JEWS IN JEOPARDY

Not just a Mideast problem

THE TREATY TRAP

A bevy of peace initiatives at the beginning of 2004 have some hopeful for peace. Can we take these efforts at face value?

THE EASTER MYSTERY

Colored eggs and Christ?

MARCH-APRIL 2004

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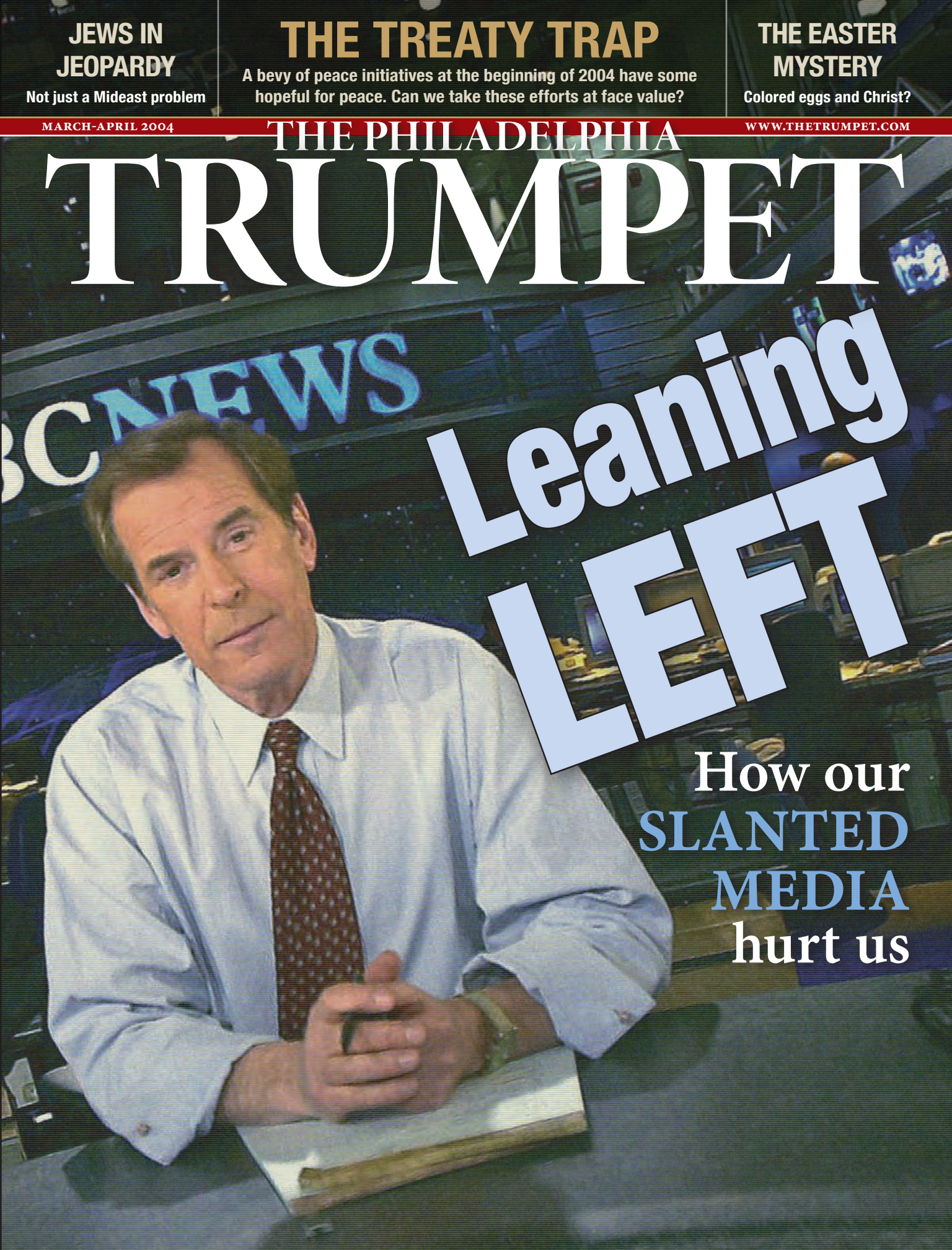

Leaning LEFT

How our SLANTED MEDIA hurt us

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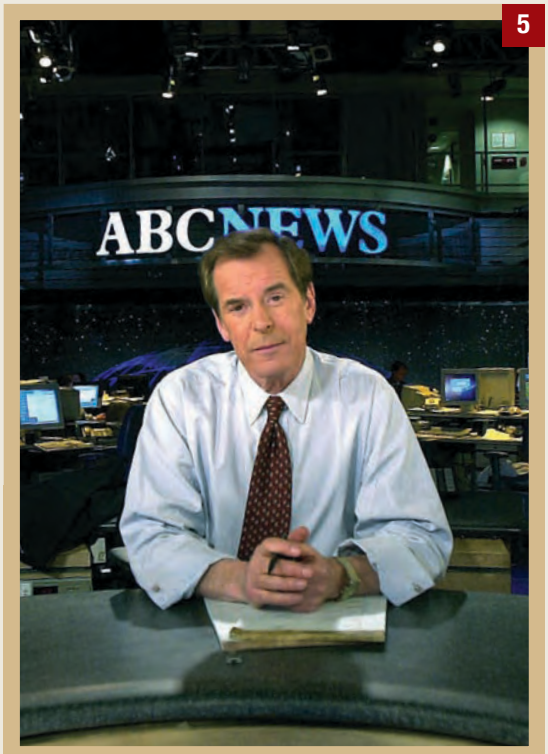

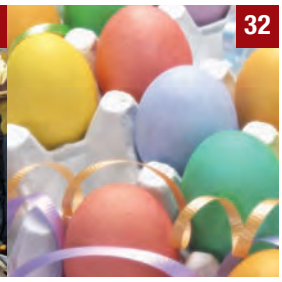

COVER
APWideworld photo
Peter Jennings poses on the set of ABC's "World News Tonight"

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Gerald Flurry

The Deadly Left-Wing Media

The most trusted and powerful broadcasting organization in this world is the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). In the 1930s, it had a shameful history with Winston Churchill.

Mr. Churchill was doing everything possible to warn and save his country and the world from Adolf Hitler. Britain almost lost World War II. The world came dangerously close to being slaughtered and enslaved by Nazi Germany.

A Churchill biographer, Henry Pelling, wrote that "the BBC had kept him off the air on controversial questions in the 1930s." Those "controversial questions" included his strongest warnings about the dangers of Nazi Germany!

The BBC is funded by the people's taxes and is *supposed* to be regulated by the government. The BBC is similar to America's Public Broadcasting System (PBS). But that is like comparing an elephant to a mouse. The BBC is gigantic and has a worldwide impact unlike any other media network, and it virtually silenced Winston Churchill when he tried to warn his country. Britain was facing its worst crisis ever, and this state-funded corporation rejected his strong warning about Germany. The BBC worked hard to stop his message to *SAVE* the Western world!

Such a colossal and dangerous blunder should have brought the most profound change to the BBC! But the left-wing media have a very poor memory of their own wretched history. Have they learned anything from this *extremely* damaging history?

Did the BBC repent of this monstrous crime against its own country and much of the world? No, it did not. Its reporting is even more biased and dangerous today!

So what does that portend for the survival of Britain, America and the Western world? Do the left-wing media have the same attitude in our war against terrorism today? Yes, they do. And, in some ways, radical Islam is even more menacing than Hitler was. Think about what terrorists can do with weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Terror-sponsoring nations supply and support the terrorist movements used to tear democratic societies apart. And the left-wing media assist greatly in destroying the public will to fight the real enemy. We can't go after the head of the terrorist snake, which is really Iran, strongly backed by Syria. Much of the media fights against the truth about terrorism. That means our leaders almost always lack the support to fight the real enemy, even if they have the *will*. We must stop terror-sponsoring nations or we can't win the war against terrorism!

The left-wing media blind many of our people to reality—the way things really are. The terrorist nations know that and use it to their benefit in a frightening way.

GETTY IMAGES

Under fire

Greg Dyke announces his resignation after the BBC was found to have erroneously implicated the British government in lying about Iraq's WMD.

Winston Churchill faced the same weak, deceitful kind of media in the 1930s. Almost all the media *REFUSED* to see Hitler for what he really was—until it was almost too late!

Finally, Hitler *forced* them to see how evil he really was! But they didn't *see* until they were forced to see. Don't forget that. And don't expect them to voluntarily repent today.

This issue gets to the heart of the survival of our peoples. That is how important it is.

The recent history of Winston Churchill and the BBC is a good example to illustrate the deadly danger of the left-wing media. That history condemns many in the media.

Now the BBC has moved even further to the left. This has led it into its greatest crisis ever. The BBC's example illustrates what is happening to all of the left-wing media today.

Here is what the *Weekly Standard* wrote on February 16 about this issue: "For the last week, much of Britain has borne witness to an outpouring of grief the like of which has not been seen since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. When Baron Hutton … a hitherto rather inconspicuous retired member [judge] of the British supreme court, delivered his much anticipated report at the end of January on the death of Dr. David Kelly, a British government weapons expert, a collective howl of anguish went up from the well-upholstered parts of the media establishment.

"Lord Hutton concluded that Tony Blair, the British prime minister, was not guilty of lying about the threat from Iraq's weapons of mass destruction when he made the case for war more than a year ago. Nor had he or his government 'sexed up,' in the immortal phrase, intelligence information about the nature of the Iraq WMD threat. The prime minister had been accused of both in a notorious report by the British Broadcasting Corporation that aired in late May 2003.

"Nor, for good measure, declared Lord Hutton, had Blair improperly 'outed' Dr. Kelly, the previously anonymous source for the report. Kelly's exposure led more or less directly to the scientist's suicide in July.

"By contrast, Hutton's report found the BBC profoundly guilty. The original story by its reporter, Andrew Gilligan, that the government had deliberately inserted a false claim into a published document concerning Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, was unfounded. Worse, the BBC had failed to ensure proper editorial procedures to prevent such an erroneous report from being broadcast. Then, without having properly checked the story, the BBC's management refused to back down from the report even though some of its own editorial staff were quietly expressing concern about its reliability."

Fear of War The BBC and the left-wing media are almost always against using our military might to stop the Hitler types and to do good in the world. That makes them dangerous in any age, but even more alarming in our terrorist war, in this era of such deadly weapons.

Here is what Dick Morris wrote in his book *Off With Their Heads:* "The establishment news media had always opposed the war in Iraq. Before the first bombs fell, it demanded UN approval for the operation; then, when the attack started without it, its political opposition morphed into military skepticism and dire predictions of disaster. …

"R.W. Apple Jr., writing in the *New York Times,* called the situation a 'debacle.' In London, the *Independent* warned hysterically that the battle 'plan perished when Turkey refused to allow U.S. ground troops to use its bases.' …

"At the *New York Times,* R.W. Apple noted that 'with every passing day, it is more evident that the allies made two gross military misjudgments in concluding that coalition forces could safely bypass Basra and Nasiriyah.' …

Why are the left-wing views of war so disturbing? They are destroying the military spirit that defends our people.

"As John Keegan, the defense editor of Britain's *Telegraph,* observed, 'The older generation, particularly those covering the war from comfortable television studios, has not covered itself with glory.' Keegan, who has a chair in military history at Sandhurst, Britain's West Point, noted: 'Deeply infected with antiwar feeling and left-wing antipathy to the use of force as means of doing good, it has once again sought to depict the achievements of the West's servicemen as a subject of disapproval. … THE BRAVE YOUNG AMERICAN AND BRITISH SERVICEMEN—AND WOMEN—WHO HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES TO BRING DOWN SADDAM HAVE EVERY REASON TO FEEL THAT THERE IS SOMETHING CORRUPT ABOUT THEIR HOME-BASED MEDIA'" (emphasis mine throughout).

The BBC has led the media in their slanted, antiwar reporting.

Why are the left-wing views of war so disturbing? They are DESTROYING THE MILITARY SPIRIT THAT DEFENDS OUR PEOPLE! Our military power is of little value if we lack the *will* to use it.

Why should our most courageous young men and women risk their lives while most of the media condemn what they are doing? In the process we are fulfilling a prophecy where God says He will "break the *pride* of your power"—or *will* to use that power—because of our sins (Lev. 26:19). This is the real problem we must confront, regardless of our political philosophy!

A February 1 *Sunday Telegraph* editorial said this: "The Iraq war was just and predicated on Saddam's criminally evasive behavior as much as the evidence of his deadly arsenal. Everyone, including France and Germany, agreed that the Iraqi dictator had such an arsenal: The question was what to do about it."

But this is not the public perception. The left-wing media are leading much of the public to believe that there were no weapons of mass destruction and that the leaders of Britain and America knew it before they attacked Saddam! They malign our leaders who do have the *will* to fight, hoping to destroy them politically. That is how deadly devious their reasoning is. And no court of law or anything else is apt to change their thinking.

Here is what Melanie Phillips wrote in London's *Daily Mail,* February 9: "Mr. Blair himself, though, whether he is brought down or struggles on, is not the main casualty here. THE REALLY LETHAL DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE TO THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TERROR AND THE ABILITY OF THIS COUNTRY TO DEFEND ITSELF.

"FOR IF NEITHER POLITICIANS NOR SECRET INTELLIGENCE ARE NOW TO BE BELIEVED, THERE WILL BE NO AGREEMENT TO FIGHT ANY BATTLES THAT STILL LIE AHEAD. This is, of course, what the appeaseniks have been working toward."

If the "appeaseniks" had won in their battle with Winston Churchill (and they almost did), *there would be no media freedom in the Western world!*

GETTY IMAGES

Getting the message

Muammar al-Qadhafi quieted down for a decade after President Reagan used force against him.

The left-wing media learned nothing from that mega-disaster. As Mr. Churchill said, the only thing we learn from history is that we never learn from history. That means history is going to repeat itself! And the next time, there will be no political leader to save us!

SOME PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SCORN THIS ANALYSIS, BUT NOT FOR LONG.

These *appeaseniks* have a history of failing to learn nation-saving lessons. Norman Tebbit wrote, "The BBC would not have laid itself open to Mr. Blair's putsch had it not so imperiously rejected my criticisms of its coverage of the American air strikes on Libya nearly 20 years ago. There was, I claimed, a weakness of editorial control, which allowed opinion advanced under cover of selective reporting to become a BBC corporate view which dominated the news coverage" (*Sunday Telegraph,* February 1).

Twenty years ago Libya had made terrorist strikes against the U.S. (outside the country). President Ronald Reagan struck back at Libya, killing one of Muammar al-Qadhafi's children.

We spoke the only language Qadhafi understood. His own family was struck with terror. For the next decade this terrorist-sponsoring nation was very quiet. Many journalists were amazed.

Now, after we removed and captured Saddam Hussein, Qadhafi has agreed to get rid of his WMD. He fears Saddam's fate could be his own!

These are *signs* that should convince the left-wing media that there is only one way to win the war against terrorism. We must *change* the terror-sponsoring nations.

Mr. Qadhafi got a taste of his own terror, and it *changed* him. This is what so many in the media REFUSE to understand.

LIBYA'S AGREEMENT TO DESTROY ITS WMD IS THE MOST POSITIVE SIGN FROM OUR WAR WITH IRAQ. If we had the *will* to continue in this direction, we could win the war against terrorism. But we don't have that will.

If the peoples of America and Britain were united behind our leaders, there would be more *fear* in the terrorist-sponsoring nations. Those nations would begin to think more like Libya, which had been financing and cultivating terrorists for years.

I believe that President Bush and Prime Minister Blair should amplify and expand this deep and critical truth to our

peoples more than what they have done so far.

This is the paramount vision our peoples fail to see.

Too many in the media see a few branches, but *refuse* to see the terrorist tree. This blindness to the overview, the bigger vision, is why they make so many monstrous mistakes—as they did in the lead-up to World War II.

The only way to win this war is to chop down the terrorist tree.

Again, we must stop state-sponsored terrorism or we *cannot* win. What is going on in Israel should show us that. The terrorist-sponsoring nations will keep supplying the terrorists until Israel is too discouraged to fight. And that is also how they will wear down Britain and America should we allow it!

We can't beat the terrorists, fighting as the Israelis are—the way the terrorists want us to fight. We could easily beat them if we forced the terrorist-sponsoring nations to stop their massive, criminal acts.

This philosophy is totally rejected by the left-wing media (and left-wing politicians and educators). Over 85 percent of the media were against the election of George W. Bush. Their goal is to change the people to *their* way of thinking. And they are succeeding, frighteningly well. They are also destroying the security of America, Britain and Israel. So this concerns each one of us.

They arrogantly believe they are qualified to tell people how to think. Their goal is *not* to get the facts to our people, which journalists should be doing. The left-wing media's goal is to change our people's thinking. They are not trustworthy journalists. They want to rule—not inform. They are tyrants and terrorists of the intellect!

The left-wing media scorn history. That is why they never seem to learn lessons from history—even recent history like events leading up to World War II and the Iraq war. They worship the false god of their own human reasoning.

That means they give us very little *context* in their reporting. They give us their biased opinion and often fail to give us the whole story. They are lost in their own warped human reasoning. They are a danger even to themselves! They are also a grave danger to the many people who trust them.

Left-Wing Media Power Media conglomerates are extremely powerful. They are becoming too powerful for politicians to challenge. To directly challenge the mega-media often leads to political death. The media frequently have more power with the people than the politicians do.

The left-wing media are in a power struggle to get control—and they are winning. They are becoming more powerful than the government, even though they were not elected by the people.

Here is what the *Weekly Standard* said: "But the fact is that the BBC occupies a position in British public life quite unlike that of any media organization in the United States or, indeed, in the free world. It runs several TV channels, including two all-news services and several all-news radio networks. Its main news shows on TV and radio reach upward of three quarters of the British people every week.

"What is more, with Britain's print media being politically partisan, the BBC's past reputation for impartiality has made it much more widely trusted than any competitor. Imagine the influence of the main American TV networks, PBS, CNN, Fox News, National Public Radio, the *New York Times,* and the newsweekly magazines all rolled into one and you have some inkling of the reach of this giant" (op. cit.).

Prime Minister Blair received favor in the eyes of Judge Hutton. But with another judge, it could easily have gone the other way. And if it had, Mr. Blair would no longer be prime minister.

Even after this ruling, most of the people still trust the BBC more than they do Mr. Blair. So what does that portend for his political future? He may lose his office, even though he won the court case! It was a victory for the truth. But Mr. Blair could still lose his job.

Glaring Weaknesses Just how strong was the BBC's case against the government? "Few at the corporation were surprised when [BBC Director General Greg] Dyke came out fighting after the BBC was attacked by the government over its coverage of the war in Iraq. He was determined to back his reporters. But that commendable loyalty was fatally flawed by an indifference to detail in which the devil resided.

"Dyke's evidence to Hutton was painful to read. It was clear that he hadn't done his homework before engaging with Number 10 in a fight to the bitter end. In his rush to shore up Gilligan, Dyke hadn't asked the appropriate questions. The BBC's governors made matters worse by immediately endorsing the director general's stand instead of demanding that he and his executive team put crucial facts under the microscope" (*Sunday Telegraph,* op. cit.).

They are not trustworthy journalists. They want to rule—not inform. They are tyrants and terrorists of the intellect!

The author of that statement is Jeff Randall. He has worked for the director general, Greg Dyke, before. He also said he would work for him again. So the writer is not an enemy. But still the "evidence to Hutton was painful to read" for Mr. Randall.

The BBC leaders still cannot see and will not repent of their faults. They are simply too arrogant to see their own glaring weaknesses. And they are a part of the most powerful and trusted media corporation in the world!

The BBC accused the government of lying about WMD in Iraq. But it was their own staff that was doing the lying. Still, most of them won't admit they were wrong.

Leaders of such power-packed media must have abundant humility or they are a deadly danger to their nation and the world!

Here is an editorial page comment from the same issue of the *Sunday Telegraph:* "Lord Hutton was quite right to conclude that 'the BBC failed to ensure proper editorial control over Mr. Gilligan's broadcasts on May 29.' What is no less remarkable is that—once the government issued its complaint—the BBC failed to subject Mr. Gilligan's incendiary report to any form of serious scrutiny. Greg Dyke, who resigned as the corporation's director general on Thursday, did not read the transcript until four weeks after the broadcast. Mr. Gilligan's notes—which Lord Hutton found unsatisfactory—were not examined" (ibid.).

How casual the media can often be, while they assassinate people's good names and character! They even cause suicides—but few people seem to be deeply concerned. The people often delight in such slanderous reporting. Some in the media are so selfish that they can't, or won't, see how cruel they can be. We have degenerated into a very sick people.

Here is how the *Weekly Standard* summed up the issue: "The Kelly story was not an isolated incident. It was merely the most

infamous example of a left-liberal bias that refracts all news coverage through the prism of the BBC's own distinctive world-view.

"The BBC's coverage of the Iraq war itself marked a new low point in the history of the self-loathing British prestige-media's capacity to side with the nation's enemies. …

"The great virtue of Lord Hutton's devastating indictment is that it represented for the first time an independent verdict. The editorial failings it criticized, the tendentious reporting it identified, the massive bureaucracy it exposed, and the troubling strategic vision that underlay it all demand a radical change at the BBC, if the organization's reputation is to be restored.

"The BBC has long been one of the world's most highly valued outlets for quality broadcasting. IN UNFREE COUNTRIES, IT REMAINS A LIFELINE AND THE EXEMPLAR OF INDEPENDENT MEDIA. But Lord Hutton has exposed an institution whose power and influence are now matched by its arrogance and self-righteousness. The learned judge, it is to be hoped, has opened the way to a long-delayed revolution" (op. cit.).

Not Seeking the Truth One of the most insightful criticisms of the BBC was written by Melanie Phillips of the *Daily Mail,* February 2: "It has forgotten ITS OBLIGATION TO THE TRUTH. This problem is infinitely more serious and more pervasive than the Gilligan affair. THERE IS A ROT RUNNING RIGHT THROUGH THE CORPORATION. And I say this as a passionate defender of public service broadcasting and an occasional contributor to the BBC's programs.

"Across a wide range of issues, its journalism has long departed from its founding ethic of impartiality and objectivity. With a few honorable exceptions, it views the world through a prism of left-wing thinking: against America, against the nation-state and against Western moral values. This bias reveals itself on subjects as diverse as the war on terror, Europe, Israel, Ireland, the Conservative Party, GM food, cannabis, big business, family values, feminism and religion.

"The problem … is that [the BBC] has shifted that center ground sharply to the left. But because it thinks that still is the center, it cannot grasp that its own 'impartial' standpoint is actually deeply partisan." —Melanie Phillips

"And one reason why Andrew Gilligan's report never got the scrutiny it warranted was because it corresponded to the BBC's own prejudiced view of the Iraq issue—which had got so bad during the war that the crew of the Ark Royal stopped watching the BBC in protest. …

"The bias infects everything from the choice of subject to the selection of interviewees and the implicit premise behind the questions asked. Of course, it is vital that BBC interviewers should give no quarter; there must be no return to the supine approach of a long-departed deferential age. But all too often, such robust interviewing is directed only at one side of the argument, while the other is handled with kid gloves.

"The BBC has a duty to occupy the dispassionate center ground. The problem, however, is that it has shifted that center ground sharply to the left. But because it thinks that still is the center, it cannot grasp that its own 'impartial' standpoint is actually deeply partisan. THIS IS A TERRIFYINGLY CLOSED THOUGHT SYSTEM, WHICH REPELS ALL OBJECTIONS.

"Greg Dyke is being presented as a martyr to the BBC's independence. But in implying that journalists might get away with false statements if they attribute them to somebody else, he has shown as poor a grasp of journalistic ethics as did the staff who protested at his departure."

The BBC has become so self-righteous that it thinks it should get away with *false statements.* It has *forgotten* its obligation to the truth and how *noble* it is to always seek and tell the truth. Only the truth can set us free (John 8:32).

The BBC does indeed have "a TERRIFYINGLY closed thought system." We can't even calculate how much damage is done by the most powerful media corporation in the world!

But it is a far deeper problem than the BBC or the left-wing media. It reflects a massive decadence in America and Britain. And that includes most people and the media. This is the giant problem we are unwilling to face.

Clive Davis of the *Washington Post* stated, "As a former BBC journalist myself, I don't believe most BBC journalists are corrupt people, or that they go out of their way to doctor the news. But the depressing truth is that most of the organization's producers and its movers and shakers live in an extraordinarily narrow world in which they only socialize with like-minded people. They genuinely find it hard to believe other people may hold different views" (February 9).

Such people are not seeking the truth. They are content in their "extraordinarily narrow world." They live in darkness!

Words will not bring people out of this darkness. It will take a jolt like World War II. That is the only reason Winston Churchill came to power. And if we don't wake up, we are going to be hammered by a far worse World War III of WMD to wake us up!

Patrick O'Flynn, of the *Express,* January 29, wrote, "The vast bulk of job vacancies at the BBC are advertised only in the *Guardian* [a left-wing newspaper]."

The BBC must make a radical change in its political worldview. But it has been allowed to rule itself. It will change only if it is pressured to do so.

In the *Sunday Telegraph* of February 1, Alasdair Palmer wrote, "It is to be hoped that the whole of the BBC—rather than just Lord Ryder—will eventually stop trying to maintain that 'Gilligan was basically right' ….

"Gilligan's central allegation was, however, different: It was that the government was guilty of bad faith by inserting material into the dossier, probably knowing it was wrong or questionable.

"The difference between the two claims is THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUTH AND FALSEHOOD. IT IS A DIFFERENCE WITH COLOSSAL CONSEQUENCES. Journalists who are unable to recognize it cannot be relied upon to tell the truth—and should not be working for the world's greatest and most trustworthy source of news."

It is indeed "the difference between truth and *falsehood*" and "a difference with colossal consequences."

Falsehood enslaves us—it takes us into a black world of deceit. It is a less violent slavery than what terrorists fight for—but it is still slavery! It is a slavery of the intellect. We become enslaved to error, evil and fantasy and call it truth and freedom.

This issue gets to the core of whether or not we really love truth and freedom. Anything less than the truth is just another form of slavery and terrorism.

The self-willed, arrogant, left-wing media are trying to enslave us, just as Osama bin Ladin is! It's just another form of terrorism.

Whether it comes from the right or left, it is still repugnant. The more we see such hatred of the truth, the more we ought to see how precious truth is.

The MEDIA WAR Against the United States

Why the war on terrorism sparked another war inside newsrooms all across the United States and Britain BY STEPHEN FLURRY

BIAS HAS ALWAYS EXisted in journalism. A reporter's personal views will often influence the stories he decides to energetically pursue—or completely ignore. It also influences the *way* a reporter covers a subject—what gets stressed and re-emphasized; what gets suppressed and left out. Even an article that is purely factual can be terribly misleading if those facts are not given *context*.

God says His Word is TRUTH (John 17:17). That is the *Trumpet*'s "bias." As best we can, we try to select topics and write articles from God's perspective. On any given assignment, we encourage our writers to ask, *What does God think about the subject? How is it relevant prophetically?*

But there's even more to it than merely reporting God's truth.

God says we should also communicate that truth *in love* (Eph. 4:15). That approach brings *context* to the *Trumpet*'s stories. Communicate God's truth in love—this is why we work to tell the *whole* story (as much as space will allow), including the most relevant *history* and *prophecy*. What happened before? Where are these events leading? Why is a God of love allowing it all to happen? How will it affect you personally? Answering these questions helps our writers keep stories in proper context.

Obviously, news media outlets do not follow this formula, whether they lean to the left or right. That doesn't mean what they report is always wrong. (To be sure, we *rely* on all sorts of "mainstream" reports for our own research.) *But it certainly is biased*. And that bias, as far as the establishment media are concerned, leans overwhelmingly to the left.

In 1992, even many journalists were surprised by the findings of a now-famous Roper poll. It discovered that 89 percent of Washington news bureau chiefs and correspondents voted for Bill Clinton while only 7 percent voted for George Bush. Since that study, a number of books, articles and websites have shed further light on the effect of this reality—that ideological bias *does* influence what gets news *coverage,* what is *ignored* and *how* stories are reported.

The fact that bias exists is not especially newsworthy, as far as the *Trumpet* is concerned. That news producers would deny that bias *exists* or that it *affects their reporting* might be of greater significance, because it is dishonest, whether intentional or not.

But that news coverage could be so one-sided and anti-American *during time of war* is of special significance be-

cause of its *relevance to a number of end-time Bible prophecies*. This article will examine the media's coverage of the war against terrorism and show how its bias is actually accelerating the fulfillment of prophesied events.

Relevant History On March 22, British Prime Minister Tony Blair told the House of Commons, "We must act to save thousands of innocent men, women and children from humanitarian catastrophe, from death, barbarism and ethnic cleansing by a brutal dictatorship." He made those comments in 1999—referring to Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia.

"NO POSITION"

"I can say that the Pentagon got hit … but for me to take a position that this was right or wrong … as a journalist I feel strongly that's something that I should not be taking a position on." —David Westin, ABC News President

This is how President Clinton justified that war: "What we are trying to do is to limit [Milosevic's] ability to win a military victory and engage in ethnic cleansing and slaughter innocent people and to do everything we can to induce him to take this peace agreement." Kosovo, we were told, was fast becoming a humanitarian nightmare. Furthermore, inaction on the part of America would undermine the credibility of NATO, Mr. Clinton insisted.

The U.S.-led invasion against Serbia occurred two years *before* 9/11. At that time, there was no war on terrorism. Slobodan Milosevic posed absolutely no threat to the United States. He had no weapons of mass destruction. Serbia was not harboring terrorists. Milosevic, as brutal as he might have been, was essentially trying to prevent the secession of Kosovo. And despite sharp division in Congress, President Clinton forged ahead with an aerial assault over Kosovo and Serbia. *Mr. Clinton also ignored the UN,* which opposed the war.

The morning after the president's speech before the American people, here is how the op-ed page of the *New York Times* explained the rationale behind going to war: "Mr. Milosevic has been given every chance to end his aggression, and every warning of what would happen if he did not. He has ignored them, and the bombing must begin quickly before his rampage takes more lives" (March 24, 1999). For the *Times,* that Milosevic was killing innocent Kosovars and Albanians was *reason enough* for U.S. intervention. In its view, *President Clinton was right to ignore the UN.*

Not but a few weeks into the war, some critics began to question initial estimates regarding the "genocide" and "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo. On June 9, 1999, the 78-day bombing in Kosovo ended, clearing the way for inspectors to unearth Milosevic's appalling atrocities. Yet, by November—*after five months of digging and exhumation*—war crimes investigators had found only 2,108 bodies. That lower-than-expected figure, while still tragic, was hard to categorize as a "humanitarian disaster"—especially when compared to the three-month slaughter in Rwanda five years earlier, where the Hutu government organized the mass extermination of some 800,000 Tutsi rebels.

The *New York Times,* after admitting on Nov. 11, 1999, that only 2,108 bodies had been found in Kosovo, still defended its pre-war position in support of President Clinton. In an opinion piece printed on Nov. 21, 1999, Michael Ignatieff argued that it didn't really matter how many bodies were found. Wasn't the whole point of intervening, he asked, to stop the "deadly downward spiral *before it begins*"? At the very least, he argued, the war prevented a disaster from happening. Plus, he said, inspectors were only able to unearth one third of the grave sites before winter.

But the following year, investigators only found 1,835 bodies in the remaining graves, bringing the total to *just under 4,000.* Sad and tragic—but shocking? Unbelievable? Humanitarian catastrophe?

Fast forward to the present. One primary reason that motivated President Bush to invade Iraq was that, according to a number of intelligence sources, Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and posed a serious threat to the United States and its allies in the ongoing war against terrorism. By comparison, the primary reason President Clinton gave the American people before invading Kosovo was that Slobodan Milosevic had committed mass genocide against his own people. Of these two intelligence failures (assuming WMD will not be found), which story do you think drew the most media attention?

September 11 In the weeks that followed 9/11, America's mainstream news media were remarkably free of ideological bias. The people inside the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and those four planes (excepting 19 of the passengers) were *all innocent victims* of a violent crime against humanity. The terrorists and their al-Qaeda network, on the other hand, were GUILTY of a most heinous and vile act of war—killing thousands of innocent civilians, including women and children.

But media bias soon re-emerged, once the images of those collapsing towers faded from television screens. *Maybe the terrorists had a point. Maybe the U.S. government was a legitimate target. After all, hasn't America targeted innocent civilians before?* Left-wing ideas like these crept into mainstream coverage after the 9/11 shock wore off.

One disturbing example of this is recounted in Bernard Goldberg's book *Arrogance*. On October 23, 2001, David Westin delivered a speech before the journalism students at Columbia University in New York. After the speech, one student asked Mr. Westin if he believed the Pentagon was a "legitimate military target" even if the hijacked plane was not. After a lengthy pause, Westin answered: "Actually, I don't have an opinion on that." He later said that *as a journalist,* "I feel strongly that it's something that I should not be taking a position on. … I can say that the Pentagon got hit … but for me to *take a position* that this was right or wrong … as a journalist I feel strongly that's something that I should not be taking a position on" (emphasis mine throughout).

David Westin is the president of ABC News. His "no opinion" comment actually revealed the biased position of his network's war coverage. As Mr. Goldberg asked in his book, do you think David Westin would have an opinion about what those white Texans did to James Byrd, dragging him to his death behind their pickup? Would Westin have an opinion about the Taliban's repression of women? Of course he would. But when crazed Islamic fundamentalists blow up Americans and the Pentagon, he has *no opinion*.

The *Weekly Standard* noted one other disturbing reality about Westin's comments—*not one of those journalism stu-*

dents challenged him or criticized his "no opinion." Here were America's best and brightest, up-and-coming journalists, and none of them saw a story in what the president of ABC News said—actually, what he *didn't* say—about the Pentagon. In fact, no one *in America* would have ever noticed the comment, had it not been for a lucky catch by a media watchdog, which, after a public outcry, prompted Mr. Westin to later apologize for his comments.

But the establishment media, along with their heirs apparent at Columbia, did not recognize a story in Westin's "no opinion" comment. That, in itself, reveals deep-seated bias.


REUTERS

"REGIME CHANGE"

"[T]his is not a time free from peril—especially as a result of reckless acts of outlaw nations and an unholy axis of terrorists, drug traffickers and organized international criminals. We have to defend our future from these predators of the 21st century. … [T]hey will be all the more lethal if we allow them to build arsenals of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and the missiles to deliver them. We simply cannot allow that to happen. There is no more clear example of this threat than Saddam Hussein's Iraq." —Bill Clinton, Feb. 17, 1998

Neither Quick, Nor Easy From the beginning of the war on terrorism, the Bush administration repeatedly warned the American people that this war would be like no other. Victory was assured, he said, but it would not be quick or easy. Before Congress, on Sept. 20, 2001, the president outlined America's strategy for war against terrorism: "Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them." The war will not end, he declared, "until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated."

The next day, the *New York Times* complimented the president's speech, but also set the antiwar tone for how the media would approach its war coverage: "[T]he country, while determined, is also understandably wary and realistic about achieving a victory over an enemy that is so diffuse and difficult to locate. … The country learned in Vietnam about the limits of a superpower's ability to wage war against guerrilla troops in distant lands" (Sept. 21, 2001). The *Times* would give its support for the war on terrorism, *but only to a point*.

This position underscored media coverage in the months that followed 9/11: It wanted a quick and easy solution to the war on terrorism. Thus, the coverage from the outset was focused primarily on the overthrow of the Taliban. Regarding Afghanistan, news analyst George Friedman wrote for *Stratfor.com* on Jan. 15, 2002, "The press interpreted events in Afghanistan as an overwhelming victory for the United States. It was certainly a victory *but a qualified one and far from final,* either in Afghanistan or in the war in general." The war on terrorism, he said, was much bigger than Afghanistan. Indeed, the Bush administration said the very same thing when it outlined the war strategy before Congress. Even the *New York Times* acknowledged that America's enemy was "diffuse" and "difficult to locate."

Friedman concluded, "For the media, once the Taliban abandoned the cities, the war in Afghanistan was simply over." Now, two years later, time has shed further light on Friedman's accurate analysis. As of this writing, Osama bin Laden is *still* on the run and U.S. troops are *still* in Afghanistan in the ongoing war against terrorism. But within media circles, the operations in Afghanistan have been largely forgotten.

The Case for War On February 9, the *New York Times* opinion page accused President Bush of wanting to invade Iraq "even before September 11." It then said voters this fall would have to determine whether Bush "manipulated the intelligence reports to frighten Congress and the public into supporting the idea." In truth, if anyone wanted to invade Iraq before September 11, it was President Clinton. And if Mr. Bush is guilty of manipulating intelligence reports, then so too was President Clinton, not to mention the *New York Times,* as we will see later.

Here is how President Clinton laid out his case for war against Iraq on Feb. 17, 1998: "Those who have questioned the United States in this moment, I would argue, are living only in the moment. They have neither remembered the past, nor imagined the future. So, first, let's just take a step back and consider why meeting the threat posed by Saddam Hussein is important to our security in the new era we are entering. … But for all our promise, all our opportunity, people in this room know very well that this is not a time free from peril—especially as a result of reckless acts of outlaw nations and an unholy *axis of terrorists,* drug traffickers and organized international criminals. We have to DEFEND OUR FUTURE from these *predators of the 21st century.* … [T]hey will be all the more lethal IF we *allow them to build arsenals of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and the missiles to deliver them.* WE SIMPLY CANNOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN. There is no more clear example of this threat than Saddam Hussein's Iraq. His regime threatens the safety of his people, the stability of his region and the security of all the rest of us."

Mr. Clinton referred to Saddam's repeated violations against UN resolutions. He spoke about the documented history of Saddam actually using chemical weapons—"not once, but many times." He said that, in 1995, Iraq even admitted to developing chemical weapons after its chief organizer of weapons (Saddam's son-in-law) defected to Jordan. (Later, after coaxing him to come back to Iraq, Saddam murdered his son-in-law.)

Mr. Clinton asked, "What if he fails to comply, and we fail to act, or we take some ambiguous third route, which gives him yet more opportunities to develop this program of weapons of mass destruction and continue to press for the release of the sanctions and continue to ignore the solemn commitments that he made? Well, he will *conclude that the international community has lost its will.*"

The president then made this stunning guarantee: "He will then conclude that he can go right on and do more to rebuild an arsenal of devastating destruction. And some day, some way, I GUARANTEE YOU, he'll use the arsenal. And I think *every one of you* who has really worked on this for any length of time believes that too." Is it any wonder that we have heard nary a peep out of President Clinton during the WMD controversy in recent months?

In December 1998, the Clinton administration changed its Iraq policy from "containment" to "regime change."

President Clinton said the policy of containment was no longer sufficient in Iraq. Saddam needed to be ousted. This was nearly three years *before* 9/11. The *New York Times* endorsed Clinton's policy change. According to the *Times,* inspectors had "concluded that Iraq could be hiding two to five times more deadly germ agents than it had *admitted* to making, as well as the warheads to deliver them. … Iraq has already confessed to making enough deadly microbes to kill all the people on Earth several times over" (Dec. 17, 1998). The *Times* then cited numerous instances where Iraqi officials had refused to cooperate with UN inspectors. Mr. Clinton now wanted regime change. The *Times* wanted regime change. Yet it never happened during the Clinton administration.

And the War Came UN Resolution 1441 was not unlike the many others given to Saddam since 1991. It DEMANDED that Iraq give a "complete declaration of all aspects" of its weapons programs. Saddam ignored it like he had the 16 others. Iraq must have concluded, as President Clinton warned in 1998, that the international community had lost its will. Indeed, just last month, the *New York Times* reported that intelligence documents discovered inside Iraq depicted a "complacent" Saddam Hussein who was "convinced" right up to the start of the war that it would never happen—that somehow the United States would back down. But the war did happen. President Bush, like Clinton in Kosovo, decided to press forward even without UN backing.

Predictably, the *New York Times* was dead set against it. It did everything it could to dissuade Congress from supporting a possible war in Iraq. "A *sudden* appetite for war with Iraq seems to have consumed the Bush administration and Congress," said the Oct. 10, 2002, opinion page—contradicting what it said more recently—that Bush "wanted to invade Iraq *even before September 11*."

The day after the *Times* pleaded with representatives and senators to stop Bush, Congress authorized the use of military force. (The House voted 296 to 133 in support of the president; the Senate 77 to 23.) The *Times* admitted that the votes in favor of the war were "large and bipartisan"—much more so, we might add, than the congressional support for President Clinton's military action against the Serbs in Kosovo.

During his State of the Union address in January 2003, President Bush elaborated on his reasons for war: "*Some have said we must not act until the threat is imminent.* Since when have terrorists and tyrants announced their intentions, politely putting us on notice before they strike? If this threat is permitted to fully and suddenly emerge, all actions, all words, and all recriminations would come too late. Trusting in the sanity and restraint of Saddam Hussein is not a strategy, and it is not an option.

"The dictator who is assembling the world's most dangerous weapons has already used them on whole villages [the *Times* defended Clinton on this very point]—leaving thousands of his own citizens dead, blind or disfigured. Iraqi refugees tell us how forced confessions are obtained—by torturing children while their parents are made to watch. International human rights groups have cataloged other methods used in the torture chambers of Iraq: electric shock, burning with hot irons, dripping acid on the skin, mutilation with electric drills, cutting out tongues, and rape. If this is not evil, then evil has no meaning."

Notice that Mr. Bush specifically answered critics who said Iraq did not yet pose an "imminent" threat to the United States. He said that if the U.S. waited for the threat to suddenly emerge, it would be too late—a lesson America learned the hard way from 9/11. This is a key point, as we will note later, because of recent criticism the media has unleashed on Bush for supposedly hyping the intelligence by saying Iraq posed an "*imminent* threat." What he actually said was that we don't have the luxury of waiting *until* the threat becomes imminent.

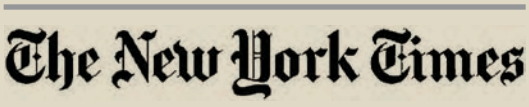
Media Got It Wrong As soon as the war began, big media picked up on a number of near-disastrous military maneuvers. As U.S. forces began the "shock and awe" bombing campaign, the Pentagon continually stressed that we must not become overconfident, that Iraqi resistance was bound to be strong, that there were many "unknowns" to this war and that victory would not come overnight, nor without cost. Quite naturally then, the press accused the Pentagon of being overconfident and unprepared and said they had underestimated Iraqi resistance. Judging by a number of mainstream reports, you might have thought the United States was bogged down in another Vietnam. (Many liberal journalists made this direct comparison.)

The Paper That Tilts the Field

DICK MORRIS SAID THE BIGGEST LOSER IN THE WAR COVERAGE "WAS THE *New York Times,* formerly the newspaper of record, but now reduced—in full public view—to a newspaper of the political opposition. Its readers got to see, in plain view, the paper's pessimism and bias against the Bush administration."

For people who do not read the *Times*—more than 99 percent of Americans—this may seem insignificant. But while most people do not read the paper, news producers around the world *do.*

The *New York Times,* Bernard Goldberg wrote in his new book *Arrogance,* "sets the agenda" for many mainstream news outlets, especially the big three television networks. Goldberg knows the system because he worked at CBS himself for almost 30 years. According to Goldberg, NOTHING "carries nearly as much weight in network television newsrooms as the *New York Times.*" He said there were "too many examples to count" where TV executives turned down story ideas from reporters until they first appeared in the *New York Times.* John Stossel made a similar point in his recent book *Give Me a Break*. The ABC correspondent said that a lot of people he worked with "thought the news was whatever was in the day's *New York Times.*"



Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Charles Krauthammer wrote this during the presidential campaign four years ago: "[T]he *Times* front page is the epicenter of the media echo chamber. It is the primary text for those who compose the evening news on the three networks" (*Washington Post,* Sept. 29, 2000). He then explained, "The *Times* does not determine election results. If it did, we'd be looking back fondly on the Mondale and Dukakis administrations. But because it both reflects and affects general media coverage of campaigns, it matters. It tilts the playing field. This year, the angle is particularly steep" (ibid.).

In the *Washington Post,* respected military analyst Ralph Peters editorialized that U.S. forces had made "serious strategic miscalculations" (March 25, 2003). He said, "No matter how shocked and awed the Iraqi leadership may be, surrender is not, never was and never will be an option for Hussein and his inner circle. Because of the nature of their regime and its crimes, the contest is all or nothing for them." (Nine months later, Saddam Hussein crawled out of a spider hole and surrendered without firing a shot.)

After the Pentagon "overestimated" the effectiveness of "shock and awe," the press then discovered, with the help of their many experts, that the war plan was bad. There weren't enough troops. And when Turkey refused to let U.S. ground troops flow through its country, we heard that the consequences could be devastating.


REUTERS

Meanwhile, largely because the Pentagon allowed imbedded reporters to accompany troops during the invasion, what Americans *actually saw* on television was stunning. The march toward Baghdad was swift and efficient. U.S. troops were winning all the skirmishes along the way. Entire Iraqi army divisions were surrendering or retreating.

Even still, the media continued their doomsday predictions. The forces were moving fast, the press admitted, but now the supply lines were stretched—not enough humanitarian aid was reaching Iraqis in the south, etc.

In Baghdad, we were led to believe, Iraqis would be much less likely to welcome U.S. forces like they did in the south. And Saddam's special forces were digging in. With their backs against the wall, scattered in a sprawling city of 5 million, Saddam loyalists could pick off American soldiers one by one. A Somalia-like street war would clearly favor the Iraqis. American casualties would be high.

Again, what actually happened proved these predictions of doom to be completely false. U.S. troops made it to Baghdad in *three weeks,* met little resistance and were greeted by throngs of Iraqis as liberating heroes. American forces conquered Baghdad in *half the time* and with *half the troops* it took in 1991 to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

"Forget the easy victories of the last 20 years," Ted Koppel gravely warned just two weeks before U.S. soldiers pulled down Saddam's statue. "This war is more like the ones we knew before." He was dead wrong, even though imbedded in the front line of the U.S. invasion.

The week after Iraq's liberation, Dick Morris wrote a column for the *New York Post* criticizing media coverage of the war. He said, "[A]s the war unfolded, it was obvious that minor mishaps would dominate the network and newspaper coverage. Friendly-fire casualties, accidental journalist deaths, temporary supply shortages, unavoidable killing of civilians—all were played with the same or greater gusto than was the news of the actual war itself.

"Who can forget juxtapositions like this one: A joyous mob hauls down Saddam Hussein's 40-foot statue in a scene reminiscent of the fall of the Berlin Wall—while ABC's Peter Jennings belittles the Iraqis as a 'small crowd'?" (April 14, 2003).

That the media is not held accountable for such errors shows just how powerful and arrogant they are. Even though most of the media got it wrong on the war, you would never know it judging by their own post-war coverage. They continued searching for any way possible to put a negative spin on what was happening in Iraq. *The U.S. won the war, but can it now bring peace? Does it even have an exit strategy? Is U.S. "occupation" really that much better than Saddam's dictatorship? Why haven't we yet found Saddam? American casualties are on the rise. Didn't Mr. Bush say the war was over? Why are we still there? There's no link between Saddam and al-Qaeda. There are no WMD. This whole war, it now turns out, was completely unnecessary.*

And on and on it goes.

The Kay Report When David Kay, who resigned as head of the Iraq Survey Group in January, said he didn't think weapons of mass destruction actually existed in Iraq, it set off a media frenzy. Kay's report fit in perfectly with the media's antiwar agenda.

In an interview with Reuters on January 23, Dr. Kay said he didn't think we would find any large stockpiles of WMD in Iraq. The *New York Times* was quick to inform media elites of the significance of Kay's comments. In a front page article on January 24, Richard Stevenson wrote, "Dr. Kay's statements undermined one of the primary justifications set out by President Bush for the war with Iraq. Mr. Bush and other top administration officials repeatedly cited Iraq's possession of chemical and biological weapons as a threat to the United States, and the lack of evidence so far that Saddam Hussein actually had large caches of weapons has fueled criticism that Mr. Bush exaggerated the peril from Iraq."

"JUXTAPOSITIONS"

"[A]s the war unfolded, it was obvious that minor mishaps would dominate the network and newspaper coverage. … Who can forget juxtapositions like this one: A joyous mob hauls down Saddam Hussein's 40-foot statue in a scene reminiscent of the fall of the Berlin Wall—while ABC's Peter Jennings belittles the Iraqis as a 'small crowd'?" —Dick Morris

In actuality, the *liberal media* is what fueled criticism that Mr. Bush "exaggerated." Dr. Kay's criticism was aimed solely at U.S. *intelligence,* not the Bush administration—and he was careful to make that distinction with Reuters and in subsequent interviews.

As for the president's comments before the war, it is true he said America "must deal with the very real danger [Saddam] poses." No, sorry, those were President *Clinton's* words before ordering a four-day bombing attack in December 1998. When some criticized the timing of Clinton's strike, ordered on the eve of his impeachment hearings, the *Times* rushed to his defense. "[V]iewed outside the prism of impeachment, the decision to launch cruise missiles against Iraq was fully justified" (Dec. 17, 1998). The paper insisted, "No one but Mr. Clinton knows all the factors that went into his decision to order air strikes"—meaning, *Who are we to question all the reasons for going to war?*

The *Times* acknowledged that air strikes would not totally eliminate Saddam's weapons threat, but they would "severely reduce Iraq's ability to make new weapons or use its old ones." It was the same rationale the *Times* gave after Kosovo when we didn't find the killing fields. *Well, at least we prevented further atrocities from taking place.*

Notice again how President Clinton justified his attack on Iraq in December

1998: "Other countries possess weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. With Saddam, there's one big difference: *He has used them,* not once, but *repeatedly,* unleashing chemical weapons against Iranian troops … [and] civilians … and not only against a foreign enemy, but even against his own people, gassing Kurdish civilians in northern Iraq.

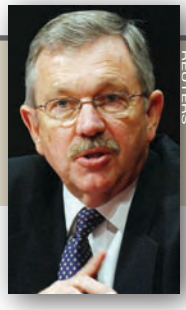
"The *international community* had little doubt then, and I have no doubt today, that, left unchecked, Saddam Hussein will use these terrible weapons again." And that's the whole point. Ever since the Gulf War ended in 1991, the United States *and the international community* (not to mention news media) had said that Iraq had *used* and *stockpiled* weapons of mass destruction! As Dr. Kay said during his Senate hearing on January 28, even French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder—both opposed to the war—believed Iraq had WMD in its possession! For the *Times* to imply that President Bush exaggerated the threat—after it had sounded strong warnings of that very threat in its own pages during the Clinton administration—is the height of hypocritical media bias.

Comparing Mr. Clinton's remarks throughout 1998 with President Bush's rationale for war is quite interesting. There are a lot of similarities. But of the two, if there was any hype, a case could be made that it came from President Clinton. He, remember, "guaranteed" that Saddam would use weapons of mass destruction. President Bush, on the other hand, said we could not stand by and *wait* for the threat to become imminent. After the Kay report in January, many journalists were convinced *President Bush was responsible* for exaggerating the imminency of Iraq's threat.

On January 27, the *Times* editorial page harshly criticized the Bush administration this way: "Vice President Dick Cheney continued to insist last week that Iraq *had been trying* to make weapons of mass destruction, apparently oblivious to the findings of the administration's own chief weapons inspector that Iraq had possessed only rudimentary capabilities and unrealized intentions. The vice president's myopia suggests a breathtaking unwillingness to accept a reality that conflicts with the administration's preconceived notions. This kind of rigid thinking helped propel us into an invasion without broad international support and, if Mr. Cheney is as influential as many say, could propel us into further misadventures down the road …. Mr. Kay also believes that intelligence analysts failed to realize that Mr. Hussein became increasingly isolated and fantasy-driven in the late 1990s, a condition that enabled scientists to hoodwink him into approving fanciful weapons plans that turned into corrupt moneymaking schemes. That seems hard to believe in a land where people *supposedly* lived in terror of a brutal dictator. But if it is true that Mr. Hussein wrote novels while the American-led force geared up for war, then perhaps both sides of this conflict were divorced from reality."

"ABSOLUTELY PRUDENT"

It was "absolutely prudent for the U.S. to go to war. I actually think this may be one of those cases where it was even more dangerous than we thought." —David Kay


REUTERS

If the Bush administration is living in the same fantasy world as Saddam Hussein because it thinks "Iraq had been *trying* to make weapons of mass destruction," where does that leave the *New York Times?* Does America's most influential paper now think Saddam had *not even been trying* to make WMD? If so, ironically, the *Times* is guilty of grossly exaggerating *David Kay's comments*.

This is bias at its ugliest—when it obscures truth and hides facts. For the *New York Times* to support two opposing positions, depending upon which administration happens to be in office, might simply be brushed aside by some as partisan ramblings from a left-wing newspaper. *Right-wing papers do the same thing,* you might be thinking. And you're right. But none of them carry the same weight of influence that the *New York Times* does. In either case, when political ideology gets in the way of facts, *on the left or right,* it's worse than bias. It's lying.

The Rest of the Story Another of Kay's statements received widespread coverage, but very little analysis. He said Saddam had WMD at the end of the Gulf War, but that since that time he "got rid of them." Chew on that for a moment. Saddam *had them,* but he GOT RID OF THEM.

During his Senate testimony, Dr. Kay referred to the chaos immediately after Iraq's liberation as "unparalleled looting and destruction, a lot of which was directly intentional, designed by the security services to *cover the tracks of the Iraq WMD program* and their other programs as well."

The day after his Reuters interview, Dr. Kay gave an exclusive interview to London's *Daily Telegraph*. According to the article "Saddam's WMD Hidden in Syria," Dr. Kay "uncovered evidence that unspecified materials had been moved to Syria shortly before last year's war to overthrow Saddam." The article quoted Dr. Kay: "We are not talking about a large stockpile of weapons. But *we know* from some of the interrogations of former Iraqi officials that a lot of material went to Syria before the war, including some components of Saddam's WMD program. Precisely what went to Syria, and what has happened to it, is a *major issue* that *needs to be resolved*" (January 25).

The day after the *Telegraph* story, on this side of the Atlantic, the *New York Times* printed a totally different version. A front-page story read, "Dr. Kay said there was also *no conclusive evidence* that Iraq had moved *any* unconventional weapons to Syria, as *some Bush administration officials* have suggested. He said there had been persistent reports from Iraqis saying they or someone they knew had seen cargo being moved across the border, but there is *no proof* that such movements involved weapons materials" (January 26). The *Times* actually brushed aside the Syrian connection faster than Syrian *officials* did. And notice how they made it sound like the Bush administration was advancing the idea that weapons materials were smuggled to Syria when, in fact, *it was David Kay!*

After the *Times* killed the WMD-Syria connection, the other big media platforms fell right in step with the "no conclusive evidence" slant. According to the *Washington Post,* Kay "speculated" that WMD were shipped to Syria. CNN.com said, "Kay *alleges* Syria connection"; and Kay "raised the *possibility*" that banned weapons "*might*" be in Syria.

It's not that skepticism in this case is wrong. Kay, after all, told the Senate panel he believed it was "probable" that Iraq moved small amounts of WMD to Syria.

He didn't say he was 100 percent sure it happened, or that it was absolute FACT. But the media's *selective* skepticism reveals their bias. Where's the skepticism when Kay said he didn't *think* Iraq had large stockpiles of WMD or that he didn't *think* we will find any before we hand over control to the Iraqi Governing Council? Instead, when David Kay said he believed there was an intelligence failure prior to the war, the gullible, agenda-driven media not only accepted his view without skepticism, they advanced the idea further to imply that President Bush knew it was bad intelligence and lied about it to the American people.

In the same piece that the *Times* said there was no conclusive evidence of a Syria connection, the *Times* found this theory to be quite credible: *Iraqi scientists had tricked Saddam into believing there were WMD programs when, in fact, there weren't.* When David Kay said there was evidence from interrogations showing that Iraq moved components of its WMD program to Syria, the *Times* dismissed it as "not conclusive." Yet it raised no objection to Dr. Kay's suggestion that the Iraq's WMD program might have been one giant hoax that even hoodwinked Saddam Hussein.

No need for skepticism there.

Getting All the Facts Reporting *all* of David Kay's most important findings would have painted an entirely different picture. Here are a few other conclusions the media downplayed, taken from Kay interviews and from his testimony before the Senate:

- President Bush did *not* exaggerate or manipulate intelligence information in the lead up to the war. (If he did, so did Jacques Chirac and Gerhard Schröder.)
- Saddam tried to reconstitute his nuclear program as late as 2001. He was also intent on pursuing large-scale WMD programs. Saddam had ongoing programs for chemical and biological research.
- Even without the large stockpiles, Iraq was still engaged in a wide range of activities that violated UN resolutions.
- Iraq was actively working to produce the deadly poison *ricin* right up until the beginning of the war last year.
- Iraq posed an *imminent* threat. It was "absolutely prudent for the U.S. to go to war," Kay said. "I actually think this may be one of those cases *where it was even more dangerous than we thought.*"

Let those words sink in. Based on the evidence uncovered by Kay, Saddam was even more dangerous than we thought. Yet, these findings were muted by the same thunderous message echoing out of newsrooms from coast to coast—THERE ARE NO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION IN IRAQ! THE WAR MAY HAVE BEEN UNNECESSARY. PRESIDENT BUSH MIGHT HAVE MANIPULATED U.S. INTELLIGENCE and LIED TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE!

Sorry. It's *the media* that exaggerated and manipulated information.

To media elites, issues like these are not worthy of consideration. They get in the way of their agenda. *Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction. They weren't moved or hidden—the New York Times says so. Iraq wasn't even trying to make weapons of mass destruction. President Bush got us involved in a totally unnecessary quagmire costing hundreds of American lives.*

If the media are truly interested in exposing fantasy-driven intelligence failings that manipulate facts and even lie, they need look no further than inside the walls of their own newsrooms.

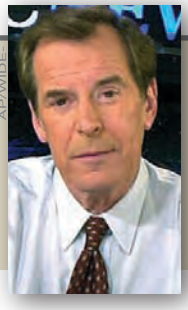
On February 13, in a front-page article, the *Washington Post* reported, "A majority of Americans believe President Bush either lied or deliberately exaggerated evidence that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction in order to justify war." That majority opinion *was shaped solely by dishonest journalism.* That's how powerful media bias is.

Liberation or Conquest? On the day of Iraq's liberation, April 9, 2003, just after American forces pulled Saddam's huge statue to the ground, a U.S. marine momentarily draped an American flag over the image's head. Not but a few seconds later, it was replaced by an Iraqi flag. "You can understand these marines who have put their lives on the line, sweated with blood and guts for the past three weeks wanting to show the Stars and Stripes in this moment of glory," said one Fox reporter watching the events unfold. "It is understandable, but no doubt *Al Jazeera and others* will make hay with that."

"And others" turned out to include the *New York Times:* "A dismayed hush fell over Firdos Square in Baghdad yesterday as a United States marine pulled an American flag over the head of Saddam Hussein's statue like a gallows hood.

"The sight also silenced news anchors and many viewers: The *tableau of conquest* was exactly the image most likely to offend the Muslim world" (April 10, 2003).

The *Times* opinion page that same day was equally negative and skeptical, not yet convinced whether this war was one of conquest or liberation. The world's most influential newspaper found it difficult to applaud the collapse of a terrifyingly brutal and murderous regime *because it had been against the war from the beginning,* and to do so would be to imply that the war might be justified.



"NOT AS STABLE"

"There's not a good deal for Iraqis to be happy about at the moment. Life is still very chaotic, beset by violence in many cases, huge shortages. In some respects, Iraqis keep telling us life is not as stable for them as it was when Saddam Hussein was in power." —Peter Jennings, reacting to Saddam Hussein's capture

The other defining moment to occur last year happened on December 14, when U.S. soldiers pulled Saddam out of the now-famous spider hole. Even on *that* day, some of the biggest voices in American media were quick to downplay the significance. Peter Jennings—the most ardently antiwar voice of all evening newscasters—reacted with pessimism: "There's not a good deal for Iraqis to be happy about at the moment. Life is still very chaotic, beset by violence in many cases, huge shortages. In some respects, Iraqis keep telling us life is not as stable for them *as it was when Saddam Hussein was in power.*"

Compare Jennings' remarks with what Al Jazeera reported the next day: "Joy at the capture of Saddam Hussein gave way to resentment toward Washington Monday, as Iraqis confronted afresh the bloodshed, shortages and soaring prices of life under U.S. occupation." Oops! That report actually came from *Reuters.* It continued by quoting one Iraqi who compared life under Saddam with life after liberation: "The only difference is that Saddam would kill you in private, where the Americans will kill you in public."

Two Evil Regimes The January-February issue of *Reuters* magazine featured

a menacing, somber-looking President Bush on its cover, next to this caption: "Voices From Iraq: Happy, freer, safer? Life in a broken country." Inside, *Reuters* reporter Andrew Marshall wrote, "Many lives have been transformed, and many lives have been lost. Iraqis have seen a despised regime swept away, but have also seen their hopes for early peace and prosperity dashed."

Saddam was bad, but so is U.S. "occupation"—that's the message coming from Reuters' chief correspondent in Iraq. Mr. Marshall supports his bias with only *six personal stories*. All of them might make nice pieces for a "Dateline" episode—but six examples to represent what is really happening inside Iraq?

One Iraqi policeman said, "Our job is now much more difficult and much more dangerous. Before the war the security situation was stable and we didn't have as many bombings, shootings and kidnappings." *Oh, to long for the days when Iraq was so much more stable and secure* UNDER SADDAM HUSSEIN! The policeman said the Americans had borrowed his country, only to return it ruined. *Reuters just loves that.*

Another "ordinary" Iraqi, a teenager, did admit that Iraqis suffered through abuse at the hands of Saddam. But Americans "provoke" the Iraqis, he said. "I want them to leave our country."

A car salesman they interviewed actually said business was better before the war! "It was much safer before, there's no stability now." Then, with the sort of expert research and analysis that would make Jayson Blair proud, the salesman asked, "Saddam was in power for 35 years, and how many people do you think he imprisoned? *Many.* How many people have been detained since Baghdad fell? *Many.*"

Pick your poison—Saddam imprisoned "many"—but so has the Bush administration. Leaving aside the huge disparity between the actual number of prisoners, would there not also be an equally huge difference between the *type* of Iraqis Saddam and Bush imprisoned? And did U.S. soldiers rape, torture and dismember detainees before locking them up?

Never mind any of that. Reuters has a message for you: Under Saddam, it *might have been* bad, but at least it was safer and more prosperous than it is now.

Again, this message would be easy to brush aside if it were coming from a small activist publication or left-wing website. But Reuters is the largest international multimedia news agency *in the world.*

Another Untold Story While it is true that all "mainstream" voices aren't as blatantly antiwar as America's big three networks, the *New York Times,* the *Washington Post,* Reuters, NPR and the BBC, remember that media bias is not only reflected by what is reported, but also by which stories are de-emphasized or ignored altogether.

The situation inside Iraq is a good example. Judging by the six interviews highlighted by Reuters, one could easily be left with the impression that U.S. *liberation* has only made things worse.

"ORDINARY IRAQIS"

- **Crime rates in Iraq are lower than crime rates in New York.**
- **The number of American soldiers lost last year in Iraq was fewer than the number of Americans murdered last year in Los Angeles.**
- **Iraq's 220,000 teachers are making 12 to 25 times the salary they did under Saddam Hussein.**
- **Doctors' salaries are at least eight times higher than they were.**
- **Power generation exceeds pre-war coverage.**

Reuters *wants you* to be left with that impression because it was against the war from the beginning.

To be sure, there *was* widespread looting and chaos right after Iraq was liberated—and the U.S. military could have done more to prevent it. But how would the liberal media have reacted to the sight of U.S. forces overwhelming "ordinary Iraqis" with a show of brute force to help prevent stealing and looting?

Crime rates in Iraq *are* still very high—but how about some perspective? They are *not yet as high as in New York*—mainstream media's OWN BACKYARD. We did lose more than 500 American soldiers during the war last year—about the same number of Americans murdered in Los Angeles. Where's the media outcry about that?

Maybe *one* Iraqi car salesman is finding business more difficult than it was under Saddam. But what about the 220,000 teachers in Iraq who are now making 12 times more money than they were under Saddam? Or doctors' salaries, which are eight times higher? Or the multiple millions of metric tons of food sent to Iraq by the World Food Program? Or the $20 billion pumped into the Iraqi economy by, of all countries, the United States of America?

Of course there are still criminals and terrorists on the run in Iraq, lashing out in desperate attempts to slow America's progress. And there have been a number of terrorist attacks in Iraq. The media have reported all this—and rightly so. But why hasn't it been weighed against the remarkable good the United States has done for that nation?

Upon releasing its updated report to Congress in December, detailing the great progress being made in Iraq, the White House complained about the media's lack of coverage about the positives. Only a handful of smaller newspapers across North America reported on the progress report. The most well-known paper that gave it attention was the *Boston Globe.* But that's about it—five or six papers.

Incredibly, a handful of other papers actually managed to put a negative spin on the report, focusing on the facts that troop cuts might have to wait and that Iraq was still suffering from serious communications and energy shortages. Again, while that may be true, how about some context?

Why were all the *big* media voices muted when the White House released its report? Why didn't the *Times* and the *Post* feature a story? Why did the big networks ignore it? *Because the situation in Iraq is not supposed to be good.* That's the story. And if the facts don't fit within those parameters, they're not reported.

Liberated Iraq now has 150 newspapers whose content is not controlled by a dictatorial regime. One Iraqi newspaper editor told the *Independent* of London, "We can't train staff fast enough. People are desperate here for a neutral free press after 30 years of a totalitarian state."

A neutral, free press. On that point, Iraq isn't the only nation in need of liberation.

No Solid Proof In his nationally televised speech on Oct. 7, 2002, President Bush said, "We know that Iraq and the al-Qaeda terrorist network share a common enemy: the United States of America. We know that Iraq and al-Qaeda have had high-level contacts that go back a decade. Some al-Qaeda leaders who fled Afghanistan went to Iraq. These include one very senior al-Qaeda leader who received medical treatment in Baghdad this year and who has been associated with planning for chemical and biological at-

tacks. We've learned that Iraq has trained al-Qaeda members in bomb-making and poisons and deadly gases. And we know that after September 11, Saddam Hussein's regime gleefully celebrated the terrorist attacks on America."

The "senior" al-Qaeda leader President Bush spoke of was a 37-year-old Jordanian named Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Next to Osama bin Laden, Zarqawi is perhaps the world's most wanted terrorist. According to the *Wall Street Journal,* Zarqawi sustained a serious wound to his leg during a U.S. bombing raid in Afghanistan in 2001. He sought refuge in Iran and was later believed to be among a group of al-Qaeda operatives that Iran expelled from the country under U.S. pressure. Looking for another safe haven, Zarqawi found it in, of all places, *Iraq*. He moved there in May of 2002. He had his leg amputated at a Baghdad hospital and was fitted for a prosthetic limb.

This past January, U.S. officials intercepted a 17-page document in Iraq that was on its way to al-Qaeda's inner circle. The messenger told interrogators that the author was Zarqawi. In the document, the author bragged about coordinating 25 terrorist bombings in Iraq over the past year. The *New York Times* was first to break the news about the document. In a front-page story on February 9, Iraq correspondent Dexter Filkins admitted the document constitutes the "strongest evidence to date of contacts between extremists in Iraq and al-Qaeda." The next day, *Times* columnist William Safire called the discovery a "smoking gun"

Yet, on the same day Filkins broke the story, the *Times* editorial page continued to excoriate Bush's war policy, saying the president "is going to have to show the country that he is capable of distinguishing *real threats* from *false alarms*" and have "the courage to tell the nation the truth about something as profound as war." It was as if the editors were oblivious to what their own paper had reported on the front page.

That night, taking their cue from the *Times,* all three networks featured the Zarqawi document on the evening news. Elizabeth Palmer reported for CBS: "The letter, even if it's genuine, *doesn't prove that al-Qaeda is responsible for violence in Iraq*." Over on NBC, Jim Miklaszewski said the document "appears" to back up claims Secretary of State Colin Powell made to the UN before the war, linking Iraq to al-Qaeda via Zarqawi. But officials at the Pentagon, he said, "admit this memo is no smoking gun, that there's still *no solid proof* of terrorist ties between al-Qaeda and Saddam Hussein."

What exactly would constitute "solid proof" of a link? That Saddam and Osama vacation together at Martha's Vineyard? The liberal media has rock-solid proof that there are no WMD in Iraq. But intercepting a document headed to Osama, written by a man trained at al-Qaeda camps, who was hiding out with an Iraqi terrorist group *prior* to the war and spearheading terrorist activity *during* the war is *not solid enough* for "objective" journalists to connect the dots between Iraq and bin Laden.

The War on Terrorism In the letter to al-Qaeda, Zarqawi pleaded for help to incite civil war in Iraq before America left. He lamented his inability to recruit extremists inside Iraq to fight against Americans. And because Iraq was not mountainous, it made life more difficult for terrorists living on the run (especially, he could have added, for those with one leg). The American enemy was growing stronger by the day, Zarqawi said. "THIS IS SUFFOCATION!" he exclaimed.

That from one of the world's leading terrorists.

Doesn't this show that President Bush, while he has made mistakes, has also had a good deal of success in the war on terrorism? The Taliban is out of power—no longer providing safe havens for terrorist organizations in Afghanistan. Terrorists still in that country are on the run. Saddam's regime is gone and will never come back in power, as President Bush assured the Iraqi people. The terrorist network inside Iraq, according to Zarqawi, is suffocating. And whether inspectors find large or small amounts of WMD in Iraq, indeed we now know the Iraqi threat won't develop into an *imminent* one.

Then there is Libya, one of seven state sponsors of terror, according to the State Department. In January, the Libyans *voluntarily* surrendered and abandoned their banned weapons programs, after pressure from American and British diplomats. "There's little doubt that Col. Qadhafi," the *Wall Street Journal* reported, "feared that he could be next on America's hit list" (February 12).

And most importantly, since September 11, as of this writing, there has not been another terrorist attack on American soil.

There have been attempts—these are the intelligence *successes* we don't often hear about. But none, to this point, has been carried out.

Only a biased press can ignore or brush aside these many positive developments as *failures,* or *unnecessary* and *unrelated* to the war on terror. Granted, they do not constitute victory. But there have been a number of positives.

Consistent Message In case you dismiss this article as yet another conservative rant, we'll leave you with more *context*. Not but a few months ago, the *Trumpet* featured a story titled, "The War Against Terrorism: Why We *Can't* Win"—not exactly popular material for right-wing propaganda. In that article (November 2003), we wrote, "America has won its last war"—something we have been saying

The Trumpet's Bias

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, WE CAN SUGGEST ONE important news source that bases its reporting on the only sure word of truth there is, while endeavoring to provide the context necessary to explain the real significance behind world events.

But be forewarned—our endorsement might be biased.

The *Trumpet* has not hypocritically flip-flopped on major issues just because our favorite political party happens to be in office. We are not backed financially by any special interest group or big corporation. And you have probably noticed that there is no paid advertising in this magazine. Nor is there a subscription price.

Think about what all this means. We are not trying to appeal to advertisers, politicians, corporations, special interest groups, a wealthy philanthropist—or even subscribers! Think about the pressure that removes and the freedom it gives us to simply publish the truth of God in love.

If the *Trumpet* is biased because it leans toward God's perspective, then so be it. But that bias, together with our unbiased, non-political world-view, is what makes this magazine TOTALLY unique.

for years. Are we then guilty of the same biased, erroneous reporting we have attacked here? Which ideological direction do we lean to, after all—left or right?

NEITHER! And we can prove that by our consistent message over the past 14 years—during the Bush, Clinton and Bush Sr. administrations.

In May 1991, after the U.S. overwhelmed Iraqi forces in Kuwait during the Persian Gulf War, we wrote, "The truth is we won a *battle* in Kuwait. We did not win a war. The job was left unfinished. Saddam Hussein is still in power—even stronger in some ways—and has turned Iraq into a *killing field*." Today, we see how accurate that statement was.

During the early to mid-1990s, while President Clinton and the establishment media were concerned about the WMD build-up in Iraq, the *Trumpet* kept pointing to the rising threat of radical Islam spearheaded by *Iran*. (The Bible calls this end-time power the "king of the south.") As early as July 1992, we prophesied, "It looks very much like the end-time king of the south will rule the radical Islamists! … Much of the world is unaware of what a powerful and dangerous force the Islamic camp is becoming."

In July 1993, we again prophesied, "*Islamic extremism* is almost certainly going to be the king of the south." Forget about Iraq, we kept saying—focus on Islamic extremism and its number-one state sponsor: IRAN. On 9/11, Americans awakened to the reality of Islamist terror.

"The threat is clear," we said at the outset of the war on terror, just after 9/11. "But will the U.S. go after Iran? Not likely." To date, that forecast has been accurate. We don't know all the *details* regarding the war against terror, but we do have advance knowledge of its final outcome. "The U.S. won't be the victors in this war," we said in November 2001. "EUROPE will!"

And what would we say now, more than two years later—*after* the United States has overwhelmed the Taliban and Baathist regimes? We would say the same thing we did 13 years ago, right after the Persian Gulf War. The truth is, *we have won battles* in the war on terror. To deny that because of political bias is to ignore reality. The Bush administration has led us to a number of victories the last two years. *But we will not win the war.* Time will again prove that analysis to be right—just as it was the first time we said it.

Consider, for a moment, America's overthrow of Saddam and how that victorious *battle* actually falls right in line with what we have been saying. As early as December 1994, we asked, "Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?" In that article, our editor in chief made this stunning prediction: "The most powerful [Muslim] country in the Middle East is *Iran*. Can you imagine the power they would have if they gained control of Iraq?" We concluded by saying, "U.S. strategists said they left Saddam Hussein in power to *prevent Iran from possibly ruling Iraq*. Now the U.S. and UN embargo may achieve the same undesired result. Iraq could easily fall—and soon!"

"NO AGREEMENT"

"If neither politicians nor secret intelligence are now to be believed, there will be no agreement to fight any battles that still lie ahead." —Melanie Phillips

DAILY MAIL

Now think about what has happened over the past year. America has removed Saddam Hussein from power and is under intense pressure at home and abroad to get out of Iraq and to let the Iraqis *rule themselves*. Once democratic elections are put in place, and Iraq is left to itself, the Shiite majority will emerge as the dominant party in Iraq. Iran is *also* predominantly Shiite and has very real influence with Iraq's Shiite population. Iran would like nothing more than to see Iraq, ruled for decades by an archenemy, transformed into a neighbor sympathetic to its own way of thinking. Thus, the U.S. is actually paving the way, unwittingly, for this prophecy to be fulfilled.

That brings us back to the establishment media, their biased coverage of the war on terrorism and how it factors in to these incredible prophecies. In the above-mentioned *Trumpet* article from a few months back ("Why We Can't Win"), we wrote, "President Bush labeled Iran, Iraq and North Korea the 'axis of evil.' Iraq's government has been toppled. However, we can't win this war *unless we also remove Iran's leadership*." We have been saying this ALL ALONG. But will the U.S. go after Iran? If not, why? What does God's Word reveal?

It says that the pride in our power and strength has been broken (Lev. 26:19). America will not win the war on terrorism because it DOES NOT have the *will* to win. *And the media are largely to blame.* Continuing from the November *Trumpet,* "American and British leaders are overwhelmingly liberal. And the press is dangerously pacifist. … President Bush's labeling of the axis of evil was absolutely correct. However, he was attacked by the liberal politicians and press for that statement. That painfully illustrates America's dangerous lack of will power."

President Bush's war against terrorism—as noble and justified and successful as it has been thus far—will end badly. *The media are now working overtime to see that it does*. Look at the damage they have already caused with their coverage of the Iraq war. As Melanie Phillips wrote for the *Daily Mail,* "If neither politicians nor secret intelligence are now to be believed, there will be no agreement to fight any BATTLES THAT STILL LIE AHEAD" (February 9).

At the war's outset, President Bush called America's enemy a "radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them." The *New York Times,* remember, said early on that the enemy was "diffuse and difficult to locate." Since then, however, the liberal media have zeroed in on the mistakes of President Bush instead of the *vast network* of evil that STILL EXISTS. Rogue nations that sponsor these new extremists, also, STILL EXIST. The other "intelligence failure" David Kay spoke of in his testimony—one the media was much less interested in—was how we had *underestimated* the development of IRAN's nuclear program.

Yet, confronting terrorists, their new recruits and "every government that supports them" *before* the threat becomes "imminent" will now be much more difficult. The broad public and congressional support for invading Iraq will be much more difficult to rally for future battles. And the liberal media are largely to blame for that. MEDIA BIAS has undermined America's justification for *all future pre-emptive attacks against terrorists and their state sponsors.*

The war on terrorism has revealed just how powerful and widespread anti-American forces are around the world—not just in terrorist camps and caves—but in liberal newsrooms *within* America and Britain. Together, these forces are working to accelerate the downfall of the United States. ■

When They Shall Say PEACE AND SAFETY ...

JOEL HILLIKER

A bevy of peace initiatives at the beginning of 2004 may have some people hopeful for peace. But can we take these efforts at face value? Is peace really on the horizon? The lessons of history give the answer.

BY RYAN MALONE

Is world peace on the horizon? Will diplomatic efforts of recent months finally bring the peace our war-weary world so desperately seeks?

A slew of unprecedented geopolitical maneuvers in the past few months have many hopeful. Most of these occurred in the Middle East at the beginning of 2004: Relationships became more agreeable between the U.S. and Libya, the U.S. and Iran, Egypt and Iran, Turkey and Syria, Israel and Libya, Israel and Syria. Not too far eastward, India and Pakistan made unprecedented efforts at a peaceful settlement to their differences.

What has been happening?

Lately, we have seen the rise of normalizing relations, informal alliances and peace talks—evidenced by a flurry of summits, joint declarations, agreements and statements.

Leaders are calling for more rigid observance of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (see p. 16).

Nations in Asia once at odds have been striving to put past differences behind them—India and China, China and South Korea, India and Myanmar, Russia and Japan, Russia and Azerbaijan.

A Canadian journalist proclaimed that peace had broken out on the African continent: "Africa appears to have heeded a call to put down arms and work toward development of the bright future that should be possible given the enormous resource wealth of the continent and the enormous intelligence and ingenuity of its people" (*www.YellowTimes.org,* January 14). His evidence that certain conflicts in Africa are winding down is that there are possible peace agreements in the works, the disarming of rebel groups and the presence of peacekeepers.

Then a former Jordanian diplomat wrote, "Whatever claims Israel makes about the past, today it cannot claim to be 'surrounded' by enemies" (*Electronic Intifada,* January 22). The evidence he used to support the claim that Israel dwells safely: "It has full peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan. Syria and Lebanon … continue to offer to negotiate full peace in return for their occupied land …" (emphasis mine throughout).

Some believe the world is on its way to peace. Isn't it natural, when we see former foes and long-time enemies at a table together, to be encouraged—thinking in our hearts that maybe they might settle things for good? Do we not entertain the idea that perhaps world peace could come about this way—one table-discussion at a time?

What do all these efforts for peace mean? Is worldwide peace imminent? An understanding of history can help us know for sure.

War and Treaties Winston S. Churchill said, "The story of the human race is war."

Paul Eidelberg, political science professor and respected author, backs Churchill's statement in his essay "On War and Peace." Between 1945 and 1978, he relates, "there were not more than 26 days in which there was no war of some kind somewhere in the world. About 12 wars were being fought on an 'average' day." Eidelberg concluded, "Indeed, the occurrence of 1,000 wars during the last 2,500 years indicates that 'peace' is little more than a preparation for war. Which means that peace treaties are worthless, to say the least."

The evidence for peace that journalists and analysts typically give is the number of alliances, joint declarations and treaties presently occurring. However, we only need to look into the pathetic track-record of treaties to see that those assumptions—however optimistic—are hopelessly naive and unfounded.

According to Laurence W. Beilenson's 1969 book, *The Treaty Trap,* it is this "magic of labels" that has people subconsciously associating treaties with peace and their absence with war. "This has led some commentators to assert that since war has become so suicidal, logic dictates dependence on treaties to prevent it. The conclusion, however, does not follow from the premise."

In fact, his book supports the sure word of Bible prophecy—showing that pronouncements of "peace" actually demonstrate how *volatile* the global situation is. It seems that the more men shout "peace," the more WAR is imminent.

When he set forth a prophecy for our day, the Apostle Paul also demonstrated an astute understanding of human nature in global politics: "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them …" (1 Thes. 5:3).

This prophecy is being fulfilled today—the cries of "peace, peace" only mean that sudden destruction is at our door.

Beilenson—a lawyer, historian, veteran of two wars and retired army officer—examined treaties of the U.S. and European nations over a 300-year period: "This book looks back to point forward. … Ever since men grouped themselves in tribes, PEACE TREATIES HAVE WALKED HAND IN HAND WITH WAR."

When England and France went to war in 1793, they were allies on paper, just as they were immediately before other major conflicts—the War of the League of Augsberg, the War of the Spanish Succession, the War of the Austrian Succession, the Seven Years War and the War of the American Revolution.

Speaking of the post-Napoleanic 19th century, Beilenson said, "The relation between peace and treaty operated in INVERSE RATIO." In other words, PEACE TREATIES MEANT THE OPPOSITE OF PEACE!

This is an irrefutable law of history. Our editor in chief, Gerald Flurry, pointed this out in his booklet *The King of the South:* "Middle East peace treaties dominate the news—as all kinds of peace treaties did just before World War II began! It is just *another major sign* that WAR IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE IN THE MIDDLE EAST!"

So often, treaties are made in conflict only to allow antagonists to catch their breath. Countless historical examples prove this—from the conflicts of ancient Greece to those of 19th-century Europe. Even the period between the two world wars was merely a time for Germany—unhappy with the restrictions placed on it at Versailles—to catch its breath. And, remember, Neville Chamberlain just hastened the second round with his elated announcement of "peace in our time"!

Disarming the Good Guys?

World leaders are calling for a revamp of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. But there is something history tells us about disarmament treaties that we must understand! BY RYAN MALONE

THE FIRST BIBLICAL EXAMPLE COMPARABLE TO A DISARMAMENT treaty is found in Genesis 34. Schechem, son of the Hivite King Hamor, "defiled" Jacob's daughter, Dinah. Hamor knew the wrath this evoked from Dinah's brothers, so he sought to appease them by entering into an agreement where Schechem married Dinah. He would pay any dowry; he would also allow the sons of Jacob to share the Hivite land and intermarry with them. Jacob's sons accepted this under the provision that all the Hivite males be circumcised.

When the Hivites agreed to this, they essentially "disarmed." While the men were sore and disabled from the circumcision, the sons of Jacob "came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males … and spoiled the city, because they had defiled their sister" (vv. 25, 27).

Ever since this example, treaties for disarmament have only benefited those who DIDN'T disarm and cursed those who trusted in such flimsy promises.

Laurence W. Beilenson's 1969 book *The Treaty Trap* studies the unreliability and frailty of treaties—including disarmament treaties—over a three-century period in U.S. and European affairs. Beilenson's book demonstrates that they do not work and are therefore usually worthless—and worse than worthless when nations rely on them.

One pattern in international relations is that provisions of any disarmament treaty "have usually been observed until the promising nation thought it had the strength to violate without serious consequences" (Beilenson).

Witness our current situation. For over 30 years, the main guarantee against the proliferation of nuclear weapons has been the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1970—which required its signatories to agree on just five nations that could possess nuclear weapons legally. This was dandy for those who believe that men are fundamentally good and will stand behind their promises. But what has been the reality?

Last year, Iran admitted violating the treaty for 18 years—though it insists it was for energy purposes and not for developing nuclear weapons. Also last year, North Korea announced it would simply withdraw from the treaty. For a while, Israel, India and Pakistan have been known to possess nuclear weapons. And now we see all the hype over Pakistan and its "renegade" scientist being let off the hook, despite spreading nuclear know-how to Libya, Iran, North Korea and who-knows-where-else.

The world is staring down the dark alley of the nuclear black market—and realizing that the NPT is not stopping the spread of nuclear weapons. So what do men do? They do as so many leaders have done through history—buy another promise to replace the broken one, without realizing that the new promise is just as unreliable as the old.

Today's discussions of an NPT overhaul include proposals by U.S. President George W. Bush, who wants to bargain with "those states that promise not to pursue nuclear weapons" by offering them "help in producing nuclear fuel for power generation" (*International Herald Tribune,* February 12). This is

JOE KLAMAR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Not worth the paper

Chinese and U.S. officials trade non-proliferation assurances.

Given these facts, we must agree with Eidelberg's realistic conclusion that so-called peace is "little more than a preparation for war."

Distrust Cries of "Peace" Joseph Stalin wrote in 1913, "When bourgeois diplomats prepare for war, they begin to shout very loudly about 'peace' and 'friendly relations.' A diplomat's words *must* contradict his deeds—otherwise, what sort of a diplomat is he? Words are one thing—deeds something entirely different. Fine words are a mask to cover shady deeds. A sincere diplomat is like dry water or wooden iron."

So many times throughout history, peace agreements were contrived by shrewd and often ruthless leaders expressly to ensnare other nations and mask their plans for war.

Eidelberg condenses Beilenson's research into two lessons: "First, there is no such thing as a 'peace process,' except for fools and scoundrels. … A second lesson is this: If you want peace, be prepared for war; if you want war, make concessions for peace. This unpleasant wisdom rubs against the principles and passions of democratic societies" (op. cit.).

Democratic nations easily fall into the trap of treaty reliance, believing as they do that nearly every person alive sincerely desires peace. But as John Jay, America's first chief justice, said, "[N]ations in general will make war whenever they have a prospect of getting anything by it." Many national leaders throughout history have believed that the ends always justify the means—even if, or especially if, the "means" is WAR. And not only that, they have deceitfully used "peace" as a snare for the trusting nations they have known will take the bait.

It's no wonder that author-essayist Midge Decter, who last November received one of America's highest honors for her literary achievements, wrote that peace is an evil word when applied to the affairs of nations. She asserts, "From the peace of Versailles to Chamberlain's 'peace in our time' … each of these declarations ended in what might otherwise have been avoidable slaughter. Not necessarily immediately and not necessarily directly, but slaughter all the same ….

"There is no such thing as 'making' peace. NATIONS WHO ARE FRIENDLY DO NOT NEED TO DO SO, AND NATIONS OR PEOPLE WHO ARE HOSTILES CANNOT DO SO. …

"To cry peace, peace, when there is no peace, as the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel taught us long ago, is not the expression of a hope. It is, on the contrary, a reckless toying with the minds and feelings of people …" (*Israel News,* Sept. 6, 2002).

Treaty-Reliance Often Leads to Destruction Not only is the mere existence of political promises and maneuvers toward "peace" a sign of impending doom, the fact that

a historic case of treaty-reliance.

History shows us just how reliable are such promises.

After World War I, the Allies imposed a disarmament treaty on Germany. The treaty was the most air-tight legal document among nations ever devised; the inspection and policing system was unmatched by any before it. But before long, believing Germany was disarming, everyone let their guard down. England and France demilitarized and composed another treaty to do away with the inspection process. Germany, however, was actually re-arming with Soviet help.

That's what disarmament treaties do. The "good guys" trust them—the "bad guys" ignore them. What you end up with is a situation such as where England and France, naively believing Germany was unarmed, let their armor rust and were ill-prepared for Germany's surprising military advances in the late 1930s.

Not all nations believe that treaties are binding. Beilenson wrote, "Neither Hitler's Germany nor Mussolini's Italy had the slightest compunction about breaking treaties." The Soviets believed in the theory that "treaties are made to be broken" (ibid.).

Even if certain nations don't ignore the treaties, they find sly ways around them. Germany abided by the official numbers it was allowed to have as a standing army—but it trained all those men to be officers. When the right time came, Germany was able to draft anyone fit for military service under a strong core of military leadership already in place.

The Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 was to limit Japan's naval development—but it left the country free to build its military in other categories. Japan abided by the treaty for a brief period, until it was ready to conquer China.

Beilenson knew, from his research, that a nuclear non-proliferation treaty would be a dangerous paper-chain to cling to. "Therefore, the wisdom of making such a treaty would reduce itself to a debate about whether the provisions for inspection and verification in the treaty were completely dependable" (ibid.). He adds that "the history of weapons also shows that whenever men have invented weapons, they have thereafter IMPROVED THEM. There is no way to remove nuclear knowledge from men's brains, or to prevent its transmission to other men. The knowledge will be further augmented by the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. With the advance in science, there are other methods of warfare that can be invented as deadly as nuclear weapons …" (ibid.; emphasis mine).

Beilenson says that a treaty can attempt to limit nuclear weapons, but what's to prohibit a rogue state from exploring other means of destruction? One diplomat said about today's nuclear situation, "Technology that was once classified is now more open, and more countries can get access" (*www.boston.com,* February 10). Can a mere piece of paper stop WMD from getting into fanatical hands?

Whatever men's efforts at stemming the spread of WMD, we know from Bible prophecy that the paper-chains they set up will not hold. Jesus Christ said that the final world war would be so grave that "no flesh" would be saved alive, unless those days were shortened.

Only through Christ's intervention, "[T]hose days shall be shortened" (Matt. 24:22). The only way man can achieve true, widespread disarmament is through enforcement by a superior power. We must not trust in men for the disarmament of the world—only the unbreakable Word of Almighty God!

At that time, according to Micah 4:3, Jesus Christ will "judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

so many modern politicians suffer from what Beilenson called the "disease of treaty-reliance" puts the world in exponentially more danger.

We live in a time when men are "spellbound by peace treaties," as Mr. Flurry has said (op. cit.). It seems people are, as Louis XIV was, "always ready to buy another promise to replace the broken one." However, Louis XIV "never learned that the new promise was as undependable as the one it replaced" (Beilenson, op. cit.). History shows that this naive reliance on precarious promises has engendered war and bloodshed on too many occasions.

In 1697, when Charles XII succeeded to the Swedish throne at age 15, he lacked political experience. Being a man of his word, he blindly assumed other rulers would be the same. "Throughout his short life, he suffered from treaty-reliance, which CONTRIBUTED TO HIS LOSS OF AN EMPIRE" (ibid.).

At the end of World War I, England and France trusted in the Treaty of Versailles to the point that they essentially disarmed—assuming Germany would abide by the settlement imposed on it. But Germany didn't disarm, despite numerous inspections supposedly verifying that it had. Why didn't the French remember Germany's treatment of the 1808 Franco-Prussian treaty whereby Prussia had agreed to maintain an army of only 42,000? In that instance, Europe learned two years later that Prussia was able to put nearly 200,000 men into the field!

"Ever since men grouped themselves in tribes, peace treaties have walked hand in hand with war."

—Laurence W. Beilenson

England's severe disease of treaty-reliance between the two world wars was evidenced not only by Chamberlain's peace pronouncement but by its military downsizing (and another treaty which actually led to INCREASED German naval power)—leading to the bloodshed of World War II and the threatened annihilation of Britain.

It was treaty-reliance that brought war to Russia: Stalin trusted Hitler. However, after Hitler's 1941 surprise attack on Russia, "Stalin was cured" of this disease, as Beilenson points out.

A Modern Disease Too With this background, it should not startle us that men, hopeful for "peace," are using its name in vain. What is truly startling is that our world is riddled with politicians who blindly feel they must solve international crises within "the legal straight jacket of treaties." As William Kintner said in the foreword to Beilenson's book, this "could JEOPARDIZE THE SURVIVAL OF NATIONS which believe that the role of law in domestic matters applies with equal force to foreign confrontations."

The "role of law in domestic matters" is different to international law in that international law is "enforced" by nations with *their own* self-interests at heart—they have to referee themselves, penalize themselves, or else just ignore the rules altogether. "[I]nternational law at best is only a contract among sovereign states, each with its own armed forces. If a contract between private citizens be broken, the contract has the ultimate force of the sheriff to carry out a judgment of the courts of the sovereign state. Breaches of international law, including the breaches of treaty, have no such remedy" (Beilenson, op. cit.).

Within a nation, especially within a republic, you have a government that somewhat benevolently and judiciously guards the rights of its citizens and enforces the laws and regulations of the federal government. On this level, there is a clear way to handle disputes. Not so in international relations. People have tried to create systems like the League of Nations and the United Nations to establish international laws, and they have tried to create international judicial systems like The Hague or the International Criminal Court—but these are all controlled by nations competing for power, or at the very least, acting in their OWN self-interest.

Germany's chancellor during World War I "echoed Frederick the Great and Bismarck by telling the Reichstag on Aug. 4, 1914: 'We are now in a state of necessity, and necessity knows no law'" (ibid.).

What good is international law if it cannot be enforced? When treaties are broken, what recourse does the world have in order to maintain peace and order? Rationally minded men have determined that the only solution is ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT—justly enforcing laws and rules upon the citizens of the world for the common good. But man has been unable to devise this type of system.

Still—as U.S. diplomat and historian George F. Kennan pointed out—men rely on "the legalistic-moralistic approach to international problems. … It is the belief that it should be possible to suppress the chaotic and dangerous aspirations of governments in the international field by the acceptance of some system of legal rules and restraints" (*American Diplomacy 1900-1950*).

When you understand human nature—that "the heart is deceitful above all things," as the Prophet Jeremiah said, and that "all men are liars," as King David said—you can see the folly of relying on the words of any leader, or relying on the fragile laws set up to dictate how competing nations must behave among one another. As Jeremiah also wrote, "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm …" (Jer. 17:5). David again said, "Put not your trust in princes …" (Ps. 146:3).

This trend of treaty-reliance will only get worse in nations too blind to learn from history—while other nations will use this weakness to their advantage.

There was a time when the U.S., for instance, relied very little on treaties or alliances. It had the national will to avoid them. For the first 150 years of its existence, the U.S. was able to secure power and influence with relatively few paper guarantees. Even after World War I, it refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. It typically opted for a policy of few political pledges. "This country fought the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Spanish-American War and World War I without alliance treaties" (Beilenson, op. cit.).

Since World War II, it has been a different story entirely. Even the current U.S. administration, though condemned for its "unilateral" actions in the Middle East, is seeking agreement and appeasement from its allies in a multiplicity of areas. Secretary of State Colin Powell calls it "A Strategy of Partnerships" (the title of his January/February 2004 article in *Foreign Affairs*). Powell believes that the "enlightened self-interest" of the American people "makes us partners with all those who cherish freedom, human dignity and peace." America believes that its fundamentally good nature (its "enlightened self-interest") will cause other nations to rally with it.

America is afflicted with the same disease that has infected many nations historically just before they faced immense peril. A case in point that shows how such alliances will ultimately work to Ameri-

ca's disadvantage is the support Washington gave to radical Islamic elements during the Cold War to stem the spread of communism in Asia and the Middle East. America rearmed Germany and Japan for similar reasons. Now, with the Soviet threat vanquished, Germany stands nearly unchallenged as the leading power in Europe, and America is fighting a politically exhausting war against the same Islamic elements it once supported.

Even today, in our increasingly interconnected world, Washington is fostering "unlikely alliances"—the only way it feels it can gain leverage over its enemies. It is bargaining with the nation it once labeled the bastion of state-sponsored terror, Iran, in order to attain stability in Iraq and leverage in the Middle East. It also is taking the heat for letting nuclear Pakistan off the hook—Washington argues it must remain on Islamabad's good side if it wants to send its forces into the country where Osama bin Laden is believed to be hiding.

Where Current Treaty-Reliance Is Leading The Bible prophesies the downfall of key nations in the end time—and DIRECTLY RELATES THOSE DOWNFALLS TO NAIVE DIPLOMACY. The nations to fall victim to this are the modern descendants of Israel—the U.S., Britain, Israel, and other parts of the Anglo-American world. (Request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for further explanation.)

God calls end-time Britain a "silly dove" in Hosea 7:11, because "they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria"—modern Germany. This precarious alliance is mentioned in Hosea 8:9 as well: "For they are gone up to Assyria, a wild ass alone by himself: Ephraim hath hired lovers."

God uses the term "lovers" to describe Israel's end-time allies. But He says, "Behold, I will raise up thy lovers against thee, from whom thy mind is alienated, and I will bring them against thee on every side" (Ezek. 23:22).

The Bible also says that Judah, or the Middle Eastern nation of Israel, will go to Assyria because of its "wound." As our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy* points out—this "wound" is actually the current "peace process." The peace process will end up *wounding* Israel; the Jewish nation will seek help from Germany; and that will seal its ULTIMATE DOOM as a nation!

Surely the prophet's words ring true: "We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and behold trouble!" (Jer. 8:15).

Final War Portends Real Peace The rash of diplomatic activity we see is only a sign that our world is in dire danger and turmoil. As is the nature of international relations, nations—led by selfish human beings—are jockeying for a secure position in a world on the brink of destruction. Indeed, Paul's prophecy will ring true: "[S]udden destruction cometh upon them … and they shall not escape" (1 Thes. 5:3).

But—and here is the ultimate and blessed irony—this final war is a sign that lasting PEACE is just around the corner.

If we read the context of Paul's prophecy in 1 Thessalonians, we see that it is about Christ's return. A few verses prior to chapter 5, Paul writes, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God …" (1 Thes. 4:16). Other prophecies show that Christ will wage the war to end all wars against a rebellious mankind, ushering in an everlasting age of peace.

This age will have no need for treaties—for ONE government will rule the globe: the Kingdom of God. Men will truly disarm under the perfect inspection of the King of kings. No more will power struggles, duplicitous politics or greed be tolerated.

Breach of treaty will become a thing of the past, "when men and nations become unselfish," as Beilenson said. Though Beilenson didn't believe this would happen, we know from Bible prophecy that God WILL CHANGE human nature. He will teach all men to live the way of *give*—of unselfish, outflowing concern.

"When men come to love their neighbors as themselves … armed might to protect will become superfluous, and so will treaties. The men and women who labor to hasten that happy day are to be blessed, but one need only read the daily paper to know that their success is not imminent" (ibid.).

But we DO know, beyond the gruesome times ahead, the success of lasting peace IS imminent!

"But of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. … But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day …" (1 Thes. 5:1-2, 4-5).

We don't have to be caught off guard by the pronouncements of "peace and safety." If we heed God's Word, we can be "children of light" and see clearly where world events are headed. And though they head toward unparalleled war and destruction, just beyond that comes the peace this world has longed for.

As Paul stated in 1 Thessalonians 4:18, "Wherefore comfort one another with these words." ■

Beyond politics
Anti-Israel sentiment is spreading worldwide; it is not limited to Palestinians burning Israeli flags.

REUTERS

The ENEMIES of JERUSALEM

Worldwide anti-Semitism is flourishing—and Jewish national morale is fading. In this hostile environment, the fate of Israel will be decided in the next few years. You can already know what that fate will be!

BY JOEL HILLIKER

HISTORY HAS BEEN HARD ON THE Jew. His race has been persecuted, exploited, exiled, enslaved, even massacred, by a series of alien civilizations.

Yet somehow, scattered across the globe, he has survived, even thrived. As Leo Tolstoy wrote in 1908, "The Jew is the emblem of eternity. He who neither slaughter nor torture of thousands of years could destroy, he who neither fire, nor sword, nor Inquisition was able to wipe off the face of the Earth …."

Today, however, the enemies of the Jews are growing again.

The State of Israel, founded in 1948 and surrounded by hostile nations, has become a lightning rod for anti-Jewish sentiment worldwide. In many cases, it has become impossible to distinguish political criticism from outright anti-Semitism. Israel is under attack not only for its policies, but for its existence.

The Arab and Islamic peoples that surround Israel appear to be the most dangerous foes of the Jew. But when we look beneath the surface, we see a problem stretching far beyond the borders of the Middle East—one more deadly than would first appear.

It is in this hostile climate that proposals are being put forward on how to bring peace to the region. The pressure for a solution is increasing, just as the national spirit and morale of the Jews is largely waning.

Within the next few years, the fate of Israel will be decided. Its very survival is at stake!

The trend in current events paints a grim picture. But only when we inform our perspective with the prophecies of the Bible can we recognize the truly enormous scale of the threat.

Almost 2,000 years ago Jesus Christ prophesied of what would befall Jerusalem just before the end of this age. Watch closely: The world is about to witness it!

"UN's Dirty Little Secret" Since the founding of the Jewish state, and especially since the latest Palestinian *intifada* began in the fall of 2000, the fervor of hatred within the Muslim world against Jews has grown worryingly intense.

"There is currently a culture of hatred that permeates books, magazines, newspapers, sermons, video-cassettes, the Internet, television and radio in the Arab Middle East, which has not been seen since the heyday of Nazi Germany," Robert Wistrich wrote in the *National Interest*. "Indeed, the dehumanizing images of Jews and Israel that are penetrating the body politic of Islam are sufficiently radical in tone and content to constitute a new 'warrant for genocide'" (Summer 2003).

This is truly alarming—but it is a mistake to think of judeophobia being a mostly Muslim problem. First, as Wistrich implied, history shows undeniably that the greatest persecutions of Jews have come at the hands of Western Christian society—tracing back clear to the first Roman Empire. In the Middle Ages, Jews actually preferred life under Arab conquest to Christian discrimination! Even today, much of the libelous language, poisonous stereotypes and conspiracy theories briskly circulating among Israel's enemies traces directly back to medieval Europe. It's as if the Muslims are plagiarizing from the Nazi playbook.

Outstanding cases of flagrant anti-Semitism have flared to the surface around the world—Jews assaulted, Jewish schools and synagogues defaced, Jewish cemeteries desecrated. But perhaps more disturbing than individual incidents on the street is the pattern of mistreatment the Jews have received within the exalted chambers of international governance.

To take the most prominent example, the United Nations, since granting Israel statehood in 1948, has become a mouthpiece for incredible hostility against the Jewish state.

In December last year, the UN failed to pass a ground-breaking draft resolution protecting victims of anti-Semitism. A *Wall Street Journal* article reporting on this decision ("The UN's Dirty Little Secret," Dec. 8, 2003) detailed the UN's repeated failures to defend persecuted Jews. For example, a 2003 resolution combating defamation of religions excluded anti-Semitism because it was

considered racial, not religious, discrimination—yet, a 1965 treaty on *racial* discrimination omitted anti-Semitism on the grounds that it was "out of place." And the infamous 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism in South Africa, rather than condemning anti-Semitism, actually singled out Israel in a draft resolution as being guilty of genocide, ethnic cleansing and apartheid.

Such examples are plenteous. Last November, "a resolution condemning terrorist attacks on Israeli children failed to make it through the General Assembly while one on Palestinian children was adopted with only four states opposed. Israel was forced to withdraw its resolution because Egyptian amendments deleting 'Israeli' before every mention of the word 'children' were guaranteed an automatic UN majority" (ibid.). Israel has also been repeatedly attacked by the UN Commission on Human Rights (incidentally, under the chairmanship of nations such as Libya). "The commission went so far as to affirm, last April 15, the legitimacy of suicide bombing against Israelis, or in judgment-free UN-speak, 'all available means, including armed struggle'" (*U.S.News & World Report,* Nov. 3, 2003).

For over four decades, Israel has been the only UN member deprived of representation on the UN Human Rights Commission, the Security Council, the World Court, UNICEF, and the Economic and Social Council. Simply put, the UN's treatment of Israel has been woefully unjust. The United Nations essentially has given the stamp of legitimacy to anti-Israelism.

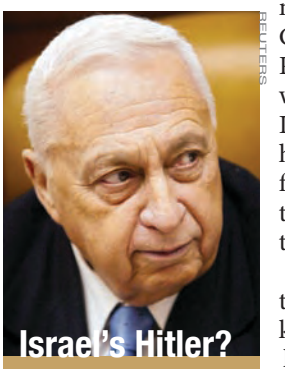
Remember these facts as we proceed. Because the UN, throttled by enemies of Israel and incapable of impartiality, is one of the entities floating proposals on how to solve Israel's problems.

Europe's Anti-Israelism As the historical fountainhead of anti-Semitism, Europe has much to be ashamed of. For many years after World War II, it remained publicly circumspect in its treatment of Jews. But that time is over—and the Jewish community should be concerned.

A majority of Europeans now say they are tired of Holocaust remorse. According to a June 27, 2002, survey from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), 58 percent of Germans, 57 percent of Spaniards, 56 percent of Austrians and 52 percent of Swiss believe "Jews still talk too much about the Holocaust." Other polls show old prejudices and suspicions creeping their way back into mainstream European thought.

Sadly, as the Arab-Israeli conflict persists, a growing number of Europeans seem to believe that the Jews must be at fault. A poll in October last year conducted among each of the EU's member nations presented a list of 15 countries and asked, "[T]ell me if in your opinion it presents or not a threat to peace in the world." The country that received the most yes responses (59 percent) was not North Korea, not Iran, not Syria. It was the only Westernized, democratic country in the Middle East—Israel. Rather than be surprised to see such attitudes coming out of a continent still overshadowed by the history of the Holocaust, perhaps we should acknowledge the consistency in the pattern.

In a well-documented piece called "Anti-Americanism and Anti-Semitism: A New Frontier of Bigotry," the American Jewish Committee's Alvin H. Rosenfeld tracks several unambiguously anti-Semitic trends, particularly within Germany and France, and draws the following conclusion: "In the Muslim world, Jew-hatred is now pervasive, but in Europe and elsewhere, anti-Semitisms of every imaginable kind—political, social, cultural, theological, economic—are no longer held in check by the taboos that have restrained them in recent years but circulate openly and broadly" (*www.ajc.org*).


REUTERS

Israel's Hitler?

Ariel Sharon has been coarsely attacked by the European press and public.

This new openness is being noticed. It was featured on the cover of *U.S. News.* It has been highlighted recently in several prominent analytical journals such as the *National Interest* and the *Spectator.* It even prompted the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, at the request of the U.S. and the ADL, to host a conference last June specifically addressing European anti-Semitism.

Mark Strauss wrote this in *Foreign Policy:* "This new anti-Semitism is a kaleidoscope of old hatreds shattered and rearranged into random patterns at once familiar and strange. It is the medieval image of the 'Christ killing' Jew resurrected on the editorial pages of cosmopolitan European newspapers. It is the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement refusing to put the Star of David on their ambulances. It is Zimbabwe and Malaysia—nations nearly bereft of Jews—warning of an international Jewish conspiracy to control the world's finances. It is neo-Nazis donning checkered Palestinian kaffiyehs and Palestinians lining up to buy copies of *Mein Kampf"* (November-December 2003).

Strauss documented how members of the far left and far right are finding common ground against their common enemy. All elements of the political spectrum have found refuge in "what French Jewish leader Roger Cukierman calls an anti-Semitic 'brown-green-red alliance' among ultra-nationalists, the populist green movement, and communism's fellow travelers" (ibid.). Each of these groups puts a fresh face on a different form of classic judeophobia: Jews being usurers, controlling the world economy, sabotaging national culture, being loyal only to fellow Jews, being bloodthirsty colonialists, using the blood of Christian children in their Passover pastries, poisoning wells and spreading plague. Interestingly, though these hateful stereotypes are surfacing around the world, their roots all trace back historically to Europe.

As Strauss mentioned, the European press has not kept itself clean of this ugly hate-fest. *U.S.News* reported on a story in the French weekly *Le Nouvel Observateur* "alleging that Israeli soldiers raped Palestinian women so that their relatives would kill them to preserve family honor" (op. cit.). *Foreign Policy* cited a French activist who "told a reporter that the Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, was responsible for anti-Semitic attacks in France in order to distract attention from its government's actions in the occupied territories" (op. cit.). The *Guardian* of England wrote that "Israel has no right to exist" (Jan. 3, 2001).

Rosenfeld has followed the depictions in the German press of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon over the past few years. Sharon has been regularly demonized "as a 'bull,' a 'bulldozer,' a 'warmonger' and a 'slaughterer.' He has been compared to Hitler and Nero and said to be 'Israel's highest-ranking arsonist.' Other references peg him as a 'political pyromaniac,' an ungainly 'old war criminal,' a 'right-wing extremist,' a 'warhorse' and 'catastrophe personified.' … He is also described as being 'politically

deranged' and thirsty for Palestinian blood. (According to *Die Welt,* 'a lot of blood clings to his hands, starting from his Kibiya days in the 1950s, to Sabra and Shantila, up to his most recent provocation in the mosque in 2000')"—implying that Sharon, not the Palestinian terrorists, is responsible for this latest round in the *intifada* (op. cit.).

All of this hate-mongering in print has its violent counterpart on European streets. The last two years in particular have seen notable rises in anti-Semitic incidents across Europe: regular vandalism, arson and assault against Jewish targets. Two representative examples: Last November, a 65th anniversary Holocaust ceremony commemorating Kristallnacht in Vienna was disrupted by protestors waving Palestinian flags and yelling anti-Israel slogans. And *U.S.News* related a recent incident in Berlin where a synagogue was spray-painted with the words "six million is not enough."

This is not political criticism. This is racist warmongering.

One of the most perverse and disturbing trends within anti-Israel expression is the frequent, cavalier comparisons being made between the Jews and the Nazis. Worldwide at "antiwar" protests and rallies, Ariel Sharon is compared with Adolf Hitler, and Israeli flags are waved replacing the Star of David with the swastika. These actions illustrate not only the intensity, but also the irrationality, of some of the scorn being heaped on Israel.

Equating Israel's efforts to protect itself against Palestinian terrorism with the systematic torture and murder by Hitler's regime of millions of Jews in an effort to exterminate their race demonstrates an embarrassingly warped perspective that should have no place in civilized society. It is beyond perverse. It "is the basest form of Holocaust revisionism," wrote Mark Strauss, "sending the message that the only 'solution' to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is nothing less than the complete destruction of the Jewish state" (op. cit.).

Clearly, THE NAZI SPIRIT IN EUROPE WAS NEVER COMPLETELY ERADICATED. There is a sinister spirit afoot that should concern us all!

Where is it leading?

For the answer, let's take a look at a prophecy Jesus Christ spoke and see how it is already in its early stages of being fulfilled.

"Abomination of Desolation" During Jesus Christ's ministry, His disciples asked, "[W]hat will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?" (Matt. 24:3, Revised Standard Version). Jesus didn't dismiss the idea that the world as we know it would come to an end. No—He responded by laying out a specific set of signs that Christians should vigilantly watch for (found in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21). He concluded with the words, "*Watch* ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to *escape* all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

Clearly, the Nazi spirit in Europe was never completely eradicated. There is a sinister spirit afoot that should concern us all.

One third of the world's population considers itself Christian. So it should hardly seem unusual or unorthodox to take Jesus at His word. Do you?

One of the signs of imminent global calamity Christ gave was this: "And when ye shall see JERUSALEM COMPASSED WITH ARMIES, then know that THE DESOLATION THEREOF IS NIGH" (v. 20). The parallel account in Matthew 24 calls this "the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION" (v. 15; see also Dan. 12:11). Jesus said this sign should affect His disciples so deeply, they should RUN when they see it (Matt. 24:16-18).

Why? Because, according to Christ, Jerusalem's encirclement by foreign armies presages "GREAT TRIBULATION, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be"—that is, *unparalleled worldwide devastation* (v. 21). "And except those days should be shortened, there should NO FLESH BE SAVED [*protected,* or *saved alive*] …" (v. 22).

Jesus expected His disciples to *understand* this sign (v. 15)—to know specifically what to be watching for. Do you? Are you heeding Christ's command to *watch and pray*—so you can be accounted worthy to ESCAPE?

If you are, you will realize that EVENTS ARE RAPIDLY BUILDING TOWARD THE TIME OF THIS ABOMINATION. Already, the enemies of Jerusalem are encroaching—tightening the noose around that ancient city. Most people today will be alive to SEE it—*armies, plural,* enclosing Jerusalem!

International Force in Israel We must allow Christ's words to aid our perspective as we monitor the demand internationally for a solution to the conflict within Israel. Do you realize that, for some years now, the idea of foreign armies entering the country and *imposing* peace has been gaining momentum? Can you understand the significance of this development?

Several prominent parties agree on the need to surround Israel with an international peacekeeping force. Kofi Annan, the UN's secretary general, vigorously supports an armed peacekeeping force to break up the war within Israel. The European Union has long talked about setting up an international force in Jerusalem. The French foreign minister, Dominique de Villepin, mentioned the option of sending an EU peacekeeping force to do the job. The BBC reported on April 8, 2002, on Germany's considering sending Bundeswehr soldiers into Israel to de-escalate the Arab-Jew conflict. "Particularly because of its past, Germany has a special responsibility for peace in the Middle East," it said.

According to the Middle East Newsline, even the U.S. has considered approving an international force to stop the war. "We're not talking about another U.S. military deployment," an official was quoted as saying. "Instead, we're discussing a NATO-type heavily armed combat force *that would be based mostly on troop contributions from Europe.* There has been some discussions and positive feedback from some of our European friends" (Aug. 27, 2003; emphasis mine throughout).

One of the most prominent plans is to "Europeanize" or "internationalize" the Jewish state. In June of 2000, Israel was granted Associate Member status in the EU. Then, last year, during Italy's tenure as EU president, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi raised the prospect of eventual full membership for Israel. Bible prophecy shows this will never happen, but the fact that it was proposed is telling. Certainly Rome would like to gain control over Jerusalem, the Holy City. The pope himself has made proposals of this sort from time to time.

The problem is, NONE OF THESE ENTITIES TRULY HAS ISRAEL'S INTERESTS AT HEART. They all stand discredited, riddled internally with anti-Israelism,

transparently working against Israel, incurably compromised as potential sources of genuine help to the Jews!

And this fact makes Christ's prophecy about the "abomination that makes desolate" that much more poignant.

The *Trumpet* has often said that when Christ's words are placed in context of other Bible prophecies (particularly Dan. 11:40-41), it becomes clear that these armies surrounding Jerusalem will not be Arab or Muslim. As vicious as the rhetoric within the Islamic world is getting, as many terrorist attacks as they commit, as much as their efforts may grind down the Jews' will to fight, their offensive against Israel will not culminate in a complete besiegement of Jerusalem.

No—these soldiers in Christ's prophecy will in fact be carrying the flags of the Jews' historical arch-enemy, *Europe!*

Europe's Ambition The fact—supported by history, current events and biblical prophecy—is that EUROPE WANTS TO CONTROL JERUSALEM.

Having this Bible-based understanding has given the *Trumpet* a clear-eyed view of the situation for many years. Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry wrote back in December 1996, after a pro-Palestinian speech by French President Jacques Chirac, "[T]his is not just a serious slap at Israel. IT'S ALSO A STRONG MOVE AGAINST THE ISRAEL-AMERICAN AXIS. IT'S A POWER MOVE TO TAKE OVER THE PEACE PROCESS FOR EUROPE'S GREAT BENEFIT—at the expense of the U.S. and the Jews. The European Union is moving to be the heavyweight in the Middle East.

"Europe is moving not only to be a co-sponsor in the peace process—they want to take control of it!"

Already they are positioning themselves to do just that. Europe would like nothing more than to implement the "solution" to the present conflict. But that "solution" will result in the demise of the Jewish state!

Naturally, Israel has tended to regard the Continent with some suspicion—as well it should. But as the situation drags and Israelis grow in despair, this mistrust will give way to desperation. (Read the chapter "Judah's Deadly Wound" in our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy* for more information.)

We must see that the anti-Semitism cropping up around the world, especially in Europe, is not a fringe problem. It is a symptom of a deep sickness that is about to explode into a fevered nightmare.

An Oct. 28, 2003, DEBKA*file* article, "Eurocrats and NATOcrats Plan Israel's Non-Future," quoted a "highly placed British intelligence official" with ties to NATO as saying, "Some people in the West have come to the conclusion that *the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 was a mistake.*" This official spoke of a plan for evicting the Jews from the Mideast, and "dropped a warning of SCHEMES BEING SPUN IN SECRET IN BRUSSELS to delegitimize the Israeli democracy, whittle away its independence and EVENTUALLY BRING THE STATE INTO ECLIPSE."

The whole world is about to see those secret schemes become established foreign policy within a united Europe. Christ's prophecy is sure! "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be LED AWAY CAPTIVE into all nations: and JERUSALEM SHALL BE TRODDEN DOWN OF THE GENTILES, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24). "[I]t is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months" (Rev. 11:2). This is not just one little city being besieged. Those who don't die in this attack will be TAKEN CAPTIVE AS SLAVES! Other prophecies link this catastrophic event with the simultaneous besiegement of all Israel—and America and Britain! Request *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to study the full extent of the destruction about to be unleashed.

This is a shocking reality the whole world must face. Events are already bearing out the truth in Jesus Christ's prophecy. In the short-term, we can expect to witness a brutal escalation of anti-Semitic rhetoric and violence. We can also expect increasing efforts on Europe's part to reconcile with Israel—efforts to legitimize its status as a peacekeeper and a savior. (Read "The Counterfeit Peacemaker" in our August 2001 issue online at *www.theTrumpet.com.*) We can expect more failure to establish peace, more violence, more terrorism. We can expect the situation to grow more desperate, and the Jews to fail in hope.

But trace Christ's prophecy through (Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21), and you will see that these calamities will climax in a glorious end! Luke 21:27-28 reads, "And then shall they see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY. And *when these things begin to come to pass,* then LOOK UP, and LIFT UP YOUR HEADS; for YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH." ■

Breaking the Brotherhood

Israel is a tiny country surrounded by enemies. Perhaps the biggest weapon in its arsenal keeping those enemies at bay is its alliance with America.

But how strong is that alliance? Generally, it seems to be carved in granite. Lately, however, on a few notable occasions, Washington, probably in an effort to appear more impartial, has made some less-than-friendly gestures. A recent, notable example was its Nov. 26, 2003, reduction by $290 million of loan guarantees to Israel. This move was intended to protest Israel's ongoing settlement activity and building of a security wall along Gaza and the West Bank. (Incidentally, statistics indicate the partially completed wall, built to prevent homicide bombers and other terrorists from infiltrating Israel, is having its intended effect—saving Jewish lives.)

This raises an interesting question.

For many Arabs, the number-one reason to hate America is its support for Israel. As the U.S. war against terrorism continues to yield high bills, a steady body count and a booming crop of anti-Americanism worldwide, is it possible that Americans will begin to think, Why are we making ourselves such a target over that little country?

Prophecy suggests such an eventuality.

In Zechariah 11:14 is a prophecy that God would "break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel." This may well refer to a future rift between America (biblical Israel) and the Jewish state (Judah). If America turned its back on the Jews, it would leave little Israel isolated and vulnerable.

This may be the scenario that hastens half of Jerusalem being taken (Zech. 14:2), which will lead to Israel's downfall. Request our booklet Jerusalem in Prophecy to better understand these future events.

GETTY IMAGES

Friends forever?

The strength of the Sharon-Bush, Israel-U.S. relationship is being tested.

EUROPE

Needing NATO

Why NATO? Is it still relevant? Founded in 1949, the original purpose of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was to contain the Soviet Union. When the Cold War ended, Russia became a limited partner in NATO. This would seem to negate its purpose. However, NATO still functions for two basic reasons.

First, Europe needs NATO as a source of military power—specifically, access to American technology and weapons. However keen Europe may be to operate as an independent military power, it simply doesn't yet have the capability. The Balkans operation in 1999 serves as a perfect example. The U.S. initially opposed the action, but, giving in to European wishes, ended up supporting it both militarily and financially. The Balkan offensive could not have happened without U.S. support.

GETTY IMAGES

STILL IN ACTION **For the fledgling EU, NATO provides a military arm; for the U.S. it offers a great deal of influence in Europe.**

Second, the U.S. needs NATO as a source of geopolitical power. As the guiding force behind NATO, the U.S. would lose leverage in Europe if the alliance were to dissolve. The U.S. is seeking to maintain influence in Europe by pushing NATO's expansion to include Eastern European nations—some of the same nations set to join the EU in May.

Though it may seem this mutual dependence on NATO will ensure its continued existence, Europe's growing defense initiatives will ultimately spell the end of the alliance. As soon as Europe is able to operate on its own militarily, it will flee NATO, or simply absorb its structure into the developing Euroforce.

No matter how much the U.S. may wish to hold on to this power structure, ultimately, Europe must be cooperative for that to happen. Both the Balkans intervention and, more recently, the divergence of opinion concerning Iraq underline the fundamental differences between the EU's mentality and Washington's mentality that will eventually lead to NATO becoming obsolete. As time goes on, trade spats, military disagreements and other conflicts between these two world powers will inevitably increase.

While using NATO's military strength, the EU is developing its own defense force—with a rapid reaction force currently of 60,000 men and a satellite center in Torrejon, Spain. This is only a small beginning, but the seeds for growth are there. Once Europe is able to stand on its own militarily, NATO will be needed no more.

EU Divided Over Croatia's Membership Bid

Croatia has its sights set on full membership of the EU. This would complete its transformation from the ethnically riven, economically damaged, war-torn state of the 1990s to a stable, modernizing partner to its EU neighbors. But Croatia's EU path is not without obstacles.

Ratification of Croatia's Stability and Association Agreement (which requires unanimous agreement among current EU states), a preliminary step, has been stymied by the refusal of Britain and the Netherlands to support it. These two countries insist Croatia completely cooperate with the International War Crimes Tribunal in the wanted arrest and extradition of former Croatian General Ante Gotovina—wanted for his alleged role in the killing of Serb civilians in 1995.

TRUMPET MAP

Still, Croatia appears well on its way to EU membership, with the strong support of powerhouse Germany (with whom Croatia has strong economic ties) as well as its Catholic brothers in the Vatican. Britain and the Netherlands appear to be going very much against the flow with their refusal to overlook the Gotovina case.

The Balkans have always been vital to the stability of Europe—instability there ignited World War I. Germany and the Vatican's recognition of Croatia as an independent state in 1991 helped break up the former Yugoslavia and gave the EU an unprecedented foothold in this vital region. Catholic Croatia's bid for EU membership will only further EU plans to control what has historically been a volatile area and a vital crossroads for European trade.

GER

Leadership Crisis


REUTERS

SCHRÖDER

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder announced in February that he was stepping down as chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in March—giving the post to Franz Müntefering, the SDP parliament group leader. This is an "unprecedented" move for a German chancellor, according to London's *Financial Times*.

Schröder reportedly handed over his post because of a desire to concentrate more heavily on his reform policies. He said he was confident in the maneuver, stating, "I don't fear there will be any loss of authority" (*Guardian*, London, February 7).

However, German political observers think just the opposite. Speculation has already ensued that his chancellorship is "in grave doubt" and that he will be asked to step down before the

IRAN

Power to Iran's Conservatives

The conservative victory in Iran's parliamentary elections on February 20 will sharpen the ambition of religious conservatives in the government, stirring concern in the West. The elections dealt a major blow to the reform movement stirring in Iran in recent years, which called for a more secular and moderate government. Parliament's new profile consists of "a hard-line core," with "apparent gains for lawmakers holding atomic science backgrounds" (Associated Press, February 22).

The lopsided victory was due in large part to the clerics' unceremoniously disqualifying hundreds of reform candidates from the elections. The EU called the elections a "setback for democracy."

The U.S. has tended toward a "wait and see" policy on Iran, seeing the reform movement as the promise of a better future for the Islamic state. But the reality is that Iran, taken over by revolution 25 years ago, has not been able to reform itself.

Now, NPR reported, "With the conservative parliament and conservative clerical leaders, Iran's government will have less conflict and may have more room to act" (February 26). This presages a consolidation of Iran's political power and falls in step with what the *Trumpet* has been saying about Iran for years (request our free booklet *The King of the South*).

The EU and the United States are equally concerned that the conservative monopoly on Iranian politics will further Tehran's pursuit of a nuclear program.

Watch for religion to play a larger role as radical Islam dictates Iranian foreign policy—at the same time that Catholicism takes stronger root in Europe.

REUTERS

VOTE RIGHT **Ayatollah casts his vote in the country's parliamentary elections, February 20.**

MANY

Brewing

next election, in 2006 (ibid.). His approval ratings have dropped to a mere 25 percent in recent weeks.

Angela Merkel, party opposition leader of the Christian Democrats, said, "This is the beginning of the end of the chancellor, and the beginning of the end of his government. It is a black day for Germany" (ibid.). Schröder's decision to step down is only adding fuel to the fire of failing economic policies and a government increasingly in disarray.

Where will Germany look for help? While Schröder's government and economic policies are in shambles, Bavarian Premier Edmund Stoiber's star continues to rise as he leads the most table and progressive state economy in Germany. For seven years, this magazine has pointed to Stoiber as a prime candidate for the chancellor's job (*Trumpet,* June 1996). As Schröder loses power, watch Germany ripen for revolutionary leadership to take over.

Iran Shows Anti-U.S. Colors

Iran hosted a 10-day anti-U.S./anti-Israel conference in February—"the largest meeting of hard-line Islamic groups regarded by the United States as terrorists, according to informed sources in Tehran" (*www.iran-press-service.com;* February 6).

Iranian officials said the conference "would discuss strategy against the United States and its allies, particularly Israel …. [O]rganizations such as the Hamas, the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, the Iran-backed Lebanese Hezbollah, and al-Qaeda allies like the Ansar el Eslam would attend the meeting …" (ibid.).

While Iran overtly demonstrates its hatred for the U.S.—being the "king of state-sponsored terrorism," as our editor in chief has said—Washington insists on negotiating with it for leverage in the Mideast.

RUSSIA

Putin Legacy to Live on?

As the March presidential elections in Russia draw near, it becomes more apparent that the facade of democracy in Russia will soon fade away.

The run-up to the election has been a spectacle, complete with a disappearing and reappearing candidate and President Vladimir Putin's sudden dismissal of his prime minister and cabinet at the end of February.

ALEXEY PANOV/ AFP/GETTY

PUTIN

Putin has been favored to win, especially since the United Russia party, which supports Putin, gained control of Russia's parliament in elections last December—a majority that allows it to make constitutional changes.

In early February, Russia's parliament considered extending the presidential term to seven years and increasing the number of terms a president could serve. (Currently, Russia's constitution allows a president only two consecutive four-year terms.)

Though the Duma decided against the extension, and Putin publicly stated that he was against the idea (albeit saying a five-year term would be acceptable), Russia's leader may have other plans to extend his influence past a second term.

In a speech to campaign supporters, Putin noted that he would, as a responsible president, choose a successor at the end of his second term; thus, if the people of Russia supported that candidate, there would be a "continuation of what there is now" (*Moscow Times,* February 13). Putin clearly does not want his influence to end—even if required to leave at the end of this term.

For a democracy, which Russia claims to be, this one man wields enormous power. December's parliamentary elections, according to many in the West, were "free, but not fair" (*www.stratfor.com,* February 10). It seems March's elections will have a similar flavor. Putin has reaped the benefit of extensive media coverage. Referring to Putin's first campaign speech, one independent political analyst commented: "[S]tylistically, it's 'back in the USSR'" (*Moscow Times,* op. cit.).

Putin's recent political maneuverings provide further evidence of the totalitarian nature of Russian government once again emerging. Refer to Gerald Flurry's cover story in the January 2004 *Trumpet* for more details.

JAPAN

Military in Iraq: 2 Birds, 1 Stone

Earlier this year, after receiving approval by the Japanese Diet, Japanese Self Defense Forces (SDF) landed on the southern plains of Iraq—in the most overt military move by Japan since World War II. In doing so, Japan killed two birds with one stone. First, it was a significant move toward fulfilling its intention to become a military power. Second, economically it was a necessary step toward securing its oil interests.

KAZUHIRO NOGI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

RISING **Japan's support in Iraq shows its military's readiness for offensive action—especially when oil is on the line.**

Article 9 of Japan's constitution—composed largely by U.S. General Douglas MacArthur shortly after the atomic dust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki dissipated—prohibited Japan from maintaining a military.

Today, however, not only does Japan maintain "land, sea and air forces" (under the title of "self-defense forces"), but with its military now deployed in Iraq, Japanese troops are operating in a combat zone for the first time since World War II.

Two years ago, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi asserted that the Japanese constitution should be changed. View Japan's deployment of SDF to Iraq in light of Koizumi's drive to rewrite Article 9 of the constitution, and it is readily apparent that Japan—with the second-largest navy and some of the largest military spending in the world—is poised to be a major military player on the world scene.

Then there are Japan's oil interests. Japan imports 99 percent of its oil, 88 percent of which comes from the Middle East. For this reason, stability in that region, particularly in Iraq, is crucial to Japan's industry and economy. Prolonged disruption to Japan's oil supply from the Middle East has the potential to seriously destabilize its economy. Surely by committing troops to Iraq, Japan expects to garner some measure of influence or control over Iraqi oil fields and oil contracts.

What's more, Washington's policy unwittingly encouraged this expectation. "Washington has, in effect, bluntly informed everyone that if countries want to protect—or even have—commercial interests in Iraq, they will need to station forces there …" (*www.stratfor.com,* January 26; emphasis ours).

Washington is supporting a move by Tokyo that will strengthen Japan both economically and militarily—and set a precedent for bolder moves in the future. Within sight is the resurrection of Japan's military might which the *Trumpet* has consistently predicted.

- **Half of Japan's energy comes from oil.**
- **Japan imports 99 percent of its oil.**
- **88 percent of Japan's oil is imported from the Middle East.**
- **Japan pays $1 more a barrel than Europe and U.S., because of transport costs.**

Japan, Iran Oil Deal Irks U.S.

In February, Japan and Iran inked a $2 billion deal to exploit one of the largest oil fields in the Middle East. Japan's Inpex Corp., Toman Corp. and Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. will have a 75 percent stake in the production of the Azadegan oil field, whose output is estimated to reach 260,000 barrels per day by 2012. "The project is one of the largest Iran has signed with a foreign country since the Islamic Revolution of 1979" (BBC News, February 19).

Tokyo proceeded with this deal despite resistance from Washington. When the deal was signed, a U.S. State Department spokesman said he was "disappointed"—"Our policy has been … to oppose petroleum investment there."

This collaboration between the greatest state sponsor of terrorism and one of the U.S.'s strongest allies shows, at the very least, that energy concerns often override political alliances.

The benefits both parties stand to make from the deal will contribute to Iran's rising influence in the Middle East and Japan's independence from the United States. No wonder Washington was concerned about the deal.

"Japan is the world's second-largest oil consumer and Iran is the second-largest oil producer in OPEC, so we are actually two sides of the same coin."

—Bijan Zanganeh, Iranian Oil Minister

ASIA

Korea Nuke Talks: China Is Host, Winner

A second round of talks over North Korea's nuclear weapons program began in Beijing on February 25. The goal for the talks, which involved the U.S., China, Japan, Russia and the Koreas, was to create a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. The U.S. and North Korea have been at a deadlock since last August when the first round of talks failed.

China has played an instrumental role in securing the six-way talks, and the U.S. is thanking China for it. When asked about the upcoming talks, John Bolton, U.S. undersecretary for arms control and international security, "appeared to defer to China, praising it for bringing North Korea back to the negotiating table and saying the U.S. merely nudged Pyongyang forward by not setting preconditions" (*Straits Times,* February 17).

Beijing holds tremendous power in the region. Though February's talks ended in failure (another round is scheduled for June), China actually has the leverage to make Pyongyang straighten up—as it is North Korea's primary source for food and energy.

China is in the driver's seat of this showdown, and is willing to bide its time for a long-term solution, slowly edging the U.S. out of the region.

REUTERS

SUMMIT **Negotiators in Beijing try to resolve nuclear standoff.**

ECONOMY

Dollar Losing Its Luster

ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

CONCERNED **Financial representatives from seven major national economies meet in Boca Raton, Fla., to discuss the dollar's woes.**

Why do Americans still have it so good? In spite of unprecedented debt burdens caused by budget deficits and trade deficits the likes of which the world has never seen, Americans are still prosperous. Why?

The debt load the U.S. carries would in most countries have caused an economic crisis by now. The U.S., however, continues to finance its deficits with foreign cash flows. Foreign investors now own about 38 percent of U.S. Treasury securities, for example—more than twice the percentage of just a decade ago.

In the short run, foreign investment increases the amount of capital available, so the cost of capital is lowered—enabling corporations to invest in projects that otherwise would not be profitable. This increases productivity, employment and gross domestic product. Consequently, Americans are better off—for now—as the U.S. has been able to muster an ever-greater share of world savings to finance its consumption, economic growth, standard of living and military expansion.

But what about the long run? What if foreign investment into the U.S. starts to dry up?

The U.S. dollar's value is declining—the main topic at February's G-7 summit in Florida. While this has immediate benefit for U.S. exports, if it continues to slide some investors may pull out in search of better returns and more security elsewhere. As this happens, the Federal Reserve will be pressured to raise interest rates in order to keep dollar investments—especially government bonds—attractive to foreign investors. Higher interest rates may then lead to sharp declines in equity markets and provoke a crisis for those who carry debt that is manageable only because of low interest rates.

So what? you might ask. *The economy has gone through cycles before. And foreigners have historically invested in the U.S. and the dollar because it's always been the best place to be, right?* Maybe, but two things have changed that are gargantuan in scope.

First, the U.S. has accumulated unprecedented levels of debt—personal, corporate and national—which has prompted the International Monetary Fund to warn recently that foreign debt of such record-breaking proportions threatens the financial stability of the entire global economy!

When the U.S. stock market crashed in 1987, America was not even a net debtor nation, let alone to the extent it is now. The next major downturn in the economic cycle could lead to personal and corporate bankruptcies, home foreclosures, unemployment and depression like nothing we've seen in recent history—*especially* if foreign investment dries up.

But why would it?

Because of the second gargantuan change: The U.S. is not the only game in town anymore. An alternative for foreign investors is rapidly developing. Over the past two years, East Asian banks have already partly divested from dollars and invested more heavily in the euro.

In the last year, the euro has surged 22 percent against the dollar. According to *Business Week Online* (January 26), the assumption of most is that the dollar will continue to fall, especially against the euro.

Middle East energy-producing countries price their oil and gas exports in U.S. dollars but import large quantities of goods from Europe that are priced in euros. Russia also receives most of its revenues in U.S. dollars, but its costs are largely in euros. How long will countries be able to sustain those kinds of losses before they dump the dollar in favor of the euro?

Foreign investment in the U.S. is on shaky ground. America's foreign "lovers" have bailed out the U.S. time and again, but there's a new icon on the rise in Europe. As the euro becomes more attractive, America will be left holding the bag of debts it has accumulated. That will lead to catastrophe, because in the long run, simply put, superpowers are not built on debt.

IN BRIEF

EUROPE

EU on Moon, Mars Soon?

Stratfor, February 5

"[T]he head of the European Space Agency (ESA) program for long-term exploration of the solar system said on February 3 that the ESA intends to launch a manned mission to Mars. The proposed program—which will cost $1.9 billion over the next five years—will employ a 'stepping stone' approach incorporating robotic exploration and a manned mission to the moon in 2024. The ESA expects to have a man on Mars in 30 years."

Palestine Wants in EU

EUobserver.com, February 9

Palestinian foreign minister Nabil Shaath hopes that Palestine could eventually become a member of the EU. "Mr. Shaath was reacting to a suggestion by German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer that the EU should have a free-trade zone with the whole of the Mediterranean area." This has been interpreted as a dangling carrot to reignite the peace process—something Europe would love to initiate.

ASIA

U.S. Uniting Asia?

NewsInsight.net, February 17

"The United States is planning tectonic shifts in foreign policy in Southeast Asia, which will include the merger of the two Koreas and the return of Taiwan to China. … Diplomats said that while the U.S. is constitutionally obligated to protect Taiwan from aggression, there is growing realization too that Taiwan cannot remain independent for long, and therefore should be rejoined with mainland China."

This article begins our series on the Ten Commandments. Be sure to read and study all the scriptures quoted. BY DENNIS LEAP

The First and Great Commandment

America and Britain are at the forefront of international news. Do our peoples understand what is happening? It is *not* good news. Negative headlines are turning the world against us. A recent poll shows that many nations see America and Britain as aggressors that threaten the peace and stability of the world. Some accuse us of a Hitler-style foreign policy.

Our world has changed drastically over the last several decades. Several powerful nations are laying down new rules for the game of international politics. America, Britain and our fellow nations of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Israel are in real trouble. There is a cause. What is it? Will our peoples listen when it is explained to them? The truthful answer is no. But you can know the cause—and learn from it—*if* you are willing to open your mind and take an honest look at what you are reading.

There is a lesson our nations will be taught forcibly over the next few months and years. God is going to teach it personally. It will be harsh and difficult. Yet our nations will learn!

It gets even more positive. The entire world will benefit from our mistakes. Through our tribulation, the entire world will also learn the same vital lesson.

Descendants of Israel Regular readers know that the *Trumpet* magazine supports the biblical truth that the peoples of modern-day Israel (including the U.S., Britain and Israel) are the descendants of the 10 lost tribes of ancient Israel. For a thorough explanation of this doctrine, write for a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy.*

God purposed to use ancient Israel—our ancestors—as a model to teach all the nations of the world about the benefits and blessings of knowing and obeying the true God. The people of ancient Israel were to set an example in obeying His laws—the Ten Commandments—*given for all mankind!* Obedience would ensure that Israel would dominate the world in power, wealth and influence. *It would be the nation for all other nations to look up to.* Israel's blessings would confirm for every man that there is only one right way to live—the way of God's law. All nations willing to follow Israel's good example would have received the same blessings.

In a similar way, if Israel *disobeyed* God, the nation would write a bitter lesson for all to see. The whole world would learn that rebellion toward God brings curses—terror, famine, sickness and enemy attacks. History shows that ancient Israel repeatedly disobeyed God. The curses came. Israel suffered horribly and was eventually taken into captivity. *The nations of modern Israel are about to experience the same fate.* Why haven't we learned from our ancestors' history?

God's purpose for the modern nations of Israel is the same today as it was anciently: to set an example of obedience. America and Britain have enjoyed unparalleled wealth, power and influence. Few stop to consider how we have come to such greatness. We should want to fully understand the reason our nations enjoy so much wealth and power. *It could only have come from God.* Yet, just like our ancestors before us, we are vain. We refuse to acknowledge our history with God. We think all of our manifold blessings have come as a result of our own strength and effort. So God is taking them away to teach us the truth!

What is the cause for the decline of American and British influence in the world? It is simple to understand. Our nations have forgotten God. We no longer hold great reverence and respect for Almighty God. In fact, we flagrantly disobey the First Commandment, which states, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exod. 20:3). Let's understand this—the *first, and most important,* of the Ten Commandments!

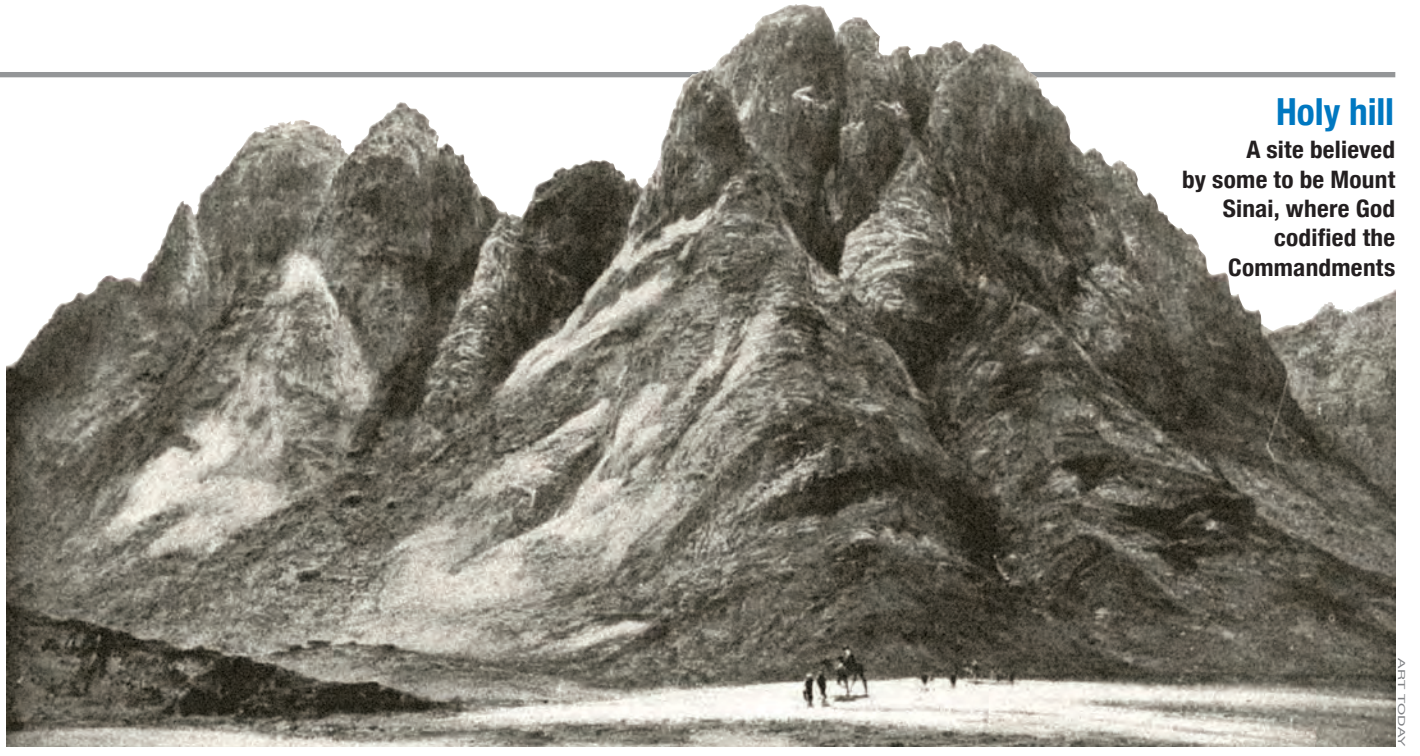
Foundation of Knowledge Do you truly want to understand the First Commandment? That is a fair question. If you do, where do you turn for such understanding? Should you go to a modern college or university? Here is a real paradox. The men and women in our colleges and universities have discovered, collected and disseminated volumes of stupendous scientific and technical knowledge. College library shelves are bursting with books. Still, although we have grown in material knowledge, *we have never been more confused about spiritual subjects* like the Ten Commandments. We simply have not grown in our knowledge about God and His ways. In fact, we know less about God today than did our relatives of several generations ago.

If you were to go to a local college, could you get answers to these questions? *Who gave us the Ten Commandments? Was it God or Moses? Are they for the Jews only? Are the Ten Commandments in force today?* Let's be honest. You will find no answers there. Most likely you would get laughed at for asking such questions. But these are important questions that need to be answered.

Who would dare teach a class about the Ten Commandments at a public college? Teaching any knowledge about God and His laws is banned from public schools. Who decided that this would be the way it is? Think before you answer that question. Here is the truth: We did! No tyrant has forced us. We have *chosen* for ourselves and our children. We don't *want* to know spiritual truth. Why not?

Intellectual vanity prevents us from going to the source of spiritual knowledge that reveals spiritual truth—the Holy Bible. Clever arguments and deceitful philosophy have relegated the Bible to mere myth or dubious history, written by ignorant men. Many believe that mankind has outgrown the need for Bible teaching. The absence of Bible knowledge in current education shows that most have blindly followed this line of thinking.

Is it any different in religious or Christian colleges? Not really. Even those in-



Holy hill
A site believed by some to be Mount Sinai, where God codified the Commandments

ART TODAY

stitutions claiming to be religious don't teach belief in the entire Bible. The majority of Christians read only the New Testament. In so doing, most modern Christians believe that Jesus Christ got rid of the Ten Commandments. Did He? You need to know.

To fully understand the First Commandment, we must come to see the historic importance of the events surrounding the giving of the Ten Commandments. This is revealed solely in the Bible—the foundation for all knowledge.

Accurate History The history of the giving of the Ten Commandments is recorded for us in the books of Exodus and Deuteronomy. Studying that history helps us to understand the context in which the First Commandment was given. Genesis shows us that the Israelites were the direct descendants of Abraham. They had moved into Egypt at the time of the patriarchs Jacob and Joseph because of severe famine in the land of Canaan. Exodus shows that the fledgling Israelite nation grew to millions and became a potential military threat to the Egyptians. Pharaoh cunningly moved against the people, enslaving and brutalizing them with physical beatings, poverty and hard labor. God chose Moses and Aaron to break them free from that bondage. Through the miracles of the plagues, Israel escaped from their oppressors. Then, over a period of about seven weeks, the massive assembly was directed out of Egypt into the Sinai desert wilderness. Not unlike refugee camps seen on TV news today, they set up a huge tent city at the base of the mountain commonly known as Mt. Sinai (Exod. 19:2). It was here that the people were directly introduced to God and His laws.

The Exodus account is truly awesome when you read it with *full belief* in its historical accuracy. Clearly, *God* gave the Ten Commandments, not Moses. God spoke each one before the entire nation of Israel. The manner in which God delivered these laws gives us real insight into how to both understand and keep the First Commandment.

Moses was called up to the top of the mountain to meet with God (v. 3). God had a proposal for the people (vv. 4-6). Herbert W. Armstrong explains, "And there the Eternal gave him a proposition to lay before those millions of people. This proposition—or agreement—was that which we call the 'Old Covenant'—the covenant agreement for making of these people a NATION—God's own nation on Earth.

"The proposition provided that GOD was to be their sole King and Ruler. Their government was to be a theocracy. God was the Lawmaker, not a congress, or parliament. God would appoint leading men to execute His orders" (*Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?,* p. 30).

Moses returned to the tent city "and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the Lord commanded him" (v. 7). Of course, the people unanimously and immediately agreed (v. 8). Why not? God had promised to make them the leading nation in power and wealth above all other nations: "[I]f ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine" (v. 5). Moses returned the words of the people back to God. Then God gave Moses specific instructions on how to prepare the people to meet with God. They were given three days to clean up themselves and their clothes.

On the morning of the third day, an incredible event took place. There was real drama on top of the mountain. A thick cloud hovered over it. Loud peals of thunder crashed through the air. Terrible lightning flashed everywhere. The noise of a continuous ear-piercing trumpet blast sounded. The entire camp of Israel trembled in fear. *History was being made right before their eyes.* Moses led the people to the base of the mountain.

The Almighty God When the people were properly assembled, God descended

The Exodus account is truly awesome when you read it with full belief in its historical accuracy. Clearly, God gave the Ten Commandments, not Moses.

upon the mountain in a fire. It became instantly engulfed in flames. Huge pillars of billowing smoke added to the terror of the moment. Then the mountain began to shake with massive earthquakes. The trumpet blast grew louder and louder. Paul tells us in Hebrews that Moses shook with fear because of the experience (Heb. 12:21).

To break the incredible tension, Moses spoke to God—and God spoke back to him. All the people heard God's own voice. God called Moses up to the mountain to give additional instructions. Because of God's holy presence, the people were not to climb onto the mountain (Exod. 19:20-25). Exodus 20 shows that God, with a booming voice, commanded His nation His laws. You and I would have been deathly afraid had we been there.

Mr. Armstrong wrote, "Can you picture it? I think I can—at least partially. Years ago—in early winter, 1934—I was driving around the Mt. Hood Loop in Oregon. Reaching the east of Mt. Hood, there was a spur road leading to the very base, and part way up the mountain. As I reached this spot, a frightening storm developed around the snow-capped peak just above me. A dark, foreboding cloud—the darkest I had ever seen—hovered over the top of the mountain. Lightning flashed, so bright I had to hide my eyes. Thunderclaps resounded louder, sharper, than any I had ever heard in Iowa or Nebraska. I drove back down, *away* from that storm, as fast as safety would allow. It was the most frightening, terrifying sight I had ever witnessed. It seemed to display the MAGNITUDE of the very FURY of Almighty GOD!

"I thought, then, of only one thing—this very experience when GOD thundered down from Mt. Sinai HIS GREAT SPIRITUAL LAW! Only I realized that what I saw and heard must have been tame by comparison. Yet it caused me to realize what an imagination-defying experience occurred in the sight of all Israel!" (ibid., p. 32). Like Mr. Armstrong, we should strive to *get the picture* of what happened to Israel on that day.

God displayed His great power to make a real impact on His people—not to threaten or do harm—but to reveal Himself. God wanted the people to know Him for their benefit! He wanted to impress upon the people the vital significance of His law. He desires to do the same for us today. Through His Holy Spirit, God will make a real impact on the minds of His called-out ones if they honestly want it!

Getting to Know God Moses records for us, "And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exod. 20:1-3). Spoken just after the thunder, lightning, fire, smoke, trumpet blast and earthquake, the people easily got the message. This God who spoke to them was an awesome Being of incredible power. His control over the elements on Mt. Sinai proved He was the Creator. There simply was no other God. God made His wishes plain. To become His nation, the people first and most importantly had to *worship and obey Him!*

The God who spoke to Israel was an awesome Being of incredible power. He intended that they never forget this fact.

Remember, Israel had been enslaved by a people that worshiped many gods. Our ancestors had seen and no doubt experienced pagan worship. Through the 10 plagues, God showed the people that the Egyptian gods were dead and powerless (Exod. 12:12). The Egyptian religion was absolutely worthless. It was now time for Israel to come out of religious confusion. But, in case they didn't get the point of the plagues, God reminded them, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage" (Exod. 20:2). The message from God was so clear. No Egyptian god could prevent their escape. Only a mighty God could break them free from pharaoh's power.

The word *Lord* in this verse comes from the Hebrew word *YHVH*. It is a well-known fact that no one knows how to spell or *pronounce* this word since the vowels were not preserved in the Hebrew textural traditions. But we do know that the word means the *Eternal,* or the *Self-Existent One,* or the *Ever Living One*. God revealed to His people that the One speaking had always existed. He predated all of their ancestors, including Abraham. In fact, this BEING predated man!

Israel had experienced a *supernatural* liberation. Now the people knew for sure that their God, spoken about by Moses and Aaron, *was* God! The *Self-Existent One* let them know that there was no higher god. He intended that they never forget this fact. The *Ever Living One* had personally set them free from cruel torture. He saw to it that they no longer had to live in crowded squalor. The *Eternal God* released them from the monotonous drudgery of day-to-day, month-to-month, year-to-year slave-labor. Israel was now given the opportunity to serve a *living and loving* God (Deut. 7:7-8).

Eternal's Law Another important point must be made. The *Eternal One*'s LAW is also eternal. God is a spirit and has eternally existed (John 4:24). God's law is *spiritual* and has always existed. Anyone willing to read Genesis with an open mind is able to recognize that the Ten Commandments have been *in force* since the creation of man. They were given to all men to bring untold happiness and peace and blessings. But the first two humans—Adam and Eve—rejected the way of this *spiritual* law.

Now, through Israel, God was giving every man, woman and child on Earth another opportunity to know and live by this law. We must see that God simply used this nation as an example. Israel's righteous leaders knew and taught this fact. Some 41 years later, as Israel set up their first camp at Gilgal in the Promised Land, Joshua reminded them why God had delivered them: "That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the Lord your God for ever" (Josh. 4:24). All people on Earth must come to know the Eternal God and His mighty power. It is a power that God desires to use to aid all mankind. God wanted Israel to be a living demonstration of His great goodness.

There is a deep spiritual lesson in all this. In biblical theology, Egypt is a type of sin. Pharaoh is a type of Satan. The devil is at work to enslave all men in sin. Few believe in a devil today.

What is sin? Despite what men say, the Bible states, "[S]in is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). Sin is breaking God's spiritual law—the Ten Commandments.

God desires to set all men free from such bondage. God is a God of freedom. Obeying God's law is the only way to true freedom.

Do you know the Eternal God? In fact, do you even know what God is? Do you know His purpose for your life? Mr. Armstrong answered these all-important questions in the first chapter of his final book, *Mystery of the Ages*. He wrote, "In this chapter I hope we will help make God as real to you as your own human father. God does reveal Himself to us in the Bible, if we will just understand it, so that He will seem real to us" (p. 32). You may have a free copy of this book if you request it.

As a nation, we have never been more confused about God. God no longer seems real to us. Only the Bible can reveal Him to you. It is a simple fact that if you don't know your Bible you don't know God. But, you *can* know God!

All About Government Notice also that Joshua reminded Israel that all people on Earth must come to *fear* God. The word *fear* in the Hebrew is *yare* and simply means *deep reverence* or *respect*. God's religion is not a *fear* religion. God does not want any of us to have an unnatural fear of Him. But God does demand *respect*.

The First Commandment teaches us that we must respect the high office and authority of Almighty God. Essentially, this commandment shows us that we must come under the government of God. God must rule our very lives—personally! When the people of ancient Israel heard God speak this First Commandment, they knew that their God was a God of law and government. The people were left with no doubt that it was the government of God that would make them a great nation.

James tells us, "There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy …" (James 4:12). Jesus Christ's gospel message was about the Kingdom, or coming government or rule, of God (Mark 1:14-15). That is God's number-one goal at this time—to reestablish His government on Earth. Yet, in our Western society, there is little respect for any constituted authority. In America and Britain, people work to get around law and government rather than obey either.

In addition, our peoples have shown great disrespect for God. How? The foundation for most education in our secular colleges and universities is the theory of evolution. Evolution is simply the belief in a creation without a creator. This false teaching is a great affront to God. Based solely on human reasoning, this sinister deception has wrecked the faith of millions. It denies the true God and His power and high office as Creator and Sustainer of all life. It is time we wake up and get back to respecting God. If we do, God will use His great power to deliver us from our enemies. If we don't, surely we must see that our future is bleak.

God commanded the people, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." The Hebrew word for *before* is *al*. *Strong's Concordance* shows that this word can also be translated as *above, against* or *in place of*. To fully obey this commandment, man must never put another god *above, against* or *in place of* the Eternal God. There simply is no other God. God makes it very clear through the pages of the Bible, "I am God, and there is none else" (Isa. 45:22). The God of the Bible must be dominant in our lives—no one or anything else should ever take His place.

God wants total commitment to Him every day, all day. True worship affects every thought and every action, all the time.

Jesus Christ taught this same principle. Study Luke 14:26. The Greek word for *hate* is *miseo* and means "to love less by comparison." Essentially, this means that we must put God and His priorities *first* in our lives. We must put God's desires before our own or any other man's desires.

Paul said, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness" (Rom. 6:16). Who do we obey? How often do we let family, friends or our careers dictate what we do? Are there times we knowingly disobey God because we don't want to go against our families, our friends or the boss? God views such behavior as idolatry!

We should examine how much time we spend with material things and interests. How we use our time says a lot about our worship. Do we really understand the word *worship?* Most people reserve their religion for one service, one day a week. But God expects much more than that. God wants total commitment to Him every day, all day. True worship affects *every* thought and *every* action, all the time. The stark reality is, we are either serving God, or we are serving ourselves and Satan the devil!

How much time do we spend thinking about God? Do we pray? Do we study our Bibles? Many American and British homes have Bibles that are never read. How much time do we devote to our hobbies, or sports, television and material goods? If we leave no time for God, we are guilty of idolatry.

Cling to God Moses told the people, "Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him" (Deut. 13:4). The First Commandment requires that we diligently seek after God. The Hebrew word for *cleave* is *dabaq*. *Strong's Concordance* defines this as, to *cling to, adhere to* or *pursue hard*. It is similar to clinging to a mate or a beloved family member. To cling to God is to desire to spend lots of time with Him. Clinging to God means doing those things that please Him. If we truly love God, we will pursue hard after Him.

When asked which was the greatest commandment in the law, Jesus Christ said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. 22:37). God desires that we love Him with all of our being. That is true religion.

All men must learn to serve the living God with a willing heart. Why? We were created by God for His purpose and pleasure (Rev. 4:11). God has given us every good gift (James 1:17). God has given us life, talents and abilities—everything we have. We must devote all of what God has given us to accomplishing His will and purpose. When we do, God will continue to shower us with good things.

Jesus Christ set a perfect example of obedience for us. He faithfully obeyed the First Commandment. He put God first and above all else. Look at the incredible results. God was with Him and got Him through every trial. Why? Christ said, "[T]he Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him" (John 8:29). This is the perfect way to keep the first and great commandment.

The question is, will we obey? If we do, we are promised the same blessings bestowed upon Jesus Christ. Let's all learn to obey this first and great commandment. ■

What's So Sacred About Easter?

BY CARL HILLIKER AND MARK JENKINS

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Every year, millions of Christians observe Easter to memorialize the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Easter service—considered the most sacred observance of the year—focuses the Christian community on the miracle of His resurrection much like Christmas focuses it on His birth.

But on a day that is considered so sacred, people worship with bunny rabbits, hot cross buns and colored eggs. What do these things have to do with worshiping Jesus Christ or commemorating His resurrection?

Moreover, why didn't anyone observe Easter in the Bible? Why didn't Jesus Christ leave instructions regarding its observance? If *you* keep Easter, do you understand WHY you do?

By studying the origins of Easter and the scriptures related to it, we can find God's instruction on Easter observance.

The Origins of Easter Notice this frank admission from the *Catholic Encyclopedia*'s article on Easter: "[Easter] is also the oldest feast of the Christian Church, as old as Christianity, the connecting link between the Old and New Testaments. That *the apostolic fathers do not mention it* and that we first hear of it principally through the Controversy of the Quartodecimans are purely accidental" (emphasis ours throughout).

That's right: The word *Easter* is never even mentioned in the Bible. Although "Easter" is found once in the King James translation, scholars today agree that the Greek word translated "Easter" (*pascha*) in Acts 12:4 should be translated "Passover." In his commentary, Adam Clarke says about this word, "Perhaps there never was a more unhappy, not to say absurd, translation than that in our text."

In order to really understand why Christians observe an Easter sunrise service, we need to know where it came from. "The English term [Easter] … relates to Estre, a Teutonic goddess of the rising light of day and spring …" ("Easter," *Catholic Encyclopedia*). The Babylonian name for this goddess was Ishtar. The Phoenician name was Astarte, the wife of the sun god, Baal, the worship of whom is continually denounced in the Bible as the most abominable of all pagan idolatry (1 Kings 22:53; Jer. 32:35).

This goddess is actually ancient Semiramis, the mother and wife of Nimrod, the mighty warrior who rebelled against God (Gen. 10:8-9; *before* should be translated *against—Strong's Concordance*). They were the founders and inspiration behind the pagan religion of ancient Babylon. Since she claimed to be the wife of the "sun god," Semiramis became widely known as the "queen of heaven."

This brings us to the first scripture relating to Easter observance: "Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, the fathers kindle fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the *queen of heaven;* and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, to provoke me to anger. Is it I whom they provoke? says the Lord. Is it not themselves, to their own confusion?" (Jer. 7:17-19; Revised Standard Version). This observance is about worshiping the queen of heaven!

The other relevant scripture is found in Ezekiel: "And he brought me into the inner court of the house of the Lord; and behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs to the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east, *worshiping the sun toward the east.* Then he said to me, 'Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it too slight a thing for the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here, that they should fill the land with violence, and provoke me further to anger? …'" (Ezek. 8:16-17; RSV).

Though this scripture refers to a time centuries *before* Christ, a little research shows that this is the identical thing that millions of Christians do every Easter Sunday today—stand with their faces toward the east, as the sun is rising, in a service of worship. This practice traces its origin back to the worship of the Babylonian sun god and his mythical wife, the true goddess of Easter. As Ezekiel writes, the observance of this service provokes God to anger!

It has nothing to do with Christ; rather, it is about worshiping the gods of Babylon. How, then, did Easter become part of traditional Christianity?

Why Christians Keep Easter We showed earlier how the *Catholic Encyclopedia* states that Easter is first mentioned in connection with the "controversy of the Quartodecimans," so let's see exactly what that is. "Ecclesiastical history preserves the memory of three distinct phases of the dispute regarding the proper time of observing Easter. …

"A letter of St. Irenaeus … shows that the diversity of practice regarding Easter had existed at least from the time of Pope Sixtus (c. 120). Further, Irenaeus states that St. Polycarp, who, like the other Asiatics, kept Easter on the 14th day of the moon [Passover], whatever day of the week that might be, following therein the tradition which he claimed to have derived from St. John the apostle, came to Rome c. 150 about this very question, but could not be persuaded by Pope Anicetus to relinquish his Quartodeciman observance [on the 14th day of the month]. …

"The second stage in the Easter controversy centers round the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325)" ("Easter Controversy," ibid.).

Do you understand the significance of this history? Passover, observed annually on the 14th day of the month of Nisan, was observed by all the early Christians. About 100 years after Christ's death, Pope Sixtus of Rome began making the switch to Easter Sunday, while Polycarp—appointed bishop of the Church of Smyrna by the apostles who had been personally instructed by Jesus Christ—continued to keep Passover just as the Apostle John had taught him.

A controversy calling for the annual Sunday observance of "Easter" continued for almost 200 years, until Easter was officially adopted by the church at Rome at the time of Constantine in A.D. 325. The decision of the Council of Nicaea in that year was unanimous; Easter was to be kept on the same Sunday throughout the world, and that "none hereafter should follow the blindness of the Jews" in keeping Passover. This decision was not based upon scriptural grounds but upon the personal preferences of the church leaders at that time.

Those few who continued to keep the Passover on the 14th day, according to biblical commands, were named "Quartodecimani" and were forced to separate themselves from the unity of that church backed by the Roman Emperor Constantine. As a result, the politically backed church at Rome grew to great size and power by adopting the popular Easter practice centered on Sunday worship, while those who practiced the teachings and examples of Jesus Christ and the early apostles were destined to become persecuted outcasts.

Pagan Traditions So how do colored eggs and hot cross buns fit into this pagan festival adopted by the Catholic Church?

Dyed Easter eggs figured in the ancient Babylonian mystery rites. They were sacred to many ancient civilizations. According to James Bonwick, "The mystic egg of Babylon, hatching the Venus Ishtar, fell from heaven to the Euphrates. Dyed eggs were sacred Easter offerings in Egypt, as they are still in China and Europe. Easter, or spring, was the season of birth, terrestrial and celestial" (*Egyptian Belief and Modern Thought*).

Classic poets relate the myth this way: "An egg of wondrous size is said to have fallen from heaven into the river Euphrates. The fishes rolled it to the bank, where the doves having settled upon it, and hatched it, out came Venus, who afterward was called the Syrian goddess." This Syrian goddess, according to Alexander Hislop, was Astarte. "Hence the egg became one of the symbols of Astarte or Easter …" (*The Two Babylons*).

Where Did We Get Lent?

At the time of Jesus Christ and the apostles, no one had ever kept Lent—the 40 days of abstinence preceding Easter. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* explains, "Some of the Fathers as early as the fifth century supported the view that this 40-days' fast was of apostolic institution. … But the best modern scholars are almost unanimous in rejecting this view, for in the existing remains of the first three centuries we find both considerable diversity of practice regarding the fast before Easter and also a gradual process of development in the matter of its duration. … We may … fairly conclude that Irenaeus about the year 190 knew nothing of any Easter fast of 40 days."

Since we know this festival was not ordained by Christ, where did it come from? Much like Easter, it has pagan origins: It was "directly borrowed from the worshipers of the Babylonian goddess," says Alexander Hislop. "Such a Lent of 40 days, 'in the spring of the year,' is still observed by the Yezidis or pagan devil worshipers of Kurdistan, who have inherited it from their early masters, the Babylonians" (*The Two Babylons*). The 40-days period was also observed anciently in Egypt—hardly the Christian roots most would expect.

Though many consider this use of Easter eggs child's play in modern times, its origins are pagan.

Hot cross buns, tied directly to the Easter season today, also have pagan origins. "These cakes, which are now solely associated with the Christian Good Friday," according to the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (11th edition), "are traceable to the remotest period of pagan history. Cakes were offered by ancient Egyptians to their moon-goddess …. The Greeks offered such sacred cakes to Astarte and other divinities. … In time the Greeks marked these cakes *with a cross*, possibly an allusion to the four quarters of the moon, or more probably to facilitate the distribution of the sacred bread which was eaten by the worshipers."

Few have ever realized the facts of where these practices originated. "In the medieval church, buns made from the dough for the consecrated host were distributed to the communicants after mass on Easter Sunday. … In England there seems to have early been a disposition on the part of the bakers to imitate the church, and they did a good trade in buns and cakes stamped with a cross, for as far back as 1252 the practice was forbidden by royal proclamation; but this seems to have had little effect. With the rise of Protestantism the cross bun lost its sacrosanct nature, and became a mere eatable associated for no particular reason with Good Friday" (ibid.).

Christ's Command It is a simple matter to prove that Easter and the customs surrounding it are of pagan origin. Observing that holiday *provokes God to anger* (Ezek. 8:17).

Since we can see what God does *not* want us to observe, what does the Bible say we *should* commemorate at this time of year?

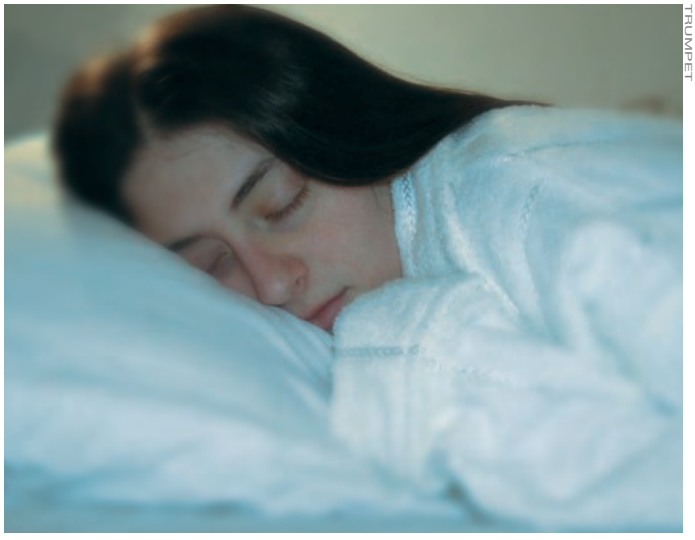
The Apostle Paul wrote about Jesus Christ's command to the disciples just before His death: "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew [memorialize] the Lord's death till he come" (1 Cor. 11:23-26). These verses describe how to keep the New Testament Passover.

Many focus on the birth of Jesus Christ; many focus on His resurrection. But God requires all true believers to commemorate His *death*. Few follow this command. Instead, the masses observe festivals that are steeped in paganism. How about you?

If you want to know more about the origins of many of the holidays you may take for granted or the biblical instructions regarding God's holy days, please request our free booklet Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?

HEALTH

Solve Problems in Bed


TRUMPET

According to a recent study in Germany, adequate sleep has now been scientifically linked to problem solving and creativity. "[S]leeping brains continue working on problems that baffle us during the day," said the Associated Press (January 21). "[T]he right answer may come more easily after eight hours of rest."

On the flip side, other studies have shown that insufficient sleep actually reduces productivity and adversely affects performance at school or on the job. So the latest findings in the German study come as no surprise.

What is surprising is the increasing number of people who regularly deprive themselves of sleep. The U.S. government estimates that 70 million Americans suffer from sleep problems. Some obviously have sleeping disorders like insomnia and apnea. But most sleep deprivation is self-inflicted.

Solve Problems at the Gym

Researchers at the University of Illinois have also found that problem solving and thinking ability improve in aging adults when they are physically fit. The study monitored cognitive skills of 41 adults between the ages of 58 and 78 who were put on regular exercise programs. According to an AP story in February, "After three months the adults … showed increased brain activity and had an 11 percent improvement on tests that measured their decision-making while performing a variety of tasks" (February 16).

The exercise program consisted of only three brisk walks per week.

Health Laws

Sleep, exercise, healthy diet—reminds me of a wonderful little booklet (now out of print) that was first produced in 1955. Based on biblical laws of health (and common sense), The Seven Laws of Radiant Health offers a number of practical health tips we could all benefit from. To paraphrase, here are the seven laws:

1 Healthy food and water

Few realize how literally true the old saying is: We are what we eat. There are a couple of principles to remember with respect to eating. First, as much as possible, consume food that has not been corrupted by processing. Second, eat whole and natural foods—food that, if left out over time, would spoil. As for drink, consume lots of water. It's one of the "greatest aids to eliminating body poisons and keeping the entire system clean." Above all, strive for well-balanced eating lifestyle.

2 Cleanliness and dress

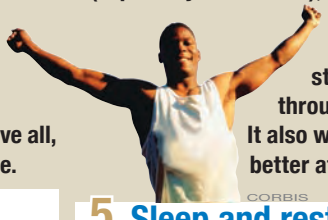
According to the booklet, "Keeping your person, your clothes, and your living quarters clean will not only aid in promoting vigorous health, but will tend to keep your thoughts on a higher level of productivity and accomplishment."

3 Sunshine and fresh air

Spend lots of time outdoors. Without oxygen, we would die within minutes. That, in itself, underscores the importance of fresh air. We need lots of it—not just enough to sustain life—but enough to add color to our complexion, improve posture and fill us with the energy needed to lead active, energetic and vibrant lives.

4 Exercise

As noted in the study above, it doesn't take much for the overall quality of life to improve—sometimes dramatically. Regular exercise—even if only vigorous walks—will increase oxygen intake (especially if outdoors), improve efficiency of the heart and lungs and stimulate blood flow throughout the body. It also will help you sleep better at night.


CORBIS

5 Sleep and rest

As it says in the booklet, "Nothing will take the place of regular sleep and rest in its recuperative effects on the human body." The average adult body needs about 8 hours of sleep per night. A short period of rest during the day can also be invigorating. Our Creator understands well the importance of regular rest for mortal man. He even went so far as to set apart an entire day each week for man to rest from all his labor. Yet how many people lower their quality of living (and perhaps even shorten their lifespan) by ignoring God's Sabbath command and depriving themselves of refreshing sleep each night?

6 Avoiding bodily injury

Think ahead and consider the end result of your actions. Careless and reckless living can destroy our bodies. And we're not just talking about taking unnecessary physical risks at work or in recreation. Vices like smoking and excessive alcohol consumption will injure the human body as well.

7 Positive mental attitude

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Prov. 17:22). And, "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith" (Prov. 15:17). Many common physical ailments like headaches, indigestion, ulcers, nervousness and tension can result from a negative mental perspective. Do your best to overcome negative thinking—strife, fear, anxiety: These do adversely affect physical health. Putting all the above laws into action, of course, will help you build the kind of positive mental attitude you desire!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TRUMPET

Fatkins Diet

A new documentary by Morgan Spurlock looks at America's addiction to fast food in an up-close and personal way. In "Super Size Me," the filmmaker himself is the guinea pig. For one month, the 33-year-old Spurlock ate nothing but McDonald's food—three squares a day.

Not but a few days into the experiment, Spurlock started vomiting up meals, struggled with depression and wild mood swings and had no sex drive. By the end of the month, he had packed on 25 pounds, his cholesterol ballooned from 165 to 230 and doctors were alarmed by his liver toxicity. "The liver test was the most shocking thing," said Dr. Daryl Isaacs, one of three doctors who agreed to monitor Spurlock's health. "It became very, very abnormal."

Spurlock got the idea for his movie in 2002 when he heard about two people who filed suit against McDonald's for making them obese. The world's largest restaurant company responded by saying that McDonald's food was good and nutritious. Spurlock—surprise, surprise!—was skeptical.

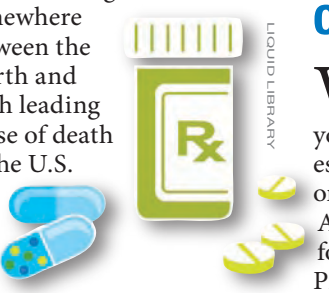
It says a lot about our society when obese people sue restaurants for "making them" fat, wealthy executives and lawyers defend a Big Mac's nutritive value, and a "reality show" lets average Americans watch someone get fat and depressed.

Good Medicine

A psychologist from Vanderbilt University studied 100 years of research on psychology and disease and concluded that "words can have the same effect as drugs: Thinking optimistically can change your whole biology." His findings were published in *American Psychologist*. You can also read about them in Proverbs 17:22.

Bad Medicine

According to a University of Toronto study, 2.2 million Americans were hospitalized in 1994 due to serious adverse reactions to medicinal drugs (ADRs). Of that number, approximately 106,000 cases were fatal, meaning ADRs rank somewhere between the fourth and sixth leading cause of death in the U.S.



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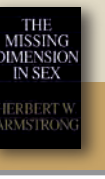
SEXUALITY

Sex Education Kids Need

Of the 18.9 million Americans who contracted a sexually transmitted disease (STD) in the year 2000, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that *half* were young people (aged 15 to 24). Another study released in February said that the only way to reduce the rapid spread of STDs among youths was to make sex education more comprehensive in schools—including instruction on abstinence *and* birth control.

We agree that sex ed ought to be more comprehensive, but certainly not on the subject of contraceptives. That would only encourage *more* fornication. The instruction young people *need most* is on the subject of *why God created sex in the first place*. Why did He intend for it to be reserved for marriage? What is the God-ordained purpose for sex *within* marriage? For that matter, WHY MARRIAGE?

All these questions and more are answered in the most comprehensive sex education book there is—*The Missing Dimension in Sex*. It ought to be the primary textbook on sex in every middle school and junior high. More than that, it should be included in every *married couple's* library—whether young *or old*.



Request your copy of The Missing Dimension in Sex today. There is no cost or obligation.

DIGITAL STOCK

Obesity Gains on Smoking

While smoking cigarettes still puts your health at the greatest risk, obesity is gaining on the number-one killer. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, smoking is responsible for 440,000 deaths in America each year. Obesity-related deaths number somewhere between 280,000 and 325,000. Studies have also shown that medical expenditures for the effects of obesity are higher than for smokers because of how long certain obesity diseases last, coupled with the expensive treatment needed for such complications.

FAMILY

Raising Children's Children

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 7.7 percent of all children in America now live with their grandparents.

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

Rearing Children Right

The article "A Child Left to Himself" (February) is the best piece of literature I have seen in a long time. The comparison that Stephen Flurry so carefully builds between what Leonard Irvine wrote in the *Salisbury Review* and what God tells us in His Word is nothing short of brilliant—but beyond being brilliant, it is truth. That is exactly what we've got today—a horde of precious children growing up "left to themselves." And not only this generation, but the one before. How sad, and how very ignorant.

Nona Goodman—Hartley, Tex.

"He Who Is Without Sin"

I have just read "The Pride of Sodom" (February). It is somewhat strange that nowhere in the article could be found a single word of compassion, despite the plight of real-life gay people as opposed to those as-seen-on-TV characters. A true Christian would start from questioning one's own responsibility and sinfulness, rather than pick on others. It is nice that the author did not fail to quote Leviticus, but whatever happened to "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone …" (John 8:7)? Or does perhaps the author of the article think of himself as sinless?

Nenad—E-mail Response

We understand that homosexuals have had a certain "plight," as you say. The same is true of all who sin and must suffer the "plight" of the consequences. Concerning Christ's words in John 8:7, we certainly don't claim to be sinless. We believe, as the Bible states, "all have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). As this article was pointing out, ALL sin—if not repented of—leads to eternal death (Rom. 6:23). Christ, the only sinless person, preached a message of repentance—of changing our ways. That is a message of true compassion: Helping people come out of the sin that enslaves us.

War on Two Fronts

I have to take exception to Joel Hilliker's commentary "War on Two Fronts" (January). I believe what the Bible says, but I won't accept all of what Mr. Hilliker (a man) wrote in his commentary. Indeed, a house divided will not stand—but in my lowly opinion, it's the leader of the nation that divides the people. Should we support a preemptive war? Please forgive me, I'm confused! First you wrote "Why We Can't Win the War on Terrorism" (November 2003). Then you say we should support the president.

Gilbert Calvillo—Los Angeles, Calif.

The Trumpet does not advocate a particular political position; it simply evaluates how current events fulfill the Bible's prophecies. Prophecy clearly shows that the United States is about to be conquered. One of the most vivid signs pointing to this end is the division within the U.S.—including the rise in mistrust of and hatred for the present administration as it seeks to combat America's enemies. Whether that mistrust is justified really is not the point, because the effect is the same: a weaker America.

I highly commend Joel Hilliker's "War on Two Fronts" commentary. It is an eye-opening view of what liberals can and will do to put the United States to a second-rate power. The same liberal policy that ended the British Empire will soon happen to America. They never accepted George Bush's war on terror as a good war, nor will they accept any plan to protect America, such as NMD [National Missile Defense] or high defense budget, etc. They will soon realize that when American dominance ends, the tribulation begins.

Ralph Curic—Manila, Philippines

It seems to me that America was justified in going after Saddam, even though he was not an imminent threat to the United States. Israel has asserted on many occasions that if she were attacked by Iraq, she would not hold back but would defend herself with all the strength of her offensive force. Such action would arouse the entire Muslim community to attack Israel. The United States would then be forced to enter the fray in defense of our only true ally—Israel. This would inevitably involve the European community and Russia resulting in the third world war we are all striving to avoid. By going after Saddam, America may have averted a greater conflagration.

I believe if our reason for going to war against Iraq is revealed to be a defense for Israel—then the very present anti-Semitism which exists in the entire world will bloom to its full capacity once again. I do believe the real reason for this war on Iraq was a defense of our brother nation—Israel (actually, modern-day Israel defending his brother, the Jew).

Raphael Vasquez—Tampa, Fla.

He Was Right

Thanks so much for the special "He was Right" issue of the *Trumpet*. Yes, Herbert Armstrong was right. I do remember reading the *Plain Truth* magazine when Mr. Armstrong was alive. When I got the special report, my mind went back in time to when I had read in the *Plain Truth* about all the things that are coming upon us today, and what is ahead for us. May God help us all to wake up before it is too late.

Virginia Johnson—Conover, N.C.

The roots of the Trumpet can be found in Mr. Armstrong's work. For anyone who does not have a copy of the special "He Was Right" issue, originally printed in February 2000, just let us know and we will send it you at no charge.

My wife and I have been reading the *Trumpet* magazine for a good while. I personally find that you are sincere in doing God's work, and we are sending you God's tithe money because of it. I was an avid reader of the *Plain Truth* magazine when I was a student at Texas A&M. Please do not take this as a criticism, but as a mere suggestion: The *Trumpet* has not taken advantage of subscription inserts (as the *Plain Truth* did) to increase its number of subscribers.

Ben & Lois Benibo, Travelers Rest, S.C.

It is difficult to find the proper scale for measuring the value of your books and the *Trumpet*. We ran across them inadvertently as we picked up mail for our next door neighbor at a community mailbox center, then borrowed back copies of the *Trumpet,* discovered its treasures and placed an order for our own subscription, publications and the book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. We have decided to become donors on a regular basis. We sent our first check and having very limited resources as seniors, will contribute monthly as the Lord provides.

Gene Hudgens—Shelby Twp., Mich.

Comments?

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"The Basest of Men"

Milosevic has been arraigned for war crimes and Hussein vanquished. How is it, then, that a murdering terrorist can receive the Nobel Peace Prize? BY RON FRASER

To study international relations is to enter a realm of lying deception, intrigue, rank cheating and gross, global hypocrisy. Perhaps nowhere is this more clearly demonstrated than with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Much has been written about this petty dictator who has ruled the Palestinians under an iron fist for almost 50 years. Yet, attempts to penetrate Arafat's shadowy background provide, at best, conflicting accounts. He is, according to one account, the fourth child of a shopkeeper; in another, the sixth child of a textile merchant. Having once been a member of the Cairo-based Muslim Brotherhood, is he more Egyptian than Palestinian? Did he or did he not murder a fellow student in his youth? Did he really participate in military campaigns, rising to the rank of general, or are these stories mere fictions designed to create the aura of a freedom-fighting hero around a rank, base terrorist?

REUTERS

LEGITIMIZED Despite a proven, ongoing record of supporting terrorism, Arafat remains the Palestinian leader.

Arafat is the quintessential Jew-baiter and Jew-hater. He told a group of Arab diplomats in 1996, "I have no use for Jews. They are and remain Jews" (*Commentary,* January 2004). Repeatedly he has stated his dedication to drive the Israelis into the sea—to see a Palestinian flag fly from every major building in Israel—to simply have the Palestinians outpopulate the Israelis into extinction.

Arafat's two-faced dialogue within the ongoing, tattered Middle East "peace" process has resulted in murderous mayhem on a grand scale. The response of the largely unethical and mostly left-wing newsmedia has been to excuse his cheap terrorist actions as the efforts of a hero freedom fighter, and to denigrate the reaction of the Israelis to the continuous slaughter of their civilians into acts of terrorism.

British political analyst David Pryce-Jones writes, "When it comes to anti-Jewish terrorism, Arafat has set standards that other extremists, whether ideological or Islamist, have had to try to match. A chain of murder connects, over the decades, a Swiss aircraft blown up in mid-air en route to Tel Aviv, killing the 47 people on board; the shooting of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic games; the massacre of 27 passengers at Lod airport; the machine-gunning of 22 children and five adults in the northern Israeli town of Ma'alot; the throwing overboard from a cruise liner of the American citizen Leon Klinghoffer; and so forth" (ibid.).

Adolf Hitler once remarked, "Treaties are only made to be broken." Arafat is expert in holding to Hitler's dictum. Efraim Karsh, author of the recently released *Arafat's War,* concludes that to Arafat the Mideast peace process is but "a grand deception." "[T]his master of doublespeak was bound to cheat at the first opportunity, in order to advance the single-state solution that alone has been acceptable to him" (*Commentary,* op. cit.).

Yet, paradoxically, the Palestinians, by this world's standards, were once quite well-off, living under Israeli occupation, until Arafat became increasingly accepted as their legitimate representative. But 50 years of devotion to his demented cause has resulted in reducing them to a state of gross corruption and turning their economy into a shambles.

Surely, given the litany of Arafat's crimes, one would have to logically conclude that only under the most *perverse* of judges would such a charlatan be granted a prize for contributing to world peace! Yet, award him the Nobel Peace Prize they did, in 1994.

Will we yet witness the leader of Iran, the prime sponsor of global terrorism, receive this tawdry award, as it has now become, for aiding the "peace" in Iraq? It certainly would be no surprise!

How condemning! The English-speaking peoples, though daily increasing in progressive decadence, still dominate global affairs—much to the chagrin of many other nations. Though the Anglo-American countries do have elected leaders governing them, these leaders are heavily reliant on their inner circle of advisers and spin doctors for the formulation and promulgation of their policies. The average political adviser's desire for the quick fix reflects a lack of any true historical perception and knowledge of the vital importance of heritage, ethnicity and the power of religion to sway masses. In addition, it reveals a blanket refusal to admit to the gnawing moral decay of a once powerfully influential Western society now rotting from within. Foreign policy has so often had its genesis not so much in the will or whim of our national leaders as in the motives of bureaucrats, legislators, petty politicians, the intelligentsia and left-wing judges bent on changing the whole structure of a once largely moral society.

This was all prophesied millennia ago: "*For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah* the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, the mighty man, and the man of war, *The judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honorable man, and the counseller,* and the cunning artificer, *and the eloquent orator*" (Isa. 3:1-3).

Thus it is that we ought not be surprised by the prospect of Libya or Syria, both rank supporters of global terror, holding offices of importance within that great monument to failure, the United Nations. Nor should we be surprised when a lying, cheating, murderous terrorist is granted the Nobel Peace Prize.

In reality, this all goes to show, as King Nebuchadnezzar found out the hard way, "[T]he most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the *basest* of men" (Dan. 4:17). ■

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