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UNION OF CHURCH AND STATE

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Trumpet



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to Western civilization?

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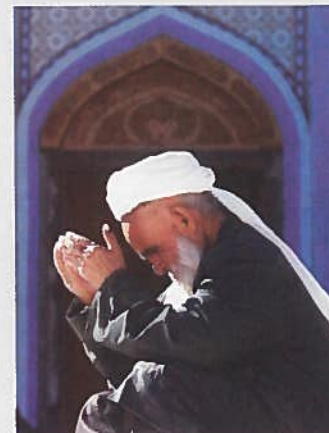
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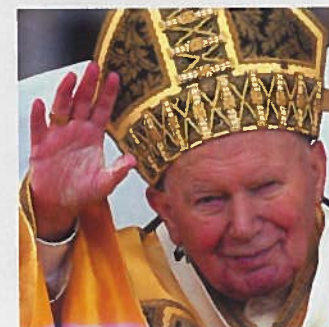
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ON THE COVER: A Tajik Muslim prays, symbolic of the peaceful face of Islam that seems at odds with the religion's current reputation for violence. (Reuters)



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Lessons From Nineveh

Of all the Bible's prophets, perhaps Jonah is the most famous—the man who was called to deliver a message and ran from that duty, only to be swallowed by a great fish, then spat back out three days later.

Some may know details beyond that point, but many do not. Jonah fulfilled his commission: to warn the greatest city within the most powerful nation in the world at that time that its sins were so great, it would be destroyed. Once Jonah delivered that warning, then came one of the most amazing and unique events in the entire Bible. That great city REPENTED.

As we mark the 13th anniversary of the *Trumpet* with this issue, a study of the story about Jonah and Nineveh will explain a lot about this publication's purpose.

God originally told Jonah, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me" (Jon. 1:2). When Jonah finally went to preach his warning, he said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jon. 3:4). We call this magazine the *Trumpet* because we want it to blast a warning, like Jonah's, about the calamities soon to overtake this world because of its sins—calamities like those that would have hit Nineveh, but much worse.

The Bible prophesies of a "great tribulation" that will be a time of great worldwide suffering—a time like no other before or after it (Matt. 24:21-22). We believe that, like Jonah, we can't avoid delivering this message, or we will be held accountable for that suffering. God says in Ezekiel 33:7-8, "... I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. ... [I]f thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand." That is a fate worse than three days and nights in the belly of a giant fish—God will require our blood!

But the other lesson from Jonah's story is that there is HOPE for all the nations being warned now through this message. Carnal people who didn't even know the true God realized Jonah's message came from God! They "believed God" (v. 5). Anyone can prove when a message is from God. When Nineveh repented, God "repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not" (v. 10). This great Gentile city, which had wickedness so rank that it even caught God's attention, was spared destruction.

The Great Tribulation that we so often speak about COULD be avoided IF the nations of this world would repent! The Day of the Lord—the time of God's wrath on the Gentile na-

tions—could be avoided too if the Gentiles heeded our message! That is why Nineveh was "that great city" (v. 2), or as the Hebrew reads, "a city great to God": It was a shining example of what can happen to evil nations that repent. This should be an encouragement to the nations today. And it will be an example for nations in the World Tomorrow—after Christ returns to restore order and peace to the Earth—to see what could have been.

God promises in His Word, specifically by this example of Nineveh's repentance, that He will save us physically from what is prophesied to occur if we repent—whether globally, nationally, as a community or family, or just as an individual.

Notice Jonah 3:5-6: "So the people of Nineveh BELIEVED

GOD, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes." The repentance began with the leadership and extended over the whole city. If our leaders would repent today and turn their nations around, all the suffering we

Nineveh is a great hope to all the nations being warned now through this message. The Great Tribulation could be avoided if this world would repent!

speak of so commonly in this magazine would be STOPPED!

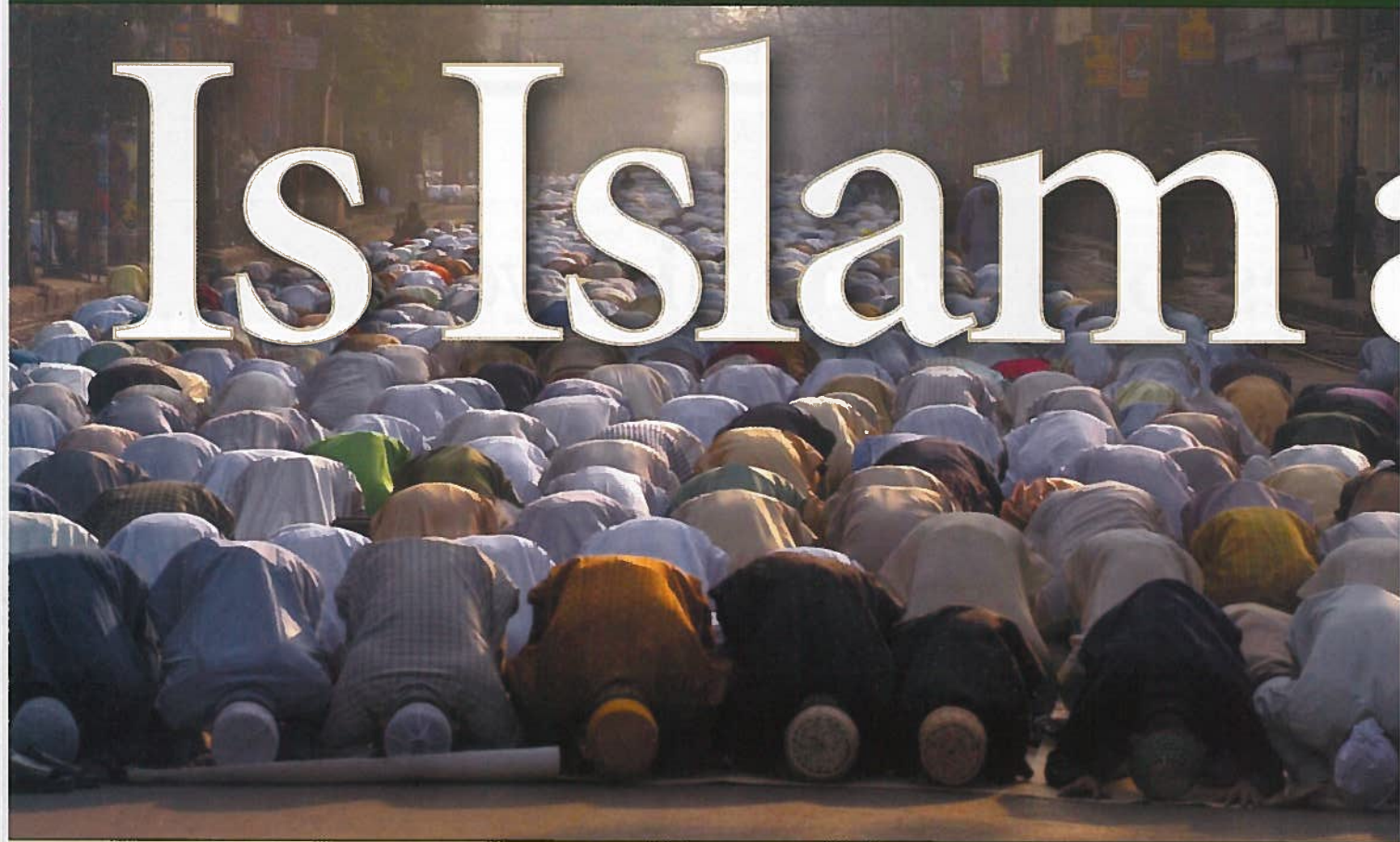
Even if all the nations do not repent, we can repent individually. But notice the kind of repentance it took: "And God SAW THEIR WORKS, that they turned from their evil way ..." (v. 10). God didn't see merely their fasting or their weeping; He didn't see only that they were sorry for what they did; He saw that they *changed their lifestyle*—they turned from doing evil.

This is what motivates us at the *Trumpet*. The fact that one person—maybe YOU—or a family, a city, even a nation COULD repent and turn to God! That is why we persist in this warning. We don't want to write off these nations and fail to deliver God's urgent message to them, or we will suffer a worse fate than Jonah! We want as many people as possible to turn from their sins and be spared the coming devastation, described in the Bible as the worst time of suffering on this Earth.

Those truly repentant will be spared this suffering, and they will join the ranks of God's loyal end-time remnant—those who support this magazine. Because God has given us this message, we have a warning to deliver—and we MUST deliver it! The story of Nineveh gives us hope that some WILL repent and escape destruction.

For more information on these subjects, request our booklets *Jonah—A Strong Warning to God's Church and Repentance Toward God*. All our literature is free and requires no obligation.

Is Islam



Muslims account for 20 percent of the Earth's population. Factions of hate-filled, even violent, Muslims are riling the world's most powerful governments—and making all Islam a target. Do they speak for Islam? What are they so upset about?

How worried should we be? BY JOEL HILLIKER

DEBATE OVER RELIGION CAN ALWAYS get heated. But in the emotional, polarized post-9/11 world, it has become a battleground. And at the heart of the dispute is a vast and rapidly growing religion that is suddenly filling the spotlight in global events: Islam.

On one side of the argument are governments and peoples on every continent—not just America—up in arms over the hatred and violence seething within Islam. On the other are people decrying discrimination, pleading for tolerance. At stake is the existing world order.

What is true Islam? It depends on who you ask.

Islam is a peaceful religion. Islam is a bloody religion. Jihad is an inner struggle to be a good person. Jihad is a holy war against the infidel. Muslims are pluralistic and tolerant. Muslims

want to take over the world. What makes the debate so confusing is that all these ideas are both true and false.

One out of every five people is Muslim, amounting to 1.2 billion worldwide (only 12 percent of whom are Arab). Sprawled out over the globe as it is, Islam takes many forms. It is a religion without a centralized government, without an existing hierarchy, without denominations. Where Roman Catholics, for example, can look to the pope to define Catholic doctrine (as can the rest of the world), Islam has no such singular authority.

Thus, the question of whether or not a demoniac like Osama bin Laden (who lacks formal religious education and has no authoritative religious position) is a legitimate spokesman for Islam becomes murky once he convinces enough Muslims to follow him.

Among Muslims are great numbers

of people who would peacefully, even if reluctantly, coexist within a multi-faith world. But among their ranks are growing factions of people practicing what is variously called *radical, militant, extremist* or *jihadist* Islam—or *Islamism* (classifying it with other “isms” such as *fascism* and *communism*). Islamists are committed to extending the frontiers of their religion by whatever means necessary. The New York City skyline mutely attests to that chilling fact.

To protect the image of Islam, many people—including George W. Bush, who has no interest in fighting one fifth of the Earth's inhabitants—are doing their best to keep the distinction clear between Islam and Islamism. But these distinctions can seem academic in the face of increasingly vocal, even violent popular Muslim uprisings occurring worldwide. The extremists themselves see no distinction, except

a Threat?

RELIGION OF
CONTRASTS
Muslims pray
in India; Muslim
youths protest
in Jerusalem

insofar as some Muslims are *failing* in their responsibility to wage war. Bin Laden labels the U.S.-led war on terrorism “a war against Islam,” and has appealed to Muslims worldwide with the battle cry, “Rise in support of your religion. Islam is calling you.”

How big is the threat posed by such men? How widespread is the extremist problem within this great religion? Is it fairly contained, or is it actually getting worse?

God sees the whole picture. In fact, He saw it millennia ago, and recorded it, in advance, in prophecy. We can place current events within this context, and use these prophecies to assess the present and future state of this global crisis.

Significant prophecies show that militant Islam does pose a *serious threat*—MUCH MORE SERIOUS THAN THE VAST MAJORITY REALIZE—to the United States, Britain and the Jewish nation of

Israel. Islamism will also deeply impact the European Union and, indirectly, the whole of the world. You cannot afford to ignore these biblical truths.

In evaluating current events in light of these prophecies, the *Trumpet's* purpose is not to condemn any religion. Yes—GOD'S LAW *absolutely condemns* the seething hatred and violence being cultivated among many Islamist groups. But realize this: YOUR BIBLE shows that God is in fact MORE ANGRY with the nations those groups are TARGETING!

Before we look at those specific prophecies, let's get the worldwide overview of the threat posed by Islam today, and evaluate some of the causes.

Worldwide Agitation

Last November, Russian President Vladimir Putin made a strong statement. London's *Telegraph* reported,

“Islamic radicals are pursuing the systematic annihilation of non-Muslims ... Putin claimed yesterday. The Russian leader said ... that *Western civilization faced a mortal threat* from Muslim terrorists, and claimed that they had plans to create a ‘worldwide caliphate’” (Nov. 12, 2002; emphasis mine throughout).

Those are the words of a man in a bare-knuckled brawl with Islamism.

Putin's country has a long history of holding Islamic insurgence at bay along its frontiers. The Soviet Union was mostly successful, but when it dissolved, Islam exploded in the former Soviet republics in Central Asia. Russia quickly became embroiled in two brutal wars with militant Muslims—the first in Tajikistan, in which Russia prevailed only after half a decade of fighting and tens of thousands of deaths; the second in the Russian province of Chechnya, which is bloodying Russia's nose to this

REUTERS

day. It was just December 27, 2002, that an exceptionally deadly suicide attack on the Chechen government's headquarters killed over 80 people.

But Russia is hardly alone in its struggles. Governments around the world are being forced to step up their resistance to Islamist violence.

Consider Europe. Officials dealing with terrorism are waking up to the increasing threat of Muslim violence on the Continent, uncovering terrorist cells with well-established links to North America, North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. Post-mortem analysis of 9/11 showed that



TERROR IN RUSSIA A rescue worker eyes the crater from a bombing at the Chechen government headquarters in December.

the European Union, with its lenient asylum laws and generous social programs, had served as a haven for the terrorists in those attacks.

Islamist activity in Southeast Asia is also burgeoning, as last October's terrorist attack in Bali illustrated. In many ways, the region is ideal for radicalism to flourish—its huge Islamic population (240 million) largely lives under weak or corrupt governments and lax security conditions. The past few years have seen a sharp trend toward their becoming more anti-American, politicized and radicalized: Over 100 politically active Islamic parties and active terrorist groups have emerged there, especially in Indonesia, since mid-1998.

The majority of Muslims do not subscribe to the extreme views of terrorist groups. But with an increasing number of them, those views are at least tolerable, if not powerfully alluring. As Marc Erikson points out in his article "Islamism, Fascism and Terrorism," the fact that Islamism is wreaking "escalat-

ing worldwide havoc" is "based on its fast-growing influence among the world's more than one billion Muslims" (*Asia Times*, Nov. 5, 2002).

Even a dispassionate evaluation of the major conflicts in the world today suggests a measure of culpability on the part of the Islamic community as a whole. The facts support the thesis of Harvard's Samuel Huntington, that most conflicts are occurring along the civilizational divide of Eurasia and Africa that separates Muslims from the rest of the world. Islam is butting heads with the Orthodox world not only in the northern Caucasus region (Russians vs.

that of Roman Catholicism and other religions, shows periods of both warfare and relative quiet. Commentator Daniel Pipes asserts that the current period of "backwardness, resentment, extremism and violence" within much of the Muslim world is actually *atypical* of Islam's long history. "[I]ndeed," he concludes, "it may be the worst era in that entire history" (*National Post*, Aug. 2, 2002).

But the question remains: What is causing the problem *now*? What turns a Muslim into a suicide bomber?

Islamic Resurgence

The more clear-eyed and frank reli-

Among the multiplicity of religions throughout history, most have been polytheistic, idolatrous, and relatively tolerant of other beliefs. Islam and Catholicism, by contrast, stand out not only as being two of the few religions that demand worship of only *one god*, but also as being *missionary*—and quite aggressive in their ambitions.

Chechens), but in the rest of the Caucasus (Turks vs. Greeks and Azeris vs. Armenians), as well as Bosnia, Kosovo, Cyprus and even Ethiopia. Muslims are fighting the Chinese in Malaysia and in China's Xinjiang province. They are battling with Hindus in India, and with Buddhists in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand. Of course, the most renowned Middle East conflict is between Muslims and Jews, but Muslims are also facing down Maronite Christians in Lebanon. Christian/Muslim warfare is also rife throughout Africa, being waged in Sudan, Nigeria, Chad, Kenya and Tanzania, and is also at the root of problems within Indonesia and the Philippines.

"In all these places," Huntington wrote, "the relations between Muslims and peoples of other civilizations—Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Hindu, Chinese, Buddhist, Jewish—have been generally antagonistic; most of these relations have been violent at some point in the past; many have been violent in the 1990s. Wherever one looks along the perimeter of Islam, *Muslims have problems living peacefully with their neighbors*" (*The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*).

There is much fervent debate and disagreement over the degree to which Muhammad (Islam's founder) was a man of peace or a warmonger, and whether the Koran (Islam's holy book) promotes religious tolerance or missionary violence. Islam's history, like

religious scholars generally agree that Islam, like Roman Catholicism, is a religion whose ultimate goal is *universal conversion*. "In the classical Islamic view, to which many Muslims are beginning to return, the world and all mankind are divided into two: the House of Islam, where the Muslim law and faith prevail, and the rest, known as the House of Unbelief or the House of War, which it is the duty of Muslims ultimately to bring to Islam" (Bernard Lewis, "The Roots of Muslim Rage," *Atlantic Monthly*, September 1990).

Among the multiplicity of religions throughout history, most have been polytheistic, idolatrous, and relatively tolerant of other beliefs. Islam and Catholicism, by contrast, stand out not only as being two of the few religions that demand worship of only *one god*, but also as being *missionary*—and quite aggressive in their ambitions.

Not surprisingly, then, Muslims and Catholics have been found in conflict with one another during most of the 14 centuries that they have coexisted, struggling through a repetitive cycle of *jihad*s and crusades.

For the first thousand years of that time, Islam steadily grew in influence, territory and power. Beginning in the late 17th century, however, the tide turned: Catholicism began to wax strong—not only in Europe but increasingly in Asia and Africa—and Islam receded into the background.

Over the first half of the 20th century, the decline of Western colonialism led to the independence of several Muslim societies. The Islamic population grew in numbers and in power, a trend that further intensified with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Huntington believes this historical phenomenon to be so significant, he designated it the Islamic Resurgence. This Resurgence has been extensive, widespread, mainstream, involving the rededication to Muslim practices and ideals on the part of huge swaths of peoples, whole populations.

And it is within this larger movement that the unruly strain of extremist views and behavior has also risen.

The Poison that Permeates

America wants very much to believe that the Islamism movement is small, entirely separate from and contradictory to the mainstream teachings of Islam. This is a best-case scenario—the one the Bush administration has chosen to publicize. Accepting this idea means that al-

peoples. David Pryce-Jones explains, “Secular nationalists and Islamists appear to have different and incompatible aims for their people, but together they have fostered a generalized climate of rage against the West, and the United States in particular. They share the same vocabulary about the ‘arrogance’ of the United States, and the need to recover their own honor and dignity” (*New York Post*, Sept. 8, 2002).

This trend explains why—despite the familiar assertion that 9/11 was the work of a tiny group claiming to be Muslim but totally at odds with the majority Muslim view—there has not been more vocal opposition to such terrorism among Muslim countries and cultures. It explains why Palestinians danced in the streets when the Twin Towers collapsed. Stratfor analysts explained it this way: “More than an organization, al-Qaeda represented a tendency that PERMEATED many Arab societies. U.S. demands on some countries, such as Saudi Arabia, constituted nothing less than a demand for social upheaval”

While the number of individuals willing to blow themselves up may be few, this minority has struck a chord with many “mainstream” Muslims who also find much to hate about the West, America and Israel in particular. Growing anti-Americanism is engulfing these peoples.

though the threat posed by Islamism is great, it is containable. It presumes that governments of predominantly Muslim countries should be perfectly willing to help squelch the problem—indeed, that a coalition against terrorism should include such nations.

What makes this idea problematic is that the populations of those “mainstream” Muslim countries—which include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon—vociferously protest whenever their governments cooperate with America. President Bush’s “you’re either with us or with the terrorists” ultimatum has placed those governments in a precarious position: trying to cooperate with U.S. war efforts while preventing their people from revolting.

While the number of individuals willing to blow themselves up may be few, this minority has struck a chord with many “mainstream” Muslims who also find much to hate about the West, America and Israel in particular. Growing anti-Americanism is engulfing these

(www.stratfor.com, Dec. 27, 2002).

The reality is, Islamist thinking is much more pervasive than most would want to believe. But what is making so many people so angry?

It’s Not About Money

A common mistake Westerners make in evaluating the cause of Islamism is to focus purely on economic and material issues—to interpret Muslim anger as merely stemming from a lack of Western freedoms and privileges. The thinking is, *Just give the Islamist a job and a car, and he’ll calm down.*

As bin Laden himself put it, “Because America worships money, it believes that [other] people think that way too.”

The problem with this view is that it minimizes the importance of *Muslim beliefs and principles* as agents of action.

In truth, the assumption that Islamism is a product of poverty and deprivation has been proven false. Measuring wealth and economic trends nation by nation won’t tell you where Is-

lamism will be weak or strong. Interestingly, the latest revival of the extremist movement began in the 1970s, during an oil boom that flooded many Muslim countries with wealth and power.

Even on the individual level, research shows that it is actually the educated and more well-off people who tend toward extremism. Daniel Pipes makes this connection: “Like fascism and Marxism-Leninism in their heydays, militant Islam attracts highly competent, motivated and ambitious individuals. Far from being the laggards of society, they are its leaders. ... [S]uicide bombers who hurl them-



DEVOUT Indian Muslims pray at the end of the month of Ramadan in Calcutta.

selves against foreign enemies offer their lives not to protest financial deprivation but to change the world” (*National Interest*, Winter 2001/2002).

Islamists do not necessarily reject modernity. Many of them, such as bin Laden, use new technologies to spread their ideas. Nor are Islamists opposed to wealth. But they are simply not interested in wealth in and of itself. “Economic assets for Islamists represent not the good life but added strength to do battle against the West,” wrote Pipes. “Money serves to train cadres and buy weapons, not to buy a bigger house or a late-model car. Wealth is a means, not an end.

“Means toward what? Toward power. Islamists care less about material strength than about *where they stand in the world. They talk incessantly of this*” (ibid.).

Sick of the West

Americans have a hard time believing that anyone could have an *ideological*

problem with them. (President Bush voiced this view plainly: "I'm amazed that people would hate us I am like most Americans—I just can't believe it, because I know how good we are.") But listening to the Islamists themselves (rather than Western commentators) shows how fundamental their objections are: *They are sickened and incensed by the West's political, economic*

and cultural dominance of the world.

The humiliation of Islam—"an old, proud, and long dominant civilization," in the words of Bernard Lewis—by peoples they regard as their spiritual inferiors has hardened into a root of bitterness. Islamists now look upon the West as a godless, materialistic, immoral non-civilization. Its material successes are but a thin veil over its

spiritual failures—failures born, in their mind, of the falseness or incompleteness of Christianity.

Islamists can point to a litany of Western failures. "For vast numbers of Middle Easterners, Western-style economic methods brought poverty, Western-style political institutions brought tyranny, even Western-style warfare brought defeat" (Lewis, op. cit.). Those

Islamism's Foot Soldiers

WESTERN MEDIA HAVE MILKED QUITE A BIT OF DRAMA FROM the story of Islamic radicals being poor, illiterate, simple, impressionable. But could such people drive a movement that seems destined to upset the existing world order? The reality is, behind the extremist groups are well-educated, moneyed and privileged individuals.

After World War II, many of the newly independent Muslim states worked to implement compulsory education and mass literacy. Some prominent analysts see the students who emerged from this education boom as leading the charge in modern Islamism.

While these radicals are bright and ambitious, they have remained on the fringe. Outside of Iran and Sudan, where the ruling class also hold religious positions, the governments of Muslim-dominated countries (such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria) are *secular*. And while such countries will always be cautious, even reluctant, in their alliances with Western nations, to extremists, *any* degree of cooperation with the decadent West amounts to a wholesale sellout of the Islamic faith.

Islamists worldwide are unified in the drive toward *religious purity*. Thus they share a few basic ambitions: to overthrow their corrupt governments who compromise in foreign policy; to enforce stricter Islamic law within their countries; and to expand the territory over which devout Muslims rule.

To bulk up their muscle, "Islamists have turned to two potential allies: the devout bourgeoisie, to provide the means; and the masses of the urban poor, to fill out the ranks" (*National Interest*, Summer 2002). Here, then is the origin of the media's story. For among the uneducated, poverty-stricken masses, Islamists are finding a goldmine of support. As Daniel Pipes put it, the poor "make valuable foot-soldiers" (*ibid.*, Winter 2001/2002).

Islamists can draw upon plenty of these potential foot soldiers thanks to a population boom within Muslim communities. Twenty years ago, Muslims made up perhaps 18 percent of the global population; by 2025 that number is expected to grow to 30 percent. As Samuel Huntington observes, "For years to come Muslim populations will be disproportionately young populations, with a notable demographic bulge of teenagers and people in their 20s" (*The Clash of Civilizations*). And, as he goes on to show, young people tend to be the primary engine of "protest, instability, reform and revolution."

Consider too that the spartan religious education offered by Islamic *madrasas*, or seminaries, is generally free, unlike a regular education. The countries that devote the least amount to public education have the highest *madrasa* enrollment.

"In some ways, *madrasas* are at the center of a civil war of

**TOMORROW'S
TERRORISTS?**
Many *madrasas*
(Islamic seminaries)
have become
more politicized in
recent years.



ideas in the Islamic world," says Husain Haqqani, a Muslim and former *madrasa* student. "Westernized and usually affluent Muslims lack an interest in religious matters, but religious scholars, marginalized by modernization, seek to assert their own relevance by insisting on orthodoxy. ... Poor students attending *madrasas* find it easy to believe that the West, loyal to uncaring and aloof leaders, is responsible for their misery and that Islam as practiced in its earliest form can deliver them" (*Foreign Policy*, November/December 2002).

The education these masses of people are receiving is, in an increasing number of cases, frighteningly militant.

Haqqani recently visited his former *madrasa* and said he hardly recognized it. He interviewed a 9-year-old student named Tahir, who told him, "The Muslim community of believers is the best in the eyes of God, and we must make it the same in the eyes of men by force. We must fight the unbelievers and that includes those who carry Muslim names but have adopted the ways of unbelievers. When I grow up I intend to carry out *jihād* in every possible way." Haqqani then commented, "Tahir does not believe that al-Qaeda is responsible for September 11 because his teachers have told him that the attacks were a conspiracy by Jews against the Taliban. He also considers Mullah Omar and Osama bin Laden great Muslims, 'for challenging the might of the unbelievers'" (*ibid.*).

Such shallow and inflammatory ideas are finding refuge in the minds of increasing numbers of young people, much to the dismay of older Muslim legal scholars and teachers. Richard W. Bulliet, in the Winter 2002 *Wilson Quarterly*, says that the innovative, radical figures such as bin Laden are overshadowing the traditional teachers of a previous generation—so much so, in fact, that "the momentum seems to be with the new authorities. This has created an unusual dynamic within the Muslim world. While the new authorities seldom defer to the old [that is, the more conservative, pacifist], the old feel compelled to endorse some of their rivals' ideas in order to seem up to date and retain influence" (emphasis mine).

In other words, to keep up with the times, even mainstream Islamic education is tending to lean toward the political—the radical. And the ranks of foot soldiers grow.

failures include America's hypocritical foreign policy that allows America and Israel to possess weapons of mass destruction, but no Muslim nations; that supports repressive, anti-democratic regimes when it serves America's best interests to do so. The failures also include the avalanche of Western-made smut being exported around the world via modern technology. They include the prevalence of divorce and family failure; the pervasiveness of drug addiction and other types of hedonism.

This recognition of real and perceived Western evils translates into a deep *hatred of the people* of the West. In case after case, Islamists want to ensure that such infectious calamities don't spread to the world of Islam. Deprived of material superiority, they believe that Muslims can at least retain spiritual and moral superiority.

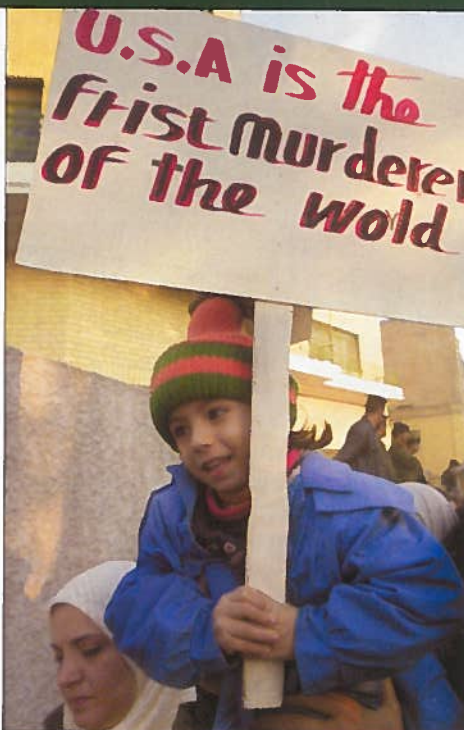
With this prevailing view of the West (in which the U.S. is the chief wrongdoer), says Mr. Lewis, "It is hardly surprising that so many were willing to listen to voices telling them that the old Islamic ways were best and that their only salvation was to throw aside the pagan innovations of the reformers and return to the True Path that God had prescribed for his people" (Lewis, op. cit.).

"Let Us Cut Them Off"

This mounting anti-American, anti-Israel hatred calls to mind a disturbing prophecy contained within the Psalms.

Psalms 83 speaks of a future multi-nation alliance, including many Muslim nations, that will be mounted against America and Britain (the modern-day descendants of biblical Israel referred to in prophecy as "Israel"). Our free booklet *The King of the South* explains which nations will be involved in this confederation (listed by their biblical names in verses 6-8) and what the time setting is.

Though this prophecy will not be fulfilled until after some earth-shaking geopolitical events, it describes the cruel *attitude* behind this alliance—an attitude we see in embryo today: "They [the nations of this alliance] have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, COME, AND LET US CUT THEM OFF FROM BEING A NATION; THAT THE NAME OF ISRAEL MAY BE NO MORE IN REMEMBRANCE. For they have consulted together with one consent:



ANTI-WEST An Iraqi child demonstrates in Baghdad during a January protest.

they are confederate against thee" (vv. 3-5). At that time, these nations will have one goal on their minds: to COMPLETELY ANNIHILATE ISRAEL—which includes America and Britain.

Realize: THE ANTI-AMERICAN, ANTI-ISRAEL PASSIONS WE SEE TODAY ARE BUILDING TOWARD THE UNPARALLELED HATRED DESCRIBED IN THIS PROPHECY!

Hatred on that scale could only be motivated by Satan the devil! God's adversary would love nothing more than to obliterate the name of Israel—which means "GOD PREVAILS—GOD WILL RULE"! (Request a free copy of *The Key of David* for more information.)

Some are hoping against all hope that Islamism is fading. But not only do the observable facts expose the fallacy in their reasoning, the Bible shows that these terrifying trends are not going to go away. No—in fact they are only now starting to COME INTO BLOOM.

Cursed Sevenfold!

Let's turn our attention, then, to what we can expect to see in the time just ahead.

The *Trumpet* has often referred to Leviticus 26 as being a prophecy for America and Britain (as well as the other modern descendants of Israel, as explained in our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). But we must understand that it is a

conditional prophecy.

In this chapter, God lays before these nations a choice: On the condition that the people obey Him, He promises a whole host of blessings (vv. 3-12). But if instead they go their own way, God promises an intensifying nightmare of curses (vv. 14-39) *designed to bring the people back to Him* (vv. 40-45).

America and Britain have forgotten their history with God. And now they are clearly reaping the CURSES of wholesale *rebellion* against God and His law.

Meditate on these warnings from the great God of the Bible: "I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you TERROR ... that shall ... cause sorrow of heart And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies ... and ye shall flee when none pursueth you" (vv. 16-17). In this age of terrorism, we are *living* these curses!

Again—these prophecies are conditional. And when people *ignore* God's correction, He increases the pressure: "And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then *I will punish you seven times more for your sins*" (v. 18).

Read the rest of the prophecy. As long as our nations refuse to hear, they will experience *intensifying curses and punishments from the living God!* He cries out in verse 28, "I, EVEN I, WILL CHASTISE YOU!"

God four times warns of Israel receiving "seven times" the punishment (vv. 18, 21, 24, 28). Those two English words are translated from the single Hebrew word *sheba*, which conveys both the *duration* of punishment, and a sevenfold increase in the *severity* of the punishment.

In other words, the terror of September 11 was only a mild prelude. Failure to turn to God will mean a SEVENFOLD INCREASE in terror!

It is one of the most powerful and condemning ironies of our time: Many of the things about the West that rankle the Muslim world and anger Islamist extremists *are the very things for which GOD condemns Israel!*

God does not support terrorists. He condemns their anger, their violence, their self-righteousness. He will bring their every act into judgment (Eccl. 12:14).

But at the same time, IT IS STRONGLY CONDEMNING WHEN GENTILE PEOPLES HAVE A CLEARER-EYED VIEW OF THE EVILS



FERVENT PRAYERS
The Bible shows
that religion will
be the driving
force of future
global warfare.

AND SINS WITHIN ISRAEL THAN THE ISRAELITISH PEOPLE HAVE THEMSELVES!

And God is allowing the terrorism, allowing the violence—allowing the devil to sway these people into acting upon their brutal, satanic hatreds against America and Britain.

How Severe?

Ezekiel 5 prophesies about the three-fold fate to befall the inhabitants of the modern-day nations of Israel. Using three sections of Ezekiel's beard to illustrate, God shows that the first third will "burn with fire ... in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled" (v. 2).

What is this "fire"? Whatever it is, it will kill a staggering ONE THIRD of the citizens of America, Britain and the other Israelitish nations! It will critically weaken these nations by bleeding them of their peoples.

This same group is described further in verse 12 as dying "with the pestilence." The Hebrew word translated *pestilence* means destruction or death; one definition of the root word is "to lay snares, to plot against, to destroy."

Gerald Flurry shows in his book *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet* that this refers to violence in the cities that includes *terrorist violence*. Ezekiel's prophecy indicates that future attacks will wreak death on a sickening scale!

September 11 killed *thousands*.

THE DEATH TOLL OF THIS FUTURE VIOLENCE WILL MOUNT INTO THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS.

The *Trumpet* often focuses on the many prophecies about Israel's fall to the European beast power. This passage in Ezekiel supplies more of the picture: that MUCH of what will undermine Israel's strength and set the Israelitish nations up for the final defeat very likely WILL BE CAUSED BY ISLAMIST TERRORISTS.

The peoples of America and Britain, the citizens of Britain's Commonwealth, the Jews of Israel, *must understand the nature of the enemy they face*. It is bigger, angrier, more violent, more elusive, more terrible, than they understand. And rather than trusting in God, they are trusting in armaments to deliver them. Their sins, their stubbornness, their faithlessness, will lead to their defeat.

And just like after 9/11, Muslims will dance in the streets.

These successes will stoke the aggression of Islam's radicals. The dream of the downfall of the West and the dawn of a new era in Islam will become vivid. It will inflame the hearts of great numbers of Muslims. The elusive goal of political Islamic unity will effectively be reached.

At this point, fully formed on the world scene will be a formidable power—prophesied of in Scripture for millennia—THE KING OF THE SOUTH.

The Final Jihad; the Last Crusade

It is easy to imagine what will be on the Muslim mind at this point. For on the scene will be another power, one which also rose to fill the void left by the U.S.—a united Europe, THE KING OF THE NORTH. As has been the case throughout its history, this war machine will also be guided by a muscular, politicized religion.

The stage will be set for the climactic conclusion to a centuries-long struggle—the final *jihad*, the last crusade.

"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north 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" (Dan. 11:40).

This is a clash between two reli-

gions—Roman Catholicism and Islam. More specifically, it is a clash between the *extreme elements* of these two religions.

The extremists, at present, constitute a small minority of Muslims and Catholics. But be assured, you will be able to WATCH as their numbers swell and eventually grow to become the dominant force within each of those religions.

Watch and PRAY that you will not be around to witness the time when they form the heads of the two spears that will clash in this spectacular battle spoken of by the Prophet Daniel! For by then it will be too late: That war will occur in the early days of the GREATEST TRIBULATION THIS WORLD HAS WITNESSED.

Those who watch world events with their eyes open realize that this world is an angry, conflicted, violent place. Those who watch with an awareness of biblical prophecy realize that it is going to get angrier, more conflicted, more violent—right up until its last tortured breath.

But only those who WATCH and PRAY, those who REPENT NOW, those who SUBMIT THEMSELVES to the all-powerful God who foretold these events and is now bringing them to pass, can look to the future with *hope* and *confidence*. They alone KNOW IN FAITH not only that they will be PROTECTED by a loving Father, but that when the warfare reaches its climax they will then help usher in the start of a truly new age—an age of peace, of a single world religion under merciful, righteous rulership—under the King of kings, Jesus Christ. ♦

With reporting by
RYAN MALONE

For more information, request
your free copy of our book-
let *The King of the South*.



A Union of Church and State



Americans keep religion and government separate to preserve religious freedom. But within Europe, Catholicism has long been a driving force in politics.

BY RON FRASER

THE PUBLIC AT LARGE COULD BE forgiven for thinking that the Roman Catholic Church is a church in crisis. Over the past 20 years it has been wracked by scandal, riven by internal dissent, impacted by a barrage of official dogmatic encyclicals, excommunications, resignations, calls to order, more calls to order and yet more scandal. So rocky has been John Paul II's papacy that one may wonder—is *anyone* in control?

To answer this question, one must dig below the surface of lurid media headlines to grasp that amid all this, Rome *does* have an agenda, and there are those who are definitely in charge, and who will see to it that the agenda is carried out.

The problem is, for an observer to really *understand* that agenda and then monitor its progress, one needs to have an appreciation of *history*—and that is an extremely scarce commodity in today's dumbed-down, culturally vacuous society.

Yet, one of those who has watched the European Union evolve since its

genesis as the European Coal and Steel Community into the world's largest federal union of nation states, looks on with an eye to the continuum of history that is leading to yet one more resurrection of an ancient entity in Europe—the “Holy” Roman Empire!

A Historian's Perspective

Jacques le Goff, French historian and author of leading works on medieval history, perceives the necessity of the EU being joined together with the only glue that ever held Europe together—the spiritual leadership of *Rome*.

The Vatican-watch news service ZENIT interviewed professor Le Goff last year concerning his views on the European Convention, currently involved in the drafting of a federal constitution to unite the present 15 EU member nations, and the 13 others with membership pending, into a giant United States of Europe. The following are extracts from that interview.

“Q: ... What characteristics unite the European countries?”

“Le Goff: [Catholic] *Christianity* is the principal *ideological foundation* of Europe. ...

“Q: The nations that form part of Europe, on *what law* are they based?”

“Le Goff: Europe begins to appear in the fourth century, with the fusion of the peoples of the empire and the barbarian peoples, thanks to [Catholic] Christianity. The legal structure was founded on *Roman law* ... Also, *in relation to money, Europe has a ‘personality,’ which comes to it, precisely, from the church*, which has always reserved the right of jurisdiction and judgment on commercial treaties ...

“Q: We have begun to make Europe by starting with money. Surveys say that citizens are happy but disappointed by the fact that the euro is losing in value with respect to the dollar. What do you think?”

“Le Goff: ... The stock markets, which express financial judgments on our currency, are inspired by an ultraliberal and American model. This is why the euro loses in relation to the dollar.

“Q: What can be done?”

“Le Goff: [*The Church*] should show its courage today and make its voice heard; it should become another *center of social progress*. It would be capital for Europe and would represent a formidable plan” (ZENIT, Feb. 21, 2002; emphasis mine throughout).

A formidable plan. That's what that ancient institution, the Vatican, has in mind for the unification of Europe!

From its inception, it has been a Roman Catholic project. Its founding fathers, its leading lights, its prime representatives and most influential office holders have largely been German or French and *Catholic*.

These facts ought not surprise history buffs. That Germany has been the economic engine of the EU is well known, reaching out with its globalist trade policies to build a corporate German nation covering the globe in banking, commerce and business. That France has sought to bind Germany in a Franco-Teutonic straitjacket for fear of a break-out of old German aggression, has been there for all to see. That the Vatican has been the spiritual force inspiring the vision of a revived "Holy" Roman Empire for decades through the aegis of the EU has been far less apparent—until very recently.

EU's Religious Connection

Commenting on the religious factor within the EU, the *Wilson Quarterly*

had this to say in a review on this subject which appeared in *European Union Politics*, June 2001: "While the EU may be chiefly an economic community, *European integration and religion, particularly Catholicism, 'were explicitly linked, theoretically and politically,'* when the dream of unity took shape in the early years after World War II 'European integration in the 1950s was largely a Christian Democratic project, led by devout Catholics such as Konrad Adenauer, Robert Schuman and Alcide de Gasperi'" (Autumn 2001).

Interestingly, the clear divide between support for Eurofederalism and the argument for retention of national supremacy is *religious*. The *Wilson Quarterly* observed, "'The Protestant countries are reluctant to abandon sovereignty for historical and political reasons,' while the *Catholic Church 'has consistently supported both the European Union and its expansion.'* ... [T]he most devout sectarian Protestants, such as Calvinists in the Netherlands and

Northern Ireland, 'are the least fond of the European Union'" (ibid.).

It ought not be surprising, then, that the Vatican and its minions have been vocal in their lobbying of the European Convention as that body drafts a European constitution.

During a seminar convened in Rome to study the idea of a constitution following the conclusion of the Treaty of Nice a year ago, "Jurist Achille Chiappetti, professor of public law at the University of La Sapienza in Rome, a layman and relator of the seminar, said he was convinced that the European Charter would have to be Christian, because the history of the Old World is marked by natural values that are defended by Christianity. ... 'Religion entails enormous values for man,' Chiappetti said. 'Moreover, without the Christian religion, we would not have arrived at this level of our civilization'" (ZENIT, Jan. 28, 2002).

Obviously Chiappetti was speaking of *Roman Catholicism* when he used the

· THE POLITICIAN WHO WAS POPE ·

Timely Visit Planned

The pope's unprecedented invitation to speak before European Parliament

POPE JOHN PAUL II SCORED A MAJOR VICTORY RECENTLY when European Parliament head Pat Cox invited him to address the assembly. The visit, tentatively planned for the second half of this year, will occur at a vital time for the EU. The EU is facing not only massive enlargement in May 2004 to include 10 new members, but also the struggle of attempting to churn out an all-encompassing EU constitution—one which, to this point, has been marked by heated exchanges about references to religion.

The pope has, of course, repeatedly encouraged EU policymakers to formally recognize the church's contribution to the building of the EU, and to enshrine its rights and the rights of its members in the constitution. Although an EU spokesman has said that the pope's proposed trip is not directly linked to the current dispute over the future constitution, the facts nonetheless speak for themselves.

John Paul II has been involved heavily in politics. He last visited the European Parliament in 1988 and, in the ensuing years, witnessed the collapse of the Soviet Union—a process in which he played an integral role. The Vatican now main-

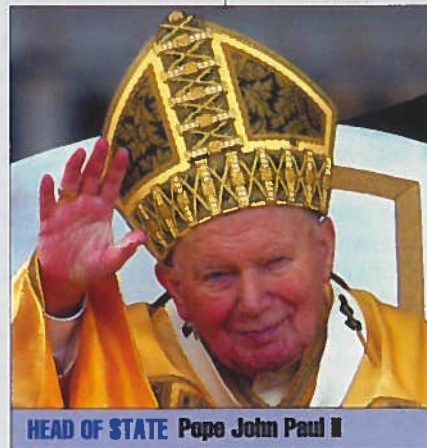
tains diplomatic relations with 177 countries; it participates in various other international organizations (the Arab League, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States and the Organization for African Unity), and it has even been proposed that it should become a member of the United Nations, at which it is currently a permanent observer.

This all points to the Vatican as being an eminently *political* organization. Even this latest EU invitation attests to the fact: No other *religious* leader has ever been invited to address the *political* assembly of the EU. European Parliament spokesman David Harley indicated that the pope's trip "would reflect his dual status as head of the Vatican state and as a 'global spiritual leader'" (www.EUBusiness.com, Jan. 12).

The pope's address to the European Parliament, should it occur as planned, will not be merely the innocuous, politically neutral visit that it might seem. The pope has himself said, "This new Europe is the bearer of the values which have borne fruit for 2,000 years in an art of thinking and living from which the whole world has benefited. ... Among these values Christianity [Catholicism] holds a privileged position, inasmuch as it gave birth to a humanism which has permeated Europe's history and institutions. ...

"A Europe which disavowed its past, which denied the fact of religion, and which had no spiritual dimension, would be extremely impoverished in face of the ambitious project which calls upon all its energies: constructing a Europe for all!" (ZENIT, Jan. 13).

ZRINKA PETERS



HEAD OF STATE Pope John Paul II

term *Christianity* within the context of this seminar. In a further comment, having in mind the pope's repetitious call for Europeans to return to their "Holy" Roman roots, Chiappetti observed, "[T]hese roots are amply recalled in the Nice Charter of Rights which is completely laced, as is the whole of Western civilization, with the values of Christianity" (ibid.). Once again, for *Christianity* read *Catholicism*.

Harking directly back to the days of the old "Holy" Roman Empire, the pope conveyed a profoundly historical message to Europeans last April. He wrote that the plans of Pope Sylvester II and Emperor Otto III to evangelize Europe in A.D. 1000 represented "a stimulus for believers today to become ever more aware of the fact that *the great mosaic of the social and religious identity of Europe has, in the Christian faith, one of the main factors of its most profound unity*" (Vatican Information Service, May 3, 2002).

A clearer appeal would hardly be possible for the disparate EU states and their unwieldy Brussels-based bureaucracy to use the glue of Catholic religion to weld together the EU's mix of iron and miry clay.

Papal Offensive

Stepping up the heat on the European Convention, the pope battered away at the convention's door in a series of messages last September: "For the third time in 12 days, John Paul II insisted that a European constitution should recognize the role of Christianity in the continent's history. ... In his address today, the pope said, 'the Holy See has favored the process of unification of Europe since the beginning,' and he underlined 'the spiritual-cultural identity' of the continent. ... The Holy Father then emphasized the need to introduce a 'clear reference to God and to the Christian faith' in the European Constitutional Charter, for which he requested the 'specific contribution' of German experts and political leaders" (ZENIT, Sept. 13, 2002).

Historians awake! See the significance of a pope appealing for German assistance to catholicize the European Union!

One enlightened journalist had pointed to this prospect a whole year prior to the Nice Summit: "If you are looking for possible surprises and a hint at John Paul's ecumenical vision,



"LOOK TO GERMANY" Last October, over 200,000 filled the Vatican for the canonization of Germany's Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer—founder of the conservative Catholic group Opus Dei.

look to Germany, the spiritually troubled homeland of the Protestant Reformation. ... In January [2001] the pope named two of the country's most brilliant ecumenist minds [as] cardinals" (United Press International, Jan. 29, 2001).

Those two new cardinals were Walter Jasper, former Bishop of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, appointed secretary of the Congregation for Christian Unity, and Karl Lehmann, former Bishop of Mainz. Both have worked to prevent schism between the traditionalist and liberal wings of the church in Germany. They each have extensive experience in progressing the Vatican's drive toward ecumenism—the reunification of the Protestant and Orthodox daughters with the mother church of Rome. Together with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, a German and the most powerful prince of the church under the pope, they will comprise a formidable team. Backed by a conservative curia largely elected by Pope John Paul II, this clever German enclave within the curia is well positioned to activate a revivalist campaign in the church under the next pope. The climate in Europe is just about ripe for such a revival!

Death of Communism

Not only is the Roman Catholic Church a quintessential *political* organization, it is extremely *long term* in its focus.

With the rise of secularism in the 18th century period of the Enlightenment, the seeds of the dominant ideologies of the 19th and 20th centuries were sown. The most powerful atheistic

ideology was, of course, *communism*. A seeming outgrowth of all the ideologies which had been developed and been tried before it, and a replacement theory for many, communism became the number-one enemy of the Roman Catholic Church from its inception.

Thus, the Cold War was not just a great standoff between the Atlantic alliance (led by the U.S.) and the old communistic Soviet Union. For the Catholic Church, it was a *religious war*—often fought covertly by Vatican spies, the Jesuits and Opus Dei, on university campuses and within civil bureaucracies and governments of the day, as communism and its outgrowth, liberal socialism, spread like a rash throughout Western civilization.

During the course of the Cold War, the church was heavily impacted by liberal socialism. It took Pope John Paul II to stem the tide. He appointed Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as his enforcer, as the Prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, the modern name for the old Office of the Inquisition. Together John Paul II and Joseph Ratzinger cleaned out the most liberal elements within the church's most senior clergy, resulting in a number of excommunications.

Pope John Paul II became the most traveled pope in history, cementing diplomatic relations with a record 177 countries. He took the battle right into Soviet territory and split that Communist union asunder through his actions in Poland in the 1980s. Having stacked the deck with a record number of conservative, doctrinaire cardinals in his



YOUTHFUL VIGOR The pope has been very savvy in his appeal to youth. Here over 100,000 Catholic youths attend opening mass at World Youth Day in Toronto, Canada, last July.

clerical heartland, the pope was ready to move at the turn of the century to revive the mass of his troops—the 1 billion adherents of the Catholic faith—globally!

His great appeal was first to the youth of the church. Here he married papal theatrics with rock music to mount great rallies, attended by multiple thousands of the world's youth, such as during his trip to Canada for World Youth Day last year.

In the meantime, his field troops had done well, positioning themselves to fill the gap within secular politics as, with the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the left-wing liberal socialists lost their sting in the West.

By the close of 2002, a huge ideological gap had opened across the European political landscape. Two great religions vied to fill the vacuum—*Islam* and *Roman Catholicism*. With Islam greatly tainted in the West by the events of September 11, 2001, Roman Catholicism started to move into high gear.

The Churching of the Left

As we progress through this first decade of the 21st century, the political right bears sway in most of the world. But this is a *neo-conservative* right, in many ways far removed from the ultra-conservative right wing of traditional politics of the past. It has evolved into a chameleon-like movement which spans a spectrum from the far-right to more centrist social liberalism.

But the *center-right* mass which now dominates politics on both sides of the Atlantic (with the exception of Britain) has been, to this point, largely devoid of

ideology. On the continent of Europe, Catholicism now bids to fill the gap. And, fittingly, it has started to do so on its *home ground* in Italy. “In an essay this month, Ezio Mauro, editor of *La Repubblica*, wrote of a culture in which the values of family, faith and patriotism are being stressed anew, and are gaining stature from their association with a popular and conservative pope—who last week addressed the Italian parliament for the first time. This Catholicism, wrote Mauro, has received ‘the baptism of television’—from the state TV service, RAI, in which a number of militant Catholics are well placed” (*New Statesman*, Nov. 25, 2002).

The *type* of Catholicism, however, which the Vatican troops are employing to woo the middle ground in politics is vastly different from that prior to 1978, when Karol Wojtyla ascended the papal throne as Pope John Paul II. “Today’s Catholicism is ... not extreme, but neither is it centrist” (ibid.). In effect, rather than work to eradicate the liberal-socialist element remaining within Roman Catholicism, the Vatican field troops have recruited it to their neo-conservative cause!

But the key to this gathering revival of Roman Catholicism is to ensure that what has started in Italy spreads across the Alps and the Adriatic to the rest of the uniting European conglomerate.

A Wider Vision

“Could this move beyond Italy? Yes, since the redoubts of the right—France and Spain—are strongly Catholic countries: while the native Lander of Edmund Stoiber, leader of

the German right, is Bavaria, the most Catholic part of Germany” (ibid.).

Here is a man we have urged our readers to watch. Should the present German government fall, or their present chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, fail under the extreme negative political pressure he presently suffers, Stoiber may well take the helm in Germany.

But the Vatican agenda is far wider than Italy and Germany. By its very name, *Catholic*, meaning *universal*, this religion is committed to the *conversion of the world*, a doctrine it has in common, yet at odds with, Islam. “Catholicism still retains a sense of itself as a—as the—*world religion* and in this guise, it measures itself against Islam—*offering a bedrock for the values of a ‘civilization’* as a counterpoise against the militancy of the threatening radical Islam” (ibid.).

Propelled by the twin opportunities of the global fear of Islamic terror and the dominance of the center right in European politics, the rise of neo-conservative Catholicism will spread over the ensuing months and years to become the glue that binds a powerful, yet divisive, union of European nations together. Ultimately, that European Union is destined to have the most dominant economy and become the mightiest political, military and religious combine on the globe.

That the present climate in Europe will be fertile ground for this center-right Catholic revivalist movement is confirmed by a number of current trends. Economic recession, widespread dislike of immigration and high crime rates are all national issues extant in Europe that favor support for the political right rather than the left. The right is seen to be willing to enact the tough measures necessary to solve these problems, while liberal-socialists have a reputation for not providing the cure.

Of what consequence to Rome is the U.S. in all of this? None. Hard as it may be for the average American, naive to the fact that there’s a whole world beyond the shores of the great U.S., America just does not figure largely on the Vatican’s agenda, other than for monetary contributions to help fill its coffers. What impact have recent priestly behavioral scandals had on Catholicism internationally? Not much. Why not? “[O]nly 6 percent of the world’s Catholics live in America, where most—

though not all—of the headline-grabbing sex scandals have taken place” (*Washington Times*, Nov. 8, 2002).

Thus, in simple demographic terms, the U.S. does not create much of a bang in the Vatican’s long-term agenda. This was even attested to by an obvious papal snubbing of the country last year. In July, the pope observed the church’s World Youth Day in Toronto, only 30 miles from the U.S. border. Following that he flew direct to Guatemala and Mexico, flying over, but not touching down on, U.S. soil. Although this disappointed and vexed American Roman Catholic laity, their reaction met with no recognition by the Vatican. Understand that the main arena for the playing out of the great Vatican vision is *Europe!*

Reaching East

To this end, each and every Eastern European country contending for EU membership in May 2004 *has had to sign a key agreement on church-state relations with the Vatican!* The agreement signed by the Czech Republic (the final country to do so) in July last year, according to ZENIT, “regulates the teaching of religion in public schools and favors the collaboration of church and state in preserving the historical and cultural heritage. Lastly, the two parties committed themselves to resolve, as soon as possible, the thorny questions relating to church property expropriated by the Communist regime” (July 26, 2002).

The Vatican simply is winding back the clock of history to realize its dream of spiritual dominance by resurrecting the old “Holy” Roman Empire. Note the import of this agreement on church-state relations. It pertains to the regulation, from Rome, of religious teaching in *public schools, the revival of Holy Roman heritage and culture, and the reacquisition of old church-owned properties* within these nations.

Any reluctance on the part of the populace of these Eastern nations to gain EU membership has met with a strong reaction from John Paul II. “According to *Le Monde*, THE POPE IS PLANNING TO ‘BREAK CATHOLIC RESISTANCE’ TO EU MEMBERSHIP. On December 8, he called on European leaders to conclude negotiations on accession as quickly as possible; on December 9, in Brussels, the Commission of Bishops’ Conferences of the European Union published a declaration designed to, in

Le Monde’s words, ‘break the last resistance of Catholics in certain candidate countries like Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Malta’” (*European Foundation Intelligence Digest*, Dec. 12, 2002).

Continental Unity

The Vatican and Germany displayed their joint vision for hegemony in Europe back in 1991 through their recognition of Slovenia and Croatia as separate nation-states in the Balkans. The series of bloody Balkan wars that followed produced a fractured Balkan Peninsula ready to be gobbled up into the EU. John Paul II endorsed the end result of this strategy when he met with all the ambassadors accredited to the Vatican on January 10, 2002. “John Paul II also expressed his support for the extension of the European Union to include, in particular, the Balkan countries” (ZENIT, Sept. 9, 2002).

It is intriguing to note that the German vision for Europe and that of the Vatican meet, in particular, on one common ground. Neither accepted the division of Europe concluded by the Allies at the close of World War II as final. Germany viewed the Treaty of Versailles drawn up at the close of World War I as just a hindrance to the development of history. So do the technocrats who formulate policy in Berlin and Brussels view Potsdam and Yalta, at which the U.S., Britain and Russia carved up the borders of Europe following World War II. The pope has been quite clear in his views on this.

“John Paul II says the enlargement of the European Union to include countries of the East should serve to *overcome at last the divisions that emerged after World War II. ... ‘The Holy See is pleased before the prospect of this enlargement of the Union, which should permit the progressive re-establishment of the unity of the European continent, broken with the Yalta division and the closing of the Soviet bloc,’* John Paul II said” (ZENIT, Oct. 24, 2002).

That is the Vatican agenda! A return to conditions in Europe that prevailed *before* World War I and *before* the Soviet Union came to power. *That* places Europe simply, as all historians would know, back into the context of the “HOLY” ROMAN EMPIRE! ♦

Revealing Symbols

ACCORDING TO GREEK MYTHOLOGY, Zeus spied Europa on the beach. He transformed himself into a beautiful white bull, with horns like a crescent moon. After she had climbed on his back, he plunged into the waves and then ravished her. Europa conceived a son, was conceded divine status and titled “Queen of Heaven.”

The EU is drawing on the pagan folklore surrounding its namesake, Europa, to help bind an emerging United States of Europe into a sense of mutual togetherness. Conveniently for the architects of this fast-evolving “modern” Europe, European national traditions are deeply rooted in pagan mythology; and paganism, especially when linked with Catholicism, is something that most of Europe has in common.

The image of a lady riding a beast is prevalent in European art and on articles of daily use. The 2 euro coin currently being issued by Greece depicts a woman riding a beast. So did a 1992 German ECU coin, a German telephone card, and a 1984 British postage stamp. And outside the European Council building in Brussels: a larger-than-life metallic sculpture of a lady riding a beast.

What is so ironic is that while these EU symbols originate in paganism, their *prophetic* meaning is revealed in the Bible: “[A]nd I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast” (Rev. 17:3). This image in fact represents a united Europe (the beast) being dominated by the Roman Catholic Church (the woman). In one last spectacular, gruesome revival of the Holy Roman Empire, this ominous force will take the world by storm, provoking a Third World War so terrible it defies the imagination to envisage the horror.

You must grasp just who the prophetic woman and the beast in Revelation are! Ask for your free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.

STEPHEN M. HILL



MIRKO ILIC



PAIR Schröder (left) and Chirac honor Elysee Treaty's 40 years on Jan. 22.

◆ EUROPE

Germany, France closer

January 22 marked the 40th anniversary of the Elysee Treaty, a cooperation alliance between Germany and France within the context of a post-World War II uniting Europe. Since the end of the Cold War, however, there have been differences between the two on several key policies. French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder both sought to use the anniversary as a chance to infuse new life into their relationship.

Items on the discussion agenda included holding regular joint cabinet meetings, the aim of presenting the same policies on international bodies, a move toward identical family and civil laws for both countries, and even a commitment to the goal of dual nationality for French and German citizens.

The Franco-German anniversary was one of a kind. For the first time, the German Bundestag and the French National Assembly met in a joint session at the Versailles palace near Paris. This is the equivalent of the United States Congress meeting with the British Parliament!

Schröder called it “an impressive sign of the substance of our relations, of a friendship that is much more than a pact among governments” (BBC News, Jan. 22).

It is also a hugely symbolic gesture in that it sets the focus of Europe back to when the Versailles Treaty was signed by both these nations. Many, especially within Germany and the Vatican, view Versailles as sowing the seeds that resulted in

World War II. Germany was never satisfied with the division of national boundaries and with the reparations imposed upon it by the Allied nations at Versailles. To hold this unprecedented session of the parliaments of both Germany and France at Versailles is really saying to the world, *We are taking Europe back to the situation before Versailles, and renegotiating a united Europe the way we think it ought to be set up.*

Most significant in all of this is that it leaves Britain, defender of freedom in Europe in both world wars, sitting out in the cold. The strongest of signals is being sent to Britain, to all European nations and to the world that a Franco-German alliance is back in control of the continent of Europe!

Germany and France feel they must be united in vision before Europe can move forward. Chirac said recently, “When France and Germany are getting on, Europe advances. When they are not, Europe is blocked” (Agence France-Presse, Jan. 14).

Continue to watch for Germany and France to come together in an unprecedented level of cooperation.

◆ EUROPE

Covert constitution

“Britain could be expelled from the European Union if it refuses to accept a

fully fledged European government with powers to launch military or police actions on British soil, according to a draft constitution unveiled by Brussels yesterday” (*Daily Telegraph*, London, Dec. 6, 2002; emphasis ours). This “draft constitution” in fact refers to a 145-page document *secretly drafted* by Romano Prodi, head of the European Commission.

While the European Convention, chaired by former French President Valéry Giscard d’Estaing, prepared to draft an official constitution for the EU, Prodi had “Penelope,” code-name for his own draft constitution, drawn up. This paper dwelt on the fact that



PRODI

“any country that fails to ratify the new constitution should be boot-ed out of the club” (*Economist*, Dec. 14, 2002). Once five sixths of the EU states ratified the constitution, the rest would be “deemed to have left the Union” under Prodi’s constitution.

Despite the outrage of Prodi’s colleagues over his secret draft, many aspects of Penelope will likely make it into the final constitution, in an attempt to avoid paralysis of the decision-making process once the EU grows to include 25 countries. At the EU summit on enlargement in Copenhagen last December, Giscard d’Estaing “did not rule out drawing inspiration from certain elements” of this “working paper” even though it has no official status (*European Report*, Dec. 14, 2002).

The proposed provisions to expel a country from the EU may well be the avenue by which Britain will eventually find itself on the *outside* of the Union. Indeed, Bible prophecy indicates that Britain will

either opt out, or face being kicked out of the Union. To learn why, please request our booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

◆ EUROPE

EU’s “rights of man”

It would have been *un-thinkable* a decade ago. Here was post-Crusades, post-Inquisition, post-Nazi, post-Holocaust Europe accusing the one nation that for two years stood alone against the onslaught of the most murderous power to ever engulf that continent of the very sins of which its own history has been a continual chronicle!

“The European Parliament criticized Britain yesterday for a wide range of human rights abuses In its annual report on the state of human rights in the European Union, the Parliament singled out Britain’s criminal justice system for much of the harshest criticism” (*Daily Telegraph*, London, Jan. 14; emphasis ours throughout).

Britain’s system, keep in mind, is bound up in the tradition of “innocent till proven guilty,” whereas the European system is based on the very opposite—“guilty till proven innocent.” Not surprisingly, the report was drafted by a European socialist.

“The report also said Downing Street had abridged the ‘freedom of the press’ by telling journalists to hold back from reporting on military operations in Afghanistan. ‘It invoked reasons of national security and the need to prevent national panic’” (ibid.).

This came from the parliamentary body which legislates for the most secretive

federation of nation states that has existed since the Holy Roman Empire! The EU simply has no law guaranteeing the transparency of its unelected Brussels-based technocrats. They draft their EU rules in secret and *impose* them with impunity on the masses.

Reading a little deeper into the report, one can predict the sinister outcome: "The Parliament has called for the creation of a European human rights *agency to monitor compliance in a far more intrusive way*" (ibid.). Not content with imposing over 80,000 pages of laws, rules, regulations and financial impositions on its citizenry, the EU is about to launch an agency of "human rights" *enforcers!*

The ironic master stroke of this insidious penetration into people's privacy is that the EU is using the concept of the *defense* of human rights—something that Europe has *never* championed to anywhere near the extent of Britain and its dominions (historically the havens for masses of refugees)—to impose a system which will enforce even greater *limits* and *regulations* on the so-called rights of man. In doing so, it will gain the right to intrude into citizens' lives to check that they are toeing the EU line.

◆ AUSTRALIA

Tinderbox down under

"The worst ever!" was the description of the inferno that fumed across five of Australia's six states and one of its two territories—from coast to coast, east to west—last month.

With much of the island continent in the grip of unprecedented drought, dry, hot summer conditions cre-

ated a nationwide tinderbox ready for the slightest spark—and spark it did.

A huge pall of smoke hung over great swaths of Australia, forcing motorists in the national capital, Canberra, to drive with headlights on during the middle of the day. Whipped along by high winds, the fires reduced hundreds of homes to smoking ashes. Whole pine forests became raging infernos as massive fireballs leapt from treetop to treetop, wiping out one of the capital territory's main commercial enterprises.



INFERNO A home in Canberra burns after being engulfed by a bushfire.

Further south, almost a million acres of Victoria's prime state parks and forests were destroyed in two weeks of raging fires—more than three times the national annual average for this drought- and fire-prone continent. The southern island state of Tasmania faced major grassland fires. In the premier east coast state of New South Wales, both farmer and city slicker reeled from massive bush fires that at one point came to within only a few miles of the perimeter of Sydney. To the west, firefighters battled scores of fires across the states of South Australia and Western Australia.

Hard hit by a collective national paranoia due to terror threats following the Bali bombing, and with an economy largely dependent on commodity prices, the last thing Australia wants is a

national disaster. But this long, hot southern summer is producing just that.

It seems that either flood or drought perpetually strikes at some part of the "lucky country" every year—both contributing to an endemic soil erosion problem that has ripped the heart out of many a rural property. But generally, it is lack of water that is this country's constant problem. Slightly smaller than the U.S. contiguous 48 states, this wide brown land simply lacks the accessible water resources in a quantity to fight many of its worst fires.

The most tantalizing fact is that underneath the center of the continent lies a massive, largely untapped artesian basin, replete with an abundance of water which, if unleashed, would literally make Australia's "dead heart" bloom and blossom.

This is one country which will greatly benefit from the coming fulfillment of Isaiah's end-time prophecy: "[T]he desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose" (Isa. 35:1).

◆ EDUCATION

Mental state of students

The unbalanced mental state of students around the globe is causing a stir.

In England, studies have shown that as many as 40 percent of all students are dealing with mental health problems, and levels of anxiety are more than twice as high among students as among non-students.

A recent study in Beijing discovered that more than 16 percent of students there are troubled with psychiatric

problems, and 28 percent of college sophomores displayed symptoms of depression and anxiety neurosis.

In America, a recent poll indicates that 10 percent of the country's college undergraduates have been diagnosed with depression; demand for psychiatric counseling has skyrocketed; and a record number of freshmen carry a history of eating disorders, substance abuse, therapeutic needs and taking of medications.

In each case, "experts" fail to pinpoint the *real* cause of the problem. Britain's problem has been attributed to busy schedules and student debt. The situation in China, according to experts, is "very often the result of personality defects, which are normally ignored by teachers and parents as long as the students get good grades" (Xinhua News Agency, Dec. 11, 2002). It is clear that a missing element in these students' education is how to live *happy, balanced* lives.

Worship of money and focus on commercial skills has resulted in materialism in education. Good grades and performance have been equated with overall success. But modern education fails to educate the "whole person." Worldwide, parents and colleges fail to teach students *HOW* to live. This results in broken spiritual and physical laws—producing unhappiness and despondency.

True education provides knowledge of the actions and attitudes that lead to true *happiness* and *BALANCE*—socially and mentally. A true education can only be achieved through the acquisition of *spiritual* knowledge, taught in the pages of God's infallible Word—knowledge that will soon cure the world of its mental ills and will cover the Earth "as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9).

Stepping Stone to Mideast

Europe is about to engulf Cyprus. What do present events and the ongoing war against terrorism portend for Europe, Cyprus and the Middle East in the years ahead?



LOOKING FOR A SAVIOR Cypriots demonstrate near their president's office in January to support the island's unification. A banner at left reads, "Peace now, solution EU."

BY JAMES LEIGH

• NICOSIA, CYPRUS

AT THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT IN DECEMBER 2002, Cyprus was one of 10 countries invited to join the European Union. A treaty confirming this will be signed in Athens, Greece, on April 16 and will be ratified and implemented after the full application of the European political process by May 2004.

Europe, as an emerging superpower, will prosper geopolitically with the addition of Cyprus. Europe's eastern flank will acquire high-tech military bases (with extended airport runways for large military aircraft) close to the Middle East and Persian Gulf.

History shows that Cyprus has long been an attractive piece of real estate for Europe. Cyprus offers a political vantage point and a military stepping stone, for influence and campaigns respectively, as the rising European phoenix once again spreads its wings to expand into the Middle East and beyond. In this vein, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has stated publicly that *Europeanization may not end in*

Cyprus, but extend into Israel to be welcomed even by the Israelis.

So, we may ask, what are the broader strategic geopolitical implications of the European superpower beginning to engulf the Middle East again? Winston Churchill said, "The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see." So let us take a look at the history of the geopolitical expansion of Europe as it relates to Cyprus today.

European Religious Traditions

Well before the last century, when Germany twice attempted through brute force to forge an empire, the Roman Empire and successively the Holy Roman Empire (generally a German empire) went through periods of expansion and decline. This magazine has consistently maintained that what we see developing in Europe is the newly forming seventh resurrection of that Holy Roman Empire with a German head, in the guise of the European Union. This is consistent with the biblical prophecies of Daniel 2, 7 and 8, and Revelation 17 and 18. The EU is

well-oriented toward its impending expansion, as it now beckons 10 new countries to its family from Eastern Europe. This will stretch the European economic and political empire from the west coast of Ireland to east of the Bosphorus (the Turkish Straits)—that is, to Cyprus in the Middle East.

What will be the philosophical underpinnings of this new emerging superstate? The historical and philosophical backdrop of these developments is largely rooted in European Christendom, with its epicenter in the Vatican. This backdrop has its detail etched in some of the bloodiest events in history. Witness the Crusades, in which Rome jockeyed for supremacy, often translating into geopolitical expansion across Europe and the Middle East.

Following its well-worn trail, the Vatican in this post-modern era has encouraged Europeans to discover and nurture their glorious *religious traditions*. This is shocking, when any novice of history knows such traditions really leave no room for Judaism, Islam or even relatively benign Protestantism. However, contingencies are well under way to mop up aberrant Protestantism. The Anglican Church leads the way, having already accepted the pope as the primate of Christendom worldwide. Other Protestant denominations are lining up to mount this bandwagon to the Vatican.

Within this scenario, not surprisingly, the Vatican—with the enlisted support of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, former president of France and now head of the European Convention, and many other Catholic supremos in pub-



lic life—is attempting to have a Christian (*de facto* Catholic) presence written into the European constitution.

Recently I asked Romano Prodi, president of the European Commission, what the function and role of the Vatican would be in the new Europe. He sidestepped the issue, replying that the topic did not come up when he was having dinner with the pope the previous evening. Notwithstanding his declaration of innocence to this question, events continue to declare that the Vatican plays a dynamic role behind the scenes in the emerging European superstate.

Cyprus's Historic Significance

Cyprus is an important linchpin as Europe expands toward the Middle East, particularly to sustain its entrenched interests in Jerusalem and Israel as it has previously done in the Crusades.

Various military campaigns or crusades in history have been launched by Europe from Cyprus into the Middle East. In 168 B.C. Antiochus Epiphanes of Syria was about to mount a third

military campaign into Egypt when a Roman fleet from Cyprus cut him off and ordered him to withdraw. Defeated and dejected, he returned to Judea.

Moving forward to the Crusades, history records that more than one crusade was launched from Cyprus into the Middle East. In A.D. 1171, for example, the self-declared supreme ruler of Islam, Saladin, mounted a *jihad* to recover Jerusalem from the European Christian infidels. In A.D. 1187, he crushed the European military, and, after a two-week siege, Jerusalem fell to the Muslims. This sent shock waves through Christendom. The European powers mounted the third crusade and used Cyprus as a supply bridge to support their military campaigns in Israel against Islam.

Europe Confronts Terrorism

The interesting point here is that Cyprus has typically been used for Europe to make *military* thrusts into the Middle East.

Could an event or series of events ignite a Vatican-inspired European

push to confront Islam again? The escalating menace of terrorism, largely hatched and incubated in the Islamic world, has not only struck in “the Great Satan” (an extreme Islamic term for the United States), but intermittent terrorist strikes have also peppered the recent years of European history.

It is well known among intelligence and diplomatic circles that official sectors in Iran bankroll and give ideological support to much of the terrorism in the world. In the Middle East, Iran financially supports Islamic terrorist movements and fuels their machinations through countries like Syria. These forces have been pushing, for decades, to bulldoze Israel and Western influence (mainly American) into the Mediterranean Sea and bury it for good. In the same vein, just as Islamists have been pushing against Israel and the U.S., they may

continued on p. 28

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For more on the Mideast's future, see “The Beating Heart of Prophecy” under [Article Archives](#).

Can the EU Solve the Problem?

CYPRUS, THE LARGEST ISLAND IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, just off the coast of Israel, has had two potentially conflicting challenges in recent decades: 1) solving “the Cyprus problem” of political and geographic division resulting from the Turkish military intrusion in 1974; and 2) becoming a member of the European Union.

These challenges for Cyprus have become inextricably linked. Most Greek Cypriots probably see their future international security assured by entering the European combine. Many Cypriots hope the political momentum and weight of Europe entering the vicinity will somehow force a settlement of the current division of the island so it may be united as a member nation within the EU.

The demographic division in Cyprus occurred in 1974 when the Turkish Cypriots (Muslims) moved to live in the north and the Greek Cypriots (Greek Orthodox Christians) fled to live in the south. In this state of affairs, the unrecognized Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, supported only by Turkey, was declared in Northern Cyprus.

Many Cypriots, both Greek and Turkish, see no alterna-

tive but to wholeheartedly embrace entrance into the European Christian fold. Vigorous demonstrations by Turkish Cypriots in the north are trying to pressure their government to come to an agreement with the Greek south (as outlined in the UN plan for the reunification of Cyprus put forward last November) so that all of Cyprus may enter the EU undivided—thus giving a solution to “the Cyprus problem.”



CLAIMED Carrying their flag, Turkish soldiers advance after their invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

With Turkey straining to become accepted into the Euroclub, the EU holds an ace card in relation to the accession of Cyprus to membership. It simply needs to indicate that any consideration of Turkey's own application for membership will be denied unless Turkey caves in on its occupation of north Cyprus. And at this point, it appears Turkey is set to do just that. According to *Die Welt*, Turkey “is bending over backwards to cooperate with the EU on the matter. ... It looks very much like Turkey will now ... push through unification of Cyprus and thus ... secure the island's admission to Europe” (Jan. 4). February 28 is the deadline the EU and the UN have set for Cyprus to solve its internal division. Without an agreement, the EU claims it will admit only the Greek half of the island.

Why Korea Matters

How Asia's side of the "axis of evil" will reshape the East.

BY RYAN MALONE

WHAT MAKES A COUNTRY "axis of evil" material? Being a Stalinist regime, led by an unpredictable dictator, that openly flaunts its nuclear capability, as North Korea has done over the past few months, could be considered a key qualification.

On the other hand, some argue that North Korea was lumped into this axis only because President Bush "wanted to produce a list of enemies that were not all Muslims, for fear of a clash of civilizations" (*Asia Times*, Jan. 3).

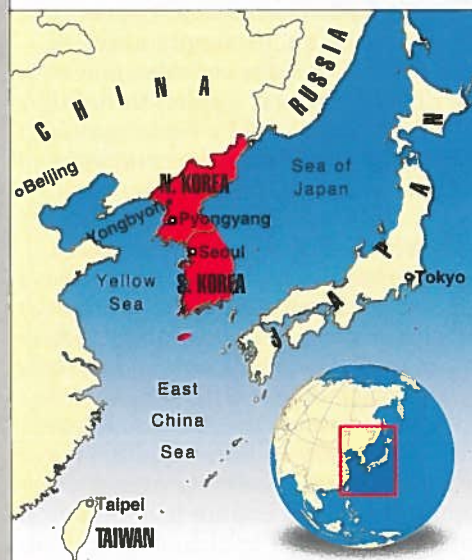
So how exactly is North Korea significant? Future developments will show that the current nuclear standoff between the U.S. and North Korea, and its results over the coming months, will play a major part in redefining the geopolitical landscape of the region.

U.S. Presence in Asia

Right now, one cannot consider how East Asia works without factoring in U.S. involvement in the region. Much of America's presence in Asia had to do with the need to keep communism's southern advances in check during the Cold War (this was the reason for U.S. presence in

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For more on the U.S. military, see "America Has Won Its Last War" under [Article Archives](#).



Japan in particular). With Korea, the U.S. and the USSR divided the peninsula along the 38th parallel after the Second World War. When the North invaded the South in 1950, the U.S. came to the South's aid—not decisively winning the war, but helping to bring about a truce and then guarding the border to thwart the spread of communism.

But the Cold War is over, and the fears of communism's potency, long gone. Yet 37,000 U.S. soldiers still stand guard on the South's side of the border.

Many Asians wonder about the ongoing necessity of U.S. military presence in Asia. The two Koreas have been increasingly friendly to each other since South Korean President Kim Dae Jung launched his Sunshine Policy toward the North in 1998. Pulling out has seemed more and more logical—that is, until the recent nuclear brinkmanship of North Korea resulting in the U.S. becoming locked in a stalemate with the Communist dictatorship.

The Diplomatic Showdown

In December, North Korea restarted its nuclear power plant in Yongbyon. Pyongyang said it would not stop its nuclear program until Washington agreed to talks and promised it would not attack. Washington said it wouldn't agree to talks until Pyongyang stopped its nuclear program.

President Bush constantly reinforced that this was a "diplomatic showdown ... not a military showdown" (Reuters, Jan. 2). Already gearing up for war in Iraq, the U.S. won't strike North Korea for two obvious reasons: First, despite its declarations to the contrary, America cannot fight a war on two fronts; secondly, the U.S. does not want to provoke an attack by Pyongyang on Seoul.

With a definitive economic upper hand, the U.S. planned to impose severe economic sanctions against North Korea—a country inhabited by 22 million already starving people, with much of its resources and money funneled into its military, now the fifth largest in the world. But this tactic lacked support from two key Asian na-



38TH PARALLEL. South Korean soldiers patrol the most heavily guarded border in the world.

tions. China, North Korea's main source of fuel and food, showed unwillingness to go along with sanctions. It sees its aid to North Korea as preventing the North's collapse—an outcome which would lead to millions of impoverished refugees pouring across China's northeastern borders and U.S. troops appearing right at its doorstep. And South Korea warned the U.S. that sanctions would not cause the North to cave in to U.S. pressure, but would backfire and harden the North's stance.

In a similar situation, back in October, when Pyongyang allegedly admitted to operating a nuclear program, the U.S. and other nations responded by suspending oil shipments. "South Korea went along, but privately South Korean officials warned that such an act might provoke North Korea into restarting its Yongbyon plant. Their warnings proved accurate" (*International Herald Tribune*, Jan. 2). Not only did North Korea fire up its Yongbyon plant, it removed monitoring seals and cameras from the nuclear facilities there, expelled UN inspectors from the country and announced its withdrawal from the 1968 global nuclear arms treaty. On top of that, it

proclaimed strong rhetoric about the situation—saying that the U.S.’s policy was leading the region to nuclear war; it said sanctions equalled a declaration of war. At East Asia’s request, Washington softened its stance and decided to talk with Pyongyang.

South Korea—Distanced From U.S.

What has made this even more complicated for the U.S. has been South Korea’s reaction to having a nuclear neighbor. “Far from fearing war, some South Koreans believe they can benefit from North Korea’s nuclear weapons development if and when the two countries reunify their peninsula. ... ‘I don’t oppose North Korea having nuclear weapons because ultimately the weapons will protect the whole Korean peninsula,’ said Joon Kim, a worker at a telecommunications company in Seoul. ... ‘North Korea is not threatening us with its nuclear weapons program ...’ said Kim Eun Suk, a teacher” (Associated Press, Dec. 30, 2002).

Since the Cold War mentality has largely subsided, “South Koreans perceive their neighbors as less of a threat, and more as their poor wayward brethren” (ibid.).

Political analyst Samuel P. Huntington, in his book *The Clash of Civilizations*, made the following observations after North Korea’s 1994 nuclear saber-rattling: “Many South Koreans saw a North Korean bomb as a *Korean* bomb, one which would never be used against other Koreans but could be used to defend Korean independence and interests [T]he combination of northern nuclear weapons and southern industrial prowess would enable a unified Korea to assume its appropriate role as a major actor on the East Asian scene.”

Differences between Washington and Seoul’s view of the situation led to what Huntington called a “panic gap” between the two capitals. That is, the further away from Seoul you were, the more panic there seemed to be about the North Korean nuclear threat.

But the gap between the U.S. and South Korea is more than just a “panic gap” this time around. South Korea, once America’s strongest ally in East Asia, is now a seat of *extreme anti-American sentiment*. Calls for the 37,000 troops to leave South Korea have been prevalent for a while, but they dramatically intensified after two

14-year-old Korean girls were crushed by a U.S. armored vehicle in June 2002. The emotion reached outrage when the men responsible were acquitted by an American panel in a military trial later in the year.

From students throwing firebombs at military bases to pop stars smashing models of an American tank on live television, anti-American demonstrations are thriving in Seoul. American soldiers in Seoul are constantly discriminated against, harassed, spat upon. South Korea has the “perception that its distant ally is heavy handed and insensitive, particularly with regard to North Korea” (*New York Times*, Dec. 8, 2002).

Tens of thousands participated in anti-U.S. rallies about U.S. policy toward the North—a New Year’s Eve demonstration in Seoul saw 22,000 enraged by an American policy they see as an “obstacle to reconciliation between the two Koreas” (Associated Press, Dec. 31, 2002).

On the whole, South Koreans—who have faded memories, if any at all, of the war of 1950-53—see the U.S. as more of a threat than the North.

Another testament to growing anti-U.S. views in South Korea was the presidential victory last December of Roh Moo Hyun, whose platform was fueled more by anti-American sentiment than



AP/WIDEWORLD

ROH

the usual domestic issues. His policies include further engagement with North Korea—continuing in his predecessor’s Sunshine Policy—and greater autonomy from the U.S.

North Korea is well aware of Roh’s feelings. It carefully timed the playing of its trump card against the West—not only during Washington’s Iraqi quagmire, but just after the South elected a pro-North candidate. Flexing its nuclear muscles *before* the election might have shifted the votes toward a candidate with a more conservative stance toward Pyongyang.

Pyongyang welcomed Roh’s victory. Since the nuclear standoff began, it has clearly been trying to drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul—something it has wanted for some time.

Although Seoul has rebuffed the idea of joining with the North diplomatically against the U.S.—and despite Roh try-

ing to play down the rhetoric that elected him, de-emphasizing the diplomatic gap between Seoul and Washington—the fact that South Korea has not wholeheartedly sided with its once most-reliable ally is significant. This works to Seoul’s advantage as it shows itself a capable *mediator* in the situation.

Seoul Peacemaker

While siding neither with Washington nor Pyongyang, Seoul has shown its desire to be the proponent of a peaceful solution. This gives it greater leverage in limiting U.S. presence in the region, and it also draws it closer to its northern brethren—facilitating ultimate Korean unification.

From the beginning of the dispute, Seoul has advocated “dialogue and compromise” as the solution (Reuters, op. cit.). South Korea’s outgoing president added, “Pressure and isolation have never been successful with Communist countries—Cuba is one example. We will work closely with our allies to solve this problem and we will firmly oppose North Korea’s nuclear arms program, but no matter what, we will pursue a peaceful solution” (*Daily Telegraph*, London, Dec. 31, 2002).

In a pre-election speech, Roh said, “If the U.S. and North Korea start a war, we will stop it. ... We must make sure that the North-U.S. dispute does not escalate into a war. Now the Republic of Korea must take a central role” (*International Herald Tribune*, Dec. 20, 2002).

As a mediator in the Washington-Pyongyang stalemate, Seoul has had its first opportunity to broach the nuclear subject with its northern neighbor, which is a significant step as the two countries work toward reunification.

The idea that Seoul could broker peace on the peninsula just might work, given the help of another key player in this whole situation: China.

Ally for Both Koreas

Of course, China—along with Russia, Japan and the U.S.—favors a denuclearized Korean peninsula. And though it has officially wanted to play no major role in mediating between Washington and Pyongyang, Beijing wants to see this problem defused. Problems in Northeast Asia make investors jittery and could take the edge off China’s economic growth. Also, if North Korea has nuclear weapons, it

might cause *Japan* to go nuclear. And "that's Beijing's worst nightmare," according to Nicholas Eberstadt of the American Enterprise Institute.

Beijing is in favor of a solution that doesn't rattle the region too much at the offset. And it will certainly give its blessing to Seoul as it shows itself worthy to relieve the situation.

In fact, China's relations with South Korea have never been better. During the Korean War, China was strongly allied with North Korea—fighting alongside its soldiers against South Korea and America. But things have changed since South Korea and China established diplomatic relations and Kim Dae Jung launched his Sunshine policy toward the North.

Perhaps this newfound diplomacy can be seen more clearly through an economic lens. South Korea's most important economic partner is now not the U.S., but China. South Korea is presently the fifth-largest foreign investor in China and China's third-

The presence of a weakened U.S.—unable to use its diplomatic or military might to quell nuclear fears in Asia—will soon be eliminated or drastically reduced in the East.

largest trading partner. In 2001, South Koreans invested more money in China than in the U.S. In 2002, China's trade with South Korea increased 20 percent over the previous year and China became the peninsula's largest trading partner, ahead of the U.S. (China was already North Korea's largest trading partner.) In the coming year, South Korea is expected to commit about half of its total overseas investment to China.

These economic factors confirm that China will only increase its domi-

nance in the region. "China is looming large as an alternative to the United States," according to Lee Jung Hoon, international relations professor at South Korea's Yonsei University. The strengthening relationship between South Korea and China is occurring while relations between South Korea and the U.S. are beginning to lag. The current nuclear crisis in the North will only amplify this restructuring of thinking in the South.

In Asia's Hands

Yes, the North Korean standoff is significant. How this situation unfolds will reshape the geopolitical landscape of the Orient. A strengthened South Korea, in closer alliance with China, will make strides toward reunifying the peninsula—regardless of its nuclear capability. The presence of a weakened U.S.—unable to use its diplomatic or military might to quell nuclear fears in Asia—will soon be eliminated or drastically reduced in the East. ◆

One Korea Soon?

WHEN HE WAS ELECTED SOUTH KOREA'S PRESIDENT IN 1998, Kim Dae Jung began a Sunshine Policy, launching a series of inter-Korean projects, including the possibility of a cross-border rail link and tourist and industrial parks. The idea of unification would combine North Korean military strength with South Korean economic strength, which would help nurse the impoverished North back to health.

Stratfor's analysts predicted on May 9, 2000, "A reunified Korea would dramatically lower tension in the region—but at the cost of American and Japanese influence. ... A stabilized Korea, in lessening security concerns, may also boost regional economic growth." The unification of Korea "would drastically alter the balance of power in East Asia. No longer divided, Korea would discontinue hosting U.S. forces on the peninsula." Also, the justification of U.S. troops in Japan would be even further weakened, unless Washington somehow felt its presence there would help it keep tabs on Beijing. It certainly would leave Korea in stronger alliance with China, which controlled the peninsula for centuries before the Japanese annexed it in 1910.

How does the prospect of Korean unification fare, given the current nuclear situation? South Korean President-Elect Roh Moo Hyun has laid out plans for economic engage-

ment with North Korea that are even more ambitious than Kim Dae Jung's Sunshine Policy. Some say the nuclear issue must be resolved before such plans can be implemented. Nevertheless, Seoul and Pyongyang have continued cooperative efforts throughout this latest nuclear episode.

The real slow-down to Korean unification, in the eyes of many Asians, is the United States. What happens with the current North Korean standoff will largely determine the course of reunification efforts over the coming years.

Harvard's Samuel Huntington predicted the union of the two Koreas in his 1996 book, *The Clash of Civilizations*: "People separated by ideology but united by culture come together, as the two Germanys did and as the two Koreas and the several Chinas are beginning to." Many of the seeds for Korean conflict are mere "leftovers from the Cold War," he wrote.

This prediction by one of today's most respected analysts concerning the unification of Korea agrees with the sure word of Bible prophecy. As world events climax in a massive global conflict spurred by a political beast now forming in Europe—a

union of nations that will wreak unspeakable havoc on Anglo-America and the Middle East—the Bible predicts that an even greater, more fearsome force will unite to counter this European power. Identified in Revelation 16:12 as the "kings of the east," this Asian force, to include mighty nations like Russia, China, Japan and Korea, will rise up in a mighty nuclear battle against the European beast. Korea, ultimately, will be united in this effort.

RYAN MALONE



SUNSHINE IN KOREA A historic summit occurred between the two Korean leaders in June 2000.



RISING POWER Japanese wave rising-sun flags in support as Navy vessels departed in November 2001 to aid the war on terror—the first military action of its kind since WWII.

Japan's Place in the Future

A recent report suggested that Japan could go nuclear in months. Where will Japan fit into the developing global geopolitical situation?

BY GARETH FRASER
AND RON FRASER

FOR THE PAST 50 YEARS, A STRONG relationship between the U.S. and Japan has guaranteed economic and military security in East Asia. But now it seems that Japan's leaders are increasingly edging away from that partnership.

Unable to fix its own deflationary economic spiral, is it possible that Japan may revive its economy by taking a more independent approach to security in East Asia? Any separation from the U.S. would require Japan to crank up its defense spending. This could be just what Japan needs to mend its economic sickness.

The problem is, Japanese militarism has a dangerous history. Its most recent resurgence was only halted by nuclear bombing in 1945.

Awakening the Samurai

Today, Japan boasts one of the top five military arsenals in the world as well as the world's second-largest navy. Despite the presence of regional tensions in North Korea, Taiwan, the Philip-

pinas and Indonesia, Japan—with all its industrial, economic and naval strength—has, until quite recently, seemingly remained a benign power, constrained by memories of the nuclear disaster that followed its past imperial ambitions. But, as has been the case with so many other nations, the events of September 11, 2001, are altering the Japanese mentality.

Just one month following 9/11, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi adopted anti-terrorism legislation in the Diet that established provisions for Japanese military support to U.S. forces. Since then, Japanese troops have supplied logistical support for America's declared war on terrorism.

Japan's ability to enter a battle theater so readily is attributable to a situation not easily appreciated by many in the West. Look beneath the surface and you will find that Japan has not, in *reality*, really been the benign power that its image has conveyed since its defeat in World

War II. Japan has for decades *evaded* the strict enforcement of Article 9 of the constitutional law imposed by America after World War II, which states unequivocally that "the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. ... [L]and, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, WILL NEVER BE MAINTAINED" (emphasis ours throughout). Article 9 has not had the effect its designers intended, or else Japan would not have amassed such a large military infrastructure under the pacifist banner of "self defense."

"For many years Japan's Self Defense Forces have been laying the groundwork for this new era. Japan has a small army—although it is larger than most people imagine—but more important, *Japan's military industrial capability is much greater than is generally assumed.*

"Japan has already created some of the *most advanced weapons in the world and knows how to mass-produce them.* Japan's emergence as a great military power in the future depends more on its *will* than its ability. *In order to have a world-class military force in a few short years, Japan merely has to decide that it needs one*" (George Friedman and Meredith Lebard, *The Coming War With Japan*).

With North Korea threatening recently to "destroy the world" via its nuclear capability, Japan is taking advantage of this serious regional security threat to position itself as the representative of U.S. interests in the area. It would not be surprising to see the U.S. even encourage Japan to obtain nuclear capability under the guise of self defense!

Japan knows that the U.S. is beginning to stretch beyond its logistical capability. America is ill-prepared to fight a war on two fronts, despite Washington's recent rhetoric to the contrary. This situation is bound to ultimately spur the Japanese into action to develop an equal and opposite offensive capability to those of its North Korean, Chinese and Russian neighbors. It simply must enter the balance-of-power equation in the Far East, as the U.S., its protector for the past half-century, is stretched thin in its global war on terror.

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For more on post-WWII Japan, see "Made in Japan" under Article Archives.

A Message From an Ambassador

RECOGNIZED AS AN UNOFFICIAL AMBASSADOR FOR WORLD peace, Herbert W. Armstrong was deeply respected by the people and leadership of Japan. For more than a decade, he discussed world problems with prime ministers Sato, Tanaka, Miki, Fukuda, Ohira, Suzuki and Nakasone. Twelve high-ranking members of the Diet (Japan's parliament) regarded themselves as Mr. Armstrong's "Japanese sons."

They and other Japanese diplomatic representatives visited Ambassador College in Pasadena, Calif., which Mr. Armstrong founded in 1934. As president of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, Mr. Armstrong partnered Japanese leaders on various cultural projects and exchange programs. The emperor of Japan conferred on him the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Second Class.

Prior to his death in 1986, Mr. Armstrong visited Japan and spoke before the country's political elite during a joint assembly of the Diet. Following one private meeting with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Mr. Armstrong was the keynote speaker at a formal dinner held in his honor at which many Japanese political and business leaders and a large array of foreign diplomats were present.

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For more, see "The Legacy of Herbert W. Armstrong" under [Article Archives](#).

Why was the Japanese leadership so fond of Herbert Armstrong? What was the message he delivered to the leaders of the country?

Developing Relationship

In 1972, Mr. Armstrong related an incident where Prime Minister Eisaku Sato was visiting California to see President Nixon and called for a personal meeting with Mr. Armstrong. Unable to attend because of illness, Mr. Armstrong sent two Ambassador College executives in his stead. Mr. Sato requested during that meeting "that we fly two top members of the Japanese Diet (their Congress) and eight representatives of the Japanese press to our Texas campus for a couple of days, which we did. They had 'the time of their lives'" (Herbert Armstrong, co-worker letter, Feb. 28, 1972). Thus commenced the warm relationship between these mem-



TRUMPET COURTESY SATORO

bers of the Japanese Diet and Herbert Armstrong.

This relationship continued to solidify and flourish over the ensuing years. On July 21, 1977, he wrote: "Last night was the big night of the visit to Tokyo—a most important banquet with about 150 in attendance, including several high in the Japanese government with 13 ambassadors from as many countries. Most of my 'Japanese sons' ... were present. I was guest of honor and main speaker. I did get over to them the GOOD NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD" (member and co-worker letter).

Third Global Power Bloc

Across the China Sea from the land of the rising sun, a dragon awakens. Mythological dragons may be known to fall asleep at the entrance to their caverns, but they are certainly not known for their weakness. The Chinese dragon has long been, it might seem, slumberously watching U.S. global dominance give way to the emerging European Union. But it knows that a third global power bloc in the East will be needed as a counterweight.

Only two nations have the power potential to lead such a bloc: China and Japan.

Suddenly a power shift has begun in Asia. The first step came in the form of a proposal to create a Free Trade Area between China and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The second step was taken at the China/ASEAN summit in Cambodia in November last year with the signing of a Framework Agreement on comprehensive economic cooperation, to be negotiated in detail over the coming decade. The agreement positions

China at the apex of an Asian bloc of nearly 2 billion consumers having a combined GDP of \$2 trillion. Upon its completion this new Asian bloc would be *the world's largest free trade zone*.

Where does this leave Japan? Though it has one of the world's largest independent economies, it continues to be hamstrung by the failure of successive governments to confront the need for painful economic restructuring.

In an attempt to create the aura of Japanese leadership within Asia, Prime Minister Koizumi noted that he envisaged ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea (together comprising a third of the world's market and making up 20 percent of global trade) emerging as a major driving force within the global economy. Koizumi went as far as saying, "Northeast Asian cooperation would call for an end to the sense of rivalry between Japan and China and the beginning of a new age of partnership and co-existence" (*Business Times*, Singapore, Nov. 6, 2002). Japan knows that it cannot continue such overt rivalry if it is to have anywhere near the influence in the East Asian sphere that

the size of its economy and industrial weight demand.

The recent political and economic coup by China may seem, for the present, to have positioned it as the leader in Asia and relegated Japan to the role of a follower. But all it would take is a major regional crisis to spur the Japanese into action to throw, in particular, their naval might into the breach as a guarantor of security to their neighbors. Japan has this powerful tool to use as a trade-off in negotiations for economic cooperation from the rest of Asia.

The prospect of the continued expansion of the EU into a combined bloc larger and more powerful than the U.S. and Russia, and the perceived weakening of U.S. global influence, is driving China and its Asian neighbors to put into place counter-measures which will position them as the next great global power bloc. Both China and Japan will combine in Asian alliances, with the ultimate intention of forcing the U.S. out of the western Pacific. Then, as has been the strategy of the EU, Asian political and economic cooperation will ultimately progress to

Announcing World Peace

Here was the *real reason* behind Mr. Armstrong's friendship with the leaders of Japan! Those relationships bloomed into wonderful *opportunities* for Herbert Armstrong to preach the *true gospel* of Jesus Christ, that *gospel of the coming Kingdom of God* which Jesus Christ Himself and the original apostles preached! But not only that; here were doors opening for that message of salvation to be heard in the *East*, among the *leadership*, the people of *influence*, in traditionally non-Christian societies—and the message was being *welcomed* by them!

This was a dramatic fulfillment of Jesus Christ's prophecy, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

Worn out from a life of total dedication to his commission to preach the gospel to all nations, Mr. Armstrong's mission came to an end with his death on January 16, 1986. But he had given those increasingly large audiences of the rich and powerful in the East a message of *supreme* importance. The most *vital* message for not just the East, but for *all* mankind! It was the most electrifying announcement that any human mind opened to receive it could ever hear!

At his first large gathering of Japanese leaders in Tokyo, Mr. Armstrong described the message he brought in these moving terms: "I mentioned, first, that I had a very happy ANNOUNCEMENT to make. ... 'I ANNOUNCE to you tonight, that, in our very present living generation, ALL NATIONS WILL come to live happily and joyfully together in WORLD PEACE. We will not bring this about ourselves. ... One of our great

weekly newsmagazines in the United States said in an editorial that it would seem that mankind's ONLY HOPE now is the sudden intervention of AN UNSEEN STRONG HAND FROM SOME PLACE. The editor meant,' I said, 'the intervention of GOD, THE CREATOR OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE AND ALL THE PEOPLES AND RACES OF THE EARTH'" (ibid.).

Here was a message such as *never* had been heard by such a prestigious audience in the Far East—and it was given with the *power* and *strength* of real *conviction*! Mr. Armstrong continued his speech, "Mankind then will be governed by GOD'S LAWS OF LOVE—OF GIVING—of helping, sharing, serving. It makes no difference whether you believe that or not. It is SURE! It is as certain as the rising and setting of the sun. I have ANNOUNCED IT TO YOU. Your ears have HEARD IT! It's your ONLY HOPE."

Thank God that hope is assured, underwritten by the very Word of the One who created man with the potential to obtain an eternal, unfading inheritance in a coming time of *eternal* peace! (1 Pet. 1:3-4).

The message of that inheritance was declared to the leaders of all nations in the time of Herbert Armstrong's ministry, clear across to the leaders of the East. Japan is the *only* nation on Earth to have felt the consuming fire of nuclear war! And no other nation in modern times had its leadership so personally impacted by the witness of the gospel message declared by Mr. Armstrong to the extent that Japan did.

Are there still minds in Japan which yet remember that witness? Will they recall that white-haired patriarch who came among them preaching of the coming Kingdom of God, when troubles impact their nation in their increasingly destabilized hemisphere?

GARETH FRASER

a military and security alliance.

The West is in decline. The U.S. has demonstrated too often that, while it may have power, it lacks the political *will* to use it. No nation possessing such an inherent distaste for the loss of its warriors in battle can remain at the top for long. Within a very short time, the U.S. will be overtaken in political will and influence by a gigantic *European Union*. The rest of the world will see this and increasingly thumb their nose at America.

The U.S. is too blind to see the writing on the wall. Islam is on the rise globally.

The European beast power is almost ready to roll. The kings of the East are becoming restless. Anti-Americanism is reaching fever pitch in some nations. Next to the Jews, Anglo-Americans are becoming the most hated of peoples throughout the non-English-speaking world. As a result, U.S. influence in and access to the Korean Peninsula, Chinese and Soviet coasts, Asian-Pacific sea-lanes, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Micronesia,

Polynesia and Papua New Guinea will soon evaporate.

Filling the Power Vacuum

Who will fill the power vacuum?

Despite the overwhelming size of China's population and its great economic potential, *Japan* has the most highly developed economy in the region. *Japan* has the (presently underutilized) *industrial capacity* developed to the point that it could easily match the U.S. and the EU in high-tech weapons development and production. *Japan* is the *only* Far East nation possessing a blue-water navy of significance.

Sixty years ago, Japan sought to impose its hegemony via military might. Six decades of decolonization, development and growth in the Far East means that Japan now faces a vastly different and more powerful China and a much more industrialized collective Asian sphere. It must fulfill its goals using means vastly different from those of the 1940s. Any dominant influence that Japan now seeks in the Eastern Hemi-



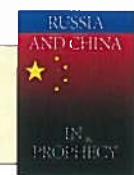
KOIZUMI

REUTERS

sphere must be done via *ALLIANCES* and *TREATIES*. And this *will* involve a *nuclear* alliance! "But there can be no doubt that if Japan saw fit to become a nuclear power, it could do so in less than a year's time—without American help and borrowed nukes and to China's certain chagrin. There is also a fast-growing body of opinion in Japan saying that that's precisely what the country *should* do" (*Asia Times*, Jan. 14).

Watch for the East Asian alliances to develop economically and militarily. Watch for coming agreements between Japan, South Korea and China to harness the maverick North Korea and muscle the U.S. out of oriental diplomacy in Korea and Taiwan. Watch for a third great power bloc to emerge in the East, to balance the power of the expanding European Union and the volatile Islamic tide. The new order of global powers is emerging precisely as depicted in Bible prophecy. ♦

For more, request your free copy of our booklet **Russia and China in Prophecy**.



Roads to Rebe

LET US FIRST BE POSITIVE about the Internet. The very fact that it exists represents a marvel of cooperation among computer science experts and leaders in education, government and industry. It is a good example of mankind's inventive genius.

The Internet crosses all national borders, offering seemingly unending possibilities and benefits to people worldwide. Statistics show that about 655 million people use the Internet. The numbers are growing daily, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

What would eventually become known as the Internet was originally created in the late 1960s to share academic information; its use was largely restricted to colleges and universities. As the concepts behind the Internet and computer technologies developed, so did understanding of the commercial aspects of the Internet. In fact, it was the business sector that accelerated the Internet's rapid development. The falling price of personal computers, coupled with the successful promotion and marketing of Internet use, has put the power of the Net into the hands of the masses.

The frenzied rush to access the *information superhighway* has made the Internet an accepted part of everyday life. It is mainstream. Like so many other technologies, the Internet is here to stay.

People are involved in countless activities on the Internet. They buy and sell anything from clothes to automobiles to real estate. They educate themselves by doing research and by taking elementary, secondary or college classes online. Individuals can also read this magazine online. Mostly, people communicate—instantly. Users from opposite ends of the globe are able to chat online, in real time, at little cost.

Obviously, people use the Internet for much more than what is described here, and therein lies some of its greatest danger. We must become more informed about the Internet's dangers.

Social Impacts

The reality is that, for all of its benefits, the Internet presents some serious



problems for society in general and families in particular. To date, most articles discussing the Internet have focused on either the *business* or *technological* impacts of the Internet. Few have discussed the *social* impacts. But now experts are becoming more aware of the societal impacts of the Net—both positive and negative.

Teens are one of the largest groups of users on the Net. Therefore teenagers are among those who are potentially most *negatively* impacted by its use. We must come to see that through the Internet an awesome power for good and evil has been put *into the hands of our children*. Some parents often boast about how their child can manipulate a computer. Only a few recognize that children lack the maturity and sense of responsibility to handle such power.

Bill Joy, chief scientist at Sun Microsystems, concerned about the fu-

ture development of computer technology, has stated, "I think it is no exaggeration to say we are on the cusp of the further perfection of extreme evil—an evil whose possibility spreads well beyond that which weapons of mass destruction bequeathed to the nations-states, on to a surprising and terrible empowerment of extreme individuals" (*Wired*, April 2000).

Technology nearly always outpaces our ability to deal with the changes it brings. The Internet has changed us and is still changing us—and not just in the way we do things. Unfortunately, we are coming to understand its negative impacts only after we have widely accepted them.

But to simply look back and lay blame will not help us deal with the problems it presents. We must come to know that some of the concepts behind the Internet hold the key to under-

standing how to deal with its dangerous defects. Unless we recognize the flawed concepts behind the Internet and fix them, its problems will continue to haunt us and will grow worse.

Accelerated Information Exchange

One thought-provoking book dealing with the social impacts of the Internet is *Next: The Future Just Happened*, by Michael Lewis. This contributing writer for *New York Times Magazine* looked, through first-hand interviews, at the effects of the Internet on ordinary people that had become caught up in some extraordinary events because of the Net. He was shocked to find, at the center of the controversies, *teenagers*—quiet, unassuming, highly intelligent teenagers. What they did on the Internet is mind-blowing.

Through the Internet, an awesome power for good and evil has been put into the hands of our children.

Early in his book, Lewis makes two overall observations that give clues into the inherent problems of the Internet. He states, "It is wildly disruptive to speed up information, and speeding up information was not the only thing the Internet had done. The Internet had made it possible for people to thwart all sorts of rules and conventions. It wasn't just the commercial order that was in flux. Many forms of authority were secured by locks waiting to be picked." Think deeply about that. The Internet has *accelerated* the exchange of information and provided the means for individuals to *thwart* rules, conventions and *authorities*. The bottom line is, THE INTERNET HAS UPSET AN ESTABLISHED ORDER IN SOCIETY.

Essentially, the information superhighway has opened up roads to rebellion.

Lewis's assertion that it is "wildly disruptive to speed up information" is important to consider. Of course, one of the Internet's primary uses, to share information as quickly as possible, has been accomplished in a spectacular way. With the right computer hardware

and software, encyclopedic amounts of information can be transferred between points anywhere in the world instantaneously. Any knowledge gained can be knowledge immediately available to everyone. This technological achievement has revolutionized every facet of our society. It has tied the world together in a way that would make dead dictators jealous! Yet, can we see the *wildly disruptive* danger in all this?

Concern over the potential perils of instant communication between humans is not new. It is nearly as old as man himself. The biblical account of the Tower of Babel is a perfect example. Knowing both mankind's inventive genius and appetite for violence, God saw the downside to the instant exchange of ideas among human minds apart from His Holy Spirit. Looking at the Tower of Babel, God said, "Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Gen. 11:6).

Although the Tower of Babel was an act of defiance against God's authority, He was mostly concerned about what man would do with unrestrained human communication and knowledge production, and how it would impact human imagination. Within the confines of the natural laws of the universe, what man conceives, man can accomplish! Because of our flawed nature, uniting human talent is perilous. God knew this and prevented man from potentially destroying himself earlier than God's plan would allow. He restricted man's ability to rapidly communicate shared knowledge by introducing a multitude of languages.

Can't we conclude that *the Internet has undone what God did*?

Certainly, delivering massive amounts of information to balanced minds can be a wonderful thing. But giving massive amounts of information to dangerous minds *will* lead to disaster.

Since the 1960s, mankind's fund of knowledge has increased dramatically—and, at the same time, so have society's evils. The knowledge we are producing is not solving our fundamental

problems. Through computer technology, including the Internet, we are adding to our knowledge at a highly accelerated rate. Can we make the connection that society's problems are speeding up just as fast? We should all be alarmed!

High-Tech Lawlessness

Besides speeding up the exchange of information, Lewis tells us that the Internet allows individuals to "thwart all sorts of rules and conventions"—and "authority." The full impact of this statement is far-reaching. It gives crystal-clear insight into the dangers lurking on the Internet.

From its creation, experts guided the development of the Internet so that it would be fiercely democratic. They demanded that it be self-governed and self-monitored. It was feared that too much government regulation would impede its progress. A free-exchange communication system without national boundaries is foundational to the belief that no individual should be denied access to the Net because of political ideology or other reasons.

This all sounds great, philosophically. But what has developed is a worldwide network with no boundaries *period*. Being *self-monitored* and *self-governed* has actually come to mean practically *no* monitoring or *no* governance. The Internet has therefore encouraged *lawlessness*.

What has developed is a worldwide network with no boundaries. The Internet has encouraged lawlessness.

The growing phenomenon of Internet crime has been made especially easy because of its limited regulation and controls. Steps are now being taken to govern the Internet at both the national and international level. Unfortunately, regulations and laws cannot be written fast enough to stay ahead of the Internet crime wave. Because of possible technical complications, as well as international legal and political issues, enforcing these laws is often impossible.

As computer technologies increase in sophistication, so do the criminals'

abilities. Law enforcement agencies, understaffed and ill-equipped to deal with the problem, are having an increasingly difficult job catching and prosecuting such criminals. Although there are valiant attempts and some progress being made, the Internet crime problem is growing.

Criminals have used the Internet to carry out the obvious crimes like stealing credit card numbers, which sometimes results in individuals helping themselves to other people's checking and linked savings accounts. But theft is only one of the abuses of the Internet.

The fastest-growing business on the Internet is pornography. It is expected that this year \$3 billion will be spent—by adults and minors—in accessing “adult content” on the Net. If this were not evil enough, the sale and distribution of child pornography is also at an all-time high.

The fastest-growing business on the Internet is pornography. This year \$3 billion will be spent on it.

Because the Internet allows anonymity, sexual predators are able to assume false identities and enter the chat rooms of teenagers, encouraging unsuspecting youths to meet with them.

Because of the sheer vastness of the Internet, which hosts billions of web-sites, these types of crimes are hard to detect. Google, one of the top search engines serving the Internet, connects 3 billion webpages to its engine alone; yet no search engine in existence can possibly search *all available sites*. Although the real number is not known, it is estimated that there are at least 40 million porn sites. Law enforcement officials believe there could be millions of child pornography sites on the Worldwide Web. This is apart from the avenues of newsgroups and e-mail that can also be used for such purposes.

To track down, prosecute and jail a child pornographer is a daunting task. Why? If American authorities do discover the site of a child pornographer, what if the individual is located in another country? It then becomes a matter of international law, which can often mean an international nightmare. Even within the U.S., pornography laws vary from state to state. What

about the differences internationally? What could be illegal in the U.S. could be perfectly legal in another country. There is rising tension internationally over which nation's laws should govern the Internet. The Internet will remain a legal challenge for years to come.

Into Hands of Children

Another major way the Internet allows individuals to “thwart all sorts of rules and conventions” and “authority” is related to the fact that it has decentralized the control of information. The sources of information on the Net are endless—but no authorities or organized structures control the information. In essence, the Internet has taken the control of information away from the *insiders* and transferred it to the *outsiders*. Power has shifted from the center to the fringe. Control that used to look like a pyramid has been flattened to look like a pancake. It is the outsiders that are gaining control.

For example, the technical information for making bombs used to be held secure by scientists developing such weapons. But with the Internet, that information is now available for instant download to anybody—including teenagers. Children are able to learn in a matter of minutes how to make a bomb at home. In a similar vein, children can also learn harmful things about drugs and sex.

Lewis brings out in his book what several very bright teenagers did with information they gained while using the Internet. He makes considerable mention of Jonathan Lebed, a New Jersey 15-year-old who made news headlines several years ago when he created considerable chaos in the stock market. Under a fictitious identity, this teen became a major player in the market. When authorities uncovered Lebed's activities, it turned the stock trading world upside down. Although the Securities and Exchange Commission is still not quite sure how he did it, he was able to take money from a savings bond and amass a small fortune by manipulating the market. It is still unknown how many businesses may have been harmed by this teen's activities.

Lewis also recounts the story of Marcus Arnold, a 15-year-old who portrayed himself as a law student and offered free legal advice to thousands on the Internet. What is truly amazing is

that under an assumed identity he became the number-three-rated expert in criminal law on www.askme.com. Many people with serious legal problems even sent court documents to his home for review. Legal professionals could not believe what Arnold had pulled off.

The potential harm Marcus Arnold could have caused others is staggering. Think of the dangerous possibilities for any other crafty teen. Will one pretend to be a psychologist, or a doctor?

Upside-Down Authority

The truth we must come to recognize is that the Internet has taken the power and authority once reserved for adults and given it to youth. Many adults cannot see this—yet. However, many teens and young adults see the power of the Internet and fully intend to exploit it.

One teen told Lewis, “We're out to make a network that benefits us all and isn't governed or monitored or censored by anybody else, just us, and we're in control of the network.” This 14-year-old boy created the means to share music and novels without using an Internet central server when Napster was shut down. Essentially, he helped create a network on the fringe of the Internet. Those linked into this network can operate outside of all intellectual property laws.

Lewis relates in his book that the parents of the teens he interviewed knew very little about computers or the Internet. Because of the adult's lack of knowledge of new technology, the child became the parent when it came to using a computer. Authority was turned upside-down.

The most effective way to ensure that the Internet is used for your child's good is to take control at home

Most parents buy computers for their children for educational purposes. Certainly the computer is a great educational tool. Children quickly adapt to it. Studies show that adults generally do not. Of course, we want our children to learn all they can. But as parents, we should learn right along with them.

All the parents of the teens involved in extraordinary situations on the Internet knew relatively little about computers or what their child was actually doing on the Internet. The teens in-

volved spent countless hours on the Net. Their parents didn't monitor them. When Lewis showed up to interview one teen, the mother asked, "Has my son done something illegal?" She was totally in the dark about her child's activities.

Get Control

The Internet is a powerful tool that can be used for good or evil. Even if new laws and more effective controls are implemented, in this present world there will always be those working against and around any such laws.

The most effective way to ensure that the Internet is used for your child's good is for you—the parents—to take control at home. This means that you must not only watch over your child's Internet activities, you must *regulate* Internet use. Of course this will present a significant challenge to most parents. Why? Many adults tend to avoid computers because they lack knowledge about them. To protect our children, we must change our fearful and insecure attitudes toward computers. Parents who purchase a computer and provide Internet access for a child have the *responsibility* to learn how to use a computer and the Internet.

Some parents, made aware of the dangers of the Internet through unfortunate experiences, are installing monitoring software known as *spyware* or *snoopware*. Employing a remote and undetectable computer (usually from a parent's work location), these programs provide a line-by-line record of Internet activities, revealing sites visited and records of incoming and outgoing chats. This can be extremely helpful in determining if a youth is visiting porn or other undesirable sites—or being drawn into a meeting with a sexual predator.

Be aware that these programs are new and still underdeveloped. A bright teen can find a way around them. Your personal involvement is the only effective way to know what is happening on your home computer.

Parental Responsibility

Liberals, especially in the United States, cry about the privacy rights of teens and youth. But do we want teen privacy at the cost of teen crime? Parents, you have rights, too. You have the *duty* to make sure your children aren't engaged in wrong activities—

and that gives you the right to view all e-mails and conversations taking place in chatrooms and to know which sites your teens frequent. Parents have the right to control the amount of time a youth spends on the Internet. Of course, once a relationship of trust is built, only occasional monitoring may be necessary.

Some parents will limit a child's telephone time but will not limit time on the Internet. The logic is that more computer time equals more education. But the problem with that thinking is, many teens use extra hours on the Net merely for correspondence and fun.

The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, N.Y., and other colleges across the country have studied the effects of Internet use on student performance. It has been uncovered that many students who use the Internet for long hours also *flunk out* of school. After thorough investigation, the reason became abundantly clear: Valuable study time was wasted on Internet surfing, idle talk in chatrooms and playing multi-user computer games. These students, known as "Internet vampires" among college guidance counselors, often stayed on the Internet all night long, then slept through the day, missing classes and other vital educational interaction. Do we see that lots of Internet time can equal *no* education or *dangerous* education? Some colleges monitor student time on the Internet to prevent student failure. What about you? Do you know how long your child stays on the Internet?

Parents must not fear to use their God-given authority. Yet that is precisely the problem with computers, the Internet, our modern family crisis and society in general. With the support of liberal adults, children have bullied their way into positions of authority. The Internet has provided children a great measure of independence, making them fearless of authority.

Parents must not fear to use their God-given authority. If we don't regain control, we will pay a great price.

Some parents have allowed their children to lock them out of their bedrooms. Parents have also allowed their children to lock them off their computers. These situations would never

have happened just several decades ago; they should not be happening now. Knowing the power of the Internet, this is a formula for disaster. Experts believe that the tragedy at Columbine High may have been prevented if more was known about the contents of the teens' e-mails.

We are a generation that has over-indulged our children with things, freedoms and independence they do not

The Internet allows people to skirt around authority, because that is what we want: no rules, no laws.

have the maturity to handle. If we do not regain control, we will pay an even bigger price than Columbine High.

Sign of the Times

The misuse and abuse of power and authority on the Internet is a symptom of our very sick Western society. The Internet allows adults and children to skirt around authority, because that is the kind of society we want—no rules, no regulations and no laws! Yet, we are always shocked at the results when they come crashing down on us.

The Prophet Isaiah saw our modern problem with authority and its disastrous results coming thousands of years ago: "And the people shall be *oppressed*, every one by another, and every one by his neighbor: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honorable. ... As for my people, *children* are their *oppressors*, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isa. 3:5, 12). The truth in these verses should motivate every parent and every leader to consider our ways. When people—families or nations—reject authority, *oppression* is always the result. These verses specifically warn that our children will oppress us. The Internet, if not governed properly, provides just one more means for our children and others to do so.

Let's be warned. It's time to wake up to reality. The Internet has the makings to be a weapon in the hands of high-tech insurgents. All of its good can be turned to great evil. Do we have the wisdom to do something about it? It is not too late to close down the roads to rebellion. The choice is ours. ♦

increase their activities against Europe as this looming Western and Christian superpower intrudes into the Middle East region in a substantial way.

Will history repeat itself as the Islamic regimes of the Middle East become more overt in their efforts to occupy and administer Jerusalem and Israel? Will these oil-rich countries, in an attempt to force their expansionist will against Catholic Europe, suspend their oil trade to energy-hungry Europe?

Bible prophecy indicates that the “king of the south” will push at the “king of the north” (a Vatican-inspired and German-led Europe), and this will provoke a *blitzkrieg* response from Europe to devastate this Islamic foe, at which time Europe will set up a powerful presence in Israel (Dan. 11:40-43).

In these events, soon to occur, Cyprus as the European high-tech military outpost, with military bases and installations in proximity to the Middle East, will be indispensable, as it so often has been throughout history.

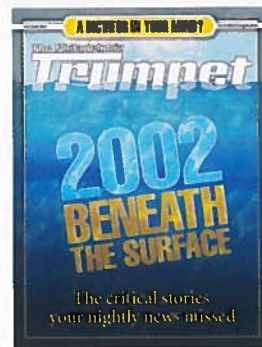
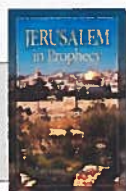
Europe Enters Israel

The Middle East is a time bomb with a short fuse. Events in Israel will develop simultaneously in a parallel buildup to the clash of European Christendom and Middle East Islam.

Bible prophecy reveals that the new German-led European superstate, in one final crusade against Islam, will occupy Israel and conquer Jerusalem again (Luke 21:20). The Vatican will move its headquarters to Jerusalem (Dan. 11:45). All this will trigger the worst suffering mankind has ever seen in titanic worldwide nuclear warfare. This brief period of the greatest suffering ever within which God will protect His loyal and faithful people (Rev. 3:10; 12:14), is known in the Bible as the Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:21).

In the short term, the years ahead will be traumatic. Yet it is always darkest before the dawn. These events all portend the most incredible event in the history of the universe, the return of Jesus Christ to establish a kingdom based on God’s loving law and government, in a utopian paradise that will never end (Dan. 2:44). ◆

For more, request your free copy of our booklet **Jerusalem in Prophecy.**



2002: Beneath the Surface

“Congratulations to you and your team for your truthful articles. I have never read anything so point-blank and straightforward. You hit the nail right on the head!”

Johore, Malaysia

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK. ALTHOUGH I’M still working out the extent of truth in what you profess, I’m having a hard time finding hard evidence against what you proclaim.

Chicago, Ill.

MR. ARMSTRONG USED TO REFER TO THE *Plain Truth* as “the world’s finest magazine.” Now, as today’s legitimate successor, the *Trumpet* deserves that moniker. In the February 2000 special issue there was an article titled “The U.S. Has Won Its Last War.” Many would think the quick demise of the Taliban government in Afghanistan would disprove the claim of that article, but not so. In the November 18, 2002, issue of *Time* magazine, an article titled “Hollow Victory,” questioned the nature of the defeat of the Taliban. Most of the terrorists, including bin Laden, are still on the loose, and they can still buy refuge in Afghanistan. The *Trumpet* is right! Even the mainstream media is questioning this “victory.” I look forward to every issue of your excellent and attractive magazine!

Cleveland, Ohio

YOUR EXCELLENT ARTICLE ON EMOTIONS WAS especially helpful to me. As you said, controlled emotions are the essence of godly character. If we hate each other we aren’t seeing the real cause of the problem, and when that happens we *become* the problem.

Hustisford, Wis.

Christmas

I JUST FINISHED READING IN THE *TRUMPET*, December 2002, the article on Christmas, and I must say, I was extremely surprised. It’s hard to comprehend how long people have been celebrating that holiday as though it were ordained by God. It’s even stranger to see a Church of God, such as yours, teaching in such a way about the true meaning of Christmas and how irrelevant to Christ it really is. But that’s why I like the PCG and your *Trumpet* so much.

You are not afraid of what the world or other churches think.

Lancaster, Calif.

YOU MUST TELL CARL HILLIKER AND MARK Jenkins that the “Why Christmas Is So Important to God” article has changed my life! Never again will I buy Christmas gifts, go to Christmas parties or send Christmas cards!

Oklahoma City, Okla.

FIRST OF ALL, I AM A DEVOUT ROMAN Catholic, and I discovered the Philadelphia Church of God while doing some research for a new book. I find the *Trumpet* to be one of the most factual publications available today. In fact, after I had finished the December 2002 issue, I was at the BBC site doing research, and the headlines and story links I read there were all exactly the prophecies I’ve been reading in the *Trumpet* over the past few years! It was uncanny; history was unfolding before my eyes.

Northbrook, Ill.

THOUGH I DO NOT ALWAYS GO ALONG 100 percent with the things you print, I do thoroughly enjoy the magazine every time I receive it. So much between the pages gives me a chance to look at the world I don’t think about every day. I find it ironic that as I received your December 2002 issue, Zimbabwe’s Mugabe is now appearing in other world news sources as well.

Greensboro, N.C.

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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MARK JENKINS

Is God a Republican?

Why the *Trumpet* does not take sides in politics

IF JESUS CHRIST WERE A UNITED STATES CITIZEN, WOULD HE be a Republican? Or would He be a Libertarian? A Democrat, or a member of the Green Party? Maybe even a socialist? Would He have *any* political affiliation? Certainly, true Christians should want the same political association as Christ would have.

The term “religious right” is a popular one today; it is often used by the mass media, and, of course, the “liberal left.” Many have assumed that the staff writers of this magazine are Republicans, and part of the “religious right.” But I’ll let you in on a not-so-well-guarded secret: Not one member of our staff is a member of the Republican party.

At the same time, none of us are Democrats either. Or Libertarians, or socialists, or members of the Green party!

Yes, we do discuss world politics in detail. We discuss a myriad of geopolitical issues, decisions and the results of those decisions. That is done, however, with the only unimpeachable source of truth firmly in mind: the Holy Bible. God’s revelation determines our analysis of any situation, whether it is political or not.

Certainly anyone would agree that the Bible is *not* politically correct. As followers of God’s Word, neither are we. The fact is, while the political parties heatedly discuss the issues of the day, while the news media frantically scramble to cover the stories they generate, they are all missing the point, ignoring the most phenomenal news story of all time—that Jesus Christ is about to return to this Earth as King of kings and Lord of lords! The government—one that true Christians are part of—will be on His shoulders (Isa. 9:6).

Jesus Christ’s “political” affiliation should be becoming clearer to us all by now: He is a simply *above* politics! When He returns, He will establish the government of His Father in heaven, one that will “break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Dan. 2:44). In the wonderful World Tomorrow, there simply won’t be any political parties remaining.

We believe that we serve as ambassadors for this Kingdom today. As ambassadors, we cannot be part of another government—or any political body of any nation founded on man’s ideals (although God does command us to be *subject* to man’s government, as long as it doesn’t cause us to breach God’s law—Titus 3:1).

God’s government is built on His perfect law of love. Do the political parties show each other godly love and unconditional, outgoing concern? Do they express care and concern even within their own organizations? Do they each esteem the other better than themselves, as God would have them do? Are the policies they espouse based on His Word?

Any thinking person would have to admit that the answer to each of these questions is *NO*.

Whether a Republican or a Democratic majority exists in the U.S. government, we do not see a less polarized or partisan America. On the contrary! When we get to the core of the matter, we actually see dog-eat-dog rivalry and hatred. We see a downward spiral—the constant slinging of mud, as each side attempts to achieve what is best for *it*. We see nothing but

“love for *my* party and hate for *yours*!”

When Jesus Christ returns to establish the Kingdom of God, there is a list of names He will be called (Isa. 9:6)—Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, etc.—but “majority leader” is not among them. He will be *THE* leader of all that is! There simply will be no political parties in His government. The instruments of His government are defined as follows: “There is *ONE* body, and *ONE* Spirit, even as ye are called in *ONE* hope of your calling; *ONE* Lord, *ONE* faith, *ONE* baptism, *ONE* God and Father of all ...” (Eph. 4:4-6).

Ultimately, the efforts of mankind’s political parties won’t mean a thing. Whether the Republicans implement a missile shield or the Democrats socialize the medical services in this country, or the Green Party succeeds in legalizing marijuana, Jesus Christ *IS* coming back, and His Word will be *LAW*!

Anyone who knows the heart of man—that it is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9)—can understand why the peoples of the Earth will resist Christ at His Second Coming (Isa. 29:8; Zech. 14:3). Not only will the “conservatives” fight Him; not only will the “liberals” fight Him—but so will the communist nations, the Islamic nations, the Hindu nations, and, in fact, *all* the nations of the Earth!

The good news is, Christ’s victory over this intense opposition will usher in the greatest time of peace and prosperity the world has ever known. Just as the political motivations behind our governments today are futile, so too will be the opposition of man to Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, there is *no political solution* to this world’s problems, only a *DIVINE* one. And that solution will be implemented regardless of the actions of any man, regardless of political affiliation—regardless of whether we even believe Jesus Christ will return. His government *is* coming.

This publication exists to warn the world about the terrible times just ahead of us and to announce the soon-coming Kingdom of God. It is in the light of Bible prophecy that we examine world events, that we show the fulfillment of God’s Word to our readers month after month. It is this understanding that makes sense of the political events we so often analyze.

But the revelation of our all-powerful God also tells us that, when all is said and done, *politics* will be a thing of the *past*!



JOEL HILLIKER

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◆ U.S. FISCAL CRISES

Economically, the whole world is riding on the back of the American consumer. Yet, with all the problems occurring in the U.S. economy, how long can it last? And how can you avoid personal financial disaster?

◆ CAN GOD'S EXISTENCE BE PROVEN?

Many say that God's existence is a matter of faith and fantasy, not fact. Can solid scientific evidence be found? If so, this affects the entire meaning and direction of our lives!

◆ THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT EASTER

The one day a year even non-devout Christians will attend worship services is the day that is supposed to commemorate Christ's resurrection. Was Christ resurrected on a Sunday, and what does this have to do with rabbits and painted eggs?



◆ WORLD WAR DÉJÀ VU

Examining eerie parallels between pre-World War II and the beginning of the 21st century.

◆ A NEW IRANIAN REVOLUTION?

The 1979 Iranian Revolution is hitting hard times as an increasingly outspoken youth population protests the compulsory religious restrictions and lack of freedom. How will this social and political crisis play out in the most powerful nation in the Middle East?

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