

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

WATCH

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MORE TO COME

COMMENTARY



BORDER FLASHPOINT

by Mark Armstrong

American flagship media outlets are decrying the use of tear gas by border agents against members of the “caravan” trying to rush the U.S. border. The *Washington Post* headline proclaims, *Tear Gas: Border agents launch chemical weapons banned in warfare*. By now you’ve presumably seen the video one way or another. Hundreds of would-be illegal immigrants tried to tear down part of the ramshackle barrier near the border crossing at San Ysidro, throwing rocks and pieces of concrete at border officers as they went. Some officers

were injured, others hit but not harmed due to protective gear. Official vehicles were hit and damaged.

What were they to do? Stand aside like the Mexican police did at the Guatemalan border and let the flood commence?

This, according to the network pundits we can no longer stand to watch, is just an indication of racist meanness and a lack of empathy for “people of color” on the part of President Trump.

We saw women with bare-foot children in tow, dressed only in diapers and tee shirts, darting

about the cloud of tear gas with at least four photographers capturing images that have gone “viral” and are used to demonstrate what’s really going on.

Records show that tear gas was used to repel border crashers repeatedly during the Obama era, but somehow there was no media outcry. There was no outrage over “chemical weapons” unleashed on unarmed civilians in nearly seventy separate episodes under Obama.

While coverage remains affixed to the squalid “humanitarian crisis” in Tijuana, at least a few thousand per week are still pouring across the southern borders of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Some are caught, “processed” and released with a court hearing scheduled a couple years hence. Ankle bracelets are simply cut off, and the aliens won’t be seen again until they show up fighting police after being pulled over in a stolen car. Ever watch Live PD? Though the hosts never seem to notice, a high percentage of police calls inevitably deal with wild-eyed foreigners willing to fight to the finish to avoid ap-



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“Dear God, Why Did You Let Tommy Die?”

Why does God allow tragedy? Why do innocent babies suffer? Why the caprice of tornado, hurricane or typhoon? Why, if there is a God, does He allow wars, and crime, and automobile accidents? These questions have perplexed the greatest theologians for centuries – yet the answers are simple.

by Garner Ted Armstrong

“When he was hit by a car, my mother prayed to you to let him live, but you wouldn’t. My little brother was only two years old,” wrote Peter to a newspaper advice counselor, “and he couldn’t have sinned so bad that you had to punish him that way...you could have saved my little brother but you let him die. You broke my mother’s heart. How can I love you?”

Peter’s grief was genuine. So was his perplexity over the goodness of God whom he had heard from his parents, and the evil of the terrible accident that took his brother’s life.

His young mind simply couldn’t accept it. Tommy was dead. But mother had prayed. And God – the God he had heard of who helped people, and who was good and merciful, had let Tommy die.

If He was God, He had the power to stop Tommy from

dying, didn’t he? And Peter’s mother had fervently asked Him to, hadn’t she?

Well then – why had He let Tommy die?

Answer Unavailable?

The newspaper columnist had no answers. He simply replied, “Suffering of innocent people is something we cannot understand.”

But is there no answer, then?

What about the millions who died in the Nazi torture camps? The tens of thousands in Nigeria? The millions on all sides during World War II? And what about the untold, unknown, unwritten calamities that have befallen human beings since time immemorial – whether infant mortality, accidental death, murder, sickness, or war?

Are human beings, then, just like animals – subject to the vagaries of weather and nature, to

the passions of other humans, and to caprice?

Or is there a God who could prevent human suffering if He so chose?

Many theologians assume the answer is unobtainable.

But why should it be?

If there is a God, and most (certainly not all) theologians profess to believe in God, then would not that God leave a glimpse of His purpose, His plan, to His own creation which He loves?

Wouldn’t God have revealed the answers to human problems if He truly seeks to relieve such problems?

GOD IS BLAMED

It’s a commentary on human nature that we tend to congratulate ourselves for our success, and blame God for our failures.

If we fail, if a loved one is hurt, we wonder why God “allowed” it

to happen. When we triumph, we can think of many reasons why we did.

One atheist (if there really is such a thing) expressed a rather common attitude.

“If I had power to fashion the universe and ‘remake it nearer my heart’s desire,’ there would be no blind, no deaf, no dumb; there would be no crippled, and each child born would live free of disease and possess a mentality capable of withstanding all the rebuffs of life. There would be no deaths by accident. There would be no earthquakes, cyclones, or tornadoes. Unless and until such a condition comes to pass, when we may live free from disease, sorrow and suffering, there is no God in this vast universe worthy of homage.”

At least, so thought a professed atheist.

And the turned-off youth of today? They, too, wonder.

Millions of teens, having seen the blatant hypocrisy of much of professing “Christianity” - the “do as I say, don’t do as I do” generation of once-a-week listeners and “never-doers” - have simply rejected the traditional “mainstream” of “Christian thought.”

Trouble is, they think that by rejecting many of the more commonplace religious denominations, they have automatically rejected the Bible, and Christ, and God,

Not so.

But teens wonder, too. Do conditions in this nuclear-armed, overpopulated, polluted, war-sick, disease-ridden,

tragedy-filled world indicate any successes whatever for the traditional “Christian” struggle?

Or doesn’t it frankly look like Satan wins all the battles?

During World War II, a young German soldier wrote to his home pastor from Stalingrad:

“In Stalingrad, to put the question of God’s existence means to deny it...I have searched for God in every crater, in every destroyed house, on every corner, in every friend, in every foxhole, and in the sky. God did not show Himself, even though my heart cried for Him.

“If there should be a God, He is only with you in the hymnals and the prayers, in the pious sayings of the priests and pastors, in the ringing of the bells and fragrance of incense, but NOT in Stalingrad.”

And so a youth, caught up in the shock of war, searched through traditional avenues for God, and couldn’t find Him.

“THE INVISIBLE GOD”

What about the claims of the atheist? Would a world “nearer our hearts desire” without suffering and death be the only proof of a “God worthy of homage” in this vast universe?

The greatest question in all this is “Does God Exist?”

Is there a God?

If so, can you prove it? Is God a personal being, who hears, and answers prayers?

What is His nature, if He exists? Is He a loving, merciful, forgiving God, who is interested in preventing tragedy? Does He

protect humans? Does he STOP wars?

Science proves there is a God. It is absolutely unshakable – the ONLY intelligent answer. A creation demands a Creator. Life demands a Lifegiver. Power, energy, force – all demand a source of power. Design is not through randomness or caprice, but by a Designer. A great Sustainer keeps it all working. Laws require a Lawgiver. And God has not left this world without a witness. He has given His Word.

And the Word of God, the Bible, stands proved.

God’s Word is the handbook about human nature, the book that explains about life and the way it should be lived.

While it sounds utterly impossible, the answers to the perplexing questions of youth, the bewilderment of Peter, the frustrated anger of the soldier at Stalingrad, and the cynical atheist, are very plainly revealed in God’s word!

God explains why He permits accidents, sickness, murder, and wars! He plainly reveals why humans suffer and shows why He does not prevent it.

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF HUMAN TROUBLE?

But first, what caused little Tommy’s death? Why the problems? Why war? For every effect there is a cause.

That’s a living principle. There must be causes for effects – action to bring about reaction.

Why was the little boy struck by the automobile? Perhaps the answers are simple, if tragic;

perhaps they're very involved. First, what about Tommy's training? Had he been taught never to run into the street? What type of discipline had he received during his young life? What about protective fences? What about speed restrictions in the neighborhood? An automobile was involved. But automobiles are not constructed by men whose whole purpose is the safety of other human beings.

Assembly-line production—with built-in obsolescence, huge engines and flimsy bodies in ever-changing shapes—does not

had asked) to remove the effect of perhaps many, many voluntary human actions. Were two boys chasing one another? Had Tommy run into the street to retrieve a ball? Was he actually attempting to see how close he could come to the car? (Very real cases are on record of such pranks; and one, of which I know personally, resulted in the death of a child).

The causes could have been myriad.

Peter's letter didn't list any causes for the accident. Perhaps Peter's mother could have re-

Most of us remain blind to them. I must realize, in writing this article, that some human minds will simply remain closed to the logical answers to little Peter's questions—that pity, (and perhaps even a measure of self-righteous indignation, which helps some to continually upgrade themselves, spiritually) will so cloud the mind that no matter what the causes, God will remain "guilty," in some minds.

But what if the driver was drunk?

God could have prevented such drunkenness, couldn't He?

Yes, He could.

But how?

Does the atheist, then, propose that God suspend His laws each time a person breaks them?

THE ATHEIST'S BETTER WORLD

The answers are found in the obvious mistakes in the thinking of the cynical atheist, who would "remake" the world nearer his heart's desire.

How would he do this?

He would remove the effects of human action—of free moral agency, of free choice.

He would demand there be no blindness, deafness, dumbness; no cripples, no disease, and no death by accident. He would insist each mind be mature, normal, stable, able to withstand all the rebuffs of life.

He would, in short, insist man be allowed to continue breaking natural and spiritual laws—continue living the way that causes all these human miseries. Yet he would insist on removing the effects of free human action.

In short, he would advocate

demonstrate carefully hand-crafted machinery that is totally safe. Perhaps the automobile had defective brakes. Perhaps the driver had been drinking or was under the influence of drugs. Even heavy doses of smog can markedly slow down a motorist's reactions in an emergency. So can pain killers, like aspirin. And, strange as it may seem, even an argument at home could have so affected the driver of the auto that he was driving angrily, at unreasonable speed!

So there were many, many unknown factors involved in the accident that killed little Tommy. Let's ask little Peter's question again—and see specific answers.

Peter asked God (or challenged God because his mother

moved the cause. We'll never know for sure. But suppose more diligent training could have literally prevented Tommy from ever running into the street? It's possible, you know.

Suppose Tommy had been told to remain in the back yard, away from a busy street—but that he had never been disciplined when he disobeyed? Suppose his foray into the street was a child-like act of adventurous rebellion?

Human emotions always cloud facts. Bereaved loved ones, seeing only the immediate, terrible consequences of an accident, are stunned with heartsick moroseness. They are filled with feelings of pity and sorrow. They see the effect—the pitiful body of a dead child. But the causes?

the abolishing of the penalty for sin, while leaving the sin itself.

Again we must ask, “Why blindness, deafness, dumbness? Why crippling accidents, sickness, accidental death? Why wars?”

The answer?

Man is a free moral agent. He is free to choose his own way of living, free to act contrary to the interests of others, free to act contrary to his own self-interests.

One common cause of congenital blindness, deafness, and other deformities is venereal disease. The atheist said nothing about the prevention of venereal disease—only that he demands the effects of human sin be removed, that humans be allowed to be as wretchedly disobedient to the laws of God as ever, but that the penalties for these broken laws be removed.

Accidental deaths? He would remove them.

How?

He didn’t say. But let’s think of the many, many ways in which people die accidentally. Drownings, auto collisions, accidental shootings, falls, airplane crashes, accidental poisonings—these and a host of others take their fearsome toll each year.

But let’s be practical. Does the atheist, then, propose that God suspend His laws each time a person breaks them? Humans can’t breathe under water. When people foolishly stand up in boats or overload boats, or when children play on steep banks of rushing rivers, or when old craft, poorly maintained, flounder, does

the atheist expect God to immediately rescue each person caught in such an act—that God remove the penalty for foolish actions?

But how would God do this? Let’s wonder together...

THE CIGARETTE BATTLE

Take cigarette smoking. It’s been proved beyond the remotest shadow of a doubt that it is not only continually injurious to your



health, but that it could kill you with lung cancer, heart disease, or emphysema.

So a man, driven by his lust for the sensation of nicotine in his bloodstream, reaches for a pack of cigarettes. Suddenly, he is repelled by an invisible, irresistible force. His hand stops just short of his shirt pocket. He can’t believe it. He is trying desperately to reach into his own shirt pocket, and he simply can’t! He tries the other hand. Same result. Soaked with perspiration, he struggles with all his power to get that cigarette package out of his pocket. He bends over and jogs up and down. The shirt is open and the cigarettes fall out.

He tries to reach for them. But he can’t. He is stopped by some unseen hand—some invisible force.

He throws himself to the floor, trying to seize the package in his mouth, trying to get a cigarette into his mouth without using his hands. But he is unable to get near the package. He can crawl around and around it, but never get quite close enough! An invisible hand keeps him away.

He screams for a friend. But the same thing happens, again and again. God has stepped in and has begun to live this man’s life for him. Now he can’t smoke. He wants to, desperately! But he can’t.

He throws himself into mindless tantrums. Screaming out against the unseen force, he curses, rages, shrieks, and strains against it until his eyes are crazed, his breath comes in sobbing gasps and he froths at the mouth.

But to no avail.

After days, and finally weeks, he is a mindless cur. He snivels, looks furtively about, and surreptitiously attempts every conceivable ruse to obtain a smoke. It

takes months, and finally, though his whole mind and body has suffered through his senseless rages, he no longer has the cigarette habit. He is now conquered, in that one direction.

God has stepped in.

Do you see? You could apply this same example to any of the

Three, and he could be dangerous. Four, and he could be deadly.

Headed toward the neighborhood where John sulkily sips his drink is Mary and her three little children. Mary doesn't observe too many rules. Her seatbelt is not fastened. Two of her smaller children play in the back of the

could such a voice speak out of nowhere? And who does He think He is?

Of course, the National Safety Council, the slippery streets, her own lack of good driving habits, and her love and concern for her children should be voice sufficiently audible for her to obey. But not Mary. She's a free moral agent, a free spirit. She'll do as she chooses. And besides, it's been a long day shopping and she's in a hurry.

Do you see?

Only if God were to step in and live people's lives for them would accidents be prevented.

The atheist didn't know what he was asking for. He was requesting a world with a zombie-like populace, shuffling about in mindless obedience to myriad laws that would govern all human behavior.

But if God were to impose such restraints on humans, what then?

Very likely, He would be faced with a continual battle—a constant stream of hatred, invective, curses of screams and anger. He would be faced with a decision: whether to destroy His creation and begin again, or to beat human kind into submission—with the end product a mindless, dutifully obedient organism, without thought, without reason, without intellect, and totally devoid of character.

WHAT IS MAN?

The Bible narrative reveals that God created Adam—man—in the very image and similitude

But Adam didn't fall from any perfect state. He merely exercised his God-given right of free choice and made the wrong decision!

harmful human actions possible. Unless God Almighty steps in to force humans to do what they ought to do instead of what they wish to do, humans will continue to follow the way of human nature—of greed, vanity, jealousy, lust, strife, competition, racism, hatred and total self-seeking.

PREVENT ACCIDENTS?

The atheist said there would be no more accidental deaths. Then the same, strange, invisible force would have to immediately interfere to prevent accidents.

Imagine the scene at the neighborhood bar.

John, the harried businessman, has procrastinated about going home to Martha, his constant nag.

He needs bolstering. In this case, booze.

But he's already had one, and his reflexes are already being affected somewhat. Two martinis and he could be very slow in an emergency on the highway.

station wagon, and her oldest daughter sits in the front seat. She, too, has left her seatbelt unfastened.

The seemingly fateful enactment of human tragedy—the moment when John lurches from the bar, starts his engine, and careens into the street, races down the block and runs the stop sign—the moment when Mary and her family drive confidently through the intersection—continues to approach.

But wait.

John is just about to drink that third martini.

Suddenly a strange, irresistible force stays his hand. It boggles his mind. He simply can't drink that martini, no matter how hard he tries.

And so, the same wrestling match with an invisible, spiritual straightjacket occurs.

Mary, too has found that a powerful challenging voice has commanded her to fasten her safety belt. She resents it. How

of God. He imparted to Adam mind power, limited ability to think, plan, reason, and to create.

The Genesis account further quotes God as saying, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them [meaning all mankind, and not just Adam] have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

Later, it is revealed the God made man a “living soul.” The Hebrews word is *nephesh* and is used five times in the first chapter of Genesis for lower life forms before ever being used to connote man. In Numbers 19:11, the same word appears in the words, “dead body.” Yet the English is rendered soul. Millions have mistakenly embraced the pagan doctrine of “immortality of the soul” without ever researching some of the simplest truths of the Scriptures. God reveals that “...the Eternal God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Gen. 2:7).

Notice, man is not said to possess a “soul” within himself, but to BE a soul. And soul means earthy, temporal, transitory, fleshy, and subject to death.

Herein is one of the most vital points of the entire question of “Christian” philosophy.

The major religions can be said to be decided on each side of the concept of what is man.

Many believe man is possessed of some “inner goodness”

within himself. That is, that there is some innate “godlike” quality within mankind. Most of the Oriental religions assume inner goodness in man.

The basic “Christian” approach is an inner evil in man, hence the need for a Savior, a Redeemer, to expiate the evil acts of mankind, and to return him to his former state of “goodness.”

And, shocking as it sounds, both concepts are in error.

Professing Christians assume Adam fell.

But Adam didn’t fall from any perfect state. He merely exercised his God-given right of free choice and made the wrong decision!

Adam was created human. HE was not immortal, but flesh—“Dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return” (Gen. 3:19). He had human nature.

Prior to being influenced to disobey his Maker, Adam was “neutral” toward God. He did not resent God as yet. There was no hostility evident in the conversations in the garden (Genesis 2nd and 3rd chapters).

But once Satan had influenced Adam—once Adam had exercised his own free moral agency to make a wrong decision—hostility toward God entered.

Adam could have argued, “God, you KNEW we could lose our wonderful home (the Garden), and that our lives would be filled with work and sweat (Gen. 3:19), and that our children would eventually record the first murder (Gen. 4:8). YOU could have removed these consequences of sin;

you could have prevented Cain from killing his own brother; you could have made life easy for us, with no bad crops, no bad years, no sickness, no heartaches, no anxieties and worries.”

And God could answer: “No, Adam YOU could have prevented all these consequences of sin! Remember, I told you not to bring these things upon you. I told you you would surely die, that your mortal, human body would be subject to death (the DEATH—Rom. 6:23) if you disobeyed my commands. I allowed you free choice, but I commanded you to make the right choice. I wanted you to be the one to make the decision!”

God could answer that His great love for Adam, His desire to see a human being rise higher and higher toward the very God plane through building right character, was the reason why God left the choice to Adam.

FREE CHOICE

Notice what God said to our forefathers. “See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil” (Deuteronomy 30:15).

God places before each of us a choice.

We may choose to obey the laws of good eating, exercise, sleep, and clean thinking and we will be automatically blessed because of the laws which God has set in motion. And we may choose to break those laws, ignore their existence, and suffer physical debilities, handicaps, sickness, and early death!

Most fat people were not force-fed.

You “are” what you eat. And God has laws involving foods, believe it or not. For more information on God’s dietary laws, call now for our free booklet, “To Eat, or Not To Eat?”

You may choose to train your children God’s way, according to the loving conditions of Scripture, and according to the examples of God’s Word, and they will be greatly blessed—their lives protected and preserved.

this day to love the Eternal thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Eternal thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it... I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore CHOOSE life, that both thou and thy seed may live” (Deut. 30:16-19).

God says choose.

that choice are all around you.

Man has always chosen the way of disobedience. The way of vanity, jealousy, lust, and greed. He has deliberately chosen the way of competition and strife, believing it the best way.

In momentary triumph, he congratulates himself.

In failure, he blames God.

GOD KEEPS HANDS OFF

Humans act unreasonably.

But then, human nature, with the Satanic influence of this age and this society, is most unreasonable.

Humankind wants God to “keep his nose out of our business” and not interfere in our daily lives. To be met with the “invisible spiritual straightjacket” described earlier would absolutely enrage most humans.

Still, even though feeling animosity toward God, and resenting His laws, we want God to suspend the penalty for breaking His laws!

God says, “the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be”! (Rom. 8:7.)

Humans resent God’s way—the only way to achieve “goodness.” Goodness of character and good things happening all thought life.

Human nature wants to “appear” as “good,” it wants to think of itself as “good,” but it doesn’t want to DO that which is good! It wants to be “good” and to have good results, without living in a way which produces good!

God is not presently

God commands us to make the right choice—but He will not force that right choice upon us.

But then, you are also free to choose the way of modern “child psychology,” or the current way of “situation ethics” and permissiveness which encourages disobedience in children, and which is a direct cause of much youthful rebellion of this age.

For the most part, men and women have chosen the line of least effort in child rearing, and our enormous problem of juvenile delinquency is the direct result of a cause. The cause? The unwillingness of man to obey His creator.

Proof? To suggest to a modern family they should actually look into the Bible to see how to rear children is proof enough. Snorts of ridicule, disdain, and anger are the usual reply.

God said, “...I command thee

He reveals we are creatures of free choice in relationship to Him, and to His laws, that we are free moral agents.

God commands us to make the right choice—but He will not force that right choice upon us.

Little Tommy was as yet too young to make serious choices for himself and should have been protected with the safeguard of loving discipline—first, perhaps a protected place to play, and second, protected with the removal of all those other causes of the accident. Just like that young boy—whose decision to run into the street was only one tiny part of the whole “choosing” situation which resulted in his death—each person must choose.

The whole society has chosen.

The fruits, the evidence of

interfering in a powerful way with this world.

The horrible consequences of man, living man's chosen way, are self-evident.

Crime, divorce, horrible disease epidemics, war, pollution, utter immorality, venereal disease—all are effects of man's own choices, his own bull-headed, stiff-necked determination to live contrary to God's laws and insist God remove the penalties.

But only when man has learned the bitterest of lessons, only when human beings can look back over the entirety of blood-stained human history and say with deep conviction, man's way is utterly evil, will God step in and rescue man from himself.

It is a heartbreaking shame that little children must suffer

for the consequences of careless, sinning parents, neighbors and sometimes even grandparents. But God warned us it would be this way. He spoke of allowing the consequences for sin to be visited from the fathers "...upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Ex. 20:5).

YOUR FREEDOM OF CHOICE

Yes, God allowed little Tommy to die. He allowed World War II. He allowed more than 50,000 Americans to be killed in automobile accidents last year.

And He allows you to make every decision for yourself.

He permitted each of the parents, neighbors, and friends of Tommy to contribute to his little personality. He permitted

whatever sequence of events that led to Tommy's trip into the street.

He allowed the automobile to continue on the path chosen for it by its driver.

That is to say, He does not step in and impose His will on any people at any time.

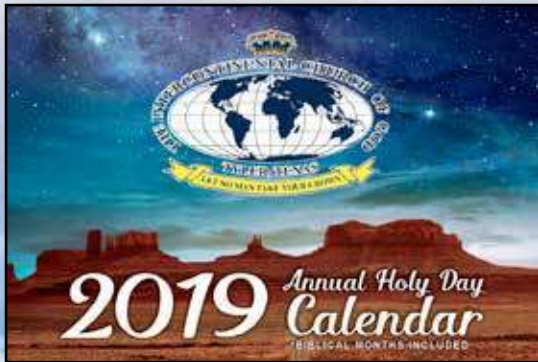
Frankly, you don't want Him to. You would strongly resent the sudden imposition of the will of God into your daily, private life.

God makes available to you the way of life which causes happiness, success, rewards, excitement, fun, good health, and eventual eternal life. He commands you to choose to live that way.

But He doesn't force you to make the right choice.

God will allow you to choose life—or he'll allow you to choose death. The choice is yours. □

2019 Holy Day Calendar



Order your
FREE
Holy Day
Calendar



In addition to beautiful scriptures, this calendar indicates the beginning of each Biblical month as well as the weekly Sabbath and the Holy Days. Order while supplies last.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath
1*	2	3	4 ^c	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20*	21
22	23	24	25	26	27*	28
29*	30					


**WORLD NEWS
BRIEF**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

PARIS BURNING

Recent days have seen combative demonstrations and large fires blocking some of Paris' most fashionable and historic boulevards. President Macron introduced new fuel taxes to fund some of the world's most generous benefit and social programs. It seems France may be running out of other people's money and is about to dig even deeper into the pockets of citizens who've had about enough.

The French already pay double what we do in the United States for fuel, so what's another eight percent? It may be the straw that drives Macron from power. He already has some of the lowest approval ratings of any national leader in a democracy and this just might do him in.

It seems odd that a nation so intent on saving the environment would have overturned trucks, trailers and bicycles, burning them in the middle of the Champs Elysée, but there it is. We suspect somehow that this wasn't addressed in the Paris Climate Accords. It may be that in France, social programs trump even the environment

TROUBLE IN ORTHODOXY

Events in Ukraine threaten the unity of the Orthodox church and highlight the country's ongoing struggle with Russia. Roughly 12% of Christians worldwide are Orthodox, including over 63% of the total population of Ukraine. Though the country gained independence in 1991, the vast majority of Orthodox churches remained under the control of the Moscow patriarchate. This has become a particularly raw point in light of recent Russian aggression and the annexation of Crimea.

The Kremlin is accused of exploiting this rela-

tionship, using the churches to propagandize and having the clergy assist separatist forces. Bartholomew the patriarch of Constantinople, who is considered "the first among equals" in Orthodoxy, has granted independence to the Ukrainian church, hoping to lessen the potential for catastrophe leading up to the country's 2019 elections. The Russian church, which actually contains the majority of Orthodox believers, has responded by severing ties with Constantinople. It's patriarch, Kirill, is a close supporter of Vladimir Putin, who he has even purportedly referred to as "a miracle of God."

CHANGES AHEAD

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has long been considered the leader of the European Union. She has been chairperson of the CDU since the year 2000 and Chancellor of Germany since 2005, the first female to hold either position. In 2017 she was elected to her fourth term as Chancellor. While narrowly retaining power, the polls have illustrated the anger and frustration of Germans with Merkel, the CDU, and coalition partners over their handling of the migrant crisis. Consequently, Merkel has announced retirement plans, saying she will not seek re-election as Chancellor, whether in 2021 or if snap elections are called sooner, and is stepping down as CDU chairperson. Gains by anti-immigration parties, such as AFD, in addition to leadership changes in the CDU create a great deal of uncertainty about the future of Germany, the largest economy and de-facto leader of the European Union.

DROUGHT IN ISRAEL

The Sea of Galilee is approaching "the lowest

level ever recorded” warns the Israeli Water Authority. Galilee, the most important freshwater reserve in the country, is currently suffering from one of the worst droughts in recent history. The lake exceeded 700 feet below sea level during the month of October. Many fear increasing salinity and algae blooms will result. Comparatively, the Dead Sea is about 1,400 feet below sea level and nearly ten times as salty as the ocean. Galilee reached similarly low levels in 2001 and 2008 however, Israel is no longer pumping 79 billion gallons of water for domestic use from the reservoir. Considered a pioneer in desalination, five new plants have become operational in the last couple of years and have replaced what was being drained from Galilee. The situation is dire enough that plans are being considered to pump desalinated water directly into the lake.

POLIO-LIKE VIRUS PARALYZES MOSTLY CHILDREN

Since 2014 a “polio type” disease has shown up in 31 states. Over 90% of the illnesses have been found in children under the age of four years. The disease is known as acute flaccid myelitis, or AFM. They reportedly experience symptoms including a cough and fever for three to ten days before the onset of paralysis. The CDC is on it quelling fears with statistics like this. “Less than one to two in a million children in the United States will get AFM every year.” Don’t you feel better already?

#RESIST

It seems nearly every agency of government is aligned against the President’s agenda. We’ve seen the plot to frame candidate Trump from the FBI (James Comey, Andrew McCabe, Peter Strok, Lisa Page) the Department of Justice (Rod Rosenstein, Bruce Ohr et al) the CIA, (John Brennan et al) and former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper. We mustn’t forget the role played by the Department of State under Hillary Clinton and later, John Kerry. Their participation in spreading the infamous and false “dossier” to numerous agencies with secret collaboration between many of the parties involved is largely already on the record, though ALL mainstream media outlets still pretend to know nothing about it.

All of them (including Obama himself, it appears) had their hopes pinned on the (Russian Collusion) investigation by Robert Mueller, and still regard him and his prosecutors as sacred cows. The pro-Mueller crowd still populate the evening network panels to speculate darkly as to “what he might find” after the 30 million dollars they’ve run up in government expenses and year and a half of “investigating.”

Now another shoe has dropped, and it portends ongoing battles going forward. The State Department just hired a notorious anti-Trump voice (Mary Kissel) to be a senior advisor to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. And that’s just one of many examples of anti-Trump actors populating what has become known as the Deep State. The President apparently still has many enemies working inside government agencies within his administration, and according to a new book (by David Bossie and Corey Lewandowski, *Trump’s Enemies: How the Deep State is Undermining the Trump Presidency*) even within the White House.

It appeared that the FISA warrant, FBI notes and all manner of documentation proving the ruse would be declassified without redaction and made public by Presidential order, but sadly, that still hasn’t happened. Meanwhile, reporting of news continues to be a total farce as we watch mainstream outlets salivate over the potential demise of the Trump presidency while completely ignoring the reality of what most of us have known for at least a year.

Some of the most compelling evidence that segments of the Trump administration are still working against him and his agenda is the recent release of a “government mandated” global warming paper. You guessed it. The projected increase in temperature due to man-made interference with the environment will devastate the United States. It will shrink our economy drastically and result in all manner of death and destruction. Media types love calling it “the Trump administration’s own report,” knowing that the President himself and at least half the country’s population regard it as hogwash designed to usher in socialist mandates. It’s just one in a litany of examples of nearly every government agency working against Trump and every aspect of his agenda. □

BIBLE STUDY*by Dr. James & Natalie Ricks*

The Misguided Doctrine of “HELL”

This world has inherited false, fear driven doctrines from antiquity and superstition with this distorted viewpoint helped by misunderstood scriptures. Using common sense and careful, precise translations of the word “hell” these misunderstandings can be clarified.

What kind of God do we worship? The premise behind the ever burning, torturing hellfire of Dante’s imagination is one of a sadistic deity. Pagans may see some of their gods in this fashion but Christians know that the true God is slow to anger and full of mercy. Jonah knew this and that is why he did not want to warn Israel’s enemy, Nineveh to repent.

Jonah 4:2, “So he prayed to the LORD, and said, ‘Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.’” (NKJV)

Numbers 14:18-19, “The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.

“Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.”

Moses, who knew God deeply, relied upon God’s mercy and graciousness when asking forgiveness for rebellious Israel. God certainly is not sadistic. If the ever burning hellfire doctrine were true then God would not only be allowing torture for sinners

forever, but would be rewarding the evil devil with more victims to torture.

The mainstream religious public believes that if the devil can encourage you to sin and not repent, he will be rewarded with more people to torture in hell forever and ever. God would then be rewarding Satan for his evil works! It does not make sense. God would thereby be encouraging Satan for vile evil by allowing or creating such a hell. We will now clarify the common sense Biblical truth about hell.

THE REAL MEANING OF THE WORD “HELL”

Some pagans did worship evil, cruel gods. Some even today, believe we must use this total fear tactic to get people to repent. We will review one of the favorite Bible texts for the truth.

John 3:16-17, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not PERISH but have everlasting life.

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Note the word perish. The penalty for the unsaved is to perish. They will not exist anymore. God is not moving them to a torture dungeon. They will not endure never ending torture by Satan. They simply will perish. Further, we see that Jesus’ purpose is to SAVE people, not to condemn them to torture if they fail to repent. The majority of people on this planet have not been saved to Christianity; therefore are

BIBLE STUDY

we to believe that they are all going to be tortured forever upon death? This is an outrageous belief about our God! This is not the only day of salvation.

There are three different Greek words that are translated as hell. The word *hades* simply means a grave. The second word, *tartaroo*, means a condition of restraint. It is only used for the fate of the demons. Note II Peter 2:4. The third word is *gehenna* it is a place of punishment, not punishing, in the valley of Hinnom—a burning garbage dump outside of Jerusalem.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE DEAD?

Nominal Christians believe that upon death one goes to either heaven or the torture pit, hell. They have been taught that our consciousness continues into the afterlife upon death. Does the Bible support such a belief?

Ecclesiastes 9:5, “For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.”

Psalms 146:4-5, “His Spirit departs, and he returns to the earth. In that very day, his thoughts perish.

“Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in Yahweh, his God.” (WEB)

The Bible clearly says people who pass away are not awake somewhere else. The only hope they have regarding the future lies with the true God. People who die are asleep awaiting either their eternal reward or their first real opportunity to be saved and gain entry into God’s kingdom.

I Thessalonians 4:13-16, “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are

asleep.

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”

Human beings do not have an immortal soul. Check the church website for the booklet “Do You Have an Immortal Soul?” The theme of the New Testament is the resurrection of the dead who are asleep in their graves awaiting the second coming of the Messiah.

I Corinthians 15:20, “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

I Corinthians 15:51-52, “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

Paul is explaining that people are awakened from sleep to be resurrected into God’s family.

THE REAL HELL FIRE: GEHENNA

This place outside Jerusalem was a city garbage dump that used fire to consume the trash filth and dead bodies dumped there. This Greek word *Gehenna* was used by Jesus consistently to refer the “hellfire” that would burn up sinners. *Gehenna* is a synonym for the Lake of Fire into which the unrepentant, defiant sinners will be cast into at the end of times. The Last Great Day will give everyone a chance to understand the Bible and then truly repent and be judged. The vast majority will be converted because God’s truth will be surrounding them unlike in our world, where all nations are deceived. See Revelation 12:9.

Revelation 20:12-14, “And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is that of life. And the dead were judged out of the things written in the books according to their works.

“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it,

BIBLE STUDY

and death and hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged each according to their works: and death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, even the lake of fire.” (DBY)

The Bible will be opened up to everyone and the majority will see how wonderful the world is with God’s government and His laws. They will repent and have their names written in the book of life and join God’s family. The defiantly wicked will be resurrected to face the lake of fire which will consume them quickly. They will perish just as it says in John 3:16. It will be hard not to be converted in this end time period.

Isaiah 11:9-10, “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea.

“And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, standing as a banner of the peoples: the nations shall seek it; and his resting-place shall be glory.”

All the world will know God. They will all partake of His grace and kindness. No one will be tortured forever. The small percentage of defiant sinners will be put out of their misery. They will no longer live their evil ways which make them and others miserable. They are mortal and will be erased.

**THE FIRE THAT SHALL
NEVER BE QUENCHED**

You may ask about the verses that say this fire shall never be quenched. “What about eternal fire?” some may say. We examine one such verse.

Jude 1:7, “As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” (NKJV)

If you go to the Middle East and locate the ruins of Sodom, are these cities still burning? No! Of course not! The common sense meaning is that the fire burns until it has nothing else to feed upon. It completely consumes the material. No human being will burn forever in hell fire. The fallen evil spirits will suffer forever, but not mankind. Their suffering is mental anguish not physical pain.

II Peter 2:4, “For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.”

Revelation 20:10, “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

The word “are” was added by the translator based on their misunderstandings. It should be translated where the beast “was” because human beings would burn up instantly in such a fire, but not spirit beings. Man will have the opportunity to see God’s grace. Satan and his demons deserve their fate of confinement forever in the bottomless pit, their hell. □

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HIJACKED SCIENCE

by Anthony J. DeBlasi reprinted with permission by AmericanThinker.com

Commenting on the abuse of science, the late John Silber, a former president of Boston University, stated (1988):

“Scientific programs that are powerfully effective in understanding and controlling largely isolated data in such fields as physics, have been applied crudely, reductively, and disastrously in the humanities and social sciences. Discipline after discipline has succumbed to the dogma that only the quantifiable is true.”

Such oversight regarding first things serves to reduce knowledge about human life and serves a side of human nature that Alan Watts liked to call “rascality”:

“I had a long talk with him back in 1958 ... and there was a sort of twinkle in Jung’s eye that gave me the impression that he knew himself to be just as much a villain as everybody else ... It showed that he knew and recognized what I sometimes call, “The Irreducible Element of Rascality” in himself. “[Alan Watts in 1961]

There are numbers for weight, height, pulse, cholesterol, etc., etc., etc. . . . even for “intelli-

gence,” but what are the numbers for love, fear, hate, compassion, sympathy, and the countless other unquantifiable items central to human life? Who else but a relative handful of academics and alert professionals take notice that the most important things in life are bypassed in biology, psychology, education, social and political science, and a host of other disciplines that indiscriminately help themselves to physics and mathematics and the methods of science proper? It should be, but is not generally obvious, that when the basics of human life are omitted by the professions that affect it, there is hardly any distinction between being a human and being a humanoid. Considering such constructed creatures “superhuman,” as futurists and transhumanists are fond of doing, skirts the issue and scores one for “rascality.”

Such basic carelessness concerning human life has no business in any discipline or profession directly affecting human conduct. How can there be wise and just government, wise and just social policies, when all the

most important things about life are ignored or relegated to “science”—in quotes because they don’t belong there?

“When I decided on a scientific career,” wrote Austin L. Hughes in an essay on scientism, “one of the things that appealed to me about science was the modesty of its practitioners. The typical scientist seemed to be a person who knew one small corner of the natural world and knew it very well, better than most other human beings living and better even than most who had ever lived. But outside of their circumscribed areas of expertise, scientists would hesitate to express an authoritative opinion. This attitude was attractive precisely because it stood in sharp contrast to the arrogance of the philosophers of the positivist tradition, who claimed for science and its practitioners a broad authority with which many practicing scientists themselves were uncomfortable.”

To be less diplomatic about it, professionals who rely on the domain of the so-called social and political “sciences” for their base of action are de facto pseu-

Continued next page

doscientific speculators, often at public expense. But the speculations of vulgarized science distill to bull, regardless of how “scientific” the language, tight the system, convincing the supporting data, or smart the arguments.

Pseudoscientists pretend to explain human activity as though it were a lab exercise, presumably to arrive at guidelines for what is judged best (by them) for the con-

duct of society. Their output has been called “evidence-based policy-making.” Evidence? Check a slogan that has been used to “justify” this approach:

do not look down on methods of knowing outside of their domain, aware of the very real limitations of their work. In fact, some have tapped into that vast reservoir of “unquantifiables” so despised by positivists, such as the divine inspirations that formed the complex mathematical theorems in the mind of Ramanujan.

Unfortunately the bull from pseudoscientists compounds the

body of knowledge that would indicate a seemingly infinite power to influence the world, staging ever more daring feats of scientific wizardry. This has made too many overlook the fact that the world is also profoundly influenced by nonscientists like Confucius, Plato, Christ, the originators of our musical scale... Gandhi...(name your own agents of progress who were not practicing scientists).

Full knowledge of the world, macro and micro—outer and inner—perpetually recedes from our reach, fading from sight like a faint star that vanishes from view when gazed at, in order to see it more distinctly. It is not easy for a proud species like ours to see, even less accept the fact, that the world (including us) is at root unknowable in the rational sense. This should be the starting point in any serious endeavor toward progress that affects human beings. In that endeavor, let science be science, for its vitally important work must not be tampered with. Those who choose science for their vocation, if they are to remain true to their calling, must seek ways to isolate themselves from the corrupting reach of politics. “Going along to get along” is not an option. □

Anthony J. DeBlasi [AB, PΦK, Brooklyn College, 1953] is a Korean War veteran whose 80+ years of observation of the people and world around him have taught him lessons unavailable in academia, the mainstream media, and the world-wide-web.

Those who choose science for their vocation...must seek ways to isolate themselves from the corrupting reach of politics.

duct of society. Their output has been called “evidence-based policy-making.” Evidence? Check a slogan that has been used to “justify” this approach:

“Science is the pursuit of knowledge, knowledge is power, and power is politics.”

Notice the circle of reductions, linking output with input, a trick of leftist “liberalism” to hoodwink everyone (including the “liberals” themselves). And notice the implication that science is the only way of knowing what is best for people. So much for the value of such “evidence.”

Where, today, is any strong competition from less “verifiable” but substantially valuable modes of insight, such as provided by literature and the fine arts, philosophy and theology? Being “scientific” is not the only criterion for what is verifiable. True scientists

inherent errors of the trade and magnifies the problems targeted for solution. Yet these dealers in false science expect you, me, and everybody else to live by their absurd programs, via NGOs and government agencies, using tactics of coercion that rival any in the history of oppressive rule. Some of us notice that the rule by iron hand in some autocracies has been replaced in our democratic republic by the rule of a majority brainwashed by controlled media. We also notice that the ethics employed in such counterfeit democracy have more of might than morality behind them, adjusted ad lib to the political climate.

Though no one will admit it, scientists in general have become the collective witch doctor of contemporary society. They have spooked the public with a dazzling array of experiments and

MERKEL'S MADNESS



by Murray Allatt

In 2015 Angela Merkel invited the world, the third world, into Europe. The influx of over one million (by now surely over two million) “migrants,” mostly undocumented, has largely been comprised of Syrians fleeing the civil war. It also included people from many other countries from the Middle East—the vast majority being single males of military age.

Subsequently tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, from Africa have made a perilous journey to southern Europe via Italy, France and Spain. Certainly, many thousands have perished by drowning in the Mediterranean Sea. Again, the vast majority of these “migrants” have been undocumented and their “migration” unregulated.

The flow of “migrants,” involving mass migration that is, has all been one way for many years—from the third world to the first. But Merkel’s decision in 2015 to ‘invite one, invite all,’ of those fleeing war, economic hardship—looking for a better life—seems to have unleashed a near unstoppable avalanche of humanity on Europe.

Meanwhile a hemisphere away the U.S. border with Mexico has for decades seen uninvit-

ed, largely undocumented intruders (sorry, “migrants”) literally scale the wall, hop the fence or swim the river. For years it was claimed that there were “just” 11 million illegal, undocumented immigrants in the USA. Recently a study revealed (surprise) that figure was actually 22 million! The reality is, however, that the real figure could be double that again.

Australia has also had to deal with the arrival of uninvited “immigrants” for decades, usually by boat. There is some advantage to an island continent. From the 1990s to 2007 a wave of boat people was successfully staunched, if not turned back, by a government led by PM John Howard who operated on the basis that Australia would determine who came into the country. There would be no “self selection.” At the time of the 2008 Federal election there were just four illegal immigrants—so called asylum seekers—in detention.

In 2008 a change of government, elected on the promise that the immigration and “refugee” policies would remain unchanged, promptly changed those policies, setting off five years of illegal boat arrivals. 55,000 uninvited, mainly Islamic “economic

refugees,” who, rather than being poverty stricken in fear of their lives from home governments, had left their home country legally via the airport, flown to Malaysia or Indonesia direct, and miraculously had access to tens of thousands of dollars to pay people smugglers in Indonesia for a perilous boat trip to Australian territory, principally Christmas Island.

That over 1200 (quite possible many more) drowned making the attempt was to those who changed the policy, and those who encouraged these “migrants” unlawful actions, of minimal consequence—collateral damage. Only with another change of government in 2013 was this trade in humanity again stopped. But stopped with policies of “turn back the boats” and “offshore detention”—mandatory, with the rider that no one who arrived illegally by boat would ever be allowed to settle in Australia.

So the movement of third world populations to the West—be it Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia—uninvited, illegally, by any available means is nothing new. What was new in 2015 was Merkel’s invitation. The resulting impact on Europe has been predictable and devastating. Par-

Continued next page

ticularly devastating for the thousands of European women subjected to the deplorable actions of foreign males from cultures that treat women as chattels and western women as fair game for rape and sexual assault.

Reports from Germany and Sweden (of all places) make it clear that, just as the 1200 plus who drowned between Indonesia and Australia were to the politi-

accommodations?)

The “compact” on migration is a 34 page agreed document of ponderous and repetitious verbosity, which on its face appears reasonable. It has sections on Common Understanding, Shared Responsibilities, Unity of Purpose: “This Global Compact recognizes that safe, orderly and regular migration works for all when it takes place in a well-in-

Not surprisingly ... Merkel is on the way out, partly at least as a result of her 2015 “invitation” and subsequent actions.

cal promoters of this worldwide mass migration of the third world to the first, were merely collateral damage and an acceptable loss, so too the European rape and assault victims. Not surprisingly, though it seems it should have happened already, Merkel is on the way out, partly at least as a result of her 2015 “invitation” and subsequent actions.

Enter the UN.

In September 2016, 193 UN Member States adopted the so called “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.” The resulting “Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” plus the “Global Compact for Refugees” is expected to be agreed and adopted among willing States in Morocco at an intergovernmental conference on 10-11 December, 2018. (Why is it so many UN conferences are held in exotic locales with 6 star

formed, planned and consensual manner. Migration should never be an act of desperation...”

The guiding principles of the Compact are “People Centered,” “International Cooperation,” “National Sovereignty,” “Rule of Law and Due Process,” “Sustainable Development,” “Human Rights,” “Gender Responsive,” “Child Sensitive,” “Whole of Government Approach,” “Whole of Society Approach.”

There are then 23 Objectives Listed for “Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.” Then against each “Objective” is listed in quite some detail the “commitments” of the adopting governments. And these commitments to the 23 Objectives fill out pages 6 to 31 of the document. That’s a lot of commitment.

Curiously, one of the guiding principles is “National Sovereignty” wherein it is stated, “The

Global Compact reaffirms the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law. Within their sovereign jurisdiction, States may distinguish between regular and irregular migration status, including as they determine their legislative and policy measures for the implementation of the Global Compact, taking into account different national realities, policies, priorities and requirements for entry, residence and work, in accordance with international law.”

Why then are countries withdrawing their support for this compact stating that they will not give up their sovereign right to determine their own migration policy to the UN? The United States repudiated the agreement in December 2017. Recently Hungary, Poland and now Estonia have stated they will not be bound to the agreement. Some are urging Israel to withdraw from anything to do with this Compact. In Australia, the Border Protection Minister, Peter Dutton has stated Australia will not sign on to the Compact in present form.

Why this backing away when “The Global Compact reaffirms the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy?” On 21 November, 2018 the Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, confirmed that Australia would not sign up to the Compact on Migration. He stated that the Compact on Migration would unduly impact

Australia's border protection. Curiously he also stated Australia would sign up to the Compact on Refugees, stating the UN could not dictate the number or source of refugees by that Compact. We will see.

The fact is, this "Compact on Migration" places all of the obligation on Western nations signatories to conform to its agreed principles, objectives and "commitments." Does anyone expect Burkina Faso, Senegal, Somalia, Iraq, Iran, Syria or any of the 56 Muslim country UN members to similarly comply with this "Compact on Migration?" Does anyone expect the 54 African countries (some of which are also Muslim countries) to comply? How about Central and South American countries? How about Asian countries?

Which of the UN member countries who sign up to this "Compact on Migration" would be expected to comply, indeed forced to comply by all the other signatories as well as their own homegrown social justice warriors? Why, that would be the Western nations who would be expected to comply with every jot and tittle of the Compact.

Who would be beaten over the head by other UN member signatories for non-compliance? The Western nations. It could be expected to operate much like the United Nations Human Rights Council, don't you think? We know how the UNHRC operates. Iran, Saudi Arabia, North Korea and other nations of impeccable human rights credentials lectur-

ing the US, Australia, and other western nations on human rights!

When you read through the "principles," "objectives" and "commitments" to achieve those objectives it is obvious that the Western nations already substantially, and have for decades, operate in the manner described. It is the other 140 or so non-western countries that are challenged by lack of an orderly, regularized migration system. This compact will do nothing to alter that fact. It will however work to impede the sovereign rights of western nations to control migration to their countries from areas of uncontrolled and unregulated migration. That is, self selecting migrants looking for better opportunities but arriving uninvited and unvetted. This compact has the effect of granting illegal migration the same status as legal migration.

The most powerful weapon the Australian government has

had the use of to deter illegal boat arrivals (and stop drownings) has been the policy of off shore mandatory detention (as well as boat turn backs). Why would Peter Dutton, Minister for Border Protection, state that Australia would not sign on to the Compact in current form and the Prime Minister Morrison then state Australia would not sign on due to the fact to do so would weaken Australia's border protection? Here is one good reason:

Objective 13: Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives.

So far as illegal boat arrivals are concerned in Australian migration policy, mandatory migration detention is a measure of first resort. It has worked to stop the boats and the drownings. Remove that deterrence, as will inevitably be the case when a change to the Australian government occurs (polling shows



probably by May 2019), and the illegal boat arrivals and the drownings will resume.

Migration, legal and illegal, has been ongoing for decades. Western nations have had in place appropriate immigration rules for their particular country needs during all that time for legal migration. And for that matter illegal migration. Why then in 2016 is a process set off to put the UN's imprimatur on migration—ostensibly legal, orderly migration?

The real driver for this Migration Compact was not legal migration at all but illegal migration. It was the illegal (although invited by Merkel) migration of millions of Middle Eastern and African “economic” migrants to Europe, for the most part, from 2015 and to the present. This UN process was set off with the rebellion of some European countries who have refused to participate in Merkel's madness. The UN, through this Migration Compact is trying to sign up every country, especially western countries, including those rebel European countries, principally to ensure that Western nations can be coerced to take in more of the third world.

The population of Africa is exploding. They are going to go to Europe come what may. The culture and lifestyle of Europe is going to change. By many reports it has already changed. The same goes for other areas, notably the US. Australia has not escaped. And this Compact is all about making that transi-

tion for those western countries, from first world societies to repositories for third world misery, as smooth as possible, ensuring the receiving population is suitably subdued. Just take these few “Objectives”:

(16) *Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion*

(17) *Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration*

(18) *Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences*

(19) *Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries*

(20) *Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants*

(21) *Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration*

(22) *Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits*

All motherhood statements which sound so very reasonable. But they are ignoring the societal and cultural dislocation and strains, the imposition on existing infrastructure—hospitals, schools, roads, water and food supplies and everything else that makes a first world country first world—and expecting the existing population to pay for the new comers as well as the additional costs their presence re-

quires to maintain services and living standards. And remember, this “Compact for Migration” does not differentiate between legal and illegal migration. All are to be treated the same.

Perhaps it was always going to end this way, but it seems clear enough that this latest UN power grab owes at least something to Angela Merkel's 2015 invitation to the third world. Sensible governments will steer well clear of involvement with the UN Compact on Migration, as just another in a long line of international agreements that rob countries of sovereignty and tie the world in the knots of globalism.

Now, does this flood of third world populations into the first world tie in with Bible prophecy? The Bible pronounces curses on the nation of Israel (and any nation) for failure to follow God's law. Read Deuteronomy 28:15-68. “The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower” (Deut. 28:43).

What is happening in the world today would make a lot more sense to someone who knew the identity of Great Britain and her Anglosphere of offspring—Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and the USA—as well as the identity of the nations of North Western Europe. Was the latterday invasion of these nations by foreigners foretold long ago? It's a fascinating story that can be read in “Europe and America in Prophecy” by Garner Ted Armstrong. □



Culture and Custom

by Michael Armstrong

Immigration has played a major role in the history and development of the United States. From the earliest pilgrims, seeking religious freedom, to Africans forced into hard labor, to various waves of Europeans fleeing persecution or pursuing economic opportunity, to the current preponderance of Latin American immigrants, all have affected the reality of life in America today.

While some other countries have a higher percentage relative to their population, no other nation has as many immigrants as the United States in absolute numbers. The total number was over 47 million in 2015, representing nearly 15% of the population. In 2016 legal immigration alone topped 1 million. While debate rages as to the benefit or detriment of continuing current practices, there is no denying that immigration has historically had, and will continue to have, a profound effect on the future of the country.

Religious freedom, as well as economic opportunity, provided much of the motivation for the earliest settlers. Acquiescence

to the Church of England was required in Great Britain at that time, the paying of tithes was enforced like taxation. The earliest colonists sought a place to worship as they saw fit, but also the freedom to establish their own religions. While the creed enshrined was different, some of the systems closely resembled those which had been fled.

Of the thirteen colonies which were to eventually declare independence, eight had official religions. Those who would “dissent,” or proselytize differing beliefs, were often punished with varying degrees of severity. The “religious freedom” of that day certainly did not have the all-accepting, all-encompassing connotation that is implied when it is bandied about in this modern age. It was however the freedom to establish their beliefs, giving them their proper place and context in society.

While such religious practices may be deemed archaic, hateful, bigoted, or worse by today’s intellectuals they are hardly illogical. The majority of the colonists were protestants. The reformation

had shaken the foundations of the old world. The printing press had given laymen direct access to the Holy Scriptures in a way that had never existed before. Suddenly, the vast differences between the religion of Rome, its Anglican cousin, and the actual teachings of the Bible were illuminated in stark relief. How could they continue to pay homage or financially support these systems which were not only dens of licentious corruption but abrogated the authority of God?

On reaching the new world they attempted to realign their society with scripture. One cannot escape the similarities, in many cases the Biblical narrative was intentionally emulated. The Israelites, on being established in the promised land, were not to allow idolatry or any other form of pagan worship to continue in their midst. Likewise, the second coming of Jesus Christ, the advent of God’s kingdom on this earth, is not going to be a smörgåsbord of polytheistic diversity. Quite the opposite. There will be one God, one law, and every indication that your options will be few. So it

Continued next page

was in many of the early colonies, one sect would rule and all others be excluded.

Though it is currently popular to be aghast at such “intolerance,” the concept is frequently applied today. Is creationism tolerated in the scientific community? Belief in God, at least the God of the Bible, is largely considered a joke in modern society. While we mostly retain our freedom of speech (maybe not on-line) in

cepting.

As the old cliché says, “birds of a feather flock together,” and so it is, even if we can’t comprehend what their flock is thinking. The impulse is universal and its practice is evident. Any visitor to the Oak Lawn district of Dallas would immediately be aware that its inhabitants are overwhelmingly homosexual. Check Google, it’s not a secret. Census data bears out these trends along

in some cases demanded acquiescence to sectarian dogma.

Many colonies tolerated any orderly sect of Protestant Christianity. Catholics established and maintained a minority presence and Jewish communities took root in many of the growing cities. Only a few allowed either group to vote. Such stricture inevitably bred theological disagreement and actually led to the establishment of new settlements and colonies which welcomed people of disparate points of view. The magnanimous philosophies of equality, freedom, and liberty in law were yet in their infancy as far as application. For the majority of the inhabitants of this “new world” religion was not a peripheral issue. Often it was the express reason for undertaking the perilous journey to this unsettled land.

Once they were established in the land, the colonists became largely self sufficient. The average family spent very little on imports, purportedly only £5-15 annually. Population growth was primarily the result of domestic success. The healthy climate (cold winters killed most disease carrying insects) and abundant food led New England to enjoy the lowest death rate and highest birth rate in the world. Large families were the norm, most had eight or more children. This provided the population that settled the country, establishing new towns and forging the frontiers.

The final major colonies to be settled by immigrants were Pennsylvania and Georgia during the

Belief in God, at least the God of the Bible, is largely considered a joke in modern society.

the United States, there are many traditionally Christian places in the world where pronouncing the judgments of God will get you incarcerated or worse. In the wrong company you might not survive until the first responders arrive.

It is the very concept of what is good, right, and moral that has changed. What legislation has not yet accomplished media and entertainment attempt to. Their representations of society’s norms bring the collective weight of our unknown peers to bear. Do they not attempt to belittle and exclude certain points of view? While their methodology may be as heinous as their morals are corrupt, their goal is to create a society where everyone accepts their values, twisted as they may be. Dissent equals exclusion or punishment, yet it hypocritically masquerades as loving and ac-

ethnic lines, showing how people voluntarily group up. All of America’s major cities are evidence. Families settle near one another for convenience. To live among a group that shares the same customs, speaks the same language, is obviously desirable to a new arrival in a strange land.

The Puritanical Pilgrims, of Plymouth fame, sought to create a society of like-minded individuals. They were united in belief and religion. They hoped their pious example would inspire the Church of England to reform, to shed its lingering similarities to Catholicism. A public education system was created primarily to guarantee that future generations could read the Bible for themselves. Civil law was based on God’s law. Scripture was often referenced in court proceedings. Enforcement could be severe and

1700's. Even so, the foreign born population rarely reached 10% of any given area and then only in isolated instances. Natural population growth remained the norm for most of American history. Today that is no longer the case.

Recent history saw the natural growth rate reach 1.8% in the years following WWII. Currently it is reported at 0.7% and falling. Projections through 2060 calculate a total population increase of 98 million. Immigration will account for 64 million leaving only 34 million as the result of natural population growth. Of course, the natural growth number includes children born to people who previously immigrated.

The people of the United States need to seriously consider their past as well as their future. The foundations of this nation were laid by men and women with conviction and purpose. Though their beliefs were often disparate and conflicting, reliance on the guidance of scripture and divine providence were nearly universal. They formed the basis of our civil structure. The benefit of a national government in harmony with natural law has indeed become self-evident.

The toleration extended to the various sects inhabiting this country was revolutionary and extremely liberal for its time. It was a tremendous blessing to those who wished to live at peace amongst their neighbors and worship God with a clear conscience. Over the years the "accepting" nature of the United States has become somewhat of a nation-

al creed and has been applied in ways that would never have been countenanced in our early years. Time will tell if this blessing may yet become a curse.

We are no longer an overwhelmingly protestant Christian church-attending society unabashedly utilizing God's law

We are no longer an overwhelmingly protestant Christian church-attending society, unabashedly utilizing God's law as the basis for civil society.

as the basis for civil society. National values and morality have been altered radically since this country declared its independence. Though the causes are many, some of the changes to our culture and customs are directly attributable to immigration.

Relatively little immigration occurred between the Revolutionary and the Civil War. Only 1% of the population was foreign born in 1815. Numbers began to increase in the years prior to the Civil War, primarily from Ireland and Germany, the majority of whom were Catholic. Percentage of the total population went from 1.6% in the 1830's to 9.7% in the 1850's, an increase of over 1200% in real numbers. These immigrants were not universally welcomed and many feared the country was being overwhelmed. The religion of Rome was largely considered contrary to American values.

The impact to our culture is historically demonstrable. Turn-

ing from its strict Puritanical roots, society began to embrace traditions it previously abhorred and even fled to escape. Today celebrations of Christmas, Mardi Gras, and St. Patrick's Day among others dominate the social calendar. Comparatively, the earliest settlers would not even en-

grave a figure on a tombstone out of regard for the second Commandment.

The Page Act of 1875 was the first federal restriction on immigration. It specifically targeted and severely limited Asian immigration which had exploded during the gold rush. Prostitution became a major issue in many parts of California as the majority of immigrants were males who had come to the US alone on indentured servant-type loans. The spread of disease was feared as well as the practice of polygamy. At the time it was not uncommon, particularly in China, for a man to have a wife as well as a legally purchased concubine. In times of economic duress women and girls were often sold into service or prostitution. This did not sit well with a populace whose bloody Civil War had only recently led to the abolition of slavery.

Towards the turn of the century the primary origin of immigrants shifted to southern Europe

and Russia. The new arrivals were predominantly Catholic and Jewish. Many also came from Poland, Sweden, Norway, Lebanon and Syria. Social concern and friction led to what is called the Literacy Act of 1917. Any immigrant over 16 years of age was required to read 30-40 words, in their native tongue, from an ordinary text. Asian immigration was

banned outright, excluded zones were mapped along longitude and latitude lines and included India, Indonesia, the Middle East and the Arabian Peninsula.

Barred from entry were “alcoholics, anarchists, contract laborers, convicts, epileptics, idiots, imbeciles, paupers, the contagiously diseased, political radicals, polygamists, prostitutes and vagrants,” among others. President Woodrow Wilson actually vetoed this legislation but support for it was strong enough that his veto was overridden in both the House and the Senate. The Immigration Act of 1924 reiterated the policies hitherto unenforced by making provisions for courts of deportation.

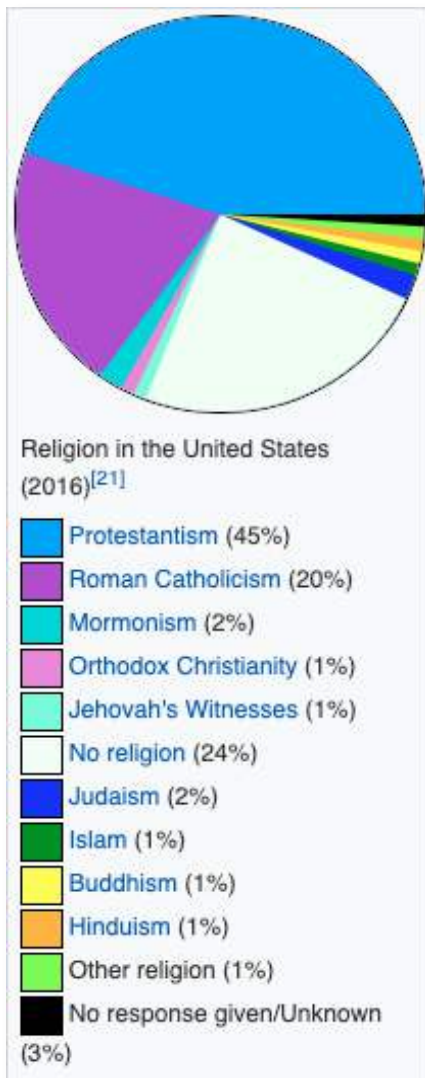
It also set a quota for future arrivals based on the total foreign born population from any particular country already residing in the United States. Only a 2% per nationality increase was allowed annually. This was a major restriction on certain countries, arrivals from Italy fell more than 90%. Significantly, these quotas were not applied to nations in the western hemisphere and immigration continued from Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America.

The Hart-Celler Act of 1965 brought major changes to American immigration policies. It established the chain migration pattern that has driven the majority of subsequent immigration. Assertions by supporters that the new law would not significantly alter the demographics or culture of the United States have proven to

be false. Legal immigration went from 68% European prior to the act to 83% Latin American and Asian in the proceeding decades. The total number of immigrants also increased dramatically from 11% of the total population before the legislation to 33% (including children born to immigrants) the following decade. The changes made have largely characterized American policy until the present time.

Many things separate our reality from that of our country as founded. We are no longer philosophically, morally or ethnically homogeneous. Many would not even allow that we are “under God” in a personal, let alone a national sense. What caused this land to prosper? Why do people want to come so badly that they will risk life itself to get here? This has been the case since our inception and it continues this very moment.

The United States of America is no happy accident. It has received the blessings of God Almighty. Though sometimes divided and misguided, the earliest settlers sought a place where they could live according to His laws and His statutes. The comparison to the promised land was not lost on them. The devotion of our citizens continued to drive public life for a very long time. In many places it still does. Government can never take the place of God. Man must have a higher power to look to than his woefully inadequate self. The belief in ultimate arbitration has always been the real source of the order, decency,



According to a 2017 Gallup poll, only 19 percent of all Americans who identify as “Christians” are described by the researchers as “Active Christians.” From Wikipedia.

lawfulness and generosity that has led our nation to prosperity.

Our country is changing. Religion is as corrupt as politics. Somehow we have failed to reveal the source of our greatness to our children. Having children is no longer even desirable as we become increasingly self-centered. Population growth is being driven by immigration. Can we successfully instill the principals necessary to maintain freedom in our new arrivals? Can we afford not to? The United States will be no better off than Guatemala or

Mexico or Venezuela or China if the philosophies that have destroyed the quality of life in those countries are pursued here. The United States has always been a refuge for those trying to escape persecution. Freedom and prosperity have been the reward for untold millions who came seeking not a handout, but an opportunity.

If the United States forsakes its foundational values and allows itself to be fundamentally transformed, or worse, the reverberations will shake the foundations of the entire world. Our bea-

con of hope will be extinguished. Domestically we will suffer, but abroad we threaten to disturb the delicate balance of power that has persisted throughout modern history. Consider the influence the United States has had. Our power and our principles have shaped global relations. Will we engineer our own fall from within? If the United States willfully undermines its righteous foundations we can hope for no other outcome. God will not be mocked. If that happens, where will there be left to flee? □



Saint Patrick's Day in New York, New York; Chinese New Year in San Diego, California; Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Louisiana; Day of the Dead in Emporia, Kansas. Religious observances from foreign countries have been adopted and incorporated into national celebrations throughout the U.S.



GERMAN LAWMAKERS PUSH FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE DEPORTATIONS

by Peter Hille, reprinted with permission from Deutsche Welle



In the wake of a rape case involving Syrians in Germany, conservative lawmakers are demanding the government re-evaluate the security situation in Syria. Criminal refugees should be able to be deported, they say.

Who wants to deport refugees from Germany to Syria? newspaper.

The rape of a young woman in the southwestern city of Freiburg has reignited the debate over deporting criminal asylum-seekers. At least seven Syrian men and one German man are suspected of raping an 18-year-old student in mid-October. In response, a number of conservative politicians have demanded the government be able to deport Syrian refugees accused of severe crimes back to their native country.

If the situation in war-torn Syria “continues to improve, even if only in parts of the country, deporting a limited circle of persons should no longer be barred across the board,” Mathias Middelberg, a parliamentarian and domestic policy spokesperson for Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservative Christian Democrats (CDU), told Die Welt

Does deportation mean repatriation?

The terminology is often confused when debating the issue of asylum in Germany. Last year, lawmakers from the far-right populist *Alternative for Germany* (AfD) party pushed for the voluntary repatriation of Syrians within the framework of an agreement with the Syrian government. Previously, however, the AfD had demanded repatriating Syrians against their will. The current proposal put forth by the CDU, along with its Bavarian CSU sister party, also focuses on repatriation, though it is limited to criminal offenders at this point.

Those people with an approved refugee status can only be expelled if they pose a threat to public safety and order, for instance if they have been

sentenced to at least two years in prison. When that happens, the person in question loses his or her residence permit and is legally obliged to leave the country. If the authorities are forced to remove the person from Germany, that is called deportation.

Is it likely Syrians will be deported?

By 2012, all of Germany’s states had put deportation to Syria on hold due to reports of torture and violence across the country, a decision that has been reviewed and extended every year, most recently until the end of 2018. The security situation in Syria has not been re-assessed since 2012.

At a conference of Germany’s interior ministers later this month, the states will again have to decide whether to extend the deportation ban to Syria. The vote must

be unanimous. The CDU/CSU is currently represented by nine state ministers and the center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) by seven — it is considered unlikely that the SPD will agree to deportations to Syria.

How safe is Syria?

Opinion varies. Some observers, including the AfD party in parliament, say the danger of war has ceased completely in certain regions. Actual fighting is only going on in a small part of the

country, according to the AfD.

The United Nations says violent clashes in Syria have in fact subsided somewhat. The UN's refugee agency, however, says that every single region is directly or indirectly affected by the war and violence, and that no country should send refugees back against their will.

How many Syrian refugees live in Germany?

According to figures from June 2018, around 800,000

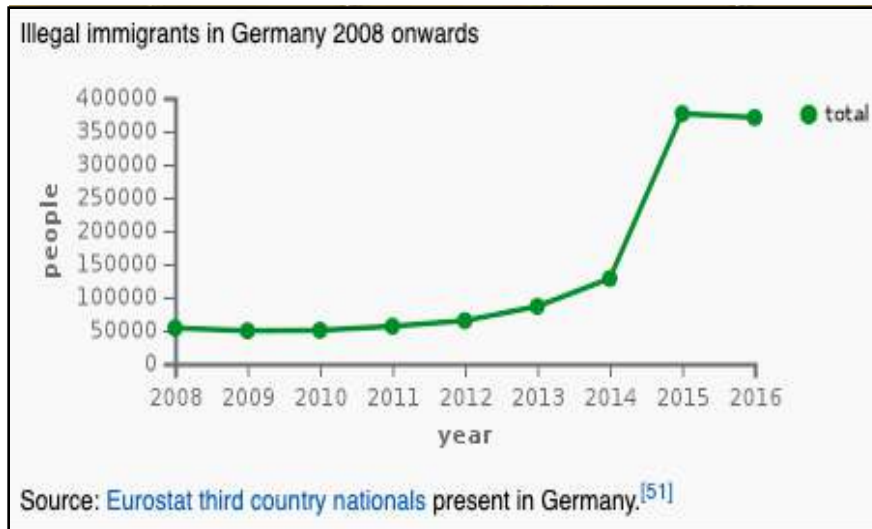
Syrians have fled to Germany since the start of the civil war. Only a few thousand of them are entitled to asylum. However, the vast majority are recognized as refugees under the Geneva Refugee Convention: they fled their country for fear of persecution and are therefore granted protection.

A third group has been granted what is known as subsidiary protection, due to the ongoing war in their own country. They do not qualify for asylum nor



People hold portrait pictures of alleged victims of immigrant offenders during a “right-wing” march in Chemnitz, Germany, 01 September 2018. Organizations of civil society and right-wing groups called for several demonstrations on the weekend after two refugees from Syria and Iraq were arrested on suspicion of stabbing a 35-year-old man in what police described as a ‘scuffle between members of different nationalities’ at a city festival in the East German city Chemnitz.

Continued next page



are they recognized as refugees under the Geneva Convention. They have not been deported, and instead are granted a residence permit that can be extended.

Have Syrian refugees been returning home voluntarily?

The number of returnees from Germany is probably negligible. The estimated numbers

of Syrians who have returned to their country from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq vary between the tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands.

Most Syrian refugees worldwide can only imagine a return once the war is over, and aid supply is reasonably secure again, according to a UN survey.

Who is subject to deportation?

Currently, 235,000 foreigners in Germany are legally obligated to leave the country. Around 174,000 of these people have obtained a “Duldung,” or tolerated permit to stay, and can thus legally remain for the time being. The other roughly 61,000 people without this permit are actually supposed to leave the country.

Asylum-seekers whose applications have been rejected are regarded as “obliged to leave the country.” They have up to two weeks to file an appeal against their asylum decision with the help of a lawyer. On average, these proceedings take about six months and as a rule, the applicants cannot be deported during this time. If they lose their appeal, they must leave the country. In the first half of 2018, around 12,000 people were deported from Germany. □

Border Flashpoint

Continued from page 2

prehension.

But the media are out in full force covering the daily standoff of the “caravan” that “poses no threat to the citizens of the United States.”

The fact is that the border battle was quietly lost during recent decades. No doubt, many are here as laborers “doing the work that Americans won’t,” we’re constantly lectured. On the other hand, hundreds of thousands of crimes, robberies and thefts have been committed and we’ll proba-

bly never know the extent of debt that’s been run up to fund social programs for illegals. But where will all these desperately poor, unskilled and uneducated people go and what will they do here in the U.S.? They need everything. Food, shelter, clothing, medical attention and so on. Even that won’t be satisfactory, so many will join a gang and traffic contraband or steal whatever is not nailed down. It’s their version of the American dream.

Stats show that thirty percent of the U.S. prison population is Hispanic, largely gang-affiliated. When you look at the sea of hu-

manity the width of a traffic lane, stretching to the horizon and beyond and they tell us it is seven or eight thousand on their way, and then try to visualize the figure of 22 million a recent government report claims are already here, it boggles the mind.

We are witnessing the method Sixties revolutionaries envisioned to “overload the system” to the point of government collapse. That’s how they dreamed of overthrowing capitalism, and it just might work. The dream of Columbia University professors Cloward and Piven is in full swing.

Don’t believe it? Look it up. □

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES: FROM PARADISE TO HELL ON EARTH

by John Mitchell

Nestled in the tall pine trees of the Sierra Nevada foothills the rural town of roughly 26,000 residents, Paradise, California has long been known as a peaceful, tranquil community where the hustle, bustle and rush of nearby Sacramento and San Francisco were replaced by a slower pace of living. The home to families that in some cases had been living there for generations valued its quiet streets lined by beautiful tall pine trees, the ability to leave their doors unlocked when they went out shopping, to church, or visiting in the area. Most agreed living in their small town was indeed "Paradise".

All this changed on November 8, 2018, when a fire was reported at 6:33 a.m. PST, close to Camp Creek Road near Pulga, California in Butte County, California. Shortly after the fire erupted, the Butte County Sheriff's Office ordered the evacuation of the eastern quarter of Paradise, and the remaining portions one hour later. Other locations were also issued evacuation orders and emergency shelters were established.

On the same day, much of

the town of Paradise and nearby communities of Concow and Magalia were destroyed by this fire. Scott McLean, a California Fire Captain, said, "We're talking devastated ... The town center is completely on the ground. The south side as well as the north side has been hit very hard as well."



Dozens of people died in Paradise, as well as the adjoining small communities of Concow, and Magalia. The total as of this writing is 77 people perished with many found burned beyond recognition in their vehicles trying to escape the fast moving flames. The videos from cell phones and

news media as they fled are truly terrible to watch. Many others were displaced or missing, seeking refuge in a Wal-Mart parking lot in Chico, California, a nearby town 15 miles from Paradise. Known as the "Camp Fire," it has destroyed as of this writing more than 10,500 homes and torched an area the size of Chicago with

the magnitude of this devastation expected to go much higher. This fire is now considered the most destructive fire in California history, but the Camp Fire probably won't be fully contained until November 30, according to Cal Fire, the state's forestry and fire protection agency.

Continued next page

The Real Estate marketing firm Zillow listed 186 homes in Paradise for sale on November 7, ranging in price from \$149,900.00 to \$3,950,000.00. At the end of the next day there were 0 listed homes in Paradise for sale as the Camp Fire sped through the area burning a football field-size area every second, destroying everything in its path. The residents of these homes, from the wealthy to those who were just under the poverty line in income, fled together in whatever manner they could to escape the flames and survive.

Vehicles were abandoned as they caught fire and the occupants fled on foot with flames roaring around them on both sides of the roads and in most cases unable to see more than two or three feet in front of them. Firefighters from Paradise fought the flames as long as they could and then had to flee as well with law enforcement and first responders. As the crews fled they knew their homes too were being totally destroyed by this wall of flame.

Gathering in the Wal-Mart



parking lot in Chico they tried to come to grips with this disaster. There were tents, campers and motor homes with many having to sleep in their cars or on the bare ground in 40 degree nights.

Relief agencies, churches and citizens began to arrive to help these hapless victims trying to provide what they could for so many people. One man looked into the news camera with tears in his eyes and said, "Our family has nothing, nothing but the clothes we have on. It would be so good if someone would give

us some toothbrushes and toothpaste, a bar of soap and if possible maybe a towel. We just want to get cleaned up a little and feel like there may be some hope for us." One lady stated, "We have lived in Paradise for over forty years and everything is gone. We may rebuild...or not. What hurts the most is the loss of all our memories in the pictures, the videos and letters we treasured of our family and friends of so many years. All our records, marriage license, even our drivers license as we did not have time to grab anything—just run for our lives it came on us so quickly. It was so terrible I cannot describe it!"

On and on the stories of total loss and complete devastation continued from shocked eyes, numb hearts and trembling voices as people continued to recount what happened to them. The phrase "Biblical proportions" was frequently uttered by the survivors. What happens now is the burning question left behind by the worst wildfire in California's history. □



The Tragedy of the European Family

by Dr. Ted Malloch, originally published by Breitbart

Emmanuel Macron, the newly elected French president, has no children; German chancellor Angela Merkel has no children.

British prime minister, Theresa May has no children; Italian prime minister Paolo Gentiloni has no children; Holland's, prime minister, Mark Rutte, Sweden's Stefan Löfven, Luxembourg's Xavier Bettel, and Scotland's, first minister Nicola Sturgeon—all have no children.

The list goes on... Latvia's childless president is Raimonds Vējonis, Lithuania's childless president is Dalia Grybauskaitė, and Romania's childless president is Klaus Werner Iohannis. And, Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission too, has no children and is family-less.

So to put it rather bluntly: a grossly disproportionate number of the people making serious decisions about Europe's future have no direct personal sibling, child or grandchildren's interests at stake in that future. They

are not part of a family and have come to see all their attention focused on one dominant and all-powerful social unit to which they pay obeisance and give their complete and devoted attention: *The State*.

The demographics look problematic. Among native Europeans, the birthrate is currently between 0.2 and 1.1. Europe is not replicating itself and will, if trends are extrapolated—cease to exist.

The numbers are disturbing combining an ageing population, very low birth rates and an inability to pay for their rich benefits: what will come of Europe?

Why precisely, is the family dead or dying in Europe and the west?

In the western world, the traditional family continues to crumble and unravel—anyone who defends past tradition (300,000 years of pre-recorded oral and actual history) is ridiculed and rejected as we give up hope and resign in despair to a future without family or its attendant values.

Speaking up for the family has almost no constituency and makes one look nostalgic at best and retrograde at worst.

Is something larger at stake? Yes, family decline is undermining civilisation itself.

Already in the 1930s Christopher Dawson, the Catholic historian at Oxford bemoaned in his, *The Patriarchal Family in History*, that a long term decline since the Renaissance had led to a point of no return for the family. He was prescient and saw then what we have come to factually experience now.

And why is an ascendant statist/globalist political culture so hostile to the family?

The crisis of the family is not simply a result of changed sexual mores or feminist ideology, while they contribute to it. It has far deeper roots.

The family has lost its social significance because to the State, the family is a threat. As a precursor and basic unit of life it preceded the state and always

Continued next page

balanced its interests.

But in the last fifty years, the welfare state has done everything in its power to break it up. Dividing families, encouraging divorce, supporting abortion, coercing fatherlessness, and building dependencies, the state has not idly watched in the demise of the family structure: it has been the active and primary cause of its very plight.

As one pundit put it, “the State became master of the family; the result is that the family is now truly the agent, the slave, and the handmaiden of the State.”

With each generation, it seems we witness a further evisceration of the family. Atomized and acculturated, the family is no longer recognisable, where it even exists. We have seen the total politicisation of filial rebellion,

particularly in Europe.

The nations themselves are no longer the collection of their many member families but have become a centralised Babylon, known as Brussels, the unionised functional state over all states.

G.K. Chesterton once remarked that the family was the check on state power and that weakening it would defeat freedom. His remedy was a smaller state and a system of plural social commitments, none of which usurped the other.

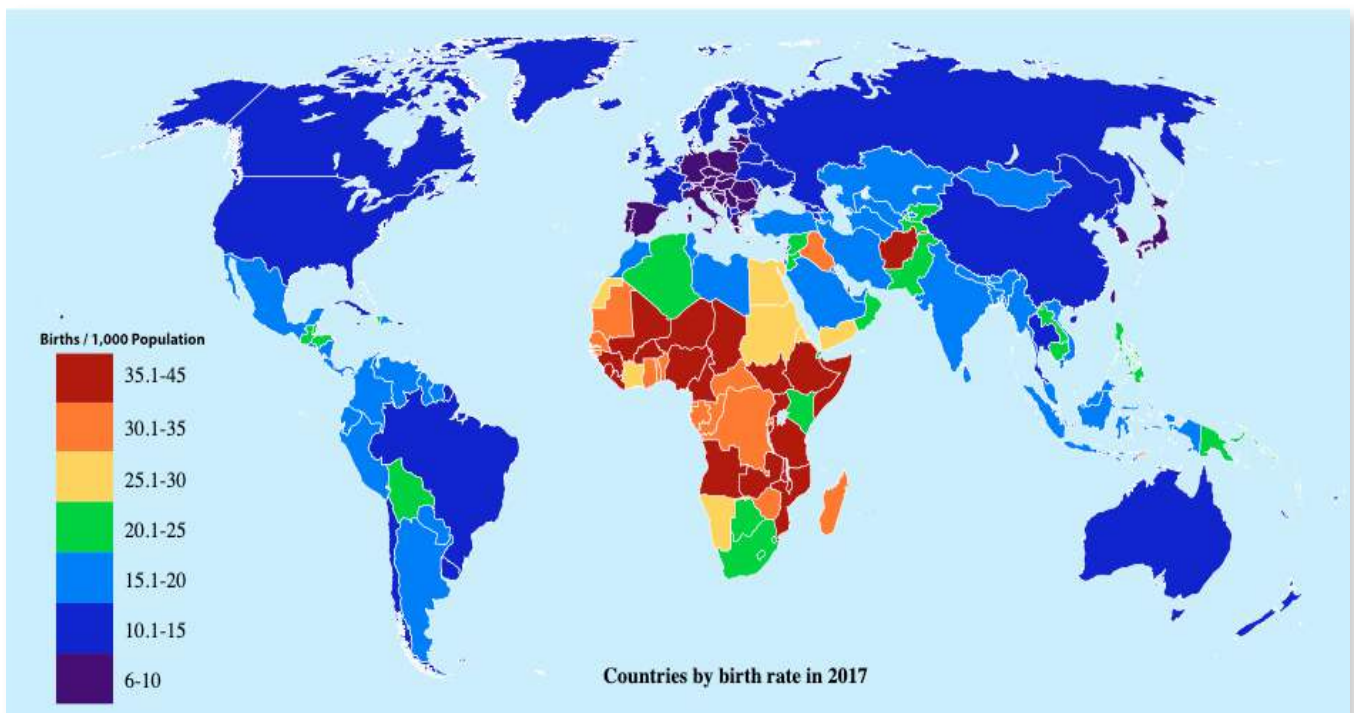
The Dutch Anti-Revolutionary prime minister, Abraham Kuyper, who himself had a large family, at the turn of the last century, called this, sphere sovereignty and saw all of the structures of society—family, economy, schools, communities and states in balance—under a sovereign God

and each with their own domain.

At this point religion has certainly been relativized and fully privatised, if indeed it still is practised in Europe. The so-called bureaucratic elites or “experts” in government and education (the new high priests) determine all policy—including that affecting the family. As a result of their policies, the family is a victim of the culture war.

Families are not just under assault, they are being duly eradicated. Look again at the numbers. Decades ago, sociologists, Peter Berger and his wife, Brigitte, wrote, *The War on the Family*. It lamented the “awful suspicion that the professionals preferred remedies may actually be part of the problem.”

In other words, by failing to note the mediating structure the



Birth rates have slowed drastically among the developed nations of the world. Sixty years ago the global birth rate averaged 36 per thousand. As of 2016 that number is nearly in half with an average world birth rate of 18 per thousand and trending downward.

family is, we have killed the baby. Indeed the bourgeois family is among all else, the source of attitudes—dare we say virtues—individuality, privacy, enterprise, thrift, discipline, and propriety, which are synonymous with western values and of modernization.

How do we renew the culture in the face of such overt hostility?

Procreation.

Loving life means realising and multiplying the gift of life. The place where that takes place is the family. Aristotle himself taught that family represents nature in its clearest manifestation. He said, “The family is the basic cell of all human society, the primary association of human beings.”

Europe today needs to turn away from its golden idol of statism which is killing the family and embrace a wiser set of norms, part and parcel of its past, where its leaders again hold high the value of the human family, before it is too late and disappears for good.

America, while plagued by the same forces, has not yet fully succumbed. Its birth rate is



now the lowest in its long history at just 59 births per 1000 women. But where Europe has been strangled, America is only severely hampered and headed in the wrong direction. It should not copy Europe.

Reproduction is no longer popular, it appears; people wait or forego having children altogether because they want their own careers and see the ever escalating costs of child rearing. Some have no confidence in our future; still others believe in the planet or its environment more than the hu-

man species.

The responsibility of raising children and building enduring intergenerational families is evaporating, as there are fewer and fewer takers.

In the 17th century, the political economist Jean Bodin, argued that the “only wealth is people.” Logic itself suggests that nations, Europe in particular, indeed civilisation itself, need first to be populated.

Without families, ontologically and physically in Latin: *ut cedant in nihilum*. □



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TURNING THE UK INTO AN EU COLONY

May's Withdrawal Agreement makes a mockery of the Brexit vote.

by John Holbrook, reprinted with permission by Spiked

The desire to repatriate sovereignty from the European Union motivated 17.4million Britons to vote for Brexit. The sentiment was so strong that the Conservative Party fought the 2017 General Election with a manifesto commitment to deliver a Brexit that would repatriate EU law to the UK, end the jurisdiction of the

European Court of Justice, and permit an independent trade policy. But the terms unveiled by the British government in its draft Withdrawal Agreement last week, if ratified and incorporated into British law, would not pass those three tests regarding EU law, ECJ jurisdiction and trade.

The Withdrawal Agreement

is a lengthy and dense legal text, but essentially it envisages three future relationships between the UK and the EU after Brexit takes place on 29 March next year: transition, backstop and bespoke.

Transition will commence the moment Britain formally leaves the EU, and the bespoke future relationship is intended to be ready for when transition ends at the end of 2020. But in the event of the bespoke relationship not being ready in time, the parties can either extend transition or trigger the backstop. The effect of each of these relationships on UK sovereignty should alarm everyone – not just those who voted to take back control, but anyone who aspires to live in a state that can control its own destiny. There is ample force in the criticisms made by Leavers (such as Boris Johnson) and Remainers (such as Jo Johnson) that the UK is heading for a relationship with the EU that is best described as colonial, with the UK as the dominated state.

During transition, the EU's



Judges preside over a hearing at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. The European Union's highest court is hearing arguments Tuesday on whether Britain could unilaterally revoke its decision to leave the EU ahead of its planned exit date of March 29, 2019.

powers over the UK will continue as if the UK were still an EU member. In other words, Britain would continue to be subject to EU laws in areas such as trade, tariffs, farming, fisheries, EU migration, VAT, health and safety, employment and many other areas of social policy. The agreement states that EU law will continue to have ‘the same legal effects as those which it produces within the Union and its Member States’ (Article 127). And the jurisdiction of the ECJ over the UK will be unaffected (Articles 86 and 131). During transition, laws made by the EU, which will then be a foreign body, will be effective in Britain and they will be interpreted by the ECJ, a foreign court.

During transition, the EU’s writ over Britain will apply not only to existing laws—which British ministers and officials have been able to shape – but also to all new laws which will be framed by the EU without any input from the UK (Article 128). Furthermore, the transition period, although expressed as initially lasting until 31 December 2020, can be extended indefinitely (Article 132). Any such extension will require further annual payments from the UK that will be set by the EU, unencumbered by the budget rebate that Britain currently secures (Article 132).

This is breathtaking. The EU’s right in this agreement to determine British laws in all areas that are currently covered by EU treaties would, for example, enable the EU to continue to

treat British territorial waters as its own. The humiliating nature of this set-up is confirmed in the agreement when it states that the UK “shall be consulted in respect of the fishing opportunities related to the United Kingdom” (Article 130). Let that sink in: Britain, a nation surrounded by sea, will be “consulted” by the EU over the extent to which the EU allows it to fish in its own territorial waters.

When, or if, transition ends, the UK will enter either the backstop or the as-yet undrafted bespoke arrangement. The main problem with the backstop is that it ties the UK into a plethora of continuing EU obligations, most significantly those that regulate the EU Customs Union. The UK would effectively remain a member of it. The UK will also have to comply with what the agree-

ment calls ‘level playing-field conditions’ which cover issues such as taxation, environmental standards, labour and social standards, state aid, and competition policy (p311).

These provisions mean that the UK will effectively also remain a member of the EU Single Market. Swathes of public policy will continue to be decided by Brussels. The UK will be unable to increase its competitiveness by deregulating or sign trade agreements with other countries. The point here is not that these objectives are necessarily desirable; it is that any debate about them will be pointless. Many British laws will continue to be made in Brussels, with legislators reduced to administrators and with citizens stripped of their democratic right to decide. □



Theresa May - Round Table at the special meeting of the European Council. The leaders of the 27 remaining EU member countries (EU27) meet ‘to endorse the draft Brexit withdrawal agreement and to approve the draft political declaration on future EU-UK relations’ in a special meeting of the European Council on Britain leaving the EU under Article 50.

BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GAZA

by Mark Armstrong

Amid the clamor and tumult of propaganda “news reporting” in the United States, deadly skirmishes that have once again arisen between Israel and so-called Palestinians in Gaza. Chances of a peace agreement are as slim as they’ve ever been between the factions. More so now than ever as both the Palestinian Authority (formerly PLO) and Hamas claim to represent the “Palestinians.” Peace cannot be negotiated with Israel when the Palestinians are at odds internally. They’ve sent delegations to Egypt for reconciliation, and signed a declaration that would have Hamas turning authority over to the PA, but

that’s not happening either.

Meanwhile rockets and mortar shells have recently been fired into Israel with casualties. Thousands of Israelis had to take to bomb shelters for cover as volleys of dozens of rockets rained down. Israel responded with bombing raids taking out a factory constructing concrete walls for terrorist tunnels under the border wall in addition to hitting weapons stockpiles, a vehicle used to launch rockets and Hamas activists.

President Abbas appeared in a recent news conference to claim leadership. He angrily refused a demand by Israel that

they stop providing payments to families of terrorists. For years they’ve erected shrines, named streets or squares after terrorists who’ve successfully killed or maimed Israelis, and according to Abbas, the more “moderate” of purported Palestinian leaders, they have no intention of changing that policy.

In fact, neither faction will so much as recognize Israel’s right to exist, as has been the case for fifty years and more. Much of the blame is attributed to Iran which has financed Hamas and supplied a never-ending stream of rockets into Gaza. The subject came up during a recent visit by Angela Merkel to Jerusalem where Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu made it clear that business with Iran is adding fuel to the fire.

Netanyahu says Abbas is “strangling Gaza,” preventing supplies from distribution and refusing to fix or upgrade the electricity grid. This is part of the attempt to force Hamas to cede power to the Palestinian Authority at a time when neither has any intention of making peace with Israel.

When this situation is reported in our news, we see piles of tires burning along the border



fence in an attempt to obscure the view of the Israeli military so that some “protesters” might break through into Israel. It is apparent that many are young boys, some of whom get injured or killed trying to breach the barrier. News images show a shirtless Palestinian with a large flag in one hand, a sling-shot whirling in the other in an obviously staged photograph. You know that because there are several versions of the same photo, flames (from burning tires) in the background with the subject lit up against the night sky.

Germany, the EU and the United States all seem to realize that Jerusalem and environs are ground zero for peace on earth. All are involved, albeit on opposing sides.

There has been progress in recent years with other of the Arab nations such as Egypt, Jordan and the Gulf Kingdoms. They’ve moved to the sidelines (because of U.S. commitments to Israel and economic considerations) and decided that it was not in their best interest to remain in an endless state of war. But Iran is provocative as ever, and deeply involved in Syria, Lebanon and in Gaza. Europe seems to want to continue conducting business with Iran, even in the face of renewed U.S. sanctions.

Abbas of the Palestinian Authority (PA) is warning that isolating a “Palestinian State” (if, for the first and only time ever in human history there is to be such a thing) to Gaza will mean that Hamas will rule. Abbas is holding out for all of the West Bank and Gaza to comprise the non-ex-



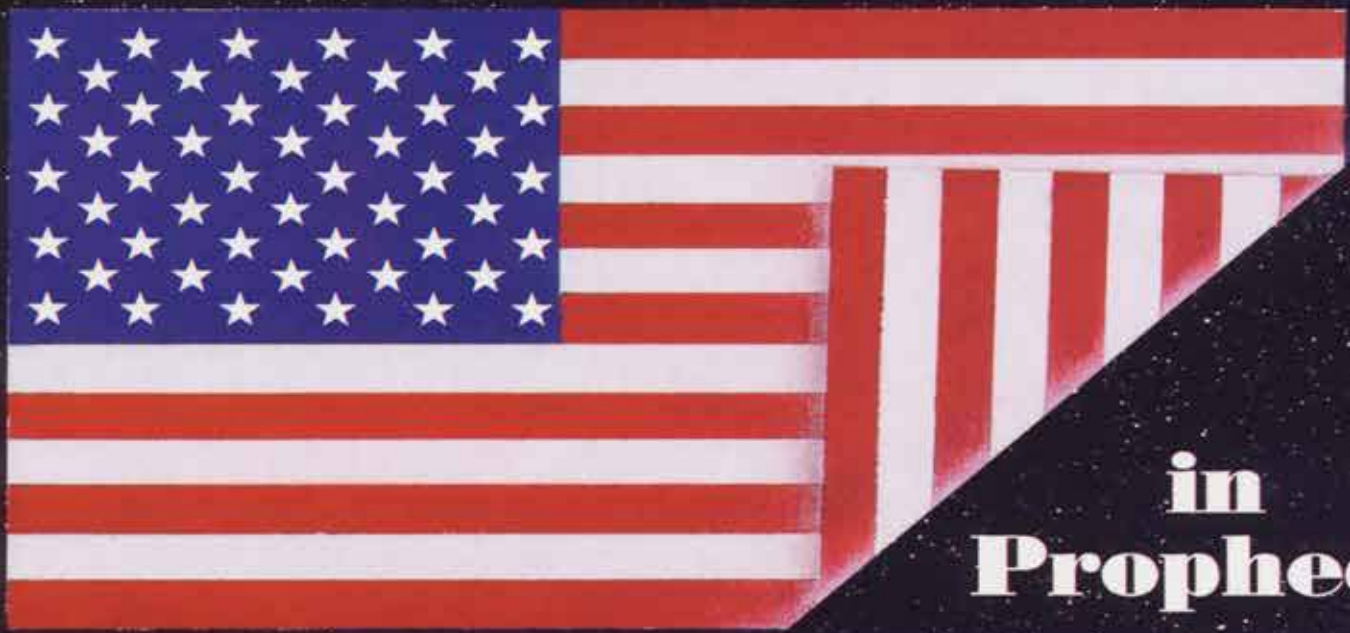
istent “state” that his supposedly moderate PA would govern. As you must know, the West Bank is construed to include a swath of east Jerusalem including the Temple Mount. The threat is that either Abbas gets what he’s demanding, or Gaza will be ceded into the hands of the terrorists, which currently run most everything in the Gaza strip while digging tunnels, stockpiling munitions and launching hundreds of rockets into Israel.

For a mere couple of days, things seemed to have gone quiet. The news said that Qatar had shipped in 15 million in cash to Gaza, and overdue salaries were being paid. Benjamin Netanyahu made news recently, stating Abbas was “strangling” Gaza by withholding payments from civil servants. He made the statement in a press conference with Angela Merkel, apparently trying to impress upon her and the world the fact that money contributed to the “Palestinian cause” by Germany and the EU wasn’t reaching its

intended destination. The \$15 million in cash from Qatar meant that “civil servants” who’d gone without pay were getting relief. And then, immediately, came the next swarm of 200 missiles and rockets into Israel.

November 12, 2018: Another 200 rockets have been fired into Israel with substantial damage, thirteen wounded, some critically. Israel responded again, bombing some seventy Hamas and Islamic Jihad targets. On and on it goes. Bible prophecy indicates that at some point, armies will surround Jerusalem. That will presumably happen over the threat or the reality of a “humanitarian crisis,” and that’s where we are headed if the terrorists in Gaza persist in the never-ending rocket onslaught. There is a limit to the amount of damage and loss of life Israel will be willing to absorb while pursuing a tit for tat strategy. If at some point Israel determines to put a permanent stop to it, there will be an outcry the likes of which we can only imagine. □

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