus Great Britain was able, on the one hand, to overcome all serious challenges to its superiority because its selfrestraint gained powerful allies and, hence, made it actually superior. On the other hand, it could minimize the incentive to challenge it because its superiority did not threaten the existence of other nations" (Politics Among Nations, p. 179).

Sadly, in this latest, most horrible military adventure in which the British administration has operated in sub-

servience to the U.S. administration—leading compliant NATO powers in the trashing of Serbia—this old strength of imperial Britain is nowhere in evidence. One certainly finds little evidence

of masterful restraint matched with the judicious use of overwhelming power in the way that the U.S., Britain and their NATO allies have conducted this brutalizing little affair.

Apart from the disastrously bad targeting of so many civilians and civilian institutions (hospitals, buses, trains, etc.), the legacy of this latest round of the Balkan wars is going to be quite frightening. A 12-mile oil slick floats down the Danube, attesting to the crushing of Serbia's oil dumps. Numerous bridges across the river now lie with their backs broken. The power grid is smashed to bits. A fetid soup spreads across the country, fed by streams, leaching into ground water, befouling the countryside, as spilled wastes cascade from bombed-out chemical plants. Multiple thousands of civilians who had no say in this affair have been thrown onto the lists of unemployed.

The lack of a sense of proportion, the lack of a common-sense perspective, the lack of any innate *wisdom* in the conduct of this Balkans war, have destabilized a whole nation's citizenry. The spin-doctors fool the world with their demonizing of Slobodan Milo-

sevic. In their efforts to crush the ant Milosevic, NATO has used multiple loose cannons. NATO has gained a Pyrrhic victory, but Milosevic still lives, just as Saddam Hussein still survives in Iraq.

But the citizenry, who just want, as Solomon declared, to "eat and drink and enjoy good in his labour," are those who always suffer in these situations. Vengeful liberal-socialists are attempting to revise history in an effort to deny whole generations the knowledge of the glorious heritage of Great Britain at its peak of Empire. They would do well to take stock of that masterful restraint—that sense of fair play—which tended to spare civilian populations while going for the jugular of the real enemy.

So, we see the world returning to its old order. Given the history of *religious nationalism* leading inevitably to a rise in *militarism* between nations, the years ahead conjure up a horrifying scenario indeed. As the nations now return to their normal state of multi-nation conflict, the power of the weaponry, the size and scope of its deployment and the unstable hands in which it is vested render the outcome of any rise in militarism unthinkable.

If the world needed a "global policeman" (a role adopted by the U.S. as sole superpower) through the past decade of international destabilization, the need is much greater now as we enter a new millennium with *religious nationalism* on the rise—from Russia to Germany, from Japan to Brazil.

Who will fill the void? Will it be a reviving Russia, with nationalistic fervor stirred anew as a result of U.S. aggression in Yugoslavia? Will it be China,

flush with the technology built upon secrets so easily stolen from under the nose of a naïve America? Will it be a reviving Japan, stung by its loss of face at the clumsy handling by the U.S. of trade relations with this easily offended nation? Will it be a combination of these? Perhaps an alignment of Islamic countries?

Bible prophecy clearly reveals it will be none of these. In fact, the weight of evidence as to which power will emerge to fill this vacuum is now so overwhelming that we suddenly see a remarkable congruence between the writings of the clearest thinking analysts of international relations and the prophecies of your Bible. Next month we will show how the old world order which has now returned to haunt us will consummate in a brief and powerful imperial rule by a historic alliance, immediately prior to the establishment of the ultimate "New World Order." ◆



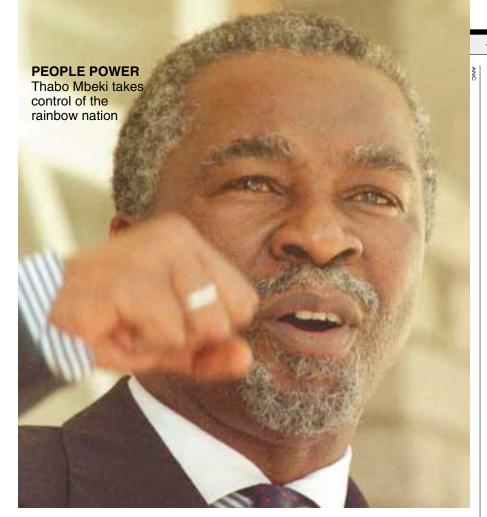
BAD TARGET

Smoke billows

from a burning

oil slick on the

Danube



June 2, Nelson Mandela stepped down from power in South Africa, after five years of failing to deliver on his promises to this post-apartheid nation. What happens if the new president, Thabo Mbeki, can't succeed where Mandela failed? Is South Africa

Ready to Explode?

By Gareth Fraser

THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN! THE people have unequivocally said the ANC [African National Congress] leads! In their millions and without hesitation, the people of South Africa have renewed the mandate of the ANC to govern our country." With these words South Africa's new president, Thabo Mbeki, claimed election victory.

Nelson Mandela hand-picked Mbeki to follow his term in office as the country's first black president. Mbeki served as Mandela's deputy for the ANC's first term in office. Now, at 80, Mandela plans to return to his birthplace and live a more peaceful life in relative political obscurity.

The ANC gained 266 seats in the 400seat national assembly, falling just one seat short of the coveted two-thirds majority which ensures power to change the constitution. The Mbeki government, however, faces the daunting tasks of combatting rampant crime, unraveling health services, declining educational standards and a plummeting rand, South Africa's currency. How will this new president lead the socalled rainbow nation? What now lies ahead for South Africa?

Who Is Thabo Mbeki?

South Africa's new president was born on June 4, 1942, in a mud hut in the beautiful Transkei region in the southeast of the country. Mbeki's par-

♦ SOUTH AFRICA

ents were teachers and political activists saturated in Marxist dogma. If young Thabo wasn't helping his mother clean their hut or working the farm with his father, he was buried in the writings of Karl Marx. At age 10, Thabo's parents decided that he would attend Lovedale Institute; however, his education was interrupted when he was expelled for organizing protests against the government. At age 14, after encouragement from his parents, he joined the ANC Youth League.

In 1960 the ANC was banned. It has long been allied with the South African Communist Party (SACP), with roots clear to Moscow. Thabo's father, Govan, the leading figure in ANC/SACP activities in the Eastern Cape, assisted in the founding of "Umkhonto we Sizwe" (Spear of the Nation), the military wing of the ANC/SACP. Nelson Mandela was duly appointed the movement's commander-in-chief.

Hand-picked by the ANC elite, Mbeki was to be specifically trained to someday lead the ANC and a "liberated" South Africa. In 1962, the ANC had the 20-year-old Mbeki smuggled out of the country under the guise of being a member of a touring soccer team. He surfaced in England where he studied economics at Sussex University. Mbeki worked for the ANC's office in London. He underwent detailed military training in the then-Soviet Union and remained in exile for 30 years, traveling the world developing vital business contacts for the ANC. While in exile, Mbeki made his now-famous call to action via the ANC's pirate radio station for a campaign of sabotage to render South Africa "ungovernable."

Sabotage attacks within South Africa led to the 1963-64 Rivonia Trial, at which time Nelson Mandela and nine other leaders of "Spear of the Nation" were imprisoned. While Mbeki remained in exile far from South Africa, Mandela served over 30 years in prison on Robbin Island, off the coast of Cape Town.

Newsweek magazine's Marcus Mabry and Tom Masland recently wrote, "During the long years of struggle the ANC intentionally focused attention on the jailed Mandela, elevating him to the status of living saint." It was this focus, promoted by Mbeki internationally, which helped garner support for the ANC from the United Nations, the Soviet Union, the Mideast and various Western nations before Mandela's

release in 1990 by the F.W. De Klerkled National government.

Throughout Mandela's rule, Mbeki has been the quiet back-room operator, establishing himself as Mandela's confidant and golden boy of the ANC/SACP, and securing key domestic and international economic and political allies to rely upon while in office.

After Mandela

Sipping tea, Nelson Mandela looks calmly at a group of local and foreign reporters gathered for a breakfast in his honor. When asked about the future of South Africa he says, "Thabo has been running the government now for a couple of years. I've just been a nominal president. Thabo has all the wisdom one needs to lead the country."

Since the 1994 De Klerk handover, South Africa has dramatically changed. Now the country is essentially a oneparty state. Mike Ellis of the South African Democratic Party says, "The ANC seems to think that 'consensus' is reached once they have agreed amongst themselves." Just like Mandela, Mbeki is working hard to assure the white minority, Asians and Indians that there is room for all in the new South Africa.

In their recent biography of Mbeki, Adrian Hadland and Jovial Raanto state, "No one should doubt the depths of anger he feels about the degradation of his people wrought by colonialism, apartheid and their beneficiaries."

Mandela governed on a declared platform of reconciliation based around liberation of the majority black population. Many of the election promises of the Mandela government were not effectively instituted. The promise of a million new homes has not been fulfilled. Water supply is largely insufficient. Crime is at an all-time high. Health services and educational standards falter.

Speaking in parliament about the need for the government to make good on its promises, Mbeki quoted from the American poet Langston Hughes. "What happens to a dream deferred?" he asked. "It explodes."

That is the point to which the new South Africa has come. It's time for the ANC to deliver on their promises to the people or watch their country explode. The pressure on Mbeki is enormous.

The many contacts the ANC/SACP has been fostering for so long are the very trading partners the rainbow nation is now gravitating toward. Mbeki has

FROM HIS YOUTH



THABO MBEKI

- Born: June 4, 1942 in the Transkei region to political-activist parents who were saturated in Marxist dogma.
- ◆ **Age 10:** Enrolls in Lovedale Institute. Later expelled for organizing protests.
- Age 14: Joins ANC Youth League.
- **Age 20:** Smuggled out of South Africa. Surfaces in England at Sussex University.

kept publicly silent, while Mandela has worked hard to spread the net of gratitude to those countries (many of which are so-called "rogue nations") which supported the ANC/SACP struggle. During his term, Mandela visited Libya, Cuba, Morocco, Russia, Indonesia, Iran and various European nations. When U.S. President Bill Clinton tried to discourage Mandela from such political and economic associations, Mandela responded, "We should not abandon those who helped us in the darkest hour in the history of this country." He said, "Not only did they support us with rhetoric, they gave us the resources for us to conduct the struggle and to win. Those South Africans who have berated me for being loyal to our friends, literally they can go and jump in a pool" (Africa News, March 27, 1998).

It would indeed be naïve to assume that those who financed the ANC/SACP struggle to make Thabo Mbeki's dream of rendering South Africa "ungovernable" would not be repaid with valuable political and economic agreements. Mandela and Mbeki have ensured that payments are being made on these past loans. However, this leaves South Africa in a precarious position, playing servant to its international bedfellows while struggling to meet the desperate need to improve major social services on the home front.

Speaking in parliament in 1998, Mbeki noted with approval that after Germany's reunification, West Germans accumulated vast quantities of cash to assist their eastern citizens. He contrasted this with the whites' inability, notwithstanding their reluctance, to pay increased taxes to improve the circumstances of their black neighbors.

The Economist of May 29 explained, "The West Germans are much richer than white South Africans, and outnumber East Germans by four to one. Whites make up only 11 percent of South Africa's population. It is simply not possible for the mass of poor black South Africans to prosper through income transfers from whites.

"It will be especially hard for South Africa to make the transition from poverty to affluence if education is neglected, if hard work and merit are not valued, and if the richest black rolemodels are seen to have succeeded through their connections with the ruling party."

With Russia strapped for cash, its recent commercial and economic involvement in South Africa has been limited. However, two especially visible trading partners have struck historic agreements with the new South Africa, rich in natural resources and technology and situated in a most strategic location. Those two committed partners are Iran and the European Union.

Iranian Military Cooperation

"We should not abandon those who helped us in the darkest hour in the history of this country." Nelson Mandela's words ring in the ears of those loyal foreign supporters of the ANC/SACP struggle in South Africa. For them, it's payback time.

Mandela visited Tehran early in his term, meeting with then-Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, inviting him to visit South Africa. He then met with Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, and before departing laid a wreath at the tomb of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. This was a clear show of his support for Iran. Iran broke ties with the South African apartheid government after Khomeini's 1979 Islamic revolution, but nurtured ties with the ANC/SACP.

And note this. The United States, which has imposed sanctions against Iran on grounds that it supports terrorism, has accused Tehran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons. The path to increased levels of arms intelligence and weaponry traffic from South Africa was made infinitely easier when the U.S. removed its 35-year-old arms embargo in February 1998. There have been concerns expressed that South Africa's nuclear technology might be for sale for the right bid.

Early on during the Mandela administration, Iran received favored political

and economic status with a South Africa. Various government officials shuttled back and forth from Tehran to Pretoria, discussing and finalizing agreements on oil, gas and petrochemicals. Iran wanted access to South Africa's refineries and stocking facilities. In addition, as a gesture of good will, direct air links were established.

Since that time Iran has promoted more trade and political cooperation between the two countries. In 1997, the trade relationship between South Africa and Iran topped 5 billion rand, making Iran South Africa's largest trading partner at the time—with the trade balance heavily in Iran's favor. Iran is South Africa's primary source of crude oil. This has proven a prime bargaining chip for the Iranians, who now access much-sought-after strategic facilities at Saldanha Bay, north of Cape Town.

The problem with this trade relationship is, as intelligence analyst Joseph de Courcy has observed, "Nelson Mandela's post-apartheid South Africa has been granted a virtual immunity from serious criticism by the Western powers in a way that is potentially very damaging, particularly as regards South Africa's relationship with Iran" (Intelligence Digest, October 31, 1997).

The West became deeply concerned

when it discovered that the Mandela government had made facilities available for five training camps for the Iranian-backed Hezbollah

The paramount concern for the West should be the supply of portable elements and technical know-how from South Africa to Iran's nuclear program. So sensitive is this subject that in

1997 a court order was slammed on the South African press preventing reporting on the nation's arms sales to Islamic states, including Syria and Iran.

As we wrote in our February 1998 edition, "There can be no doubt that Iran aspires to become a nuclear power. How ironic that the process may be hastened by the acquisition of technology developed by confirmed enemy Israel, in consortium with South Africa, during the apartheid years.... The seeds of South Africa's future have been sown through [Mandela's] links with the masters of international terror."

Historic EU Trade Agreement

On March 25, the European Council met in Berlin under the leadership of German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder to give its approval to the historic EU-South African Trade and Cooperation Agreement. The agreement encompassed political dialogue, provisions on the establishment of a free-trade zone, trade issues, economic cooperation and financial aid. For South Africa, the agreement affords increased access to the European market, particularly in the farming sector. Agriculture is the primary industry in South Africa. The rainbow nation sees the agreement as a great step forward in reconstructing its battered economy. The pact opens EU markets to 95 percent of South African exports, while South Africa will allow 86 percent of EU goods to freely enter its domestic market.

The European Council "welcomed this historic moment and instructed the Council to take urgently the necessary measures for its formal adoption" (Agenda 2000). The agreement is seen as an important step in the "consolidation and strengthening of the solid partnership which exists between the European Union and South Africa in the political, economic and trade fields.

Day of the Covenant

n November 1838 Andries Pretorius planned an expedition against Zulu warlord Dingane. The Boers numbered 464 against the 10,000strong Zulu warriors. Pretorius concentrated on developing obedience and discipline among his demoralized troops. On December 9, 1838, the deeply religious Boers, led by Pretorius, made a covenant with God that if He would give them victory they would commemorate the event annually with a day of thanksgiving. The Boers repeated the covenant every evening until the day of the Blood River battle on December 16.

When the battle was over, 3,000 Zulu warriors lay dead. Only three Boers were injured, one of whom was Andries Pretorius. The 464 soldiers didn't credit the miraculous victory to their military or technological power. They paid homage to God for His deliverance. As was promised, the Day of the Covenant was immediately instituted and was annually observed by all Afrikaners. A memorial building was constructed in Pretoria and dedicated to God—standing as a reminder to all Afrikaners of His direct intervention in the founding of South Africa.

This national day of thanksgiving was observed annually up until the handover of power to the ANC in 1994. At this time Nelson Mandela changed the the Day of the Covenant to the "Day of Reconciliation." It is now observed by ANC/SACP followers as the day on which Umkhonto we Sizwe launched its campaign against the government of South Africa in 1961.

THE COVENANT

My brethren and fellow countrymen, at this moment we stand before the holy God of heaven and earth, to make a promise, if He will be with us and protect us and deliver the enemy into our hands so that we may triumph over him, that we shall observe the day and the date as an anniversary in each year and a day of thanksgiving like the Sabbath, in His honour; and that we shall enjoin our children that they must take part with us in this, for a remembrance even for our posterity and if anyone sees a difficulty in this let him return from this place. For the honour of His name shall be joyfully exalted, and to Him the fame and honour of the victory must be given.



"The happiness of the people of this country depends on our acceptance of our duties, not only towards one another, but also to God, for our God is a God of order and orderly development.... A nation that honors God and trusts in Him, and fulfills its daily duties in thankfulness, will have hope for the future."

P. W. Botha, former president of South Africa

The European Council considers this historic agreement a symbol of the strong links of friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Europe and Southern Africa" (ibid.).

With Agenda 2000, the European Union becomes South Africa's largest trading partner by far—accounting now for 44 percent of its imports, 28 percent of its exports and over 50 percent of its foreign direct investment. In stark contrast, the U.S. only accounts for 12 percent of South Africa's imports and 7 percent of its exports. The EU agreement comes at a time when South African economists are troubled by the government's willingness to compromise long-term economic security for short-term prosperity. In this trade agreement, the EU member states are the real winners.

The Crocodile's Words of Warning

"I told Mr. Mandela, whilst he was sitting in that very chair which you occupy, that the ANC-Islamic cabal would be his downfall. The ANC's terrorist bedfellows are calling in their debts." It was with these words, spoken in a Trumpet interview in 1995 in George, South Africa, that Pieter Willem Botha warned of where the new South Africa was headed. "The Crocodile," as he was known during his political career, was South Africa's president from 1979 to 1989. Whatever scorn his enemies may cast on him, his leadership was steeped in constant reflections on the belief that South Africa had originally been delivered to its Caucasian rulers by the hand of God.

In that interview, Botha commented about South Africa's annual commemoration of the Day of the Covenant. In 1995, after the De Klerk handover, the Mandela ANC government changed the Day of the Covenant to "Reconciliation Day." Botha declared in a 1979 speech, "Commemoration of the Day of the Covenant": "For me the meaning of 16 December lies not in vain glorying in military victory. Nor does it lie in the triumph of White over Black. The Day of the Covenant is not a symbol of the Afrikaner's superiority. The Day of the Covenant is a symbol of the Afrikaner's readiness to kneel before his Creator.... The true meaning of the Day of the Covenant lies in the fact that prayer and the word of God triumphed, and that the civilization that grew from it brought a new dawn to South Africa.

"But above all, the happiness of the people of this country depends on our acceptance of our duties, not only towards one another but also to God, for our God is a God of order and orderly development.... A nation that honors God and trusts in Him, and fulfills its daily duties in thankfulness, will have hope for the future."

The importance of the observance of The Day of the Covenant in South Africa is being lost. For a country which recognizes all religions and their gods, the roots of South Africa's very founding have withered. Botha declared to Nelson Mandela when he visited him at his home, "I do not fear you. I fear God!" There is no room for God in the new South Africa.

F.W. De Klerk acted as the political instrument which broke the vow of a nation to God and opened up the doors of South Africa to a prospective Islamic nuclear club and an emerging commercial giant, the European Union.

Playing the Trump Card

As Mandela's star fades and Mbeki's rises, the words of P.W. Botha sound as warning bells for a nation *originally* founded upon God.

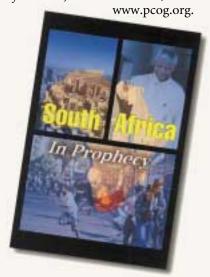
South Africa is in serious trouble. It has clearly headed in the wrong direction. It has allied itself with two great powers: one, the King of the South radical Islam—and the other, the King of the North—the European Union. As our February 1998 article "Payback Time" foretold, the rainbow nation has been forced to play its "trump card" selling off its Israeli-authored nuclear technology to Iran and opening up its vast natural resources to the member states of the European Union. The King of the North and the King of the South are on the rise, and South Africa has supplied them the crucial means to attain their separate goals.

Caught between the rock of Iran and the hard place of the EU, South Africa has positioned itself between two great powers set to clash. "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" (Dan. 11:40).

For South Africa to flee the violence and hatred engulfing it and to attain lasting peace, there is only one course of action. It will have to learn to live by the words of P.W. Botha, having them etched upon the hearts of every South African—"I'll tell you when we shall have peace: When we have learned to kneel in humility before God." ◆

For further study...

Our booklet South Africa in Prophecy offers a more complete understanding of the past and future of this nation—formerly part of the British Commonwealth. You may request a free copy in writing (see addresses on this magazine's table of contents) or on our website,



Watch Palestine!

The centuries-long dispute over the most prized real-estate on this earth is about to end

By Joel Hilliker

ITH THE WAR IN KOSOVO OVER, the world's attention is shifting to a tiny strip of land soaked with the blood of a thousand wars—the most prized piece of real-estate on this earth: Palestine.

In May Israel elected a new prime minister, Ehud Barak. Everyone is talking of how he will jump start the stalled peace process between Jews and Arabs and, the hope is, lead the region to a final settlement where everyone can coexist happily.

The world should keep its eyes fixed on that region, because the final settlement is coming soon!

But there is no possibility that Ehud Barak will bring it about—despite all the arsenal in his portfolio as a peacemaker. The passions of the peoples for that land run much deeper, the contest for its possession is much hotter, than anything he can solve of himself.

Do you know why? This article will help you understand this age-old question—and why you need to watch the Middle East in the coming months and beyond.

To begin, some ancient history.

The Middle East is called "the Cradle of Civilization"—the birthplace of nations. In some of its earliest days, it was the home of Abraham—one the Bible says God would make "a father of many nations" (that's what Abraham means—Gen. 17:5-6). Many peoples today claim Abraham as their father. (In truth, he is also the father of some nations who do not claim him.) Abraham is considered "the father of the faithful," praised for his righteousness. But it took a lifetime to develop that faith. His first son—the beginning of his huge extended family-was actually the product of a severe *lack* of faith!

Abraham was growing old, with no children. Rather than trusting God to give him children by his aging wife, Sarah, the 86-year-old Abraham rushed things by having a son with their Egyptian servant Hagar. Despite Abraham's mistake, God blessed the child, even naming it Himself: Ishmael, meaning "God shall hear." To Hagar God promised, "I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude." Ishmael was destined to become a great nation. Over the generations, he did multiply ex-

THE PEACE MAN

COMETH Barak won

promising to jump start

a dead peace process.

Israel's election by

ceedingly. He is

the father of the Arab peoples—estimated to number 300 million citizens worldwide by the year 2000, residing in over 25 countries!

But this illegitimate child caused deep resentment between Sarah and

When Abraham was 100 years old, his aged wife miraculously conceived

and gave birth to Isaac. God promised to make a special agreement with Isaac, and gave him the family's birthright blessings—including the rights to the "Promised Land," where the city of Jerusalem is today. This 8 aroused Ishmael's jealousy, and he mocked the



newborn. Angered, Sarah banished Hagar and her son.

As God promised, many nations emerged from Isaac's offspring, including, most important for our purposes here, the Jews.

Now stop and consider these facts. THE MOST INTENSE CONFLICT THIS CENTU-RY IN THE MIDEAST IS BETWEEN THE

ARABS AND THE JEWS. And we see the origins of this rivalry in the very first book of the Bible! It plainly shows that Ishmael was the elder halfbrother of Isaac, whose son Jacob fathered the Jews (Judah) and other tribes of Israel. Thus, the Jews and the Arabs are actually

Time has not softened the jealous spirit between these two. Attitudes are often transmitted from father to son, generation to generation. The effects of this bitter family rivalry are seen today, as the Arabs and Jews still fight over rights and precedence in the Mideast.

Over 40 centuries, the glory of these two peoples faded and they slipped into obscurity. In 716 B.C. the Arabs were squashed by the Assyrians. In A.D. 70 the Jews were overthrown and scattered from the area, becoming a race of wanderers, with no true home of their own. However, they always maintained their love for the Promised Land, which for the 1900 years that followed was ruled

> Over this period, the sons of Ishmael grew in numbers and strength. Muslim belief says that, beginning in A.D.

by foreign governments.

610, the archangel Gabriel gave revelations to a descendant of Ishmael, a man named Muhammad. These revelations form the basis of Islam, a religion based on belief in a single, all-powerful god, Allah. Muhammad's teachings united the Arab world. Soon after he died, the Muslims (believers in Islam) stormed out of the deserts of Arabia and conquered a great portion of Mideast land from the ruling Byzantium and Persian empires-including, in 638, Jerusalem. There followed six centuries of Islamic domination in the region, which expanded into a huge empire through Europe, Northern Africa and Central Asia. This "golden age of Islam" lasted until the leaders grew soft, glutted on their wealth, and were sacked by the Mongols in 1258.

Meanwhile, another conflict was happening in a parallel arena. Previous to the fall of the Islamic empire, in A.D. 1099 Christian-professing crusaders from Europe captured Jerusalem. Thus began 200 years of the Crusades, where control of the Holy City was wrestled over between "Christians" and Muslims. Two million were killed. The Muslims were ultimately victorious in retaining Jerusalem.

In the 15th century, however, a new power burst onto the world scene: the Ottoman Turks. Their empire engulfed areas to the north and finally swallowed up Jerusalem. Turkish rule in Jerusalem would last 400 years (1517-1917), during which there was no independent Arab state. The sons of Ishmael chafed under the Turkish yoke, longing to break free.

All this time, the scattered Jews had never abandoned hope of returning to their ancient homeland. "Next year in Jerusalem" was a common saying. They were generally a persecuted people, living precariously among the strange religions of other lands, yearning for a peaceful, secure society of their own. The persecution eventually gave birth in the 1890s to a movement known as Zionism (Zion being the biblical name for the Holy Land), which intended to achieve for the Jews a publically recognized, legal home in their historic homeland. They pleaded for help from Britain, while private financiers helped Jews buy tracts of land in the region from the Turks.

This brings us up to the troubled 20th century, where the players in today's Middle East drama really emerge. The stage was set for a showdown, a revival of an ancient family dispute.

URING WORLD WAR I (1914-1918), Turkey sided with the Axis powers of Germany against the British and French-led Allies. This

> suddenly presented the Arabs with the chance they needed to free themselves from the Turks!

Forming an alliance with Britain, the Arabs agreed to rally all their forces against the Turks. In exchange, Britain promised to recognize Arab independence in much of the region. In 1917, Allied forces stormed Palestine, putting to flight the occupying Turks. The next year they also conquered Damascus, effectively freeing the Arabs. The Arabs had helped immensely in the victory over Turkey.

At war's end, the Arabs received much of the Mideast, but Britain revealed an agreement they had made to keep the area under British and French rulership (the Sykes-Picot agreement). The Arabs would live on the land, but without the full dominion they had sought. Also made public was another agreement, the Balfour Declaration, revealing Britain's support of Zionism and working to establish a home for Jews in Palestine. (However, this too would operate under British control.)

Huge numbers of Jews began migrating to the area. Nervous Arabs mounted a resistance movement. To appease the Arabs, Britain sought to restrict Jewish immigration. The Zionists protested. An Arab terror campaign against the Jews ensued. Violence increased. Clearly, British policy had set up incompatible expectations among Jews and Arabs over their claims to Palestine, creating a head-on collision between the two.

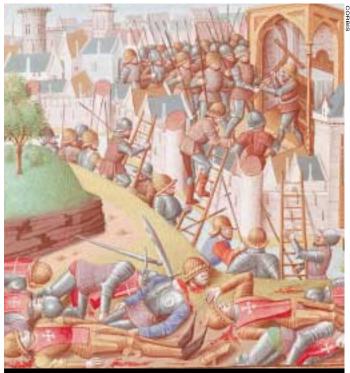
Britain finally gave up trying to solve tensions within Palestine and turned control in 1947 over to the United Nations. The UN created two independent states, one Jewish and one Arab, with international control over Jerusalem (see 1947 map, right). When British forces pulled out of the area on May 14, 1948, the Jews held a celebration of their dream come true: a nation of their own!

The Arabs, too, would have had their independent state. But what did they do? Determined to squelch any Jewish state, the very next day they invaded Israel! Arabs and Jews were at WAR! (Perhaps, as we hope for a peaceful resolution in the Mideast today, we should remember just how "peaceful" things were the last time Jews and Arabs were to share Palestine as equals. Peace didn't even last ONE DAY!)

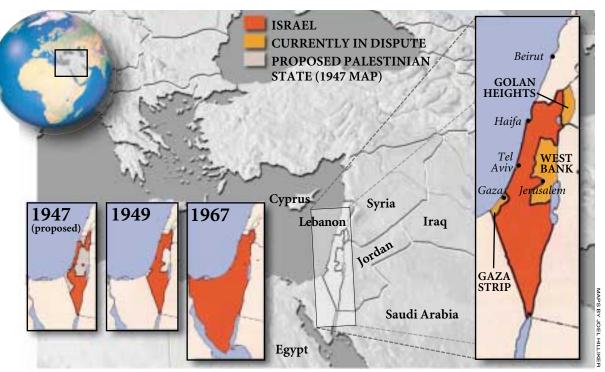
Now notice what followed. These events weigh heavily in today's disputes.

Over several months the Jews successfully struck back. By the time fighting ceased in early 1949 and an armistice was declared, Israel had enlarged its borders to nearly 50 percent beyond the UN-allotted territory. But they still only had control of half of Jerusalem (the eastern half was ruled by Jordan). They declared Jerusalem the capital of Israel nevertheless.

Despite Israel's admission into the United Nations in 1949, the Arabs never gave up their avowed aim of "throwing Israel into the sea." Smatterings of vio-lence persisted, flaring up in 1956 (to no lasting effect) and finally exploding



TWO MILLION WERE KILLED in the Crusades, where 'Christians" and Muslims fought for control of Jerusalem.



in 1967: the "Six-Day War." At that time, Egypt threatened to destroy Israel, massing a huge offensive in the Sinai desert. Syria joined, and even Jordan launched an artillery barrage on Israeli Jerusalem. Note this carefully: Defending themselves against these attacks, in a lightning strike the Jews captured East Jerusalem, the West Bank of the Jordan River, Syria's Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. Israel also captured further territory into Syria in 1973 after a surprise Arab attack.

These were all stunning military victories for Israel. In the Arabs' repeated failures, they surrendered the land granted them by the UN in 1948. Israel won dominion over the region, displacing the Arab population.

The argument over rights to this

small slice of land is in the news almost daily. Here are the terms of the dispute.

The Arab Palestinians, currently led by Yasser Arafat, are adamant in their wishes for the independent state long denied them. They want the land Israel won from them in 1967. And they continue to use violence as a means to pressure

Israel to give it to them. Their message to Israel is, You may have the land, or you may have peace—but not both. Give us our land, and we will stop our violent protests.

The Jewish Israelis are split right down the middle. Many say with increasing vehemence, Give the Arabs their land—that is what will make them happy and bring us peace. But others are ever firmer in their belief that any concessions will only increase Arab appetite for land, not appease it; and further, that anything Israel gives up will make their own state less defensible against hostile Palestinians. They maintain their right to defend their territory—the need to keep a land buffer between themselves and their enemies to maintain peace and security, for their own survival as a nation.

And from almost every direction— Russia, China, now Europe, even the United States (historically Israel's friend)—the international community is taking the side of the Palestinians and their right to their own state. LAND FOR

PEACE. That is the deal Israel is being pressured to make in what is called the "peace process." Give away territory in exchange for a piece of paper on which the Arabs agree to leave you alone—a promise. Now, unlike Israel itself, the international community considers Tel Aviv to be Israel's capital, not Jerusa-

lem. They consider the land taken after the 1949 armistice to be "occupied," meaning it does not belong to them: the West Bank (which includes East Jerusalem), the Golan Heights and the

Arafat

Gaza Strip (Israel gave Sinai back to Egypt in the U.S.brokered Camp David accords in 1978.)

Israel's new prime minister, Barak, seems willing to make the territorial concessions the Arabs seek. So the whole world will see very soon if they are correct in assuming there will be peace if the Arabs have their own state. Keep this in mind as you watch the Middle East in the news

Will the Mideast peace process work? You can know in ad-VANCE! The Bible

foretells that this region will soon be engulfed in the bloodiest wars ever witnessed on this earth. Many prophecies apply specifically; let's look at just one of them. "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city" (Zech. 14:1-2).

THE "PEACE PROCESS" WILL NOT SUCCEED, DESPITE MANKIND'S BEST EF-FORTS!

But, notice the very next verse: "Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.... And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one" (vv. 3, 9). The same God who fulfilled His promise to Abraham to make him "the father of many nations" has promised to send His Son Jesus Christ to the earth to stop the wars—with force—before mankind annihilates himself. He will use the Holy City, Jerusalem, as His headquarters, firmly but kindly governing Jews, Arabs and every other race earthwide in a world of peace and plenty! This is where the present struggles in the Middle East are leading to—when the world you live in will become a peaceful World Tomorrow! ◆

♦ U.S.

Shrugging at treason

 $T^{
m he\ cat's\ out\ of\ the\ bag.}$ The first-ever public report of the U.S. administration's highly secretive Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (FIAB) is scathingly critical of the U.S. Department of Energy.



HEARINGS ON SPYING Senator Frank Murkowski demonstrates how easily "secret" information can be stolen.

The whole world now knows that U.S. nuclear secrets have been shipped to the Chinese and who knows who else. In the bluntest possible terms, the FIAB declared that "the Department of Energy is incapable of reforming itself."

The full extent of the web of intrigue involving the DoE which reaches right to the U.S. president may never be fully known. What is apparent, however, is that multifarious listening devices were discovered in weapons-related facilities, in addition to an illegal telephone wiretap in a weapons lab. The fact is, the FIAB has produced evidence of a chronology of serious security lapses for which no one has yet been prosecuted!

Interesting enough is the energy department's seeming

comfort with allowing its secrets to be accessed by personnel working for governments which view the U.S. as their declared enemy. But do not fail to consider too the poor press coverage given to this murky web of intrigue.

Fifty years ago we had an offense in the statute books called treason. Its technical definition: "violation by a subject of allegiance to the sovereign or to the state." Acts of treason once invoked the death penalty. In the age of "flower power" administration, an age when the collective American mind has been closed to innate common sense and wisdom, it seems that the U.S. government and its institutions of administration are prepared to countenance treasonous actions of the highest order and limit the penalty to termination of employment.

♦ AUSTRALIA

Finding safe harbor

ong used to illegal immigrants floating onto their largely unprotected northern shores, Australians were surprised at the rather brazen attempts of 100 Asians to land in the harbor city of Sydney recently.

Worried government officials note that the incidence of illegal immigrants boating across the seas from the Orient and Southeast Asia has increased by over 300 percent in the first half of this year compared to the whole of 1998.

They're called "boat people" for their tendency to arrive in Australia in any old sort of craft, ranging from tugboats to fishing vessels to barely floatable boats powered by a mixture of engine and sail. These illegal immigrants often pay huge sums to black-market people smuggling enterprises that have no thought for the welfare and safety of their charges. Boat people have been dumped on reefs, in crocodile-infested swamps or other unpopulated areas of Australia's vast coastline.

Thus, the Sydney landing came as a surprise, as the smugglers have tended to steer clear of Australia's populated east coast, let alone a major city such as Sydney. This is an indication that the smugglers are seeking to take moneyed Orientals into urban areas for faster assimilation into the well-established Oriental Asian communities in Australia's chief cities.

Of increasing concern to the Australian government is the escalation of illegal drug smuggling which seems to be paralleling the increase in the arrival on their shores of the boat people.



Sydney Harbor

Australia faces a daunting task in policing its 23,000 mile (37,000 kilometer) coastline. With a population barely reaching 18 million in a country larger than the United States, the limits to capital expenditure, labor and existing infrastructure mitigate against a fast solution.

As the International Herald Tribune recently reported, "There are good grounds for doubting whether either Coast-watch or the Customs Service is sufficiently well-equipped, in technology and in personnel, to know exactly who is landing on our shores" (May 18).

As population pressures, weather disasters and crop failure slow recovery from financial meltdown and continuing political turmoil continue to drive Orientals and Asians out of their homelands, Australia is increasingly seen as the "land of milk and honey." The free advertising which Australia's relatively affluent, easy-going lifestyle, vast empty spaces and largely unprotected shores will receive as a result of the mass televising of the Sydney-based Olympic games will only serve to foster the appeal of this vast, slimly populated island-continent to the huddled masses across the seas to the north.

Australia's closest Asian neighbor, Indonesia, lies to its north at a distance less that that between its two major east coast cities, Sydney and Brisbane.

Should the traditional alliance between Australia and the U.S. falter, as America becomes increasingly isolationist, the great land of the South will find it impossible to mount any sort of reasonable military defense to stem the flow in the event that these increasing waves of boat people landing on its coasts become a rushing tide.

♦ EUROPE

Parliament moves right

Socialists within the European Union took a beating at the EU parliamentary elections last month. In a surprise result, the center-right People's Party won power in the European Parliament. Contrary to this result, the current ruling parties in the EU's 15 member nations are of center-left persuasion.

The European parliament, with its power newly strengthened by the recently enacted Amsterdam Treaty, is able to amend or even block European legislation

proposed by the two other pillars of the EU, the European Commission (its executive body) and the European Council, which represents the member governments. The parliament is also the only body having the right to question board members of the all-powerful, Frankfurt-based European Central Bank.



Romano Prodi

The incoming president of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, in particular may feel the effects of the newly elected right-wing European parliament. It is Prodi's job to appoint a new commission, following the resignation, en masse, of the former European Commission in the wake of devastating evidence of massive corruption. As the parliament has the right to accept or reject the 20-member commission as a whole, Prodi will feel the heat of the parliament's wrath should the composition of the new commission be not to its liking.

Watch for the new European Commission to comprise members of more conservative political background than their liberal predecessors.

Bible prophecy indicates the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire is imminent. Ultimately, the European Union and its supportive institutes will move to the right, just as the European parliament has now done.

Indicators are that imperial Europe, under German leadership, will become sig-

nificantly national-socialist in its political outlook. German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has exhibited left-to-right swings of mood and mindset in the past. His chancellorship may readily accommodate this future swing in the EU, of which the recent European parliamentary elections are but a foretaste.

♦ RELIGION

Vatican reaches out

Within a few weeks during May and June, Pope John Paul II, with the stroke of a pen, created the instruments of unity which are destined to draw Rome's wayward Anglican and Lutheran daughters back into her fold.

Long viewed by the Vatican as "Mary's dowry," England has been a thorn in the side of the Roman Catholic Church since King Henry VIII split the church in England off from Vatican dominance and established the Church of England in

Just 14 years prior to this event, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Church and, following his famous burning of the papal bull of excommunication issued by Pope Leo X, established the breakaway Lutheran Church.

Despite the continuing efforts of ecumenicism which have prevailed between Vatican, Anglican and Lutheran hierarchies over the past 40 years, these two Protestant daughters remained estranged from their mother church. Estranged, but increasingly drawn together, particularly by the efforts of an aging, highly political and articulate Pope John Paul II who has dedicated his papacy to the union of

Europe and the reunion of Protestantism with Catholicism.

The accord struck between the Vatican and the Church of England on the May 12 accepts that in the event that union occurs between Anglicanism and Rome, the bishop of Rome would exercise universal primacy.

In the accord between the



Pope John Paul II

Vatican and Lutheran churches, compromise language crafted the document in such a fashion as to allow for a congruence on the subject of the churches' interpretation of what theologians call "justification," their individual views of the means to attaining salvation.

In the same reconciliatory mood, Pope John Paul visited Romania in May. This was the first papal visit to an orthodox country in over 1000 years. As with the Anglican and Lutheran situations, the main issue with Orthodoxy has been papal supremacy.

Although Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism still seek to negotiate a middle ground for agreement, this pope is pulling out all stops to lay the groundwork for roping the wayward eastern wing of the church back into its fold. The Vatican's accelerated efforts to draw Eastern Europe into the EU will only work in favor of Eastern Europe returning to its Holy Roman empirical traditions.

♦ VIDEO GAMES

Virtual murder

Some say gory "first person shooter" video games are a main contributor to youth violence. Others believe things are under control, since most video games (90 percent, according to the president of Interactive Digital Software Association) are bought by adults: "So clearly, parents have the ability, if they have the knowledge and the interest, to regulate the games that come into their home."

Most defenders of violent video games consider the **Electronic Software Ratings** Board, which rates software and online games, a safe enough defense against them getting into the "wrong hands." But games are easily accessible online, since the

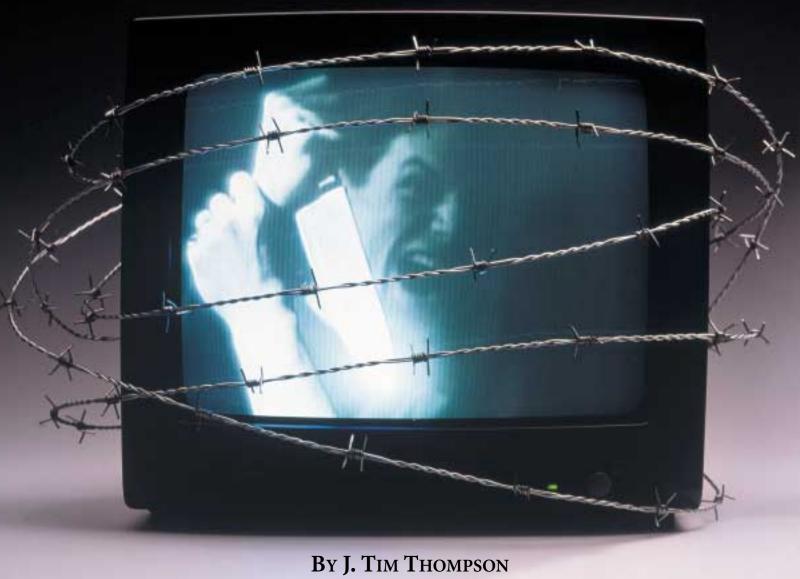


Internet is practically an unregulated medium. And if anything, the M rating (for mature audiences) just lets teens know that this is the game they want to play.

What else would you expect, when the ratings board gives an M rating to Duke Nukem while its action figures are being sold in toy stores? What about Resident Evil 2, which has an M rating and is being advertised in Sports Illustrated for Kids?

"First person shooter" games do affect people's minds—both the young and not-so-young. In fact, they are useful in military/police training, according to former Army Colonel David Grossman. He says they help people overcome their natural resistance to shooting people.

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN



AFTER A SERIES OF SCHOOL **SHOOTINGS, FRIGHTENED** PARENTS ARE ASKING, "WHAT **CAN WE DO TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN?" THE VIOLENCE-FIXATED CULTURAL LAND-SCAPE OF AMERICA IS NOT GOING TO CHANGE. THAT MEANS FAMILIES MUST** PROTECT THEMSELVES. HERE IS A PLACE TO START.

HE STATISTICS IN AMERICA ARE alarming: A typical adolescent today spends 3.5 hours per day alone or unsupervised. Children spend 11 fewer hours with their parents each week, compared with the 1960s. Between 1993 and 1996, there was a 721 percent increase in the number of minutes on the evening news spent covering homicides. By the end of elementary school, a child will have seen 8,000 murders in the media. There has been a 300 percent increase in teen suicide since the 1960s and a 1000 percent increase in depression among children since the 1950s.

And what effects are showing up in our society as a result of those appalling statistics? The direction started becoming clear in the early 1990s. By the middle '90s, the distress-signal was undeniable: America's youth are in serious

A Plague of Youth Violence

The December 17, 1994, Economist wrote (emphasis mine throughout), "For several sweltering days in summer, all America could talk about was Robert Sandifer. A member of one of Chicago's notorious street gangs, the Black Disciples, Sandifer was suspected of having sprayed bullets from a semi-automatic pistol into a group of teenagers on the city's poverty-stricken South Side. One young girl was killed. Days later, so was Sandifer—by his own gang. This much was harrowing but unexceptional. What shocked the country was the fact that Sandifer, a 23-times convicted felon, was all of 11 years old."

The Economist of April 24 paints a bloodstained picture almost five years later when it reported, "Yet again, as the nation's television cameras abruptly switched their focus on April 20 from Kosovo to Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, Americans have been forced to view the barbaric side of their culture.

"Yet again' is a natural reaction. Many see [the April 20] tragedy in a prosperous, middle-class suburb of Denver as part of a gruesome sequence....

"The statistics may show a drop in crime across the country in the past five years, including a drop in murders by gun-wielding teenagers, but the fact is that each year more than 2,000 Americans aged 14-17 use a gun to kill someone." It is clear that very real tragedies—monstrous tragedies—are afflicting almost every area of America, and the momentum is rising.

The Daily Oklahoman of April 30 stated, "Threats of violence at Oklahoma schools since the Colorado high school shooting have ESCALATED AT AN ALARMING RATE," and there followed a listing of 12 separate occurrences in Oklahoma alone of school-related death threats, bomb threats and gunsighting incidents in the 10 days following the Colorado massacre. One Oklahoma school superintendent in a small, normally peaceful rural community said, "People are panicky. We've got parents that came to school...to withdraw their children. And probably ten kids came to the office, wanting to check out."

Parents are scared, seeing no end in sight to the school massacres, asking, "What can we do?" "How can we protect our precious children from this carnage?"

Getting Right Spiritually

More than anything, this unprecedented youth violence facing parents is a spiritual crisis in the family and indeed the entire society. Therefore, a spiritual solution must be sought first. In matters such as this, physical remedies can be effective only after a spiritual healing has begun. Otherwise, we risk only treating the effect rather than the actual cause, which is founded in the *choices* mankind made in the very beginning and which have since been reinforced throughout history by every human individual's rebellion against God's ways of peace and happiness.

In a recent Key of David program, Gerald Flurry addressed the issue of school shootings focusing on the CAUSE of the problem of kids killing kids. That cause is the BREAKING OF GOD'S LAW in our nation and in our families.

At the end of the program, Mr. Flurry made the statement, "If God's law was obeyed, then the violence would stop immediately." God very clearly supports that thinking by laying out our choices in Deuteronomy 30:19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore CHOOSE LIFE, that both thou and thy [children] may live."

Genesis 2:16-17 reveals some of the earliest instructions the eternal God gave to our progenitors, Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden. God gave them FREEDOM OF CHOICE—the freedom to act rightly or wrongly. But instead of choosing to do things God's way, they chose to do things their own way, even though God had warned them that a wrong choice would lead to unhappiness and DEATH for the whole human

That same wrong choice has been made by ALL humans (Rom. 3:23), and that is why we see all this suffering and misery today: Mankind is reaping the RESULTS OF WRONG CHOICES. "Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7). It is simply a case of cause and effect. As long as mankind keeps choosing to turn away from

BETWEEN 1993 AND 1996, THERE WAS A 721 PERCENT INCREASE IN MINUTES ON THE **EVENING NEWS SPENT COVERING HOMICIDES**

God's law, he will reap the whirlwind (Hos. 8:7).

We can see the results of this rejection of God's law in Genesis 6 where it describes the time just prior to the Flood over 4,500 years ago. "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with VIOLENCE. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with VI-OLENCE through them; and behold, I will destroy them [from] the earth" (Gen. 6:5, 11-13, NKJV).

Jesus Christ prophesied in Matthew 24:37 that the end time would be exactly like the days of Noah, and that prophecy by Christ is coming to pass in a gruesome and startling way. What we are seeing in these school killings is the result of out-of-control minds which are obsessed with hate and revenge. Applying God's law would stop that.

Unfortunately, mankind has chosen to reject these laws and live contrary to God by lying, cheating, stealing, killing, coveting, committing adultery and fornicating—living selfishly for the most part. Is it any wonder then that we have so much unhappiness, suffering and death, and so many terrible, heartrending personal and world problems?

Mankind cut himself off from God in the Garden of Eden and began building his own society without the help of almighty God. The result of that FAILED EXPERIMENT is this present evil world (Gal. 1:4), including the terrible youth violence wreaking havoc on our schools and society.

To the contrary, those who honor God the Father and keep His law know that the solutions to mankind's problems must begin with God's law. It is the keeping of God's law which brings about peace and happiness.

Properly applying that law also reveals how to protect ourselves and our families from the evils that surround us.

Origin of Violence

Understanding the true source of violence is important in understanding how to bring it under control. In John 8:44, Christ is speaking to the religious leaders of His day who were seeking to murder Him because of the message He

VIOLENCE

brought to mankind from God the Father. In that verse is amazing revelation from God pointing to the source of the violence facing us today. Christ said to the Pharisees, "You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a MURDERER from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a LIAR, and the father of it." SATAN IS A LYING, VIOLENT MURDERER!

Satan is a very real being in spite of how some people ridicule that fact. We are told in Revelation 12:9-12, that Satan is filled with wrath and that he has been cast to this earth for the final days of this end time. Ephesians 2:2 sheds more light on the fact that Satan is the "prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience." Just like a radio transmitter, Satan is broadcasting attitudes of bitter, burning anger and murder right into the minds of mankind and is filling our society with lawlessness and rage.

Some of Satan's greatest tools for spreading his vile wrath are found right in our homes, and that is the influence from television, movies, music, video games and the Internet. Satan has an open door to almost every home through the media.

This is not to say that the various school shootings were entirely caused by media influences. Obviously, such situations are very complex and multifaceted. The purpose of this article is not to blame any one group. It is vital, however, that we protect our families and especially our children—from our violence-fixated cultural landscape.

The Dark Side

In an article titled "Loitering on the Dark Side," Newsweek of May 3 painted a clear picture of the influences besetting every American family. That article was subtitled, "The Columbine High killers fed on a culture of violence that isn't about to change." They wrote in pertinent part, "Was the Colorado tragedy a legacy of our technoculture: Doom, Natural Born Killers, hate-amplifying websites and pipe-bomb plans from the Net?...

"Defenders of the Net...note that criticizing the reach of the increasingly pervasive Web is like blaming paper for bad poetry. Still, it's undeniable that cyberspace offers unlimited opportunity

EACH YEAR, MORE THAN 2,000 AMERICANS AGED 14-17 USE A GUN TO KILL SOMEONE.

to network with otherwise unreachable creepy people.... The Internet credo is empowerment, and unfortunately that also applies to troubled teens sticking their toes into the foul water of hatemongering. As parents are learning, the Net's easy accessibility to the netherworlds is a challenge that calls, at the least, for a measure of VIGILANCE."

That word "vigilance" brings to mind a particularly chilling scripture. I Peter 5:8 reminds us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." Lest we forget, Satan is a MAN-EATING LION stalking us and our children, and the Internet provides a totally unregulated tool to perfectly accomplish those bloody plans.

"Hollywood is also a fat target," the article continues. "From Oliver Stone's lyric depiction of random murder [Natural Born Killers] (rabidly viewed by the Columbine killers) to stylish slaughter in The Matrix, VIOLENCE IS THE MAIN COURSE ON OUR ENTERTAIN-MENT MENU. We are a nation that comfortably embraces Tony Soprano, a basic-values type of guy who not only orders hits but himself performs the occasional whacking. The industry's defense is summarized by Doug Richardson, who scripted Die Hard II and Money Train. 'If I were to accept the premise that the media culture is responsible, then I would be surprised that the thousands of violent images we see don't inspire *more* acts of violence.' In other words, the sheer volume of carnage is *proof* of its harmlessness." I think anyone of a sound mind would agree that those words are at best a VERY WEAK DEFENSE!

The article continues, "Then there are the shoot-and-splatter video games like Doom—cited as a possible template for the Colorado killing spree. Some are concerned that hours of participating in a KILLING-MACHINE FANTAsy might make a real-life version more palatable—a concern made more alarming since millions of people regularly play Doom and its cousins....'

The article goes on to indict the entirety of American society by stating, "Guns are all too available to troubled kids steeped not just in video games or slash movies, but the ENTIRE VOLATILE STEW THAT'S, WELL, AMERICA. Video games, the Net and Hollywood are just the low-hanging fruit in this blame game. The violent-entertainment complex survives because it caters to US: Its brutal images and dark-side pursuits exist because they're POPULAR and PROF-

"Traditional media exploit this, too; the week's news coverage speaks directly to our fascination with home-bred violence. The [Colorado] killers may have been steeped in a crock pot of fantasy carnage, but now the nation is willingly marinating in its very real aftermath: a tissue-consuming orgy of victim interviews and 911 tapes....

"What we're left with is a vicious cycle where even the examination of a disaster reinforces the VIOLENCE-OBSESSED CULTURE that may have helped trigger it. How can you pull the threads of violence from a society when those strands are so deeply woven into our CHARACTER? We're left with [the conclusion to] make sure that your kids don't get in so deep that fantasies cross over to HORRIBLE, HEARTBREAKING REAL-ITY. It'll have to do because the culture isn't changing. We like it too much."

One of the great dangers lurking in our society is the threat of becoming immersed in the violence, pornography and lawlessness which is filling the minds of many people in this world. Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." One of the lessons in these school killings is that if we focus our minds on violence, we will become violent. That is why the practice of "thought stopping" is so essential. Simply put, we must stop wrong thoughts before they take root and drive us to wrong action.

The Apostle James summed it up plainly by stating that "every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath *conceived*, it bringeth forth *sin* [the transgression of law (I John 3:4)]: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:14-15). Clearly, we must stop wrong thoughts and stop the obsessing which leads to law-breaking.

Jesus Christ tells us in Matthew 15:19 that "out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, MURDERS, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." Twisted, lawless minds led to the Colorado killings! Those two young men in Colorado saturated themselves with VIOLENCE and HATRED until demonic influences drove them to attack their classmates like a pair of mad dogs. That is how Satan controls those who voluntarily open their minds to such evil influences.

Matthew 8:28 describes the violence associated with demon influence and possession. As Christ was walking in the country, "there met him two possessed of devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way." That is the violent, murderous nature of Satan in man, and nothing has changed since the time of Christ.

That same satanic wrath is pouring out of violent TV shows and movies, video games and hate-filled music into the minds of those who don't protect themselves from Satan's influences. Yet many psychiatrists and so-called "experts" say all this preoccupation with violence does not have a significant effect. Romans 1:22 says, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools," and that exactly describes many of these "experts" who reject God's word.

God warns in Hosea 4:6, "My people are DESTROYED for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the LAW of thy God, I will also forget thy children." God's word is plain in stating that those who reject God's law have lost God's protection on their children!

WATCH THE WEB

- 1. Know which websites/chat rooms your child is visiting.
- 2. Set up the Internet computer in a public area of the house.
- 3. Take advantage of the computer's power-on password to control when it is used.
- 4. Set a time limit on your child's Web surfing.

We should not believe the "experts" who tell us that violent entertainment will not hurt our children. The evils occurring in our society today are PROOF that kids are falling victim to the wrong kind of influences. No matter what these so-called "experts" say, we must JUDGE BY THE FRUITS (Matt. 7:16-20), and the fruits are *not* good.

It is clear that TV and the Internet were only contributing factors in the Littleton massacre, but in order to stop the violence, we must learn to combat Satan's evil influences and the PREDA-TORS stalking our children!

Controlling the Media

The Internet is a great tool and a marvelous source of information, but the phenomenal growth of the Web has been, and still is, totally unregulated, which makes it a potentially dangerous place for our children. As recently as 1993, there were only 130 sites on the World Wide Web. In March 1999, that had grown to 4.3 million websites and it is currently growing by 50,000 to 100,000 sites per month. That's a tremendous amount of information which can now be accessed through the Web. But as with all things potentially good, mankind has corrupted and perverted the Internet, and you need to know how to control its influences on your children, at least while they are under the age of 18.

So how can we control the Web's influence?

1. Be aware of what websites or chat rooms your underage child is visiting on the Internet. Ask the child, but also learn how to check the Internet history files on your computer. As the parent, you have the responsibility and the RIGHT to know what your child is doing on the Internet.

- 2. Set up the Internet computer in a public area of the house, like the living room, where you can monitor what's going on, and don't allow your child to be on the Internet in another room behind closed doors. Proverbs 29:15 warns that "a child left to himself brings his mother to shame." The "latchkey" and otherwise unsupervised children of today are easy targets for Satan. The natural curiosity of children can lead them into wrong areas very quickly, and we must protect our children's minds.
- 3. Take advantage of the computer's power-on password to control when the computer is used. You set the password which allows your computer to boot up. Also, consider purchasing some password-protected Internet security software, or parental-control software, so that offensive material cannot be viewed.
- 4. Set a time limit on how long a child can surf the Web. One hour a day—while you are present—should be plenty. Because we love our children, we must establish rules to protect them from the satanic influences on the Internet which they don't fully under-

Next, how can we protect our children from TV and movie violence?

1. Be more selective with the programs and movies YOU watch. Be a good example (Titus 2:1-8). Eliminate programs from YOUR viewing that glamorize crime, violence, cruelty, illicit sex and vulgar language. Just don't watch those programs! Violence and sex should not be the major theme of programs for kids or adults.

WATCH WHAT YOU WATCH

- 1. Be more selective with the programs and movies you watch.
- 2. Watch programs and movies together with your children.
- 3. Limit the amount of TV your family watches.
- 4. Replace much of TV viewing with family interests.
- 5. Help family members develop hobbies that take them away from the TV set.
- **6. Take the necessary first step by turning off the TV earlier.**
- 7. Become God-centered in television viewing.

VIOLENCE

TAKING OUT THE TV TRASH

Excerpted from Karl Zinsmeister in The American Enterprise, March/April.

TTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE RECENTly to do something about TV's descent into gutter programming. And they haven't worked. Specifically, the new ratings system hammered out to help parents has been sabotaged by the networks. The broadcasters have been allowed to rate themselves, rather than having some objective outside body do the job, and they're cheating like mad. [A] Kaiser Family Foundation study discovered that fully 92 percent of programs containing sexual matter didn't carry the S rating they are supposed to; 79 percent of programs depicting violence weren't marked with a V. And 91 percent of shows with crude language lacked an L label....

One way a significant number of concerned Americans are dealing with this sleaziness is by simply walking away. Two million households have abandoned TV altogether. Others are just turning it on less...but lots just found better things to do. They logged onto a computer, watched videotapes, read record numbers of books, [or] got out of the house. University of Michigan research, meanwhile, shows that daily TV watching by children has recently fallen for the first time, by an average of about 12 percent....

But ultimately it must be consumers (and advertisers) more than producers who will clean up TV. For there is no denying that Americans currently sit down to watch an unholy amount of [gunk] they ought not.

> A big problem is that, as writer Terry Mattingly puts it, "Most Americans do not watch programs on TV that they have made decisions to watch, based on their values or even their interests. Most Americans watch TV to kill time, to make life go away in small, stupid chunks."

That needs change.

And it all starts, and ends, in *our* house.

Our examples speak louder than our words. We adults need to lead the way in avoiding violent entertainment. Just change channels or get up and walk out of the movie.

- 2. Watch programs and movies TO-GETHER with your children. Scientific studies show it is better if parents watch TV with their children. Many so-called "family" programs are filled with rebellion, lying, immorality and disrespect for authority. If you watch together, you can offset the bad effect on children of occasional fallacies and wrong actions shown in a TV show or movie. That way we can teach our children that such conduct is not acceptable.
- 3. Another important TV viewing guideline is to *limit the amount of TV* your family watches. Most importantly, DON'T ALLOW THE TV TO BECOME YOUR CHILD'S BABYSITTER, even if they aren't watching violence and wrong programming. The average American child spends 900 hours a year in school and 1,500 hours a year watching television. A child who spends two to three or maybe four to six hours a day gawking at a TV world of make-believe and fantasy is losing vital hours which should be spent learning to relate and talk to brothers, sisters, playmates, parents and relatives. We must not let our children get lost in the fantasy world of TV.
- 4. Replace much of TV viewing with family interests. Revive good old-fashioned family get-togethers where family members simply talk and share interests, ideas, needs, desires; share hopes and dreams, thoughts on current world events, activities at school, at work or in the neighborhood. Most importantly, don't let TV stifle family conversation! We need to find out what is going on in our children's minds.
- 5. Help family members develop hobbies that take them away from the TV set. Find constructive hobbies like sports, photography, reading, arts and crafts, instrumental music or voice, sewing, gardening, woodworking, electronic projects, cooking, or maybe model car, plane or train building. The more a parent sets the example of having outside interests, such as hobbies, the more likely the child will develop healthy outside interests.
- 6. Take the necessary first step by turning off the TV set earlier, and then use that time to find interesting, thought-provoking activities for yourself and your children.

Before you watch a program, ask

yourself if it encourages worthwhile ideals, values and beliefs like family life, godliness and so forth, or does it glamorize crime, indecency, intolerance, greed or cruelty?

Does the program teach true values? Or does it promote false standards of material success, personal vanity, a lack of self-restraint, or even immorality?

Will the program stimulate constructive activities like promoting skills and hobbies? Does the program encourage the desire to learn more, to be creative, to solve problems or to work and get along better with others?

Is the program wholesome adventure, humor or suspense—or is it morbid, crude, loud, violent or vulgar?

Does the program add to one's understanding and appreciation of himself and others? Does it encourage decent human relations? Is it fair to all races and nations? Is it balanced in its approach? Or is it prejudiced, onesided propaganda that plays on the emotions and displays a lack of knowledge? In order to protect ourselves and our children, we need to evaluate what we watch.

7. The most important point is that you should become God-centered in your television watching. Let's be honest with ourselves. Ask yourself if you would watch that program if Jesus Christ or an angel of God were sitting right in the room with you.

James 1:22 says we must be doers of the word, not hearers only, deceiving

Ezekiel 5:12 tells us that a "pestilence," meaning a great PLAGUE OF VIO-LENCE, is going to come on the land in the end time. We are already experiencing that growing plague of violence right now, and our children and families must be protected from it!

We know that media influences were contributing factors to the massacre in Colorado. We must recognize the various facets of this tragedy, like the violent culture in America, and then do what we can to PROTECT OUR FAMILIES from Satan's violent input.

Proverbs 27:12 tells us, "A prudent man foresees the evil, and hides himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished." We must see what is occurring in our society, and hide ourselves and our families from it. We must keep God's law and do what we can to protect ourselves and our families from the violence flooding out of the mind of Satan. •

PRINCIPLES OF LIVING

STEPHEN FLURRY

Best of Both Worlds

Finding time to read in the Information Age

world faster than it took Benjamin Franklin to get from New York to Philadelphia. Ah—technology. What a time-saver! But it has its drawbacks too. There are far too many distractions that waste all the time we should be saving with modern technology: television, movies, music, concerts, sports events, video games, the Internet. There is some benefit to these activities, but only if they are done in moderation and are God-centered.

But most people overindulge in these activities at the expense of others of real worth—like reading. The average American reads *half* a book per year. That's right. Not even one whole book!

As a young man, Abraham Lincoln walked miles just to borrow a good book. He regularly studied the Bible and Shakespeare's best plays. As an American, he felt it essential to study the life of George Washington. He also studied law and eventually became a lawyer. Yet, Abraham Lincoln never received a formal education. He was a high-school dropout! Late in life, Lincoln offered this advice to one young man eager to be a lawyer: "It is only to get the books and to read and study them carefully. Work, work, work is the main thing."

Education is more than a college degree. It is a life-long process! As an adult, don't be fooled into thinking everything worth reading should be read before graduation. And as a parent, don't mortgage the future of your children by allowing them to waste their most critical years of development on trivialities. Create a reader-friendly environment in the home. To do so, here are a few helpful hints.

Develop a library. Did you know that 60 percent of U.S. households will not invest in one single book this year? It certainly is not for lack of spending power. Last year, teens alone spent \$140 billion. Not on books, but on snacks, concerts, video games, movies and CDs mostly. And it's not because most get their books free at the library. Only 3 percent of U.S. households even have a library card. Most people are just not interested in developing a library, because they think reading is boring. They don't realize that developing a good library is like storing up fine gold.

Be selective. Robert Hutchins, former editor of Encyclopedia Britannica's "Great Books" series, said that time is short, but education is long. We only have 25,000 days (on average) to work with in this brief life. Some of us have already spent half or more of our allotted time. Ask yourself, What have I spent my time on reading thus far? Being a Trumpet reader already places you in a unique group—one that reads a magazine that explains the true meaning of world events.

Beyond the *Trumpet*, what do you read? What sections of the newspaper do you spend most of your time on? And what about books? With only 86,400 seconds to work with daily, we do not have time for trash. French philosopher Ernest Dimnet once said, "Do not read good books—life is too short for that—only read the best." He recommended a personal library of 20 or 30 volumes that you regularly study and refer to.

Don't just read—study. What good is an extensive library that fills the shelf but not the mind? Study a work so that it becomes part of you. If your book's

cover is well-worn, its corners dogeared and its pages marked like a test you failed in high school, that's the surest sign that you not only got through the book—the book got through to you.

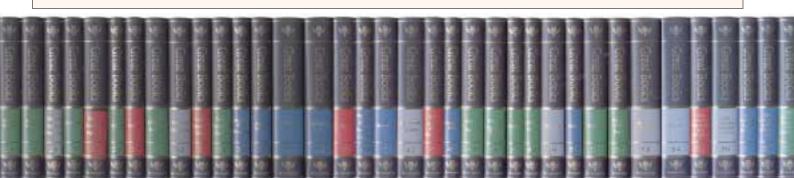
The classics—the really deep things of life—will never be *completely* understood. That is why we must read, study and then repeat the process periodically, rethinking things through—feeling it all over it again.

Such study is like cracking a tough nut—you apply pressure to the softest spot. At least then you can get inside. Don't worry about understanding every word, even if that is how you were taught to read in school. Pay attention instead to what you do understand—and if that's only 30 percent of the work, that's 30 percent more than you'd have understood by not reading it. Then, when you go through the work again, you will be more familiar with the material and will assuredly get more out of it.

In I Thessalonians 4, the Apostle Paul encouraged families to develop a lifestyle of peace, quiet and productivity. That's hard to do in today's hurried, noisy society. But it is possible. In verse 10, he encourages us to "increase more and more." Education never stops. Notice verses 11-12: "Also, endeavor to live quietly, attend to your own business, and—as we charged you—work with your hands, so that your life may be self-supporting" (Moffatt). That is not a boring lifestyle. It's efficient and productive. And it allows for reading and studying.

In a way, it's hard not to be a little envious of Benjamin Franklin or Abraham Lincoln. They read and studied great works of literature, history and philosophy—not having to contend with as many time-wasters as we do. On the other hand, they weren't able to benefit from the advancements of modern technology, which puts us in an enviable position too.

In a way, we can experience the best of both worlds. We can use technology to do greater things in shorter periods of time—and then devote extra leisure time to do more reading. ◆



XPERTS ARE

How they are miseducating you about kids killing kids

By Stephen Flurry

HO OR WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR the frightening increase in youth violence? Video games? Violence on television? Divorce between parents? Music lyrics? Neo-Nazi literature? Poor grades? Being picked on? While these may be contributing factors, they still do not get to the heart of the matter. The cause of increasing violence among teens actually revolves around education.

To understand, let's review some important history.

Consider the social upheaval of the '60s: hippies, Vietnam protests, marijuana, promiscuous sex, Woodstock, the Beatles. Compared to what we are used to seeing today, those seem downright mild. But in the 1960s, it shocked the older generation. They had never seen anything like it.

It marked the beginning of a revolution—a cultural war waged by the young generation. The fundamental premise of the revolt was simply rebellion—rebellion against traditional standards, against high morals, against virtually any form of authority—especially parents. Back then this rebellious minority was considered a counterculture. It wasn't necessarily mainstream.

Since then, however, that rebellious spirit has spread like cancer. The young generation of the 1960s grew up to become the educators of today. And what have they been teaching children? What have they been teaching parents about rearing children?

THAT THERE ARE NO ABSOLUTES except one. It's called *absolute freedom*.

For nearly four decades, educators have taught parents never to spank children-to remove many restrictions and rules since too much control supposedly stifles creativity and destroys self-esteem.

On March 8, for example, ABC interviewed a husband-wife family therapist team for its special "Teens-What Makes Them Tick?" On the program, the "highly educated" duo argued for fewer rules in rearing children. "Teens have an allergic reaction to any attempt to control them," said the husband. The more rules you have, he explained, the worse the child's behavior.

THE PROBLEM WITH THAT KIND OF EDUcation is that it assumes that man's nature is essentially good.

In Jeremiah 17:9, God says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and DESPERATELY WICKED: who can know it?" The expression "desperately wicked" means "dangerously sick." In the New Testament, self-righteous Pharisees criticized Jesus Christ for eating with sinners. Jesus rebuked them and then likened sinners to those who are sick, in need of a physician (Matt. 9:10-12). Romans 3:23 states that "ALL have sinned"—we are all in need of a "physician." We need help in changing our deceitful, wicked heart to one that is good.

Higher education teaches that human nature is essentially good. The Bible teaches just the opposite! So who

Before answering that, we need just a little more background. God says man's heart, in its natural state, is essentially evil. Does that mean God created us with a deceitfully wicked heart?

Man was not evil when God created him—only unfinished. The human spirit (or mind) God placed within man needed another Spirit (God's mind) to be COMPLETE. But Adam and Eve rejected God's mind when they took of the wrong tree. Therefore, God cut off mankind from the tree of life. Ever since, Satan's influence has held sway over the mind of man.

Now that, in brief, is what God says about the human mind. Man says the opposite. Who is right?

For the answer (if you do not believe God), let's look at a snapshot of our present world. Two generations have grown up in this permissive age of no spanking and fewer rules. We are actually far enough along in this educational experiment to look at some of the test results. Since 1960, VIOLENT CRIMES have increased 350 percent in America. In the 1990s alone, over 200,000 Americans have been murdered by other Americans.

Among teens, the stats are even more frightening. On that ABC special, where the therapist argued for fewer rules, the host pointed out how teens commit three times as many crimes as adults! When asked to explain this paradox, the therapist duo explained that more rules would only make matters worse. Children must learn to control themselves, he argued.

A little more than a month after that ABC special, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold traipsed through their high school in Colorado, firing semi-automatic rifles and detonating pipe bombs, hooting and laughing as they went. By the end of the suicidal massacre, hundreds of teenagers had witnessed the bloodiest school shooting in America's history.

All of that, presumably, because the Harris and Klebold families were too strict?

Eric and Dylan were obsessed with death and violence. Over and over, in their homes, they had watched Natural Born Killers. They spent hundreds of hours playing Doom, their favorite blood-and-guts computer game. They had created their own website, which published a message of death, violence and hate. Adolf Hitler was one of their heroes. (They chose his birthday to kill their schoolmates.) They even created a miniature pipe-bomb factory in the Harris' two-car garage.

Parents too strict? Hardly.

These two boys, if the husband-wife tandem is right, were raised in the ideal environment. No spanking. No restrictions. No rules.

Absolute freedom.

And the fruits of that permissive upbringing are now set in stone—gravestones.

INCE COLUMBINE, AN INTERESTING phenomenon has emerged. All of a sudden, parents are being held responsible for their children! The family of one Columbine victim even filed a \$250 million lawsuit against the parents of the two teenage gunmen.

Certainly, parents are to blame for raising their children irresponsibly. But, in a sense, they too are victims. Victims of nearly four decades of higher education-"no spanking, no rules"-absolute freedom. How can parents who have been taught that be held responsible when their children spiral out of control?

I repeat: Irresponsible, overly permissive child-rearing is a major contributor to violent acts among teens. (In fact, the items listed at the beginning of this article all contribute to the problem too.)

But where did irresponsible parents receive their education? From scholars like the ones on that ABC special. But no one dares hold them responsible. Just the opposite. We look to those minds, instead of God's, for guidance—for understanding on how to rear children.

America spends more on education than any other nation in the world. From 1950 to 1990, the U.S. quadrupled its per-student educational spending (even after adjusting for inflation). We have educated minds to produce the most amazing technological won-

Yet we have been unable to solve life's most basic problems, like youth violence. In that way, modern education has failed terribly. It might help students make a living, but it has failed to teach them the most important thing of all-how to live. It's time for educated scholars to step forward and admit that absolute freedom, without any rules or punishment for bad behavior, is absolutely ridiculous.

But don't look for that to happen anytime soon.

Modern education assumes that man's nature, at its core, is essentially good. That's why it has no answers for such evil acts like the Littleton or Jonesboro shootings.

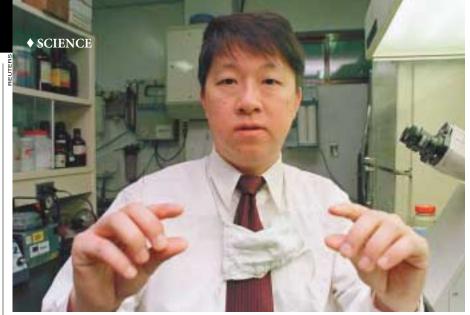
God, on the other hand, says man's nature, at its core, is essentially rotten and wicked. That fact, combined with two generations of permissiveness, makes for a scary society. It's no wonder America is one of the most violent countries in the history of civilization.

You may not be able to change the deadly direction of higher education, but you can change yourself. And that is true education. It's about changing this carnal, deceitful, wicked nature, which we all have, to one that submits to the absolute rule and authority of God as defined in the Bible.

Your nature, at its core, may not be good, but it can become good. And when it does, through obedience to God and His law, you'll experience real "freedom"—freedom from sin and all of the misery that accompanies it.

Now *that* is absolute freedom. ◆

This article is reprinted from True Education, a magazine published quarterly by the editors of the Trumpet. For a free subscription, see back cover for details.



PROUD PAPA A researcher shows off a human embryo scientifically cultivated from human cells—one of the first cloning experiments of its kind.

Frankenstein Revisited

Embryologists are forging ahead in ethically murky territory with nothing to guide them but their own curiosity

NEW SURGE OF HUMAN EMBRYO REsearch has humanists and ethicists

Two U.S.-based laboratories recently published work they have been undertaking since last November that has resulted in the cloning of the first "human" embryos. A leading U.S. biotechnology company, American Cell Technology, claimed that they had cloned the first "human" embryo using a cell from a man's leg and a cow's egg. The embryo was destroyed after 12 days, during which scientists monitored its development. It is now believed that many more such "human" embryos have been created, developed and destroyed since November.

Opponents to these experiments say that the ongoing development of human embryo cloning techniques make the eventual birth of a human clone inevitable. Such a situation would have profound implications for traditional views on the nature of human life, the institutions of marriage and family, law and the medico-hospital industry.

Claiming as their goal the advancement of medical science, in the interests of treating certain chronic ailments, researchers have become irresistibly attracted to what they call "stem cell" research. The business sector is seeking to rapidly position itself to capitalize on this new and potentially lucrative field. By publicizing the fact of this human embryo research, the American companies involved hope to allay public suspicion as to their motives and help governments overcome the remaining technical hurdles to cloning human beings. Researchers state that they want to clone their patients, to grow genetically identical embryos whose stem cells could be used for transplantation.

Over 4,000 years ago, the Creator of all human life decided to confound the language of man and disperse the early post-flood tribes for a very specific reason. "And the Lord said, behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Gen. 11:6).

The earth, in recent times, has become a "global village." Technology and globalization of business have pushed aside the barriers of time, distance, language and culture and made the sharing of scientific information far less inhibiting.

Once again, mankind has reached the point where "nothing will be restrained from them which they have imagined to do." Only timely intervention by that same Designer and Creator of all life will now stop the prospect of humankind creating its own Frankenstein monsters.

RON FRASER



Crisis at Valley Forge

This event demonstrated that in times of extreme violence and crisis, strong leadership, strong families, and a strong moral fiber are necessary.

By Gary Rethford

THE YEAR 1759 WAS HERALDED AS A banner year for Britain. "In no one year since she was a nation has she been favored with so many successes, both by sea and by land, and in every quarter of the globe" (Annual Register—1759). Trade was flourishing, production soaring: As the idolized Englishman William Pitt had forecast, war had brought enormous wealth.

But it was not to last. In the final battle of the French and Indian War, the army of British General James Wolfe defeated the French forces under the Marquis de Montcalm at the battle of Quebec. Both generals died of wounds received there. The Treaty of Paris was drafted proclaiming that all Canada, including Quebec, belonged to Britain. After that, things began to go terribly

The eventual clash of arms between Britain and America was inevitable. The Colonies and the mother country had been at odds over the right to rule for decades. The fact that King George III was young and unprepared to be king was certainly a factor, but in fact, much of what followed has been incorrectly placed at his door. The real culprits were his dishonest and self-serving ministers, and wars which would soon escalate with France and Spain.

British legislation was seen to be oppressive by a people who felt pinched by the homeland. The Acts of Navigation limiting American trade were openly flouted, and smuggling was an active pursuit. By royal proclamation, the king closed the wilderness west of the Alleghenies to immigration. And finally, the British government resolved to make taxation a reality for the

Britain, of course, felt that America should pay for the 10,000 British regulars present for its defense, and the taxes only bore a small part of those costs. Americans saw the taxes as nothing but more British tyranny. So when duties on glass, lead, paint, paper and tea were imposed, it was the beginning of the end.

The spark that ignited the revolution happened in Massachusetts, on April 19, 1775, at a place now famous in American history—Lexington Green. As conflict erupted between the king's soldiers and the colonists, the term "minuteman" was born.

America was ill-prepared for war on its own soil. It had few trained soldiers and fewer experienced officers, and of all men thoroughly unprepared to lead men into battle, George Washington was the epitome. He said, when offered

♦ HISTORY

the post, "I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with." At that moment he wasn't. As the war developed, defeat after defeat-blunder after blunder-were to follow. But the major strengths of Washington's character were to emerge which would later prove him to be the perfect man for the

By August 1776, the American army had been chased to a redoubt in Brooklyn Heights. New Jersey had been lost, resulting in an utter rout of the disillusioned troops. And now, a British fleet was anchored just outside the East River ready to provide fresh soldiers and supplies to the enemy. It was clear that a miracle was needed to save the army.

God intervened by providing not one miracle, but two.

George Washington had one major attribute: Even in the face of defeat he was calm and confident. Now, his confidence before the troops did not betray his own concerns; he had come to realize that Brooklyn could not be held. The American army clinging to that bit of unconquered soil must escape. Had the British been given any hint of that realization, the remnants of the army would have been quickly annihilated. Calm confidence in the face of crisis that was the glue which kept the army from destruction.

Then on August 28 the first needed miracle came. The British fleet was faced with a strong contrary storm which prevented them from proceeding up the river to unload their deadly cargo. Among the colonial army huddled in the howling rain were the bluecoated, white-trousered Marbleheaders led by John Glover. Washington ordered a search for all types of small boats, and, as darkness began to descend, trench after trench was emptied of hungry and exhausted troops and placed in boats to be rowed to safety. It was a two-mile trip under extremely dangerous circumstances.

Then it was time for the second miracle. As the wind and rain had come suddenly to stop the British advance, it now, just as quickly, died, and a dense fog crept over the river. Where the water had been rough and choppy in the storm, it now lay quiet—placid and serene in the mist. The fog continued to thicken and spread as John Glover's men propelled the boats back and forth with their precious cargo. For six hours they toiled in an operation that would not again be repeated until British soldiers were saved from the beaches of Dunkirk almost 200 years later. Glover's boats dumped their cargo in New York and quickly made the return trip to Long Island. Even the creak of the oarlock and the occasional oath was muffled in the murky night. Not only men, but all stores and equipment were brought across to New York, leaving only a few rusty cannons behind. George Washington stood with the majestic poise of a true leader as the final men and supplies were loaded aboard. He stepped into the last boat, and the army was saved.

TOR AMERICA AND ITS ARMY, THE L just begun. Those ill-fed, illclothed, ragged and underfed band of fighters continued to suffer small victories and major defeats until, at last, in November 1777, they turned their faces toward a winter camp—Valley Forge.

Located about 20 miles west-northwest of Philadelphia, the gentle Schuylkill River and Valley Creek joined. It was here that an old forge had been built known as the Valley Forge. George Washington is reported to have written later that the progress of the army could be followed by its bloody footprints. That Thanksgiving they had only what they could scrape from their meager packs. On the whole, many went hungry.

In a letter to governor George Clinton, Washington expressed the desperate state of his men: "For some days past, there has been little less than a famine in camp. A part of the army has been a week without any kind of flesh, and the rest for three or four days. Naked and starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery, that they have not been ere this excited by their sufferings, to a general mutiny or dispersion."

Of all places which might represent the struggle for ideals in the Revolutionary War, Valley Forge is the prime example. It is the story of an army's epic struggle to survive against terrible odds—against hunger, disease and the unrelenting forces of nature.

As December came, the situation worsened. Hundreds of animals died in the cold. Soap was rare, and the filth that existed brought on a horrible itching rash. Water had to be carried in

pails from the creek a mile away. Flour was also rare, and meat almost nonexistent. The drafty, damp, makeshift huts prompted infections. Putrid fever and diarrhea were common.

Some few deserted, but most stayed. To the utter astonishment of the foreign officers now camping there, the army held together. Surely, they said, no other army would have done so.

Just a few months before, Thomas Paine had written the now-famous essay "The Crisis," in which he said, "These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sun-

shine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph."

The empty sentiment in this 20th century expressed as "America love it or leave it!" does not reflect the kind of heroism that was seen in those times. Thomas Paine wrote about standing up for right—he spoke of a freedom from tyranny and violence! Not one of those men who were freezing and suffering—yes, and dying too—were fighting for what the nation today calls "rights." Those men were fighting for ideals. They were fighting for a place to keep families together—a place for future generations to grow into adulthood without fear of violence.

Out of the suffering of Valley Forge was born a new army and a new general. During those winter months, as the troops endured every conceivable hardship, they were drilled by professional soldiers, they were polished and disciplined, they were hardened! Washington himself became a different man. In the end, it is difficult to say whose example was more effective: his to the army, or the army's to him. Then as the dreaded cold of January reluctantly gave way to spring, life began to flow back into that army. In March, General Washington electrified his men with the following announcement: "General After Orders. 6 p.m.—It having pleased the almighty Ruler of the universe propitiously to defend the cause of the United States of America and finally by raising us up a powerful friend, among the princes of the earth...." (Bruce Lancaster, The American Revolution). God had provided an important ally in the fledgling nation France. The crisis had been met. America's destiny as a nation was established!

Historians conclude that the worst of the ordeal had ended. The war would last for another five years, but for Washington, his army and the "united" states to which they sought to give birth, a decisive victory had been won—a victory of the human spirit. The spirit of Valley Forge was now a part of the army, and because of it the

> prospects for final victory were considerably brighter.

> Those were truly the times to try men's souls, but there is a lesson there for today: Anyone who wasn't ready to commit totally to the cause (the "summer soldier"), and someone who was only willing to fight under the best

circumstances (the "sunshine patriot"), had no place in that honored band of fighters. Those who quit when the going gets tough must be weeded out of the fight. Those who don't have the stomach to stand up for the rights God gives us will not be in the fight!

Paine

To understand that, we must go farther back in history. In the book of Judges, another account of some "minutemen" is recorded. A man by the name of Gideon was moved to stand up for a cause. God charged him to raise up an army against the Midianites; 32,000 joined to fight. But we read in the seventh chapter how God demanded that, through a series of trials, Gideon pare down his army to a mere 300, "lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me."

Just as He did in 1777, God removed the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot from His army. That's the way He operates. In the first place, God is not willing to use those who are not totally dedicated. Secondly, the fewer numbers highlight the fact that "the battle is the Lord's"! If only we would look back today and AWAKE to the fact that God has always fought our battles. God has always provided the miracles—He has always given the victory if we are a righteous people. What a tragic mistake we make today to even think that we "earned" this nation, or that we can solve our problems without God! ◆

VIEWPOINT

WILBUR MALONE

Going the Way of Rome

Is America headed the same way the "invincible" empire was headed centuries ago?



T WAS ONE OF THE MIGHTIEST EMPIRES on this planet—ruling over much of Europe for centuries. Alive with activity, it was an advanced society of high-rise buildings, arts and spectator sports. Building was at an all-time high, the economy was good, citizens basked in affluence and luxury. Avenues were lined with trees and beautiful fountains.

Seneca, a well-known statesman, warned that the empire would fall. No one heeded. Why? Because times had never been so good! Yet the cold hard facts of history are that the Roman Empire and the mighty city of Rome did fall, and the voices of the scoffers were silenced.

Why did this empire collapse? The reasons are well-documented.

The Roman Empire possessed the most powerful, awe-inspiring, disciplined military force in history—in the position as policeman to the world. They conquered many nations—and tribute poured in from the defeated. To the empire, wealth was commonplace.

Romans spent a vast amount on entertainment. They were obsessed with it. With this mad and mounting craze for pleasure, families became destabilized.

In early Rome, the most important feature of the family was the authority of the father. The early Roman parents' methods of childrearing were based on godly principles. The Apostle Paul taught the Romans about God's law (Romans 1:7; 7:12). In the average family, the mother taught the child until age seven, then the exclusive education continued under the leadership of the father. Families flourished, and children learned obedience.

But when a laxity of morals crept in, the family unit broke down. Fathers let down in their childrearing—allowing their children to govern themselves. In early Rome divorce was rare, but by the first century it became the norm. Seneca wrote, "They divorce in order to remarry, they marry in order to divorce." Marriage, according to the Roman writer Martial, had become a form of legalized adultery. As morals disappeared, the family structure was turned upside-down.

Consider this quote from Daily Life in Ancient Rome, by Jerome Carcopino. Roman fathers, by the beginning of the second century A.D., had "yielded to the impulse to become far too complacent. Having given up the habit of controlling their children, they let the children govern them, and took pleasure in bleeding themselves white to gratify the expensive whims of their offspring. The result was that they were succeeded by a generation of idlers and wastrels.... (p. 78). Moral conditions worsened riots occurred and destroyed entire towns.

BUT WHY SHOULD ANYONE BE CONCERNED with the fall of some ancient empire? Because the very same conditions that led to the downfall of the great cities of the Roman empire exist in the cities of the Western world today!

And perhaps no country is taking the lead in such a disastrous direction as is the U.S. A repetition of history 1500 years past will prove to be inevitable when comparing America's moral direction with that of Rome.

Consider the economy. Times are good now. On the surface it seems to be a time of greater economic stability than this nation has enjoyed in years; but at the same time the federal budget deficit is rising. And we would consider any warning that this great, prosperous country is heading for collapse foolish.

But consider the family and moral status of American culture.

The same family structure that Rome had when its families were in order—with the father in command was also the foundation that assisted in the rise of the British Empire and the U.S. But family life with the father at the head has all but disintegrated in America. The divorce rate is approaching 60 percent of the marriage rate. Cheating on a mate is considered normal. Many couples continue to live together for the sake of appearance while actually hating each other. In the U.S., some marital experts even predict that the very institution of marriage is on its way out—to be replaced by couples being "pairbound."

Children today have little respect for their parents and in many cases openly defy them—just as Paul said it would be in the end time (II Tim. 3:1-2). Most sitcoms depict homes with the father either gone or incapable of leading the family, while the mother makes all the wise decisions.

It's a society where "anything goes." Today's movies and television are loaded with smut. Marriage is downplayed—unmarried couples living together is glorified. Homosexual relationships are regularly depicted. This is what our children are watching. It is teaching them that this is normal for the American family. Family traditions are drifting away from our society. Add to all of this the easy availability of pornography—an appallingly lucrative industry—in movies, magazines, TV, and now on the Internet.

Just as in ancient Rome, the teaching of God's law in the American home today has become virtually extinct. The recent and numerous school shooting massacres by teenagers is evidence of this.

T WAS NOT ALWAYS THAT WAY. THE Trumpet has written extensively on America's moral state at the time of its forefathers—how the nation was built on the Ten Commandments. Write for our free booklet Character in Crisis to understand more about our forefathers' view of God's law.

Our founding fathers also understood the importance of proper family structure. The home and family are the basis of all decent societies! The family relationship is where the lessons of character, decency, kindness, patience, loyalty and a sense of responsibility should be learned. When the father is removed from the head of the family and children are not reared in a Godloving, commandment-keeping family, a rebellious delinquent is often the re-

THE PARALLELS ARE ASTOUNDING. WE live today as the Romans did; we are traveling the same route; yet we stand on the brink of a disaster much greater than theirs—a nuclear disaster that could be avoided if only we would re-

America and its cultural cohorts are being warned that they are following in the footsteps of Rome—footsteps that lead to disaster. And just like the Romans before us, these warnings also are falling on deaf ears. This work of warning started over 60 years ago by Herbert W. Armstrong. He warned that this nation was heading down the same ominous path as ancient Rome. The Philadelphia Church of God continues this work of warning through the Trumpet magazine and The Key of David telecast.

Will America and the rest of the Western world listen? Will they heed the warnings trumpeted by this magazine and The Key of David television program? Will they heed the lesson of history and mend their ways before it is too late? Or will they become—like ancient Rome—ancient history? ◆

Fourth Reich in Disguise

CC The article 'The Fourth Reich in Disguise' in the June issue ought to be a wake-up call for this country and Britain. >>

E. Freetown, Mass.

I have read most of the *Trumpet* and I agree with you. "The Fourth Reich in Disguise" hits the nail on the head. The Vatican in WWII turned more people over to the Third Reich than they helped.

Jefferson, Ohio

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN prophecy and have followed world events quite closely on TV and in the print media. In all these times, I have never come across anything as informative and sensible as your books and magazine. I especially appreciate your warnings about Germany and the Roman Catholic Church.

Mt. Hagen, Papua New Guinea

I DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT OUR NEWS MEDIA were telling the truth about what was going on in Yugoslavia. I believe your latest Trumpet spells it out.

Barbourville, Ky.

Dangerous New World

It is shocking to learn of the newly Declassified U.S. Intelligence document telling of the Nazi leaders planning WWIII. I heard Mr. Armstrong speak on the radio during the early '50s, saying that Germany would rise again. It seemed utterly impossible at the time. Now I have lived to see prophecy being fulfilled and Germany rising with power and domination. History is repeating itself, but this time the worst suffering ever will be on Israel.

Cedarburg, Wis.

The Trumpet is on the cutting edge of magazine publishing in current world events! The "Dangerous New World" articles are excellent and so unlike anything found anywhere else. The PT reporting is unique!

West Glacier, Mont.

I AM A COLLEGE STUDENT AND I RECENTLY received a copy of your magazine. This magazine was full of truth, not propaganda, about the crisis in Kosovo. I read the articles and was shocked that the West,

especially Germany, was involved in the break-up of Yugoslavia, and the whole crisis. I am studying history, and this magazine has given me a lot of reliable, non-biased information. I personally get annoyed by magazines and other types of media showing propaganda, lies and onesided views. The truth should be shown at all times. Thank you very much, and continue to publish the truth because it always prevails at the end.

Kambah, Australia

I find very brave and inspiring your courage to express a view that is broadly ignored in the West, by "19 democracies" and NATO. I read your May issue, and every single article seems to be hitting the target. I would like to ask you to accept me as a regular reader in the future, as I think that finally I found the paper with credibility and real purpose. Please send me any past issues that may be about my country of origin, (Serbia) Yugoslavia.

London, England

IN REFERENCE TO THE PERSONAL ON Alamogordo, your response is similar to mine regarding a similar arrangement with China and a Long Beach, Calif, military facility leased, I heard, for \$14,000,000.

Santa Fe, N. Mex.

I really enjoy reading the articles in the magazine for their in-depth messages and relevance for today's world.

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

Trumpet

Letters to the Editor must include the writer's name and address and should be sent to The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or faxed to 405-359-6280 or e-mailed to letters@pcog.org. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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GARY RETHFORD

A Brave New World

One day, the violence will end!

S FOR THE CAUSES OF SUCH tragedies as the Colorado school shooting, it is often far easier to identify the immediate cultural and sociological factors, such as the availability of guns and violence in the media, as the cause.

"We live in a society where violence is too often seen as a solution to our most intractable problems," one source said. "Violence is not the solution: It is the most clear sign of our failures."

The L. A. Times reported, "Clergy interviewed cited violence in the media, particularly the entertainment media, including violent computer games, and violence

in motion pictures and television, including cartoons."

Is the cause of our problems just violence in TV and movies? Or does the problem run much deeper? And, more importantly for those who have suffered loss, will things ever be set straight again? When we think of the beautiful students being gunned down after declaring their belief in God, is there hope ahead for them?

Especially for members of the clergy, the events surrounding the Columbine shooting produced a barrage of questions such as, Where is God when such things happen? From across America, the questions are insistent and urgent, Where was God when this happened?

What answers do they receive? One man said, "Religion is not a cure-all, or an insurance policy. It's a set of stories and wisdom to help us make it through the difficulties of life." Another said, "In our preaching and teaching, perhaps our most frequent temptations is to make things sound tidier than they are. We need to live with the questions and to live our faith in the context of these big questions."

That's not an answer!

In a nutshell, the main question concerning tragedies such as the Colorado shooting—or any other major catastrophe, is: Why do bad things happen to good people? Why does evil exist in a world supposedly created by a loving God? Sadly, the answer many clergy members of this world have given is, "It is hard to understand where God fits into the picture."

You deserve a better answer! If God exists, there must be an answer to the problem. The parents of innocent victims deserve an answer, and that answer is, This is NOT God's world! (II Cor. 4:4). This is not God's society, and the lives of all those who have died are not over! No publication except The Philadelphia Trumpet can tell you that. God's desire for humanity is not what we see in this world. Only the *Trumpet* bravely gives solutions to today's problems.

Listen to God! Here is the answer to the question: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid



b his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isa 59:1-2). God has not hear" (Isa. 59:1-2). God has not gone far off. His ear is not closed to us. He has not turned from us—we have turned from Him.

But there is hope for the future. Aldus Huxley's Brave New World pictured a utopia brought about by governmental social engineering. But man-made utopia will never happen. Huxley's brave new world was a kind of nightmare.

Where will such a government come from? Not from man-but from God. A UTOPIA is coming! And man will not be able to stop it—though he will try.

In our societies we are proving

that man cannot rule himself. Everywhere there is violence. War is escalating as a means to solving disputes, yet war has never solved anything. The designers of the atomic bomb saw it coming. Military leaders warned about it. The dark prospect of world annihilation is on the horizon, and will result in a soon-coming time of trouble on this earth, the horror of which mankind cannot yet even imagine.

God has allowed man 6,000 years to try every conceivable form of government. From anarchy to monarchy, we have tried every way that seemed right to us, and the results have been disastrous. Obviously, if it were left up to man, this earth would come to a cataclysmic end.

Thankfully, that's not going to happen. A coming world government is going to stop the destruction and usher in a WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW. God is about to intervene in human affairs, and then the beautiful people who have lost their lives—the old and the young, our beloved babies—will

Christ will return and establish the government of God on the earth, and the government shall be upon his shoulder. Yes, a BRAVE NEW WORLD is coming!

And when that happens, those who have perished in this time will come alive again (Rev. 21). Utopia is coming! Impossible, you say? For man, YES—but not for God. In the coming millennium the causes of disease will be done away; crime will cease; and all will be free to rejoice! Children will never again fear the abductor, the killer or the wild animal. They will play and learn in schools that teach the way of give. They will grow up learning God's law that guarantees happiness. They will become responsible adults who marry and produce happy and healthy children. And those brave young people who have died will live again. They will live out their lives in the wonderful World Tomorrow. Only this magazine could tell you that.

Where has God gone? He hasn't gone anywhere. He knows your heartaches. He knows your concerns. He loves you beyond anything you could imagine. If you will just turn to Him, the suffering will be over for you and your family.



WE TELL YOU WHY!

Each week, Gerald Flurry explains current events and where they are leading—from a biblical point of view.



Television Log

United States

Nationwide cable—America's Voice 9:00 am ET, Sun**

Nationwide cable—Goodlife Network 6:30 am ET. Mon

Nationwide cable—KTLA 8:00 am PT, Sun Nationwide cable—WGN 6:30 am ET, Sun Nationwide cable—WSBX 7:30 am ET, Sun** Alabama, Montgomery—WHOA 7:00 am, Sun Arizona, Phoenix—KNXV 6:30 am, Sun Arkansas, Little Rock—KASN 8:00 am, Sat California, Concord—KTNC 10:00 am, Sun California, Fort Bragg—KFWU 10:00 am, Sun California, Fresno—KNSO 8:00 am, Sun;

9:00 am, Mon California, Los Angeles-KTLA 8:00 am, Sun California, San Francisco-KTNC 10:00 am, Sun California, San Francisco-KBWB 8:00 am, Sun California, San Jose-KTNC 10:00 am, Sun California, Sacramento-KTNC 10:00 am, Sun Colorado, Alamosa-KOBF 8:30 am, Sun Colorado, Denver-KDVR 6:30 am, Sun ** Colorado, Ft. Collins-KFCT 6:30 am, Sun ** Connecticut, Hartford-WBNE 6:30 am, Sun Florida, Daytona Beach-WFTV 10:30 am, Sun Florida, Jacksonville-WTEV 6:30 am, Sat Florida, Miami-WPLG 7:00 am, Sun Florida, Orlando-WFTV 10:30 am, Sun Florida, Tallahassee-WTLH 8:30 am, Sun Florida, Tampa—WTSP 7:00 am, Sun Georgia, Atlanta-WUPA 7:30 am, Sun Idaho, Boise-KNIN 7:00 am,, Sun

Illinois, Chicago-WCIU 9:00 am, Sat

Illinois, Chicago—WGN 5:30 am, Sun Indiana, Indianapolis—WRTV 9:00 am, Sun Kansas, Wichita—KSAS 10:00 am, Sun Kentucky, Louisville—WBNA 9:30 am, Sun Kentucky, Paducah—WDKA 7:30 am, Sun Maine, Bangor—WPXT 7:30 am, Sun Maine, Portland—WPXT 7:30 am, Sun Maryland, Baltimore—WUTB 7:00 am, Sun Massachusetts, Boston—WSBK 7:30 am, Sun** Michigan, Detroit—WADL 9:00 am, Sun Michigan, Grand Rapids—WXMI 6:30 am, Sun ** Michigan, Kalamazoo/Battle Creek—WXMI 6:30 am, Sun **

Missouri, Cape Girardeau-WDKA 7:30 am, Sun Missouri, Kansas City-KMCI 7:30 am, Sun Montana, Billings-KHMT 7:00 am, Sun New Mexico, Albuquerque-KOB 8:30 am, Sun New Mexico, Farmington-KOBF 8:30 am, Sun New York, Buffalo-WIVB 6:30 am, Sun New York, New York City-WWOR 7:00 am, Sat North Carolina, Charlotte-WAXN 8:00 am, Sun North Carolina, Kannapolis-WAXN 8:00 am, Sun Ohio, Cincinnati-WXIX 7:30 am, Sun Ohio, Cleveland-WOIO 6:30 am, Sun * Oklahoma Tulsa-KOKI 9:00 am Sun Oklahoma, Oklahoma City-KOCB 9:00 am, Sun Oregon, Portland-KPDX 7:30 am, Sun Pennsylvania, Philadelphia-WTXF 6:30 am, Sun ** Pennsylvania, Red Lion-WGCB 8:30 am, Sun South Carolina, Florence-WFXB 7:00 am, Sun South Carolina, Myrtle Beach-WFXB 7:00 am, Sun Tennessee, Memphis-WLMT 9:00 am, Sun Texas, Amarillo-KAMR 7:00 am, Sun Texas, Beaumont-KBMT 9:00 am, Sun** Texas, Dallas-KDFI 8:30 am, Sun Texas, Houston-KHTV 8:30 am, Sun Texas, San Antonio-KSAT 6:30 am, Sun Texas, Tyler-KLTV 10:30 am, Sun Texas, Wichita Falls-KAUZ 9:00 am, Sun Virginia, Richmond-WRIC 7:30 am, Sun Virginia, Roanoke-WDRL 10:30 am Sun Washington, Seattle-KTWB 9:30 am, Sun Washington, Spokane—KAYU 7:30 am, Sun Washington D.C.-WTTG 7:30 am, Sun ** Wisconsin, Green Bay-WACY 8:00 am, Sun

Canada

Nationwide cable—KTLA 11:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable—VISION Network 9:30 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable—WGN 6:30 am ET, Sun
Alberta—CKRD 7:00 am, Sun **
British Columbia—BCITV 11:30 am, Sun**
British Columbia, Kelowna—CHBC 11:30 am, Sun**
British Columbia, Kamloops—CFJC 11:30 am, Sun**
British Columbia, Vancouver—CHEK 9:00 am, Sun
New Brunswick—CIHF 7:00 am, Sun
Nova Scotia—CIHF 7:00 am, Sun
Ontario—CFMT 8:30 am, Sun **
Prince Edward Island—CIHF 7:00 am, Sun

Australia/New Zealand

Australia nationwide—Network 10 4:30 am, Sun Adelaide and environs—ACE Channel 6 7:00 pm, Wed**

Canberra—Capital TV 4:30 am, Sun
New South Wales—NRTV 4:30 am, Sun
Northern Territory—Australia Television Int'I
8:30 am, Sun
Queensland—QTV 4:30 am, Sun
Queensland—Australia Television Int'I 8:30 am, Sun
South New South Wales—Capital TV 4:30 am, Sun
Tasmania—Southern Cross 6:00 am, Sat
Victoria—Ten Vic 4:30 am, Sun
Western Australia—Australia Television Int'I
8:30 am, Sun
New Zealand—TV3 6:00 am, Fri

Caribbean

Bahamas—WGN 6:30 am, Sun KTLA 11:00 am, Sun WPLG 7:00 am, Mon WFTV 10:30 am, Sun ** Grenada—CCN 7:30 am, Sun Tobago—CCN 7:30 am, Sun

Trinidad—CCN 7:30 am, Sun

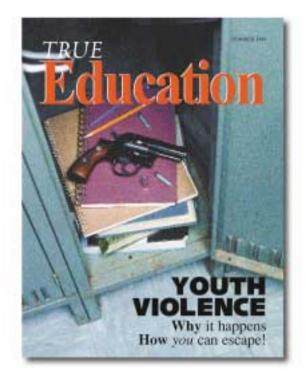
Africa/Middle East

Egypt—Star World 12:00 am Sun
Ethiopia—Star World 12:00 am Sun
Iran—Star World 1:30 am Sun
Iraq—Star World 11:50 pm Sat
Israel—Star World 11:00 pm Sat
Jordan—Star World 12:00 am Sun
Saudi Arabia—Star World 12:00 am Sun
Somalia—Star World 12:00 am Sun
Sudan—Star World 11:00 pm Sat

Asia

Cambodia-Star World 4:00 am Sun Australia Television Int'l 7:30 am, Sun China-Star World 5:00 am Sun Australia Television Int'l 8:00 am, Sun Fiji-FIJI TV 11:30 am, Sun Hong Kong—Star World 5:00 am Sun Australia Television Int'l 8:30 am, Sun India-Star World 2:30 am Sun Australia Television Int'l 6:00 am. Sun Indonesia—Star World 4:00 am Sun Australia Television Int'l 8:30 am, Sun Laos-Australia Television Int'l 7:30 am, Sun Nauru-Australia Television Int'l 12:30 pm, Sun Papua New Guinea-EMTV 7:30 am, Sun Australia Television Int'l 10:30 am, Sun Star World 7:00 am Sun Philippines—IBC TV 7:00 am, Sun Australia Television Int'l 8:30 am, Sun Star World 5:00 am Sun Singapore—Australia Television Int'l 8:30 am, Sun Taiwan-Australia Television Int'l 8:30 am, Sun Vanuatu-EMTV 7:30 am. Sun Australia Television Int'l 11:30 am, Sun

^{**} Indicates a new station or time change



Trumpet Jr.

You know the *Trumpet* is unique. No other magazine truly explains the dangerous world you live in. It tells you why things are the way they are.

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