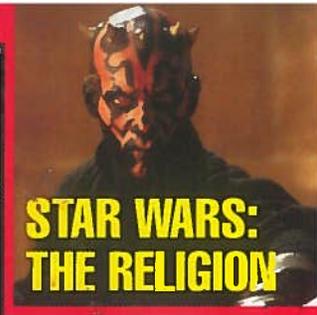


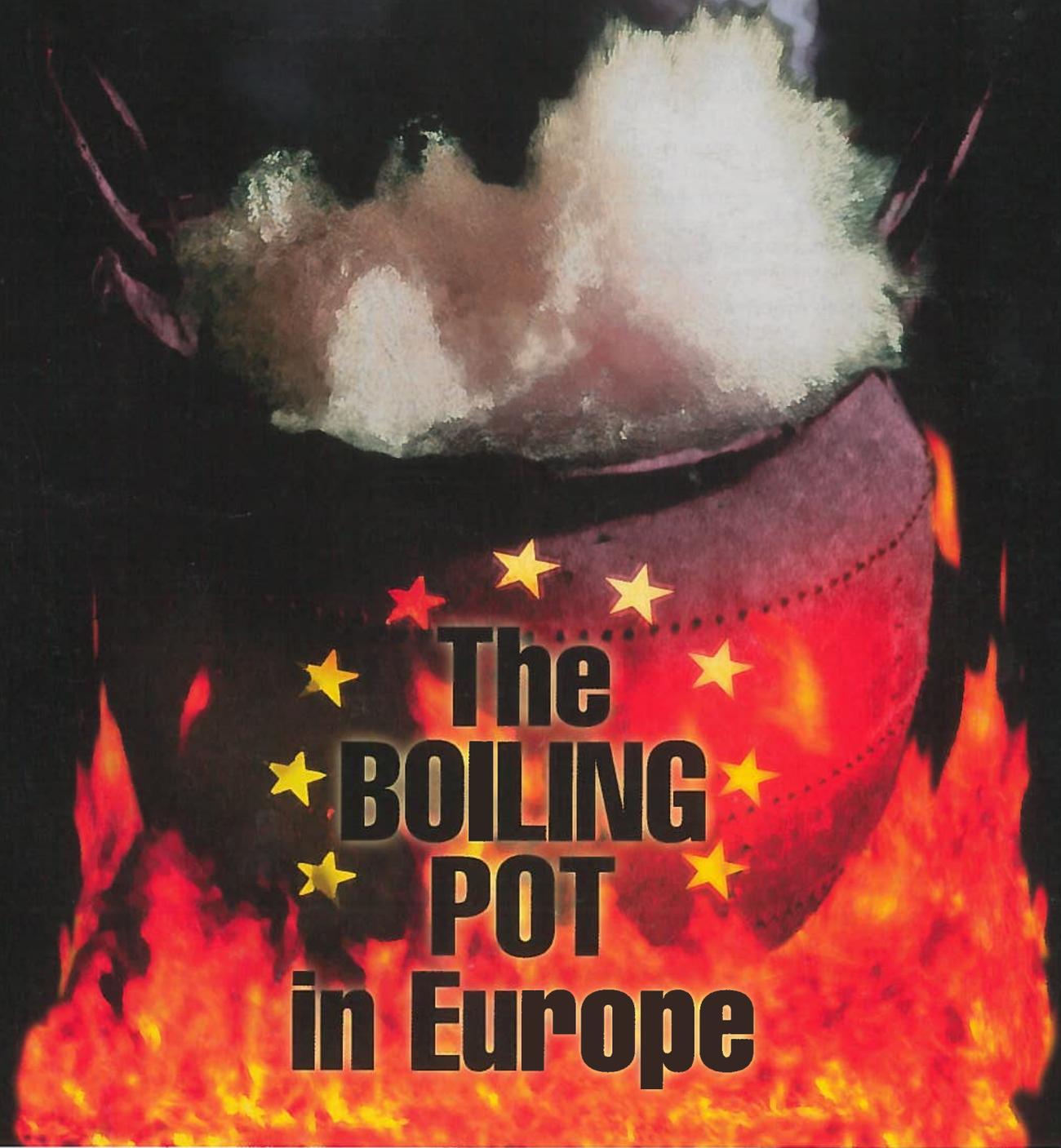
AUGUST 1999



**STAR WARS:
THE RELIGION**

The Philadelphia

Trumpet



**The
BOILING
POT
in Europe**

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◆ COVER STORY

2 The Boiling Pot in Europe

Events unfolding in Europe are going to cause World War III very soon. And yet most people are blind to the great crisis that is about to explode. You need to understand so you can escape the coming nightmare.

Part Two

7 Return of the Old World Order

Many analysts are now realizing the most important effect of the war in Kosovo: that it dramatically quickened the pace of the rise of imperialist Europe.

◆ ARTICLES

11 Watch North Korea

A little nation presents a big challenge to American superpower

12 A Challenge to America

16 Britain's Final Choice: America or Europe?

Ireland

18 The Search for a Compromise

20 Star Wars: The Religion

Some laud the theology of *Star Wars*. But does *Star Wars* reflect a true religion?

24 Ending Your Financial Worries

With the U.S. in economic boom, why are so many going broke?

◆ DEPARTMENTS

1 Personal: Germany Is Conquering the Balkans!

14 World News Watch:

A "Holy" Tug-of-War — A Bold Move — EU's Latin Partner — Third World Epidemic

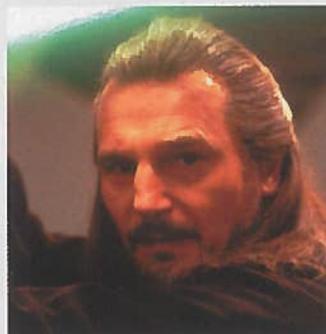
29 Letters



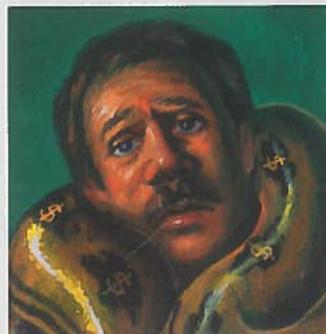
ON THE COVER: The prophet Jeremiah likened end-time crises to a pot ready to boil over. (Joel Hilliker)



16



20



24

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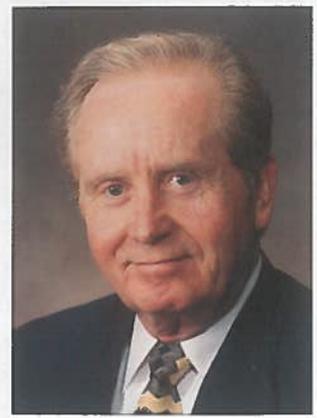
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Germany Is Conquering the Balkans!

I was just handed an update from Ron Fraser, the head of our News Bureau. It is so important I would like to share it with you, our *Trumpet* readers. It ties in powerfully with my article on "The Boiling Pot in Europe" in this issue of our magazine.

No one who has had any association with the German people would doubt their thoroughness in tackling any particular situation. Yet, it seems, none of the analysts have detected the evidence of that fabled German thoroughness in the following scenario: Germany, aided and abetted by the Vatican, initiated the destabilization of the Balkan peninsula by the unilateral recognition of Croatia and Slovenia as sovereign nations in 1991, against the will of most of the world.

It was a blatant act of war! Yet, instead of America and Britain fighting against this outrage, they joined the Germans!

Given the disruptive state of Yugoslavia at the time, given the history of instability in the region, the Germans had to know that their actions would lead to a total destabilizing of the Balkans. It did. Germany then sat back, willingly, accepting international criticism for lack of European Union (EU) involvement in the resulting battles involving Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia. Germany allowed the U.S. to take the flak of most of the world, ending temporarily in a sham peace brokered by Richard Holbrooke.

The Germans had to know that this "peace process" had as much chance of sticking as the Middle East and Irish "peace processes" have. But they were not yet ready to show their hand. Much more was at stake than Bosnia-Herzegovina.

They already had Catholic Slovenia and Croatia in their camp. They had already infiltrated Albania, via the outright purchase of that country's singular asset of any international importance, its chromite mines. Not only that, they were cultivating their relationship with a guerrilla group of Albanian terrorists (now known as the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which HAD THEIR LEADERSHIP RESIDENT IN GERMANY and who were preparing

for a takeover of historic, coal-rich Kosovo. In addition they had kindly offered to train the Albanian police (and were already actively doing so), who sadly needed to raise their expertise to control the unruly Albanian population, destabilized and disgruntled at the collapse of the Albanian economy. Through the well-established illegal drug smuggling corridor between Turkey, the Balkans and Germany, the Germans were easily able to set up a gun-running network using KLA henchmen involved in the drug business. So, the KLA had the military armament to put up a pretty good fight when Milosevic got wind of what was happening and moved to push the Albanians out of Kosovo. The Kosovo situation allowed the Germans, already on the ground in Bosnia, Slovenia and Croatia, to legitimize a troop presence in Albania and commit to air combat with the Luftwaffe over Serbia and Montenegro.

The end game was in sight. The only way this latest Balkan explosion was going to end was with troops on the ground. Germany "wanted in" on the ground force and, next to Britain, committed the largest contingent of ground troops to the "peacekeeping" force in Kosovo.

The German leader, Gerhard Schröder, quickly seized the initiative by proposing a Marshall Plan for the whole Balkan peninsula, not just Kosovo! The pope went public and backed him. In the meantime, Germany, conveniently holding the dual presidencies of the EU and Group of Eight, took the initiative in brokering their first "peace process."

The U.S. fought to keep Russia out of the deal. Russia wanted in. Germany wanted Russia in. Russia got in because the Germans still fear the Russians, but not America and Britain.

In the meantime, Germany maneuvered and lobbied to appoint, to everyone's satisfaction, a German to head the reconstruction process in the Balkans. Yet, there was one senior position which the Germans coveted. Despite the efforts of Kofi Annan, this "peace process" in

(continued on page 29)

The most mind-boggling aspect of all this is that no one in the press seems to be aware of it!



THE BOILING POT in Europe

Events unfolding in Europe are going to cause World War III very soon. And yet most people are blind to the great crisis that is about to explode. You need to understand so you can escape the coming nightmare.

BY GERALD FLURRY

THE BALKANS' NEW SAVIORS Albanians cheer as German peacekeeping troops move into Kosovo.

SO OFTEN WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE GREATEST blessing becomes the worst curse. The hopeful light becomes the blackest darkness imaginable. What looks like a wonderful peace is really the prelude to the worst war and slavery ever!

History reveals that our greatest hope has been in religion. But this has been a false hope that has led us into the most savage wars ever known.

That means that great deceit is deeply embedded in our religions. We must look beyond the surface if we are to see the deceit. The reality is rarely what it seems.

Deadly deceit usually comes in the guise of an "angel of light" (II Cor. 11:14). Last month, we alerted our readers to stunning developments in the European *religious* arena. It has accelerated even more in recent weeks.

It will impact your life.

Church Unity

Here is a quote from a May 12 *Reuters* report which illustrates my point (emphasis mine): "The push for unity between Anglicans and Catholics took another hesitant step forward Wednesday when a commission from both churches asked Christians to recognize the universal role of the pope.

"A document released by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission went further than earlier statements embraced by Anglican representatives in recognizing the pope's ministry as 'a gift to be received by all the churches.'

AP/WIDEWORLD

"The study, called 'The Gift of Authority,' also relates that the pope had a 'specific ministry concerning the DISCERNMENT OF TRUTH.'

"The 43-page document is not an authoritative declaration from either the Anglican or Catholic churches, but is meant as a study paper for both. It was released at *Westminster Abbey*, an Anglican church, but in a part of the building that pre-dated the split in 1534 between the Anglicans and Catholics.

"The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, urged the world's 70 million Anglicans to read the document.

"Christians need urgently to be able to speak with a common voice, confident of the authority of the gospel of peace,' Carey said in a statement. 'I commend the text to all Anglicans for the most serious consideration and debate.'

"Rev. Mark Santer, the Anglican bishop of Birmingham, said the study was a 'recognition of the place that the pope has in the Christian family.'

"Even now, before we (Anglicans and Roman Catholics) are in full communion, the pope is a pastor of *im-mense authority* in the Christian world as a whole,' Santer said....

"The Anglican Church split from Rome in 1534 over King Henry VIII's decision to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

"Since 1966, the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches have been in official dialogue whose stated aim is eventual reunion."

This agreement is on the most sensitive issue of all—government, or who has the authority. The Protestant daughters are returning to their mother church. It was all prophesied to happen (Isa. 47:1-8).

The study is called "The Gift of Authority." It appears to be so righteous and so appealing. But prophecy says that this "gift" will be the worst gift the Protestants have ever received!

The Catholic Church created the "ratlines" for most of the Nazi war criminals of World War II to escape! This is well-documented in books and even in U.S. government documents. That evil action and many others during World War II clearly reveal that the Vatican was allied with Germany. Around 50 million people died in that war.

Today, the alliance continues. It was only 1991 when Germany and the Vatican recognized the breakaway republics of Croatia and Slovenia when

virtually the whole world was against it. Most of the world caved in to Germany and the Vatican. That triggered the civil war in Yugoslavia. It also started the rise of the most destructive power this earth has ever known.

America and Britain, after being against Yugoslavia's break-up in 1991, flip-flopped and meekly went along, in spite of the recent history of World War II!

Croatia and Slovenia were zealous allies of Hitler during World War II. Today, the president of Croatia has refused to admit any wrongdoing by his nation during the Nazi slaughters. And most Croats are Catholic.

So that church continues the bloody path of the so-called Holy Roman Empire. No church has even come close to causing so much bloodshed!

In spite of all this evil history, the Protestant churches want to be ruled by the pope. And so they shall be, as they suffer at the hands of Germany and the Vatican one final time—the worst suffering ever on this earth. They will learn, by being helpless victims, what it means to be ruled by the Vatican! Then they shall see the truth of our warning as they spill their own blood.

It seems that men will accept almost any government but God's!

David's Throne

There is another ominous sign about this Anglican-Catholic study document: It was released from Westminster Abbey. That is where David's throne is—where kings and queens of the once-great British Empire are crowned.

That is the throne on which Jesus Christ will sit when He returns! (For a detailed study, write for our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Before Herbert W. Armstrong died, he distributed over 5 million copies of that book. It clearly traces that throne back to King David.)

In Luke 1:32-33, an angel told Mary that her Son, Jesus Christ, would be given that very throne: "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and *the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David*: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Jesus Christ will not return to a non-existent throne! So where is David's throne? A child can prove where it is.

God will hold Britain and America

accountable for the knowledge concerning that throne. We are the same people—brothers—and are without excuse.

The truth about David's throne is the greatest hope there is in this world! It is our only hope. If we are true Christians, we must look to the throne that Christ will rule from very soon. A Christian is one who follows Christ.

"The gift of authority"—God's authority—is given only to those who look to that throne! BRITAIN HAS "THE GIFT OF AUTHORITY" ALREADY *but they refuse to accept it*. And the Anglican Church leads the rebellion!

For the Anglican Church to release that study paper from Westminster Abbey is the ultimate insult to God! And if they are rejecting God's authority, then whose authority are they accepting?

Britain should be teaching the world about the imminent return of Jesus Christ to sit on that throne! What a "gift of authority" *that is*. If only they understood. But they must understand that there is no power in the universe that could change this truth. It must be accepted by all humanity. It's only a matter of *when*.

God has given "the gift of authority" to His true Church because they teach the truth about David's throne. And God is going to punish this world until every person accepts the most inspiring truth ever given to man!

Britain's monstrous sin will not go unpunished!

Watch Croatia

The world has been watching Kosovo. But what is happening in the break-away republic of Croatia will be a thousand times worse!

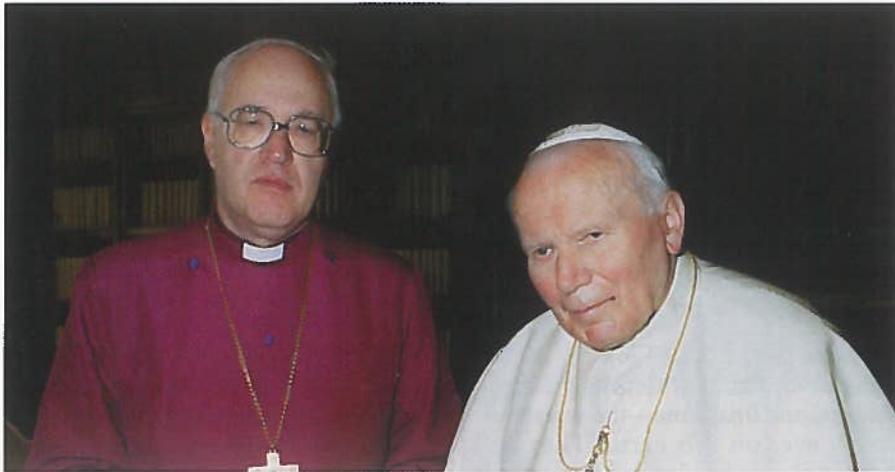
Most of our leaders and members of the press refuse to face this critical issue. This was published in the prestigious *New York Times*, March 3 (emphasis mine): "Serbia and the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, are generally considered the pariahs in the Balkans, but according to an *international report*, the verdict on Croatia and



DAVID'S THRONE
in Westminster

its president, Franjo Tudjman, is equally harsh. 'There has been no progress in improving respect for human rights, the rights of minorities and the rule of law' in Croatia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said in THE RECENT REPORT WHICH HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC."

Why hasn't the report been made public by our leaders and NATO? Because they have one harsh standard



THE GIFT OF AUTHORITY
The Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury and the pope work to reconcile their churches.

for the Serbs and no such standard for the Croats. But that is not the scary part. The *reason* they don't speak out is what should really frighten us!

If NATO wanted to be fair, they would bomb Croatia as they did the Serbs.

"Beyond that summary, the report... is filled with damning details," the article says, "about repression of the media by the Croatian government; about its lack of cooperation with the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands; and, above all, about the government's harsh treatment of ethnic Serbs. Only a small percentage of the approximately 300,000 ethnic Serbs forced to flee their homes here during the war have been allowed to return. Most fled when the CROATIAN ARMY CARRIED OUT ITS OWN 'ETHNIC CLEANSING' during military operations against Serbian-controlled areas in August 1995.

"IT IS HARSH, BUT IT IS NOT AN EXAGGERATION," Andreas Stadler, the deputy Austrian ambassador here, said about the report, which was delivered in late January to the 54 member countries of the organization. The organization, which includes the United States, is charged with overseeing the development of democracy in former communist countries....

"The delicate diplomatic quandary was reflected in the visit here by

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright last August. In her meetings with Tudjman, Albright delivered a tough message about the need for Croatia to become more democratic, to comply with the Dayton accords, which ended the fighting in Bosnia, and to allow for the return of the Serbian refugees—ALL MATTERS ON WHICH THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION AND TUDJMAN HAVE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT VIEWS.

Many excuses are offered for not making the Croats take back the 300,000 ethnic Serbs, while the Serbs are being *forced* by NATO to take all the Albanians back into Kosovo.

Why such flagrant hypocrisy by the U.S. and NATO? Almost everybody knows, but few have the courage to say so. We all know that Germany and the Vatican are strongly supporting the Catholic Croats. So our leaders and even the press rarely give us the truth about this tragedy in Croatia. Mostly we hear about Kosovo.

AMERICAN AND BRITISH WEAKNESS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING IN CROATIA! In fact, our weakness is mainly responsible for the whole Yugoslavia disaster. We caved in so weakly to Germany and the Vatican in the beginning.

We like to crow about our exploits in Kosovo and against the Serbs. But the real powers in Europe and the world know how weak we are. That is why Germany could so easily bully us around to their view in the beginning. Still, Germany could not control the war as much as they wanted. So now they are pushing hard for a *European* defense organization apart from the U.S.

The Kosovo crisis has helped thrust Germany into a leading military role in Europe. Now Germany is looked upon as just another military power. That is a great change in the world's thinking. And that is a very grave mistake that will bring bloodshed to millions!

"Kosovo has been a watershed in so many ways," said Karl Kaiser, a German foreign policy expert. "For Germany, it has represented a coming of age. For Europe, it has brought a crushing realization of the asymmetry of military power between it and the United States, and the need to do something about that.... The Germans have clearly moved from a peripheral role in Bosnia—where far fewer troops were deployed, and those only after a heated national debate—to a central one in Kosovo that was quickly approved last week by Parliament. The ghosts of Nazi horrors in the Balkans, so present at the time of the Bosnian discussions, have faded" (*New York Times*, June 15).

GREAT CHANGES ARE OCCURRING IN EUROPE. AND THOSE CHANGES WILL USHER IN THE GREATEST CRISIS THIS WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!

America's broken will (also prophesied, in Leviticus 26:19) is allowing the real danger to rise in Europe. Croatia is

"But after returning to Washington, Albright sent Tudjman a letter, which so pleased the Croatian leader that it was promptly leaked. A newspaper in the coastal town of Split described it as having the 'taste of apology.'..."

"Tudjman, who diplomats say is convinced he will be indicted by the tribunal, has declared that the tribunal has no jurisdiction over anything that happened during the operations carried out by the army when it regained control, in 1995, of territories in the hands of Serbian separatists.

"During those operations, *Serbian civilians were killed, villages were burned to the ground* and SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND SERBS WERE FORCED TO FLEE. The government has given repeated assurances to the United States and the European Union that the refugees will be allowed to return. But it is unlikely that they will.

"We have resolved the Serbian question," Tudjman declared, referring to the 1995 military actions in a speech to his generals at the opening of a war college in December. Then he added, "THERE WILL NEVER BE 12 PERCENT OF SERBS' IN CROATIA, AS THERE WAS BEFORE THE WAR."

only a tiny preview of how Europe is about to be ruled once again by the Holy Roman Empire.

As Jeremiah said, the “pot is boiling,” and it’s about to spill over on America and Britain!

The Seething Pot

The prophet Jeremiah saw a vision of precisely what is happening in Europe today. Notice the commission God gave to Jeremiah: “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations” (Jer. 1:5). Jeremiah only went to Judah, in his lifetime, as a prophet with a warning message; and Judah is only one of 12 tribes of Israel. The other tribes had gone into captivity over 100 years before.

So why did God call him a prophet unto the nations? Because his message is for Israel today, primarily America, Britain and Palestine (or biblical Judah). It was preserved in a book for this end time (Jer. 30:1-9). Jeremiah will have written this book in vain if we don’t deliver his message today!

But how will that message be delivered? Jeremiah tells us. “Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it” (vv. 11-12). The “rod of an almond tree” precedes the boiling pot. *The Companion Bible* describes it as “a watcher or an early waker, because it is the first of the trees to wake from its winter sleep and it is thus what the cock is to the birds.” It is also described as “a VIGILANT WATCHMAN.”

A watchman always precedes some great disaster to strike Israel. God raises up a watchman to warn His people of their terrifying punishment. The boiling pot—Babylon from the north (the European Union today)—is about to spill over, and God gives America, Britain and Judah a chance to repent before it occurs—and afterward.

First Jeremiah saw a watchman. This vigilant watchman comes on the scene when the pot is boiling—when these events are about to explode. It is to be the worst catastrophe ever on this earth! It starts with Israel. (For more information, write for our new expanded booklet on Jeremiah. It’s free.)

“And the word of the Lord came

unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething [or boiling] pot; and the face thereof is toward the north. Then the Lord said unto me, Out of the north AN EVIL SHALL BREAK FORTH upon all the inhabitants of the land. For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the Lord; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and



THE TASTE OF APOLOGY

Albright has sparred with Tadjman (left). In a recent letter, however, she retreated.

against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah” (vv. 13-15). A huge, seething, boiling pot is about to spill over onto Israel. It is a picture of indescribable disaster and suffering—an expression of God’s extreme wrath because of our sins!

How many different horror pictures do we see about this subject in Bible prophecy? There must be more than a hundred. It is time for Israel to repent. This mega-disaster is almost upon us!

Here is the first indication that this prophecy is dated. The vigilant watchman comes on the scene when the pot is boiling and about to spill over. We see it boiling in Europe this very moment.

An end-time Elijah was prophesied to come and restore all things and preach the gospel to the world (Matt. 17:10-11; 24:14). He has come and gone. The pot was not boiling then.

Now we are entering a more serious time when a final warning message must be delivered—the emphasis is on the warning prophecy (Rev. 10:11; Amos 3:7-8). Events are about to boil over onto Israel.

This warning is about great national disasters to come upon nations! And it’s also about the nations used to punish Israel—those coming “out of the north.” This is the European king of the north that will soon clash with radical Islam (Dan. 11:40-41). Very shortly after that clash, he will attack biblical Israel.

Incredible though it may seem, there is yet another crisis that is greater.

Laodicean Era

There is a specific prophecy about God’s very elect warning the Laodicean era of God’s Church (Rev. 3:14-22).

That is made very clear, even in the first chapter of Jeremiah. “And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have FORSAKEN ME, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands” (v. 16). The end-time Laodiceans have forsaken God. Only God’s people could ever forsake Him! They knew God and then forsook Him.

Truth and prophecy are revealed by God. YOU WILL FIND GOD ONLY WHERE YOU FIND HIS REVELATION!

Our warning comes at a time when God’s people are forsaking Him. This specific warning comes after the end-time Elijah has come and gone (Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6; Matt. 17:10-11). He restored God’s government in God’s Church and then the majority of the people turned away.

Before each vision God asked Jeremiah: “WHAT DO YOU SEE?” (Jer. 1:11, 13). You can see the boiling pot and the nations of Israel degenerating spiritually. You can also see God’s own Church forsaking Him. God will leave His people without excuse.

Again, we see this prophecy dated.

The watchman comes on the scene when God's own people are forsaking Him.

God Speaks Out

"I will utter my judgments against them," God says. How does He do that? Has anybody actually heard His thunderous voice? No. God speaks through the vigilant watchman. You have the RESPONSIBILITY to know where this watchman is.

God is upset first of all with His own Church which has "forsaken Him." Secondly, He is angry with the nations of Israel because they have "burned incense to other gods." That means they no longer even believe that the God of the Bible is the only true God (Deut. 4:35, 39).

Christ said in Matthew 4 that we should "live by every word of God." And in that same chapter He quoted the book of Deuteronomy three times.

Today the U.S. has six military bases where witches can practice their religion.

Here is a quote from the *U.S. News and World Report*, June 14: "For today's heterogeneous U.S. Army, the practice is basically business as usual. 'As far as we are concerned, they are a religious organization providing for the spiritual needs of our soldiers,' says Lt. Col. Benjamin Santos, Fort Hood spokesman, explaining the Army's decision to sanction the practice on bases.

"A Defense Department official says that it would be unconstitutional for the DOD to 'evaluate or judge the merits of specific faiths.'"

And yet we piously talk about how our Constitution is based on the Bible. No, today we are worshipping *other gods*. We don't believe that the God of Moses and Jesus Christ is the only true God.

So through this Work you hear God utter His judgments. He is giving His final warning to His chosen people.

Ancient Israel heard a thunderous voice out of the fire on Mount Sinai. Those people are our forefathers.

Only Israel (that includes Britain and America) has known the true God. No other nation or nations on this earth have a history with the great God of Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 1!

God will hold us accountable for that history whether we accept it or not!

The Holy Roman Empire

The boiling pot is comprised of "all the families of the kingdoms of the north." "Families" and "kingdoms" are plural. The *Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible* states that the word *families* "is much broader than the English word 'family.'" It is like a circle of relatives—or nations that make up the so-called Holy Roman Empire.

There is a *tie* to the past. The Holy Roman Empire has been resurrected six times. The next one will be the last.

These "kingdoms of the north" are also called the king of the north (Dan. 11:40-41). It is a religious empire. The religious leader even moves his head-

The king of the north is a church and state working together as one power. It is the same combination we see working in Croatia today!



DIGITAL STOCK

quarters to Jerusalem (v. 45). That means this church has a very strong belief about the importance of Jerusalem to their religion.

THE KING OF THE NORTH IS A CHURCH AND STATE WORKING TOGETHER AS ONE POWER. IT IS THE SAME COMBINATION WE SEE WORKING IN CROATIA TODAY!

Revelation 13 and 17 says there will be ten nations in that union. They will be guided by a great church.

There will also be a political head which is given great power over ten countries (Dan 8:23-25). One leading nation is the dominant power. Anciently, it was called Assyria (Isa. 10:5-7).

This empire enters into "Jerusalem" (Dan. 11:40-41). Jerusalem is a type of all Israel, since it was the capital of Israel anciently.

This union of ten nations will actually fight Christ at His return. They will quickly be destroyed.

It was the same political and religious power of past empires that recognized the breakaway republics of Croatia and Slovenia today! These two states have been a part of the Holy Roman Empire through the ages, beginning with Justinian in 514 A.D.

It is the history of this empire of nations which led to the beginning of the Yugoslavian civil war. These nations still have strong ties—so strong that they started a war. And they are getting much stronger.

What is happening with Croatia, Slovenia, Germany and the Vatican is a dangerous sign.

These powerful "families" are uniting once again to produce this superpower, the king of the north.

Kosovo is only a sideshow—a distraction from the boiling pot. The real truth of what is happening should leave the world thunderstruck. God will use this boiling pot to spill onto the sinning nations of Israel, unless they repent.

This is consistent with 75 to 100 prophecies that relate to the same end-time scenario.

An Iron Pillar

Jeremiah had a very difficult job. So does the vigilant watchman. "Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them" (Jer. 1:17). The vigilant

watchman and his supporters today are told to "gird up your loins." God wants us to act like men and women of valor. Israel's impending doom makes our message extremely urgent!

God holds us accountable for what we know. If we get fearful and timid, God will "confound" us before the world. The Hebrew word for "confound" means to "break in pieces" (see *Gesenius' Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*). If we run from our calling, God will crush us. That is how He dealt with Jonah. That is how He will deal with the Laodiceans.

We must accept the high honor of the great crusade God has given us or

Return of the OLD WORLD ORDER

As the dust of war settles over Kosovo and Serbia licks its bleeding wounds, the most profound effect of this latest Balkan crisis is beginning to dawn on some observers of the European scene. This Kosovo crisis has simply quickened the pace, dramatically, of the rise of imperial Europe.

BY RON FRASER

DURING THE COLD WAR, HISTORY seemed stuck in a time warp, as the U.S. and Soviet Russia glared at each other over a concrete barrier slicing through the German city of Berlin.

History revived on that fateful night, November 9, 1989, when the Berlin Wall fell. Presidents Gorbachev of Russia and Ronald Reagan of America met in December 1989 on the historic old island of Malta to officially announce the end of the cold war.

In a sense, a history which had been held back, delayed for 40 years in the icy freeze of cold war, was suddenly freed to pursue its ongoing course. We had entered a time of "no more delay" in the course of world events

(Rev. 10:6; Zeph. 1:14). The history of mankind was about to reach its crashing, globe-shattering climax!

The fall of the Berlin Wall was to herald the dramatic acceleration of a European phenomenon which had been somewhat stultified during the cold war—the revival of European imperialism. Simply put, the resurrection of that old imperial power which has dominated history since 31 B.C., the Roman Empire.

To the keener-eyed observer, images of the old double-headed eagle of the Roman Empire have emerged increasingly over the past decade to replace the Soviet hammer and sickle in Eastern Europe. Throughout European history,

the imperial eagle has been employed by its rulers as a symbol of imperial power. What the lion was to Britain, symbolic of the greatest empire in man's history, the eagle is to Europe, symbol of its historic imperial power. The double-headed eagle, in particular, is deeply symbolic of the eastern and western divisions of the old Roman Empire.

In Daniel 2:28-45 we read of the vision of Nebuchadnezzar, interpreted by the prophet Daniel. God revealed to Daniel that the great composite image of which he dreamed was an allegory of the

great empires that would prevail through history until the return of Jesus Christ. Bible students know that the two legs of iron depicted by this image (Dan. 2:33) represent the eastern and western divisions of the Roman Empire as it became divided in 330 A.D.

We have written often in the pages of this magazine of the fact that Bible prophecy declares there would be multiple resurrections of the Roman Empire following the fall of the founding empire in 476 A.D. This is depicted in Revelation 17. The final resurrection is prophesied for our day. It is literally rising up on European soil at this very moment.

Forty years ago, Herbert W. Armstrong, that patriarchal apostle of the Philadelphia era of God's Church (Rev. 3:7-13), published a booklet titled *Who Is the Beast?* From that very booklet we now quote: "The seventh head with its ten horns...will be, as [Revelation 17] explains, the revival of the BEAST, the



be put to shame. We have to face either the world or a wrathful God. Most of the members in God's own Church have been too fearful of men to do His Work. This is a warning to God's true Church today. It is inexcusable if we fail to do God's Work. After all, God is behind us. So let's get the job done!

"For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land" (v. 18). This is the incredible power behind God's little remnant. God has made us like "a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls"—like an iron fortress. Without God, we would be quickly destroyed.

God's message is AGAINST kings, princes, leaders of the world and priests—primarily Laodicean ministers. THAT IS OUR BATTLEGROUND! "And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee" (v. 19). They will fight against God's Work, but they shall not prevail! This is a prophecy and a promise from God for the end time. Nobody can close the doors God opens for His Work (Rev. 3:8). Nobody! Not even great armies.

We are destined to win this war because God is with us! But we shall win only after many intense battles. The beautiful outcome is so inspiring, it ought to make men dizzy with joy!

Look at Jeremiah's example. He was persecuted and thrown in jail—even into a muddy dungeon. But he outlived their insults and savage treatment. He saw Judah destroyed and the people led into captivity.

He then took David's throne and King Zedekiah's daughter to Ireland to reestablish that throne there. He carried that symbol of the world's *only* hope with him.

God saved Jeremiah from the evil of his time. Why? Because he did God's Work. And God will protect those proclaim the hope of David's throne as Jeremiah did.

How can we *not* deliver this only message of hope to a hopeless and dying world? ♦

A free copy of Mr. Flurry's new book, *Jeremiah and the Greatest Vision in the Bible*, is yours. See inside front cover for details.

Roman Empire, 'out of the bottomless pit' by a 'United States of Europe,' or federation of ten European nations centered within the bounds of the old Roman Empire (Rev. 17:12-18). This is actually beginning today!"

What Mr. Armstrong declared in 1960 was "actually beginning," we can now report, 40 years later, is coming rapidly into its prime!

Note that in Daniel 2:33-34, the two iron legs of this great image depicting the empires of the world terminate in feet of iron and clay. It is the transition of this part of the vision of Daniel from *image* into *reality* that we are now seeing month by month taking place before our very eyes! And it is interesting to note the *process* by which this misty image is merging into startling, present-day reality.

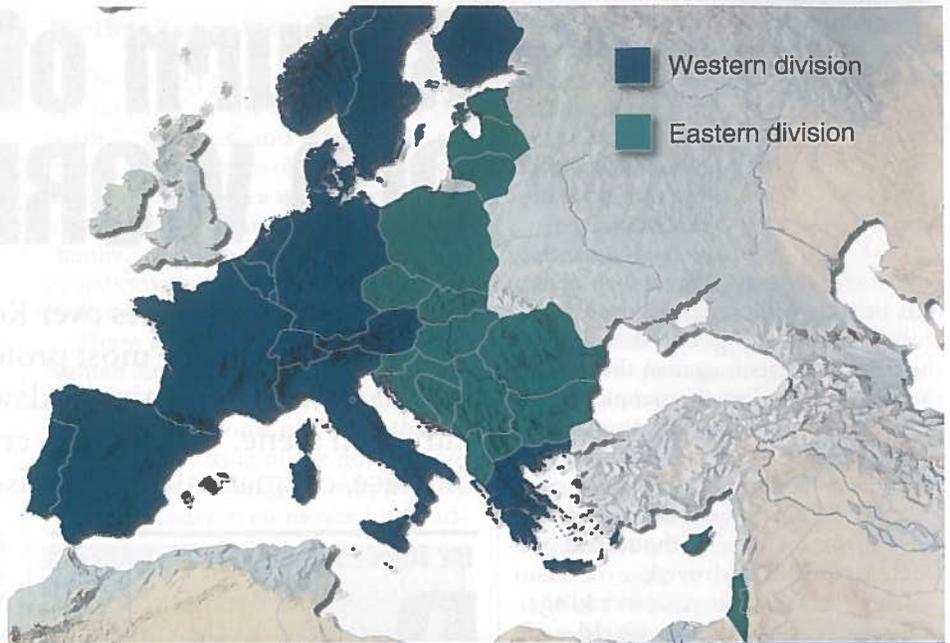
Western Leg

Prior to 1989, the formation of the western leg of the coming European (Roman) empire was well-advanced. Protected by the Atlantic alliance, under the umbrella of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union (formerly European Coal and Steel Commission, European Common Market, European Community) was free to develop its foundation. Riding on the coattails of the U.S., post-war Europe rapidly rebuilt under the protection of the Marshall Plan. When the U.S. decided to allow Germany to denazify itself, *Deutschland* quickly dusted off its closet Nazi bureaucrats, businessmen, technocrats, industrialists and financiers and led the way in erecting a robust West European trading economy.

Berlin became the spy capital of the world. Being thrust up against the Soviet border, it became privy to high intelligence from both superpowers. Germany played its game well, conducting its political affairs with near-impeccable manners for 50 years, but all the time working for the immediate goal of German unification.

In the meantime, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France and Italy all forged ahead into boom times economically, riding the wave of post-war reconstruction through the era of heavy industry to that of high technology.

But east of Berlin, European history was going nowhere. The old nation states of the Baltic, Balkan peninsula and *Mittleuropa* corridor were stultified under the Soviet Communist



THE PROPHESED EUROPEAN EMPIRE will be split east and west. Pictured are countries which may be included, with the possible dividing line.

boot—that is, until that night those images of unrestrained emotion under the spotlighted cracks in the Berlin Wall were beamed around the world.

The fall of the wall unleashed a flood of *nationalism* in Eastern Europe, heralding, as it did, the demise of the terribly senile Soviet system.

Poland was the initial wedge, struck by the Vatican hammer, that split the Iron Curtain asunder. Thus it was that the hugely symbolic change made to the Polish flag upon their acquiring separate nationhood in April 1989 stirred the minds of the masses to its east and south.

As the double-headed eagle, so deeply symbolic of that ancient Roman Empire (removed from the Polish flag under Soviet dominance), was now sewn back onto the red and white ensign, Europe knew exactly the message the Poles were conveying—"We're a sovereign nation again, and we declare our roots in the Holy Roman Empire—we draw our spiritual breath from Rome!" The revival of the double-headed eagle sent messages deep into the heartland of middle Europe concerning its imperial roots. But it was a Polish pope, a crusading knight of the Vatican, who first cried out, "Europe! Find your roots!"

Eastern Leg

Thus commenced the building of the eastern leg of the imperial image of Europe. Following the Polish example,

many Eastern European nations suddenly sprang loose from the Communist yoke and re-established their national independence. Currently the Baltic nation of Estonia, the Mediterranean island of Cyprus and four Eastern European countries—Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia—are involved in negotiations with the EU for member status. This first wave is planned to be followed by a second wave of negotiations with Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and the Slovak Republic. The island of Malta has re-activated its application for EU membership.

Out of this mixture of Baltic, East European and Mediterranean countries will arise the European Union's eastern leg. This leaves the future of the unstable Balkans, "southeastern Europe," as it is being termed, undecided as to how it will relate to the rest of Europe as the EU empire consolidates.

One point to note is the intense interest taken in the Balkan region by *Germany*. The EU's leading nation not only hosted the recent Kosovo peace process negotiations, it drafted and publicized the resultant agreement, and made sure that they were first in with the idea of mounting a Marshall Plan, not just for Kosovo, but for the whole Balkan Peninsula! Serbia must ultimately be included in this reconstruction process because of its strategic importance in terms of the movement of European goods and services from east

to west and to the south.

As the U.S. tires of being the whipping boy for NATO's errors and the impending quagmire that awaits the reconstruction teams in Kosovo, will Kosovo end up as a German protectorate, under the 12-star EU banner? Two things remain sure: Now that the Germans are on the ground in the Balkans, they will not be easily moved out of there; and the longer they stay, the less tolerant they will become of typical Balkan disorder. We believe the Germans are in the Balkans to stay.

When we compare the western leg of emerging imperial Europe (despite its often unstable politics) with its developing eastern counterpart, it looks quite strong. The EU's eastern leg is building out of a crazy quilt of countries which seemingly would have no hope of ever holding together in union with anyone! This is exactly the state we could anticipate, given the indications of prophecy which colorfully describe the feet upon which imperial Europe will stand—"his feet part of iron and part of clay" (Dan. 2:33). The demise of the Soviet Union has unleashed great nationalistic feelings in those nations. Not only that, the stultified spiritual needs of the people have move them from atheistic communism back to their Catholic and Orthodox roots.

So, east of Austria and to the south, the result of this present state of flux is a hodge-podge of individual nations, each keen to aggressively exert its individual sovereignty, with a mixture of religious loyalties ranging from Roman Catholicism to national Orthodoxy to Eastern Orthodox. How in the world could this diverse mix, this melting pot of nations, reverting back to their 19th century conformations, ever hold together in union? But hold they must.

Bible prophecy indicates that there will be five nations, or groups of nations, to the east and five to the west in this final resurrection of imperial Romish Europe—and the scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35). This division of nations in imperial Europe is implied by the imagery of Daniel 2:33.

Then in Revelation we read that a very specific *power* is brought to bear on these ten nations which binds them together for 3½ years (Rev. 13:5). The glue is *religion*. This religion gets its power from a being called the *dragon* (v. 2). The dragon is always identified in scripture as the fallen archangel Lucifer (Isa. 14:12), who turned himself

into the arch-rebel, father of all lies, master confuser and destroyer, *Satan* (Rev. 12:12-13).

The *seat* of this power is in Rome. Bible students are aware of the connection between Rome and ancient Babylon. Many religious symbols employed within the Vatican are identical to those of the ancient Babylonian and Egyptian pagan religions. They have a *common source*. It is simply the spiritual *power*, the *seat* of power and the great *authority* of this almost 2,000-year-old church that will bind together for a season the brittle and temporal unity of the ten nations or groups of nations.

The Vatican is now stepping up its program to draw both Lutheran and Anglican wayward daughters back into its fold. Pope John Paul II has broken the ice with the Eastern Orthodox Church by his visit to Romania in June. Although his planned visit to Orthodox Armenia was called off due to his temporary illness, no doubt this will proceed in the near future. Already the Vatican has made overtures as far east as Orthodox Ukraine for a papal visit. This has all happened in the past few months. We are about to see a papal blitzkrieg to the east as the Vatican aggressively seeks to extend its spiritual hegemony to embrace the developing eastern division of this final resurrection of the Roman Empire in Europe.

No Longer a Lone Voice

Once, that patriarchal apostle Herbert Armstrong was a lone voice crying in the wilderness of spiritual confusion, even foreseeing and declaring amid Germany's crushing defeat in World War II that Germany would rise again to dominate and lead an imperial Europe. Our editor in chief, Gerald Flurry, follows in his footsteps.

Yet, in one respect, he is no longer a lone voice. Incredibly, the clearer-thinking analysts are warning that something is rising in Europe which we will all live to regret.

Once there were only a few, such as T.H. Tetens, who wrote *The New Germany and the Old Nazis*, who saw that Germany was quietly and covertly going about its business of revival into an imperial power. Now more observers see something askew with the uniting Europe. Writers such as Bernard Connolly with *The Rotten Heart of Europe*, Timothy Garton Ash with *In Europe's Name*, John Laughland with his masterful analysis of the

undemocratic origins of the European idea, *The Tainted Source*. Then there is *The New Reich* by Michael Schmidt, and the warning to the British, *Treason at Maastricht* by Atkinson and McWhirter. Elder statesmen and women such as Lord Tebbit of Britain and Margaret Thatcher have warned of Germany's rise to dominance in Europe and its possible consequences. Then there are those who see *fascism* once again on the rise in Europe—Walter Laqueur's *Fascism, Past, Present, Future*, and *Fascism—a History* by Roger Eatwell.

All of these publications (and there are more coming off the presses each month) have been published within the past ten years and most within the past five. Why? *Why now?* Well, hindsight is a marvelous teacher. These authors write with a concern about the present situation in Europe with a mind to its past, particularly *Germany's* past.

But a *prophet* writes with a vision of *the future*. Why do we receive so many letters and calls declaring, "You predicted this and now it's happened! Why are you in front of the news?" The answer is simple. Our editor in chief has a vision of the future. It is a vision born of the eternal God, the perfect visionary. A vision canonized in Scripture over millennia of time and now opened up to minds led by the power of God's Holy Spirit (John 15:26; 16:13) to comprehend God's end-time prophecies.

You need that vision. Without it, the dramatic realignment of nations, as they juggle themselves back into an "old world order" configuration one more time, will make no sense.

But with that vision, you will have the peace of mind which comes from knowing and understanding how the past relates to the present and how the present relates to the glorious future which God holds out, ultimately, to all mankind.

But first comes the pain.

Imperial Germany, inspired by an imperialistic Vatican, covertly redeveloping and resurrecting that old Roman Empire, is still concealed in its sheep's "peacemaker" clothing.

"Fascism is on the march again. Its style may at times be different, but the ideological core remains the same—the attempt to create a holistic-national radical Third Way" (Roger Eatwell, *Fascism: A History*). But this time, fascism does not dress in brown shirts or in S.S. black, nor march in jack boots. No, the real fascists—as distinct from

the young neo-fascists of shaven-haired, drunken loutishness, wear clothes of a different kind. "Beware of men—and women—wearing smart Italian-cut suits: the color is now grey, the material is cut to fit the times, but the aim is still power, and the fantasy is cultural rebirth" (ibid.).

Yes! The old Roman Empire is about to be reborn one more time. Its roots go deep. Its culture is founded upon a *mystery religion* (Rev. 17:5).

Great Crusade

Not for nothing did 1000 senior members of the ancient Order of the Knights of Malta make a triumphant return to that Mediterranean island last year, 200 years after expulsion by Napoleon. This powerful, wealthy and secretive Roman Catholic body traces its origins back to the crusades. The order has just signed a 99-year lease on Fort St. Angelo, the strategic and heavily fortified outpost from which the Knights of Malta repelled the Muslim Turks in 1565.

This move by a crusading Catholic order is *deeply symbolic*. Particularly so when the words of the grand-chancellor of this 12,000-strong order are considered. This order, which issues its own stamps and passports, has its own diplomatic service and permanent observer status at the United Nations, sees itself *resurrected* in its former *crusading* glory. As their grand-master declared, the old Fort St. Angelo at Valletta, staging point for ancient Catholic crusades, will now become "a spiritual center where the future leadership cadres of the order will be trained.... We are launching a new kind of crusade" (*International Herald Tribune*).

This island was a staging point for the great Catholic crusades when they

spilled so much blood in an effort to capture Jerusalem for Rome. *There is deep symbolism here.*

The pope has declared the year 2000 a jubilee year—a great year of *crusade* for the Catholic Church.

You need to realize that there is a *great crusade* being mounted by the Vatican to draw its wayward Protestant and Orthodox daughters back into the Catholic fold. Activities planned by the pope for the year 2000 will represent his most powerful efforts yet to crusade for universal acceptance of the Catholic religion. If you really see this then you need to see that countering this great crusade is the great ongoing crusade of God's own Church. Mr. Flurry recently declared that the work of the Philadelphia Church of God is a "great international crusade." *This is Jesus Christ's own crusade!*

The crusade of the great whorish church, further described in Revelation 17, is destined to reach its apex in a 42-month period of great religious dominance (Rev. 13:5) over a great multitude of peoples and nations speaking many languages (Rev. 17:15). Thank God it is so short-lived! It has a clearly defined, *short* span of 3 1/2 years of global religious dominance. But what great havoc it wreaks in that short period of time (Rev. 13:5-7; 17:6).

The good news in all of this is that Jesus Christ's own crusade for the *salvation of all*, for the establishment of true and lasting *peace* on earth, is not limited by time—it goes on *forever!*

As world events rapidly gear toward the emergence of the three major power blocs that will dominate international relations as this age draws to a close—the Catholic king of the north, the Islamic king of the south, and the eastern hordes—Jesus Christ is powerfully

GROWING His crusade! It's a crusade for your very *eternal life!* It's a crusade for your *protection* from the horrifying events which will crash in on mankind at the true "*end of history*"—the end of this age of man's rebellion and the establishment of God's government of peace forever (Isa. 9:6-7).

These impending major events now shaping up on the world scene will wreak the greatest havoc imaginable upon the 6 billion people who populate this plan-

et. You could be saved from that horrific scenario—protected in a *place of safety*, promised by Almighty God to those who will just turn and repent of sin, believe His prophecies which are sure and true (II Pet. 1:20-21) and come join His crusade in the spirit of Elijah to save mankind from utter destruction (Mal. 4:5-6).

Is God calling you to man the breach caused by the failure of so many of His servants in this age? (II Thes. 2:3).

Are you one whom He is calling to have a part in the salvation of multiple hundreds of thousands in that great harvest of which He speaks, just ahead of us? "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.... For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (Rev. 7:9-10, 17).

Truly the harvest of this *great international crusade* of Jesus Christ is great, but the laborers who work daily, continually, to support that crusade of warning to the world are so few (Luke 10:2). If God is opening up your mind to understand His plan for the salvation of all mankind, *you need to act!* God holds us *accountable* for the precious knowledge of truth that He reveals to us by the power of His Holy Spirit. We are accountable to *act* on it (Rom. 2:13; James 2:17-26). Remember, this is a time of *no more delay!* Christ is no more tarrying in His Work—this is no time to draw back! "For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him*" (Heb. 10:37-38).

Come now and join us in the greatest of all crusades! Reap the *blessings* of real *abundant living* in Christ's service. Come now and *fulfill* your incredible human *potential* and work for the establishment of the only true and everlasting empire—God's globe-girdling Kingdom to come on earth—and *gain your own God-given crown!*

"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, you shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away" (I Pet. 5:4). ♦



THE STAGING POINT Fort St. Angelo in Malta



Watch North Korea

A little nation presents a big challenge to American superpower

BY ANDREW LOCHER

"DANGEROUS AS SADDAM IS...I can hardly overstate my concern over North Korea," reported CIA Director George Tenet to Congress. During this same February briefing, Lt. Gen. Patrick Hughes, U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency chief, said, "North Korea remains the country most likely to involve the United States in a *large-scale regional war* scenario over the near term.... War in Korea would be incredibly violent and destructive.... North Korea presents a challenging dilemma: a 'failing' state with *rising internal pressures*, diminishing conventional military capability, but posing an increasing regional and global threat by virtue of its expanding WMD [weapons of mass destruction] and *long-range-missile capabilities*."

The U.S. enters the new millennium unclear how to handle North Korea. Will America be able to diffuse the escalating tension on the Korean peninsula?

Rising Internal Pressure

Bordering Russia, China and South Korea and facing Japan, North Korea has long occupied a pivotal and often tense position at the hub of East Asia. It is a country born of international war. Created in 1945 following the allied victory, U.S. War Department officials decided to make the 38th parallel the dividing line between the Soviet and U.S. occupation zones in what was previously one Korea. Ten million people have remained separated from relatives since the line was drawn.

For the past five years, impoverished North Korea has been ravaged by famine and natural disasters: Combined, these have reportedly claimed the lives of 2 MILLION PEOPLE—nearly 10 percent of the nation's population. International relief has been offered, but withdrawn. Why?

In addition, the past five years in Southeast Asia have not only brought devastating natural disaster, but also financial and political adversity.

North Korea has deep historical ties with both the former Soviet Union and China. Though relations with each have fluctuated somewhat throughout history, particularly since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent breakup of the Soviet Union, both countries have had great influence on North Korea's development. The Soviet Union in particular has provided North Korea with much of the technology and support that has built its significant military force. Together all three nations find a common enemy in Western society, namely America.

In June, Chinese President Jiang Zemin met with North Korea's second-in-command, Kim Yong-nam. The Chinese showcased their economic turnaround based on expanded foreign trade. North Korea is desperate for revenue and trade to turn around its ailing economy. Its leading trading partners are Russia and China. Without this commerce, the nation would implode, unable as it is to sustain itself from within.

It is precisely this blossoming diplomatic and economic relationship with China which deeply troubles the

United States, South Korea and Japan. The North Koreans invest ONE QUARTER of their gross national product on the military. With increasing capital from the sale of military hardware, additional funds are flowing toward defense research and development. This is why international aid has been stopped. At a time when its people are desperate for relief, leadership in Pyongyang (capital city of North Korea) bewilders the world with this threatening behavior.

Surprisingly, North Korea fields the world's fifth-largest military. Nearly all troops are massed on the border with South Korea. The mislabeled "Demilitarized Zone" (DMZ) hosts over one million North Korean soldiers, poised, ready to invade the southern peninsula. The strategic importance of the peninsula has already led to one war this century.

The Korean War ended, not with a peace treaty, but with a United Nations-brokered armistice in 1953. The republics of Korea are still technically at war with one another.

Though the South Koreans have less than half as many soldiers as their northern brothers, they have a special ally. The United States stations over 37,000 combat troops along the South Korean border. Backed by the most technologically advanced weapons systems, the combination of U.S. and South Korean troops defend the South with confidence.

Since the 1953 armistice, violent skirmishes have defined this hair-trigger climate. The threat of war is perhaps nowhere more real than right here. One of the most heavily fortified borders in the world, the DMZ is a lit stick of dynamite about to explode.

Regional and Global Threat

The threat of war has forced Korea's neighbors to position themselves in an attempt to maintain security. Japan, for example, depends upon Korea's stability. "The [Korean] peninsula has traditionally been Japan's first area of security concern. Japan can never feel truly secure if some other power is sitting across the straits from it" (George Friedman and Meredith Lesband, *The Coming War with Japan*, 1991). This fact has been emphasized recently as Japan shows signs of unease in response to North Korea's test firing of a missile over Japan last August.

South Korea has nurtured a consistent relationship with the United States for security and economic devel-

opment. Rapid economic success combined with Western influence has radically changed the South Korean climate both politically and culturally.

In the Communist North, lack of economic expansion has stymied this nation, which nonetheless remains strongly allegiant to its leadership. This similarity to the Chinese makes the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) a sensible target for Chinese expansion in Southeast Asia.

Though racial and historical ties have long run parallel between the peoples of North and South Korea, the past five decades, with the passing of a full generation, have widened the gap between them. North Korea is still eyed with caution by its East Asian neighbors as well as the United States.

Weapons of Mass Destruction

During the 1980s and early '90s, North Korea developed a complete nu-

clear fuel cycle, including plutonium production capability, at the Yongbyon Nuclear Research Center. Nuclear power plants have supplied much-needed energy, but they have also furnished nuclear material to the military for undisclosed purposes.

Concern spread worldwide when North Korea announced its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1993. This situation was further complicated when the North Koreans removed 8,000 fuel rods from the Kumchangri experimental nuclear reactor in May 1994. The North Koreans claimed to be "cleaning up" their reactor. The Clinton administration warned about the possibility that the fuel rods could be processed into weapons-grade plutonium, enough for five or six nuclear bombs. Concerned officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were denied access to verify this "cleaning project," so

the U.S. immediately moved to impose severe sanctions on North Korea until inspectors were given full access. The Koreans responded with volatile rhetoric, including the threat to turn Seoul (South Korea's capital) into "a ring of fire."

The situation was later diffused with the U.S.-DPRK Agreed Framework, an agreement signed in Geneva. It stipulated that North Korea would terminate its nuclear program by 2003. Its entire nuclear research program was to be made "transparent" to the IAEA for inspection. In exchange for their openness, the IAEA and United States, in collaboration with South Korea, Japan and the European Union, committed to support two light-water reactors to replace existing nuclear energy-producing stations. These new reactors do not produce nuclear weapons byproducts.

The benefits that North Korea gains from this agreement are obvious. They promise again to do what they had already agreed to years ago in freezing their nuclear program, and gain plenty of assistance in response. Despite this agreement, doubts about North Korea's adherence to its nuclear-freeze pledge abound. "It is often said that by playing its nuclear card skillfully and bargaining in a tough manner, North Korea not only brought the United States to the bargaining table but exacted major concessions from Washington—and through Washington, from others" (*Peace and Security in North-east Asia*, pp. x-xi).

Nuclear weapons in the hands of North Korea kills security in Asia.

Also, North Korea also continues its chemical warfare program. "Today, it can produce nerve, blister and blood chemical warfare agents, and it maintains a number of facilities involved in producing or storing chemical precursors, agents and weapons" (Defense Intelligence Agency Report, December 1995).

Further, the North Korean military has routine exercises in nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) training, and is equipping all military personnel, including reserves, with full protective gear for NBC-contaminated battlefields. U.S. intelligence authorities believe North Korea possesses up to 2,500 tons of chemical weapons, in addition to their known arsenal of nuclear and biological weapons.

The possession of weapons of mass destruction is frightening, but more

A Challenge to America

IN HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE, PRESIDENT CLINTON TOURED THE KOREAN DMZ TO encourage the troops and make a political statement underscoring American resolve on the Korean peninsula. Commenting on the possibility of an attack by the North, Clinton pithily stated, "It would be the end of their country." But would the U.S. follow through on its tough talk? The Bible prophecies that the pride of America's power will be broken in this end time (Lev. 26:19).

In the post-cold-war era, we have witnessed many challenges to American power. From Iraq to Somalia, Haiti to Kosovo, evidence is piling up that the United States is not capable of maintaining world order. With humiliating defeats, one after another, one truth rings clear: Challenges to U.S. hegemony will intensify until a clear, dominating power rises to the top.

In June, the world's attention was briefly stolen from Kosovo to the Korean peninsula as North and South Korean navies clashed on the Yellow Sea. The dispute centered on the exploitation of profitable crab fisheries near the Korean coastline.

On June 15, a North Korean torpedo boat was sunk, killing 20 crew members. Several other vessels limped home, damaged from gunfire exchanged with South Korean warships. Daily naval confrontations between the two encouraged the U.S. to dispatch warships and surveillance planes to monitor the situation.

The conflict cooled, and the world's attention moved to other concerns. Yet behind the scenes, this confrontation devastated peace negotiations between the two Koreas. China flexed its diplomatic muscle and the U.S. made a low-profile retreat. In the wake lay a disillusioned Japan and a South Korea wondering where they could go for help.

If the U.S. can't police Southeast Asia despite the presence of 100,000 combat troops and the world's most advanced weaponry, who will settle this troubled region?



NORTH AND SOUTH Korean naval vessels collide head-on during June's standoff.

TV PHOTOREAD BY CHUNG SUNG-JUN/NEWSMAKERS

worrisome is North Korean willingness to market these weapons, along with the missiles to deliver them. North Korea rates as one of the world's most active arms suppliers.

Ballistic Missiles

North Korea has publicly pledged to develop, test and export ballistic missiles. Because the U.S. denounces ballistic missile proliferation, this public advertising chafes the Clinton administration, especially since North Korea deals with unstable nations such as Pakistan, India, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

The irony of their begging for international relief to ease the sting of a severe, five-year famine, while increasing their military research and development budget is frustrating many nations. Japan, South Korea and the United States have all revised plans for relief aid in the wake of ballistic missile testing.

It is suspected that North Korea is preparing to test-fire the Taepo-dong 2 missile this month. With a 3,750-mile reach, the Taepo-dong 2 could strike portions of Alaska if launched from North Korea. It also widens the potential target list in Europe.

In response to the expected test, the U.S. has dispatched a specialized spy ship to the Yellow Sea to track and analyze the missile test. According to Kurt Campbell, deputy assistant secretary of defense, "Watching North Korean weapons and missile programs is a top priority for all U.S. spy agencies" (Department of Defense Briefing, June 30).

To complicate matters further, *Aviation Week and Space Technology* has reported on North Korea's development of the Taepo-dong 3, a missile capable of striking virtually any target within the continental United States.

Much like the balance of power achieved during the cold war, the Korean peninsula remains "peaceful" due to overwhelming force on both sides.

South Korean President Kim Dae Jung visited President Clinton in July to seek support for the development of a new missile capable of reaching the capital of North Korea.

Though Kim sought White House approval to develop this missile, U.S. intelligence agencies fear that South Korea is already testing a missile with much greater range. South Korea has grown increasingly uneasy about living under U.S. constraints on their defense. Recent debacles in Iraq and Kosovo haven't in-

creased confidence in U.S. assistance. South Korea and Japan are reconsidering their own security concerns in light of China's growing dominance and aggressiveness and the U.S.'s shrinking will to decisively protect its allies.

Japanese Concern

The staunchest critic of North Korea's ballistic missile testing is Japan. According to the BBC, Japanese Defense Agency Director General Fukushima Nukaga stated that "the Japanese constitution might allow a military strike against North Korea, if necessary, 'rather than just sitting and waiting for death'" (*Stratfor Intelligence Report*, September 1998).

The Japanese government endorses a missile defense system, going so far as to support the U.S.-conceived Theater Missile Defense (TMD). Japan has increased diplomatic initiatives with Washington regarding this security project. (China vigorously opposes TMD because it would cast its umbrella over Taiwan.)

Japan has good reason for concern. Last August, North Korea fired a multi-stage ballistic missile over Japan. Immediate criticism thundered from Japan, the U.S. and South Korea. But North Korea maintained that the missile was used to launch a satellite into low earth orbit. U.S. officials initially insisted the launch tested a new ballistic missile, but later capitulated to the North Korean explanation.

Regardless of its purpose, the successful launch sends a clear signal to the international community: North Korea is more advanced in its rocket technology than was suspected by Western intelligence agencies.

It is believed that the DPRK has between four and eight missile production facilities and ten to twelve launching bases. North Korea's defiant attitude toward the international community, which is increasingly supported by China, indicates an ominous sign for Southeast Asia.

The U.S., which has relied on *deterrence* for 50 years, is now incapable of countering Communist influence in the region. If the North Koreans, Russians

and Chinese unify politically, there will be little room left for the U.S. And without a strong U.S. presence, Japan may choose to rearm. Taiwan and South Korea risk being swallowed by Communist expansion. The balance of power is tilting awry in this strategic territory.

Final Outcome

Emboldened North Korean politicians have offered to initiate top-level talks with South Korea if it is willing to sever ties with the United States and remove its anti-Communist legislation. However it is highly unlikely the South would evict the U.S.

Meanwhile, as China dominates growing portions of Asia, North Korea is wisely seeking to ally itself with this emerging power. China's fresh, aggressive diplomacy and newly forged relationship with Russia appear to be pushing the U.S. out of Asia.

Perhaps the greatest fear is that North Korea will be forced to act in desperation. Wracked by famine, iso-

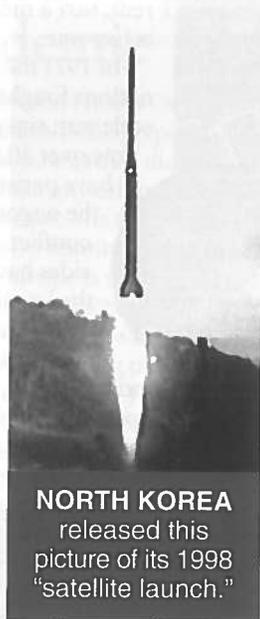
lated from the rest of the world, North Korea could turn brutally survivalist. Instability and desperation can easily make a deadly combination.

Repeatedly, analysts following the Kosovo war have pointed to the fact that Kosovo and the ongoing Iraqi bombings have stretched U.S. military resources very thin. The possibility of the U.S. being able to sustain a war on another front anytime soon has been openly cast into serious doubt.

Events in Korea may escalate to war. If they do, any lack of a clear-cut U.S. victory would help China.

China already stealthily dominates much of the region, particularly following its takeover of Hong Kong last June. Any further retreat by the United States puts Southeast Asia closer to Communist uncertainty.

Even if war does not erupt, North Korean arms trading and weapons proliferation are a grave concern for every human on earth. Irresponsible trade practices with rogue nations, while providing temporary economic relief, in fact bring the world ever closer to Armageddon. ♦



NORTH KOREA released this picture of its 1998 "satellite launch."

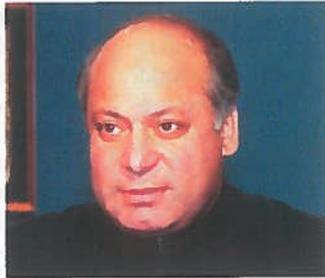
◆ ASIA

A "holy" tug-of-war

The South Asian province of Kashmir has become a nuclear flash point.

International pressure, particularly from the Group of Eight leading industrial nations, has now provided temporary relief to the perpetually escalating "holy" tug-of-war between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif recently endorsed the immediate removal of Mujahedeen (Muslim holy warriors) who had penetrated India beyond



Nawaz Sharif

spending vast amounts of their feeble gross domestic product on this glacial war.

India far outweighs Pakistan militarily. However, in May 1998, when India conducted underground nuclear tests, Pakistan immediately reciprocated. Both countries' recent abrupt induction into the world nuclear club has struck fear into Western nations whose poli-

cy has been to use weapons of mass destruction as a deterrent, NOT a means of active war.

In 1971 the two nations fought a full-scale war; since that time over 30,000 have perished in the ongoing conflict. Both sides have used the lengthy conflict to build immense national pride.

This toxic mix of relentless one-upmanship is forcing the Kashmir issue onto the world stage, with both sides adding to the continuous links of an endless chain of war. Neither side is gaining any territory. Their purpose is to wear down the enemy by attrition, till one caves in.

The problem is, neither side shows signs of caving. Now this regional war is set to escalate. "The fruitless war" has become a revolving door of acceptable retaliation. The fight over Kashmir is nothing more than a religious war of Muslim versus Hindu.

Since withdrawal from colonial India, Pakistan has been intent on showing its

own Islamic sustainability. That is why it retaliated against India and exploded its own nuclear bomb.

In India, however, the ultimate dream is to see its wayward Muslim border brother drawn back to the traditional Hindu fold.

With global attention diverted by the NATO Kosovo debacle, world watchers should view more closely this escalating regional "holy" war of tit for tat.

With Pakistan versus India, North versus South Korea versus Japan, Indonesian civil crises and China versus all comers, the Asian fuse is leading to a regional explosion of unprecedented proportions.

◆ TAIWAN

A bold move

In the wake of NATO's bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Kosovo and recent accusations by China against American "meddling" in Chinese affairs (as the U.S. has recently pushed for stronger ties with Taiwan, including supporting Taiwan's developing military), China now feels the twist of another old thorn in its side—suggestions of Taiwanese independence by the Taiwan president himself.

Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui recently stirred an already simmering pot by stating, during a July 9 interview on German radio station Deutsche Welle, that talks between Taiwan and the mainland could continue only if they were considered "state to state" instead of the commonly used and more ambiguous "political entities."

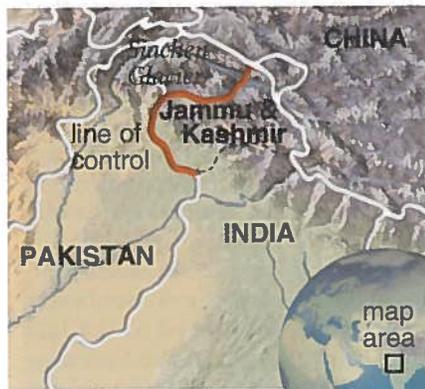
Although both countries officially favor eventual reunification, Taiwan says it would be willing to reunite with the mainland only after

China put into effect extensive democratic reforms.

In the shadow of Chinese power, Taiwan has for years avoided referring to itself as a nation so as not to anger its big brother. That is what makes President Lee's recent statements so bold. They have provoked a strong response from China, which has accused Taiwan of "publicly poisoning" the atmosphere on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, declaring that "This will bring monumental disaster to the people of Taiwan." China has repeatedly made a point of insisting it would not rule out the use of military force against Taiwan if the island's reunification with the mainland should be threatened.

If Taiwan had any illusions of support from its old, and now uncertain, ally America, those hopes have been dashed. U.S. State Department Deputy Spokesman James Foley said, "Our policy is unchanged. Our one-China policy is long-standing and certainly well-known." He said Taiwan's future was "a matter for the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to resolve."

With China furious and the U.S. highlighted as an unreliable ally, where will this leave little Taiwan? One thing is certain: Taiwan's defiance has further prodded an already irritable China—a China which sees no real check to its power in the region.



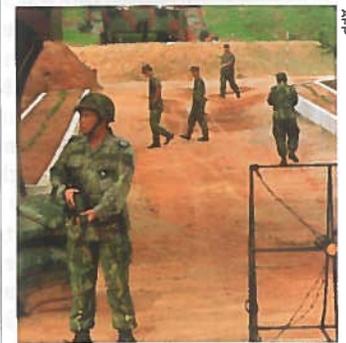
the Line of Control which separates India and Pakistan.

Each side is locked in a conflict born in the aftermath of British colonial rule. It's a war of symbolic importance that points to the heritage of both nations.

India is Hindu-dominated, while Pakistan is Islamic to the core. Kashmir is an Indian-governed, Muslim-dominated border province that separates these countries. This is the heart of the dispute for the two new nuclear powers as they face each other.

Kashmir is the highest and most remote battlefield on earth. The war takes place over the Siachen Glacier in the Himalayan Mountains.

These are two of the world's poorest nations,



TAIWANESE TROOPS patrol an island just south of their mainland enemy.

◆ TRADE

EU's Latin partner

Latin exports are catching on in the U.S. these days, and not just in the entertainment industry. But perhaps they are nowhere more sought after than in Europe.

Heads of state from the European Union and 33 Latin American and Caribbean nations met in Rio de Janeiro June 28 and 29 to liberalize trade between the continents and to strengthen ties. Why? To counterbalance the U.S.'s political and economic weight in the region.



A SIGN ADVERTISES the June 28-29 trade summit in Rio de Janeiro.

The EU is no stranger to Latin America. Post-colonial ties provide a historical link that has never been completely broken. The EU has for some time been the biggest trading partner of Latin America's trade bloc, *Mercosur*—comprised of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile as an associate member. The EU is also the largest investor in the area and the biggest provider of development aid.

Europe clearly has a deep interest in Latin America; EU exports have grown by 164 percent this decade—surpassing \$52 billion in 1997. At the same time, however, Latin American exports to



EU LEADERS Chirac and Schröder discuss trade with Brazil's Cardoso and Mexico's Zedillo.

Europe have risen by only 29 percent, compared with an increase of more than 120 percent to other markets.

The Latinos are eager to capitalize on their current popularity by exploiting a little friendly competition between their northern neighbor and the EU. As *European Voice*, June 24-30, reported, "The [Mercosur] bloc has warned that if the EU drags its feet on market-opening, it will be pushed into the arms of North American countries which are currently negotiating a free-trade agreement with their southern neighbors. This would have a damaging impact on European firms." Acting External Relations Commissioner Manuel Marin also warned recently that "if we do not know how to take advantage of the space and opportunities offered through cooperation with Latin American countries, others undoubtedly will."

Is Europe's new commitment to Latin America purely economic? While the recent summit did see a document signed agreeing to "gradual and reciprocal trade liberalization," the summit was clearly not just about trade—the leaders also lent their names to an extensive list of proposals: upholding human rights, encouraging tourism, boosting cooperation in fighting terrorism and the drug trade.

We can't ignore the fact

that Latin America, besides boasting agricultural and other resources, also represents a population of 500 million citizens, the vast majority of which are firmly bound to Catholicism. In this time of relative sta-

bility on the South American continent, the ecstatic support given to the pope's 1998 Latin American visit, to the point where Communist Cuba kept *Christmas* last winter, reconfirms where this population ultimately offers its allegiance—to the heart of Europe, the seat of their economic and religious heritage.

◆ HEALTH

Third World epidemic

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that aids now causes more deaths than any other infectious disease. The scary part is that WHO maintains that the AIDS pandemic is still nowhere near its peak.

The world is used to regular reports warning of population outstripping Third World countries' ability to feed themselves. Stand by for a shock. The tide is turning in



CHILDREN OBSERVE International AIDS Awareness Day in Kenya, where the virus has claimed countless lives.

the race between population control and famine.

Evident only a few years ago, booming population growth will soon *cease* as death rates from AIDS soar. In some African countries, one quarter of the population is HIV-positive. Increasingly these are professionals possessing skills sorely needed by the underdeveloped regions: doctors, teachers, engineers and administrators. In 1998 WHO reported 2.3 million deaths as a result of AIDS.

In a chilling observation of the AIDS phenomenon, Peter Piot, executive director of UN-AIDS, the United Nations agency in charge of battling AIDS, states, "AIDS has been with us for just 20 years and is already killing more people than any other infectious disease. It is the most formidable pathogen to confront modern medicine" (*The Independent*, March 28).

In only two years, AIDS has rocketed out of ninth place of the world's killer diseases to first place!

Although barely contained in the West, AIDS is simply out of control in the Third World. It is now the biggest single cause of death in Africa. In less than three years, Zimbabwe will experience zero population growth, due to AIDS' grim harvest. Within five years its population will be in *decline!*

The World Watch Institute in Washington says that it expects Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Swaziland to follow suit. The World Bank reports that it expects a loss of 15,000 teachers in Tanzania within the next ten years due to AIDS. Within five years it expects half of Malawi's skilled townspeople to perish from the disease.

In the Third World, AIDS is starting to rival the infamous Black Death which left 20 million dead in its wake in 14th century Europe.



JOEL HILLIKER

Britain's Final Choice: America or Europe?

At the end of World War II, Europe lay in rubble. One man warned for over 50 years that Germany would again rise to lead a united Europe, and that Britain WOULD NOT be a part of that European Union. Thirteen years after his death, it appears Herbert W. Armstrong will be proven right.

BY GARETH FRASER

LIKE HUMPTY DUMPTY, THE PROSPECT of Britain's further integration into the European Union has had a great fall. All the king's horses and all the king's men may not now be able to put Britain back together with Europe again.

When Tony Blair became prime minister, he confidently claimed that Great Britain would play a chief role in a united Europe. For euro-enthusiasts, the opposition to Brussels' incursions on British sovereignty from Tory Margaret Thatcher and its legacy in John Major's government was to be a thing of the past. Blair's "third way" Britain seemed more at home as part of the Euroclub.

But closer association with the EU is not possible without solving one sticky issue—swapping the age-old British pound sterling for the new euro. Recent public opinion polls indicate that the majority in Britain is not happy with closer ties to the EU and is *hostile* to switching currencies.

On July 3, *The Week* magazine reported, "Germany and France will remain the driving force of the EU, politically and economically, and London will lose its role as a leading financial center. Meanwhile, the creation of a single currency is leading to the formation of an integrated capital market from which *Britain is excluded.*"

The current British Labor government has worked long and hard to foster in the minds of the British voters the idea of sacrificing the national currency on the altar of the euro. All seemed to be going so well for the euro-enthusiasts—until the recent European parliamentary elections.

"The plan has been blown away," said Roy Denman, a former representative of the European Commission in Washington D.C. "Labor's abject defeat by an apathetic electorate and the triumph of the Tory anti-European line revealed an intense public hostility to the euro, which has clearly shaken Mr. Blair. BRITAIN IS GOING TO BE OUTSIDE EUROPE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME" (*International Herald Tribune*, June 24).

The British people spoke—by their collective silence in this election. Only 24 percent of British voters turned out to vote! Britons have sent a clear message to the Blair government that they will not tolerate any further flirtation with Europe regarding the relinquishing of the pound sterling for the euro. This may be the deathblow to euro-enthusiasts who have dreamed of British integration into a greater Europe.

A Voice Cried Out

As an unofficial Ambassador for world peace, Herbert W. Armstrong, as early as 1945 and continuing until his death in 1986, foretold that Britain

would indeed NOT be a part of the final unified Europe.

He wrote in his final and greatest book, *Mystery of the Ages*, regarding Isaiah 14:3-6: "This is...speaking of the one who will be RULER of the soon-coming resurrected 'Holy Roman Empire' a sort of soon-coming 'United States of Europe,' a union of ten nations to rise up out of or following the Common Market of today (Rev. 17). *Britain will NOT be in that empire soon to come.*"

On February 11, 1963, he wrote to Church members and co-workers about the assembling by Britain and America of a greater "Atlantic Community" with Britain becoming part of the European Common Market. "They now at last REALIZE what I have been telling the world for 29 years—that a resurrected ROMAN EMPIRE is going to arise out of the Common Market—UNLESS America and Britain can prevent it—and that it would form a THIRD GIANT WORLD POWER that would threaten both Britain and America."

Soon after, commenting on the uniting of European nations, Mr. Armstrong warned that "we Americans, with the British, gave them the idea. We've tried to organize the European nations together against Russia. They are going to unite against us! And now Europe is about ready for it! The stage is all set!... The Germans are coming back from the destruction of World War II in breathtaking manner. Germany is the economic and military heart of Europe. Probably Germany will lead and dominate the coming United States of Europe. *But Britain will be no part of it!*" (1975 in *Prophecy*).

As if with a looking glass into our time today, Mr. Armstrong saw *Britain and Europe's latter-day fortunes far in advance of their fulfillment.*

Through television, radio broadcasting and the print media, Mr. Armstrong told of this coming division between Britain and Europe. He met with former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the heir to the British throne, Prince Charles. In Europe he visited with many presidents and prime ministers, including a former architect of the EU, Otto Von Hapsburg.

Mr. Armstrong died 13 years ago. We find now that HE WAS RIGHT!

Going NAFTA

In the September/October 1998 issue of the *Trumpet*, we reported that

British trade relations were more tied to the United States than to Europe. We said that Britain might indeed be forced to sever ties with Europe and enter the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA).

Addressing the Center for Policy Studies in London, Canadian media tycoon Conrad Black declared, "None of the continental European countries has a particular affinity with the United States and Canada or anything slightly comparable to Britain's dramatic modern historical intimacy with North America." Black believes any efforts by Britain to forge closer links with the EU will result in Britain being forced to give up its sovereignty and to curtail its ties with the U.S.

The U.S. is the UK's largest single export market with combined annual exports of goods and services worth more than £31 billion (\$48 billion). Britain is the leading exporter of services to the U.S., with a market share of more than 12 percent, making Britain the largest foreign investor in the United States.

With the British electorate's rejection of Blair's euro currency policy, the Labor government is left in the dark to find the light at the end of their European foreign policy tunnel. Regarding the current Blair policy of euro enthusiasm, the July 3 edition of *The Week* reported, "In the 1982 Beaconsfield by-election, [Blair] advocated withdrawal from the EEC on the grounds that it 'took away Britain's freedom to follow the economic policies it needed.' In Sedgefield the year after, his election address stated clearly: 'We'll negotiate withdrawal from the EEC, which has drained our national resources and destroyed jobs.' Clearly, in the intervening period, he had a Damascene con-

version on the road to Brussels; dare one hope that he is about to experience the blinding light again?"

With Britain's euro policy physicians suffering a bad case of amnesia, NAFTA membership may be just what the doctor ordered. The U.S. Congress is currently now considering taking the initiative, inviting Britain to join the North American Free Trade Area.



Conrad Black

Eurostat (the statistical arm of the EU) reported that the United States invested nearly twice as much in Britain as it did in the rest of the EU! And with Britain accounting for two thirds of total European investment in the U.S., the call for hitching the British economy to NAFTA rather than the EU would appear to have significant economic and political benefits to both the U.S. and Britain. Noting that the book-keeping suggests the UK would be better off leaving the EU, additional support has come from U.S. Senator Phil Gramm. With a background in economics, this Texas Republican has taken steps to have the United States International Trade Commission study the impact British membership would have on America.

"He supports the widening of NAFTA to include Britain, and his spokesman said: 'Since he became chairman of the banking committee six months ago he's gained more power and influence in the Senate, and it gives him the opportunity to turn this hobby horse into a real pony'" (*Daily Telegraph*, July 5).

Senator Gramm and many other U.S., Canadian and Mexican business leaders believe that all spheres of commerce would benefit from British integration into NAFTA. Britain could not join, however, without ending its current relationship with the EU.

It appears that Washington is realizing its support for expansion of the EU has been grossly in error. Concerns are now being expressed at the highest levels in the Capitol that "the EU is actuated partly by a desire to be a counterweight to America" (*ibid*). With the weakening of trade relations via disputes over beef and bananas, it appears that the worst fears of the U.S. are being confirmed—that the EU trading beast is a protectionist stronghold. Many are now of the view that it is not in America's best interest to see Britain bridled by European hegemony.

A Shadow of Former Glory

Britain is now a mere shadow of its former glory as the greatest empire the earth has ever seen. At its height the British Empire literally ruled the waves. Excluding the United Kingdom, it encompassed 11 million square miles, occupying almost 20 percent of the world's landmass, governing 25 percent of the earth's population and controlling all major seaports of the world up to World War II. Britain directed global trade from London, the bustling metropolis that stood as the crossroads of the financial and business world. The British pound sterling was the major currency of the world. The world cried, "Rule Britannia!"

In stark contrast, today's "empire" covers 100,000 square miles, with only 14 dependent territories governing a total of 16 million people. At the turn of the new millennium, Britain seems to be almost powerless to even stop its own United Kingdom from disintegrating. Lacking the *will* to rule, it increasingly appears an empty shell of its former glory.

Britain fails to see the significance flowing beneath the cold facts of today's events. When its leadership prioritizes *dismantling* the House of Lords, *dismembering* the monarchy, *devolving* its constituent nations and politically and economically flirting with Europe, it is headed for trouble.

The financial capital of Europe is rapidly shifting from London to Frankfurt. Bible prophecy indicates that Britain will ultimately *NOT be a part of the European Union*. The British public reject the switch from pounds to euros, and as Britain (biblical Ephraim) is invited to turn to brother America (Manasseh) for trading solace, both countries may well fall into a unique isolation. ♦

SHOULD BRITAIN JOIN NAFTA? THE NUMBERS

- ◆ The U.S. is the Britain's largest single export market, worth more than \$48 billion annually.
- ◆ Britain is the U.S.'s leading exporter of services, with a market share of more than 12 percent. This makes Britain the largest foreign investor in the United States.
- ◆ Britain accounts for two thirds of total European investment in the U.S.
- ◆ The United States invests nearly twice as much in Britain as it does in the rest of the EU.

A Matter of Trust

As British Prime Minister Tony Blair sees it, "It is a matter of *trust*. Will Unionists really share power with non-Unionists [Catholics]? Will [Catholic] republicans really give up the gun?"

In speaking of *trust*, it is important to note that Britain's most successful prime minister since Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher, stridently declared during her term of office, "Never negotiate with a terrorist!" The IRA certainly knew where they stood with Mrs. Thatcher.

They also know where they stand with a weak-willed British administration. Mr. Blair is not asking for the IRA to disarm as an act of good faith to ensure success of the Irish "peace agreement." No. He is merely asking for their *word*, for a *statement* committing to disarmament.

The basic question is not *how* or *when* or even *if* the IRA will give a written undertaking to disarm. The fact is, any such undertaking by the IRA would be worth exactly the price of the paper upon which it is written. The word of the IRA is worth the same as the word of the PLO, Shining Path, the Sandanistas, the Red Brigade, the Barder-Meinhoff gang, the ANC or the KLA. It is the word of a *terrorist*. The same as the word of Yasser Arafat, who on the one hand signs a peace accord with Israel to promote a so-called "peace process," and on the other declares to his followers, "We will not rest till we have driven the Israelis into the sea and our Palestinian flag flies from every building in Jerusalem!"

This is exactly what the IRA wants in Ireland. They simply want the Protestants out! Out of the government, out of Ireland! They want a nationalized, catholicized Ireland, completely separate from Britain—and they won't rest till they get it! All we see—the "peace process," the decommissioning agreement, the joint Protestant-Catholic parliament—is but a means to that end.

"The search for a compromise." THAT'S the basic weakness in the Irish peace process and in all of the so-called "peace processes" that have emanated from late 20th century diplomacy. At best, a compromise will buy time. It will *never* solve dissension between disagreeable opinions. Such has been the history of every shabby "peace process" negotiated by Western diplomacy since



A VAIN HOPE Ahern (left) and Blair prepare for peace talks with Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams (at right).

The Search for a Compromise

Once again the infamous Irish "peace process" has failed. This shoddy, unworkable compromise came crashing down on the very day that was to mark its greatest step forward.

BY RON FRASER

THURSDAY, JULY 16, WAS SUPPOSED to be a great day for Ireland. It was supposed to mark the most important event in the Northern Ireland Peace Agreement: The election of a joint Catholic-Protestant ruling cabinet.

On the day of the meeting at Stormont, First Minister David Trimble's chair was empty. The chairs to be occupied by the Ulster Unionist (Protestant) party were empty. Ulster Unionists, led by David Trimble, refused to sit in an assembly with representatives of the Catholic Irish Republican Army (IRA) while the IRA remained armed. The Irish "peace process" bogged down.

Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, talked of postponing the May 2000 deadline for voluntarily disarming (decommissioning) the IRA. U.S. Senator George Mitchell, who brokered the 1998 Good Friday Peace Agreement, was recalled for discussions with British Prime Minister

Tony Blair and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern.

The peace process was going nowhere—*fast!* Why?

Because, as with all similar deals where one of the negotiating parties is backed by an armed terrorist organization, it is the armed party that holds the whip hand.

Without a clear commitment to disarm from the IRA, the Unionists simply felt too threatened to proceed. The sham Good Friday peace accord had been negotiated between representatives of the Protestant and Catholic communities WITH NO GUARANTEE OR COMMITMENT WRITTEN INTO IT REQUIRING THE IRA TO DISARM. So, essentially, it contained only a vain hope. An empty hope of peace between the armed and the unarmed.

This has been the great fault with the whole Irish "peace process": the effort of the lead negotiators on the U.S. and British sides to seek a workable *compromise* with a group of terrorists armed with masses of weaponry stockpiled in secret arsenals.



this very phrase became fashionable.

A Test of Will

Not since the days of that venerable statesman Winston Churchill have Sinn Fein had a British prime minister tough enough to face them down and enforce the British government's will upon the IRA.

In 1919, with the IRA newly formed, Winston Churchill was given the job (as secretary for war) of solving the Irish question. After his experiment with the brutal "black and tans" volunteer force proved abortive, Churchill felt that the Irish situation would have to be settled politically.

Michael Collins, political leader of the IRA, came to London to negotiate with Churchill. This great British statesman negotiated with the terrorist representative the only way he knew how. He offered to Collins two alternatives—submit to the British government's direction, or face all-out war—war with the full power of Great Britain and all the weight of her standing army behind it. Collins took the obvious choice. With a treaty signed between what was now known as the Irish free state and Great Britain, Collins returned home. The British withdrew all their troops from Ireland. Michael Collins declared as he farewelled Churchill, "We could not have done it without you."

Yet, the Catholic Irish republicans soon proved that they wanted nothing more and nothing less than *all* of Ireland, including Protestant Ulster. They assassinated their own leader, Michael Collins, and brought upon Ireland a civil war—a war which goes on in today's continuing, wearying struggles between Catholic and Protestant in Northern Ireland.

Britain has no Churchill, no Thatcher in the ranks of its present government. It has no person of such gigantic integrity in the ranks of those who follow behind. Britain's leadership is simply living through the painful days of spiritual blindness and intellectual cowardice prophesied by Almighty God: "And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: *they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.... And I will break the pride of your power*" (Lev. 26:17, 19).

In these negotiations for peace in Northern Ireland, given the British government's dearth of leadership, it is

IRA/Sinn Fein that holds the trump card.

The weakness of the Belfast agreement, concluded on Good Friday 1998, is that it contains *no deadline for disarmament*. The strength of IRA/Sinn Fein in the "peace process" is their maintenance of a huge secret arsenal with enough machine guns, automatic rifles and semtex explosives to carry on their cowardly attacks well into the next century. "The IRA was virtually certain to retain enough arms to mount an offensive if it becomes dissatisfied with the progress of the new peace agreement" (*International Herald Tribune*, Oct. 27, 1998).

Peace Peace...

Almighty God prophesied that a condition would prevail in His own Church in the times within which we live today which would parallel that in society. We live in a time of the greatest deceit (Rev. 12:9, 12). It is a time in man's history where deceivers preach "peace" while their true intentions are to divide and conquer. Behind such a mask, the perpetrators of evil have seduced God's own Church into blindly following a way that leads to destruction (Isa. 59:3-8).

Of the same spirit are those who loudly cry "peace, peace," and yet who would lead Ireland and the British up a blind alley which is piled high with explosive semtex at its end. "They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace" (Jer. 6:14).

Tradition holds that the prophet

Jeremiah is buried on the Island of Devenish, near Inniskillon, county Fermanagh, Ireland. How ironic that his inspired words, penned by his loyal scribe Baruch, would be written right here in the land of Jeremiah's exile, Ireland. Words so descriptive of Northern Ireland's condition today.

In the meantime, a rising European power watches from across the North Sea—watches the once-great Britain rip itself apart. Watches its struggle with a band of common brigands who, it so happens, are of the same religion as the rising beast power—and whose mother nation, Ireland, is already fully ensconced as a member of that euro-federation. Bible prophecy predicts it is this very federation which will soon enslave Britain—the jewel in their crown, "Mary's dowry," the wayward "daughter," after whom the Vatican has lusted from the time of its genesis.

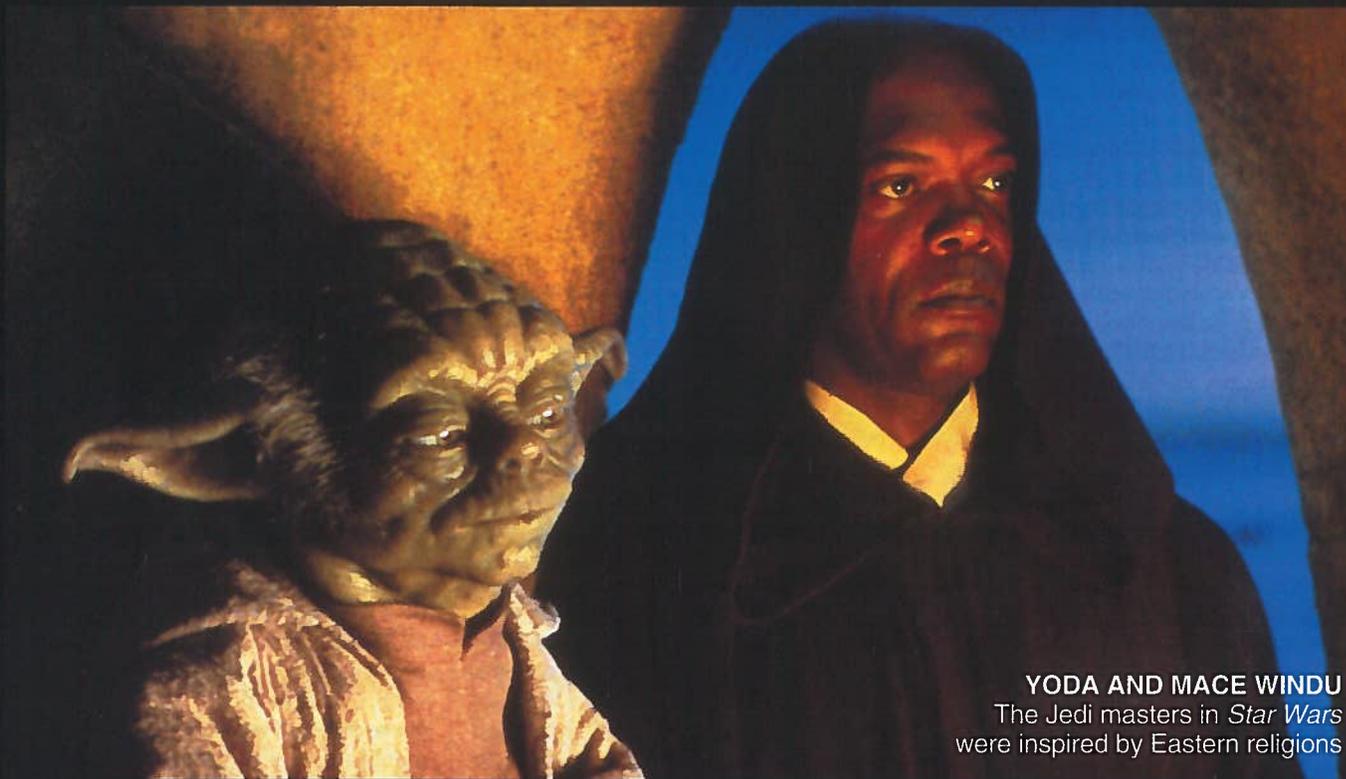
Watch for more violence, more bloodshed in Britain and Northern Ireland, before this "peace process" meets its sad conclusion. But as you watch, do so crying out to Almighty God for the bloodshed and carnage to cease, and for Him to ever hasten the day of His Son's return to this earth to establish the only "peace process" that will be sure—a peace process which will endure, without compromise; which will put down all rebellion, all terrorism, and usher in the day when all mankind will live in unity and harmony, under the true justice of His rule of law which alone will guarantee true peace on earth—forever! ♦



A PROPHET'S TOMB Jeremiah prophesied of today's doomed peace process. He was supposedly buried on the island of Devenish in Ireland.

STAR WARS

THE RELIGION



YODA AND MACE WINDU
The Jedi masters in *Star Wars* were inspired by Eastern religions

Some laud the theology of *Star Wars*. But does *Star Wars* reflect a true religion?

UNDoubtedly the *Star Wars* epic films made in the '70s and '80s and the latest episode, *The Phantom Menace*, are among the best science-fiction films of all time. The American Film Institute placed *Star Wars: A New Hope*, the first movie made in the series, 15th on its list of the best 100 films of this century. Film experts recognize that George Lucas' technical and special effects achievements are without parallel. And the technology keeps getting better. (Lucas delayed making *Phantom Menace* until the capability was available to create on film the underwater world of the Gungans and the realism of the character Watoo, a greedy little blue-winged creature that hovers like a hummingbird.)

The *Star Wars* trilogy has become a global cultural icon. Who today does not know about a light saber? Who has

never heard of the Force? Who does not know about the comic antics of R2-D2 and C-3P0? Go to any country in this world and you will find people who readily recognize the characters: Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Han Solo, Obi Wan Kenobi, Darth Vader and Yoda. These characters and their stories have sunk deep roots into our imaginations. These films show how powerfully films can impact our entire world.

But do we stop to analyze the effect?

The worldwide popularity of the films is without question. One *Star Wars* enthusiast claimed that he has seen the trilogy 79 times. Men in suits with briefcases, women with small children, teens—multiple thousands of people—waited in lines, some even camped out on sidewalks for three days,

to be the first to purchase tickets for the *Phantom Menace* release on May 19.

This obsession was not just some American thing. The whole world was waiting for the release of this film. Some people traveled internationally to attend the movie's opening on the U.S. West Coast. Others planned to attend multiple openings in London and Paris. By early July, "Episode I" had grossed over \$375 million, making it the fourth-most popular film of recent times. Why have these films become so popular? It is far more than just the special effects.

Many admit that they are drawn to the spiritual themes woven into the rich fabric of the epic. Religious subjects such as mysteries, human destiny, prophecy, trials, overcoming, greed, compassion, temptation and redemption are clearly debated in the films. Although George Lucas may have not

BY DENNIS LEAP

intended it so, many who watch these films hope to gain some kind of religious experience—especially young people. This is more a statement about religion in our society than about movies. However, because of the wide popularity of the films, the manner in which some spiritual themes are handled should cause us concern. Let's examine why.

Galactic Theology

Don't scoff. You must understand that the *Star Wars* epic involves more than just great storytelling. George Lucas invested a great deal of thought, research and planning into the films. He specifically intended to deal with religious issues. In fact, *Star Wars* promotes its own theology.

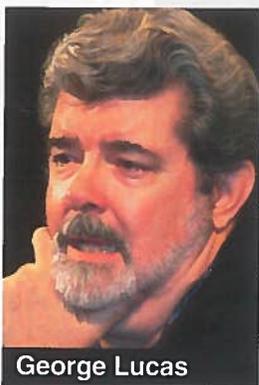
PBS recently aired a televised interview between Bill Moyers and George Lucas titled "The Mythology of *Star Wars*." The program uncovered the underlying spiritual messages behind the movies.

Recognizing that many see *Star Wars* for a religious experience, Moyers asked, "What do you make of the fact that so many people have interpreted *Star Wars* as being profoundly religious?"

Lucas responded, "I don't see *Star Wars* as being profoundly religious. I see *Star Wars* as taking all of the issues that religion represents and trying to distill them down into a more modern and more easily accessible construct that people can grab onto to accept the fact that there is a greater mystery out there. When I was ten years old I asked my mother, I said, Well, if there is only one God, why are there so many religions? And over the years I have been pondering that question ever since. And it would seem to me that the conclusion I have come to is that all of the religions are true; they just see a different part of the elephant. Religion is basically a container for faith. Faith is the glue that holds us together as a society. Faith in our culture, our world—whatever it is we are trying to hang onto. It is a very important part allowing us to remain stable—remain balanced."

Lucas admits he never intended the films to replace worship or be worshipped. But he certainly injected religion into his films. And since he believes that

all religions have some aspect of truth, he copied ideas from many different sources. Please notice that he wanted to *distill* and *modernize* current religious issues in the films to make them more



George Lucas

accessible, appealing and something people could *grab on to!* In the *Star Wars* epic, Lucas captured and made vivid what he thought were the common threads in all religions.

Traditional Christian, Buddhist and Hindu motifs are brought to light and given life in the films. Darth Vader and Darth Maul are clear types of Satan the devil. Luke Skywalker endures severe temptation and trial. Luke and Leia eventually help redeem their father. There is no doubt that Yoda is a Zen master. The Jedi knights follow the meditative life found in both Hinduism and Buddhism. The Jedi knights even dress like Eastern monks.

This blend of religion is what gives the films their cross-cultural appeal. A traditional Christian can leave the movie feeling he saw a Christian film; a Buddhist, a Buddhist film. Lucas would have us believe this is all very acceptable. Yet, this homogenization of religions gives the films a spiritual ambiguity.

Isn't it fair to ask the question: Are all religions true? Lucas' view of religion is typical of many Americans, Britons and others. Basically, he captured in his films what most people *already believe*. In America, since the '60s and '70s, there has been an overt shift in religious interest from traditional Christianity to Eastern mysticism.

Heavy Eastern Influence

Even though some Christian-like religious concepts are in the Lucas films, Eastern religion provides the dominant story thread for the movies. Moyers easily recognized this. He asked Lucas, "Have you been influenced by Buddhism? Because *Star Wars* came along just about the time there was this growing interest in America in Eastern religions. I notice in *The Phantom Menace*, the new Episode I, that they dis-

cover this slave child who has an aura about him, and it reminded me of how the Buddhists go out and look for the next Dalai Lama."

Hedging the question somewhat, Lucas answered, "Uh, uh. Well, there is again a mixture of all kinds of mythology and religious beliefs that have been amalgamated into the movie. I have tried to take the ideas that seem to cut across the most cultures because I am fascinated by that. And I think that is one of the things I really got from Joe Campbell. What he was trying to do was find the common threads through the various mythologies, through the various religions." Lucas is obviously fascinated by many religions, but especially Eastern religion, and he has made it very appealing in his movies.

Star Wars teaches religion. Lucas readily admits this fact. Moyers asked Lucas: "A professor I know said he recently asked his freshman class how many of them had seen all three of the trilogy. And everyone in the class raised his hand. And he said to me, 'I hope Lucas knows he's mentoring an entire generation of young Americans.'" Lucas responded clearly, "I have a philosophy that we all teach. And we all teach every



THE DARK SIDE Lucas' evil characters, like Darth Maul, are clear types of Satan.



INCONCEIVABLE: The immaculately conceived Anakin Skywalker bids farewell to his mother.

day of our lives. And it's not necessarily what we lectured. I have discovered that kids don't like lectures at all. But it is really the way we live our lives and what we do with our lives and the way we conduct ourselves. And once in a while they listen to the lectures. So when I make the films I am very aware of the fact that I am teaching on a much larger scale than I would just as a parent or somebody walking through life, because I have this megaphone. Anybody in the media has a very large megaphone that they can reach a lot of different people. And so whatever they say, whatever they do, however they conduct themselves, whatever they produce, has an influence and is teaching somebody something. I try to be aware of what it is I am saying."

Undoubtedly, Lucas understands the teaching power of his films. He considers them a *large megaphone* that can reach a lot of different people. Because of the film art form combining visuals with music, a message can be driven home with great impact. But what if the message is wrong or false? Recognize, Lucas purposely set out to teach or speak out on religious issues in these films. *Star Wars* popularizes the Eastern mystic way of life. We must understand that this is at cross-purposes with the way of life taught in the Bible.

Teaching Ancient Mythology

What else do the Lucas films teach? Moyers opened his interview with Lucas by asking, "Joseph Campbell once said all the great myths, the ancient stories, have to be regenerated in every generation. He said that's what you are doing with *Star Wars*. You are taking these old stories and putting

them into the most modern of idioms, the cinema. Are you conscious of doing that? Or are you just setting out to make a good action-movie adventure?"

Lucas answered excitedly, "With *Star Wars* I consciously set about to re-create myths and the classic mythological motifs. I wanted to use those motifs to deal with issues that exist today. The more research I did, the more I realized that the issues are the same ones that existed 3,000 years ago—that we haven't come very far emotionally." Lucas consulted with Joseph Campbell, a mythology expert, while developing the storyline of the saga. Of course some will ask, why be concerned with re-creating or modernizing mythological tales? Even though mythology does deal with heros and superheros and elements of character development, have we forgotten that mythology is rooted in paganism and often deals with a distorted view of the supernatural?

We must also remember that myths are not fact; they are fiction. They deal with fantasy. Lucas created *Star Wars* just after the Vietnam War. This sad era forced Americans to recognize it had lost any real heros in whom to believe. Can a Luke Skywalker, Han Solo or Obi Wan Kenobi really inspire us to overcome odds or give us the deep understanding we need to solve our current crisis? Hardly.

Well-written biographies of real people offer a much better means of inspiring human beings to overcome, develop and achieve their potential. *Real*

people deal with the *real* world. Myths and fantasy cannot sustain a people or a nation. Shouldn't our top filmmakers take on the challenge to make powerful and truthful films about real heros like Winston Churchill and Abraham Lincoln?

Weakness in the Force

Religious critics feel the *Star Wars* movies offer a thin basis for theology. Lucas agrees wholeheartedly. Moyers asked, "Where does God fit into this concept of the universe, in this cosmos you have created? Is the Force God?" Lucas quickly answered, "I put the Force into the movies in order to try to awaken a certain kind of spirituality in young people—more a belief in God than in a belief in any particular religious system." Lucas states that he created the concept of the Force to draw young people to God. But can the Force really give young people the correct concept of God?

In the second produced film, *The Empire Strikes Back*, Yoda, the little green 900-year-old Jedi master, describes the Force to a troubled, weak-in-faith Luke Skywalker. He explains, "For my ally is the Force. And a powerful ally it is. Life creates it and makes it grow. Its energy surrounds us and binds us. Luminous beings are we, not this crude matter. You must feel the Force around you. You—between you and me—the tree—the rock—everywhere. Yes, even between the land and the ship." If the Force represents God, then the *Star Wars* God is very *impersonal!*

Let's be honest. The Force represents evolution and nature worship far better than the worship of a personal God. Did you realize that people who practice witchcraft love the concept of the Force? Why? They believe it represents nature worship! Can the Force really awaken a belief in God in our young people?

One of the most disturbing issues in *Phantom Menace* is the fact that Anakin Skywalker, the young boy who becomes the evil Darth Vader, was born of a virgin birth. This is revealed in a scene with Qui-Gon Jinn and Yoda. Terry Brooks, working from Lucas' screenplay, writes:

"Yoda cocked his head questioningly. 'More to say, have you, Qui-Gon Jinn?'"

"'With your permission, my Master,' the Jedi replied, gaze steady. 'I have encountered a vergence in the Force.'"

"Yoda's eyes widened slightly. 'A vengeance, you say?'"

"'Located around a person?' Mace Windu asked quickly."

"Qui-Gon nodded. 'A boy. His cells have the highest concentration of midi-chlorians I have ever seen in a life form.' He paused. 'It is possible he was conceived by midi-chlorians.'"

"There was shocked silence this time. Qui-Gon Jinn was suggesting the impossible, that the boy was conceived not by human contact, but by the essence of all life, by the connectors to the Force itself, the midi-chlorians. Comprising collective consciousness and intelligence, the midi-chlorians formed the link between everything living and the Force" (*Star Wars, Episode I, Phantom Menace*, p. 216). Think on this. Doesn't this concept of the Force border on blasphemy?

Could an impersonal life force produce a human child? Doesn't this scenario seem amazingly close to the virgin birth of Jesus Christ? That birth was not an impossibility. Remember this scripture, "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26). Jesus Christ's birth represented a willful act on the part of a very personal God the Father. The Father, not the Force, impregnated the virgin Mary through His own Holy Spirit. Some would like to stretch the analogy that the Force represents God's Holy Spirit. But it is a weak analogy. To be brutally honest, in the films, the Force is used to move objects. It is telekinesis. Realize, telekinesis is demon-inspired, not God-inspired.

Knowing the Father

Lucas admits openly that he created the Jedi knights to be father figures. Qui-Gon Jinn acts as Obi Wan Kenobi's father. Obi-Wan becomes Anakin's father. He also becomes Luke's father—all in a spiritual context.

Certainly father figures are seriously absent in our present family-damaged society. But a swashbuckling, Eastern monk who works magic like a wizard does not fill the gap. An exciting but shallow religion will never truly educate on how to solve the real problems of real people. There is, however, a personal God who is a perfect Father. Jesus

Christ came to reveal the truth about the Father (John 1:18; 17:26). Few know God the Father. Yet, He has ALL the answers. He reveals ALL of life's mysteries.

Herbert Armstrong proved over 50 years ago that the United States and Great Britain are the modern descendants of the ancient nation of Israel. This incredible mystery and prophecy is thoroughly revealed in our booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* (write for your free copy). God revealed Himself in a very personal way to this slave nation thousands of years ago. Reminding them about what God had done for them, Moses wrote: "Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee:



FATHER FIGURES?: Jedi knights poorly replace our society's need for real fathers.

and upon earth he showed thee his great fire; and thou heardest his words out of the midst of the fire. And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt; To drive out nations from before thee greater and mightier than thou art, to bring thee in, to give thee their land for an inheritance, as it is this day. Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord HE IS GOD in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: THERE IS NONE ELSE" (Deut. 4:36-39). God showed the nation beyond doubt that He was a very personal being. They heard His voice. They saw firsthand how He defended them and helped them. God showed them they had a destiny—He had plans for them!

One God, One Religion

God clearly taught Israel that there was only one true religion. There was

only one God. There was simply no other God or religion that could satisfy. Sadly, Israel never believed God. They sought after the meaningless religions of the nations around them. Unfortunately, Israel's ancient religious history is also our history. *Star Wars'* religious popularity shows how far we have drifted from God.

Our American and British peoples are fulfilling some sad prophecies. The Apostle Paul warned us about our times. He wrote Timothy: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Tim. 4:3-4). The *Star Wars* saga is chock full of religious fable.

Herbert Armstrong stated that truth was stranger than fiction. He was right. But truth is not as popular as fiction. It is far more appealing for our people to line up for days to buy tickets for a movie than it would be to attend one meeting giving them the truth about ourselves, our God and where we are heading. Bible prophecies reveal great truth, but few are willing to listen.

Unless we get back to our personal God and His religion immediately, we are doomed to suffer ancient Israel's same fate of war, siege and captivity. God is pleading with our peoples this very minute through this magazine and the *Key of David* television program. This is the message God is trumpeting: "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezek. 33:11). God sincerely desires our peoples to turn back to Him.

The fervor for the *Star Wars* epic is just like a religious revival. This incredibly sad state reflects the deep and empty chasm in American religion. Unfortunately this revival will not satisfy. As Jude pleaded, let's get back to the faith once delivered. When we do, we'll realize that all that matters and is truly worthwhile is happening here, in our galaxy. Not in some fabled star system far, far away. ♦

Despite an eight-year economic boom in America, personal bankruptcy filings for the last three years have hit record highs. Experts predict that by 2002, the U.S. will see a 43 percent increase to the astounding level of 2 million personal bankruptcies a year. Why are so many Americans experiencing the CURSE of such financial worries?

Ending Your FINANCIAL WORRIES



By J. TIM THOMPSON

THE ENTIRE WORLD IS LOOKING TO the American consumer to buy, BUY, BUY! And Americans are not disappointing: As of May 1999, retail sales in America have risen for ten consecutive months, as personal expenditures outpaced personal income.

American consumers are buying foreign automobiles, mainly from Japan and Germany, in unprecedented volumes. Americans are snapping up incredibly low-priced imported computers and accessories. Record amounts are being spent by Americans on travel abroad. Sales of foreign fruits, vegetables, coffee and wines in America are at previously unseen high levels. Clothing purchases, mostly imports from Asia and Latin America, continue at dizzying heights.

Foreign consumer electronics, including recent purchases of 20 million big-screen TVs costing \$2,000 each or more, along with VCRs and stereos, are being rung up at a feverish pace. Such frenzied spending by American consumers will likely mean that this year foreigners will *sell* an astronomical \$250 BILLION more merchandise to Americans than foreigners will *buy* from U.S. companies! That is a record-breaking,

economy-busting trade deficit!

The *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) of June 29 said, "A big contributor to the surge in consumer confidence has been strong gains achieved in the stock market.... That so-called 'wealth effect' has consumers feeling wealthier and willing to part with more of their earnings to buy more goods and services."

But how long can this continue? How long can U.S. consumers carry the world on their shoulders? A booming economy is turning America into a land of big spenders. But at what price?

Give Them Credit

Most of the buying by Americans is on credit, and that is one of the major contributors to the enormous increase in personal bankruptcies mentioned above. People are running up record levels of debt in order to acquire bigger cars, bigger TVs and bigger houses, a phenomenon called "luxury fever" by economist Juliet Schor in her book *The Overspent American*.

U.S. News & World Report of June 24 stated, "Frenzied stock speculation and tales of overnight millionaires. Luxury-car orders pouring in faster than factories can turn them out and families blithely piling up debt to purchase the latest technical gadgetry. Sound like a wrap-up from today's

Wall Street Journal? In fact, it is a thumbnail portrait of early 1929...."

The article continued, "The assembly lines of the 1920s began spewing out luxury goods once available only to the rich.

"As credit lost its stigma, finance companies proliferated: Between 1920 and 1929, installment buying quintupled to \$6 billion. But the 1929 stock market crash brought an abrupt end to the spending spree. In 1930, installment buying plummeted and thrift again became the defining ethic—a notion that would prevail until after World War II. Then, in 1950, with a postwar construction boom driving prosperity, Americans reopened their wallets."

Since that time, American wallets have not closed very often or for very long. And today, the *U.S. News* article reports, "Americans are certainly borrowing more than ever, with the help of a proliferation of new credit-card deals and innovative lending instruments like the 125 percent second mortgage."

In total agreement, *The Economist* of July 3 reported, "If America's bubble economy bursts, a finger of blame is sure to point at the credit-card industry. The constant stream of junk mail offering pre-approved credit on a charge-card has helped *huge numbers of people to get deeper and faster into*

debt than has ever been possible before. This has fueled the mother of all CONSUMPTION SPLURGES. And as buying [stock market] shares with borrowed money has become a working-class addiction, it has also helped to pump up the stock market."

Low Savings Rate

Overextended credit and an overvalued stock market are without a doubt *major threats* to many Americans' economic well-being. Equally a threat, however, is the financial COLLAPSE which is waiting in the wings due to a *lack of preparation* by the average American for any unanticipated event, national or personal, which rocks the boat.

In 1974, the U.S. Congress created the Individual Retirement Account, known as the IRA, to promote tax-deferred personal savings. At that time, Americans saved 9.5 percent out of every paycheck. According to a Commerce Department report on June 28, the official U.S. household savings rate dropped to *minus* 1.2 percent in May, the lowest level since the Great Depression, and the largest single monthly drop since 1959.

Statistics show that one third of U.S. households have less than \$1000 in total savings, and a little more than half have less than \$5,000 in savings. In the event of life's unexpected setbacks, like a job-loss, major health problems or costly car repairs, too many people have nothing to fall back on. Suddenly, families are being pushed over the brink into financial disaster by seemingly minor problems because they have *not* provided themselves a FINANCIAL CUSHION.

Worse yet, we see the same signs of speculative froth in the stock market as was seen in the late 1920s. The majority of Americans are already on the edge of the abyss because of a lack of personal savings, and most, by far, could *never* weather a major economic storm. Such a disaster was only narrowly averted in the fall of 1998 when the Asian financial meltdown threatened to capsize the U.S. economic ship of state. But the specter of that catastrophe is lurking in the wings—just waiting for its cue to again come center-stage.

People don't seem to understand how vulnerable the U.S., and indeed the entire world, is to a repeat of the Great Depression, the worst economic disaster in mankind's history. In the space of three years, total economic

output plunged by 29 percent and unemployment soared to over 25 percent while prices plunged and deflation ravaged the world economy in the 1930s. It seems almost no one is even remotely prepared for an *inevitable* REPEAT of that global financial implosion.

When, not if, that occurs, many Americans will have absolutely NO FINANCIAL CUSHION with which to ride out the storm. Just as with the Titanic disaster, America is plowing full-steam ahead into an ice field without the benefit of enough lifeboats. Financial disaster awaits on an *unprecedented* scale.

All of us should be asking: WHY have these CURSES come upon us? WHY are so many experiencing the CURSE of bankruptcy and other such financial worries? With such prosperity, WHY can't people make ends meet?

What About You?

What concerns YOU the most?

Are you worried mostly about nuclear war, gang violence or race riots? Or perhaps global warming or disease epidemics?

It is astonishing, but most people are concerned primarily about their FINANCES—just making ends meet! The problem is so great that the family is being sacrificed by "farming out" the children so both parents can work!

The *Washington Post* of May 31 says, "The share of married women with children under 18 at home who worked for pay rose to 68 percent in 1996 from 38 percent in 1969." In 1959, only about 25 percent of mothers worked outside the home!

It seems nearly everyone is constantly struggling to make ends meet, and those worries are robbing us of real happiness and joy! But it does *not* have to be that way!

There is a reason that these financial curses are occurring in our present-day society. It is cause and effect. And YOU can *change* your life and be FREE from financial worry!

Ending Your Financial Worries

Most of the remainder of this article is a paraphrase of, and sometimes actual quotes from, a 1959 booklet by the

late Herbert W. Armstrong titled *Ending Your Financial Worries*.

In that booklet, Mr. Armstrong made the point that the KEY to ending your financial worries is to recognize an important fact: Your income is *NOT* YOURS! What you earn in wages or receive as a return on investments is *not* yours—not *any* of it—that is, not UNTIL two prior claims on your income are satisfied.

One of those claims, of course, is TAXES. In the case of wages or salary, the government extracts an average of about 20 percent for taxes BEFORE you get your paycheck.

Jesus said to pay our taxes—render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's (Matt. 22:21). In other words, be subject to man's government and laws (1 Pet. 2:13-17), as long as they don't break GOD's laws.

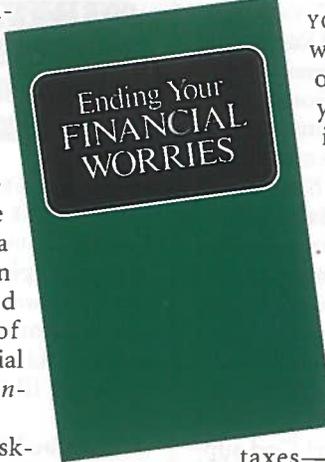
The last phrase in Matthew 22:21 describes the FIRST claim on ALL of mankind's income. Christ said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; AND UNTO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S." Your income is not yours UNTIL the prior claim of the living God, the Creator-Ruler of this universe, has been satisfied!

Most people don't realize it, but everything produced—money and all that money can buy—comes out of the earth, and mankind does *not* own the earth! God created it and owns every square inch of it.

We tend to think our labors have earned us an income with which we can do whatsoever we please. But that is *not* the case! To think so means we will bring a CURSE upon ourselves. It is God's labor of creating and sustaining the earth and the universe which makes it possible for your labors to create income. God even created the energy you expend and even your thinking processes. That is why God has a prior claim on all of YOUR income which is produced from HIS earth.

In Psalm 24:1-2 and I Corinthians 10:26, God makes it abundantly clear that "The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods."

God says, "Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is MINE" (Job 41:11). And



Ending Your
FINANCIAL
WORRIES

other scriptures support that claim. (See Deut. 10:14; Ex. 19:5; Ps. 50:10, 12 and Hag. 2:8 to name a few.) EVERYTHING, including *your* income, belongs to God. It is HIS to do with as HE will!

God As Our Partner

God is a God of love. He knows that we have needs and He is concerned that they are met. Therefore, God made a LAW concerning income or any increase which is produced from HIS EARTH.

You can produce nothing apart from God's matter which He created—apart from the use of laws of force and energy which God set in motion and which He sustains. Yet, God ALLOWS you to work on His earth and produce an increase for you and your family. Whether you realize it or not, YOU ARE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD!

But what a *great* partner! God supplies about NINE parts of everything man makes or produces, and man's thinking, planning and working supplies only about ONE part. Yet God has reserved for HIS use only one little tiny tenth of what is produced out of His earth through His forces and energies!

That is the basis of GOD'S LAW regarding finances! Your income is NOT your own *until* you satisfy the LEGAL REQUIREMENT of keeping God's law by paying him the ONE tenth which He requires for HIS use. Once that legality is satisfied, then the other NINE TENTHS of income you produce becomes yours. Thereafter, your income is YOURS to do with as YOU decide.

How to Prosper

God uses that one tenth which you pay to Him to disseminate to the people HIS MESSAGE OF THE WAY OF LIFE that will free them from fears and worries, give them peace of mind and happiness, give them joy and success and LIFE ETERNAL!

Even the tenth God receives is used for *human* good! It is used to proclaim God's gospel of soon-coming peace, happiness, joy and salvation through the establishment of His government on earth! This wretchedly unhappy world is STARVING FOR THAT KNOWLEDGE!

All of God's laws are for MAN'S GOOD! Obedience to God's law brings blessings! But when we violate His laws, we bring CURSES upon ourselves. That is WHY this world is at war and WHY there is no peace. That is WHY life for so many is empty and fruitless, full of suffering and unhappiness, frustration and death.

YOUR INCOME IS NOT YOURS! WHAT YOU EARN IN WAGES OR RECEIVE AS A RETURN ON INVESTMENTS IS NOT YOURS— NOT ANY OF IT—THAT IS, NOT UNTIL TWO PRIOR CLAIMS ON YOUR INCOME ARE SATISFIED.

The man who pays God's tenth is a prosperous man—not necessarily wealthy, but one whose actual needs are always supplied. Many scriptures show how God wants us to prosper and provide for our families and even leave an inheritance for our children (Deut. 16:16-17; III John 2; Prov. 3:9-10; Mal. 3:10).

Are you behind financially? In debt? Your *unfaithfulness* in paying God His tenth may be the reason! So if you want to prosper, then remember the debt you owe God FIRST.

Cursed With a Curse!

Is it any wonder that nothing in the Christian life—or even the non-Christian life—so plagues the average family today as this financial problem of making both ends meet? Part of the Christian life of growth in faith and in grace is the *overcoming* of this very financial situation!

In fact, these financial difficulties being experienced today by our Western "Christian" world were *foretold* in a remarkable prophecy!

God says in Malachi 3:5-9, "I will come near to you to judgment.... Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them.... YE ARE CURSED WITH A CURSE: for ye have ROBBED ME, even this whole nation."

There is a cause for every effect. America is the wealthiest nation on earth. Yet personal bankruptcies are becoming EPIDEMIC! Trade deficits are stealing our wealth! Financial problems are destroying families due to a lack of personal savings! And the cause of all that is because people are *robbing* God!

"But ye say," continues the Eternal's message to us, "Wherein have we robbed thee?" And God replies, "IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS!"

God is our senior partner, and if we do not faithfully pay Him His tenth, then we are ROBBERING HIM, and that results in our being CURSED WITH A CURSE!

So let's blow the dust off our Bibles and begin to study honestly, diligently and prayerfully what the Almighty has declared on this often-*misunderstood* subject.

What Is a "Tithe"?

The word "tithe" is an old English word which simply means "tenth." A tithe of anything is a tenth part of it.

During Old Testament times, ancient Israel was required to tithe, that is, to pay one tenth of income—whether livestock, grain or money. But the matter of *to whom* each Israelite paid this tenth, *which* tenth was paid, and *why* and for what purpose it was paid, seems to confuse a great many people today.

Tithing is mainly a priesthood subject—the financing of Christ's ministry—and therefore we should first look at the "priesthood book"—the book of Hebrews—which reveals the work and office of Jesus Christ TODAY—the High Priest of God!

Speaking of the Christian HOPE of eternal life, we are told, beginning in verse 19 of chapter 6, that this HOPE (Christ) has entered "within the veil"—that is, the very throne of God in heaven—"whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an HIGH PRIEST for ever after the order of Melchisedec" (v. 20).

The New Testament Priesthood

Jesus of Nazareth came as a messenger, sent from God, bearing a MESSAGE to man (John 3:32; Rev. 1:1). His MESSAGE is His GOSPEL—the gospel of Jesus Christ—the good news of the KINGDOM OF GOD (Mark 1:14).

After finishing His mission as messenger, Jesus took on Himself the role of savior, paying in our stead the penalty of our sins by His death on the stake. But it requires a *living* Savior to impart to us the gift of eternal life! So God raised Jesus by a RESURRECTION.

Thereupon Jesus ascended to heaven, to the very throne of God, where He continues today as our everlasting High PRIEST, the living Head of the Church of God. And as High Priest, Christ holds a definite rank, one that outranks every priestly office—"after the order of Melchisedec"—or, in the plainer English of the *Moffatt* translation, "with the rank of Melchisedec."

And who is Melchisedec? This is one of the most intriguing mysteries of the Bible! He was the High Priest of God during patriarchal times. And Christ

occupies the same office now, holding the same rank.

During the years of the Mosaic dispensation (from Moses to Christ), the lower rank Levitical priesthood was in office—mere human rank, vastly inferior to the spiritual and divine rank of Melchisedec and of Christ.

A Tithe-Receiving Priesthood

Yet this lower-level priesthood had to be financed. God's financing plan from ancient times, through the Melchisedec priesthood, was the TITHING system. This system was continued through the years of the Levitical priesthood.

GOD'S FINANCING PLAN is explained in Hebrews 7: "For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all...abideth a priest continually. Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. And verily they that are the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a COMMANDMENT TO TAKE TITHES of the people according to the LAW" (vv. 1-5).

This vital passage of Scripture begins to compare the two priesthoods. Notice, back in patriarchal times, TITHING was God's system for financing His ministry. Melchisedec was High Priest. The patriarch Abraham knew and kept God's commandments, His statutes and laws (Gen. 26:5). And he paid tithes to the High Priest!

Then notice that, during that dispensation from Moses until Christ, the priests of that time, the Levites, took tithes from the people BY LAW. It was a LAW, started in the beginning and continued through the Mosaic dispensation.

Tithing, then, did not start with Moses!

Tithing: an Ancient Law

Many excuse themselves from tithing today on the false impression that tithing pertained to the Mosaic period only. They think it was for Israel alone. And that illusion has brought a CURSE on the entire world!

The Old Covenant is gone—that's true. But its ending could not take away what it did not bring! Tithing was God's law hundreds of years before the Old Covenant started.

Melchisedec, "having neither begin-

TITHING, FAR FROM BEING ABOLISHED, IS NEW TESTAMENT LAW. HOW PLAIN: TITHING IS GOD'S LAW—HIS SYSTEM FOR FINANCING HIS WORK TODAY. GOD IS WORKING OUT A GREAT PURPOSE THROUGH MANKIND.

ning of days, nor end of life...abideth a priest continually" (Heb. 7:3). Yes, He was High Priest from the beginning! Even from Adam! And the ancient patriarchs—from Adam down through Abraham, Jacob and on to Moses—financed this ministry of God on earth by the TITHING system!

Tithing Commanded Now!

Since tithing is God's permanent, continuous financing system, it had to continue through the Mosaic dispensation. During that period when the Levites were the ministers, their work and labors had to be financed. But when the priesthood was changed, God did not change His financing system. The Levites "had a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the LAW" (v. 5).

And notice, the very subject of this seventh chapter of Hebrews is the TITHING LAW!

Christians of Paul's day did not need to be instructed that tithing is an obligatory and permanent law of God. But they *did* need much teaching to make clear to them that the Old Covenant was dead—the Levitical priesthood changed and replaced by that of Jesus Christ—the Melchisedec priesthood restored! The only question was as to *which* priesthood tithes were to be paid.

Notice verses 4-10: "Now consider how great this man [Melchisedec] was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils... But he whose descent is not counted from them [the Levites], received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him [Abraham] that had the promises. And without all contradiction the less [Abraham] is blessed of the better [Melchisedec].... And as I may so say, Levi also, who received tithes, paid tithes in Abraham, for he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him."

The Melchisedec priesthood is *greater*—SUPERIOR—and should receive tithes NOW! It has precedence!

And it is *again* in force as God's priesthood, under Christ! It, too, needs to be financed!

Now notice the conclusion in verse 12: "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the LAW." It does *not* say the law was *abolished*. The change in priesthoods made necessary a CHANGE in the law. What law was changed? The TITHING law! "The sons of Levi...have a commandment to take TITHES...according to the LAW" (v. 5).

So tithing, far from being abolished, is NEW TESTAMENT LAW! Actually, the law is merely *restored* as it was from the beginning, along with the restoration of the Melchisedec priesthood.

How plain! Tithing is God's law—His system for financing His great Work today. It is commanded NOW!

Why God Retains the Tithe

God is working out a GREAT PURPOSE through mankind. To work with those whom God calls (John 6:44), God has always had a PRIESTHOOD—a ministry, representing HIM, *servicing* Him, carrying out His mission. At one time, Melchisedec was God's representative on earth—His High Priest. Then came the Levitical priesthood during the Mosaic dispensation. Then, after Jesus Christ was resurrected, He ascended to heaven as a living HIGH PRIEST. Today, God calls ministers as His true representatives in a darkened and Satan-deceived world, to carry on and to preach His message.

It costs a great deal of money to carry on the Work of God: television broadcasting, publishing, office space, personnel and office equipment, as well as a full-time ministry which WORKS HARD and long, observing no set hours. That first tenth—the first tithe—provides for the work of the ministry and those supporting that great effort.

But how can you pay God's tenth to Him? God is on His throne in heaven. And "no man," said Jesus, "has ascended to heaven" (John 3:13). You cannot go there. You cannot see God or hand your money to Him personally. How, then, can you pay Him HIS TITHES?

To Whom Tithes Are Paid

Just as in paying the newspaper delivery boy of years gone by, we knew that when we paid him, we were paying the newspaper company, because he was a REPRESENTATIVE of the company. God's system of receiving from you HIS

tithe is just that simple. Because you cannot see God, or go to God's throne in heaven, God instructs you in His revealed word to pay it to HIS REPRESENTATIVE who, in receiving it, *represents* God, just as the paperboy represented the newspaper company to whom you paid your debt.

This illustrates plainly God's true principle of tithing. When you pay tithes today you are instructed by God's directions to pay them to God's called and chosen representative, the true minister of Jesus Christ.

When Your Responsibility Ceases

Remember that the first tenth of your income is NOT YOURS. It belongs to GOD. And the method God Himself instituted for your payment of His money to Him is to pay it to His called and true ministers.

When you have done that, YOUR responsibility for that money CEASES! You have no further concern, responsibility or direction in the handling of it than you have in money you owe the electric or telephone companies which you pay to their representative. Once paid, you have DONE YOUR PART—you have satisfied your obligation.

Just as you would assure yourself that you are paying a true representative of the newspaper company, you should be equally sure you are paying your tithe to a called and TRUE minister of Jesus Christ. Do not be deceived by a satanic impostor who poses as a minister of Jesus Christ, putting on sanctimonious airs, speaking in pious and spiritual-sounding language. (II Cor. 11:13-15). Look for the FRUITS of God's Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) and the fruits of revealed prophecy (Amos 3:7; Eph. 3:3-5). It is BY THEIR FRUITS that Jesus said you will know God's TRUE ministers (Matt. 7:15-20).

So when you pay tithes to God's true and accredited spiritual representative, you pay it as to God. And you may be sure that GOD'S justice IS PERFECT—that He will hold every minister far more strictly accountable than you would be capable of doing!

Financing God's Work God's Way

God uses the tithe FOR HIS MINISTRY—for CARRYING ON HIS WORK! In ancient Israel, God took ONE WHOLE TRIBE of the 12 tribes of Israel—the tribe of Levi—for His service. Today, the Levitical priesthood is gone, and JESUS CHRIST is High Priest. Today, all

THE TITHE IS THE DEBT THAT YOU OWE GOD. PAY YOUR DEBTS TO GOD AND RECEIVE HIS BLESSING IN EARTHLY MATTERS. YOU'LL BE BETTER ABLE TO PAY YOUR DEBTS, GET A JOB, HAVE YOUR NEEDS SUPPLIED MORE QUICKLY.

true ministers of Jesus Christ are called by special spiritual call from God through His Holy Spirit—not by flesh birth—neither by self-desire to become a minister—nor by selection, appointment or vote of the people.

Today, the ministry is a SPIRITUAL ministry—a ministry of PROPHECY—a ministry of SALVATION—a ministry of WARNING! And Christ's true ministry is a huge undertaking. This Work is proclaiming a THUNDEROUS WARNING MESSAGE to a *sinning* Church of God which has become GOD'S VERY ENEMY (Mic. 2:8), as well as proclaiming a warning to a SIN-SICK and DYING WORLD!

God has PROVIDED for the financing of His powerful ministry by the same system He has used from the very beginning—His TITHING system!

That is how the *Trumpet* is published without subscription price, FREE to all who request it for themselves, as are all publications of the Philadelphia Church of God.

That is God's way, carrying out God's plan in HIS GREAT PURPOSE BEING WORKED OUT HERE BELOW!

Jesus Taught Tithing

In speaking to the scribes and Pharisees, who often made a self-righteous display of strictly keeping some of the smaller points of God's law, Jesus said: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done [these weightier matters], and NOT TO LEAVE THE OTHER [carefully tithing!] UNDONE" (Matt. 23:23; Luke 11:42).

Isn't that clear enough? Jesus said that carefully and strictly paying tithes on every little plant that might grow in your garden ought *not* be put ahead of spiritual qualities such as mercy and faith. But Christ said "NOT to leave the other undone"—NOT to fail to pay your FULL TITHES as God has commanded!

Tithing While in Debt

Yet so many say: "I don't think it would be right for me to tithe while I'm in debt." Yes, it IS right, and the *other* way IS WRONG. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 16:25). God's word tells us what is RIGHT, and God tells us to pay to His Work the first fruits of ALL our income. Regarding our material and financial needs, even debts, God says: "Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be ADDED unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

The tithe is the debt that you owe God. This debt is FIRST in time and principle. Pay your debts to God, make Him your PARTNER in your finances, and receive His blessing in earthly matters. This will enable you to pay your debts, or to get a job, or to have your needs supplied more quickly than if you evade His debt.

Remember your ALL belongs to GOD, *not* to you (Deut. 10:14). You are in the position of a steward handling money which belongs to another: your silent partner. And you must pay Him His share—the *first* tenth. To do otherwise is to ROB your PARTNER and be CURSED WITH A CURSE (Mal. 3:8).

Your Glorious Opportunity

Some will say, *I never tithed, and I know God never frowned on me, for I have the feeling in my heart that I am His child without having to tithe.*

God has blessed you according as you have *yielded* to Him, and He will bless you even more for obeying the light He has just *revealed* to you from His word! While you have the light, WALK in it, lest darkness come upon you (John 12:35-36; Rom. 11:22). "GROW in grace and the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord" (II Pet. 3:18).

If every professing Christian would accept this plain instruction from God, honoring HIM instead of themselves with their substance, they would receive God's financial blessings, and the Work of the Eternal would go forth with such MIGHTY POWER that the world would be *shaken* to its foundations!

Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom, and your material needs shall be ADDED. Try it! Take God at His word. PROVE HIM! (Mal. 3:10). Be a faithful steward, and make God your PARTNER. Then, see how you begin to PROSPER and leave your financial worries behind! ◆

Balkans *from page 1*

Kosovo and beyond was not going to be a UN deal. It was to be headed by NATO. The U.S. and Britain wanted it that way, which suited Mr. Schröder right down to the ground! This was crucial to the ultimate success of the German plan to take over the Balkans. The Germans have no seat on the Security Council of the UN.

Have we forgotten why?

If the Kosovo operation was conducted by the UN it would place the U.S. in charge. So it had to be NATO. Why? Because the Germans knew that NATO chief Javier Solana had been elected to the new position of supreme spokesman for the EU. This left the top job in NATO vacant, and the Germans knew who they wanted in that job: Rudolf Scharping (not yet confirmed). His appointment will effectively place NATO in Germany's hands—a brilliant maneuver! So, the old German thoroughness wins out again.

What is startling is that this time the Germans have not tried to hide behind anyone. They've been aggressive, out in the open, from the time of their deliberate tactic of destabilizing the Balkans to their brilliant takeover of the end game. They will never leave the Balkan peninsula now, till their prophesied crushing defeat by the Russian bear. Germany now has its Balkan corridor to the Adriatic, the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe, for all intents and purposes, signed, sealed and delivered. A masterful stroke of German diplomatic thoroughness.

The most mind-boggling aspect of all this is that no one in the press seems to be aware of it!

I'd like to add one more German maneuver to Mr. Fraser's analysis.

According to the *New York Times*, the Yugoslavian state of Montenegro is now talking publicly about a new currency tied to the German mark. They are not apt to discuss such a subject without Germany's approval and encouragement.

Is Germany about to initiate another bloody civil war in Yugoslavia? Is

Montenegro's state leader about to lead another breakaway from the Serbs of Yugoslavia? It is possible, but unlikely, that Germany's goal could be achieved without a civil war. There is deep division among the Serbs.

Do the Germans plan to use NATO to once again expand their control of the Balkans?

If there is a civil war and the Serbs lose, that gives Germany major control of the entire Adriatic coastline of former Yugoslavia (see map). They could easily control the flow of traffic in the Adriatic Sea.

Once again the Germans are structuring an EMPIRE. They have now moved their capital from Bonn back to



Berlin and the Reichstag. "Reichstag" means empire. It is the building from where Hitler launched a war that cost about 50 million lives.

That is how badly the Germans wanted an empire in World War II. Their whole history reveals a similar pattern. They will continue to think and act that way unless somebody stops them!

This time the Germans are even more dangerous than they were under Hitler!

And yet, it is all done in the guise of righteousness. In biblical terminology they are called the "lovers" of Britain and America.

You need to understand *why* this is happening. Write for our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

Don't expect our government and people to wake up until it's too late!

YOUR MAGAZINE IS SO REMARKABLE IN THAT it so seamlessly bridges the chasm between current happenings in this world with the Christian Scripture, while maintaining excellent journalistic standards and amazing accuracy. Had it not been for the *Trumpet* articles on Bosnia and Kosovo and the booklet on Nahum, I'd only at best have a very muddled understanding of what is happening in Central Europe today, particularly the crisis in Yugoslavia. However, thanks to your outstanding magazine, I have been able to see quite clearly the underlying historical roots of this murky quagmire of religious feuds and political agendas that have encompassed this region for centuries. Surely most of your forecasts and analyses of the growing power, especially militarily, of the EU can hardly be seriously doubted or disputed.

Livingston, Tex.

THE JUNE ARTICLE "DIVIDED WE FALL" by Ron Fraser I have to take exception to. I think the article came across as very pro-Serbia and pro-Milosevic and very anti-U.S. and anti-NATO. I think we have to remember that Milosevic is an indicted war criminal and a pariah to the international community. He lost the war with NATO and now has NATO troops in his country and may possibly lose Kosovo as a part of his nation. Money will not be given to Serbia from the international community until he is gone. The Albanians are going back to Kosovo and who knows how many would be dead if it were not for NATO. That does not sound like a Serbian victory to me. For the U.S. I believe President Clinton and NATO are the real winners because we lost not one soldier in combat. This is no Bay of Pigs.

Phoenix, Ariz.

◆ To quote the *Telegraph* (London), July 22 edition, "NATO's bombing campaign against Yugoslavia had almost no effect on the regime of President Milosevic...." Milosevic is still in power. Russia has pledged \$150 million for Yugoslav reconstruction. Read Mr. Flurry's "Personal" in this month's issue. It identifies the real victor in Kosovo and all the recent Balkan conflicts.

THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME A RECENT *Trumpet*, which gives a true, just and clear perspective of current world affairs.

North Vancouver, B.C.

Letters to the Editor should be sent to *The Trumpet*, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or faxed to 405-359-6280 or e-mailed to letters@thetrumpet.com. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.



WE TELL YOU WHY!

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



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