

SPECIAL ISSUE

The Philadelphia

Trumpet

The 20th Century

100 YEARS OF PARADOX

EDUCATION



GOVERNMENT



BUSINESS AND
INDUSTRY



SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY



RELIGION



◆ COVER STORY

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Why the *Trumpet*?

This world is fast running out of hope—and time. Still, most people live with the *illusion* that science and technology will save us. But just the opposite is true.

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: “The principal contribution of science and technology has been the development of constantly more terrifying weapons of mass destruction. This has brought us to today’s number-one problem—human survival. Science and technology are not evil in themselves, but an important facet in a good civilization—if we had one. The evil lies in the materialistic concept—the ‘get’ approach to life instead of the spiritual ‘give’ attitude of outflowing love and concern for one’s fellow man.

“Modern science stands exposed as a false messiah—about to destroy us all!”

But there is hope.

In our final issue of 1999, our *Trumpet* writers look back on the past 100 years of man’s history. In that context, I thought I would look back on the history of this magazine.

Some of you have been reading the *Trumpet* for years. But many of you are new subscribers—our subscription list has more than doubled this year. Our newer readers might find it amazing that the *Trumpet* is not even ten years old (though we continue the Work started by Herbert W. Armstrong in 1927). We’re still young—in fact, we only published our 100th issue a couple of months ago. But we have benefitted from the advancing technology you will read about in this issue. From the beginning, the *Trumpet* has been completely computer generated, although our first issue was little more than a photocopy of a word-processing document. So technology has quickly brought this magazine up to a level of quality that would make any news-magazine proud.

But there is more to this magazine than its appearance. You have, no doubt, already noticed that. This magazine is unique. There is no other magazine like it! You need to understand *why*.

The *Trumpet* is “a voice crying out in the wilderness.” That means there are many voices in a wilderness of mass confusion. That’s one of the drawbacks to living in the information age—there’s too much information. You hear a multitude of “voices,” but all have a false hope. But there is one voice—and only one voice—that offers an awesome hope—a real solution to all of our frightening problems.

And you don’t have to guess about where that voice is. You can prove this message true, every step of the way.

We deliver a trumpet message—an impact unlike that of a soothing violin. We have to proclaim the worst message ever read or heard by mankind. But far more important, WE DELIVER THE

BEST NEWS THAT MAN HAS EVER RECEIVED—OR EVER WILL RECEIVE!

One newsmagazine wrote that mankind needs “a strong hand from someplace” to solve our problems. That is what the *Trumpet*’s message is all about. And it comes at a time when human survival depends on it!

There is an old adage that “it is darkest just before the dawn.” That is so true today. You need to hear about the *darkness* and the *dawn*.

This issue of the *Trumpet* gives you both. But there is more emphasis on the bad news. That is so you can respond in a way that will eliminate most of the bad news in your life now!

We are on the verge of a world full of hope, peace and an abundant life of endless joy. You have the unparalleled honor of helping to usher it in!

“Modern science stands exposed as a false messiah—about to destroy us all!”

—Herbert W. Armstrong



100 YEARS OF PARADOX

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD INTO THE YEAR 2000 HAS everybody looking back, evaluating. *How did we do for the last 100 years?* Then comes the tidal wave of information, timelines, facts and figures. Never was a century so thoroughly documented, so open and bare to scrutiny as the one we have come through.

Next is the inevitable follow-up question, *What does it all portend for the next century?* Then, again, follows a torrent of projections, speculations, guesses and prophecies.

This issue of the *Trumpet* asks the same questions—but with a difference. The difference is in its *perspective*.

How did we do for the last 100 years? The short answer is that it was a century of good and evil. That is the paradox. Unparalleled achievement and frightening calamity. Penicillin and AIDS. Economic boom and numbing depression. The civil rights movement and the holocaust. The computer and the bomb.

The 20th century witnessed humanity pushing its major avenues of endeavor—education, government, business and industry, science and technology, religion—to previously unknown extremes, experimenting, searching for answers: *Does this work? How should we live? What should be important to us? Can we achieve peace?*

Now, as we barrel into yet another century, mankind still finds himself without satisfying answers, and these relentless pursuits continue to accelerate.

But wait. Can we really afford another century like the one we have just come through? Before this race proceeds at its frantic pace, should we not stop and ask the question: What are the *results* of these experiments?

The purpose of this *Trumpet* issue is to do just that. It is not meant as a harangue against humanity. But honest self-examination is never easy. This issue is intended to show how our adamant pursuit of material knowledge—the improvement, the advancement, the innovation—ultimately must end when the evils we have ignored or encouraged overwhelm us.

But that is not how things will end. We conclude this issue with genuine hope—hope in a sure future of solutions brought about by an inventive mind far superior to man's.

Mankind's problems, as well as the ultimate solutions, are spiritual in nature. Thus, this *Trumpet*, the last issue of the 1990s, provides an appraisal of the 20th century—from a unique perspective, a spiritual perspective.

God's perspective.

Joel Hilliker

Higher Learning?

Education has become a factory of new knowledge. Yet human discontent, troubles, evils, are increasing in direct ratio with the increase of knowledge. Why?

BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG (excerpted from *The Plain Truth*, Aug./Sept. 1970)

Though written almost 30 years ago, this look at 20th-century education discusses the origins of many of the trends in education fully extant today. We hope the reader finds the study illuminating.

TAKE A QUICK LOOK AT OUR INSTITUTIONS of higher learning. Let me give you a few intriguing thoughts from the mind of Dr. Clark Kerr, former president of the University of California. He is the outstanding theoretician and proponent of a certain view of the university of today and the future.

Universities in the United States, he says, have not yet developed fully their unique theory of purpose and function. The first great transformation in the American university, he says, occurred during the last quarter of the 19th century, with the injection of German intellectualism and the land grant movement. It is now undergoing its second great transformation. Since World War II, the university is being called on to channel new intellectual currents—to serve expanding needs of government and industry.

We are becoming conscious of the question of human survival, due to the population explosion and the ever-increasing production of weapons of mass destruction. Simultaneously we are facing a campus-enrollment explosion. As knowledge production increases, so does the diffusion of knowledge. Before World War II, the college-educated student was the exception. Most stopped off with high school graduation. At the turn of the century only 4.01 percent of men aged 18 through 21 were enrolled in colleges. That is less than one in 20. In California today, four out of every five high school graduates seek to continue in college.

Dr. Kerr sees the function of the university as KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION. Knowledge, he says, is suddenly exploding along with the population explosion.

The "knowledge production," he says, is growing at about twice the rate of the rest of the economy. The railroads were largely responsible for the development of the United States during the last half of the 19th century, the automobile during the first half of the 20th. And what they did for those two half-centuries,

**KNOWLEDGE
FACTORIES**
The Oxford
University
campus

"the knowledge industry will do for this last half of the 20th century."

The production, distribution and consumption of KNOWLEDGE is said to account for 29 percent of the gross national product.

Does this not sound GOOD?

Does all this not intoxicate us with human intellectual vanity? Production of KNOWLEDGE is tantamount to being a GOD-level accomplishment!

May we not congratulate ourselves with a thrilled sensation of the super-greatness of the human intellect?

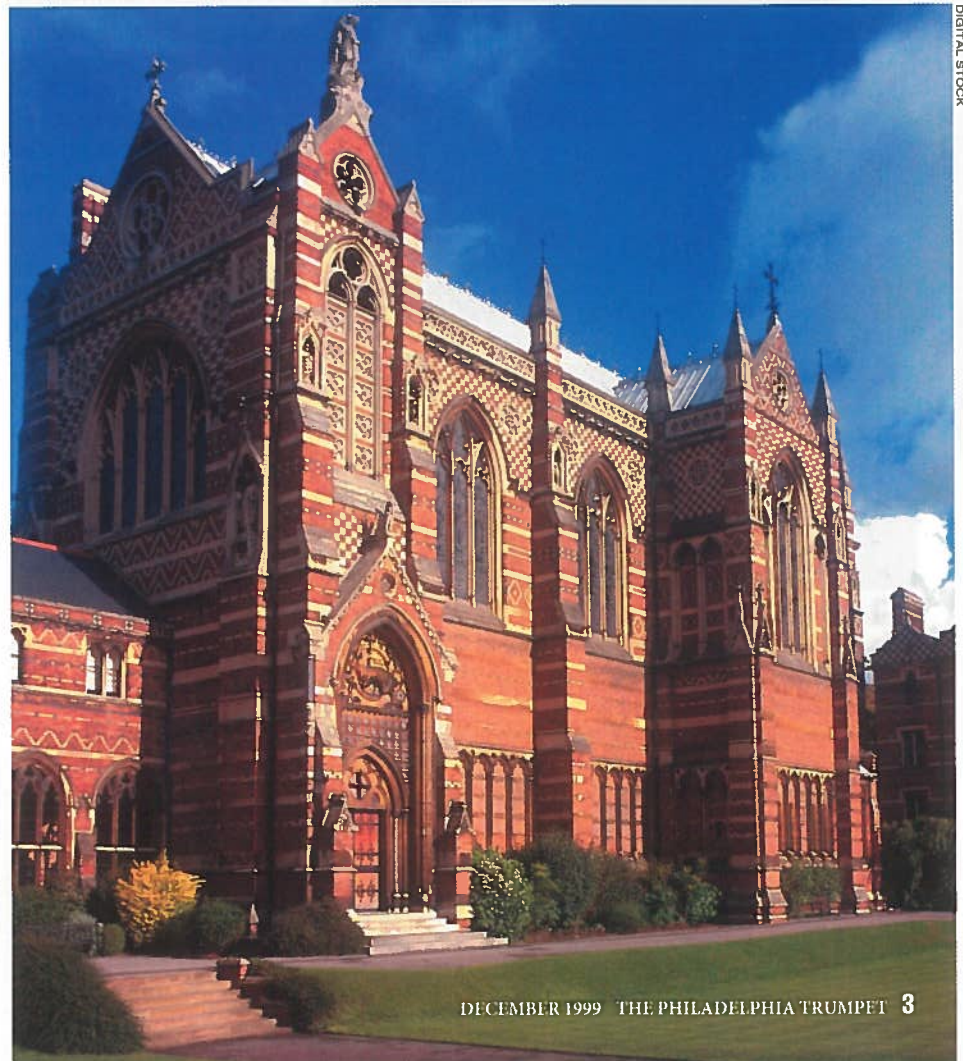
Cause and Effect

But—WHAT ABOUT THE EFFECT?

Everything, we will do well to remember, is a matter of CAUSE and EFFECT.

One inescapable effect we see all about us is the astounding, rapid acceleration of evils besetting humanity on every side.

What could be the CAUSE of these effects threatening the DESTRUCTION of civilization—the EXTINCTION of the human race?



DIGITAL STOCK

JOEL HILLMEYER/CORBIS (4)

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION is supposed to be the WAY TO CURE all our evils. Given sufficient KNOWLEDGE, the great minds have assured us, we shall have the solution to all humanity's problems, ills and evils.

WHY, then, this paradox? WHY do we see new and increasing evils all about us worldwide, accelerating in almost exact proportion with the increase in KNOWLEDGE? WHY?

Is there a relation between the two?

Could the one—KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION—be the CAUSE of the other—the evils besetting us?

Ruler of the universe—with total rejection of any possibility of the miraculous, the supernatural, or anything outside the realm of the material—with total rejection of biblical revelation.

Personally, when I made my first research into the theory of evolution, I studied Lyell, Darwin, Spencer, Huxley, Haeckel, Vogt, Chamberlain and other proponents of the theory. I read also More and other scientists who were critics of the theory, although they believed it. But I wanted to be open-minded and fair. So I looked also at the alternative possibility—the biblical

statements about special creation.

I would venture to say that most of those whose higher education has been received during the past quarter-century, however, have been taught and have accepted without question the evolutionary theory, not having examined with any seriousness the biblical account of creation. To go along with evolution is the scholarly, "IN" thing. In most higher education circles, this world's "Best Seller" has been dismissed without a hearing.

Ever stop to inquire in retrospect WHY you believe what you do? People generally believe what they have always heard, read or been taught—by carelessly taking it for granted without question—and, of course, without proof. Also, people

willingly believe what they want to believe—what they must to "go along"—and they refuse to believe whatever is not accepted in their particular little world.

Could it be possible that higher scholarship and general acceptance of advanced thought be, actually, tragic error? *Could* the theories accepted by the superior minds prove to be, after all, mere fable? Could the process of inductive reasoning, considering only one side of a two-sided question, be so infallible that we dare not question their conclusions, or examine the evidences on the other side?

Is it not human to err?

Could it, then, be possible for the most highly educated minds to have been misled—intellectually deceived?

Do we DARE question the theories generally accepted by advanced scholarship?

Would it be academic heresy to look at the other side of the coin? Do we DARE appropriate the *academic freedom* to look at, and carefully examine, that which has been dismissed *without examination*?

Begin at the Beginning

I think we must begin the biblical narrative of the forbidden fruit at the beginning—the first chapter in the first book of the Bible.

To get quickly to an examination of the forbidden-fruit narrative, certain high-spot statements from Genesis 1 and 2 are necessary.

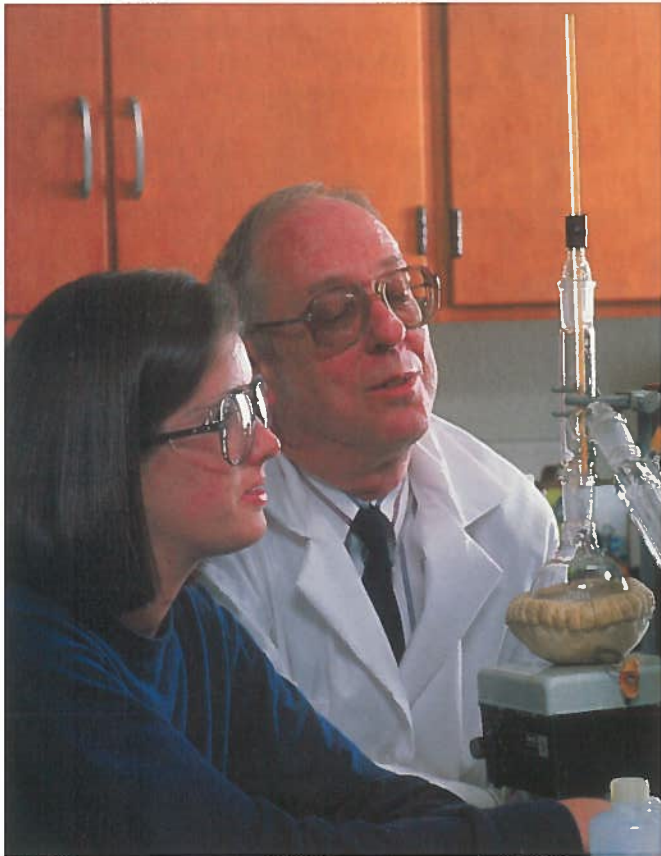
I have noticed that scientific and historical writings dealing with origins and developments are generally profuse with such expressions as the following: "We know little about this, but there are several *guesses*." Or, "We are *coming to believe*." Or, "We may safely *assume*." Or, "It *might* well be." "Probably." "Such and such *may have occurred*." Or, "It *would appear* that such and such *might have happened*."

It might be interesting to take such a book and underscore all such words as I have italicized above—then look back and read all your underscored words. Do it in red pencil. Let them stand out. It might be fun.

One thing is different about the biblical statements. Whoever wrote them seemed to be pretty sure of what he was saying. They are positive statements.

So we begin: "In the beginning, GOD..." The statement definitely puts God before all else. No postulate—no guess—no "perhaps"—just the simple statement: "God created the heaven and the earth."

Something tremendous is indicated to have occurred between what is stated to be the original creation in verse 1 and the statement in verse 2. "And the earth was [became] without form and void [Heb. *tohu* and *bohu*—meaning ruin, confusion, emptiness—see any Hebrew-English lexicon] and darkness was upon the face of the deep [fluid surface—oceans]." What occurred between these two verses is stated in many other biblical passages in both Old and New Testaments.



ACADEMIC FREEDOM Schools produce knowledge while rejecting any possibility of the spiritual.

In this feverish development of KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION, universities have been placing great emphasis on *academic freedom*. Academic freedom is defined as the independent judgment allowed teachers, scholars, scientists, students in the pursuit of knowledge.

Higher education has exercised the academic freedom to postulate a creation without a Creator—to engage in the activity of KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION with rejection of God as Creator and

And this, of course, allows for any duration of time between the two verses. In other words, so far as the Bible narrative is concerned, the original creation could have occurred millions of years prior to the events described beginning verse 2 of Genesis 1.

Nevertheless, at the time described by these first three chapters of the book of Genesis, beginning with the second verse of chapter 1, biblical chronology dates those events as slightly less than 6,000 years ago.

Coming to the 26th verse, chapter 1, it is stated, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...."

Coming to chapter 2, beginning verse 7: "And the Eternal God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." It might be noted that the flat statement here is that what was made of material substance, dust of the ground, BECAME a living soul—a plain statement that the "soul" was made from the dust of the ground—material substance, not spirit.

Next comes the statement that God planted a garden eastward, in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. So the statement is that Adam was created elsewhere and then put into this garden.

The statement follows that there were beautiful trees in the garden, including fruit trees. And in the midst of the garden, two special trees: one called "the tree of LIFE," the other, "the tree of KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL."

Now verse 16: "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Although the narrative here is exceedingly brief, touching only on high spots, there is every indication that what is intended is that God gave Adam and Eve considerable basic instruction, sufficient for their needs for the moment, only portions of which are recorded.

Now chapter 3.

"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made" (v. 1).

Much of the Bible is symbols—but the Bible explains its own symbols. Of course it's very out-of-date to believe in a devil today, but the Bible, to the

contrary notwithstanding, plainly speaks of the presence of a devil. In Revelation 12:9 and 20:2, the devil is called, symbolically, *the serpent*. It is, then, no "guess" to say that this serpent is intended to be merely a symbol for the devil.

Notice the temptation. He subtly went first to the "weaker sex"—(the Bible refers to woman as the weaker sex, whether or not one wishes to agree), to get to Adam through his wife.

"And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Gen. 3:1).

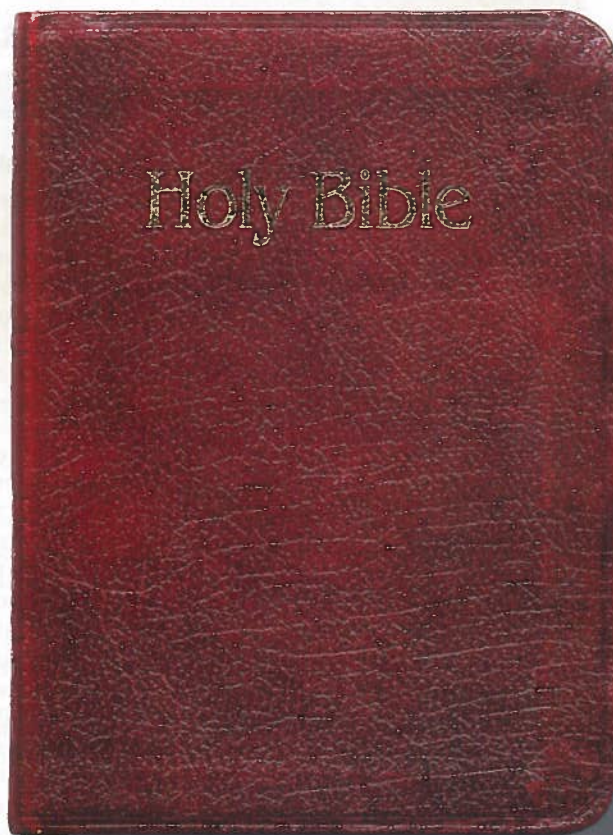
"And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (vv. 2-5).

The narration here attributes astute subtlety to the devil. First he discredited God. In effect, he said, "You can't rely on God's word. He lied to you. He knows you will not die—you can't die—because you are an immortal soul."

The Appeal to Vanity

Next, this devil is represented as being clever enough to avoid saying, "Believe *me* instead of God. Let *me* be your teacher. Let *me* give you the KNOWLEDGE of what is right and what is wrong." Instead the devil is represented here as saying, "You can't rely on God, since He lied when He said you could die. But rely on *yourself*! If you disobey God and eat this fruit, then *your* eyes will be opened. You'll come to realize what a great intellect you have. YOU have a perfect mind—YOU can think and reason—YOU can observe explore, discover—YOU can decide for *yourself* what is good and what is evil. It is a GOD function to

produce the KNOWLEDGE of what is good and what is evil—what is right and what is wrong. Your MIND is so perfect, *you* can supply this God function—and by observation, experimentation and reason *you* can produce the KNOWLEDGE of what is good and what is evil. YOU can be as GOD *yourself*! Forget that tree of LIFE. You already have that—you are an immortal soul. You have the tremendous intellectual powers of God. You cannot rely on the God that lied to you, but you can depend with confidence on yourself, and *your* ability to produce this knowledge."



BEST SELLER In academic circles, God's word has been dismissed without a hearing.

What is implied in this narrative of the forbidden fruit is plain. This Satan is represented as appealing to man's VANITY—his pride of intellect. The narrative represents the man, Adam, as having been just newly created and with perfect human mind. We know that the human mind is superior to anything else we can see or know by our five senses. It is easy to understand how this newly created man and woman could suddenly begin to realize

they had the capacity to THINK for themselves. Like a boy with an exciting new toy, they wanted to use it—they became intoxicated with intellectual vanity. They could exercise this God function of producing the knowledge of what is right and wrong.

Vanity resents authority over it. They began to resent God's authority and His command. They began to think of themselves as having godlike intellect. This lifted them to the God level—reduced God to *their* level. God became a competitor—a rival in deciding what is right and what is wrong. God had forbidden them to eat the fruit of that one tree—that is, to decide *for themselves*

THE SCRIPTURAL REVELATION MAINTAINS that only God can determine what is right and what is wrong—that God's law, summarized in the Ten Commandments, is the way that is right and produces good, and that the transgression of that law is the way that is wrong and produces evil.

what is right and what is wrong. God had said it was SIN to eat that fruit. Now they determined to decide for themselves. They decided the way to know was to put it to the test—by experiment.

Results of the First Experiment

So, first Eve, then Adam, are here represented as setting out on the very first "scientific experiment."

The narrative continues, verse 6: "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

So, one of the first bits of knowledge that came was self-consciousness. Immediately they became SELF-centered—selfish—competitive in attitude—jealous, envious, resentful toward others. The narrative at this point implies that a drastic change occurred in their minds when they allowed vanity, self-centeredness, the competitive spirit, to enter their minds.

This passage purports to show the very first "scientific experiment." God

said that if they took of that forbidden fruit they would die. The narrative shows them rejecting revelation, just as science does today. They made an experiment. They had to *test* the matter. They refused to believe their Maker. They made the "scientific experiment." They ate the forbidden fruit. RESULT: They DIED!

The scriptural revelation maintains that only GOD can determine what is right and what is wrong—that God's law, summarized in the Ten Commandments, is the WAY that is RIGHT and produces GOOD, and that the transgression of that law (I John 3:4) is the WAY that is WRONG and produces EVIL.

And the biblical revelation teaches that man for 6,000 years has rejected God's revelation as the Source of basic KNOWLEDGE—and has set out on a WAY OF LIFE contrary to that law. Man does what is right in his own sight—NOT what God says is right. He has piled up a tremendous mountain of books of MAN-produced KNOWLEDGE. He has continued to make "scientific experiments."

RESULT: Humanity has produced, also, a vast mountain of EVILS. His fund of KNOWLEDGE is a mixture of good and evil—true and false—he has produced a civilization full of empty lives, discontent, unhappiness, pain and suffering, crime, immorality, broken homes and family life, corruption, injustice, unfairness, violence, pollution, war and DEATH.

Yet man refuses to believe the results of his own experiment. He has written the cruel lesson in 6,000 years of human experience, but he has never learned the lesson.

University Is "Dead"

Dr. Clark Kerr was president of one of the world's greatest universities—a veritable MULTIVERSITY, where he was able to put into action his ideas as an academic theoretician. Result of the experiment? The confusion, division and violence at the home Berkeley campus finally forced Dr. Kerr to resign.

The entire chain reaction of campus protests, confusion, riots and violence really started on the Berkeley campus of the University of California. It start-

ed about the time the "God Is Dead" movement was getting under way.

The 1970 Summer Session Bulletin of Claremont University, under classification of "Graduate School Summer Courses" lists the following:

"200s. The Theology of the Death of God."

and

"300s. Process and Death of God Theology."

And, although the University of California is a different institution, it seems poignantly significant that, as I write, these words appeared in a *Los Angeles Times* headline: "Berkeley Reported 'Dead.'" The entire headline was: "Some Colleges May Be Unable to Reopen in Fall, Nixon Told. Two Advisers Cite Severe Student Discontent; Berkeley Reported 'Dead' as Institution of Freedom and Learning."

I happen to be president of a college with three campuses. On these campuses there are no campus protests, no opposition marches, no student rioting and violence, and no hippies. There is PEACE, happy co-operation between students and faculty and administration. Student faces are wreathed in SMILES which are real and genuine—the outward expression of an inner joy. Visitors are amazed.

This is the RESULT!

The CAUSE? We are not a factory of KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION but of human CHARACTER PRODUCTION. Here, we DISSEMINATE knowledge. We disseminate BOTH sides of the two-sided question of evolution vs. special creation and give our students and faculties the *academic freedom* to believe as they see it.

But even as you'll find Darwin and all the evolutionists in our college libraries, you'll also find various translations of that volume viewed as "revelation." Its knowledge is not ignored, rejected and thrown out the window. It is not regarded as the sum-total of knowledge. It was never intended to be that. But it is a revelation of BASIC and FOUNDATIONAL knowledge.

And OUR scientific experiment very definitely is producing exceedingly HAPPY and JOYFUL results. ♦

Herbert W. Armstrong's book The Missing Dimension in Sex explains this subject in more detail. For your free copy, see the inside cover of this magazine.

The Surprising Origin of Modern Education

BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

HOW DID THE SYSTEM OF MODERN education come about? A brief research of its history will prove startlingly illuminating.

The academic form of curricular education was originated by the pagan Greek philosopher Plato, 427-347 B.C. He was the founder of education of regular curriculum in a fixed place. He called it the *academy*.

At the beginning of the Christian era, pagan schools, on the Plato model, dotted the Roman Empire. No Christian schools existed.

Printing had not yet been invented. Textbooks had to be prepared, laboriously, entirely by hand, one at a time. All textbooks were pagan.

All leaders in the first five centuries of the Christian world were, of necessity, the pupils of this pagan education.

Then the barbaric invasion swept away these schools. Through these years the only education in the Western world was pagan. Pagan philosophies and religious beliefs and customs were instilled automatically into growing children. Observance of pagan holidays was a regular part of school life—as, surprising though it may seem, it continues to be today!

Education was instilled as a *system of memory training*. It was “spoon-fed,” literally funneled into immature and growing minds. Children were taught to accept without question, assume without proof, believe and memorize whatever was taught. This method, too, persists today. Children are not taught to THINK—but to take orders—be followers, not leaders. Few know *why* they believe the things they do. Through all those years, all literature in the Western world was pagan.

Beginning the sixth century, the only schools were the monastic

schools, for the training of monks, and the cathedral schools, for the training of priests. These evolved into the universities of Salerno, Bologna, Reggio, Padua, Modena, Vercelli and others.

The first university of our modern pattern was the University of Paris, beginning in the 12th century.

English students, sent to the University of Paris, later (1167-68) founded Oxford University. Oxford alumni founded Cambridge. Graduates of these universities founded Harvard in 1636, William and Mary in 1693, Yale in 1701, and Princeton came later in 1746.

It was Thomas Jefferson who founded the first state university—the University of Virginia—in 1819. His motive was to divorce education from religion. This started the present materialistic trend in American education. There was great public protest at the time. His new state university was termed “shocking” and “irreligious.”

Two other factors added impetus to the materialistic drift. “Rationalism” spread its leaven through every phase of the educational structure.

And, in the present century, Big Business has made sizeable financial contributions, conditioned on establishment of technical, scientific and professional courses to train needed personnel for these huge corporations. This has resulted in education becoming more and more a system of training young people in the art of earning a living, at the expense of teaching them *how to live!* They need to know *both!*

As institutions of higher learning continued

through the 20th century, enrollments multiplied. Today we have virtual assembly-line educational production. The student loses his identity, becomes a virtual nonentity, blending into the uniform collectivism.

Prominent educators have voiced their alarm at this state of educational affairs. Many recognize the evils and the dangers—yet confess their utter helplessness to brake the drift or change the direction.

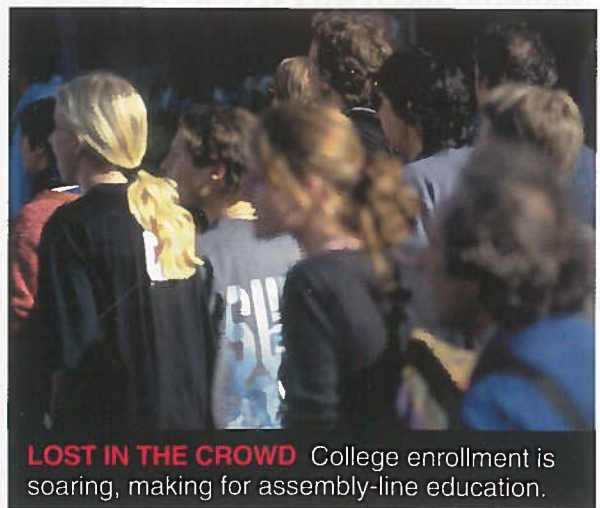
The Encyclopedia Britannica gives this definition of education: “Many definitions have been given of the word *education*, but underlying them all is the conception that it denotes an attempt on the part of the adult members of a human society to shape the development of the coming generation in accordance with its own ideals of life.... Education may be said to be the efforts made by the community to *impose* its culture upon the growing generation.... Schools and universities which are the ordinary channels through which adult culture reaches the young are naturally conservative and *bound by tradition*. They are slow to leave the old paths” (emphasis added).

In briefest summary: Education from earliest antiquity was a means of pagan religious instruction which became a vehicle for disseminating pagan culture, religious doctrines and customs under the Platonic curricular system. It evolved in our modern era into a system of instilling the teachings of what the author-philosopher Dr. C. E. Ayers terms “Science, the False Messiah,” or the “new religion” of rationalism and materialism, which, of course, masquerades under names and terminology other than “religion.” ♦



PLATO Founder of education of regular curriculum in a fixed place.

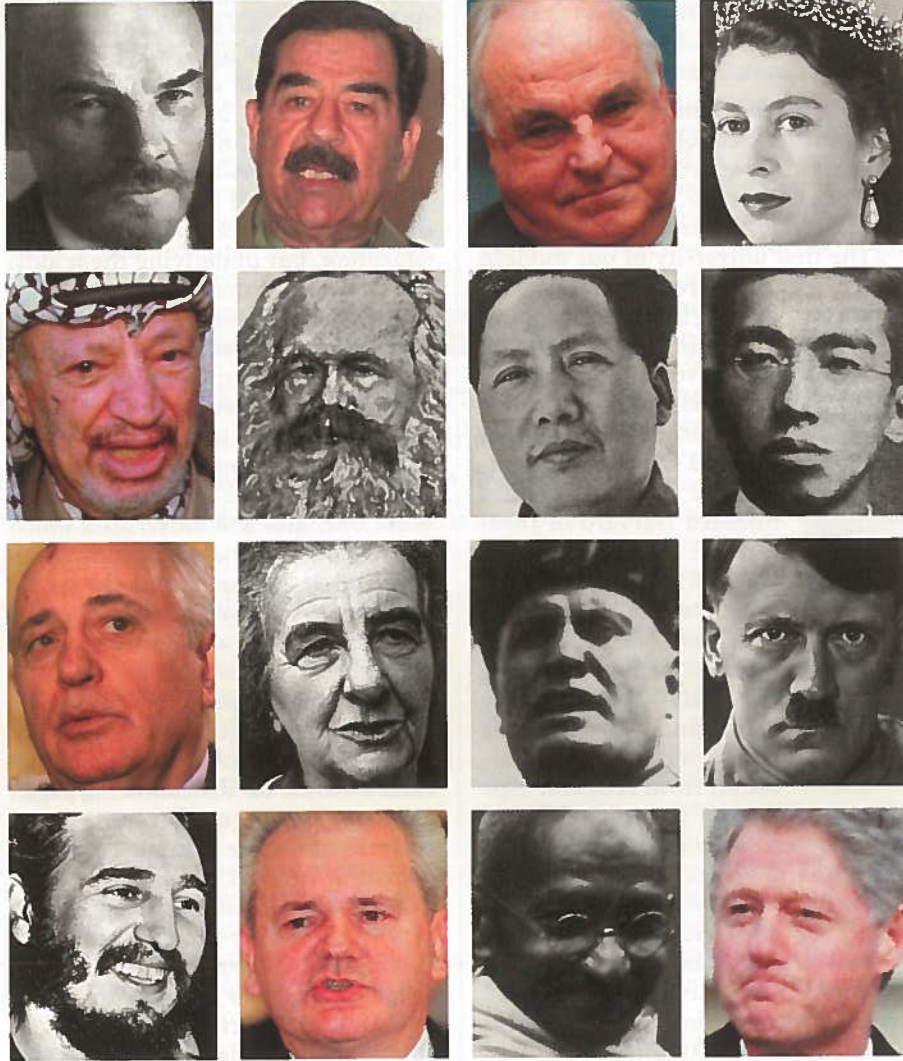
ART TODAY



LOST IN THE CROWD College enrollment is soaring, making for assembly-line education.

PHOTO ALTO

Trials and Errors



Mankind has tried every form of government known to him. Yet the way to peace still eludes him.

BY RON FRASER

FROM THE BEGINNING, MAN HAS BEEN subject to government. The earliest histories of man document the rise and fall of governments. Though man has tried all forms known to him, every dynasty, every empire, every kingdom, every democracy—every regime on earth has ended up going to war to defeat, or be defeated by, the forces of an opposing government, or has disappeared into the dust of disease and decadence.

The greatest of man's utopian dreams have all come adrift and foundered on the institution of government.

Humankind has just spent another century on this planet seeking, in the words of Aristotle, "not only what form of government is best, but also what is possible," only to find out that, as this ancient philosopher said, "the best is unattainable."

Why is this so?

How come, in 6,000 years of documented history, mankind has still not attained the best form of government for human beings to live in peace and security, each nation enjoying an equitable share of the common wealth of planet earth?

This past century has seen a massive technological leap by mankind, from being carried about by four-footed beasts, as had been done for close to 6,000 years, to reaching by the power of space rocketry towards other planets. Yet human beings find themselves embroiled in over 40 conflicts, pitting one government system against another, as the new century dawns.

Let us examine this phenomenon of government briefly and see if it will ever be possible to find a solution to Aristotle's conundrum: Is the best form of government really unattainable? But first, a quick review of the dominant governments of the 20th century and their contributions towards seeking the seemingly unattainable—the perfect form of government.

The Peak of Empire

By the year 1900, Britain was approaching the peak of its imperial rule. Inheriting an empire, as has been observed, more from a fit of absent-mindedness than by deliberate intent, its method of government was benign. While offering education, law, order and effective administration to the native populations of its far-flung realm, the British encouraged the retention of local culture and customs, except where these infringed upon human rights. Indeed, as the Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana observed, "Instinctively the Englishman is no missionary, no conqueror. He prefers the country to the town, and home to foreign parts. He is rather glad and relieved if only natives will remain natives and strangers strangers. Yet outwardly he is most hospitable and accepts almost anybody for the time being; he travels and conquers without a settled design, because he has the instinct of exploration.... Never since the heroic days of Greece has the world had such a sweet, just, boyish master. It will be a black day for the human race when scientific blackguards, conspirators, churls and fanatics manage to supplant him" (*The Abolition of Britain*, pp. 90-91).

The form of government brought to bear upon its vast empire by Great

Britain may be described as a benevolent monarchy. Although great deference and respect were paid to the monarch, the British Parliament legislated the government based upon Britain's ancient, 700-year old Constitution. The legislature was underpinned by the rule of law which had its roots in the laws, statutes and judgments handed by Almighty God to Moses to enact in governing ancient Israel (Exod. 20-23).

If parliament, under a constitutional monarchy, gave the empire its authority, it was its navy that gave Britain its power. So extensive was Britain's naval reach that it was taken for granted, up to 1914, that "Britannia ruled the waves." Thus Britain protected its vast land interests, upon which the sun never set, by standing guard on the world's major sea gates (Gen. 22:17).

Yet, 14 years on from the dawn of the 20th century, it seemed that "blackguards, conspirators, churls and fanatics" did, in fact, conspire to move against the security of Britain's empire with the outbreak of war in 1914 on the European continent. The Great War pulverized the cream of the crop of British manhood and left Britain with a still firm yet significantly weakened hold on its empire.

In Europe things turned out quite differently. "The great question at the heart of 19th-century European politics was who should govern—the princes or the people? The question was settled by World War I, which swept away the continent's dynastic monarchs and their empires, only to give rise to another: Just how are the people to govern—through elected representatives whose powers are limited, or through self-appointed political elites exercising total control over those they rule?" (*The National Interest*, Fall 1999).

With the close of World War I, the age of imperialism and of sovereign monarchs entered its death throes. A new form of government, communism, entered the arena of world politics following the Russian Revolution in 1917. Based on the socialist philosophies of Karl Marx, of Prussian/Hungarian parentage, and the German Friedrich Engels, communism spread its tentacles throughout a Russia tired of the occasional tyranny of corrupt tsarist regimes.

As has been man's tendency since ancient times, the main powers sought

to have the opposing nations which led the conflict of the Great War sign a treaty to confirm new borders reflecting a redistribution of power—and, in this instance, to seek reparations from the principle antagonist, Germany. Like so many of man's treaties, the Treaty of Versailles was at best a compromise; at worst, clearly unworkable. It chafed the wounds of defeated Germany through unreasonable reparations and did little to effectively balance the share of power in Europe. The result was that a little over two decades later, the world became embroiled in its greatest-ever conflict.

World War II began, in Eastern Europe, with Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939. Although historians may document both world wars as clashes between national interests, the Second World War, in particular, was a clash between *competing systems of government*. On the one side, unfurling their red, white and blue ensigns, were the British Empire, its major ally the United States of America and the associated Western democracies. On the other were the combined forces of imperial Germany under national socialist government, and imperial

Japan. The wild card was Russia and its Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, under communist government.

This, in the simplest of terms, was a clash of the dynamics of four great systems of government: Western-style democracy, nazism, communism and Japanese imperialism, all calling for a new order to be imposed on the free nations of the world. Most of these nations enjoyed that freedom under the aegis of the British Empire and to some extent the U.S. It is significant that whereas the Western Allies abolished slavery and permitted freedom of worship, freedom of enterprise, development of culture and society on a system based on the rule of law, none of the opposing systems of government exhibited such freedoms.

Thus it was that the first half of the 20th century was dominated by wars, rumors of wars and preparations for wars, culminating in the most massive destruction of life, property and environment ever known to man. The end result was victory for the free world. Yet, by virtue of the fashion of their liberal democracies, the management of that victory by the Western Allies sowed the seeds of its impending undoing. Indeed, as we shall see, as we draw to the close of this century, the very same conditions which led to the great conflagrations of the first half of the 20th century loom large on the horizon.

Superpowers and Cold War

Whereas the first half of the 20th century was still dominated by one superpower, Great Britain and its globe-girdling empire, in alliance with the world's single greatest nation, the United States of America, the second half was to see the emergence of two superpowers, each representing totally different systems of government.

Having reluctantly entered the First World War two years and eight months after its start, the U.S. was literally bombed into the Second World War 25 years later by the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Long enjoying relative isolation, the U.S. had busied itself in the first half of the century building its economy into the greatest single industrial power on earth. By dint of massive migration, principally from Europe, the U.S. had developed into the world's largest single democracy. Its entry into the war tipped the balance in the Allies' favor.

FIVE TRADITIONAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

MONARCHY Government with a sovereign at the head having the title king, queen, emperor, empress or the equivalent.

ARISTOCRACY Government by the nobility or a privileged group. Aristocrats are separated from the masses by distinctions of birth, talent, property, power or leisure.

OLIGARCHY Often confused with aristocracy. Though it is a ruling of the masses by a few select individuals, it is usually associated with a flouting of law, custom and general practice.

DEMOCRACY Government exercised by political power in the hands of the many rather than the few.

TYRANNY A vicious misuse of power and a violent abuse of the human beings subject to it.

However, at the cessation of hostilities in 1945, it was apparent that, with British power now greatly sapped by two great wars, rebellion fomenting in India and the prospect of other nations agitating for independence, it would be to the U.S. that the Western world would look for leadership. To the east, it would be the emerging communist power, Russia. Thus we entered the age of cold war under the towering influence of two opposing superpowers.

For over 40 years, the U.S. democracy and USSR communist governments faced each other down over increasingly massive stockpiles of nuclear weaponry. This hiatus maintained a balance of power between Russia and America, while they went about the business of individual subterfuge, each trying to undermine the other via vast spy networks centered largely in Berlin, New York, Moscow and London. At the turn of the final decade of the century, the 40-year standoff between these two superpowers was finally broken when the Soviet economy collapsed.

Perceiving the weakening of the USSR, the CIA teamed up with the Vatican state security network to pry open access to, and influence within, Poland. Using the Polish trade union organization Solidarity as a cover for their operations, the Jesuit-CIA connection caused the fissure in the Soviet collective of East European nations which rumbled through to East Germany and split the dividing wall between Eastern and Western Europe asunder in November 1989.

The final decade of the 20th century saw Eastern Europe flirt with Western capitalism but still demonstrate a gnawing hunger for the protective umbrella of the socialist welfare state. By the end of the 1990s, a new phenomenon was rippling across Europe. Yet was it new—or was it the beginning revival of a system which had emerged to terrorize nations, particularly in Europe, during its most terrifying moments, barely 60 years before?

Totalitarianism vs. Democracy

When we stand back and take a long, hard look at the past 100 years, it becomes clear that we have witnessed a

titanic struggle between the forces of *totalitarianism* and *democracy* washing over and influencing the outcome of world events.

On the one hand, Soviet-style communism, Sino-communism under the Chinese totalitarian regimes, and national socialism (nazism), collectively have been responsible for an estimated 169 million deaths over the past century.

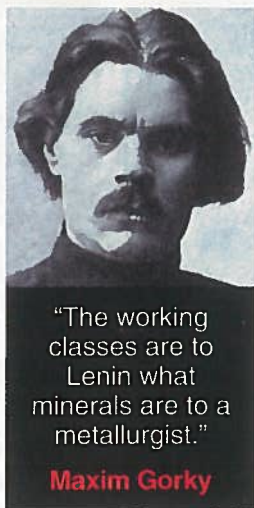
On the other hand, over the same period, the Western democracies have sacrificed an estimated 6.5 million deaths (defensive personnel) in resisting those evil forces of totalitarianism and limiting their spread.

Apart from the crushing defeat meted out upon national socialism by the combined forces of the Western democracies in World War II, the most tangible evidence of the failure of totalitarian government was the dramatic collapse of the USSR in 1991.

To describe the fundamental difference between a totalitarian and a free-democratic state, we consider the approach of each of these forms of government to *people*. In respect of totalitarianism, to quote Maxim Gorky's observation of that tsar of communism, Lenin, "The working classes are to Lenin what minerals are to a metallurgist." Thus the masses are looked upon as mere feed for the blast furnaces of industry, or cannon fodder for their military machines. Simply put, life's cheap under a totalitarian government.

To contrast this with the democracies of the West, they generally stress the importance of the freedoms and human rights of the individual. In the face of all of the trash trotted out by racists, academic bigots, revisionists, the doctors of political correctness and collective Anglophobes, the plain facts of history are

that within the West, it is the English-speaking peoples which, down through the centuries, have maintained the middle course between anarchy and despotism. As French statesman Jacques Necker declared, the British form of government was the only government on earth "which united public strength with individual security." So entrenched are the basic freedoms of the individual in the English-speaking countries that



"The working classes are to Lenin what minerals are to a metallurgist."

Maxim Gorky

ART TODAY

"ISMS" OF GOVERNMENT

CAPITALISM An economic system in which the production and distribution of goods and services depend on invested private capital and profit making.

NATIONALISM A policy of national independence.

TOTALITARIANISM Government with a centralized dictatorial nature requiring complete subservience to the state. Totalitarian government contains six basic elements—an ideology, a single party typically led by one man, a terroristic profile, a communications monopoly, a weapons monopoly and a centrally directed economy.

IMPERIALISM A policy of extending a country's territory, trade and influence by the acquisition of dependent territories and exerting over them sovereign rule.

SOCIALISM A political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the community as a whole should own and control the means of production, distribution and exchange.

we just think it natural and normal to enjoy the civil liberties which are common to our countries. "Nor need we forget that in World War II those areas of Europe and Asia that were indeed liberated, and not turned over to another despotism, were liberated in the European case mainly by the combined arms of the United States, Britain and Canada; in the Asian case mainly by the combined arms of the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand" (*The National Interest*, p. 65).

But this has been by no means due to the luck of history. These rich blessings which manifest themselves in the basic freedoms of English-speaking society—freedom of speech, the right of assembly, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, our largely reliable forms of administration, the concept of accountability in office, the basic institutions of our society—these are all bound up in a culture founded

upon a rich heritage gifted to the English-speaking nations by the very God they tend to ignore. They were given as the inheritance promised to the ancient nation of Israel due to the faith and obedience of their founding father, Abraham (Gen. 22:18).

Perhaps the greatest remaining witness to the source of these blessings is the *rule of law* which underpins the government of the English-speaking peoples. Trace it back to its origins. It was written in stone by the finger of Almighty God. The system of *law* which binds free society together in the English-speaking nations, though becoming largely corrupt, is simply based upon the law, statutes and judgments of the Old Testament in the Bible.

Heritage Lost

Though the queen who ruled the British Empire at its peak, Victoria, generally understood this, the knowledge of their glorious heritage was largely lost to the English-speaking nations, rapidly and progressively, over the past century. And as they have

COMMUNISM A political theory advocating class war and leading to a society in which all property is publicly owned, and each person is paid and working according to his individual needs and abilities.

FASCISM The totalitarian system of political thought and organization. With roots in late 19th and early 20th-century intellectual thought, it strove to draw from both left- and right-wing politics to establish a "third way," neither capitalist nor communist. It is nationalistic in its expression and authoritarian in its administration.

NAZISM National socialism. An extreme form of fascism, characterized by racial hatred, particularly of the Jews, and brutalization or elimination of those perceived as its enemies. Different from communism in that under communism the state owns the means of production, distribution and exchange, whereas national socialism permits private ownership of these, under state control and direction.

regressed in their knowledge of this great truth, so the erosion of civil society has eaten away at the moral heart and core of the English-speaking nations.

Truly, as Zbigniew Brzezinski has claimed, "Totalitarianism has shaped, or, if one prefers it, distorted the political and governmental scene of the 20th century. It promises to continue to do so...."

Looking over the past half-century in particular, we find that the insidious ideologies that created the totalitarian state have eaten into the very inner fabric of the governments of the Western democracies.

It was said by Sir Winston Churchill of democracy, "Many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time."

But now, at century's end, we find that "the worst form of government except all those other forms" is so effected by totalitarian ideology as to completely blur the distinction between traditional conservatism and liberal socialism. The result is *the third way*.

At century's end, socialist governments dominate Europe clear across the English Channel to Britain. They are staffed and in some cases led by bureaucrats and politicians who were, in the main, born this side of the Second World War. They hail from a generation which shunned the history of their parents and grandparents and embraced a "revisionist" history. Their sense of heritage is nil. Their politics is that of convenience. Traditional socialist dogma is modified and packaged in conservative-sounding wrapping. These are the men and women of the "center left" parties. Able to change policies and political stances like chameleons, they tout a "third way" of government, claiming that theirs is neither a capitalist nor communist approach. They claim to have found new ground in a philosophy of government which is neither left nor right. It is an appealing argument to some,

bereft as mankind has become of ideas on how to govern himself effectively.

Trouble is, the clear-thinking analysts have started to see great similarity between the leadership and methods of third-way stylists and that old tyranny of *national socialism*, plain old *fascism*. Even more worrying, third-way, fascist politics is starting to be seen as the method of government increasingly being exploited by that power which is now rising to fill the vacuum created by the demise of the USSR and the withdrawal of the U.S. from European involvement—the *European Union*.

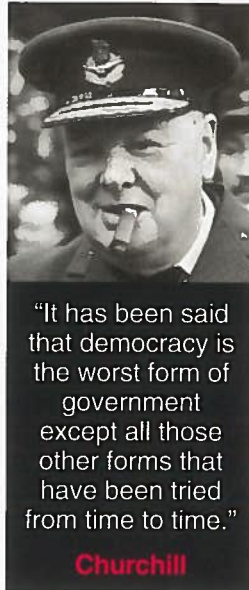
The Third Way

Throughout history, the family unit has been recognized as the basic building block of society. *Religion* and *family* have been the greatest barriers to the spread of totalitarian government. Consequently, totalitarian rulers devote much energy to destroying religious belief and to removing women from their traditional (and most fulfilling) role as housekeepers, child-carers and educators, and integrating

them into the work force. Here, treated as equal with men, they join the masses as fodder for the wheels of industry and machines of war. In the process, the care, nurture and education of the children is taken over by the state, which simply indoctrinates them into the totalitarian system of government. Education descends to mere brainwashing. The totalitarian state then takes over to replace the traditional household.

By easing the provisions for divorce and creating welfare legislation and institutions, the material necessities on which families are sustained are removed. Further dependence of the individual upon the state is accelerated by the provision of subsidies for education, health and medical services. Kenneth Minogue, professor emeritus of political science at the London School of Economics, describes this as "soft" totalitarianism. It is to this type of creeping totalitarianism that our Western democracies are succumbing at the turn of this century.

The greatest failure of the English-speaking democracies, which held the



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"It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time."

Churchill

line of freedom from more evil forms and styles of government over the past century, has been their ready willingness to trash the ancient and royal heritage which they held in common, which gave them their individual national identities, to embrace a godless, evolutionary, anti-family, liberal-socialist theology, matched with a corporatist greed in their economies.

This has led to a replacement of our inherited morality of right and wrong. The concept of *shame* becomes archaic. Traditional notions of *decency* and *morality* are replaced by a new morality termed "*political correctness*." The crazy thing about this imposition on Western society of "political correctness" as a moral code is that the gurus who create it come from the school which, in an effort to trash what they called "the Judeo-Christian ethic" (a euphemism for Bible-based values), used to maintain that there was no single right way of judging moral and political issues!

Now we see, under the umbrella of Catholic-socialist dogma (and there is real congruence between Catholic social doctrine and the doctrine of socialism), a *third way* of government touted by the leaders of the rising Europower, which is powerful in its criticism of the traditional governments of the free democracies. This is a way of governing which the center-left governments of Europe, Britain and its former dominions and the U.S. are being powerfully drawn towards. It is perhaps most startlingly revealed in the words of the British Prime Minister Tony Blair, in his speech to the party faithful in Bournemouth, England, September 28. Notice the *religious* overtones: "The [third way] cause we have fought for these 100 years is no longer simply our cause of social justice. *It is the nation's only hope of salvation....* And it is [up to] us, the new radicals...to be the progressive force that defeats the forces of conservatism. For the 21st century will not be about battle between capitalism and socialism, but between the forces of [third way] progress and the forces of conservatism [national heritage]. We were chained by our ideology [totalitarian socialism]. We thought we had

eternal doctrines, when they are in truth *eternal values*. Arrayed against us: the forces of conservatism...those who yearn for yesteryear."

This speech contrasts starkly with the biblical admonition, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein" (Jer. 6:16).

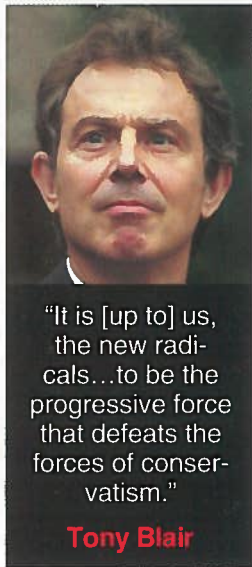
There are those who would claim that the values of the third way, grandly praised by Mr. Blair as "eternal values," are a far cry from those God-given values which, notwithstanding the imperfect way they were administered, nevertheless built the greatest, most peaceful and harmonized human government this world has ever known. Though humans governed it, it was *God-given*, and underpinned by a *God-given law*, upon which are founded the only *eternal truths!*

Deja Vu

On reflection, this world has witnessed every human system of government known to man in place, somewhere, at some time, over the past 100 years.

And the results? *Failure*. Not one of the principle systems of government known to man—monarchy, democracy, republic, oligarchy, despotism, tyranny—nor known *system of political economy* from capitalism to communism—has produced and maintained true peace, prosperity and happiness for the masses. None have produced utopia. All have fundamental flaws. The greatest single nation of them all, the United States of America, though demonstrating great power potential, is rotten at its core, drastically weakened morally at century's end, withdrawing into a new isolationism.

As this century's end approaches, a whole list of European and Mediterranean nations clamor to join the European Union. The Balkans are destabilized. Russia is seeking to wind back the clock ten years and re-establish its old empire. India and Pakistan threaten each other with nuclear weapons. The Middle East continues to build into an armed camp. Africa is a mess.



"It is [up to] us, the new radicals...to be the progressive force that defeats the forces of conservatism."

Tony Blair

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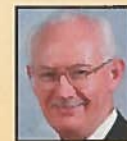
China is saber-rattling, trying to hide the fact of its own massive internal problems. Japan worries about its future role. Indonesia implodes. North Korea pursues its maverick agenda. The Asian economies lick their sick wounds. Latin America looks to Europe in defiance of overtures by the U.S. to join the northern NAFTA bloc. Australia suddenly feels isolated. Canada suffers from schizophrenia, not knowing whether to stay as one country or split into two. Britain stands on the brink of being a kingdom divided, and Irish people still blow up each other. In the meantime, the U.S. policeman sulks, surrounded by an ungrateful world, possessing massive firepower but increasingly witnessing the shattering of the pride of its power (Lev. 26:19).

In the words of Kenneth Minogue, "Human beings are unsuitable people for crafting social perfection." This is the state of the world after a century of the greatest growth in productivity and traded wealth that mankind has ever witnessed. History grinds on and comes round once again to bite us. ♦

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In the Grip of Greed



INDEX STOCK

The 20th century became busier and more prosperous, but also revealed the dark heart of America's wealth machine.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS HAVE turned this planet on its ear. One begins to realize it by comparing 1900 to 2000.

Automobiles were nothing more than curiosities; railways had just made it cross-country. Even telephones and bathtubs weren't commonplace. No TVs, no computers. The pace was slower and the work week longer and more laborious. Earth was home to merely 1.6 billion people.

But the growing colossus of business and industry was leading a wave of change. In many ways it caused a revolution that has changed the life of each person from then to now.

To examine the impact of business and industry in the 20th century, a

study of the United States provides all the material we need to see its extremes of success and failure.

The World's First Superpower

In 1900, though America was still considered something of an upstart in the world, it was working its way to prominence through the grime and sweat of heavy industry.

America was a wealth-creating machine. Its free markets were making rich men of thousands of entrepreneurs, who fueled the engine of an economy that wouldn't quit.

Through the first half of the century, the U.S. grew to dominate the world in nearly every major industrial category: It produced half the world's petroleum

and coal; 60 percent of its pig iron and steel; 73 percent of its automobiles. The American industrial juggernaut generated half of the world's electricity and, with Britain, possessed more of the world's merchant fleet tonnage and railroad mileage than the rest of the world combined.

By netting over worker efficiency and making great strides in production technology, businessmen could make goods cheaper and quicker, and that combination made them much more widespread. Even during the lean years of the Great Depression, rising consumerism continued on its steady course; between 1929 and 1935 the use of natural gas and electricity jumped, and radios and refrigerators could be found in many homes.

Two world wars rocketed America to even greater prominence. The U.S. threw in its lot late each time, but then hurled itself into the war effort by drawing on its industrial might. Auto plants became tank factories, bomber plants were quickly erected. America helped the Allies to two victories, in the bloodiest, costliest conflicts ever. It led the field technologically as well: By ending World War II in a numbingly awesome display of force, the U.S. catapulted the world into the frightening nuclear age and became the world's first "superpower." Never had history seen a nation launched to such heights so quickly.

After the war, when the capital and energy tied up in warmaking was freed up for other things, Americans began to bask in unheard-of prosperity. People had more money to spend and more things to buy. Conditions for workers were generally fair and pleasant, thanks to labor unions. Invention and technology gave many people reprieve from having to work so hard.

The true benefits of wealth could never be seen so clearly as in post-war America. Nor could its perils.



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WAR INDUSTRY Making components for planes in WWII.

The Love of Money

Is the love of money, as it says in I Timothy, really a "root of all evil"? After all, the money-driven behemoths of business and industry seem to be delivering on all the promise they presented after World War II. In addition, 50 industrious, wealthy years down the track, America is still dominant in many industries, as well as militarily supreme. On the surface it seems to have managed its success fairly well. As we enter a new millennium, business and industry even appear to some to be the long-sought solution to war.

When the information age took over in the second half of the century, the world became smaller and more connected in every way, including economically. Now even politicians talk about how the new global economic interdependence will save us from world war—actually surpassing governmental efforts to make peace. Countries today simply need each other too much for fighting to be a viable option. War is bad for business. If we bring down our partner, we bring down ourselves.

But let's look deeper. If we scrutinize the pulsating world of business and industry, we will realize that it is far from being any kind of savior. We will see that the marvelous achievements of humankind cannot stand, because they have increasingly abandoned a firm moral foundation based on the law of God. Behind the advancements, behind the promises, the greater part of man's business and industry is built on something far too unstable to put our trust in, and that is GREED. Increasingly unchecked greed.

The Drug of Debt

If modern business and industry have delivered the high lifestyle and made things easier and more luxurious, that lifestyle has also become our drug of choice.

Consider these facts. Today, there is a gaping disparity between the rich and the poor worldwide. In 1996, the world's 358 billionaires together had money that roughly equaled the possessions of the world's poorest 2.5 billion people. The rich tend to consume the most. A UN human development report showed in 1998 that the wealthiest

20 percent of the world's population consumes 86 percent of its resources.

America alone, which makes up 5 percent of the world's populace, burns up about a third of its resources. By far,

Americans top the all-time list of super-consumers. Since 1950, they have used more resources than everyone who ever lived before them combined.

After the Second World War, Americans steadily achieved increasing luxury. Today the median family income in the U.S. is over \$44,000—more than any nation this size has ever had. We are living in bigger homes, with more things. Many of today's three-car garages are 900 square feet; that's approximately the size of the average home in 1950. There are an average of 2.3 televisions per household. Malls and superstores—the churches of consumerism—everywhere testify of our lust for cars, gadgets, clothes, entertainment.

Is all of this materialism motivated by greed? Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that we don't know when to stop buying. Greed blinds people to the dangerously high cost of such luxury.

In America, living beyond one's means is a way of life, and government is leading the way. The national debt in the U.S. is soaring at \$5.6 trillion, 60 percent of which the government owes to foreign and other private

parties. Since the '50s, the debt has climbed steadily, virtually unimpeded—even in the face of recent so-called "budget surpluses" in Washington.

On top of that, Americans carry over \$1.5 trillion in personal debt, not including real estate and home mortgages; on average, every man, woman and child personally owes about \$4,000. There are a billion credit cards in circulation, and only a third of the card-holders pay off their balance in full each month. The rest make piecemeal payments at crippling interest rates, burying themselves under ever-increasing debt to try to sustain their unsustainably high standard of living. For many, the burden becomes too much: In 1997 a record 1.3 million Americans declared personal bankruptcy (up from 182,000 in 1978), and record bankruptcies continue today.

In the past, Americans put more in the piggy bank—saved more for the rainy day. Even in 1987, during the "Black Monday" crash in which the stock market lost 22.6 percent in a single day, Americans were saving about 5 percent of their incomes. Today, that savings rate is actually *negative*. The nation is spending more than it is earning. The situation brings to mind the saying, "If your outgo exceeds your income, your upkeep will be your downfall."

An Orgy of Speculation

In addition to buying *stuff*—new cars, new TVs—the money that used to go into savings is flooding into today's hottest new investment: the

stock market. The bull market of the '90s has blown away anything ever seen, and has made a happy lot of new rich people.

Compare it to the economic growth spurts of the '20s and the '80s. At the height

of the "roaring '20s," what was called by the Chancellor of the British Exchequer "an orgy of speculation," in 1929 the Dow Jones industrial average peaked at a record-breaking 381.17. (That was before a three-year slide precipitated the Great Depression.) The market grew fairly steadily over the



NEW WEALTH Post-WWII luxury



THE DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE 1900-2000

TRUMPET CHART

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

next 50 years, and by the early '80s that figure hovered around the 800 mark. In 1982, a wild, seven-year bull market took off that bounced the Dow up to an unheard-of 2,722.42 (before dropping almost a thousand points over a couple of months which culminated in "Black Monday"). Today, hardly a decade later, the Dow is riding giddily well above an unbelievable 10,000 points. And investors are behaving as if it will forever stay that way.

Is the hyper-inflated stock market a product of greed? Let's use the price-to-earnings ratio as an indicator. Historically, stocks have been valued around 10 to 20 times their earnings (you pay \$10-20 for each dollar of dividend yields, which are based on company earnings). In 1929, the P/E ratio of some stocks ballooned to around 50; Radio Corporation of America, which had zero earnings, rose to 420. Why? Speculation. If people believe a stock is worth something it's not, it can be sold well above its value. In the '20s, "investment trusts" enabled even small investors to join the boom, inflating the market even more.

The same is happening today. The October 28 *Foreign Report* stated, "By every conceivable historic valuation measure, [markets] are hugely overvalued.... If Wall Street were to go back to its long-run average price/earning ratio, the market would need to fall by 54 percent." People are selling stocks for whatever they can get, literally making pieces of paper into commodities. Today, many Internet and tech stocks are the "bubble on a bubble," with P/E ratios soaring to 200 or more—some as high as 400—for companies that generate absolutely nothing in revenue for shareholders. People make money off "capital gains" rather than dividend yields, meaning there is practically no price ceiling. The bubble keeps expanding, and some people are getting very rich, very fast. As success stories pile up, the promise of instant wealth lures new waves of small investors. "Mutual funds" have taken the place of 1929's investment trusts, and now everyone can get in on the action. In 1987, only about 20 percent of Americans held stock. Today, almost half of them do.

It is virtually greed alone that has propelled

the stock market to such heights. Greed has created an unsustainably vast bubble of paper wealth. If the bubble bursts, the wealth evaporates. (And America's little investors don't have the financial depth to sustain major losses. With half of America holding stock, a market collapse would have enormous consequences.)

Profit Before People

The sign over the storefront in a cartoon reads HONEST JOHN'S MOTORS. In the window is a sign stating, "Profit before people."

Of course, if businesses ignore people too much they lose employees and customers. But the market is changing rapidly; competition is fierce. To stay afloat, companies are merging, consolidating, trimming management, streamlining, "rightsizing" (which still costs jobs, even if it isn't downsizing); bigger companies are cannibalizing smaller companies. Profits really are highest priority. The fiercer the competition, the easier it becomes to see the tentacles of greed in modern business and industry.

Consider quality. In virtually every industry, the drive for profit is matched by a loss in quality. Costs are cut to the scientifically determined minimum at which customers will keep buying. Cars and electronics are constructed with built-in obsolescence to guarantee an ongoing market (and to keep service and repair industries active). Food is manufactured in mass quantities through methods irrespective of the harm done to the food's nutritive value. (In its extreme, this reality of the business world creates products which blatantly *harm* customers. Think junk food. Think tobacco.)

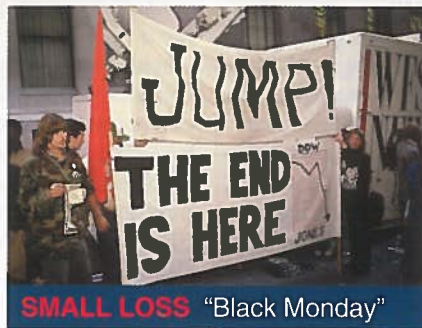
So that companies can continue to attract customers, prices must be kept artificially low. The standard of living must be maintained. That also means that say if Japan can make a cheaper TV

than America can, and floods the U.S. with cheap TVs, Americans will buy Japanese TVs; the more that such money goes to Japanese manufacturers the harder it becomes for U.S. manufacturers to stay afloat. This situation has far-reaching implications. In addition to shriveling America's manufacturing base, it creates a gaping trade deficit. Such competition has also led many American businesses to cut costs by opening shop in foreign countries where factory workers can be "legally" under-compensated (sometimes working long shifts for pennies a day).

What about advertising? Is it motivated by greed? The average American will spend a full year of his life watching TV commercials. Ads assault us on the radio, in magazines, shops and billboards—and now, even on school textbooks and lunchrooms (many schools receive enormous payoffs if

their students buy so much soda-pop or other goods). Most ads, as they sweat and strain to attract consumer dollars, appeal to the worst side of people: their vanity, greed, covetousness,

lust. Ads broadcast messages that are destructive in a multitude of ways, creating and feeding wrong desires, convincing people of needs they do not have, pushing unhealthy ideas that make sense only for the seller. Kids are especially susceptible to attitude-heavy, "be young—have fun—drink Pepsi" images that can seem normal after so much repetition. Ads often use dishonesty, deception, exaggeration and misrepresentation; yet, widespread as they are, they dictate many of the norms and beliefs of the culture.



The entertainment industry, which lives symbiotically with the commercial world, also plays to people's lowest desires. The movie, television, video game and magazine businesses pump out, in overwhelming quantity, material fixated on darkness, sex, violence, moodiness, abuses of power, fame and wealth. Sin is "in"! Don't forget the \$11 billion a year American porn industry. There is practically nothing to guide these people in imposing limits on what they produce—certainly not that it might be breaking God's spiritual law—except *what will sell*. In other words, their own greed.

The Unsustainability of Greed

Okay, business and industry are founded on greed. So what? Is that so bad? After all, where would the world be without it? You could legitimately say that greed has led to some of the greatest improvements of the 20th century. Remember Gordon Gekko from the '80s movie *Wall Street*: "Greed...is good."

Well, let's look at it. Is it possible for greed to prevail? Can we expect current conditions to last? Is what 20th century business and industry have built worth putting our faith in? What are its fruits?

Let's examine the U.S. trade deficit (the amount that imports exceed exports). This year, Americans have greedily snapped up an estimated \$280-300 billion more in foreign goods than they have manufactured and exported. Ships arrive in American ports filled with goods and leave half-filled. That means there is a gigantic flow of cash bleeding out of the country. Right now, economists aren't so concerned.

Why? Because foreign economies are presently turbulent, and foreigners are eager to invest that money back into the U.S. What are they investing it in? U.S. Treasury bills. In other words, the money coming into the country will have to be *repaid*—with interest. (Economists are behaving as if this is an even exchange: *It's okay that they get all our money, because they're loaning it back to us!*) This is all pure insanity.

Consider the effect that foreigners grabbing U.S. markets and flooding them with cheap goods has on American manufacturing. It affects everything from clothing to electronics—but let's just look again at heavy industry. Remember the numbers indicating America's industrial dominance in 1950? Compare them with these numbers. Today the U.S. produces only 11.1 percent of world oil, less than a quarter of its coal, 12.4 percent of its steel, 9.1 percent of its pig iron. It makes 12 percent of the world's electricity and a mere quarter of its cars. Its railroads ship 14.2 percent of world totals; its merchant fleet has dropped to 1.8 percent of the world's fleet—meaning that about 97 percent of the freight moving in and out of the U.S. is carried on foreign ships. The huge American industrial base is a shadow of what it was merely 50 years ago.

Logically, as America's manufacturing—its "cunning artificer" (Isa. 3:1-3)—disappears, so does its global influence. Other countries simply don't need the U.S. as they once did.

Surely we can see as well that the Treasuries and other forms of govern-

ment debt supposed to fill the capital void are, at best, a short-term solution. Let's just look at the mounting interest payments. In 1998, the interest on the national debt cost the U.S. \$41 million *per hour* (that's 24 hours a day, 365 days; a bill of \$364 billion for the year!). That is 70 percent more than the U.S. was paying ten years ago. Still, over the past 11 years, U.S. interest payments alone—to say nothing of the *principal* on the debt—have equalled \$3.3 trillion. OVER THE CENTURY, AMERICA HAS GONE FROM BEING THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CREDITOR NATION TO BEING ITS BIGGEST DEBTOR. Another sign of declining global clout.

Debt is dangerous. Being so reliant on other nations gives them a great deal of power. As Solomon said, "The borrower is servant to the lender" (Prov. 22:7). Consider: If for any reason foreign investors lost confidence in the U.S., and their money stopped coming, the entire economy would short-circuit. The American dollar is not attached to gold or any other standard; what makes it valuable is one thing—trust. Just one of a number of potential triggers could burst the economic bubble in the U.S., bringing the dollar down very quickly. That in turn would wipe out American consumers. If they stop buying, everything shuts down.

While on the surface things look fine, America is losing its power and its wealth—all because of the unsustainability of greed.

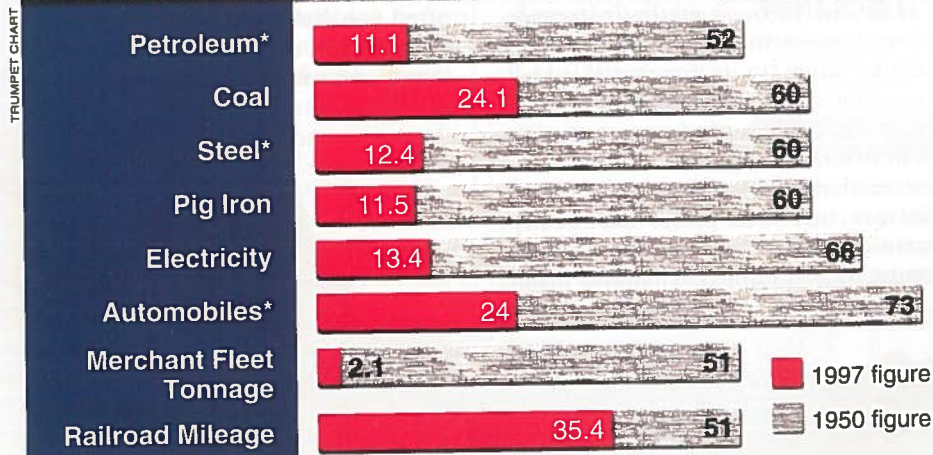
Bad Fruits

We see increasing today in the business world several other very ugly fruits of greed. Here we can briefly address only a few of them.

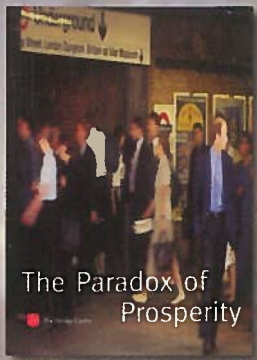
Twentieth century business and industry have caused an irreparable amount of environmental degradation. It does not have to be that way; in more and more cases it is not. But working cleanly means working more expensively, and in many cases, again, the unscrupulous pursuit of profit above all else exacts a high cost—this time on the very planet we inhabit.

Even more shameful is the effect of business and industry on the very character of morally weak people. Where you see great sums of money, you often see high levels of corruption. A 1998 report by Ernst and Young showed that over half of U.S. organizations, including government and

U.S. AND BRITAIN INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT: 1950 and 1997
(as percentage of world output)



* figures for United States alone



"Meaningless" Prosperity

From the Henley Center's 1999 study, "The Paradox of Prosperity"

CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS of well-to-do people as idle landed gentry, the modern axiom seems to be that those earning the most money often have the least time to enjoy the fruits of their labor. In other words, high "standards of living" are not necessarily accompanied by high "quality of life":

- 59 percent of UK citizens are now burdened by excessive time pressure, believing they "never seem to have enough time to get things done."...

Working late hours and skipping holiday entitlement exerts huge demand on family life and relationships, as we see below, but "downshifting" to a lower paid job with less stress and more free time remains an option that people are reluctant to take. Although they may aspire to a more relaxed

lifestyle, they have also become accustomed to the material trappings of the high-powered career and would find it difficult to live without a house full of expensive consumer durables or to remove their children from expensive schools and extra-curricular activities. In addition, the need to contribute to pension plans, insurance policies and other areas of private provision may take people beyond the point of no return. For women especially, there is more pressure these days to "do it all"—to manage an executive career rather than "simply" being a housewife or mother (although they frequently end up having to juggle these conflicting roles). Essentially, people have become trapped on a merry-go-round of demands, pressures and expectations, resulting in a constant plateau of stress.

- 22 percent of full-time workers would be willing to take a lower paid job if it meant less stress and more free time, but...

- 48 percent of workers say they need more money to keep up their quality of life.

private, were victims of fraud the previous year. It showed that at least half of "serious fraud" is committed by the organization's own management. Such fraud costs U.S. businesses an estimated \$400 billion a year.

Such items pepper the news regularly. Fraud. Bribery. Backstabbing. Conspiracy. Embezzling. Secret bank accounts. Ties with criminal rings. The high-power world of riches and influence inevitably corrupts people who do not have a firm moral anchor. Perhaps the extremes of such activity are rare; perhaps not. But even many smaller companies face serious problems associated with trying to survive in a greed-based society. High stress. Depression. Overlong work hours. Neglected families.

In America, over two thirds of office visits to physicians are over stress-related illnesses. It is estimated to cost American business \$150 billion per year in increased health insurance, absenteeism, reduced productivity, mistakes on the job, employee turnover and other related problems. Yet, people must keep working, and working harder, if they are to sustain the life of luxury.

By 1998 figures, 68 percent of two-parent American homes with kids under age 18 feel they cannot get by on one income. (The same is true of 62 percent of those with children under 6.) So both parents work. Thus we have more daycare, more latchkey kids,

more teens having nice houses to themselves for several hours a day, more husbands and wives who care less about their family than they do their individual careers. We have fast food and frozen dinners to feed us because no one has time to cook; we have all forms of escapism increasing in popularity because people can afford them—and because they do not like to talk with each other.

Such ugly trends continue to get uglier—all because of greed. A 1999 report in Britain called "The Paradox of Prosperity" projected that by 2010, overall living standards will increase by 35 percent. At the same time, people will be "under increasing pressure, working longer hours and suffering higher levels of stress. As this trend continues, alcohol and drug abuse could become worryingly prevalent. At the same time, people will feel the need to ensure private financial provision for their old age and will be less able to withdraw from the rat race." The report predicted, among other things, a 33 percent increase in single-parent households and a 6 percent increase in childless women. In other words, the family will be increasingly sacrificed on the altar of prosperity.

The Verdict

Where will it end? We are twice as wealthy as we were in 1950—the

wealthiest people at any time, ever—and still are not content. "Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied" (Prov. 27:20).

These conditions cannot go on. Economics, business, industry cannot be the final answer to mankind's problems. As with every other human endeavor, the "solutions" they present bring with them too many more problems—problems worse than those they purported to solve.

Business and industry in the terrible 20th century—for those with eyes to see, they illustrate how humankind's mightiest efforts amount to little more than further proof of the ultimate failure of godless civilization. Why? Because what the Apostle Paul wrote in I Timothy is true: The love of money is a root of appalling evil. Man without God is inherently materialistic. Where money is involved, he has proven himself unable to avoid the spiritual trap of greed. And greed is a frightful thing to try to build a civilization upon.

We see the fruits before us: In spite of the stunning advances brought about by business and industry this century, there has been a corresponding spiritual retrogression. To believe, as many do, that economics is the messiah of the new millennium leaves an honest man looking forward to a very black future. ♦

DIGITAL STOCK



Good and Evil

Science's split personality

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

SCIENCE HAS COME TO BE SYNONYMOUS with acquiring knowledge—something man has been doing from the beginning. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve used *observation, experimentation and human reason* to determine that the forbidden fruit was “good” to eat. They “saw” that the forbidden fruit was good for food. To experiment, they ate the fruit. They reasoned that it would make them wise (see Genesis 3:1-6).

Today, researchers use that same scientific method. And we do seem to live in a “wise” world as a result—a world of awesome progress and advancing technology.

But it's also a world where there is appalling evil. Let's examine this scientific paradox.

Rejecting God

Modern science originated about 200 years ago. After its emergence from the 18th-century Age of Enlightenment, people came to assume that human reason made *anything* possible. As one

encyclopedia puts it, “A great premium was placed on the discovery of truth through the observation of nature, rather than through the study of authoritative sources, such as...the Bible.”

Charles Darwin's theory helped stretch that widening gap between science and religion. Though bitterly opposed to evolution at first, by the mid-20th century science had come to accept the theory en masse.

German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche's faith in scientific progress led to his famous 1882 declaration: “God is dead.”

Sigmund Freud, founder of psychoanalysis, asserted in 1932 that “there is no other source of knowledge of the universe, but the intellectual manipulation of carefully verified observations, in fact, what is called research, and that no knowledge can be obtained from revelation, intuition or inspiration.”

Like Adam and Eve, modern science has rejected God to partake of the tree of the *knowledge of good and evil*. Science has relied solely on observation, experimentation and human reason. The “good” knowledge has led to some stunning discoveries.

Modern Innovations

Consider travel. Though separated by 1700 years, the Apostle Paul and Benjamin Franklin both used the same basic methods of travel—foot, animal or boat. People traveled that way for millennia. For that reason, most, unless rich or adventurous, never got beyond 50 to 100 miles of their homes.

Then came modern travel—steamboats in 1806, trains in the mid-1800s, electric-powered streetcars in the 1870s, bicycles in the 1880s, subways in the 1890s, automobiles at the turn of the century, airplanes in the early 1900s, submarines, helicopters and turbo-jet airplanes in the 1930s, space-ships in the 1960s.

Today, you could fly on the Concorde from Philadelphia to London in the amount of time it would take most readers to finish half this magazine—little more than an hour. When Ben Franklin embarked upon his first journey to London in 1724, it took him *six weeks*.

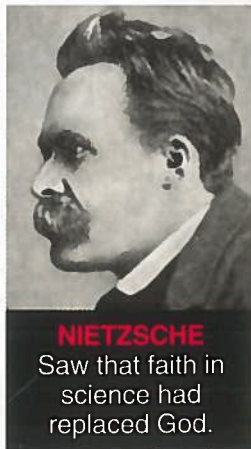
Economical, comfortable and time-saving methods of modern travel are all hallmarks of 20th century achievement.

Consider agriculture. After Adam took of the forbidden fruit, God then told him how difficult and laborious farming would be (Gen. 3:17-19).

Throughout the 5,800-year agricultural age, that's the way it was.

Not that farming is easy today, but like so many other laborious tasks, machines have eliminated a tremendous amount of hard labor. These labor-saving devices enabled fewer people to produce larger crops. In 1900, for example, agriculture was 20 percent of the American economy; today it's only 1.7 percent.

In addition to many labor-saving devices, artificial fertilizers and pesticides helped produce bountiful harvests. Chemical fertilizers were first added to soil in 1880—the first insecticide introduced in 1939.



NIETZSCHE
Saw that faith in science had replaced God.

Farmers were not the only ones to benefit from the knowledge explosion. Consumers did too. When Louis Pasteur discovered how to kill bacteria in food during the 1860s, suddenly products like beer, wine and milk could be “pasteurized” to last longer. The first mechanical refrigerator (1865) helped preserve foodstuffs in cold temperatures. In 1917, Clarence Birdseye developed a method for quick-freezing food into small packages. In 1945, plastic packaging films were introduced to preserve “convenience” foods—even in warm temperatures. Add to these advances the artificial preservatives added to foods, and you have a 20th-century phenomenon—shelf life!

These advancements have increased food supplies dramatically, helping it keep pace with the world’s population, which nearly quadrupled this century. It has made more food available and at cheaper prices. In many ways, science has silenced the doomsayers who years ago predicted a global food shortage.

Consider work. The labor-saving devices that eliminated jobs in agriculture created them in *industry*. By the mid-19th century, the Western world had entered a new age—one of mass production of goods by mechanical means.

In 1873, the first use of electricity to drive machines added a whole new dimension to the industrial revolution. This gave impetus to the development of numerous household appliances—electric fans, razors, sewing machines and washers. These items, however, did not become affordable to the average consumer until the mid-20th century. By that time, America had perfected its assembly-line production, driving retail prices down, and the Sears and Roebuck catalogue made it known that now everyone could afford these mechanical conveniences.

Consider leisure. The technology that enabled man to mass-produce food and goods also made it possible to entertain mass audiences. Prior to 1900, the print industry was the world’s *only* mass medium. During the 20th century, however, four new mass media sprang to life—movies, radio, television and the Internet.

The first motion picture was introduced in Paris in 1895. In 1922, color was added to movies; and in 1927, sound. Since then, more sophisticated and mobile cameras, better lighting

and high-tech computer editors have dazzled viewers with special effects. Technology has also made it easier and cheaper to watch movies: VCRs, videotapes, pay-per-view, DVD—these were all introduced in the last quarter of the 20th century.

Radio’s reach was even more widespread than movies. Marconi had discovered the basics of radio technology by 1900. Westinghouse started broadcasting programs over the air in 1920. “Even more than movies,” Christopher Porterfield wrote for *Time* magazine, “radio gave audiences an intensely communal feeling, a sense of being part of something national, as well as a special intimacy with its stars” (June 8, 1998).

It was television, however, that combined the far-reaching impact of radio with the mesmerizing visual

than all the other industries on earth.” In the United States, this year the number of on-line households is expected to jump by more than 40 percent. It’s only been around for ten years, and already there are an estimated 110 million users worldwide.

Other 20th-century leisure activities, like sports, music and video games, have piggybacked these mass-medium machines to push their products. In no other century has leisure so closely interacted with technology.

Consider computers. In the same way the Industrial Age wiped out mass amounts of jobs in agriculture, the information age has in industry. But it has created just as many jobs, if not more, in the fields of information, technology and computers. In many ways, the information revolution has



quality of movies. Englishman John Baird introduced TV in 1926. But it didn’t catch on in the U.S. and Britain until after World War II. In the U.S., only 172,000 homes owned a TV in 1949. In 1952, however, more than 15 million had one. Two years later—32 million. For millions of first-time viewers, it was like discovering a whole new world, neatly packaged in a little box. As the phenomenon spread like cancer, forecasters predicted the demise of radio and movies. Yet, far from wiping out the competition, television seemed to perfectly complement the other two media. Color was added to television in the 1960s, and in the 1980s a cable- and satellite-TV boom offered viewers an unheard-of number of channels to surf.

In the 1990s, surfing epitomized another 20th century marvel—the Internet. Newt Gingrich compares it to a library that never closes and always has the book you need. Lisa Jardine, in an article she wrote for *The Spectator*, said the Internet “will one day be bigger

buoyed America’s economic boom during the 1990s.

In 1995, Newt Gingrich wrote, “The power of computer chips will multiply another million-fold over the next ten years—as big an increase as the productivity improvement of the last 40 years. This translates into a one-trillion-fold increase in productivity between 1950 and 2000” (*To Renew America*, p. 58). One industry analyst says that at the current rate of advancement, by 2019 a \$1000 computer will be able to process as many instructions per second as the human brain.

Computer technology, unquestionably, is one of mankind’s most innovative 20th-century creations.

Consider medicine. Most consider the invention of the microscope by a Dutch lens maker in the late 17th century the spark that set off medicine’s explosion of knowledge. With that one invention, like looking through a window, scientists could see inside the body—revealing the world of microorganisms. Using that technology,

Pasteur was able to link germs to infectious disease in 1864. By the late 1800s, doctors had identified the bacteria and other microbes responsible for many diseases like cholera, diphtheria, leprosy, malaria, tetanus and tuberculosis.

By the 20th century, scientists were experimenting with a host of medicines and eventually antibiotics to fight against such diseases. Once Pasteur discovered how to kill bacteria in food, it was only a matter of time before scientists would use that technology on humans. In 1928, Britain's Alexander Fleming accidentally discovered the world's first antibiotic—penicillin. That led to the development of hundreds of antibiotics.

With these advances, researchers found ways to fight against disease and, in some cases, completely eradicate certain strains. Throughout this century, there has been a decline in cases of polio, hepatitis and the measles. In 1980, scientists declared small pox completely eradicated. Meanwhile, life expectancy has climbed and death rates have dropped, especially in advanced nations, where people can afford vaccines and antibiotics.

There have been many other 20th century breakthroughs in medicine. The structure of DNA was decoded in 1953. In 1954, doctors transplanted the first human organ, a kidney. CAT scans were developed in 1973, a test-tube baby born in 1978, a permanent artificial heart implanted in 1982 and the ability to decipher the entire DNA sequence of a living organism in 1995. In 1997, scientists even cloned a sheep.

As we enter the 21st century, researchers tell us we are only years away from cloning human beings.

Consider communication. In 1860, when the Pony Express guaranteed it would deliver a package from Missouri to California in only ten days, people considered that state-of-the-art! Though now a legendary fixture of the American West, the Pony Express was quickly victimized by technological advance. In less than two years, the telegraph line made it all but unnecessary.

Two decades later, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.

By 1915, a coast-to-coast phone system stretched across the United States. By the mid-20th century, the telephone was an "essential" in every home and office. Today, a third of American adults carry mobile phones.

Satellites, fiber optics, mobile phones, electronic mail—all have made communication fast, easy and affordable. Just last year, Internet users sent more than 5 trillion e-mail messages.

You can see why Nietzsche and the 1960s radicals said God is dead. Darwin, Nietzsche, Freud and other modern intellectuals have branded their religion on the 20th century, and it is here to stay. It's a religion that props up science as the new messiah—the one great hope for mankind.

Who needs God when you have science and technology? We have seen the awesome progress—the "good" man has produced by taking from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

So what about the evil?

This is the great paradox of the 20th century.

Advances in Sickness

Advances in medicine and food production, contrary to popular opinion, have not improved the overall health of earth's 6 billion inhabitants. The statistical rise in life expectancy among Western nations is deceptive. While death rates have declined in the

West during this century, worldwide the picture is much less encouraging. Even in the West, where life expectancy steadily increased from 1910 to 1980, in the last 20 years there has been a steady decrease, thanks in large part to the AIDS virus. There are now more than 20 million cases of AIDS worldwide—2.3 million died from it just last year.

AIDS is not the only culprit. Researchers have identified at least 30 new untreatable diseases since 1980. And you could consider other diseases, like pneumonia, influenza and tuberculosis, candidates for "comeback disease of the century." Once in decline, new strains of these old killers are back like bad habits. Tuberculosis kills more than 3 million people a year. In 1995, more than 12 million children under the age of 5 died of pneumonia.

Between 300 and 500 million cases of malaria are reported each year, causing at least 1 million annual deaths. Admittedly, most of those deaths occur in countries where antibiotics are either not available or too expensive.

But antibiotics have not stamped out disease in rich countries either. In many cases, overuse of antibiotics now poses a serious threat to Westerners. "Somehow," says Merle Sande of the University of Utah School of Medicine, "we lost that message, and as a result we are in the process—and it's starting to accelerate—of losing these incredibly valuable drugs. Somehow we blew it.... This is just the beginning of the end. We're going to see infections that used to be curable in past centuries raise their ugly heads once again." When overuse occurs, only drug-resistant strains survive, allowing them to flourish unabated. An estimated 70,000 people die every year from hospital infections caused by drug-resistant "superbugs." Talk about paradox!

From 1980 to 1992, deaths from communicable diseases increased by 58 percent. That said, infectious disease is still only responsible for 4.2 percent of today's debilitating health problems in Western society. The majority of diseases today, completely unlike past centuries, are degenerative and man-made—like cancer, heart disease and malnutrition. These account for 81 percent of today's debilitating health problems.

UNICEF reports that 12 million children under the age of 5 die every year from malnutrition. As already noted, there is more than enough food in the world to feed everyone. And we certainly have the advanced technology to preserve and transport it. Yet, every year, 12 million children die because of an unbalanced diet.

A different kind of malnutrition is responsible for many new diseases in developed countries. It's caused by over-indulgence, eating the wrong foods and ingesting excessive amounts of man-made chemicals that have no nutritive value.

Approximately 1 billion people on earth smoke cigarettes. Of that number, more than 3 million die each year from smoking-related diseases, like lung cancer. Two thirds of those deaths are in developed countries where every available medicine or surgery is just down the street.

"We're going to see infections that used to be curable in past centuries raise their ugly heads again."

Merle Sande



DIGITAL STOCK

In America, the second leading cause of death, behind smoking-related diseases, is obesity. Many doctors are now calling it an American epidemic. Sixty percent of American adults weigh more than they should—17 percent are considered obese. Heart disease, almost unheard-of in nations without an obesity problem, kills more than 1 million Americans per year.

Then there are mental and emotional disorders which, *paradoxically*, have skyrocketed ever since Freud invented psychoanalysis. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, more than 40 million Americans suffer from mental and emotional conditions that adversely affect their quality of life. Another 50 million suffer from intermittent symptoms.

Modern medicine, despite the bold claims made earlier this century, did not eradicate sickness and disease in the 20th century. Underdeveloped countries enter the 21st century facing a frightening array of killer diseases of epidemic proportions—AIDS, malaria, hepatitis B, malnutrition, starvation.

In developed countries, perhaps the most damning statistic against the “success” of medicine is the amount of money spent on health care in the United States—more than \$1 trillion per year. Cancer, heart and liver disease, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, low blood sugar, obesity, chemical dependency, depression, attention deficit disorder—these are the unhealthy fruits of prosperity and high technology. And almost all of them are unique to modern life in the 20th century. Who could have imagined 200 years ago that one in seven Americans would suffer from some sort of mental or emotional “disease”?

Advances in War

This century’s most visible paradox might be the scale of devastation man has brought upon himself by genocide and war.

Technology’s advance has had a strong hand in man’s brutality, and not just because of modern weapons. To supply the 19th-century explosion in industry, developed nations needed raw materials. For many of them, especially in Europe, that meant going outside their borders. (In 1870, only 10 percent of Africa had been colonized by Western nations. By 1900, that figure had jumped to 80 percent.) Lead-

ing up to the 20th century, Western nations were scrambling to exploit resources in underdeveloped nations—not just in Africa, but also in southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

Accompanying that mad scramble for resources were territorial disputes—which, inevitably, led to war. And when they did, as man soon found out, the same knowledge explosion that spawned the industrial revolution also changed the nature of warfare. At first, many politicians thought advanced new weapons would shorten conflicts and lessen destruction. They were wrong.

At the dawn of the 20th century, Western nations started arming themselves to the teeth and forming strategic alliances. The formation of alliances, established to prevent war, actually precipitated it—and on a

er 36,000. The world had entered the atomic age, creating the threat of infinitely greater catastrophes in the future. In modern warfare, military personnel were no longer the only people at risk. Now *everyone* was at risk. Nearly two thirds of those killed in World War II were *civilians*.

It is worth noting that during the first half of this century, physics was the dominant science and travel was the dominant technology. Hence atomic warfare by means of modern travel. During the last half of this century, biology was the dominant science and computers the dominant technology. Not surprisingly, biological weapons and computer warfare have now been added to this century’s earlier innovations.

“The 20th century saw the creation of great weapons based on the princi-



much larger scale than anyone could have imagined. When a Serb nationalist assassinated the heir to the Austrian throne in June 1914, it sparked the first-ever world war.

Airplanes, submarines, tanks and machine guns were all introduced in the Great War, though all were in the beginning stages of their development. Most of the 10 million deaths were caused by “old fashioned” artillery fire in trench warfare. Still, technology, even in the second decade of the century, had left its mark. As Roy Willis wrote in *Western Civilization*, “Governments had failed to grasp the nature of modern warfare.”

When next world war hit two decades later, the above-mentioned weapons were much more developed. With the addition of new rockets and missiles, World War II was man’s deadliest ever—50 to 60 million were killed. It ended with the use of the atomic bombs. The one America dropped on Hiroshima vaporized 70,000 Japanese—on Nagasaki, another

36,000. The world had entered the atomic age, creating the threat of infinitely greater catastrophes in the future. In modern warfare, military personnel were no longer the only people at risk. Now *everyone* was at risk. Nearly two thirds of those killed in World War II were *civilians*.

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“The 20th century saw the creation of great weapons based on the princi-

Advances in Immorality

Yet there is another threat to humanity’s existence—one that is rapidly becoming much greater than the hydrogen bomb. In the 1960s, it became known as a “moral revolution.” Once intellectuals sided with revolvers, they sugar-coated the devastating effects of this revolution by labeling it the “new morality.”

Two generations later, however, the

fruits are much harder to disguise. America spearheaded the revolt and it spread around the world with the help of technology, as historian Paul Johnson notes in his book *A History of the American People*: "If the United States was still a conformist and traditional society in the 1950s, the portents of change were present too. In 1948...Dr. Alfred Kinsey brought out an 804-page volume, based on 18,000 interviews over many years, called *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*. He followed it in 1954 with *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*.... They revealed that

social landscape is like sifting through a bomb-ravaged bunker in Kosovo. All the traditional building blocks of society toppled during the moral war—respect for government and law, love of one's country, traditional roles for men and women, and above all, the family. In their places, modernists have erected radical individualism, popular culture and sexual freedom.

The new morality's chief adherents have exploited every technological component available to drug the zombie-like masses. In America, the world's leader in entertainment, it is

Even worse than the Internet is the rank perversion the movie industry spews out of the darker side of Hollywood. This year, the "other" Hollywood is on course to release 10,000 new pornographic movies, shattering 1998's record by more than a thousand titles. Do the math. That's 27 titles per day. Like so many modern perversions, pornography must credit much of its success to technology, which helps deliver the filth into the privacy of homes. Without VCRs, consumers wouldn't be able to rent the 700 million hard-core titles that are checked out of video stores annually. The \$11 billion porn industry dwarfs the \$7.2 billion that "mainstream" Hollywood will collect in domestic ticket sales this year.

Other articles could be written about the *soft* porn hurled at us from every medium—raunchy television programs, MTV, provocative music lyrics, R-rated movies. Television's *Baywatch*, known for its bad acting and well-proportioned lifeguards, amasses a whopping \$100 million per year. Two thirds of that comes from overseas—where the program airs in more than 140 countries.

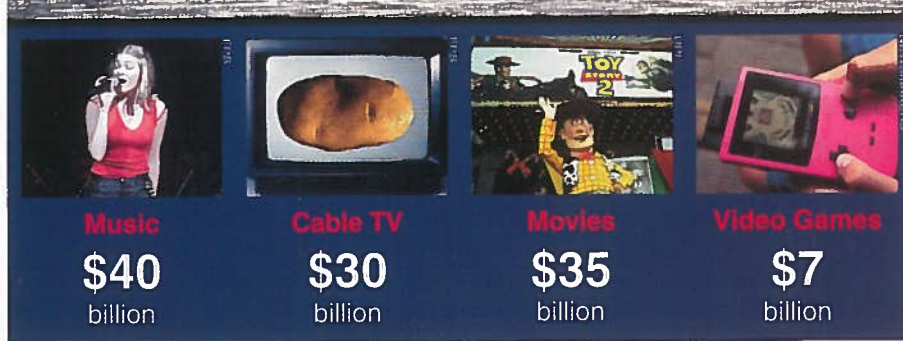
That leads right in to America's largest single export. It's not cars or even computers. It's entertainment. The U.S. entertainment industry will gross more than \$450 billion this year. To put that in perspective, if American entertainment was considered a nation, it would be the 11th richest—out of 210 countries ranked by the World Bank—right behind Canada and Spain.

The Future of Science and Technology

On the one hand, 20th-century science and technology have delivered an almost magic, push-button society that offers every imaginable human comfort and convenience. All of these innovative productions are not, by themselves, bad.

But all of them have been made to serve bad purposes as well as good. Advancements in travel—automobiles, airplanes, trains—also brought us tanks, submarines, F-16s and aircraft carriers. Man-made chemicals have produced bumper crops, processed food and bacteria-killing antibiotics, but they have also depleted the soil and food of all-important nutrients, contaminated the environment and caused many new diseases. Labor-saving devices have created new jobs and

THE NEW TECH INDUSTRIES (annual revenue)



68-90 percent of American males, and almost 50 percent of females, engaged in premarital sexual intercourse, that 92 percent of males and 62 percent of females had masturbated, and that 37 percent of males and 13 percent of females had experienced homosexual intercourse. The findings also suggested that 50 percent of men and 26 percent of women had committed adultery before the age of 40. Kinsey's findings caused surprise and in some cases rage, but they confirmed much other evidence that, even in the 1950s, the Norman Rockwell images no longer told the full story. Hollywood was still trying to hold the lines laid down by the old Hays Code, but it was cracking....

"As the TV habit spread and took deep root, and as the medium made itself indispensable to all the purveyors of mass-consumption goods and services, those who ran the networks and the stations began to flex their cultural muscles and contemplate a society in which all standard measurements of behavior would be up for redefinition, and moral relativism, based on ratings, would rule. Thus the way to the 1960s was prepared, and what began as a sexual revolution was to bring about revolutions in many other areas too."

Half a century later, surveying the

especially bad. Music is a \$40 billion industry. Cable television rakes in \$30 billion. Hollywood garners \$15 billion in ticket sales worldwide—another \$20 billion selling and renting videos.

And when Alan Alcorn invented the two-dimensional video game Pong in 1972, who would have thought that the video game market would, by century's end, amass more revenue than Hollywood's domestic box-office receipts? Half the households in Japan own a games console, one in three in America, and one in five in Britain. And while the 1960s space program may have been most responsible for getting the computer industry off the ground, video games have jet-propelled the industry's push for faster chips and CD-ROM drives. Even the Internet owes much of its phenomenal success to video games. Only in the last few years have some commentators harshly criticized the video-game industry for its negative influence on children.

As for the Internet, it also owes much of its "success" to the popularity of pornography. Virtually unregulated, the Internet posts 20,000 new pornographic web pages every day. Nearly 70 percent of the \$1.5 billion worth of online content—services that can be downloaded—is so-called "adult material."

added hours to the day, yet there is increasing idleness, aversion to work and bouts of depression. The awesome power of mass media—movies, radio, television, the Internet—have turned into a mind-numbing addiction for the masses. The computer-dominated information age is also responsible for electronic fraud, rampant pornography and a new era in modern warfare—stealth fighters, laser-guided missiles

and subminiaturization. And while there are dozens of ways to communicate in this modern age, we are struck by the increasing *inability* of nations, neighbors and families to communicate civilly with each other.

The paradox of the 20th century is nowhere more evident than with the schizophrenic personality of science. Man *has* produced an unbelievable, push-button dream world. Yet he has

proven to be equally imaginative and inventive when it comes to producing evil.

You need not be an expert in DNA science to foresee what lies ahead. Given enough time, man would undoubtedly be able to clone himself and send new-weds to honeymoon in space. The question is, at the present rate of technological advance, how much longer before society collapses under the heavy weight of science's darker side? ♦

The Internet: 21st Century Tower of Babel

THE INTERNET IS, ARGUABLY, ONE OF MANKIND'S GREATEST accomplishments in this information age. But this new technology not only saves time—it wastes it too. It makes life simpler, yet more complicated; it brings us together, yet pushes us apart.

Now *that* is a paradox!

Over 4,000 years ago, a remarkable parallel to what is happening today occurred. Historic records show that two generations after the great Flood, there was a population explosion on earth. Many people congregated in the lower plains of what is now known as the Persian Gulf (Gen. 10:10).

Under the influence of Nimrod, the world's first dictator (vv. 8-10), men began to organize themselves and build an enormous tower. "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (Gen. 11:4). At that time, there were no communication barriers, because everyone spoke the same language (v. 1).

Mankind had finally designed a symbol of their God-rejecting society. The ancient city of Babylon, and its planned sky-high structure, was the epitome of man's rebellion against his Maker. Men remembered the Flood and thought they could outsmart God by building a structure that would be higher than the waters, should such a global calamity ever strike again.

"And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded" (v. 5). God knew man's inherent capabilities. He knew this was just the beginning of the amazing things men would try. But He also knew man's inherent weaknesses—that man was not yet ready to be allowed to exercise his tremendous latent powers. God knew man's character had to be developed first, or chaos would result.

"And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: AND NOW NOTHING WILL BE RESTRAINED FROM THEM, WHICH THEY HAVE IMAGINED TO DO" (v. 6). Men had decided to pool together their resources and share information. God saw that NOTHING would be withheld from their imaginations. The Creator foresaw that men would rapidly develop scientifically and technologically; He knew that NOTHING would be too difficult for man's sci-

entific genius—that he was already then well on the road to an eruption in scientific knowledge.

It was not yet God's time to allow humankind to advance this far. Had the Creator not stepped in at this point in history, men would have raced along in the acquisition of scientific knowledge, undoubtedly to such heights that the nations would have discovered how to use the atom even before the time of Christ! So God confounded their language (v. 7), effectively nullifying their ability to unite. The less they understood one another, the more they argued. Arguments grew into fights—and work came to a screeching halt. Not understanding their neighbors, many moved away to seek a living in distant parts of the land. The tower was never completed.

But today, man has finally succeeded in overcoming communication barriers. And he is once again UNITING and MERGING his scientific genius. The information age—and especially the Internet—is a prime example of this.

Yes, we can accomplish technological feats. When it comes to constructing an intricate technological wonder such as the Internet, people can unite with absolute, determined effort to produce a nearly miraculous achievement. But try to work together to formulate some kind of a plan for harmonious living, and it seems we're doomed to abysmal failure!

Unlike at the Tower of Babel, where God forbade the people getting together, this time our Creator will allow men to get together one last time. He said, through the prophet Daniel, that at the time of the end "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Dan. 12:4). The word "knowledge" in this verse is rendered *trouble* in the Moffatt translation. The Companion Bible says that this "knowledge" equals *calamities* or *wickedness*.

Our troubles and calamities have not just doubled; they've *multiplied*—thanks to modern technology! But our God has *allowed* modern communication methods to dramatically increase. The Internet is bridging the gap that He put in place some 4,000 years ago.

Already, the minds of the people of the nations of the world have been drawn closer together—and now, with the help of the digital information superhighway, man has turned the earth into a "global village." With this invention he's not only collapsed distance; he's demolished all inhibiting boundaries.

Eric Anderson

Christianity in Crisis

Has modern Christianity lived up to the ideals of its founder?

BY DENNIS LEAP

SPEAKING OF HIS PERSONAL COMMISSION from the Father, Jesus Christ stated emphatically, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). By making this statement, Jesus Christ gave both warning and hope. He revealed that those popular religious leaders opposing Him were *thieves* promoting a false religion that produced misery and death. By comparison, Jesus Christ promised those willing to follow His true doctrines and teachings a life of peace, happiness, joy and abundant well-being.

As we approach the year 2000, we must ask, has our modern Christianity lived up to the ideals of its founder? Is our Western world full of peace, happiness, joy and abundant well-being? When we look at the facts fairly, with an open mind, the answer is a sad and

disappointing no. As our world's crises grow more intense, we must come to the conclusion that religion has failed to make this world a better place.

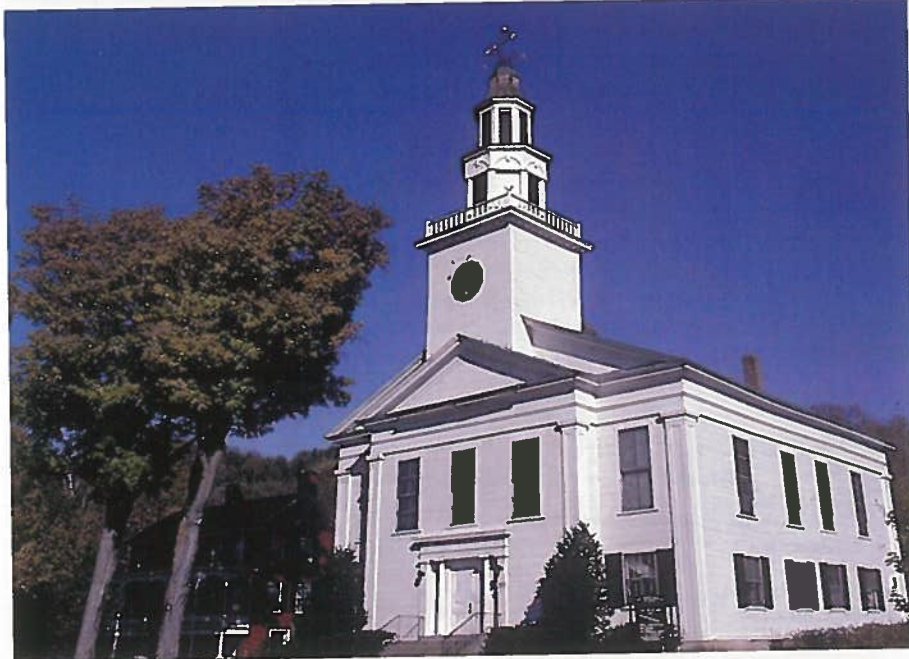
Our World's Sick Religion

Today, some claim that Christianity is alive and doing well. But the facts speak otherwise. As it enters the 21st century, traditional Christianity finds itself in a life-threatening crisis. Christianity is suffering from both internal distress and threats from without. As a whole, it is divided and in confusion. Many have come to understand that today's organized Christianity has not answered the vital questions surrounding the purpose for human life. For the masses, life's mysteries remain myster-

ies. The clergy simply cannot answer: *Who am I? Why am I? Why am I here?* This means that even though this century has had unparalleled success in the areas of science and technology—a vir-

BUILDING FAITH?

Many churches are sitting empty.



tual knowledge explosion—humanity is no closer to understanding the spiritual knowledge it needs to solve its pressing problems.

Recent polls show that church attendance is in sharp decline. Some long-lived churches are virtually empty on Sunday mornings. This is a direct reflection of how many traditional Christians feel—*empty*. There is a cause for this effect. Although advances in technology—printing, radio and television—have laid a powerful means to proclaim Christ's message at Christianity's feet, there has been a plethora of differing voices claiming their brand of Christianity is right. Disillusioned by the clamor, many ask, *which message is right?*

Add to this confusion the fact that internal doctrinal disagreements have caused numerous church splits and painstaking reorganizations. The end result is that most have given up on religion altogether. Others are seeking fulfillment in alternative religions and cults. Traditional Christianity's greatest threat now lies with the rising neopagan movement. Many Americans, Britons and Western Europeans are flocking to Buddhism, Hinduism, shamanism and witchcraft.

Unfortunately, those who maintain a religious fervor are often at literal war with others of differing beliefs or different faiths. For example, Irish Catholics and Protestants claim to love Christ on Sunday and then kill each other throughout the rest of the week. Militant white-supremacist groups that claim a Christian heritage are sponsoring a new wave of violent attacks on Black churches and Jewish synagogues. In Eastern Europe, the Roman Catholic Croats, the Eastern Orthodox Serbs and the Bosnian Muslims have all sponsored pogroms on each other.

Let's examine some of the sad history of religion this century.

City on a Hill

America's singularity has been attributed to its strong religious roots. It was founded upon the principles of the Ten Commandments. Our forefathers planned America to be the final experiment proving to all nations that Protestant, Judeo-Christian righteousness could guide a people into unparalleled greatness. America was to accomplish what ancient Israel failed to do—be the light of God to the nations.

The U.S. Constitution is replete with religious overtones. Because of this incredibly rich religious history, Paul Johnson, a noted British historian, often refers to America as “a city on a hill,” quoting the pilgrim father John Winthrop’s famous speech based upon Jesus Christ’s Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:14). America was to become the bastion of Christian truth.

America’s earliest immigrants established settlements on our teeming shores to escape religious tyranny in England. There was a conscious effort by America’s founders to ensure that secular life remained in harmony with the religious values taught from pulpits. But one was not to dominate the other. Diaries from early colonists reveal an active spiritual life. It was clear people understood that their protection, health and material blessings came from the hand of God, not the effort of man.

History shows that the intense American religious experience of the 1600s waned for brief periods in the next two centuries. Yet, there was always a strongly religious undertone to American life. When we come to the 1900s, however, we begin to see a radical shift away from things religious. Instead of leading the world to God, America began leading it away from God.

Moral Relativism

The industrial revolution that began in Britain in the 18th century also took firm hold in the United States. By 1900 there was a giddy optimism that nothing could stop America’s and Britain’s growth. Many believed that the 20th century would bring about the birth of an incredibly wealthy New World order. It was the desire of a powerful elite to have man build the New World of the 20th century—not God.

Along with the industrial revolution came the rise of science and intellectualism. Intellectualism made science its god. Scientific advancement was to become society’s new messiah. Intellectuals declared war on religion. They used the new sciences of psychology and sociology to replace the role formerly held by the traditional churches and the ministry. We can see clear evidence of this fact in the writings of early 20th-century theorists like Freud and Marx. Nietzsche declared that “God is dead” in 1882, voicing the thinking of many Western intellectuals.

This philosophy spread rapidly and was readily accepted by many intellectuals in European and American colleges and universities. It was believed and aggressively taught that science would give us the answers religion could not. It is unbelievable how quickly and willingly society accepted this monumental change.

Scientific theory soon controlled religious thought. A perfect example of this can be seen with Einstein’s theory of relativity. Intellectuals applied Einstein’s advances in physics to religion. Paul Johnson writes, “At the beginning of the 1920s the belief began to circulate, for the first time at a popular level, that there were no longer any absolutes; of time and space, of good and evil, of knowledge, above all value. Mistakenly but perhaps inevitably, relativity became confused with relativism” (*Modern Times*, p. 4). No one was more upset about this than Einstein. He believed in moral absolutes.

Yet the world did not. In the 1920s many Americans, in fact most all of Western society, believed that every individual could decide what was right or wrong. This same thinking had led to the corruption of the ancient Israelites at the time of the Judges. Samuel recorded, “In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Jud. 21:25). Soon after the 20th century began, the immoral floodgates were about to burst open in the West and in America. Unfortunately, America’s light to the nations would soon grow dim.

Evolution vs. Creation

Of course, the firstborn child of the intellectual movement was the theory of evolution, which is science’s explanation of a creation without a Creator. With the rapid spread of intellectualism came the growth in American evangelicalism also known as fundamentalism. Rooted in both 18th- and 19th-century revivalism, the fundamentalist movement sponsored Prohibition and the Sunday Blue Laws and attempted to regain control of Protestant seminaries succumbing to the new intellectual lib-

eralism. Specifically, they also took on the fight against the growing entrenchment of evolution teaching in public education. Fundamentalists supposedly claimed biblical infallibility in the matters of history and science.

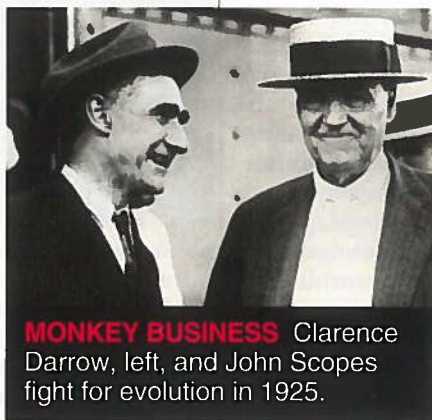
The controversy grew most intense when fundamentalists began to urge individual states to pass legislation forbidding evolution to be taught in public schools. Several southern states including Tennessee passed such laws. Tennessee’s laws led to the world-famous Scopes trial in 1925. The trial, featuring William Jennings Bryan for the prosecution and Clarence Darrow for the defense, was a fiasco. Popularly known as the “monkey trial,” it was a media circus. Intellectuals successfully exposed the religious disagreement on creationism within the religious movement. During the Scopes trial, fundamentalism was forever discredited in the eyes of intellectuals and the media.

From that time, the word *fundamentalism* became synonymous with the word *uneducated*.

The evolution vs. creationism controversy is still raging. Responding to conservative religious pressure, the Kansas Board of Education recently voted to

delete even the mention of evolution on state assessment tests. Evolutionists plan to respond with a fight. Who will eventually win? A better question is, what is the real truth? From a truly biblical perspective, both groups are wrong.

The weakness in American fundamentalism has always been the fact that their teachings are based not on the Bible, but on a distorted and twisted interpretation of the Bible. Taken without interpretation, the Bible makes sense. Since God intended the Bible to be the foundation of all knowledge, what is true in science must find support from the revelation in the Bible. A true reading of the Bible shows without question that the earth is millions of years old, but that man is definitely a recent special creation. In fact, all life currently in existence on this planet was made specifically to support man. This means that God has a very high



MONKEY BUSINESS Clarence Darrow, left, and John Scopes fight for evolution in 1925.

and exalted purpose for mankind. The Apostle Paul states clearly, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20). The Bible does reveal the answer to the creation vs. evolution controversy. Unfortunately, both sides are unlikely to come to the knowledge of this incredible truth.

New Morality

It was not long after the Scopes trial that fundamentalism lost its momentum. No matter how sincere its intention, it could not quell the ever-growing liberal tide sweeping the nation. The shocking destruction of World War I opened Pandora's box. Rather than face and solve the causes that produced the war, Americans and the Western world sought escape through mindless pleasure-seeking.

Ministers and parishioners alike cried out for more-liberal religious doctrine. Moral discipline and character came under attack by being declared outdated. It was just after World War I that publication of sex knowledge, once held as illegal, gained incredible popularity. A new morality was foisted upon a naive world. This new morality was in reality gross immorality. Often led by the clergy, Americans began experimenting with their two most stable commodities—marriage and the family.

Since World War I, divorce rates have soared. Juvenile delinquency has followed the same course. The world at that time could not see that its growing fund of knowledge was producing appalling evils.

In little over two decades, World War II unleashed on the world even more shocking tragedy. The devastation of life and property became mind numbing.

It is difficult to understand the emotional and mental devastation caused by World War II. For many of the Jews who survived the Holocaust, religion holds no meaning. Remember, it is estimated that 6 million Jews died at the hands of Nazi oppression. Few good answers could be given to the families that lost husbands and sons in the war. Many wondered how Christian societies could unleash such incredible evil. Not able to cope with the problem,

society took one more step down. If World War I plunged America into immorality, then World War II dumped it into the cesspool. Immediately after the war, under the shadow of the "bomb," America soon became a self-indulgent nation in love with itself and with its science-produced toys.

Flawed Evangelism

But in the late '40s and '50s, accommodating the baby boom, the ranks of traditional denominations swelled. It was also at this time that the evangelical movement began an incredible resurgence. With the advancements in television technology, several evangelists became media giants. Oral Roberts in the '50s and '60s paved the way for our '70s, '80s and '90s televangelists like Jim Bakker, Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Robert Schuller and Jimmy Swaggart. Several of these men achieved incredible success and sat on top of rich religious empires like PTL, CBN and TBN. But too often there has been proven fiscal corruption, deceit, doctrinal compromise and sex scandals.

Because of his failed visions, Oral Roberts is considered by many former followers to be a false prophet. Jim Bakker spent time in prison for mail and wire fraud. Jimmy Swaggart fell out of grace for sexual deviance. And recently Jerry Falwell, once maintaining a hardline stance against homosexuality, has met with homosexual church leaders to strike a compromise.

The evangelical movements of the '80s and '90s have suffered open shame and have brought upon themselves considerable contempt. Even the Roman Catholic Church is not without its end-of-the-century scandals. Leading clerics have been convicted for pedophile activities. The bottom line is that most if not all of American traditional religion has grown sickly and weak.

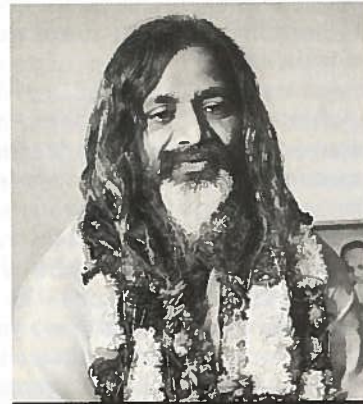
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The '60s Counterculture

This inherent sickness in traditional Christianity has given energy and drive to America's neo-pagan movement. Inspired by the senselessness of the Vietnam War, America's interest

in pagan religions began as part of the counterculture movement of the '60s and '70s. America's counterculture questioned all institutions. Since nothing traditional could be trusted, it had to be pulled down. Even the Catholic Church was affected. Hundreds of nuns and priests left the Church, inspired by the openness of Vatican II.

The Beatles' association with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi popularized the Hindu religion in America. Eastern philosophies such as Zen Buddhism found fertile ground with hippies, hallucinogenic drug users and offbeat uni-



POPULAR PAGAN
Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

versity students. The Hare Krishna movement captured many devotees in the '70s.

At this same time an interest in witchcraft and shamanism began to flourish. Publicly proclaimed witches such as Sybil Leek and Raymond and Rosemary Buckland did much to promote interest in witchcraft at that time. Since the '60s, interest in witchcraft

has expanded with each passing decade. It is now commonplace to find classes on witchcraft at many colleges and universities.

Why this growing interest in non-Christian religion? Doesn't the popularity of witchcraft reveal the fatal sickness in our late-century Christianity? As we close this century, we must come to the conclusion that Christianity has lost both its backbone and its teeth. Chas S. Clifton, editor of the book *Witchcraft Today*, states, "Some Christian clergy, no doubt, are convinced in their own minds that we are going to their hell in a hand basket, but they are courteous enough to keep the thought to themselves and not bother us with it" (p. 152). Desiring the praise of men and wanting to be politically correct, most clergy will not speak out against witchcraft or the other neo-pagan religions. It appears that our 20th century religion has become old and feeble, lacking will and muscle.

Unfortunately, for the near term, our problems in religion will grow worse. There will be more confusion. The Vatican is ready to inaugurate its

(continued on page 28)

Religion's Clash of the Century

Watch for it—the stage is set

BY RON FRASER

AS THE WESTERN WORLD LOOKS toward the start of its third millennium, based on the corrupt Gregorian calendar, religious conflict is increasing dramatically worldwide.

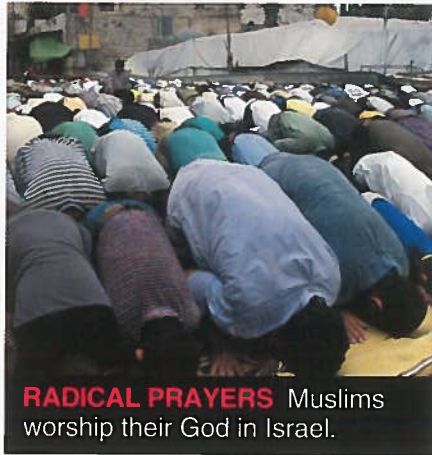
During the period of the peak of British and U.S. economic and military dominance of the world in the 19th century, on into the first half of this 20th century, the most aggressive expansion of religion came in the form of the great “Christian” missionary efforts of the Catholic and Protestant churches. Pagan religions were inhibited in their growth and influence wherever Britain and America reached out to assert their economic, political and military dominance. The Catholic and Protestant missionaries rode in on the coattails of the British Empire’s expansion, particularly to establish institutions of learning based on their religious philosophies.

From the mid-20th century, with the demise of the British Empire and the increasingly perceived unwillingness of the U.S. to use its massive firepower to actually *win* a war, local and national brands of religion began to reassert themselves. The result: heightened ethno-religious conflict.

Meanwhile, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics sought to squelch any religion, other than the communist ideology, within the whole of Eastern Europe, clear across to Siberia in the north and the Turkish-Iranian border to the south. This situation obtained in Eastern Europe until a Polish pope came on the scene in 1978. Using his powerful charisma, this most political of all popes commenced an aggressive campaign, in consortium with the CIA and the Reagan administration in the U.S., to crack the Soviet system. The pope’s war cry to Eastern Europe was, “Return to your roots.” He obviously meant their Holy Roman impirical *Catholic* roots. The rest is history.

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall

in 1989, the nations of Eastern and Southeastern Europe fell out of the Soviet fold in quick succession. That stultifyingly atheistic union speedily collapsed. The pope wasted no time in working dynamically to revive Catholicism in the Eastern European nations, with the result that Roman Catholicism enjoyed a dramatic resurgence. Meanwhile, Eastern and Russian Orthodox religions witnessed their own renaissance, prompting the pope to reach out in an effort to mend the fences which had divided Eastern Orthodox religions from the Romish “Christian” religion for 1500 years.



In the meantime, Islam had made dramatic strides in sweeping across the crescent of Arabic and Turkish nations in a great rolling revival following the Suez debacle in 1953 and the arrival of Egypt’s President Nasser on the scene in 1954. The next major event which shook the Islamic world into embracing radical new forms of Islam was the Iranian revolution of 1979. This, combined with the effects of diminishing British influence, the weakening of U.S. foreign policy and the incursions of Russia into the various cabals influencing Arabic politics have since fostered a prime breeding ground for a new, aggressive brand of Islam, whose chief enemy became the U.S. Yasser Arafat’s cries for “Jihad, jihad” against Israel have also helped to stoke the fires of Islam for support of the Palestinian cause, resulting in the increasing popularity of aggressive Islamic terrorist enterprises. These tend to feed off Arab youth, inspiring them with “heroic” suicidal acts, blowing themselves to bits in the process of delivering a car or truck bomb. Over the past 25 years, commercial jet aircraft, U.S. military barracks and, most recently, U.S. embassies have been Islamic terror-

ist targets. Yet, despite its mushrooming growth, the Islamic movement has remained disparate and fractious, without cohesive pan-Islamic leadership.

Nevertheless, the various brands of Mohammedan religion reach increasingly into Europe to cause consternation within that continent’s dominant powers, the Germany/Vatican-dominated EU and Russia. The Catholic Church has recently voiced concern over Islam’s incursions northward clear into Rome, the site of the Vatican state. “A bishop at a Vatican synod yesterday launched a broadside against Islam, bluntly accusing Muslims of plotting to dominate Europe and de-Christianize the continent.... ‘How can one not see in all this a clear program of expansion and re-conquest?’” (*National Post*, Oct. 14).

Suddenly, at the turn of another century, the world witnesses the scene set for a most dramatic fulfillment of end-time prophecy involving competing religions:

The Vatican is on the verge of launching its greatest crusade for Catholicism in over 700 years: their jubilee year.

Eastward, Russia, deeply concerned about the northward push of Islam through the region of the Caucasus, is mounting increasingly aggressive military campaigns to stem the flow. By the 1980s it was estimated that 50 million Soviet citizens were of Muslim ancestry.

And, having developed rapidly over the past 45 years from a non-entity into a powerful force to be reckoned with, the Islamic hordes of the king of the south are now readily identifiable on the world scene. *Trumpet* Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry has pointed to Iran, old Persia, as probably being the actual end-time king of the south, with the surrounding crescent of Islamic states from central Africa clear on up to the Caucasus mountains in support.

Over the century the situation has developed. Now, the evidence of the impending fulfillment of Daniel 11:40-45—the clash of the “king of the north” and the “king of the south”—is there for all to see. Truly, the future of global politics will be inspired by and driven by *religion*, preparing the way for that time, just ahead, when Catholicism, Islam and Communism, the three greatest religions of the world, crash together in that great final conflict on the plain of Megiddo in Israel. ♦

Religion *from page 26*

foremost crusade for Catholicism in over 700 years. On December 25, Pope John Paul II will announce Roman Catholicism's jubilee year. This global media blitz will call for all nations to work together for peace and reconciliation—the Vatican's way. This call will most likely breathe some fresh air into some tired Christians. But it is more likely to spawn agitation and rebellion.

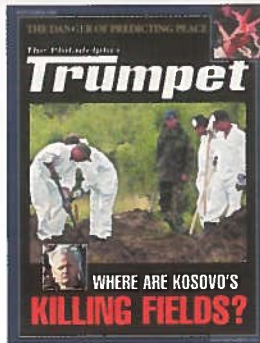
Beside the weakness in Christianity, there is also a new tension growing among other religions of the world. Radical Islam is on the rise and has already declared war on the West. The threat of nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan is basically a war of religion: India is Hindu and Pakistan is Muslim. Even the conflict in East Timor has serious religious overtones: Indonesia is Muslim and East Timor is Roman Catholic.

Jesus Christ prophesied, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24). Realize that this verse is to be fulfilled just prior to Christ's return.

But you do not have to be deceived. How do you protect yourself from religious deceit? You must prove whom Christ's elect are and then remain with that group of people. With God's help this can be done! Remember, Christ also said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:16).

New World Religion Coming

So what about the 21st century? Will religion get any better? Those of us who write for the *Trumpet* can safely assure you that new advances in religion are coming. Jesus Christ will return soon and re-establish His Father's religion worldwide. The prophet Zechariah states, "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zech. 14:16). Soon the whole world will be brought together and taught God's true religion. All who embrace it will experience the fantastic happiness, joy and success Jesus Christ promised. This is a Bible promise you can rely on. ♦



Fallout From Kosovo

«It's so hard to convince the world of the re-emergence of German domination, but it's certainly there for everyone with an open mind to see. Society generally thinks Germany is reformed, that their sordid past is ancient history and irrelevant.»

Charlotte, N.Y.

TRULY THE *TRUMPET* DYNAMICALLY CONFIRMS that the Holy Bible is a living book. Prophecies have come to fulfillment. It informs specifically of countries in prophecy, their history and their imminent future. It also confirms that this world is getting worse, although our prime minister, his cabinet, the businessmen and the bankers say it's getting better. It informs us people of a so-called "developing" nation of the mistakes of a so-called "developed" nation. Through the information we are blessed with, we are able to change our views about life—and true government.

New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea

ONCE AGAIN THE *TRUMPET* IS FAR AHEAD OF the most prestigious media news sources. A month after the "New American Witches" article in the September/October issue, many local and bigger news media outlets are filling their columns with stories on the rise of Wicca religions in this country. With the release of the November *Trumpet*, the propaganda war waged by the U.S. and NATO during the Kosovo fiasco is revealed! Where are the killing fields that drove our "moral" military conscience? The pot is boiling, modern-day Israel is weak and slowly dying on the world scene. Thank you for allowing the warning and power of our God to inspire your Work.

Lookout Mountain, Colo.

I AM AN ASSIDUOUS READER OF THE *TRUMPET*, especially since retiring in 1993. Thank you for unveiling for us readers all the "tricks" that our so-called leaders are up to. Yes, I agree that there are no more Churchills or de Gaulles to stand up for what is right.

St. Basil, Quebec

I FIND IT A WONDER AND A MARVEL THAT just 50-55 years ago, America's leaders had the character to enunciate Scripture—which Truman quoted (after becoming president in 1945) concerning Solomon's prayer that he be given an "understanding heart" to rule "this great people." Obviously, the humble looking to and trusting God for wisdom displayed by Mr. Truman and reminiscent of

Solomon is the complete antithesis of what we see today parading around in great arrogance and masquerading as public servants.

Rochester, N.Y.

Fatherhood

MR. FLURRY'S ARTICLE ON THE CONSPIRACY against fatherhood is so true. I can see it happening in my family and all around me. Families and nations are being destroyed.

Slidell, La.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR CONTINUING TO send the *Trumpet*. What a great source of news. I have now changed from Sunday back to the original Sabbath. Before I thought you were wrong but you weren't. The *Trumpet* is my only good source of real truth. Also other articles I appreciate, especially the one on fatherhood. I'm a German—if I see things come to fulfillment about Germany that you write, I will know you're true in this too.

Rakiraki, Fiji

I READ INDIA'S BEST MAGAZINES AND NEWS-papers, but no other literature can tell things precisely like the *Trumpet*. Besides the gospel of Christ, it includes current affairs, historical background, articles about the future, etc. It's a complete and prophetic magazine.

Meghalaya, India

Trumpet

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

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HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

A Better World Is Near

STATESMEN, SCIENTISTS, EDUCATORS KNOW THE ONLY HOPE for survival and for peace is one world government. We could quote many scores of world leaders affirming this.

We could quote other scores of world leaders saying it is impossible.

So it's "world government—or annihilation" on the one hand, and it's "world government is impossible" on the other hand.

That is the stark paradox of terror facing all mankind today. No wonder God Almighty says "the way of peace have they not known" (Rom. 3:17).

But what man cannot do for himself, the Great Living God will do for him. World government—perfect government—is coming in our time, in the hands of the Great Ruling Christ, and unnumbered thousands of Co-Rulers given immortality with and under Him.

And that good news is the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Christ is to inherit the world throne (Luke 1:32-33), which God had promised to David would never cease on this earth (II Sam. 7:13). Jesus said, before Pilate, it was for this express purpose that He was born (John 18:36-37).

Jesus constantly preached the good news about the coming Kingdom of God (Matt. 4:23; 6:10; 7:21; Mark 1:15; 4:11; 14:25; Luke 4:43; 8:10; 9:2, 11, 62, etc.). He pictured Himself as the young nobleman going away (to heaven) to be coronated and to return to earth (Luke 19:12-27).

Repeatedly Jesus said He would return to earth (Matt. 24:27, 30-31, 42; 25:13; Mark 13:26; Luke 12:42-43; 17:24; 18:8; 19:12; 21:27; John 14:3, etc.). "If I go and prepare a place [position, office, habitation] for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3). He will then be on the earth—Zechariah 14:3-4 with I Thessalonians 4:16.

The living Christ is coming in all the power and glory of Almighty God, as "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev. 19:11-21), to put down the rebellion of warring nations (Rev. 17:14), and establish God's world-ruling government over all nations (Dan. 2:44; 7:9, 13-14, 18, 22, 27; Isa. 9:7).

No wonder the whole hope of a true Christian is the resurrection (Acts 23:6; 24:15) to immortality—eternal life—as a co-ruler, under Christ. Jesus said: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron..." (Rev. 2:26-27). And again, "to him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne [on this earth]..." (Rev. 3:21; Luke 1:32-33). And "...we shall reign on the earth" (Rev. 5:10).

The Apostle John, in vision, saw a preview of the beginning of that rule and world government: "And I saw thrones,

and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4).

Jesus said no one could see or enter into the Kingdom of God until he is born of God (John 3:3-5). He made plain when one is born of God, he, just as God is, will be Spirit. We

have now, as humans, been born of flesh—and therefore we are flesh. But God is Spirit (John 4:24, Revised Standard Version), and when we are born of God—of the Spirit—we shall be Spirit (John 3:6-8). Now, we are earthy—of the earth (I Cor. 15:48). We are "flesh and blood" from the earth—from matter (v. 50)—yet flesh and blood humans cannot inherit the Kingdom of God (same verse). But, as we have borne the image of the earthy—mortal—human—we shall, when born of God, bear the image of the heavenly, that is, spirit (v. 49).

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of many brethren (Rom. 8:29; Col. 1:18) who shall be born of God "by a resurrection" (John 5:25-29; 6:39, 40, 44).

Christ, the King of kings. Perfect in character, absolute in honesty, integrity, faithfulness, loyalty and trust; filled

with outgoing concern for the governed—their welfare and salvation; total knowledge, understanding, wisdom. Complete love, mercy, patience, kindness, compassion, forgiveness. Yet, possessing total power, and never compromising one millionth of an inch with His perfect law—which is the way of love. He will enforce God's law—God's government on earth. He will compel haughty, carnal, rebellious humans to yield in complete submission to God's government.

No one will be deceived—as the vast majority of mankind is today. All will know the truth. No more religious confusion. Eyes will be opened to the truth. Humans will become teachable. People will start living God's way—the way of outgoing concern for others—the way of the true values—the way of peace, of happiness, of well-being, of joy.

Crime, sickness, disease, pain and suffering, gone. Poverty, ignorance banished. Smiles on people's faces—faces that radiate. Wild animals tame. Air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, gone. Crystal pure water to drink; clean, crisp, pure air to breathe; rich black soil where deserts, mountains and seas formerly were, producing full-flavored foods, and fantastic beauty in flowers, shrubs, trees. A world filled with happy radiating humans, guided, helped, protected and ruled by former mortals made immortal—and all the humans realizing that they, too, may inherit everlasting life in supreme happiness and thrilling joy.

What a fabulous picture!



ARTVILLE

Excerpted from the book The Wonderful World Tomorrow



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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Australia nationwide satellite—ATI 8:30 am, Sun
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Caribbean

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Puerto Rico—WGN 6:30 am, Sun**
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Egypt—Star World 12:00 am Sun
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Iran—Star World 1:30 am Sun
Iraq—Star World 11:50 pm Sat
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 Australia Television Int'l 8:00 am, Sun
 Fiji—Fiji TV 11:30 am, Sun
Hong Kong—Star World 5:00 am Sun
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China—Star World 5:00 am Sun
India—Star World 2:30 am Sun
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Indonesia—Star World 4:00 am Sun
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Laos—Australia Television Int'l 7:30 am, Sun
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Brunei—Star World 5:00 am Sun
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 Star World 5:00 am Sun
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