

NOVEMBER 2002

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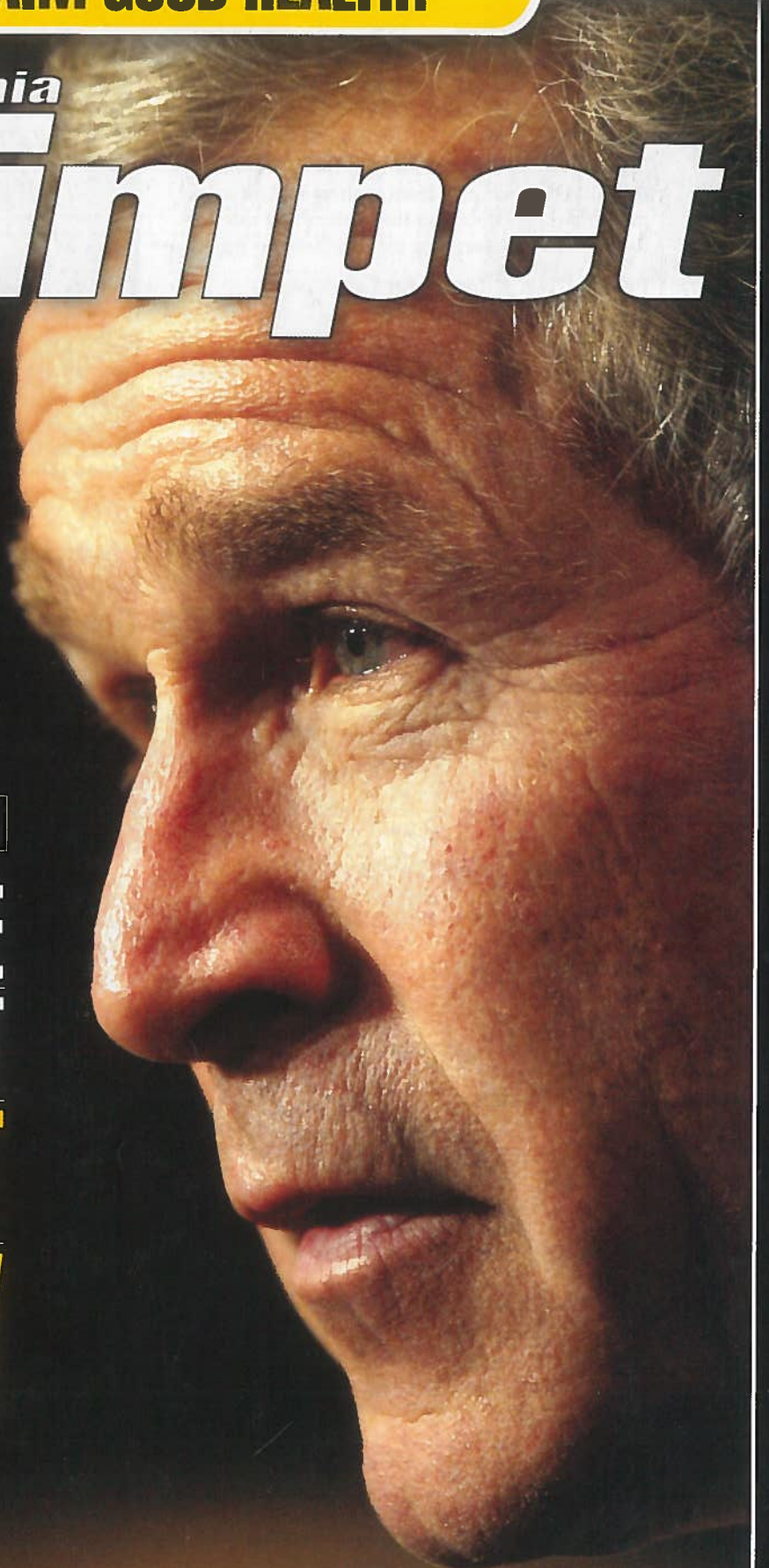
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AMERICA VS. IRAQ

**WHAT THE
PRESIDENT
DOESN'T
KNOW**



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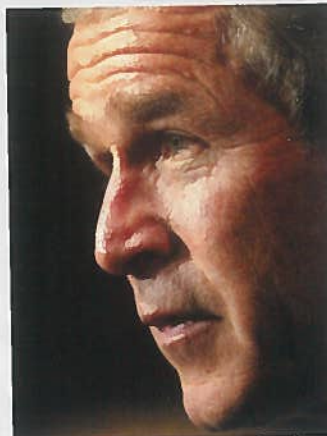
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ON THE COVER: United States President George W. Bush is contemplating a war on Iraq. (Reuters)



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Continue to Watch Stoiber

Gerhard Schröder was voted into a second term in the office of German chancellor in national elections September 22. But he could still lose that office in a short time.

Here is what Steven Komarow wrote in *USA Today*, September 23 (emphasis mine): “[Schröder’s challenger Edmund] Stoiber stopped short of conceding in a speech to supporters in Munich, but he predicted that Schröder’s majority will be too slim to form a lasting coalition.

“Should the result not allow us to form a government, then I predict before you that this Schröder government will rule for only a very short time,” Stoiber said. ...

“The electoral math here can be complex. The chancellor is elected by the Bundestag, or parliament. Schröder will form a coalition with the third-place Greens.

“IT WILL BE A WEAK MANDATE AT BEST, reflecting what polls showed was voters’ ambivalence. In pre-election surveys, voters supported Stoiber’s policies more, but Schröder was the more popular leader.”

I wrote a booklet titled *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!* (a copy of which we will send to you free upon request). Daniel is a book only for the end time (Dan. 12:4, 9). Our booklet explains Daniel’s prophecy about a powerful leader who is to rise on the world scene and lead a European Union more powerful than America or Russia. His number-one enemy will be the U.S.

How this man is prophesied to come to power is utterly fascinating and frightening.

He is going to be a *type* of the ancient Antiochus. He will appear on the scene in the “last end” (Dan. 8:19). Notice how he comes to power: “And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but *he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries*” (Dan. 11:21). Let’s not forget, this is a prophecy for the time we are living in right now.

This man doesn’t come to power the *honorable way*—by being voted into office. He takes it dishonorably! He will work behind the scenes and come to power by *flatteries*—not votes!

What does that mean? Mr. Stoiber could now work to wreck Gerhard Schröder’s fragile and weak coalition. The public would not even be aware of his efforts.

I believe that most German leaders think more like Stoiber than Schröder. Even the German people like his policies better!

That could make it easier for Stoiber (or conceivably someone else) to maneuver behind the scenes.

Regardless, some leader is going to HIJACK the European Union! The person who leads Germany will also lead Europe. Germany already dominates Europe—to a degree that is shameful, if you consider its past. Remember, it started both world wars—in which 50 to 60 million people were killed. Nobody should forget or ignore that past—including the German people!

If we don’t learn from the past, we are condemned to repeat it.

Hitler also did some behind-the-scenes manipulating to come to power. That method has worked well in German history.

Today we are more intent on watching terrorism coming from nations in the Middle East. But that is not the enemy we need to fear most of all. In many ways, it is only a decoy. There is a much greater enemy that continues to rise in Europe.

Herbert W. Armstrong prophesied of Germany’s rise to frightening power again, even when they were beaten into rubble at the end of World War II. This time they will be far more powerful than they were in the Second World War.

Since Mr. Armstrong’s death, the Philadelphia Church of God has continued to prophesy of Germany’s rise to

unprecedented power.

But we need to understand *why* Germany and Europe are rising in power. God is going to use them to punish the very sinful nations of America, Britain and Israel—unless we repent of our sins!

We are facing the most terrifying times ever on Earth. Our number-one question is that of HUMAN SURVIVAL. We must wake up and beseech our loving God for help. There is no other hope.

Germany is the number-one political power we need to watch. To understand this subject in more depth, write for our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.



Stoiber

“[Schröder’s] will be a weak mandate at best, reflecting what polls showed was voters’ ambivalence. In pre-election surveys, voters supported Stoiber’s policies more, but Schröder was the more popular leader.”

— USA Today, Sept. 23

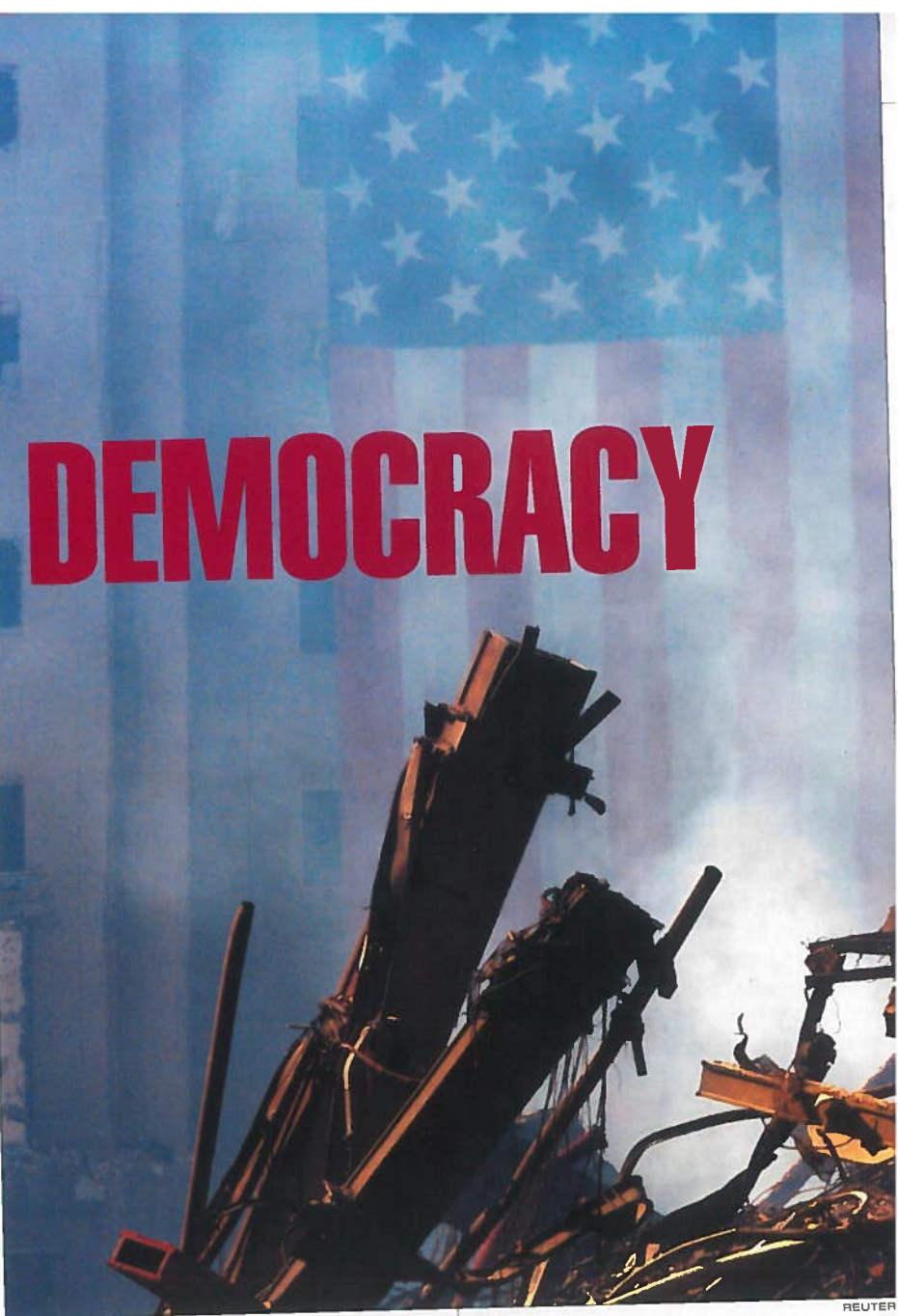
THE DEMISE OF

DEMOCRACY

Was September 11
the first blow in a war
that will bring down
the Western
democratic
system?

BY RON FRASER

COLLAPSE
The World Trade
Center after 9/11



UP TO SEPTEMBER 11 LAST YEAR, the world had a picture, played over and over in their minds, that portrayed the triumph of democracy over socialism. That was the vision of the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989.

Fast-forward to the autumn of 2001, and that image is replaced by the mind-shattering vision of the collapse of the World Trade Center's twin towers in New York.

Two seismic events, happening barely 12 years apart—the first triggering scenes of unbridled joy, spelling freedom for multiple millions from the Soviet yoke; the second unfolding visions of horror and fear, the terror of which stalks us to this day.

End and Beginning

When the Berlin Wall came down, producing the roll-on effect of uniting Germany and accelerating the failure of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Dr. Francis Fukuyama, professor of public policy at George Mason University, declared that the “end of history” had arrived. His thesis was that man had tried all conceivable forms of government and all types of economy, only to conclude that liberal democracy and market capitalism were the ultimate ways to organize the world.

The events of September 11 put a profound challenge to that thesis, so much so that Dr. Fukuyama felt the

need to write another paper, "Has History Started Again?" In it he maintains his previous stance, viewing the terror of 9/11 merely as a backlash against the onward march of the globalization of democracy to the point of inevitability.

Competing with Dr. Fukuyama's claims, professor Samuel Huntington, of Harvard University, suggests in his book *The Clash of Civilizations* that, far from mankind having reached its limit in the search for the best means to govern humankind's affairs, we are faced with a massive competition between cultures, each convinced that its traditions, beliefs and methods outline the way to the salvation of mankind.

Who is right? On reflection, what did the events of September 11 really portend for the *future* of mankind? Was this just a reaction from extremist representatives of one culture retaliating against the inevitable onward march of democratization just before it subsumes and overtakes their own opposing traditions, beliefs and methods? Or was this a powerful early warning of more, *much* more terror to come as the world's principal cultures move toward a climactic confrontation?

It is timely that we explore this phenomenon and make some real sense of this war-torn, strife-ridden, terror-threatened world in which we all live.

What Is Democracy?

Before the House of Commons on November 11, 1947, Winston Churchill made the following observation: "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."

Such was Winston Churchill's summation of democracy. Well, just what is this "best of the worst" system of government we call democracy? By classic dictionary definition, democracy is "government by the people in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system." Abraham Lincoln simplified it in his famous phrase declaring that democracy is a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

This idea came of age in the 19th century, as what has become termed the "modern age" dawned. Historian Paul Johnson describes the inception of the age of democracy thus: "Toward the end of the 1820s, the world moved a decisive stage nearer the democratic age. ... Governing elites began to realize that the right of the few to monopolize political power was no longer graven in stone" (*The Birth of the Modern*).

The coming of the age of democracy was, in Johnson's terms, "a grand and unmistakable fact, the culminating event in the way the matrix of modernity was forged" (*ibid.*).

"[P]olitics has a single central issue. In the broadest sense of the terms, that issue is one between overall change and stability, liberalism and conservatism, advance and immobility Men on the left were committed to the future, men on the right to the past."

• J.M. ROBERTS •

Thus *democracy* and *modernism* are closely intertwined, each providing a driving force for the other. In the process, the administration of government in Britain and America, and in Britain's dominions, progressively assumed "that the public good rather than that of the governors should be the aim of policy ..." (J.M. Roberts, *The Triumph of the West*).

In his masterful study of Western civilization, British historian Roberts postulates that the assumption that a public good exists presupposes that "things can be changed." Thus, he observes, the right and left factions in democratic politics emerged. The parliaments of Britain and its dominions and the Congress of the United States operated over the past 200 years essentially within the framework of two such opposing factions.

As Roberts explains it, "It embodies also the idea that politics has a single central issue. In the broadest sense of the terms, that issue is one between overall change and stability, liberalism and conservatism, advance and immobility Men on the left were committed to the future, men on the right to the past" (*ibid.*).

Admittedly this is an oversimplification of the process, yet it is essentially how a liberal democracy operates. This left-right dichotomy, in the words of J.M. Roberts, "was a great aid to po-

litical activity, which in most civilized countries gradually became a way of achieving peaceful change by competition between those who sought change and those who feared it.

"This was a great step in the history and political culture of mankind. In the long run even the most successful political systems, those of Great Britain and the United States, for example, could not remain wholly immune from it" (*ibid.*).

Democracy in Decline

But only two centuries on from the dawn of the age of democracy, this

"great step in history"—this force that empowered the governments of Britain, the U.S. and the British dominions to endorse, underwrite and succor the most inventive age of man, this great Anglo-American democratic movement—has faded most significantly from the vigor and vitality of its original vision. To quote Roberts, "To many in the West, their civilization appears to have gone wrong. Much that is unique about it has seemed to turn out to be weakness, or worse. Cultural self-criticism and self-questioning have seemed to lead to cultural self-destruction" (*ibid.*).

This problem, spawned a century ago with the birth of modernism, has more recently led to the current fashion for *revisionist history*, particularly in Britain, with many from the intelligentsia and the chatterati decrying their great and ancient British heritage, even to the point of becoming profoundly *ashamed* of it, having no concept of the *reason* for it!

Darwinism, Freudianism, Leninism and Marxism combined to throw doubt on traditional Western mores, culture and standards of behavior. This challenge to "the old way" profoundly impacted politics. According to Roberts, "In politics, the decline of confidence in the absolute values of liberalism was rapid and spectacular. It ran away at best into an easy pragmatism and at

worst into the outright irrationality which fed fascism. Appropriately, the Nazis consciously adopted the symbols of a pre-Christian, and therefore a pre-Western, pagan past" (ibid.). In other words, God was left out of the picture.

Thus Western culture, which had developed to its peak prior to World War I, began its descent into the shoddy mess it is today, with the tenets of classic Western democracy becoming increasingly corrupted in its wake.

The combined effects of the warped thinking of modernists such as Freud, Darwin, Hegel and Nietzsche (with the German rationalist thought underpin-

There simply cannot be a genuine democracy without a strong representation of the genuine conservative ideas upon which it was founded. Unless those fundamental democratic virtues are given a strong voice of support, the moral relativism of the left will overwhelm society and work to destroy its democratic foundations.

ning the modernist's credo from the early 20th century on) consummated in the 1960s and '70s to rock the very system of virtues upon which Western democracy had been founded. The result has been the production of a generation—now in positions of leadership within corporate, bureaucratic and political circles in the Anglo-American democracies—that has the minds of immature children (Isa. 3:4).

Of all post-war governments, it was the Clinton administration that brought to bear, on both domestic and international politics, some of the worst aspects of the moral relativism. This administration was overpopulated with children of the '60s and '70s who had their minds "closed" to reality (in the terms of professor Alan Bloom in his masterful work *The Closing of the American Mind*) via the brainwashing received from liberal-socialist professors at their universities and colleges during those two sad decades.

Within the U.S., in particular during the Clinton administration, moral sickness in the White House skewed the perspective of the governing elite away from the old moral absolutes and tore at the fabric of true democracy that had underpinned America in its greatest era of growth and development. The result has been a warping of the national perception of just what it is that American democracy stands for.

As Prof. Wesley McDonald of Elizabethtown College, Penn., comments, "The American political culture has changed so dramatically during the Clinton era that it is now reasonable to conclude that the social, moral and cultural basis necessary for the prevalence of genuinely conservative ideas no longer exists" (*Salisbury Review*, Winter 2000).

There simply cannot be a genuine democracy without a strong representation of the genuine conservative ideas upon which it was founded. Unless those fundamental democratic virtues are given a strong voice of sup-

port, the moral relativism of the left will overwhelm society and work to destroy its democratic foundations.

Spreading the Word

Looking back over the past century, what is of greatest significance that Western democracy has gifted to the rest of the world?

The terrible legacy of left-wing, liberal-socialist revisionism is that the baby has been thrown out with the bathwater. In their self-righteous attempts to decry their own rich heritage, Anglo-American revisionist historians, media merchants and their ilk simply try to bury the *facts* of history in their overt attempts to be politically correct.

A more objective analysis of the legacy of the Western democracies comes from the pen of J.M. Roberts: "[I]f we are seriously concerned about our own sensitivity to ethical nuance, we ought also to recognize that administrators, missionaries, teachers were often right in thinking that they brought valuable gifts to non-Europeans. Those gifts included gentler standards of behavior toward the weak, the ideal of a more objective justice, the intellectual rigor of science, its fruits in better health and technology, and many other good things. They spread progressive, humane aspirations about the world. In some places, the mere bringing of settled order was by itself an unquestion-

able good. They could also point, as time went by, to economic changes which brought new opportunities, longer lives, more comfort" (op. cit.).

The deepest roots of the missionary zeal that has promoted liberal democracy worldwide are anchored in America. Eric Bjornlund, former director of Asia programs at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, explained, "From the time of President Woodrow Wilson's crusade to 'make the world safe for democracy' to the era of the Cold War, Americans of virtually all political persuasions shared an ideological commitment to advancing the democratic cause in the world. ... Washington now devotes some \$700 million annually to democracy promotion" (*Wilson Quarterly*, Summer 2001).

The problem is that this effort to spread the gospel of democracy is predicated on one erroneous assumption—that all peoples think and act like Americans. *They don't!* Hence, when the U.S. naively tries to force foreign nations into the mold of its style of liberal democracy, it is nonplussed when it finds out that "not all of the industry's 'players' share the same commitment to democracy, and some are willing to sacrifice its pursuit to other foreign-policy goals" (ibid.).

Since the 1970s, the "democratization" of many of the world's nations has been a priority in U.S. policy. Samuel Huntington has observed that in the late 1970s, a "third wave" of democratization commenced with transitions of forms of government in Spain and Portugal. This spread to the Hispanic countries of Latin America and leaped across the Pacific to parts of Asia.

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 catalyzed the spread of democratic government throughout Eastern and southern Europe. During the 1990s, parts of Africa and Asia jumped on the democratic bandwagon. All told, 50 countries have transitioned from other forms of government to "democratized" administrations since 1988.

But the question is, *why?* Why this wave of "democracy" sweeping across the world over the past 30 years, and in particular the past decade and a half? How legitimate is this change, and what has motivated it?

The tenuous nature of much of this process is highlighted by Eric Bjornlund: "In the last decades of the 20th

century, democracy established itself as the world's dominant political ideal. Yet much of the world's population has yet to enjoy democratic rights, and the commitment of many ostensibly democratic countries remains questionable" (ibid.).

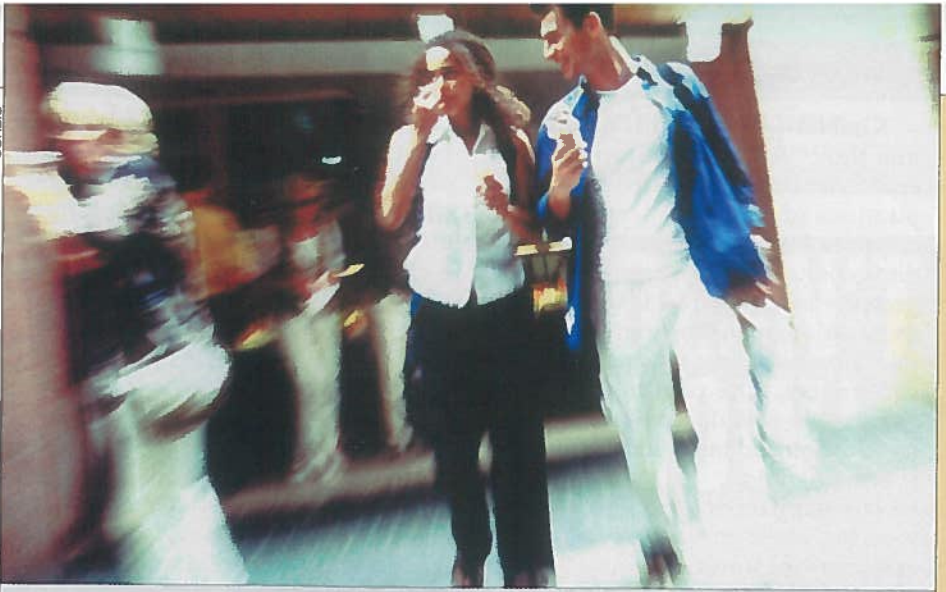
That this process has coincided with the massive export of American-produced television programs, music and other entertainment is more than coincidental. Human beings are generally not moved by logic or reason. It is imagination, emotion, *feelings* that motivate the masses of mankind. The appeal of "the good life"—typed by everything from its subculture of entertainment and national laid-back uniform of jeans, sweatshirt and sneakers to its voracious American-style consumerism and promotion of free and unmitigated choice within an economy of plenty—has been a powerful magnet to those in foreign lands. The simple equation in most minds is, "Democracy equals all of this."

There is a problem in this idea, however. As America has dumbed down its culture—its taste in all things from food to dress, from music to sitcoms—the quality of life and the fruits thereof are painting a very different picture of the *results* of democracy to the rest of the world from that which our Founding Fathers envisioned. Family breakdown, a huge drug subculture, rampant sexual perversion, violent crime—all these bitter fruits now being reaped by an Anglo-American society in decline are being perceived by undemocratic, religiously zealous, reactionary regimes as dramatic proof of the failure of the great Western dream.

This perception has contributed to the *Islamic backlash*. It is, right now, exacerbating relationships between the U.S. and Europe. It is destined to have a horrific effect, ultimately, on the U.S. and Britain and its dominions. Already, comparisons between the benefits of old-style autocratic rule and Western-style democracy are being made, even by some in the West.

Rights Without Responsibility

British journalist Katie Grant recently visited the autocratically ruled country of Turkmenistan. Her summation? "Turkmenistan may not be a free country, but there is no trash culture, no



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graffiti, and the people are happy." This country has no tradition of democracy. Yet, as Grant observes, "[T]he rule of an autocrat does have an up side. We extol democracy, which allows societies to operate on the level of the lowest common denominator, as the best way to function. But when you compare our filthy streets and job culture with the dignity of the Turkmen, democracy seems a shoddy affair. We haven't risen to Bach; we have sunk to Marilyn Manson" (*Spectator*, June 29).

Katie Grant's message to those who seek to impose, with such zeal, the West's form of liberal democracy on foreign countries is biting accurate, given the massive evidence of the system's current failures. "[T]hose who try to export Western democratic values should remember that for many of the Turkmen people there are a good many things that are right. When we export democracy, we export *Big Brother*. When we insist on the supremacy of individual rights, we export family breakdown and the culture of whinge and litigation" (ibid.).

As perceived by the Founding Fathers, democracy was to offer the citizenry freedom UNDER the law. But if the citizenry lose their fear of breaking the law because those responsible for legalization and the upholding of the law remove its sting, the process simply *breaks down*. It is well known that, in

some Arabian countries, you may leave your Mercedes Benz at curbside with the keys in the ignition. Why is this so? The fear of having a hand chopped off for thievery simply diminishes drastically the motive of any would-be car thief. Tough justice—but it works!

The idea of Western-style democracy contained, from its beginnings, the seeds of its own destruction. By stressing that human beings possessed certain "inalienable rights," the Founding Fathers opened the way for a far-less-democratic liberal-socialist generation to elevate the concept of *human rights* above the obligation of *human responsibility*.

The managing editor of *The New Criterion*, Roger Kimball, puts it this way: "In our own time, a time when everyone is clamoring for his or her 'rights'—when new 'rights' pop up like mushrooms—it is worth remembering that every right carries with it a corresponding duty. Some rights may be inalienable, but none is without price" (*National Interest*, Spring 2002).

Fear of Excellence

An additional price that failing Western democracy is now paying is in a particular form of the dumbing down of society—a move away from the old desire to be the best and toward a desire to blur all distinctions between people's unique abilities.

Kimball expresses this phenomenon thus: "Radical egalitarianism—egalitarianism uncorrected by the aspirations of excellence—would have us pretend that there are no important distinctions among people; where the pretense is impossible, it would have us enact compensatory programs to minimize, or at least to paper over, the differences. The results are a vast increase in self-deception, cultural degradation and bureaucratic meddlesomeness" (ibid.).

The standards of excellence which were the aspirations of previous generations—in times when the British

On reflection, there appears to be no other forms of government left for man to try. Having experimented with all forms over millennia of time, the major shift over the past two centuries has been from aristocracy to democracy—from being governed by a small, privileged elite to government by the masses.

The Anglo-American democracies lost more of their own precious nationals fighting in defense of this democratic system over the past century than any other campaigns in the history of humankind. Has it been worth it? A most provocative view has been

good on their promises. *These failures have contributed to the general revolt against civilization and to the desire among many to embrace a life of perpetual irresponsibility and self-indulgence*" (Malvasi, op. cit.; emphasis mine).

Mark Malvasi sees little about which to be optimistic for the survival of Western democracy: "It would be naive to pretend to optimism about our situation, even the sort of optimism that derives from knowledge of having seen the worst. ... We hope without reason, even as events in this world suggest that hope is unwarranted and unwise" (ibid.).

"To the extent that we have mastered nature and won our freedom, we have rejected the limitations of the human condition. No longer compelled to beseech God, we are confident that we are gods unto ourselves. Yet every day we witness the terrible consequences . . ."

• MARK MALVASI •

benignly ruled the greatest empire and the U.S. became the mightiest single nation on Earth—are buried in a mire of mediocrity. The false premise that we all must dumb down into a gray, amorphous mass of equality "threatens to overwhelm the impulse to achieve and to excel" (ibid.).

This insidious trend saps the nation's political will. Such is certainly in evidence over the present debate on Iraq. The U.S., rather than show the courage for immediate retaliation against a crazed, petty despot rattling his bio-chemical and pending nuclear weaponry in the Middle East, is spending months in fruitless debate seeking the approbation of the world, *including its enemies*, before it deigns to strike with any force to wipe such a pestilential threat from off the face of the map!

Every Government Tried

Western democracy has had its day.

Western civilization is in crisis and decline. It has been so since the First World War shattered the hope that Western culture was on the road to continuous progress toward a more rational and enlightened age. The Second World War shook Western democracy to its foundations. The cradle of democracy, the continent of Europe, came to realize at that point that the savagery of the "civilized" man had far outdone that of the barbarians who had preceded him.

put forward in reflection on this question by Mark Malvasi, history teacher at Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Va. Reflecting on 100 years of democracy, Malvasi muses, "To the extent that we have mastered nature and won our freedom, *we have rejected the limitations of the human condition*. No longer compelled to beseech God, we are confident that we are gods unto ourselves. Yet every day we witness *the terrible consequences that follow when men, who no longer see the virtue of imitating Christ, arrogate to themselves the role of God*" (*Intercollegiate Review*, Fall/Spring 2000-2001; emphasis mine).

How intriguing! The system that shopped "God" around the world, that publicized the life of Jesus Christ to millions of pagans in far-off lands, "no longer see[s] the virtue of imitating Christ."

While enlightened historian John Lukacs maintains that "The historicity of Jesus Christ ... is incontestable" (*A Student's Guide to the Study of History*), other members of the intelligentsia seek to bury this fact as an irrelevance in terms of the heritage of Western democracy!

"Modern ideologues, whether of the right or of the left, have vowed to make irrelevant the appearance of Christ in history by somehow returning us to our original innocence. None have made

Sure Hope

Yet, it is amid such hopelessness within human society that those who *truly* worship God, who *truly* understand the *reality* of Jesus Christ, should take heart. Their hope is not "without reason"! It is a *sure* hope of a far, far better future than that which the "worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time" could ever give to mankind. It is a real and *eternal* hope of the exciting, glorious, God-given potential of humankind!

The horrifying events of the past century, its "wars and rumors of wars," were but the fulfillment of Christ's prophecies of these phenomena contained in Luke 21:8-11. The *terror* ushered in by the great attack on American soil on September 11 is but the early beginnings of a terror that will have men's hearts failing in the last hour of man's civilization under his own rule (Luke 21:22, 26). But Jesus Christ told His followers, "[W]hen these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (v. 28).

Yes! It's time to *look up!* Look up in the *sure hope* of the return to this Earth of your Savior to quell all forms of government—including mankind's best attempts at his doomed democracy—and impose the *perfect* form of God's government upon all mankind—*forever!* As Isaiah 9:7 says, "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." ◆

Rumors of war are increasing as the U.S. builds its case against Saddam's Iraqi regime. But there is a fundamental problem in these plans and calculations—and it is obscuring the real threat to America! BY JOEL HILLIKER

WHAT PRESIDENT BUSH DOESN'T KNOW!



MAKING HIS CASE The president speaks to the nation on October 7

AS RUMORS OF WAR INCREASE, questions loom like thunderclouds. Grave questions of right and wrong, life and death. Questions about the future of peoples and nations. *Should the United States attack? Will it attack? Will it act alone or in league with other nations? Will Saddam fall? How would that affect Iraq's future—and that of the Middle East? How would this war affect the war on terror? Will the world really be a safer place as a result?*

If you were sitting in the U.S. president's chair and had to choose whether or not to order the attack, what would you do?

Assessing the Threat

U.S. President George W. Bush is clearly voicing his concerns and his intentions. On October 7, for example, in a largely untelevised address to the nation, he eloquently made the case for the use of force. He spoke of an Iraq enslaved by “a homicidal dictator who is addicted to weapons of mass destruction,” an Iraq bristling with chemical and biological weapons and actively seeking nuclear weapons, armed

with ballistic missiles and “manned and unmanned aerial vehicles” capable of long-range delivery—an Iraq not above using its arsenal to support anti-American terrorism. The U.S. must strike quickly, he said, explaining, “[T]he longer we wait, the stronger and bolder Saddam Hussein will become.”

The argument to strike Iraq is compelling, and the reasons are sound. The *Trumpet* does not take sides in political issues, but an objective look at the facts highlights the very real nature of the Iraqi threat and the potentially disastrous consequences of failing to contain it. Few Western nations contest this, at least in principle.

What is interesting, however, is how isolated the U.S. is in making such brash statements about Iraq. While many nations acknowledge that Saddam Hussein's regime is a problem, the U.S. is virtually alone in its insistence that decisive action be taken swiftly. In fact, many nations are viewing the U.S.'s confrontational approach with a certain contempt.

Why? The answer is startling. This is much more than simply two reasonable points of view butting heads.

Regardless of which view is correct, the differences in opinion create a real problem. In fact, the *Trumpet* can state with certainty that these differences portend the ultimate *failure* of any American action in Iraq—as well as the ultimate *end* of America's leadership role in the world today.

The media are saturated with facts and information regarding the Iraq situation. But they cannot tell you the REAL MEANING behind what you see developing!

The U.S. government is thoroughly informed, conscientiously considering the various arguments for and against this or that course of action. But they are doing so in complete *ignorance* of the GRAND PURPOSE being worked out in these events, and where they are destined to lead!

You now have the opportunity to see this prophetic picture—to grasp what is ignored by the great majority.

Power to Prophecy

Though many people believe in the God of the Bible, they are unclear *whether*, or to *what degree*, or just *how* He influences the flow of events in this world.

REUTERS

But the Bible is clear on this point! The Creator God *does* influence—even CONTROL—certain events and circumstances. He has done so throughout mankind's history—and not arbitrarily, but for specific, thoroughly reasoned purposes.

God inspired the Prophet Isaiah to quote Him as saying, "... I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done*, saying, MY COUNSEL SHALL STAND ..." (Isa. 46:9-10). Here God refers to His singular ability as the omnipotent Creator and Sustainer to FORECAST FUTURE EVENTS and then *bring them to pass!*

"Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: *before they spring forth I tell you of them*" (Isa. 42:9).

This is in fact the one IRREFUTABLE proof God gives us of the veracity of the Holy Bible!

In the 1980 version of *United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong explained, "Through His inspired prophets, the great God caused to be written, some 2,500 years ago, and preserved in writing to our time prophecies filling approximately a third of the whole Bible. In them, He named every city of consequence of that time on Earth—and also every nation! And He foretold precisely what would, through the years, happen to every city and every nation! In every instance the prophecies came to pass!

"What was prophesied HAPPENED to Babylon, to Tyre, Sidon, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron; to Egypt, Assyria, Chaldea, Persia, Greece and Rome. There has not been a miss! Those prophecies were accurate." This is simply a matter of the record of history.

Mr. Armstrong concluded, "And now, in other prophecies, the same supreme God has foretold precisely what is going to happen to the United States, the British nations, Western Europe, the Middle East, Russia!"

How? How can God ensure that His prophecies unfold just as He said, millennia ago, that they would?

Daniel 4:25 says, "[T]he most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will." Romans 13:1 confirms this by saying, "[T]here is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." God oversees who is put into offices of authority, whether He personally selects someone or *allows* the result of an election, appointment or political coup to stand. But if for whatever reason a potential leader would not serve His overall purpose, God ensures that person never makes it into the office he or she would seek.

Moreover, God can sway and influence the minds of those in office whenever necessary. "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will" (Prov. 21:1). As an example, Ezra 1 depicts God moving the mind of the great Persian King Cyrus to help the captive Jews.

Make no mistake—every person has free moral agency and the power of choice in his or her individual life. But God guides the overall flow of events and ensures that it follows the pattern He has prophesied, to demonstrate His power and supremacy over the affairs of humankind!

Throughout history, God has proven His power to prophesy accurately. We only must believe in faith what God has revealed will occur in our day.

AND GOD HAS ALREADY EXPOSED IN HIS WORD THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF THE IRAQ SITUATION!

What is it? And where does this leave President Bush in the current conundrum facing the U.S.? Only after we understand *God's view* can we correctly evaluate the present circumstances.

Blessings and Curses

God made some astounding promises to ancient Israel and its descendants. We must understand that these promises apply to modern-day America. Our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* will prove to you the fact that the U.S. descended from one of the 12 tribes of the biblical nation of Israel.

One *conditional* promise God made concerns our success or failure in conflicts with other nations: "*If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them ... I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid ... And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword*" (Lev. 26:3, 6-7)—among a host of other blessings for obedience.

But, God warns on the other hand, "[I]f ye will *not* hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments ... I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror ..." (vv. 14, 16)—along with other specific *curses* God will bring upon the nation for *disobedience*.

The Prophet Isaiah declared, "Behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, shall *LOP [OFF] THE BOUGH WITH TERROR: and the high ones of stature shall be hewn down, and the haughty shall be humbled*" (Isa. 10:33).

Unpleasant as it may sound, it is a fact: America—spurning God's commandments and proudly seeking its own way in the world—is CURSED. What blessings it does possess (which are great and numerous) are here in fulfillment of other, *unconditional* promises God made to righteous Abraham and specific certain of his descendants. But as was prophesied in Leviticus 26, America is not only suffering from an *absence* of the blessings God promises to the nation that looks to Him for guidance and protection. It is suffering specific and increasing *curses* that are handicapping its effectiveness among nations!

It is for this reason that the U.S. is finding itself in such a difficult position today—and not just with Iraq.

A Hated Nation

Before the September 11 terrorist attacks, America was quickly losing respect in the eyes of the rest of the world.

Bill Clinton's presidency had been marred by scandal and impeachment, and concluded with failure in Middle East peace initiatives. Bush's presidency began with a series of foreign-affairs blunders and shocks—a U.S. sub surfacing under a Japanese fishing boat, a U.S. spy plane colliding in midair with a Chinese fighter pilot; Bush cancelling or boycotting summits and pulling out of international negotiations and

Post-9/11 sympathy quickly turned to skepticism, then to hostility over the war on terrorism. Nations acted as though the U.S. should merely turn the other cheek to the terrorists.

agreements. "It looks like total unilateralism, saying 'we don't care at all what is happening in the rest of the world,'" complained one German specialist in transatlantic relations.

In the aftermath of September 11 there was a quick surge of sympathy from abroad. "We are all Americans" was the message. The U.S. used the opportunity to construct painstakingly a coalition of nations to fight terrorism.

But sympathy quickly turned to skepticism, and then to hostility over the way President Bush began executing the war. His "you're either with us or against us" ultimatum and "axis of evil" declaration were poorly received.

Nations acted as though they would have been more impressed if the U.S. had merely turned the other cheek to the terrorists.

Victor Davis Hanson wrote in the October 2002 issue of *Commentary*, "What seems beyond denial is that, from the Atlantic coast to the Balkans, there has been a rise in the level of truculence [hostility]. ... As for governments, no less indisputable is that most of them have greeted with disapproval or distaste nearly every major American foreign-policy initiative of the past two years."

As "A Target for Criticism" (below) points out, the superiority of

American power—and the uneven or unpredictable manner in which it is often used—has engendered a strong and growing desire among other nations to topple the world's most powerful country. The disdain that developed when the U.S. was governed by a peace-and-appeasement administration has become too strong to contain; it has only grown more virulent since a more muscular government has come to power.

Most Americans, receiving their news from only U.S. news sources, would be shocked at the level of anti-Americanism and hatred being expressed overseas.

P E R S P E C T I V E

GARY RETHFORD

A TARGET FOR CRITICISM

Power alone does not a leader make.

AMERICA STANDS, ALONE, AT THE PINNACLE OF WORLD POWER. One writer recently compared it to the Roman Empire: "It is a truth universally acknowledged that the central feature of the world at the outset of the 21st century is the enormous power of the United States. ... In the league standings of global power, the United States occupies first place—and by a margin so large that it recalls the preponderance of the Roman Empire of antiquity" (*Foreign Affairs*, Sept./Oct. 2002).

In fact, as a July/August 2002 article in the same journal points out, America anticipates spending more on defense in 2003 than the next 15 to 20 biggest spenders combined. The U.S. has "overwhelming nuclear superiority, the world's dominant air force, the only true blue-water navy, and a unique capability to project power around the globe." California's economy alone is the fifth-largest in the world, behind the economy of the United Kingdom.

With such dominant military and economic power, America naturally assumes a major leadership position among nations. But, more and more, this huge disparity in power between America and everyone else is not being viewed as justification for greater American influence, but as an imbalance that must be corrected.

One article phrased the problem this way: "The preponderance of America's power—economic, political, military and cultural—is fast becoming a liability. In State Department meeting rooms it's called the 'hegemony problem,' a fancy way of describing the same resentment that children harbor for the biggest, toughest and smartest kid in school. ...

"The complaint abroad is not that America is withdrawing into an isolationist shell, as it has so often in the past. Rather, foreigners diagnose America as suffering from a bad case of 'me first'" (*Los Angeles Times*, March 26, 2000).

Two types of leaders people will not willingly follow are bullies and hypocrites. Yet America is often seen as both.

As an example, in June, when President Bush announced that he would only work with the Palestinians on Middle East peace initiatives if they changed their government, many took notice—and not in a positive way. As Anatole Kaletsky wrote in the *Times* (London), "There was a chillingly Orwellian quality to his proposal that Palestinians should vote for leaders approved in advance by Israel and Washington" (June 28). We should not be surprised that the world perceives such directives as bully tactics, and anything but democratic.

America lectures the world, then expects the world to agree with its advice, follow that advice, and act like America.

But other nations do not think like America. In fact, some want nothing to do with what they see emanating from the States. Not only are many disaffected with the omnipresence of its immoral culture, they perceive screaming hypocrisy in American foreign policy. As one writer put it, "[T]he United States has supported right-wing dictators and violent, undemocratic forces around the world in the name of anti-communism, stability and the fostering of U.S. economic interests. Inevitably, this has come back to haunt us" (*Seattle Times*, Sept. 20, 2001). Consider the U.S. support and arming of Saddam Hussein, in opposition to Iran, during the 1980s. Or the U.S. support sent to the Taliban in Afghanistan—and the CIA support to Osama bin Laden—during the same decade, as they fought against the Soviet-backed regime.

Being a leader that operates by different rules does not encourage the world to follow a nation's example. America, in doing so, has helped make itself a target for an increasingly virulent strain of criticism around the world.

How true are the words of John Winthrop, the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay colony: "[W]e must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world."

Two types of leaders people will not willingly follow are bullies and hypocrites. Yet America is often seen as both.

Though they are more than willing to draw on aid from the States militarily and monetarily, other nations are also quick to heap scorn upon virtually every aspect of U.S. foreign policy. Whether or not that criticism is justified, many countries—in the Middle East and Europe particularly—walk a precarious line between needing and seeking help from the U.S. and, at the same time, pursuing policies that undermine its preeminence.

This paradoxical strategy is certainly in evidence on the Iraq question. Today, though the Bush administration is trying passionately to con-

today shows that, just 11 years ago, the answer to that question was no.

The costs of launching an offensive such as America is contemplating are great. The real costs of a unilateral strike on Iraq, however, are not financial, but political. Such an action would only agitate the anger and resentment of the international community over what it perceives as American arrogance and bullying.

The farther out President Bush sticks his neck over Iraq, the more apparent it becomes that the United States is being hung out to dry. And that is just fine with a world that doesn't want

indecisive manner (such as the Gulf War that left Saddam in office and his malevolent will intact).

President Bush is talking tough. He has already proven himself inclined to use America's military power more forcefully than the previous administration. But does this mean the United States has *strong pride in its power*—and a *strong will to USE IT DECISIVELY*? Far from it!

It was in January that President Bush labeled Iraq part of an "axis of evil." It is approaching a full year since then—a year of endless discussion over a possible military strike—with no action taken, as of the time of this writing. And, because of this prophecy, the *Trumpet* can predict that if the U.S. does strike Iraq, the action will not have sufficient strength to deter future militarization on the part of this enemy. Even if it succeeds in dismantling Saddam's regime, other prophecies, which we will shortly examine, show that the outcome will ultimately work against the U.S.

God did not say that America would not *have* power, but rather that its *pride* in that power—its will to *DECISIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY* use that power—would be broken. In fact, God further prophesied that America *would EXERCISE ITS MILITARY STRENGTH!* But He warned, "your strength shall be spent *in vain*" (v. 20).

Whatever war efforts America undertakes in Iraq will prove shortly thereafter to have been *SPENT IN VAIN!* Not necessarily because they were unjustified, or poorly planned, or incompetently executed—but because *AMERICA IS CURSED!*

The Outcome in Iraq

The U.S. government is devising its war plans. But God has a greater plan. "The Eternal ... brings to nothing what the nations plan; but the Eternal's purpose stands for ever, and what he plans will last from age to age" (Ps. 33:10-11, Moffatt).

God makes and unmakes nations—the American president does not. God "increaseth the nations, and he destroyeth them: He enlargeth the nations, and he leadeth them captive" (Job 12:23; American Standard Version). "Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance All nations before him



BURNING BRIDGES An October 15 anti-U.S. protest in the Philippines, a U.S. ally

vince the rest of the world of the need for decisive action in Iraq, the rest of the world remains unconvinced. *The "coalition against terrorism" has proved to be paper-thin, and now, not even a year old, lies in tatters.*

A Lonely War

Time has already shown that last September's terrorist strikes (themselves borne of violent anti-Americanism) did nothing to improve America's standing in the family of nations.

Now the U.S. faces the prospect of attacking Iraq again, but this time—unlike the 1991 Gulf War, for which there was broad international support and much of the expense was absorbed by coalition partners (including Gulf states Saudi Arabia and Kuwait)—it will be virtually alone.

The president speaks as if the U.S. is perfectly willing to act alone if necessary. But questions abound. Will a Bush administration truly commit the resources necessary to complete the job? The fact that Iraq is a problem

to have to follow the U.S. anyway.

Such is the fate of a nation being *CURSED* by God.

Broken Will

Let's consider another of the specific curses God promised to send upon a disobedient nation. Despite America's aggressive talk, we must look at the facts plainly and conclude that the U.S. is in fact a victim of this divine proclamation.

In the same chapter of Leviticus 26, God warns, "I will break the pride of your power" (Lev. 26:19).

We often refer to this prophecy in the *Trumpet* and point out as its specific fulfillment the weakness in American foreign policy—its failure to act swiftly and decisively. Concrete examples include not only those instances where America was threatened or attacked and did nothing (such as the series of pre-9/11 terrorist attacks over the past decade on U.S. embassies and overseas interests, and the 1993 World Trade Center attack), but also those cases where America *did* act, but in an

are as nothing ..." (Isa. 40:15, 17).

So what will the outcome of the present struggle over Iraq be? God has determined it in advance!

The *Trumpet* has often spoken of a prophesied "king of the south" (Dan. 11:40) likely being a potent Middle Eastern country leading a coalition of nations united by radical Islam.

Is Iraq the king of the south? As much as Saddam Hussein wishes otherwise, his country is not looked to as a leader among Mideast nations. It was crippled by the Gulf War, it has languished under sanctions and low-level military strikes ever since, and it may soon be incapacitated even further by another major U.S. strike.

So who is the king of the south? *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has been pointing the finger at one Middle Eastern nation in particular for almost a decade: Iran!

A major concern, should Iraq be taken out as a power in the Middle East, is the destabilizing of the region. If Saddam is removed with no clear, strong successor, Iran would come to the fore even more. Read what Mr. Flurry wrote eight years ago: "The most powerful Arab country in the Middle East is *Iran*. Can you imagine the power they would have if they gained control of Iraq, the second-largest oil producing country in the world? If so, there seems to be little doubt that Iran would lead the king of the south" (*Trumpet*, Dec. 1994).

Thus, in its very attempt to neutralize the threat from the Middle East and stabilize the region, America will very likely help create and aggravate an even worse problem!

President Bush is acting upon the possibility that Iraq may attack the U.S., possibly via terrorist cells, with biological, chemical or even nuclear weapons. This truly is a possibility, outlined in prophecy (see p. 12). Request a free copy of Mr. Flurry's book *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet* and study the prophecies depicting a full *one third* of Americans being killed in plagues of violence and burning such as may be inflicted by terrorists!

But the indication is, Iraq is far from being the greatest of threats to the States. In fact, when all is said and done, in retrospect it will be seen as a fatal *distraction* from the real threat!

Within the Middle East, all indications are that IRAN will pose the much greater problem in the long run.

The Outcome in the Middle East

Should America, then, go after Iran? Perhaps. However, *no Bible prophecy speaks expressly of a direct conflict between the U.S. and the king of the south.*

Prophecy instead explicitly tells of the demolition of this Mideast power by the "king of the north"—the *European Union*.

Realize what this means: The U.S. won't be the victor in its present war on terrorism. EUROPE will!

Prophecy affirms the imminent rise of the European Union to dominate the global political scene. And when Europe turns its hand to address the problem of Mideast terrorism, it will do so through decisive BLITZKRIEG WARFARE!

We must implant this firmly in our minds in order to understand the significance of the U.S.'s pre-

sent effort. This is God's sure forecast of the ultimate end of the forces of Mideast terror. Read it! Believe it! "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south [Iran] push at him: and the king of the north [Europe] shall come against him like a WHIRLWIND, with *chariots*, and with *horsemen*, and with *many ships*; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the *glorious land* [Israel and Jerusalem], and MANY COUNTRIES SHALL BE OVERTHROWN ..." (Dan. 11:40-41).

Europe will not single out specific terrorists. It won't put its sights on a single dictator within one country. It won't be squeamish about civilian casualties. Europe will come in a storm of fury! It will "overflow"—meaning inundate, cleanse, drown, conquer. *Whole countries* will be "overthrown"!

This is how the war on radical Islamic terrorism will end. In fact, this is the only way this war COULD end! Pres-

ident Bush has talked about a vast network of terror that must be rooted out. The network is SO VAST that nothing short of a sudden, furious and indiscriminate *whirlwind* will get rid of it!

The inescapable conclusion we must draw, then, is that the U.S. will fall short of its stated goal—and EUROPE, watching from the sidelines, will LEARN THE LESSON. They won't make the same mistake!

We must also deduce that there will soon come a point when *the U.S. won't even be a factor in this war.* In fact, numerous other prophecies foretell a crushing downfall for the world's currently most powerful country. *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* details many of them.

Understand: The *Trumpet* staff would like as much as anyone to see America conquer terrorism. But prophecy shows that it is, regrettably, underestimating its enemy. If we take a dim view of present U.S. efforts, it is because we know the Bible's stated outcome!

However, astoundingly, it is possible for America to repent and turn to God—to actually TURN THE CURSES and PREVENT THE PROPHECIES FROM BEING FULFILLED! God reveals Himself in the Bible as being prepared to CHANGE HIS MIND based on the fruits of repentance. Witness Nineveh: "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not" (Jonah 3:10). Astonishing precedent from a God of love who has absolutely no desire to see a single person die unnecessarily (Ezek. 33:11).

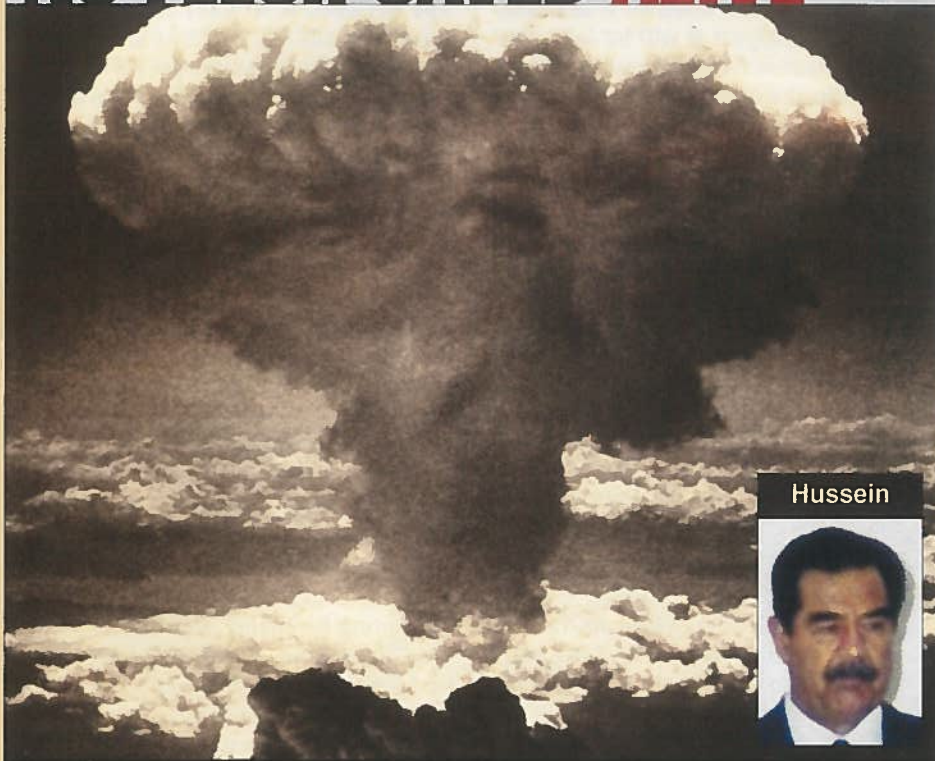
But whether the nation does or not, you can repent individually. God is providing you this warning to give you that very opportunity. God is giving *you* the opportunity to see the prophetic picture, ignored by the great majority—to stir you to action!

With the country currently deploying ships and planes and personnel, America may appear strong to some. These actions may even be temporarily holding the next attack at bay. But on the whole, they are not acts of courage, but of fear. And they are not complete or savage enough to eliminate the threat.

Sadly, that will take a whirlwind from the north—the same whirlwind that will deliver the decisive blow to America. ♦

America's war efforts will soon prove to have been spent in vain. Not necessarily because they are unjustified, poorly planned or badly executed—but because America is cursed!

NO FLESH SAVED ALIVE



CORBIS

REUTERS (2)

OMINOUS CLOUD The atomic bomb over Nagasaki in 1945

The Bible speaks of a threat that would leave cities without inhabitant—a nuclear threat that will soon be fulfilled!

BY ERIC ANDERSON
AND MARK JENKINS

IN 1945 THE WORLD ENTERED A NEW age with the successful testing of nuclear weapons in the United States. That same year, their potential for the unleashing of unprecedented horror was revealed with the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The world had entered the nuclear age.

Ever since, mankind has lived under the threat of the nuclear cloud. Within 10 years the nuclear powers had stockpiled sufficient weaponry to literally fulfill a startling prophecy of Jesus Christ relating to the end of the age. His disciples had asked Him, “[W]hat shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matt. 24:3). Jesus responded with a detailed prophecy of the events that would lead to His return. In that context, He described the conditions that would prevail in the last hour of man’s civilization as we know it: “And except those days should be shortened, THERE SHOULD NO FLESH BE SAVED ...” (v. 22).

Nuclear Proliferation

Since the end of the Cold War, the prospect of surplus nuclear weaponry falling into the hands of smaller nations, even terrorist cells, has escalated dramatically. After the USSR’s collapse in 1991, more than 40,000 nuclear weapons, plus more than 1,000 tons of highly enriched uranium and 150 tons of plutonium, were left behind in former Soviet republics. The U.S. has allocated \$10 billion to about 30 projects for dismantling nuclear weapons in Russia. But some experts say this funding is only about one sixth of what is needed. Rumors abound of nuclear devices and components of nuclear weapons disappearing from ex-Soviet countries’ inventories. Strong indications exist of black market trade in both nuclear technology and weapons.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, an independent branch of the United Nations, has confirmed 14 thefts of weapons-grade plutonium in the last decade—all from the former Soviet Union.

The *Daily News*, N.Y., reported that records recovered in Afghanistan show that “al Qaeda leaders have studied how to build nuclear devices” (Sept. 11). Though the sophistication of these documents is questionable, the capability of terrorists gaining access to bombmaking expertise was made clear by the Taliban’s pre-September 11 hiring of two Russian nuclear scientists.

In mid-October, North Korea stunned the world with its admission that it has been secretly developing a nuclear weapons program since the late 1990s, breaking a promise made in 1994 that it would not do so. Kim Yong Nam, ceremonial head of state, said, “If the United States is willing to withdraw its hostile policy toward the North, the North also is ready to resolve security concerns through dialogue.” In other words, they are not agreeing to dismantle their nuclear weapons program, but simply to open a dialogue if the U.S. meets its demands.

The nuclear threat is also looming in Iraq. U.S. President George Bush discussed Iraq’s nuclear capabilities in an October 7 speech, explaining that before the Gulf War, intelligence sources thought Saddam Hussein was 8 to 10 years away from developing a nuclear weapon. However, “after the war, international inspectors learned that the regime had been much closer. The regime in Iraq would likely have possessed a nuclear weapon no later than 1993. The inspectors discovered that Iraq had an advanced nuclear weapons development program, had a design for a workable nuclear weapon and was pursuing several different methods of enriching uranium for a bomb.”

And today? “The evidence indicates that Iraq is reconstituting its nuclear weapons program. Saddam Hussein has held numerous meetings with Iraqi nuclear scientists Satellite photographs reveal that Iraq is rebuilding facilities at sites that have been part of his nuclear program in the past.” Does anyone doubt that Saddam Hussein would use nuclear weapons?

Awash in Nuclear Material

Today, the inevitable reality is this: Nuclear (as well as biological and chemical)

weapons and the vehicles that transport them have proliferated from *developed* to *developing* nations, and there is an increasing likelihood that these weapons will fall into the hands of terrorist groups. Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. secretary of Defense, predicted in May that terrorists will “inevitably get their hands on” weapons of mass destruction.

Most any government or terrorist could acquire nuclear weapons. “The world is awash, say experts, in nuclear material—much of it loosely monitored by governments, international agencies, or growing numbers of private concerns that oversee nuclear reactors” (ibid.).

It is not that difficult anymore for any determined nation to build a nuclear bomb. As the *Plain Truth* said in April 1980, “If you can enrich uranium, you can make a bomb.” At that time, only eight countries had such a capability. Today, 17 countries either have nuclear weapons or are believed to have the means to produce them.

Sixteen nations have the missile technology to hit distant targets (*Associated Press*, Sept. 11). Even more disturbing is that “32 countries produce more than 150 different kinds of unmanned drone aircraft capable of flying undetected below missile-defense systems to deliver a nuclear or biological payload” (ibid.).

Enriched uranium is not in short supply. “More than 22 tons of highly enriched uranium are controlled by civilians in some 345 aging nuclear power plants and research reactors in as many as 58 countries, presenting countless opportunities for theft” (*Daily News*, op. cit.).

Established Nuclear Powers

The unpredictable and irrational nature of terrorist entities and rogue states without doubt gives rise to the risk of rash use of any nuclear weaponry at their disposal. But is this the limit of the nuclear threat? Can we be sure other “stable” countries possessing nuclear technology will always act responsibly? Will the countries with confirmed nuclear arsenals—Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, Russia and the U.S.—never use that incredible power?

The history of nations has shown that whatever weaponry has been at their disposal *has* eventually been used. Are we safe in this world where such nuclear power exists?

Biblical prophecies, in fact, reveal that the greatest threat is *not* from Middle Eastern terrorists or rogue states, but from Europe—the German-led Eurocombine. The German nation has led the world into two world wars. As the *Trumpet* has often shown, events are leading toward a third and final showdown involving this European power that will culminate with the return of Jesus Christ to Earth (Zech. 14:1-4, 9). When the time comes, this power will not hesitate to exploit their nuclear capability (request our booklet on *Nahum*).

Prophesied Waste

The great Creator of our universe revealed to the prophets of old certain end-time events which bear striking resemblance to the effects of nuclear warfare. Though these men did not use terms like *thermonuclear* or *radioactivity* to describe the horrifying times to befall modern civilization, they did describe the conditions we see on the horizon with alarming accuracy thousands of years ago!

For example, the Prophet Jeremiah foretold terrifying events that would occur immediately prior to the “Day of the Lord” and the return of Jesus Christ: “[B]ecause they are burned up, so that *none can pass through them*; neither can men hear the voice of the cattle; both the fowl of the heavens and the beast are fled; they are gone. And I will make Jerusalem [a type of the modern nations of Israel, including the United States and Britain] heaps, and a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant” (Jer. 9:10-11). Jeremiah’s description is of the aftereffects of nuclear warfare. No human or animal would be able to pass through a radiated area unaffected.

The extent of the devastation prophesied to come demonstrates that large-scale nuclear warfare will occur! God’s sure Word predicts that something will “make thy land desolate; and *thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant*” (Jer. 4:7; also Jer. 2:15; Ezek. 6:6). This kind of total destruction will be the result of more than an isolated terrorist strike.

The devastation that will result from nuclear catastrophe is vividly described in Revelation 9:17-18: “And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breast-

plates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.”

This nuclear fire will extinguish a third of humanity. The groundwork for that disaster has already been laid.

Solving the Problem

Man has no solution to the horrific nuclear nightmare that will fall on the whole world—but Jesus Christ does. As destructive as the coming nuclear nightmare will be, Matthew 24:22

Nagasaki's Devastation: 1945



shows that Christ will “shorten” events to prevent them from wiping out humanity completely.

But before that, Christ gives clear instructions to His disciples on how to escape these nuclear horrors: “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:36). Clearly, this involves a process of repentance (Matt. 3:2).

When Jesus Christ returns, He will establish a new government. Sin, the basis of world evil, will be squelched. All nations will be forced to learn to live in peace and harmony—without weapons of war (Isa. 9:6-7).

In the wonderful World Tomorrow, there will be no fear of nuclear proliferation. There will be no fear of some maniacal, ruthless dictator—or terrorist group—threatening mass destruction to appease his own vanity or selfish gain. There will, in fact, be nothing to proliferate—no weapons of mass destruction—period!

In God’s world, nations “shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Mic. 4:3). ♦



TERROR Bomb site five days after the blast in Bali that killed nearly 200.

and increasingly frequent incidents of terrorist violence in Asia—most recent and drastic being the bombing that killed over 180 people and injured several hundred, many of these Australians, in Bali, Indonesia—and it becomes clear why

◆ AUSTRALIA

Uneasy in Asia

Blood is thicker than water, or so the saying goes. This seems to be so in the case of the United States and Australia, which both have their roots in Western Europe. Despite its geographic location, which places it firmly in the Asian sphere, Australia has recently turned more pointedly toward the U.S. for friendship and security in an increasingly uneasy environment.

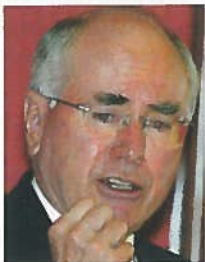
Australia has stepped up alongside its American friend both militarily, as in the case of deployments in South Asia and elsewhere, and economically, through increasing trade agreements. Australian Prime Minister John Howard has even proposed a bilateral free trade agreement between the two nations.

Although Asia continues to be Australia's largest trading partner (accounting for 57 percent of Australia's merchandise exports), major differences in religion, history, culture and economics make Australia something of an awkward fit in the Asian fold. Add to this the continual ethnic rivalry

Australia, particularly under its current government, has been looking to strengthen its ties with its old familiar friend, the United States.

Another major consideration of Australian security is its tiny population relative to the rest of the region (its closest neighbor, Indonesia, has over 230 million compared to Australia's 19 million).

Australia supports the U.S. more than it does any other country in Asia. Prime Minister Howard embraced America after the September 11 attacks, invoking an Australia-New Zealand-U.S. (ANZUS) defense treaty and declaring the attacks to be an attack on Australia as well. He also committed Australian troops to the U.S.-led attack on Afghanistan.



Howard

An indication of the extent of the Australian swing toward the U.S. is contained in a recently released government report on its foreign affairs. "The 'White Paper' is a policy document, which

is usually produced every five years. The last report produced in 1997 ranked the United States equally with Japan, China and Indonesia as countries where Australia had substantial interests. This year's paper ranks no other country in order of importance to Australia—other

than the United States" (*Inter Press Service*, Aug. 2).

The recent loss and injury of Australian citizens as a result of the Bali bombing has sent significant shock waves through the nation. Indonesia is right on Australia's front doorstep. The fear is, will the next terrorist act be *within* Australia's shores? Time will tell whether strengthening its ties with the U.S. will provide it the additional security it is hoping for, or whether this will make it a greater target for further terror.

◆ GERMANY

Skin of his teeth

Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's victory in the recent German elections is described as having been gained with a "wafer thin" margin. Had it not been for the support of Joschka Fischer's Green Party, in coalition with Schröder's Social Democrats, the center-left politician would have lost out to the right-wing combination of the Christian Union and Free Democrats, led by Edmund Stoiber.

The Greens' 55-seat win in the election simply tipped the balance to the retention of the governing coalition in Germany—for the moment.

Stoiber has promised to be robust in opposition, yet he will be up against Germany's most popular politician at present, the professorial-looking Joschka Fischer.

Fischer made his name in the coalition by promoting himself as Germany's, if not

Europe's, peacemaker. He brokered the Balkan Stability Pact. He took Germany to the fore in the Middle East peace process, and he managed a prime diplomatic coup by successfully lobbying to have the peace process on Afghanistan hosted in Berlin, the newly regenerated capital of Germany.

Fischer has come a long way since the time he harbored a member of the Baader-Memhoff terrorist group in his flat in his younger days. In appearance he seems benign. In speech, smooth and diplomatically convincing. Although Chancellor Schröder did appear at one stage to be marginalizing Fischer when details of his youthful past were plastered across the pages of German dailies, he is shrewd enough to know that his immediate future depends on maintaining a decent semblance of friendship with Fischer.

On the other hand, Fischer will be expecting to gain some kudos for his party tipping the balance of the German vote to grant Schröder his wafer-thin victory.

Watch for this coalition government to use Fischer's peacemaking diplomacy, particularly in the Middle East. A successfully run foreign policy may serve to divert the German electorate's attention away from more worrying economic troubles at home.



COALITION Schröder and Fischer during a ceremony for their re-elected government in October.

◆ EUROPE

No, but yes, in Ireland

In June last year, the Irish people voted *against* ratifying the Nice Treaty—a treaty designed to pave the way for further enlargement and integration of the European Union.

This outcome was not satisfactory to Brussels. In a blatant denial of the democratic process, the EU continued its integration and enlargement process, all the while pressuring Ireland to overturn its referendum vote.

Sixteen months later, the Irish again went to the polls for a re-run. The strategy of the Eurocrats in Brussels was simple. First, don't take no for an answer. Second, pressure the leader of the dissenting nation to change their rules so as to favor a "yes" vote. Third, flood the media with a campaign geared to brainwashing the electorate into a "yes" vote by spending 10 times the budget of the

opposition on a massive propaganda campaign. And fourth, rig the question to gain many neutralists by marrying it with a vote on non-participation in an EU army.

The strategy worked. On October 19 almost 63 percent of Irish voters cast their ballots in support of the Nice Treaty.

The London-based *Daily Telegraph* expressed the view that the "vote was truly a victory of the elites over the people" (Oct. 21).

Though the treaty is generally referred to as a "treaty on enlargement," the most significant aspects of Nice are not commonly discussed. "The reason that Nice had to

be put to the people [in Ireland] was that it *involved a further transfer of sovereignty from the republic to Brussels*. Nice abolishes the national veto in 39 areas, creates a mechanism for the most federalist countries to push ahead without the support of the less-enthusiastic members, provides for more harmonization in the field of justice and home affairs, allows for recalcitrant states to have their voting rights suspended and calls for pan-European political parties" (ibid.; emphasis ours).

What's more, the Nice summit also agreed on "more moves toward EU armed forces and a European constitution" (ibid.).

This is but a further demonstration of the



PRESSURE Ireland's prime minister makes his case to wary voters.

diminution of national sovereignty as, more and more, Brussels imposes rules and directives upon people that they have no say in, in terms of the normal process of democracy.

An indication of the lack of support, in some nations, for this federating power of European Union is the fact that half of the electorates of Denmark and France did not approve of the 1991 Maastricht Treaty on European Union. Denmark was forced to vote twice in order to get the right vote. France scraped in by a just 1 percent majority in favor.

As the *Independent* stated, in relation to the forced Irish

vote, "It is surely a sign that something fundamental is amiss that an organization designed to bring the peoples of Europe 'ever closer' should twice have had to repeat a question in a referendum before it got the 'right' answer" (Oct. 21).

◆ CHINA

Overtures to the West?

China has recently taken great strides to be a part of the free world. It has been given entry into the World Trade Organization; it has "most favored nation" trading status with the U.S.; it has also won the bid to host the 2008 Summer Olympics, a great public relations coup.

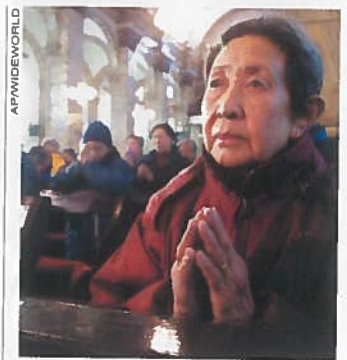
Now we are also meant to believe that China is opening up a new age of religious tolerance and freedom.

In early October, "an appeals court in central China ... overturned death sentences for five leaders of a banned Christian sect and ordered a retrial—an exceptional move in a country that controls religion tightly ..." (Associated Press, Oct. 8).

Apparently this decision was reached under considerable pressure from democratic countries around the world.

But the Chinese have shown in the past that they certainly are adept at resisting global opinion—unless it is diplomatically convenient to be seen to submit to it.

The decision for a retrial in this case came conveniently one day after the U.S. State Department released a report in which it accused several Asian countries of "denying religious freedom to their citi-



NEW TOLERANCE? A prayer service at a government-approved Catholic cathedral in Beijing.

zens and discriminating against religious minorities" (www.atimes.com, Oct. 9). This report specifically said of China that "respect for religious freedom and freedom of conscience remained poor."

According to BBC News, "The rare move comes a few weeks before Chinese President Jiang Zemin is due to visit U.S. President George Bush at his Texas ranch" (Oct. 8). Hardly a coincidence.

The decision to have a retrial was a timely one—and it is already obtaining the desired result as far as the Chinese government is concerned. The liberal press is devoting appropriate space to even the most muted praise from Western nations over China's decision.

Expect China to continue such limited overtures to the West as it uses such diplomatic ploys to extract as much favor as possible while, at the same

time, working to gain the advantage over its declared enemy, the U.S.

It will be interesting to view the outcome of the retrial of the defendants in this case, once President Jiang has obtained what favor China seeks from his October visit to Texas.



Jiang



A Sinister Web

IRISH IMPORTS Suspected IRA bomb experts detained in Colombia for alleged connections with FARC.

We have become used to the trend toward globalism in business, commerce and politics. Yet a more sinister globalist trend is emerging: a web of terrorism and organized crime.

BY GARETH FRASER
AND RON FRASER

OUR ENTRY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY has witnessed a dramatic acceleration of one of the most negative trends to emerge from the chaos of the post-Cold War global disorder. It weaves its sinister, corrupt web of intrigue from the cafes of Amsterdam to the pubs of Dublin, from the hot-houses of Manila to the streets of Los Angeles and New York, from the cabarets of Berlin to the corner shops of Bogota, from the alleys of Tehran to the harbor shores of Sydney.

This is the extent of the international cooperation and global intrigue woven between the secret societies, gangs and czars of international crime, the moguls of corrupted banking and commerce, and that greatest of modern scourges—*international terrorism!*

Crime, Terror and Subversion

Throughout modern history, *crime, terror and subversion* have been prevalent to a greater or lesser extent on both the national and international fronts. Yet the moral ambivalence of the West and the benign indifference of global institutions, especially over the past decade, have allowed all three of these movements to flourish at the risk of destabilizing the whole international scene.

The increasing cooperation of terrorist groups such as the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the Basque Separatist

Movement (ETA), the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), have fueled the fire of terrorist expansionism throughout Britain, Europe and Latin America. Illegal international drug-trade alliances, shared military training, a global gunrunning and money laundering web and increasing intelligence cooperation undergird these and other smaller terrorist-cell enterprises. Similarities in terror techniques and cell operation are revealing widespread cross-network cohesion between senior and junior terrorist groups. Recent finds of the same types of machine guns and bombs in Colombia, Europe and the Middle East have brought to light the extent of the undeniable web of cooperation between the IRA, ETA, PLO and FARC.

Also surfacing are suspicions of links between at least some of these terrorist, criminal and subversive groups and the militant Islamic group responsible for the World Trade Center horror, al Qaeda. A recent report from the Stratfor intelligence company highlighted this most recent danger to global security: "Although al Qaeda has remained largely inactive in the year since Washington launched U.S. military action in Afghanistan, several recent incidents—including the bombing of an oil tanker in Yemen, shootings involving U.S. Marines in Kuwait, a bombing that killed a U.S. Green Beret in the Philippines and the deadly

October 12 bombing in Bali—point to a resurgence in the group's activity. *If not directly responsible for the incidents, al Qaeda may be triggering disparate local groups to attack Western assets and citizens*" (www.stratfor.com, Oct. 14; emphasis ours throughout).

The Colombian Connection

The trafficking of illegal drugs supplies the cash flow that not only enables organized crime, subversive groups and terrorist organizations to sustain their administration, but substantially funds the high cost of the bullets, bombs, explosives and chemical compounds which they employ in doing their dirty work.

The prime centers of drug production are in Central and Southeast Asia and Colombia. Increasingly it is Colombia that sustains the cocaine connections between the U.S., British- and Europe-based members of terrorist and organized-crime networks and their Southern Hemisphere counterparts.

Much of the drug money harvested in Colombia is laundered in the United States. Drugs are sold in the U.S. in exchange for dollars, which are then sold to a black-market peso broker's agent. The agent then deposits the agreed number of pesos into the cartel's Colombian bank account, thus successfully laundering the money. Of even deeper concern, given Wall Street's current set of woes, is that copious amounts of drug money are laundered via the reliable conduit of the U.S. Stock Exchange through front companies. In addition, charitable and non-profit organizations are used to launder money.

Yet within Latin America, the brotherhood of terror has expanded far beyond Colombia's borders to include Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Bolivia and Argentina, setting the scene for the lighting of a long fuse of regional terror with international links across the globe.

The European Link

Numerous reports confirm IRA and Real IRA links in Algeria, Spain, the Baltic states, Czechoslovakia and the Balkans. There is an undoubted link between the Real IRA and al Qaeda via the Basque group ETA.

In middle Europe, the IRA's depth of experience in terror, crime and subversion is drawn upon by what was the

German-backed Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Forced underground since its high-profile presence in the Balkan wars, the KLA has melded with the Italian and iron-fisted Russian mafias. This group has combined with various other smaller terrorist cells to form a powerful network of organized crime, subversion and terror. It is involved in oil smuggling and the trafficking of women and children, narcotics and guns; it also funds the widespread corruption of local government agencies.

The distribution corridor of this market of evil extends from the Balkans through Turkey and into Germany. It has become one of the most illegally trafficked routes on Earth since the breakup of old Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

This problem is exacerbated by the fact that many of the now-defunct KLA were drafted into the Kosovo Protection Force, charged with the security of the region! Provided with official uniforms, they have an ideal "legitimate" disguise behind which to continue their drug-running.

Neil Clark, writing for the *Spectator*, said, "It is estimated that Kosovan/Albanian gangs now control 90 percent of the Western trade in heroin ..." (April 13). So grave is the current situation in the Balkan region and the greed and cupidity of the terrorist groups that the U.N. Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) police force has drafted new laws, appointed more judges and sought the services of Italy's premiere Mafia-fighting force, the Guardia di Finanza.

Moreover, the KLA was linked with al Qaeda, a fact testified by J.T. Caruso, assistant-director of the FBI's counter-terrorism division, before a congressional committee on December 18 last year. "Caruso confirmed that al Qaeda had supported 'Islamic fighters' in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Chechnya. '[They have] active cells in 20 countries, including Pakistan, Egypt, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Chechnya and the Philippines.'"

But when supposedly responsible governments legitimize, use, fund and encourage these groups in the process of pursuing their own foreign-policy goals, how do they delegitimize them when those goals are met? Such groups often become an embarrassment as they continue toward their own terrorist or criminal goals which become suddenly at odds with those of their benefactors.

A "peace" process is being used as a cover to accelerate the drug connection that links the international web of organized crime and terror. This is international hypocrisy of the worst kind.

This pattern became patently obvious not only in the Balkans but also in Afghanistan. As soon as the U.S. had ousted the Taliban, it removed sanctions imposed on Afghans for their involvement in the international drug trade—thus allowing the Northern Alliance (the "allies" of the West) to go straight back to work, taking up where their Taliban overlords had left off, growing illegal drugs. Here is yet another instance where a "peace" process is being used as a cover for the acceleration of the drug connection that is a vital link in the international web of organized crime and terror.

This is international hypocrisy of the worst kind and simply throws U.S. foreign policy into the realm of shady dealings.

Irish Intrigue

Another initiative constructed in the interests of furthering "peace," this time in Ireland, has been cynically used by Sinn Fein/IRA as a cloak to rearm and enter organized global crime in a bigger way.

Last July the British House of Commons had its ears laid back as a House Committee reeled off scads of facts verifying that this evil terrorist network (whose political leaders had once been wined and dined by the previous U.S. president) has poisoned the province of Northern Ireland with rampant organized crime and violence. The "Commons Committee reported in shocking detail how terrorist leaders, far from laying down their guns, have simply turned to crime and racketeering. The report says that smuggling, drug dealing and extortion rackets are now netting some £18 million [us\$28 million] a year for the paramilitaries. *In 2001, armed robberies were up by 264 percent on the previous year; hijackings by 100 percent*" (*The Week*, July 13).

Sinn Fein/IRA has used the Ireland "peace" process (the Good Friday Agreement) as a cloak to hide behind as it continues to pour its unhappy mix of terror, subversion and crime on Ulster communities. Through this campaign, they are tightening their grip on the north, seeking to pressure an ultimate cave-in by the British government (perhaps under direction from the EU) to get them to cede control of Northern Ireland to the Catholic nationalists.

But Sinn Fein/IRA's web of intrigue extends far beyond the Emerald Isle.

Earlier this year, three IRA members were arrested in Colombia for instructing members of the FARC terrorist group in the manufacture of bombs, the detonation of explosives and the planning of terrorist attacks. *One of the IRA men was Sinn Fein's political representative in Cuba.* Not only did this fact add weight to the claim that Sinn Fein (which has representation in the British Parliament) is just a front for the politics of terror, *it also raised suspicions as to whether Sinn Fein was actually operating against the interests of one of Ireland's chief benefactors, the United States!*

Since 1999, U.S. authorities have broken up two gunrunning operations to Ireland off the Florida coast. "The U.S. already brands the IRA a terrorist group. The State Department says the IRA got help from a 'variety of groups and countries and considerable training and arms from Libya and the PLO. It is suspected of receiving funds, arms and other terrorist-related matériel from sympathizers in the U.S.'" (*Investor's Business Daily*, May 1).

Enter the Dragon

Subversion crosses all boundaries and often weaves its web of intrigue into the ranks of corporate moguls, bankers, brokers and bureaucrats. Such intrigue impacts the national security of the nations thus penetrated, as was demonstrated in a high-profile case in the U.S.

On May 25, 1999, the government declassified what became known as the Cox Report. Select portions of the report were omitted because of their danger to the nation's security and on-going criminal investigations. The Cox Report was a national-security bombshell. It revealed just how lax and blind policy, procedures and security were under the Clinton administration.

"The People's Republic of China (PRC) has stolen *classified design information on the United States' most advanced thermonuclear weapons*. These thefts of nuclear secrets from our national weapons laboratories enabled the PRC to design, develop and successfully test modern strategic nuclear weapons sooner than would otherwise have been possible. *The stolen U.S. nuclear secrets give the PRC design information on thermonuclear weapons on a par with our own*" (Cox Report, overview). It was thus revealed that Chinese covert genius had successfully been sucking the blood from American nuclear know-how right under the nose of U.S. security!

The domino effect of this huge international crime is incalculable in its negative effect on world stability.

The report reveals that China has outfitted Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and North Korea with military technology and nuclear know-how resulting directly from their massive theft of secret U.S. technology. The report also stated that further sharing of U.S. nuclear technology has occurred with other countries, specifics about which were kept confidential.

Despite these calamitous breaches of America's national security, China was granted most-favored trading partner status by the U.S., revealing America's increasing dependence on enemy nations to sustain its continued economic prosperity.

Yet, apart from this massive crime perpetrated against the U.S. by China, organized crime initiated in Asian society is an integral component in the sinister global web of terror and subversion. Chinese secret societies, or Triads, have gained a foothold in many major cities from San Francisco to London, Amsterdam to Hong Kong, Tokyo to New York, Shanghai to Sydney. They are crucial to the effectiveness of the shipping of illegal drugs and guns—even *people*, in the skin trade of international prostitution, child peddling and pornography.

One of the key elements in the operation of these organized criminal gangs is their involvement at dockside receiving and shipping illicit goods.

China's long-term plan is to *control the key sea-trade routes and sea gates* formerly dominated by Great Britain and the U.S. Hong Kong and Panama are crucial gateways to illicit trade.

Both are now owned and operated by Chinese interests. In addition, the Chinese have major interests in the Bahamas, the London dockside, and the world's biggest port, Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, which has perhaps the most liberal drug laws among Western democracies.

There is evidence of increasing links between the Triads and subversive groups in Latin America, the U.S., Canada and Australia.

Japan

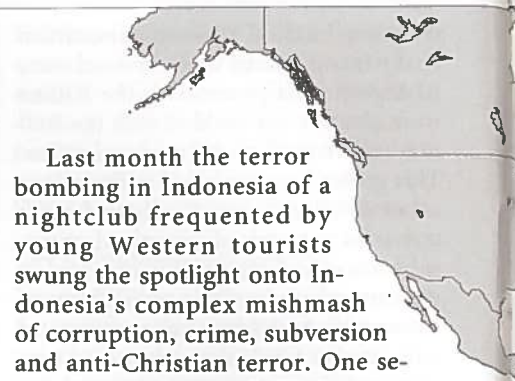
The Yakuza, the most significant of Japan's criminal gangs, spreads its network of organized crime throughout the country. Japanese national police estimate that these gangs have a membership totaling 90,000. They link with criminal gangs in China, in particular, in the global trafficking of Asian children and women involved in the worldwide porn and prostitute trade. The staging point for this Asian skin trade is Italy, which is where the Mafiosi enter the equation.

Japanese organized crime is also active in the illegal-drugs market, particularly in the trafficking of "speed"—illegal amphetamines. The Yakuza networks with organized criminal gangs in China and the Philippines for the supply of *shabu*, as these drugs are known in Japan. The Yakuza is tolerated by the Japanese government, with whom it struck a deal to keep heroin and cocaine out of the illegal-drugs trade in Japan in exchange for a certain acceptance of their activities.

Southeast Asia

Of most recent concern is the penetration of Southeast Asia by militant Muslim cells, interfacing with subversives throughout the region.

A case in point is the politically destabilized country of Indonesia. A strong anti-Christian mentality in many areas of Muslim Indonesia has created a fertile seedbed for the export of the anti-West gospel of militant Islamic groups from the Middle East to this country of over 230 million. Indonesia is a vast archipelago of countless islands that makes for an excellent environment for the hide-and-seek terror initiatives of these groups. The waters surrounding Indonesia are infested with pirates. Illegal drug- and gunrunning is the order of the day in such a setting.



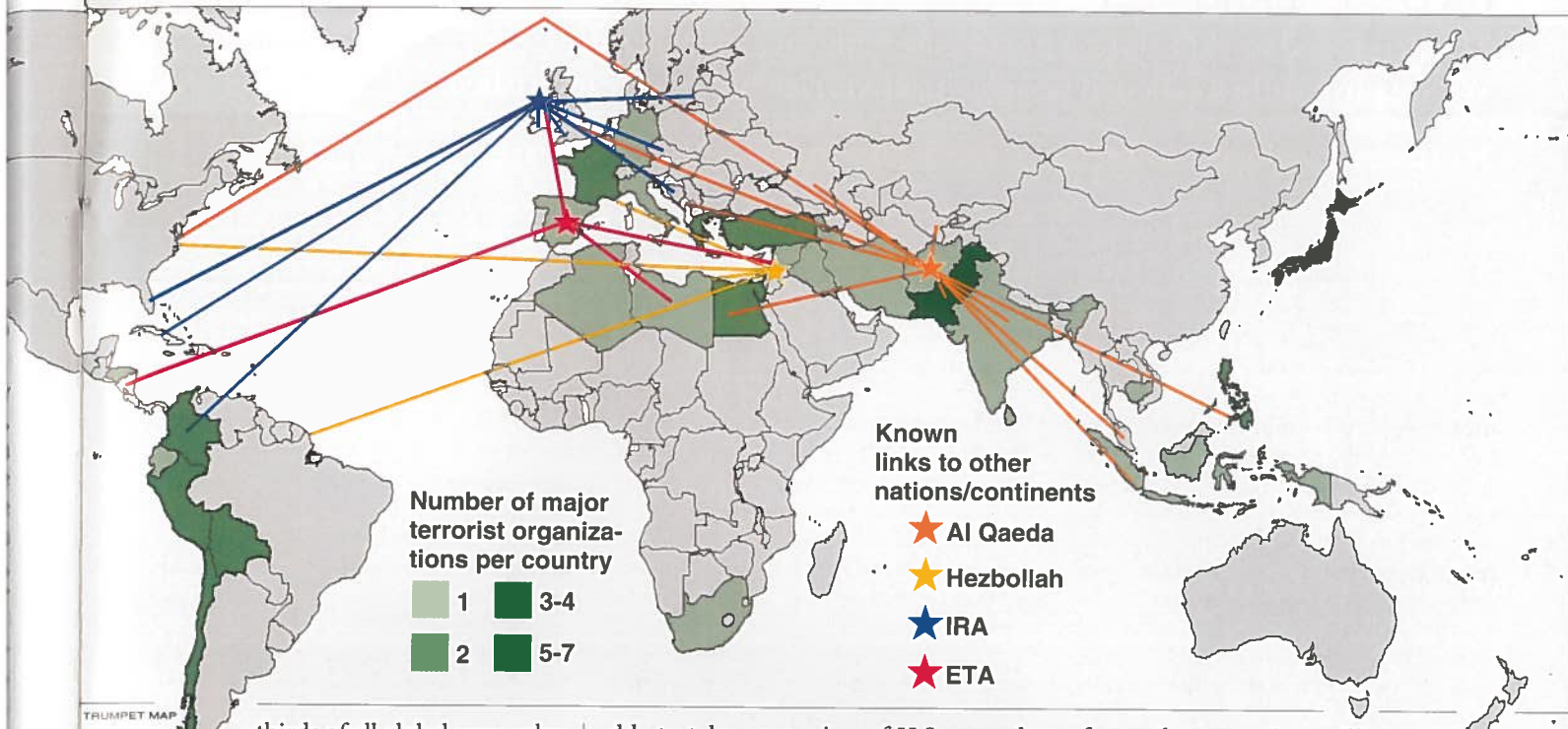
Last month the terror bombing in Indonesia of a nightclub frequented by young Western tourists swung the spotlight onto Indonesia's complex mishmash of corruption, crime, subversion and anti-Christian terror. One security expert mused, "It is a messy place; there are so many agendas. You can't dismiss anything when dealing with Indonesia." One of the problems in that country is that the military and police force have been known to employ the agents of crime, terror and subversion to meet their own political ends.

Two radical Islamic groups, Laskar Jihad and Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) are most active in the region. Both have links with al Qaeda. Members of JI were arrested last year following exposure of a plot to blow up the Australia High Commission. This group was also implicated in efforts to attack Western embassies in Singapore as well as U.S. warships visiting that country's Changi naval base. It is their declared intention to "create an Islamic state across Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the southern Philippines" (*Herald Sun*, Melbourne, Oct. 14).

Global Proliferation

In June this year, the credibility of efforts of Western democracies to contain international crime, terror and subversion suffered a body blow with the release of the Amnesty International report "G8: Failing to Stop the Terror Trade." The report warned that *Western governments have largely incapacitated their cooperative efforts to stem these evils by THEIR OWN extensive legitimate arms trade with developing nations that are involved in this corrupting global web of overt organized crime, subversion and terror.*

The report targeted the group of eight (G8) nations—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the U.S.—claiming that the majority of the us\$29 billion in legitimate annual arms sales is set to go to emerging nations with shaky social environments. (America, Britain and Russia combined are responsible for two



thirds of all global arms sales to developing nations.) In addition, the report claimed that terrorist groups like al Qaeda, IRA, ETA, PLO and FARC, along with the nations of India, Pakistan, Israel, the Philippines, Zimbabwe and Sudan, have already acquired stockpiles of modern high-tech weaponry. Iranian and Iraqi weaponry arsenals have skyrocketed thanks to the residue of arms proliferation.

And the unwritten part of this equation is the huge underground movement and sale of weaponry via the international black market.

Increased Vulnerability

One of the most significant contributions to the globalization of organized crime, terror and subversion is our modern style of living.

In this 21st century, developed societies rely on complex networks of technical and economic systems. This, coupled with the quantum leap in the strategic and technical capacity of small groups to destroy both things and people, makes the most-developed countries wide-open targets for terrorist and criminal cells. The concentration of vital assets in small geographic clusters further heightens the risk.

The current trend in terrorism, revealed on September 11, is to simply redirect the energies of our intricate societies against us. Thus al Qaeda was

able to take possession of U.S.-owned aircraft, fueled by U.S.-owned oil, and direct the resultant energy against the monolithic Trade Center buildings (being themselves actual symbols of capitalistic energy) and use the explosive effect to destroy them, together with 3,000 souls!

Thomas Homer-Dixon, director of the Center for the Study of Peace and Conflict at the University of Toronto, chillingly sums up this potential: "As technological change makes it easier to kill, societies are more likely to become locked into perpetual cycles of attack and counterattack that render any normal trajectory of political and economic development impossible" (*Foreign Policy*, Jan./Feb. 2002).

That is an apocalyptic statement!

The point is, never in the history of man has the potential for such devastation been placed in so few hands! A mere handful of suicidal terrorists, with adequate coordination and appropriate technology, can wreak extraordinary destruction.

This terrifying reality is a reminder of the Apostle Paul's words: "This I know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ... For men shall be ... [w]ithout natural affection ... incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good" (II Tim. 3:1-3).

In the same vein as Paul's prophecy, Homer-Dixon further predicts, "To maximize this impact, the perpetrators

of complex terrorism will carry out their attacks in *audacious, unexpected and even bizarre manners—using methods that are, ideally, unimaginably cruel.*"

He further points out that the reason for this extreme cruelty is to maximize the *fear* in those under attack! Again, the words of prophetic Scripture leap into perspective in vivid description of these times, "For these be the days of vengeance Men's hearts failing them for *fear*" (Luke 21:22, 26).

These are the very days we are moving into, as prophesied in your Bible: days of *rampant terror, crime, corruption and subversion!* "I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror ... and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it" (Lev. 26:16).

These, indeed, are the days when we need the *vision* to see beyond the immediate horror of what commentators such as Thomas Homer-Dixon know is the current reality. We need in these darkening times to have a *vision of hope* such as portrayed by the Prophet Isaiah to those who repent of their rebellion against the Eternal God (Isa. 54:11, 14): "O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold In righteousness shalt thou be established: *thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.*" ♦

The developed world is sitting too comfortably on a great crisis. We are physically weakened people, inactive, rich but poorly nourished.

It's time we wake up and reclaim the health that is within our reach.



Quality of Life

BY ZRINKA PETERS

ONE THIRD OF AMERICANS have Syndrome X. What is that? On August 28, the *Los Angeles Times* printed a shocking article explaining how one in three Americans has Insulin Resistance Syndrome (though most do not realize it), also known as Metabolic Syndrome or Syndrome X—a condition that prevents the body from managing insulin well. The disorder, which has increased by an enormous 61 percent in the past decade, places many millions at high risk of developing diabetes, heart disease, and colon and ovarian cancer.

What has caused this appalling condition? Medical experts say Syn-

drome X is the most widespread result of so many people being *overweight and unfit*.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. In fact, incidents of diabetes between 1991 and 2000 in the United States increased by an amazing 49 percent, with 17 million people now afflicted. A corresponding rise occurred in rates of its “twin disease,” obesity, which increased by 61 percent during the same period, to include 26 percent of the adult population. Add to this the number of those who are simply overweight, and that brings us to an astounding 64 percent of U.S. adults (National Center for Health Statistics).

Ample evidence shows that being severely overweight or obese also in-

creases the risk of illness from numerous other, often life-threatening problems including heart disease, lung problems, gall bladder disease, cancer, diabetes and arthritis.

It is not only the U.S. that is suffering. Most of the developed world has fallen into a similar damaging routine.

In Europe, about half of all men and 35 percent of women are considered overweight. Scientists and physicians who met in Brazil recently for the ninth annual International Congress on Obesity addressed the fact that the number of obese adults around the world is soaring—along with the corresponding health and economic consequences. The International Obesity Task Force estimated that 1 billion

people—almost one sixth of the global population—are overweight or obese.

It may be surprising, for some, to learn that much of this health crisis is *preventable*. Referring to Insulin Resistance Syndrome, experts say that “[D]iet and exercise can take care of the condition in many if not most cases” (*L.A. Times*, op. cit.). The American Obesity Association calls obesity “the second leading cause of *preventable* death in the U.S.”

Certainly there are a number of other factors which can contribute to obesity, such as hormones and genetic makeup. But in most cases it is the result of poor eating habits and lack of exercise—an unhealthy *lifestyle*.

A Lifestyle Problem

We are suffering a tremendous loss of quality of life as a result of sickly diets and unhealthy patterns of living—unhealthy lifestyles. Basically, we eat too many of the wrong foods, drink too many of the wrong drinks, and spend too much time sitting! Paradoxical as it seems, our poor diets, though rich in *quantity*, still provide *inadequate fuel for full physical health*. Besides the debilitating illnesses listed above, how many struggle daily from fatigue, impaired mobility, poor concentration and a host of other, lesser problems also associated with lack of proper nourishment?

To begin to correct this health problem, we need to change the way we *think* about food and exercise—and develop a real desire to learn and abide by the natural laws which regulate our physical health—a way of living that really makes us *feel good!*

Modern “developed” society bombards us with pressure to make or accept unhealthy or even harmful diet and lifestyle choices. Food advertising urges us to buy quick and easy, highly processed convenience foods that fit in perfectly with our hectic, convenience-driven lives.

Food producers have for decades gone to extreme lengths to select, dye, flavor, texturize and preserve their food products so that they are as *marketable* as possible. More often than not, the food products we pull out of

plastic bags and cardboard boxes have virtually no resemblance to the natural fruits, vegetables, meats or grains they originally are supposed to have come from. As a result, we have come to accept—and enjoy—a lot of artificial food in place of *real* food.

Overweight

In America, **64%** of adults ...
in Europe, **50%** of men and **35%** of women ...
worldwide, **1 billion** people are overweight.

Major social changes in our society have also changed the way we eat. As Eric Schlosser points out in his best-selling book *Fast Food Nation*, “The extraordinary growth of the fast food industry has been driven by fundamental changes in American society. ... In 1975, about one third of American mothers with young children worked outside the home; today almost two

thirds of such mothers are employed. ... [T]he entry of so many women into the work force has greatly increased demand for the types of services that housewives traditionally perform: cooking, cleaning and child care. A generation ago, three quarters of the money used to buy food in the United States was spent to prepare meals at home. Today about half of the money used to buy food is spent at restaurants—mainly at fast food restaurants.”

The *Economist* added, “[T]he food industry is largely giving American consumers (rich and poor) what they want. A pattern of life in which fewer families eat regular meals together, fewer parents remain at home during the day to cook, and increasing amounts of time are spent working or commuting creates demand for convenient, fast food (especially when it is as cheap as it is). Tummy size, then, is largely a side-effect of modern American life—and the choices that Americans make” (Aug. 29). This explosion in processed food production has led to, by Schlosser’s estimate, one quarter of U.S. adults visiting a fast food restaurant on any given day, and an incredible \$110 billion spent on fast foods in 2001. This is compared with just \$6 billion in 1970. This means that more money is spent on greasy

burgers and fries than on movies, books, magazines, newspapers, videos and recorded music—combined!

Because there is such a thriving consumer demand, perhaps it’s not surprising that approximately 10,000 new processed food products are produced each year in the U.S. (though 9 out of 10 of them fail). It doesn’t help any that many restaurants serve gigantic portions—far more than one person needs to eat in a sitting—and that we can “supersize” our greasy meals at will.

Sedentary Living

Poor eating habits are not alone in damaging our health and vitality—our quality of life. Our “low impact” or “no impact” lifestyles, especially our lack of exercise, are also slowing us down and making us sick.

Our bodies were made to *need* exercise. It is mainly in recent decades that we have become so sedentary as a nation. Joseph D. Beasley, M.D., highlights this change in *The Betrayal of Health*. “The Industrial Revolution gradually choked off that rigorous outdoor activity. Commodities once produced in the home are now made in factories, and the office has replaced the field as our

place of work. We no longer walk; we drive. Even much of our recreation is sedentary—watching television, reading, playing board games, drinking and talking, going to the movies, playing video games. *We are a nation that spends a great deal of money to expend as little energy as possible.* We look for

external sources of passive pleasure, such as drinking or drugs, television, and

other technical artifacts. And, as Jean Mayer has pointed out, while ‘it is only in the past generation that most people have become sedentary ... [The human body] *is not adapted to such a life*’ (emphasis mine).

Our bodies were *designed* to enjoy great health under the right circumstances—if we obey the natural laws that are necessary for good health. We are sluggish and unfit today because of broken *physical laws*. But we can learn and put into practice the laws and principles of good health. They are

Fast Food



Each day, **25%** of U.S. adults visit a fast food restaurant.

TRUMPET

simple laws, most of which were common sense to our great-grandparents, and they include *natural, healthy food* and *adequate exercise*.

Trying to Fix the Problem

Many people *want* desperately to lose weight and improve their health. This is obvious when we consider that \$33 billion is now spent annually on weight-loss products and services.

The 1990s were known as the “no fat” decade, but the *Economist* reports that “The low-fat meals that Americans guzzled down were often packed with refined flour and heavily sugared to give them flavor (which the customers also wanted); people who tucked into them kept on wanting to eat more” (Aug. 29).

Many popular fad diets and programs can actually *harm* our health. People, it seems, are looking for health in pill form at the pharmacy! Most of these fad diets are unsuccessful, with dieters quickly gaining back what they lost—and often more! Most quick-solution diets also do nothing to actually improve the overall health of the individual as pounds are being shed. Advertisements encouraging us to *drop weight without exercise, eat all we want, take this pill or drink and lose it fast* don’t work in the long run.

There is NO truly beneficial weight loss program that requires zero effort.

We need to accept responsibility for improving our own health. According to most medical experts, *the ONLY guaranteed way to lose weight for good is to change our eating habits and adopt a regular exercise program.*

“Last month the FTC [Federal Trade Commission] announced that 40 percent of the weight-loss promotions it investigated contained at least one flagrant falsity. More than half of the advertising in the FTC’s study made claims that were probably false” (*Grand Forks Herald*, Oct. 8).

In our high-speed, pill-popping society, turning to exercise and more wholesome foods may seem old-fashioned (haven’t we been hearing this for years?) or like just too much trouble. But it’s the one formula that has been

proven over and over again to *work* in improving health and attaining a healthy weight—not an unnatural “model” figure—but a healthy, fit one. You don’t have to necessarily *look thin* to be fit and healthy.

What is your health worth to you? What kind of quality of life do you want? You can *take charge* of your own diet and lifestyle and reap its *benefits*—improved health, better fitness, increased energy, even a positive mental boost!

Fad Diets

Each year, **\$33 billion** is spent on weight-loss products and services. According to the FTC, **40%** of the weight-loss promotions it investigated contained at least one flagrant falsity.

Back to Basics

Herbert W. Armstrong, a skilled communicator and educator, had much to say about health. In his book *The Seven Laws of Success*, he wrote, “We are physical beings. The mind and the body form the most wonderful physical mechanism we know. But man is made of matter. He is 16 elements of organic, chemically functioning existence.

“He lives by the breath of air—which is the breath of LIFE itself. If the bellows we call lungs do not keep inhaling and exhaling the oxygen-containing air, man won’t live to achieve any goal. You are only one heartbeat away from death! As the lungs pump air in and out, so the heart pumps blood through an intricate system of veins and arteries. These must be supported by food and by water.

“And so man *IS* just *what he eats*. Some of the most famous physicians and surgeons have said that 90 percent to 95 percent of all sickness and disease comes from faulty diet!

“Most people are in utter ignorance of the fact that it *does* make a difference what we eat! Most people, and the customs of society, have followed a regimen of eating whatever tastes good to the palate.”

Our bodies are maintained entirely from the food and drinks we consume. It makes sense that in order to have healthy, strong bodies, we need to eat a

variety of healthy, *nourishing* foods. The nourishment we need is basically found in fresh fruits and vegetables, whole-grain breads and cereals, lean meats and dairy products.

The two predominant refined foods in the U.S. are sugar and flour. The average American consumes an astounding *125 pounds* of sugar annually, much of it hidden in the form of baked goods, soft drinks, bread spreads, alcohol, ketchup and salad dressings. Today over 95 percent of flour used in the United States is refined white flour. Refined sugar and flour, along with products high in cholesterol, form a large part of the average American diet and are not conducive to good health.

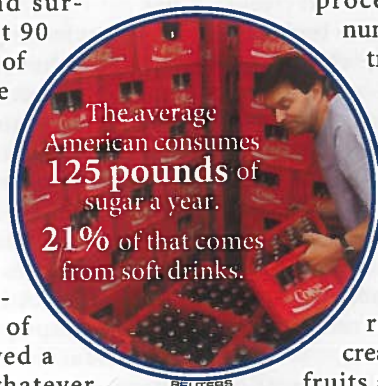
“The greatest single loss of vitamins from industrial food processing occurs during the milling of wheat down to refined white flour. Almost all the flour we use today is refined through a series of about two dozen processes, including high-pressure steel rolling, scouring, grinding and magnetic separation. From the original grain of wheat this lengthy extraction separates out the relatively tasteless, colorless, low-nutrient-density white flour for human consumption, and discards the very nutritious wheat germ at the center and the mineral-laden high-fiber shell (the wheat bran)” (Beasley, op. cit.).

Although the refined flour may be “enriched” with synthetic vitamins added to it, there is no comparison to the original whole wheat. Most of the goodness of wheat flour is removed in the refining process, and only a small number of the 27 or so nutrients lost in processing are re-added to the flour (and even the benefits of these are doubted by some medical professionals).

It may not be possible for us to completely avoid all overly refined foods. But increasing our intake of *fresh* fruits and vegetables and replacing much of the refined sugar and bleached flour we eat in its processed form with natural, *whole-grain* foods will go a long way toward improving our overall diet and health.

Sugar

The average American consumes **125 pounds** of sugar a year. **21%** of that comes from soft drinks.



Take responsibility for your own well-being. Be conscious of what you put in your mouth—including what you *eat* and what you *drink*.

Drink Water

Don't underestimate the importance of drinking plenty of pure water. It has been stated that this is the cheapest diet aid in the world! Pure water is vital for proper digestion, removing wastes from the body, transporting nutrients, building tissue and regulating body temperature.

Studies have also shown that drinking plenty of water cuts hunger and even increases metabolism—helping the body burn fat more efficiently. Lack of water can trigger daytime fatigue, a fuzzy short-term memory and inability to focus on a computer screen or a printed page.

Many people drink as much soft drink as they do water—or more. Earl Mindell, in *Unsafe at Any Meal*, reports that 21 percent of sugar in the American diet is consumed through soft drinks.

As a healthier alternative to soft drinks and other sugary drinks, drink water, milk or juices that are made entirely from fruit (not “fruit flavoring”).

Build Health in Your Children

Health & Medicine Week reported recently that “Nine of the ten biggest school districts in the country are failing to provide the kind of healthy lunches that would help prevent childhood obesity and other health problems” One dietician was quoted in the article as saying, “Kids need more fruits, vegetables, beans and whole grains and fewer greasy hamburgers, chicken nuggets and French fries. Learning how to eat right is a lesson that will benefit them for life” (Oct. 7).

In a *Newsday* article, Cara Ebbeling, a research associate at Children's Hospital Boston, outlines a common “toxic environment” for children: too little exercise, too much television and too much junk food that's high in added sugar and/or fat and low in vitamins, fiber and other components of

natural foods. “If we do not do something, the children of this generation will die before their parents,” Dr. Sue Kimm of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine was quoted as saying in the same article. “When you're young, you're most susceptible to habits or addictions” (Oct. 6).

Parents must build good eating habits in their children. British surveys found that 1 in 10 children starting primary school in the UK is obese—largely as a result of their parents allowing them to decide for themselves what to eat. Eating habits formed by children are hard to change as adults; 60 percent of obese children grow into obese adults.

There is a huge amount of junk food marketed toward children. Parents need to educate themselves about good

nutrition and then teach their children healthy habits that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

Get Moving

We have all heard that if we consume more calories than our bodies use, the extra energy is stored in our bodies as fat. It's true! The goal is to achieve a healthy weight and then to maintain it through a right balance between energy consumed and energy expended.

Our bodies *need* physical exercise in order to maintain optimum health. A sedentary lifestyle—the *drive-to-work, sit-at-the-desk, drive-home, sit-for-dinner and then sit-in-front-of-the-TV* life so many live day after day—is not healthful. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that more than 60 percent of U.S. adults do not engage in sufficient physical activity, and 25 percent are not active *at all*. Nearly half of U.S. youths are not vigorously active on a regular basis.

We live in a physically lazy, “comfortable” society that has developed an aversion to physical exercise. Many of

us try to avoid anything that takes bodily effort! But this approach is contributing to making us a *physically weakened* people.

We can reverse this trend and improve our health by being more physically active.

If you are not physically active, look at what you are missing! Regular exercise helps you lose weight—especially body fat; it helps build and maintain healthy bones, muscles and joints; it reduces the risk of high blood pressure and cholesterol, of heart disease and some types of cancer; it reduces depression and anxiety, increases energy levels and mental alertness and improves a feeling of well-being.

Physical activity does not need to be strenuous to be beneficial. Regular walks several times a week, or anything else that gets your blood pumping, will help. The most important thing is that it be *consistent*. Exercising twice per month is not enough. Find a physical activity you like to do, plan to make it part of your *regular* schedule, and do it!

Our bodies were designed to thrive under the right conditions—to allow us to live full, productive, energetic, happy lives. When we feed ourselves junky, nutrient-deprived food and live physically dull, inactive lifestyles, we are not enjoying the *quality* of life that is within our reach if we improve our health.

As Prof. Andrew Prentice of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine points out, “Obesity is not a disease—it is a *normal biological response to the way we now live*. And the drug companies are in this rather strange

dilemma, if you like, of actually trying to find a cure for something that is not broken in the first place” (*Daily Telegraph*, Sept. 10; emphasis mine).

The only proven way to reduce weight problems for good, and in the process improve our health, is to recognize that there is something wrong with our diets and lifestyles and to make healthful changes. If we do it, we can take charge of this important aspect of our lives and reap the abundant benefits! ♦

White Flour

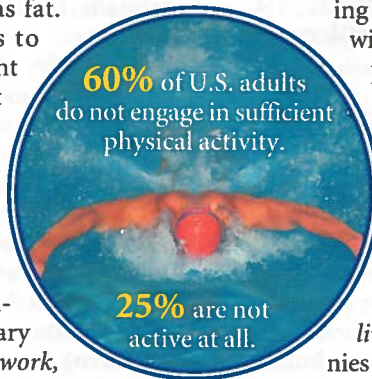
Over 95% of the flour used in the U.S. is refined white flour.

Approx. 27 nutrients are stripped from wheat in that process, synthetic versions of a few of which may be re-added in the “enriching” process.

Exercise

60% of U.S. adults do not engage in sufficient physical activity.

25% are not active at all.





Silence the Critic

For the third time in seven years, the European Union has had a prominent official go public with tales of EU corruption. How has the EU corrected the problem? By sacking the whistleblower!

BY RON FRASER

CAMPAIGNING BRITISH EUROSKEPTIC William Deller recently wrote, in criticism of the European Union, "The absurdity of the EU project is astonishing, but the *main casualties* of Britain's membership have been *democracy and truth*" (*Lantern*, Oct. 2002).

Indeed, not only Britain, but every country being dragged into union with this monolithic, divisive mixture of iron and clay that the EU has increasingly proven to be is finding that, for them also, the "main casualties" of membership have been "democracy and truth."

As it happened, it was an Englishman who was the initial casualty of the EU effort to squelch any initiative to expose its undemocratic and untruthful ways from within. The first of others to follow was Bernard Connolly, a civil servant who authored *The Rotten Heart of Eu-*

rope, exposing the evils of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism and the truth about the European Union. "Europe," he wrote in the introduction to his book, "has been promoted ... almost as synonymous with Christendom"

Connolly complained of the "intellectual terrorism" extant within the European Commission which "stifled any attempt at serious, open-minded discussion of European monetary issues." He exposed what he termed the "titanic ... battle for control of the European superstate, in which French technocrats confront German federalists, both sides claiming to fight under the banner of *Charlemagne*" (emphasis mine). In carefully chosen words, he spoke of "the 'collateral damage' from this battle" that he warned "could be ghastly" (*The Rotten Heart of Europe*).

JOEL HILLIKER

For his pains, Connolly was summarily dismissed from his post in 1995. His subsequent appeal was heard by the European Court of Justice in a well-publicized case. The Eurocourt, naturally, quashed his appeal.

THEN, IN 1998, THE DUTCH AUDITOR PAUL van Buitenen exposed massive fraud by the European Commission. His job was stripped from him, his life was threatened, and he was declared *persona non grata* by the EU.

Notwithstanding attempts to silence the auditor, the extent of fraud that he revealed was so embarrassing that, the following year, the EU felt obliged to sack the whole European Commission! In a face-saving exercise, it established a new anti-fraud office.

A year after this event, however, a report from the EU itself freely admitted that it had made absolutely no inroads into stemming the flow of fraudulently siphoned-off EU funds, and had not checked any of its rampant corruption! "The new anti-fraud office created by the European Union to root out corruption in Brussels is no better

than its predecessor and has failed to break free from political control, according to an internal EU report. A year and a half after the collapse of the Santer Commission amid allegations of fraud, nepotism and dirty tricks by the Commission's security service, little seems to have changed" (*Daily Telegraph*, London, Aug. 30, 2000).

In May of last year, yet again the EU felt obliged to confess its utter failure to deal with the extent of fraud within its own ranks. According to the Europe Information Service, on May 15 the European Commission reviewed its protection of EU financial interests and the fight against fraud in the 2000 EU budget. The review indicated that the member states and the Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) handled 6,955 new cases last year with an overall budgetary impact (real or estimated) of over 2 trillion euros—us\$1.94 trillion! "This represents a record level of fraud and irregularities, according to the report" (*European Report*, May 16, 2001).

Of course, none of this has led to an offer to reinstate either Mr. Connolly or the Dutch auditor.

THIS PAST AUGUST, THE SENIOR ACCOUNTANT at the European Commission warned the EU that its accounting procedures left its \$60 billion budget wide open to fraudulent practices. The result? She was suspended from her job!

"Marta Andreason was first moved sideways within the Commission after she spoke out about the state of the Commission's accounting methods, saying it was impossible to keep track of spending. She has now lost her job altogether after saying she was being asked to sign off accounting reforms rather than proposing better ones" (BBC News, Aug. 30).



REUTERS

Van Buitenen

So, where is the *democratic process* in all this? Where is the *transparency*, and where is the *accountability* for performance? It becomes clear by

these actions that Bernard Connolly's original claim—that "Cheating is what Europe is all about. Lying is what Europe is all about"—is right on line!

Here is a body of "responsible" individuals, unelected Eurocrats, who allow themselves to publicly confess their inability to control internal

fraud. But when civil servants have the courage to stand up and say, "You're open to fraud, and I see the reason why and I can tell you how to fix it," they are sacked!

Surely a less accountable, less democratic institution could not exist!

THE AGING APOSTLE JOHN, VIEWING FROM afar across the breadth of time, saw in his mind's eye, via his inspired vision

The EU itself freely admitted that it had made no inroads into stemming the flow of fraudulently siphoned-off EU funds, and had not checked any of its rampant corruption.

documented in the book of Revelation, the *true nature* of this Eurobeast and the *source* of its *corrupting power*. Speaking of those nations drawn into this great politico-religious-economic combine, John stated, "These have *one mind*, and shall give

their *power* and *strength* unto the beast" (Rev. 17:13).

But from *where* does this beastly Eurofederation, destined to shortly dominate the globe, gain its *power*? It is clearly revealed in John's great apocalyptic vision: "the *dragon* gave him his *power*, and his *seat*, and great *authority*" (Rev. 13:2).

Ought we to wonder then at the *fraud* and *deceit* that is such a vital component of the EU's *nature*, when we realize the *power* that is leading it? "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *abode not in the truth*, because there is *no truth in him*. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for *he is a liar*, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

In the months ahead, the fractious nature of this final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire will become increasingly evident. Great strains will be felt within the EU as it struggles to absorb up to 13 more member nations. Watch for socio-economic disruption in Europe as its feet of clay appear (Dan. 2:41-43). Then watch for a powerful leader to rise up through flatteries and great deceit (Dan. 11:21) to take on the overall leadership of the EU and ultimately steer it on a course of lying and deathly confrontation with the Anglo-American peoples. For more information, request our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*. ◆

Stung by Curses

AP/WIDEWORLD; INSET: CORBIS



PESTS Bugs like the Asian long-horned beetle (left) and the lubber (below) are wreaking havoc.

Despite all the spending to fix it, the U.S. is unable to squash an insect epidemic that is not only spreading disease but costing lives, crops and billions of dollars.

BY STEPHEN M. HILL

"WILDFIRES IN OREGON, California, Colorado and Arizona. Flash floods in Texas, Idaho, New Mexico and Nebraska. Drought just about everywhere else! What could be next for the West this summer—biblical plagues of locusts? Well, yes" (*USA Today*, Aug. 5).

Quite a question and answer—from a leading national newspaper! Which goes to show that many are beginning to ask, *Why all the curses on the United States of America?* Among other curses, 2002 has been a year like no other in the collective memory of the U.S. for insect plagues, pests and blights.

Think. What has been the greatest cause of human death, apart from natural causes, in the history of mankind? *Wars?* No, the *mosquito* and the *flea!* The miniscule flea was primarily responsible for spreading the Black Death—the bubonic plague—during the three appearances of the pandemic in the Middle Ages, in which millions died. Every year, almost 3 million people die of mosquito-borne diseases—more than those who at present die because of wars!

Viewed in the light of biblical prophecy, the overall evolving picture

is astounding, and true reason for concern! God told ancient Israel that if they would not obey His voice they would be **CURSED** (request *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for proof of who the modern nations of Israel are). "[I]f thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments ... all these curses shall come upon thee ... cursed shalt thou be in the field" (Deut. 28:15-16). One specific curse was, "All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume" (v. 42).

The recent weather curses (as addressed in the previous issue of the *Trumpet*) have contributed to 2002 being a mega-year for insect plagues. But that only paints part of the picture.

Invasive species are entering from abroad. Free of the natural enemies they had in their country of origin, they increase to pestilence levels very quickly in the United States.

A July 2001 report to Congress compiled by the U.S. General Accounting Office stated that "a recent study by Cornell University scientists estimated the total annual economic losses and associated control costs [due to invasive species] to be about \$137 billion a year—more than double the annual economic damage caused by all natural disasters in the United States."

◆ BUGS

Let's see how, so far this year, lowly insects have made serious inroads into America's wealth, flirted with its health, and prodded at its already disturbed peace of mind.

Transporting Deadly Disease

This year, of all the sickness spread by insects, the West Nile virus distributed by mosquitoes has probably gained the most press.

West Nile is an exotic, potentially deadly threat, though only a small percentage of people die from it. "[W]hile it doesn't pose a major risk to healthy individuals, people with weakened immune systems face such threats as encephalitis [swelling of the brain], even death" (*USA Today*, May 18). Symptoms are similar to those of flu, but can also include skin rashes and swollen lymph glands—even polio-like paralysis.

The West Nile virus was introduced to the New York City area in 2000 and moved south to North Carolina and northward to Canada. In May of this year, Chester Moore, supervisory research entomologist for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, pointed out, "In 2001, we expected that it would continue to spread, but it spread much faster than we anticipated" (*ibid.*). He had no way of knowing that by the time of the writing of this article, mosquitoes would have taken the virus to all but five of the 48 conti-



West Nile virus was introduced to New York in 2000. Since then, mosquitoes have taken it to all but five of the 48 continental states.

mental states. It has since been discovered that babies can be infected by this virus via their mother's milk and that recipients of donor organs and blood transfusions are especially vulnerable.

While children, the elderly and people with weak immune systems are at risk, in real terms West Nile fever is much more deadly for livestock and birds. An uncountable number of birds have died. The last thing you want when you are suffering from plagues of insects is depletion in the bird population—as it is the birds that help keep the number of insects down!

Recently an alarming discovery was made. Thanks to mosquitoes, malaria



LITTLE BUG, BIG BUGBEAR Forest damage in northwestern Georgia from the southern pine beetle. Darker areas are trees already killed.

has reappeared in the U.S., with a number of cases having been reported in Virginia.

The lowly tick has also been responsible for spreading deadly diseases throughout the U.S. this year. Lyme disease, of which there are now some 15,000 to 20,000 cases in the U.S. per year, has been the most common tick-spread disease. But now there are others being widely reported. Rocky Mountain spotted fever is transmitted by the Rocky Mountain wood tick and the American dog tick, and without treatment can be damaging to the

bills" (*USA Today*, Aug. 5).

With a dramatic increase in the number of grasshoppers, there is often a parallel spurt in the number of blister beetles, otherwise known as potato bugs. They feed on grasshopper eggs and blister the throats and stomachs of animals feeding on alfalfa.

Then there are huge Mormon crickets, droves of which marched their way across Utah, Idaho and Nevada, encompassing houses on their way and seriously damaging crops. This black, wingless cousin of the grasshopper caused \$25 million in crop damage in Utah alone. "They're even eating the paint off some of the houses," said Nebraska farmer Robert Larsen, who raises alfalfa, corn, soybeans and cattle on 1,600 acres where thousand upon thousands of grasshoppers jump out of the way as he walks by in what looks like the parting of the sea" (*Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, Tenn., July 21).

Eastern lubbers, bigger still and even more terrifying, recently hit Florida. The *Orlando Sentinel* reported, "Alice McKinstry Davis, curator of the Eustis Historical Museum and Preservation Society, first saw the 4-inch creatures chowing down on a flower-garden smorgasbord outside the museum in downtown Eustis 'We didn't know what to think,' Davis said. 'I'd never seen anything like them. They were devouring all our broadleaf plants.' Davis ran for the bug spray. The king-sized grasshoppers just sneered. Alarmed, she called experts for help. 'About all

kidneys, lungs and liver—even fatal in 15 to 20 percent of cases.

Ehrlichiosis, a newly documented disease, and babesiosis, a malaria-like illness, are also threats throughout the U.S., according to an April 2000 article in the *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine*.

Destroying Crops

"Hordes of grasshoppers spawned by another mild winter and chronic dryness have hit Nebraska, several other states and Canadian provinces. Some infestations are the worst since the Great Depression, costing millions of dollars in lost crops and insecticide

you can do is hit 'em with a 2-by-4,' said Pris Peterson, master gardener at the Lake County Agricultural Center" (Aug. 20). Their high level of toxicity makes them poisonous to birds, who won't touch them.

Another insect, the sharpshooter, has become an increasingly serious problem for wine growers in the States in the last two years. It carries vine-killing bacteria, including the one that causes Pierce's disease, which lays waste to grape vines. The insects feed by sucking juices from plants and thereby spreading bacteria from plant to plant.

This year, the Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association reported that Pierce's disease has cost Temecula \$20 million in damages, having wiped out 30 percent of the vineyards in the valley. In just two years, California's premium \$12 billion wine industry has come under serious threat—held siege by a little insect.

Beetles

Beetles have had a dramatically adverse effect on various types of plant life, trees and forests throughout the U.S.—causing billions of dollars' worth of damage and changing the face of huge sweeps of American landscape.

The Asian long-horned beetle, considered to have entered the U.S. via packing material or wood from China several years ago, has destroyed over 6,700 trees in New York and Chicago. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research service, "If this beetle and other wood-boring pests were to become fully established in the United States, they could damage industries that generate combined annual revenues of \$138 billion."

Then there is the Japanese beetle. Though kept under control in its native land, it entered the U.S. without its natural enemies. These metallic green and bronze creatures feed on over 300 different plant varieties—shrubs and roses, flowering fruit trees and deciduous trees such as sycamore, sassafras, linden, Norway maple, birch and elm. Moreover, according to the Federal Consumer Information Center, the beetle "is the most widespread turf-grass pest in the United States. Efforts to control the larval and adult stages are estimated to cost more than \$460 million a year. Losses attributable to the larval stage alone have been estimated at \$234 mil-

lion per year—\$78 million for control costs and an additional \$156 million for replacement of damaged turf."

Bark beetles are doubly dangerous, especially considering the wave of forest fires in the U.S. this past summer. Trees injured by forest fires become susceptible to infestation. Then, when they die, they act as potential kindling for the following forest fire. These diminutive pests damage more than 1,560 square miles of North American forests per year! "A Forest Service report last spring



Hordes of grasshoppers have hit several states and Canadian provinces. Some infestations are the worst since the Great Depression.

estimated that more than 32,800 square miles of Western forests—an area half the size of Florida—are at high risk of 'significant' tree kills in the next 15 years. That's 6 percent of the West's 565,000 square miles of woodlands" (*USA Today*, Aug. 5).

In a similar fashion, Montana's fire-ravished summer of 2000 laid the groundwork for the greatest outbreak of the Douglas fir beetle in state history. The result? The infestation of at least 156 square miles of Douglas fir—the most common tree in Montana's forests.

The spruce beetle has destroyed as many as 80 percent of the trees on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. The effects of its presence in that state in the 1990s was devastating—killing more than 4,500 square miles of forest. Outbreaks in southern Utah have been responsible for the elimination of more than 3 million trees. It appears that an infestation of the pest in the Colorado Rockies could be the most alarming of all: "Experts fear that one third of Colorado's mature spruce trees, which range across 4,700 square miles, could be dead within the decade" (*USA Today*, Aug. 4).

Riding on the wave of last year's devastation, in which it destroyed about \$275.3 million worth of trees, statistics show that the southern pine beetle is now doing its deadly thing right across Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia, while the infestation continues its grip on South Carolina.

In the Black Hills of South Dakota, entire swaths of forest have turned rusty red due to the work of the Moun-

tain Pine Beetle.

"Visualize a pinhead-sized, yellow bug, with no legs or wings, with a mouth three times the size of its body" (*Citizen's Weekly*, March 3). This is an apt description of the creature known as the beech scale. It sucks sap from trees, which leaves behind tiny holes. Then, "when one of three different

wind-borne varieties of *Nectria* fungus ... enters the holes, the ... fungi kill the living tissue inside the bark, create cankers, girdle the trees and even-

tually kill them" (*ibid.*). During the last century, this combination of scale and fungus decimated 99 percent of native beech trees in large sections of Canada. Chestnut blight has practically eliminated the American chestnut.

Then there is Dutch elm disease, from the elm bark beetle, which has killed 46 million elms across North America. "It, too, is an insect and disease combo, the native elm bark beetle opening the door for the foreign fungus to move in" (*ibid.*).

Termites

There are many varieties of termites, most of which have the capacity to play havoc with people's lives—especially in cities. They can doom buildings by riddling their wooden structures, which they consume and pulverize. They are not fussy about whether the structure is a national monument or an important part of a nation's heritage. In fact, so bent are they on devouring wood they are capable of munching through concrete, bricks and mortar to get to it.

In recent years, they have plagued many major cities in the U.S., but most noticeably Houston, Washington, Charleston and New Orleans—a favorite home of termites with its near-tropical weather. One of the major problems, according to Jonathan Steele, a certified pest control operator for Terminix, is identification. "Any termite company can only inspect about 20 percent of the home" he says (www.BayArea.com, July 7). Authorities in New Orleans estimate the damage that termites cause in their town is

around \$300 million annually. Plus, 50 percent of the city's oaks, some of which top 100 years in age, are infested. In New Orleans, every year authorities spend an average of about \$100,000 per city block to combat pests, while Washington has been fighting termites in the U.S. Capitol building itself.

The Beginning of Sorrows

Consider also the following pests. Although during the year 2002 they haven't wreaked as much havoc and caused quite so much fear and damage as the above examples, they are still substantial curses: ash sawfly, white pine weevil, boxelder bug, Cooley spruce gall aphid, hawthorn mealybug, honeylocust plant bug, oystershell scale, peach tree borer, pinon "pitch mass" borer, Zimmerman pine moth, aphid, gypsy moth, shade tree borer, Colorado potato beetle, Mexican bean beetle, bagworm and killer bee.

In Matthew 24:7-8, where Jesus Christ is telling His disciples what it will be like in the end time, He says: "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and PESTILENCES, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the *beginning* of sorrows."

Perhaps you notice little ill effect from that vast army of pests marching across the land, destroying its manifold blessings. But a little thought will reveal that the *potential* of these pestilences to threaten your comfort is great.

Insects will increasingly become a major cause of famine and a principal means of spreading disease. "Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it. Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them" (Deut. 28:38-39).

America is clearly under a curse. And the insect plagues of 2002 are just a mild *beginning* of what is to come. Our loving God will step up the level of correction, until hard-hearted men turn to Him with childlike attitudes and repent.

God wants to help you to change and thus escape the soon-coming suffering. Although the march of events will very soon take on a much more dramatic turn for the worse, there is a way of escape. You don't have to wait until it is too late. Act now! ◆



Acts of God?

☞ Thanks for your article "Acts of God?" Questions in my mind as to why our world today is suffering from catastrophic natural events have been answered. The power over the weather really belongs to God.☞

Agavedzi, Ghana

YOUR COVERAGE OF THE CURRENT STATE OF affairs in Germany and Europe is very good. It is not the news that people want to hear, but is perhaps the news that might wake up some of our people before this monster strikes. Herbert Armstrong was right, and you and the PCG are right!

Springfield, Mo.

AS A LONG-TIME STUDENT OF EUROPEAN history, and one trained and educated for the foreign service of the U.S., I very much agree with your recent articles on the subject of Germany. I am very concerned with the recent acquisition of the public corporation American Water Works by a German electric public utility company (RWE). American Water controls the drinking water to municipalities in 40-plus states and several large cities. In 2001, this same German electric utility bought the predominant electric production and distribution systems in Kentucky. Question: Why are they buying up electric and water utility companies in America (they can't take the water and electricity to Europe) when these types of investments have historically returned below-market rates of return? If we get into a war on the opposite side from Germany, we surely could not produce the kind of "miracle" we did in World Wars I and II if they controlled the water and the electric infrastructure.

Russellville, Ohio

Out With the Old?

I'D LIKE TO THANK STEPHEN HILL FOR THE article he wrote, "Out With the Old?" I was appalled to hear of the modern-day injustices plaguing the elderly. Until I read your article, I did not realize that I, too, had fallen into this worldly attitude of ingratitude and disrespect. I realize an article like this requires a lot of time to produce. Surely, much effort was exerted in hopes that it would make a difference in the lives of others. Well, in my case, it has made a differ-

ence! I plan to correct my mistake and grant the elderly the honor they so deserve.

Alberta

I ENJOY YOUR MAGAZINE AND FOR THE MOST part agree with its contents. I have to take issue with the article "Out With the Old?" however. I will be 70 years old next birthday, and I have never experienced the slights/unkindnesses from younger people described in the article. Maybe it is because I smile at people and act pleasant instead of demanding to be catered to. Maybe it is because if I have to ask for help, I say please and don't demand it as if I am entitled. Maybe it is because I am not sour and crabby, and I don't expect to take it out on everybody else if I don't feel well. I have, however, experienced so much rudeness, selfishness and total lack of consideration practiced by other old people. I would like to tell them that maybe if they didn't act so obnoxious, they wouldn't be so lonely.

Chicago, Ill.

THE AUGUST 2002 COVER STORY IS VERY sobering. Reading the article made me thank God that even though our country (the Philippines) is a Third World country, our family structure here is closely knitted in that we take care of our own grandparents and respect them. You can count on your fingers the home-care institutions here.

Quezon City, Philippines

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 e-mailed to letters@thetrumpet.com. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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RYAN MALONE

Not-So-Super Men

For the U.S. and Britain, heroes and icons aren't what they used to be.

FAR INTO THE FUTURE, WHO OF OUR CURRENT WORLD WILL history be kind enough to remember? Which names will be recorded as those leaders, icons and heroes who shaped the face of our present day? Whoever they are, if we use present standards, they will be much different from the icons of times past.

Traditionally, heroes and icons were men and women whose bravery gave birth to nations, changed nations, saved nations—people like George Washington, John and Abigail Adams, Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill; men like Theodore Roosevelt, whose courage and charisma stirred people to greater accomplishment; men and women whose moral standards set the benchmark of decency and civility for Western society. The political and royal leaders of America and Britain respectively stood as models of noble deeds and decent living.

Today we see those “greats” of history being downplayed, discredited or omitted from history texts. Revisionists today, striving to become “more accurate,” in effect neutralize the accomplishments of those who should be remembered as heroes. They are no longer looked to as examples.

In their place, those individuals held up by and before the public do not tend to exemplify attributes of moral uprightness; they are noted for their celebrity or athletic ability alone. We choose our heroes or icons not for their character, but for their glitz—not for genuine contributions to humanity, but for how they are made to appear in unrealistic screenplays.

The Prophet Isaiah penned a prediction about the Western nations in modern times. He wrote that God Himself, because of our disobedience to His ways, would “take away” the “mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator” (Isa. 3:1-3).

Where are the honorable, the mighty men, the prudent, the eloquent orators? They are being replaced by those who have no intrinsic greatness other than being glamorized on the big screen, or they are replaced by those who catch the spotlight as a result of infidelity, financial deceit or drug use.

We have traded leaders for celebrities—men of character for men of renown, regardless of their moral stature.

In recent years, our leaders have not been the moral example that their offices once stood for—a notion apparently acceptable to the vast majority. Complacent about our moral depravity, it seems we prefer our leaders and icons to be as base as we are. In fact, public appetite for salacious details about the private lives of those in the spotlight is greater than ever.

How many political leaders of recent history fit the description of traditional heroes? How many of them have reached our top political office as those who served selflessly in battle? Our past several American presidents have had little or no military experience—some even AVOIDING it altogether.

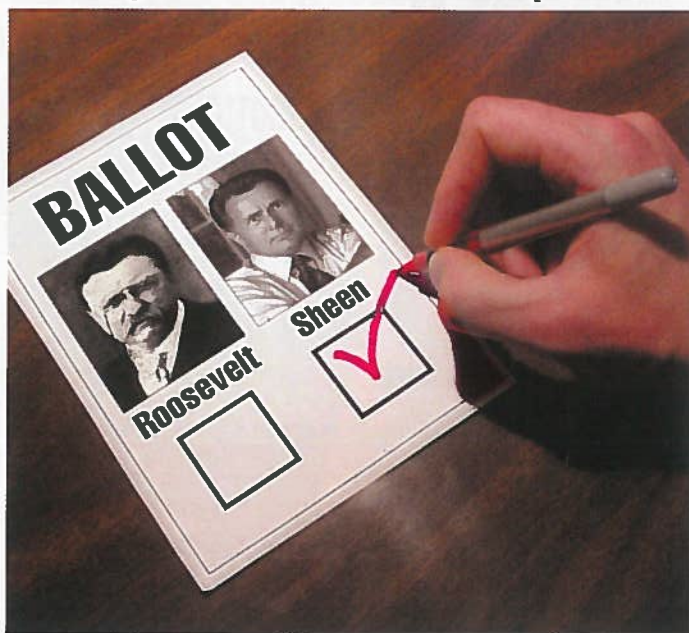
As a result of 9/11, our president is able to rally the country into active military confrontations. But consider his October 7 address before American citizens explaining why we may need to attack Iraq: Three major national television networks chose not to air his 25-minute address

over their new season of comedies, dramas and reality shows. Apparently we would rather watch normal people like us demonstrating “heroism” against a “fear factor” than watch our president as he discusses a possible nuclear factor.

Yes, if there is a lack of heroism, charisma or courage in our leaders, we don't state it to speak poorly of their character—but of OURS. We don't want the Theodore Roosevelts or Winston Churchills in power. How well would someone like Roosevelt or Churchill—someone with true conviction, courage, boldness and foresight—perform in a modern election if he went up against, say, a celebrity like Martin Sheen (known for his portrayal of a savvy fictional president on *The West Wing*)?

As God predicted through Isaiah, “[T]he child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the BASE AGAINST THE HONOURABLE” (Isa. 3:5). Again, it is God who took these true heroes away. He is breaking the pride of our power (Lev. 26:19) to get our attention—to turn us back to Him.

Who we idolize reveals a lot about who we are. We appear to be a nation of history-illiterates, enamored by the base and immoral, and without the courage or conviction to embrace those true values—a moral integrity—that a people must possess in order to survive.



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PHOTO DISC (2)



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Christians worldwide celebrate this holiday each year. Where did the holiday, and all the customs associated with it, originate? If you've never looked into this subject, you will be surprised!



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