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THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET

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and why you need to know

THE PHILADELPHIA
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COVER

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WORLD

SOCIETY

RELIGION

COVER *Edmund Stoiber meets with Pope Benedict XVI at a November 3 meeting at the Vatican.* AP/Wideworld photo

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FROM THE EDITOR

Gerald Flurry

Is God Cursing Us?

The question "Is God cursing us?" was asked on a recent radio talk program. The entire show was opened up to answer that one question. Not one of the callers said that God is cursing us. On the contrary, several of the callers said God does not do such things. Most of them seemed to be religious.

Considering the three massive weather disasters that smashed the U.S. in the past two months, this often-asked question demands an answer.

It is amazing how little religious people know about the Bible. And the Bible is supposed to be the source of Christianity. The Bible is Jesus Christ in print.

People are called *Christians* because they supposedly follow *Christ*. Christ said that we are to live by *every word* of God (Matthew 4:4). That includes both the Old and New Testaments.

The problem is, most Christians today talk a lot about Christ, but they reject His message.

The Bible is also a book about Israel. We often talk about the *lost tribes of Israel*. Why were they lost? Because God punished them for their evil ways. Not only were they conquered, but they were also removed from their own land! Then they lost their own identity and thought of themselves as Gentiles.

Today Israel is comprised of several nations. Bible prophecy tells us that the most powerful nations of Israel will be in captivity when Christ returns—again, because of their sins. And again, they will be removed from their own nations. (Request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for more information.)

Jesus Christ will destroy the remaining world powers when He returns!

The truth is, most people are biblical illiterates—that includes Christians.

God's Word contains over 100 prophecies warning us about Israel being destroyed in this end time. Let me give you one from an end-time book (Daniel 12:4, 9). "As it is written in the *law of Moses,* all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth. Therefore hath *the Lord watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us:* for the Lord our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: *for we obeyed not his voice*" (Daniel 9:13-14). These verses clearly tell us that God is bringing disasters upon us—like hurricanes—to get us to change our evil ways. The Bible is filled with such prophecies.

The Bible says we are more evil than the nations around us. God is not about to remain silent! Study the Bible and learn what your Creator thinks of our evil.

God also tells us in these two verses that the Law of Moses (the first five books of the Bible) prophesies about these curses coming upon us in the end time. In those prophecies, God sets before us a choice: good or evil—blessings or curses. Then He tells us to *choose* life and blessings. God even lists the blessings and the curses that will come upon us—depending on our choice.

NASA

UNNATURAL DISASTER
Hurricane Katrina spirals toward New Orleans.

Those people who say God wouldn't send those hurricanes to punish us need to be asked a question. Since God obviously has the power to stop the hurricanes, *why didn't He do so?*

If we are a righteous people, God promises to protect us. He isn't doing that. Why? Because we lead the world in evil—in every major pathology!

I see God's mercy in hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. The heart of America's oil production was only slightly damaged in these hurricanes. What if the oil rigs and many refineries had been virtually destroyed as some authorities expected to happen? Then America's economy would have been seriously crippled and might never have recovered! It would have caused a serious oil crisis in the U.S., and we all know how bad the oil crunch is even now.

America (and the world) is only one deadly hurricane away (not to mention a terrorist attack or a war in the Middle East) from an energy crisis.

In these hurricanes, God extended mercy, giving us a chance to change our evil ways. This magazine makes that evil extremely clear in every issue.

When will hurricane-type suffering stop? When we heed God's warning. If we don't heed, Bible prophecy clearly outlines what our end will be.

But even if we don't repent, a new and wonderful world is about to be ushered in. To learn about it, request our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like.*

COVER STORY

Historically, Bavaria and Bavarians have greatly influenced the destiny of Germany. The scene is set for two powerful Bavarians to dominate the German nation—and the whole continent of Europe—in the very near future. BY RON FRASER

The Bavarian C

GERMANY FACES A WINTER of extreme discontent. The six leading economic institutes in Germany have declared that the nation is entering recession. During October, growth forecasts for next year were revised down by 0.3 percent to 1.2 percent. This economic crisis in Germany, exacerbated by its main fallout—escalating unemployment—has evolved as the principal political concern within the nation.

The failure of attempts by former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder to gain either political or public support for needed structural reforms in the German economy led him to seek a vote of confidence in his government in May. Realizing that he would lose this vote, the chancellor knowingly forced the German electorate to the polls to vote for a government of their choice.

The result was a stalemate, with opposition leader Angela Merkel of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) claiming the chancellorship by an extremely slim majority and Schröder initially failing to step down. With his hand forced, Schröder finally caved in after having closed-door sessions with party leaders. Efforts to assemble a grand coalition of competing political parties followed. This proved to be a debacle.

Relative unknowns were suddenly propelled into the forefront of German politics as party members combed their ranks for any semblance of leadership in attempts to cobble together a workable deal with which to effectively govern the country.

By November, Schröder's party leader, Franz Müntefering, resigned leadership of the Social Democrats (SPD). Merkel's conservative coalition partner, the Bavarian Prime Minister Edmund Stoiber, then packed his bags, withdrew from the melee and trotted back to his home state of Bavaria to view the outcome of Berlin's political fiasco, temporarily, from the sidelines.

A day later, Stoiber was in Rome for a previously scheduled audience with Bavarian Pope Benedict XVI. With some media pundits accusing him of political cowardice and others declaring that his federal political career was over, Stoiber

BAVARIAN BROTHERS
Bavarian Premier Edmund Stoiber presents Benedict XVI with a miniature of the Munich Square Madonna at a private audience in the Vatican.

onnection

must have simply been laughing all the way to Vatican City. Here is one tough politician whose goal is set much higher than the bullring of Berlin. Stoiber's vision is pan-European, and it has a strong spiritual underpinning.

Poisoned Chalice?

Pundits may have scratched their heads over why Edmund Stoiber would have left what appeared to be, on the surface, a prime position from which to further his push for leadership in Germany. He was already being touted as the real power behind the throne in any prospective grand coalition. At the very least he could have just bided his time, waiting for Merkel's first major false political move in the chancellorship, then struck to seize the leadership. With the proposed chancellor having such a slim power base, she would have been easy meat for the Bavarian "pit bull."

However, such a scenario ignores three very vital facts, each relating very directly to Edmund Stoiber's vision of his own personal political future.

First, Stoiber had earlier made it known that he coveted the position of foreign minister. Following the closed-door negotiations between the party leaders as they sought agreement on sharing political portfolios, only two ministries were announced as having been decided—the chancellorship (Merkel) and the Economics Ministry (Stoiber). At that point, although the doling out of ministerial portfolios was agreed to in terms of which party got what ministry, no other names were publicly attached to any of them.

At the time, on our website, theTrumpet.com, we wrote that the Economics Ministry was a poisoned chalice. Whoever received that job may face the same end as Chancellor Schröder. Given the moribund state of the German economy, necessary structural reforms to stimulate growth are going to cut deeply into Germany's high-wage, social-welfare state. As Schröder found out, this is an extremely hard deal to sell to parliament, let alone the public. Reforms to the German economy will cut deep and cause real hurt governmentally, corporately and personally. Germany has grown fat and soft through prior decades of being the mighty engine of the European collective economy. The deep reforms that are necessary will come with a significant political and public backlash.

The question has to be asked: Was the pit bull of Bavaria deliberately saddled with that portfolio in hopes of forcing his political failure and removing any threat to Merkel?

Stoiber is outspoken to the point of accusing East Germans of being less intelligent than their West German counterparts. Merkel hails from the former East Germany. Stoiber has not been beyond powerfully criticizing his conservative coalition partner, even during her election campaign, which she ran with Stoiber as her deputy. (This was a complete reversal of the 2002 election when Stoiber, running with Merkel as his deputy, was just pipped at the post by Schröder for the chancellorship.)

Stoiber is certainly politically astute enough to realize quite early that the way the grand coalition was emerging was destined for failure. Holding a senior portfolio in such a situation does nobody's political career any good, particularly when handed the portfolio saddled with the most unpopular task in German politics today.

It is also possible that Stoiber may well have remembered that his political mentor, Franz Josef Strauss—also a Bavarian—was, in principle, against such grand political alliances as the opposing parties were trying to put together in Berlin. In recalling discussions with Chancellor Adenauer in 1949, Strauss commented, "In principle I am against this idea of a great coalition. … I came out against it. The arguments I used then are, I think, still valid" (*The Grand Design: A European*

Solution to German Reunification, 1965).

Strauss indicated then that the basic problem inhibiting formulation of a grand coalition was an absence of a common denominator in economic policy. As it was then, so it is today. The words of Franz Josef Strauss may well have rung warning signals in Stoiber's mind!

Wider Vision

A second reason for Stoiber's withdrawal may well have to do with his wider political vision. A vocal advocate of the return of the Sudetenland to Germany and powerful promoter of the progressive commercial and corporate takeover of Poland by German interests, Stoiber is firmly committed to the grand design for Europe propounded by Strauss, his mentor. Here is a politician molded for this moment in history by one Bavarian who foresaw the future of a German-dominated European continent with powerful global sway.

Strauss shaped post-war politics in Germany like no other politician since. He had

See STOIBER page 12 ▸

A Relationship to Watch

When Bavarian Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected pope, a fellow countryman and the leader of Germany's most Catholic province said, "I am certain that the new pope will be able to win over and rally all the world's Catholics, not only because he is the most brilliant theologian of all time, but also because of his human and pastoral qualities."

Clearly, Edmund Stoiber is a faithful admirer of the new pope.

What's interesting is that Bavaria's Edmund Stoiber and now-Benedict XVI are two men the *Trumpet* has closely watched for several years now. We forecasted that both would likely take the lead of their respective governments. That already happened for one of them.

Now, Benedict XVI has visited with Edmund Stoiber. After the official meeting with Stoiber's complete entourage on November 3, the pope met privately with Stoiber for about 10 minutes. No "official statements," no political hobnobbing, no cameras—just two Bavarians behind closed doors.

What intriguing timing. Stoiber has just turned down a cabinet post in a messy grand coalition that seems to have been doomed before it even started. He has no portfolio in the new government. Yet he is the only German politician to have an audience with the most powerful man in the world's largest single religion. Is it not strange?

There is no doubt the pope is interested in the political crisis in his homeland. What does he have to say about it? What influence is he wielding to forge a solution?

Look at the facts. Both men think alike (somewhat similar to how Iran's new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and the Iranian clerics think). Both want increased Catholic influence in European politics.

If Benedict sees in Stoiber a man with the fervor and influence to help bring about these spiritual changes, is it possible these two men have forged some kind of agreement—the pope to get more involved in German politics and work to boost Stoiber's bid for power—and Stoiber to implement the bidding of "the most brilliant theologian of all time"?

No relationship may be more necessary to watch than that nurtured on this November 3 visit.

PAST PREDICTIONS

Bavaria was home soil not only for the present pope and a staunch-Catholic premier, but also European influentials like Otto von Habsburg and Adolf Hitler.

Now, combine recent events with past analysis from the *Trumpet.* Those familiar with us know that we refer to Bible prophecy to determine which events to highlight and which to make strong assertions about.

The world is staring down the barrel of another resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. Based on key prophecies scattered throughout the Bible, we at the *Trumpet* have been looking for a *Germanic* resurrection of such an empire.

That is why we strongly speculated on the appearance of a German pope before he was elected (in our May 2005 issue, which arrived in mailboxes around the time that white smoke ascended from Vatican City that cloudy day in April). And that is why we have tracked the career of the Bavarian premier loyal not only to the Vatican but also to his political mentor, Franz Josef Strauss.

Our editor in chief, Gerald Flurry, wrote in one of the *Trumpet*'s sister publications back in the summer: "We need to watch the European Union for a man stepping in and seizing control of that entity through flatteries." He based this statement on a prophecy in Daniel 11:21, which indicates this political leader of the Holy Roman Empire will not be voted in. "I truly believe the Vatican will help bring that political leader on the scene, and that's when we will really see the fireworks. We know from these prophecies that the Vatican will become very powerful and instigate some radical changes" (*Royal Vision,* July/August 2005).

> **"I think the Vatican is going to be working behind the scenes. They may have a pope to help them do it who really knows the German system and begins to get the leader in there that can really swing things around, a good strong Catholic …."**
>
> **GERALD FLURRY, January 5, 2005**

This was written before the stalemate occurred in Germany's elections.

What's even more captivating, this *Royal Vision* piece was based on comments by Mr. Flurry at a January 2005 conference—long before the installment of a German pope or even the death of Pope John Paul II! He asked publicly, about the coming pope, "What would a German do in that office? He certainly would know quite a lot about German politics, I would think. … I think the Vatican is going to be working behind the scenes. They may have a pope to help them do it who really knows the German system and begins to get the leader in there that can really swing things around, a good strong Catholic …."

As the *Trumpet* declared just after Benedict's installment, "Now that a Bavarian pope reigns in the Vatican, we must wonder how Europe would change were a Bavarian premier to take the German chancellorship—or, more significantly, a position at the top of the European Union. We have been looking for a strong church-state connection to take hold in Europe, steered by the Vatican and Germany. Would it not be natural for these two powerful men—both from the same religiously charged region in Germany—to make this happen?"

With the Bavarian Benedict able "to win over and rally all the world's Catholics" and a rising political twin who will likely lead Germany and even Europe, it appears Europe's future as a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire is coming very close to fruition.

RYAN MALONE

REUTERS

FORTUNATE SON
The Vatican is alledgedly protecting this man, Ante Gotovina, a fugitive war criminal.

Ghosts of the Ratlines

The United Nations' chief prosecutor for war crimes has claimed the Vatican is sheltering a Croatian war criminal. For those familiar with post-World War II history, this case resurrects memories of the ratlines. BY RON FRASER

Students of Vatican history are familiar with the Vatican's involvement with an organization known as Odessa that bankrolled the escape of many a Nazi from Europe following World War II. They are also familiar with an underground network of safe houses and escape routes used by the Nazis in the closing stages of and years immediately following the war. This network became commonly known as "the ratlines."

The general public remains basically ignorant of the high level of involvement of the Vatican hierarchy in the operation of the ratlines. This covert network allowed safe haven in monasteries and other church facilities, and used church manpower to facilitate the escape of countless thousands of Nazis to Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Canada, Australia and even the United States of America.

The average person is also probably unaware that the current pope, Joseph Ratzinger, was connected to the operations of the Vatican ratlines network of Nazi escape routes.

To anyone familiar with this sponsorship by the Vatican State of the Nazi escape routes, it will come as no surprise that Carla del Ponte, the United Nations' chief prosecutor for war crimes, claimed in late September that the Vatican is sheltering Croatian war criminal Ante Gotovina. "I have information he is hiding in a Franciscan monastery and so the Catholic Church is protecting him," she said. "I have taken this up with the Vatican and the Vatican refuses totally to cooperate with us" (Reuters, September 20).

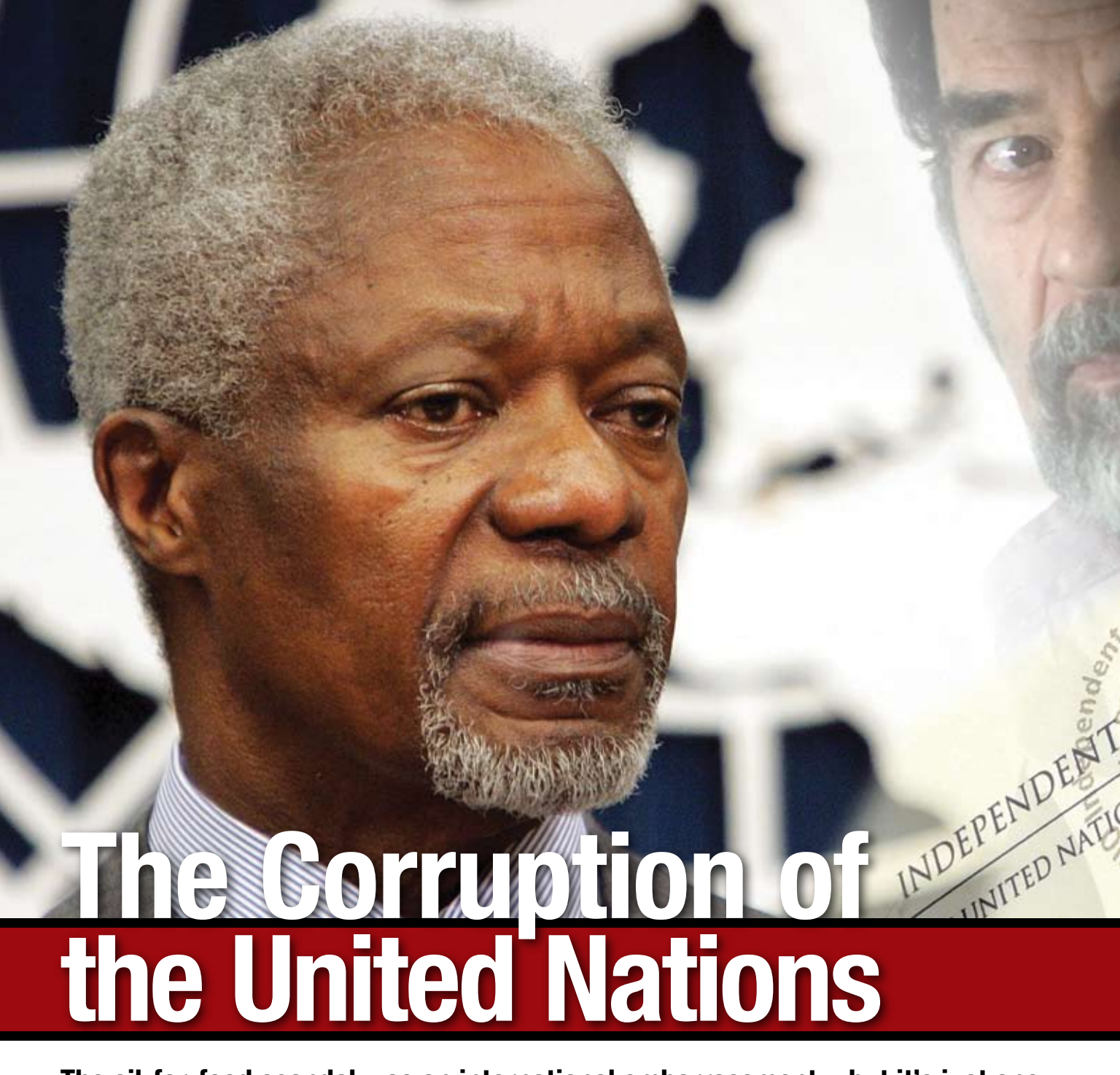
Reuters further indicated that Del Ponte claimed "Gotovina, a former general wanted for atrocities against Croatian Serb civilians by his troops in 1995, was being sheltered in one of 80 monasteries in Croatia and the Vatican could probably find out where 'in a few days.'"

Del Ponte, a Roman Catholic herself, is in a prime position to make such a statement. Her office allows high-level contacts that enable her to be patently aware (like all top-level officials involved in international politics, security and defense) that, as she declared, "the Catholic Church has the most advanced intelligence services" (ibid.).

Gotovina is no petty criminal. As the BBC reported, "Forces under General Gotovina's command are accused of killing scores of Serbs and expelling up to 200,000 from the Krajina region, now part of Croatia. Many in Croatia regard him as a national hero" (September 20). Whereas Croatia is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic, Serbs subscribe mainly to the Orthodox religion.

Although Del Ponte now claims the Vatican is cooperating, finally, with her investigations, when she raised the issue last July in Rome with Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, the Vatican's equivalent of foreign minister, the Vatican informed her that it had no obligation to help the UN track war crimes suspects. Ordinarily such a stance would be regarded as simply obstructing the process of justice; however—as with Pope Benedict XVI's stance on charges of the Vatican's complicity in pederasty in the priesthood—he simply regards the church as being above the civil law. As the Vatican State informed the nation of Israel when it complained about Ratzinger's failure in a recent speech on terrorism to condemn Palestinian terrorist acts against that country, no power may dictate to the pope!

So it is that the *Trumpet* sees the shadow of the old Nazi ratlines rising to once again cloud the prospects of true justice being imposed in bringing Catholic fascists to book. We have consistently warned of this past repeating itself. Now we are not only witnessing an approach by the Vatican to the Gotovina case identical to that applied to the sheltering of Nazi war criminals 60 years ago, we see none other than the pope himself directly involved, once again, in frustrating the course of true justice. Such a stance by Benedict, so early in his papacy, bodes ill for the future of Europe, and indeed the rest of the world. ■



The Corruption of the United Nations

The oil-for-food scandal was an international embarrassment—but it's just one example in an organization rife with corruption. BY MARK JENKINS

Rape. Murder. Billions of dollars in fraud and embezzlement on a global scale. The United Nations, formed to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," has instead become more like a movie too graphic to show your children.

In the last year, the reputation of the UN has been shredded by allegations of kickbacks, billions of dollars in graft in the oil-for-food scandal, the rape of minors in the Congo sex scandal, and a total lack of accountability. United Nations officials know it's time for serious reform.

The independent report on the oil-for-food scandal, produced by a committee led by former U.S. Federal Reserve Bank Chairman Paul Volcker, was finally released in September. Criticizing the UN from top to bottom, the language of the report was crystal clear: "The inescapable conclusion from the committee's work" is that the UN "needs thorough reform—and it needs it urgently." We will see exactly how serious the lapses in judgment were at every level.

But with a goal as noble as saving our children from war, how did the idea of the UN go so terribly askew? What's wrong with the United Nations?

Oil for Food

After the 1991 Gulf War, sanctions imposed against Iraq were intended to

AFP/GETTY IMAGES (4)

restrict international trade with that country. Although these sanctions did not prevent the import of food and medicine, the Iraqi people did not have the money to purchase what they needed under Saddam Hussein's rule.

The oil-for-food program began in 1996 as a humanitarian effort to feed the Iraqi people. It was entirely unique, being the first UN humanitarian program ever to be financed by the resources of those it was serving; it was funded entirely by the sale of Iraqi oil. The idea seemed good: The Iraqi people were in genuine need of humanitarian aid, and oil-for-food was a way of providing that aid without drawing on the resources of other countries.

It also, however, tightened Hussein's grip on the Iraqi people. The UN said that 60 percent of the Iraqi population was receiving rations through this program; in other words, 60 percent of the population was now dependent on Hussein just to have enough to eat. Other than food and medicine, the only commodity that could be exported or imported *legally* was oil, which was solely controlled by Hussein. This also meant that the UN itself was on Saddam Hussein's payroll to the tune of billions of dollars, because the UN collected a commission on every barrel of oil sold. Many countries were receiving Iraqi oil at discount prices through this program—not surprisingly, some of the same countries that opposed the war on Iraq so vehemently.

So the result of oil-for-food was that the Iraqi people became even more dependent on Hussein, a tyrant whom the UN was helping to fund; meanwhile, the world community received oil at bargain prices while indebting themselves to Hussein. As humanitarian programs go, this one was questionable at best, even if the program had been run properly. But the structural setup, unfortunately, left the door wide open for corruption on a massive scale.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Paul Volcker

While oil-for-food did accomplish its goals for the Iraqi people to some degree, the program also resulted in billions of dollars of graft and was subject to corruption in businesses, governments and at every level of the UN.

Thus, the most vaunted international institution in history enacted the largest financial scandal in history.

At the beginning of oil-for-food, Volcker's report shows some slight overpricing, but by 2003, humanitarian goods were selling for nearly three times the expected price.

The report stated, "[T]he total illicit income the Iraqi regime extracted under the program from oil buyers and humanitarian suppliers was $1.8 billion. This figure reflects $229 million in oil surcharges, $1.06 billion in after-sales-service fees, and $527 million in inland transportation fees paid to the Iraqi regime" ("The Management of the United Nations Oil-for-Food Program," September 7). This was just the money gained directly through manipulation of the program.

In addition, during the period of sanctions on Iraq (1991-2003), investigation shows that about 12 percent of Iraqi oil was available for smuggling, which produced nearly $11 billion in additional income. This oil was sold at below-market rates—outside the oil-for-food program—to Jordan, Syria, Turkey and Egypt, as well as private entities.

In total, the report identified $12.8 billion termed "illicit income," not including interest. And that is only what Iraq managed to skim off in this scandal.

Perhaps most disturbing of all is that it may not be possible to trace where some of the kickbacks from the scheme went. The UN, for instance, authorized Hussein to sell oil to at least 70 companies in the United Arab Emirates. "One authorized oil buyer … was a remnant of the defunct global criminal bank, BCCI. Another was close to the Taliban while Osama bin Laden was on the rise in Afghanistan; a third was linked to a bank in the Bahamas involved in al-Qaeda's financial network; a fourth had a close connection to one of Saddam's would-be nuclear-bomb makers" (*Wall Street Journal,* April 28, 2004). In other words, this didn't just finance Hussein; it financed other terrorists as well.

The fact that a humanitarian program had ties to a global network of terror financially administered by Saddam Hussein with the complicity of UN officials should have been a top news story! But when the evidence began surfacing in April last year, it was quickly overshadowed by the Abu Ghraib prison scandal.

No one can really be shocked that Saddam Hussein would steal from a humanitarian program. The story is that the UN not only let it happen, but also actually had its officials actively participating in the graft.

This program was run by a UN official: Benon Sevan, whom the Volcker report identifies repeatedly as having failed to fulfill his duty regarding oil-for-food. In fact, as head of the program, Sevan "compromised his position by secretly so-

licitating and financially benefitting from Iraqi oil allocations during the course of the program" (Volcker, op. cit.).

As problems were reported to the UN deputy secretary general and Secretary General Kofi Annan himself, these individuals essentially ignored or dismissed them. Then, further hindering the probe, the Iraqi official in charge of auditing the scandal was killed, courtesy of a bomb strapped to his car.

Thus, Iraqi theft continued.

The Procurement Scandal

As the Volcker commission investigated oil-for-food, it uncovered another, related scandal.

A former UN procurement official, Alexander Yakovlev, was taken into custody in August; he has pleaded guilty to conspiracy, wire fraud and money laundering charges. Then, in September, federal prosecutors in Manhattan indicted the head of the UN budget oversight committee, Vladimir Kuznetsov, on money laundering charges. Now authorities believe at least some of Yakovlev's theft—much of which may have nothing to do with oil-for-food—was done with Kuznetsov's help.

The biggest problem with this scandal is its scope: The procurement department touches every program at the UN (it is through procurement contracts that the UN spends the billions of dollars its members contribute). These two men wielded a lot of influence. Line items in the UN budget were judged by Kuznetsov. Yakovlev worked in the UN for over 20 years and dealt with contractors in Africa, Asia and the Middle East—all over the world. He even managed the architectural contract for the new proposed $1.2 billion renovation of UN headquarters in Manhattan.

Volcker also said that Yakovlev had received in excess of $950,000 in bribes from companies that were responsible for more than $79 million in UN contracts and purchase orders, unrelated to oil-for-food.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

LOST CAUSE
Secretary General Annan delivers a speech on the need for UN reform.

The most vaunted international institution in history enacted the largest financial scandal in history.

The Volcker Report

In the independent report, which was based on more than 12 million documents, the committee spoke about the UN's reputation and the connection with its ability to function effectively: "At stake is the United Nations' ability to respond promptly and effectively to the responsibilities thrust upon it by the realities of a turbulent, and often violent, world. In the last analysis, that ability rests upon the organization's credibility—on maintaining a widely held perception among member states and their populations of its competence, honesty and accountability.

"It is precisely those qualities that too often were absent in the administration of the oil-for-food program."

That report came as the UN was about to meet on the subject of reform, September 14-16. The results of that summit? *The Age* reported that "it is easier to say what the summit did not achieve than what it did" (September 20). Despite a resolution calling on states to ban the incitement to terrorism, UN members did not agree on a definition of terrorism itself. They reached no agreement on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. Clearly, despite the Volcker report, UN reform is not really progressing. The Volcker report itself shows us why.

Secretary General Annan was at the top of the list of those subject to criticism. "The report is critical of me personally, and I accept the criticism," Annan said. He accepted that criticism; however, in

typical UN fashion: "I don't anticipate anyone to resign. We are carrying on with our work." In the middle of what needs to be sweeping UN reform, that is a grossly understated response.

This scandal happened under Secretary General Annan's watch. At one point, his own son—Kojo Annan—was implicated, and the report specifically states that Annan "was not diligent and effective in pursuing an investigation …."

The secretary general's lack of diligence and effectiveness in correcting his own son is hardly surprising. After all, Kofi Annan was himself guilty of rank incompetence and mismanagement—even fraud.

The interesting thing is, Annan has "reformed" the UN before, and the deeply corrupted institution we see today is the result. The reforms currently under proposal—"a culture of greater openness, coherence, innovation and confidence … more stringent standards for judging the performance of peacekeepers, in the field and at headquarters"—were taken straight from a UN dossier released in June 2002. Anyone can see how much good those reforms did the first time around.

Since the last time reforms intended to revolutionize UN headquarters were discussed, the oil-for-food scandal has cost billions of dollars—some of which likely ended up in the hands of terrorist organizations. In terms of dollars, this was quite possibly the biggest con job in human history.

Even more sickening, the Congo sex scandal, first uncovered in February 2004, continued for over a year even after UN officials knew of allegations that their peacekeepers had raped children as young as 12 and committed numerous other sex crimes. There were over 150 accusations of rape, child abuse, solicitation and other sexual crimes—70 in the town of Bunia alone. Hundreds of images of child pornography involving Congolese children were found on the laptop of a French UN civilian working in Goma (*Independent,* London, January 11).

"It was clear that the investigation did not act as a deterrent for some of the troops, perhaps because they had not been made aware of the severe penalties for engaging in such conduct, nor had they seen any evidence of a negative impact on individual peacekeepers for such behavior," the UN oversight agency report said (ibid.). More specifically, not one UN soldier was charged, although the allegations in at least six cases were fully substantiated. Rather, the report recommended that the countries which sent the peacekeepers take action.

Such ineptitude indicates that the UN is beyond reform.

Perhaps the ineptitude of the UN in solving such problems would be less glaring if this vaunted institution had actually proved itself capable of preventing war. Instead, its 60-year history stands as a testament of massive failure.

A Pattern of Failure

These scandals are the UN at its worst, but any honest analysis shows that the United Nations was a failure even without the oil-for food scandal, the newest procurement scandal, or the Congo sex scandal.

While no *world* war has transpired since the UN's founding, there has been war all over the world—more than 250 armed conflicts since 1945—an average of more than four per year! By that one simple criterion, we can see that the United Nations has failed in its mandate.

The UN failed to act in Liberia, when Charles Taylor (who became president in 1997) launched a seven-year civil war in 1989 in which 200,000 people were butchered. In 1994, the 270 UN peacekeepers sent to Rwanda failed to prevent the murder of 800,000 Rwandans. The UN failed to condemn slavery in Sudan; failed miserably in Sierra Leone; failed to uphold the rights of white farmers in Zimbabwe (which has resulted in a massive famine). The UN failed in Angola, in Kashmir, and in Colombia. The UN failed to act against Saddam Hussein, claiming that diplomacy and inspections would provide the answer. The UN has refused to address North Korea's nuclear brinkmanship and ignored human rights violations throughout the Near and Far East.

The United Nations' role as a human rights agency is an international disgrace. At a meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in April this year, Secretary Annan expressed concerned that "the commission's declining credibility has cast a shadow on the reputation of the United Nations system as a whole."

Things are so murky within the UN that a shadow might actually brighten its reputation at this point. Take a specific look at the Human Rights Commission. Sudan—perpetrator of the world's most recent genocide—is a member; Zimbabwe—home to land grabs, internationally condemned elections, and a state-controlled press—is a member. China and Russia are members; both are also accused of rights abuses.

Can we really expect wisdom on how to improve global human rights to emerge from such a group?

Why the UN Fails

But again, the idea of an international body to keep peace seems to be a noble one. What went wrong?

Men act according to their own human nature. Saddam Hussein acted according to his interests. The United Nations officials acted according to their own selfish interests. Businesses were looking for profit. Rather than following God's way of love—of outflowing concern—these men looked out for number one—themselves!

Jeremiah 17:9 tells us the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Greed affects every level of society. Even when we see an organization that should embody ethics, morality and the highest standard of human virtue as an example to the entire world, we see instead a perfect depiction of human nature at its worst. Instead of a godly, righteous institution, we see a carnal one.

Rather than effective management at the top, the UN has no true leadership. Secretary General Annan has proven that he is not up to the task and that he is unwilling to step down—or even to replace those under him when they fail.

That's what happens when you leave God out of your plans. "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it" (Psalms 127:1). God certainly had no part in this failed attempt at world government.

If God had built the United Nations, every nation would follow a common law—God's law. Every nation would follow the principle of love, showing outflowing concern for other countries. Everyone would work for the benefit of all concerned. Rather than human nature, we would see godly nature at work. That would produce peace and abundance all over the Earth!

The UN will never bring world peace—no human organization will. That will require intervention from God Himself.

Soon, we will see a world government with Jesus Christ at the head. And instead of a deceitful, desperately wicked heart, God will give man a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26) and pour out His Spirit on all flesh (Acts 2:17). Then the nations will be truly united, and corruption will cease. ■

JAPAN STIRS

After almost 15 years in the doldrums, signs show that the land of the rising sun is rousing to action.

BY RON FRASER

Following the 60th anniversary of the defeat of Japan in World War II, the Western press is not reading Japan's future well at all. It seems the U.S. administration is likewise blind to Japan's developing future.

This economic giant, having wallowed since 1991 in a financial bog largely of its own making, is finally showing signs of turning the corner into modest—at present, *very* modest—growth.

In addition, the nation appears to be more readily coming to terms with shedding its post-war pacifist cloak and preparing itself for a stronger defense posture.

Of themselves, these twin phenomena might appear well overdue. Japan certainly needed to show some sign of positive economic growth in order to regain its position as an effective contributor to the global economy. In terms of post-9/11 defense and security, the amendment of its constitution to permit a stronger military role, long encouraged by the U.S., would seem appropriate in these times of heightened terrorist activity and geopolitical change.

However, when we add a third worrisome ingredient to this equation, one must certainly consider history a valid guide as to where this may lead. Japan is also showing overt signs of increasing *nationalism.*

Economic Upswing

Concerning Japan's economy, according to Oxford Analytica, "The Nikkei index and interest on 10-year government bonds have been rising, and business rebounding. Corporate confidence is up on improving capital returns. This can be expected to have a positive knock-on effect throughout the economy, reinforcing the gentle recovery underway this year and improving the outlook beyond" (August 17).

Think tank Stratfor, although more cautious in its assessment, concurs that things are beginning to brighten on Japan's economic horizon. To the news that Japan's economy expanded at an annualized rate of 1.1 percent in the second quarter of 2005, Stratfor wrote: "It might not sound like much—particularly to Americans, whose economy has been growing in excess of 3 percent a quarter for the past two years and who have not experienced a recession since 2001—but for Japan this marks the third consecutive quarter of growth after 15 years of economic malaise" (August 12).

Referring to Japan's structural deficits, its "crushing debt, the inflexible labor market and the inability of the Japanese to invest their money where they want," Stratfor opined, "This is actually a humming little recovery, once you factor out all of Japan's problems."

If Japan's economy is, indeed, turning the corner, what impending policy decision could really kick the economy back to life? Simply to implement the plan to remove the pacifist clauses from its basic constitution. This would legitimize a retooling of Japanese industry, allowing for an upswing in armaments manufacturing. No matter that Japan is, even in its "pacifist" mode, the second-largest spender on military hardware already (only the U.S. spends more on national defense).

The proposed amending of its constitution would also give to this Eastern nation, which boasts the second-largest navy in the world, something with which to greatly embellish even its existing arsenal of military hardware—*prestige!*

Remilitarizing

Asia Times recently reported, "Given a rapidly changing Asian security scenario wherein China and India loom large as future military powers, Japan has seen fit to take the first steps to carve out a more active role in international defense, according to experts. 'Japan has preferred to play a low profile in post-war security, but this is changing steadily,' Japanese military analyst Toshiyuki Shikata said. 'Today, Japan is paving the way to becoming a respected power in Asia.' Japan unveiled its new defense white paper this week. In it, the government defines the future role of its Self Defense Forces (SDF) as one that is better able to deal with new threats to national security such as ballistic missile attacks and terrorism" (August 5).

The defense white paper is predicated on Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party deleting from Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution a sentence stating that military "forces as well as other war potential will never be maintained" and another sentence stating that "the right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized."

Such an ability as the white paper proposes would place Japan, for the first time in 60 years, on an equal footing with the world's greatest military powers. The nation could then look Russia, China, the European Union, even the United States in the eye—finally—as an equal on the international political scene.

Observers might consider such a scenario as providing a more balanced equation geopolitically in the Far East. If so, they would either be ignorant of, or willingly avoiding, the reality of Japan's history. For the grave danger of such a set of circumstances is posed by that third phenomenon becoming increas-

ingly extant in the nation of Japan—nationalism.

Old or New Nationalism?

Consider Junichiro Koizumi's landslide re-election as the nation's prime minister on September 11. The victory gave his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its coalition partner—the New Komei Party—the two-thirds majority needed to override any votes in the less cooperative upper house.

Koizumi's popularity and the longevity of his political career are significantly attributable to the fact that he fans the flames of Japanese nationalism. On multiple occasions during his administration, he has visited the controversial Yasukuni war shrine, a memorial honoring Japan's war dead. Other Asian nations consider the shrine a symbol of Japanese right-wing militarism.

"It is true that Japan's nationalism is becoming more evident and obvious to the world," wrote one commentator in 2003. "What is not clear, however, is if Japan's nationalism is a new phenomenon, or if the rest of the world is only now awakening to a Japanese nationalism that has been brewing for decades, if not longer" (*Daily Yomiuri*, Dec. 9, 2003). That opinion was expressed by Steven Clemons, executive vice president of the New America Foundation, a centrist policy institution in Washington.

Clemons went on to answer the conundrum he had posed: "Japan's nationalism, brewing for decades beneath a cosmetic veil of pacifism, seems to be going with the flow of the return of the nation-state. It would be incorrect to argue that Japan's recent nationalistic flirtations have anything to do with 9/11. If there has been any impact at all, 9/11 has only helped to slightly accelerate a trend that was already well under way" (ibid.).

theTrumpet.com

For more on Japan's coming role, read "Japan's Place in the Future" from the February 2003 *Trumpet*

The view that Japanese nationalism is not a recent phenomenon was supported by Rokuro Hidaka, an 88-year-old Japanese sociologist, himself a witness to the horrors of Japan's treatment of the Chinese in World War II. Concerning Hidaka's views on Japan's rising nationalism, the *Japan Times* reported, "History is a combination of continuity and discontinuity, Hidaka says, but in Japan a thread of continuity is inordinately strong because … this country has never really tried to break with its past" (August 15).

The *Times* continued, "Hidaka expresses concern over the Liberal Democratic Party's push for constitutional revision. Looking closely at the LDP's proposal released earlier this month, he warns: 'If this is adopted, Japan will enter a dangerous time'" (ibid.).

Astute analysts of Japan's history would agree with Rokuro Hidaka's warning. They would also note an amazing paradox: The very nation that has pushed hardest for Japan to take on a more aggressive military role is the same nation that saw the cream of its naval fleet largely blown to bits by Japan at Pearl Harbor just 64 years ago.

If these three components mesh into a common equation in Japan—a reviving economy, driven by a resurgent militancy, spurred by a reviving nationalism—not only will Japan, as Hidaka puts it, "enter a dangerous time," but also the U.S. itself will have contributed to that very danger. ■

IMPERIALISTIC

Japanese World War II veterans—and lawmakers and citizens—are ready to cast off the nation's 60-year-old anti-war stigma.

STOIBER from page 4

massive influence on public opinion during his entire political career. A rabid opponent of liberals, Strauss molded Edmund Stoiber politically into the same ultra-conservative shape as himself. Thus the vision that Stoiber inherited goes far beyond the bounds of his Bavarian home state. It stretches beyond the Elbe, the Danube and the Rhine to the furthest reaches of the European continent. Corporately, it is a global vision—with its political center in Germany and its spiritual heart in Rome.

Thus we may deduce that Edmund Stoiber was far from content when faced with the intransigence of SPD Finance Minister Peer Steinbrück. During coalition talks, the CDU and SPD parties agreed that Stoiber's extended economics ministry would comprise large European Union competencies, thus placing him into a more powerful position than just holding a portfolio of domestic nature. This would have given Stoiber considerable clout within the EU on its collective economic policy. However, Steinbrück resisted the shift of policy areas formerly of his own ministry to Stoiber's. This may have been a straw that helped to break the camel of the grand alliance's back for Stoiber. If the Bavarian prime minister is to move to Berlin, it will be in an office that carries his power beyond the reaches of Germany.

The Road to Rome

The third reason that may have inspired Stoiber to extract himself from the Berlin melee has to do with his deep-seated Catholicism. A committed Roman Catholic, Stoiber has thumbed his nose at German legislation seeking to ban religious symbols in the nation's schools and ensured that there is a crucifix in all of Bavaria's school buildings. He is most aware that the present pope hails from Bavaria. This religio-cultural attachment is a tie that binds the destiny of these two Germans together.

"Pope Benedict XVI paid homage to the cultural patrimony of his native Bavaria on November 3 as he met with a delegation of parliamentarians from the Christian Social Union, led by Bavarian minister-president Edmund Stoiber. Bavaria, the pope said, 'unites a heritage of generosity and a rich religious harmony: elements which *hold real promise for the future*'" (*Catholic World News,* November 3; emphasis mine throughout).

This pope does not treat words lightly. That statement is loaded with a message for the *future.*

With a mind to Bavaria's successful high-tech economy, the most economically viable among all states in Germany, the pope continued, "That *future* … poses 'difficult social and economic challenges,' and as science creates new possibilities, *leaders must be careful to make the proper choices.* … Speaking in German, the pope said that technology should be assessed within the framework of *a philosophical tradition that is also a part of the Bavarian heritage.* He alluded to his own tenure as a theology professor at the University of Regensburg, and said that the people of *Bavaria today should draw on the intellectual foundation of a tradition 'that reflects the names of Athens, Jerusalem and Rome'*" (ibid.).

That tradition, to any student of history, bespeaks one great amalgam that became an empire which has held sway in this world repeatedly throughout the past two millennia—the Holy Roman Empire! Philosophically, that ever-reviving empire welded the pagan thought of Greece and Rome together, under a religiosity borrowed from Jerusalem, to become the most powerful of spiritual and political forces in all civilization.

We declare that this old empire is on the rise again. Even now, as Europe (Germany in particular) appears on the surface to be in great disarray, powerful forces are at work in Brussels, Berlin, Rome and, dare we say, Bavaria, that are destined to continue to shape the geopolitics of Europe and the rest of the world into an order within which, yet once again, the most influential politics will emerge from Germany, and the most powerful spiritual influence from Rome.

Keep your eyes on Edmund Stoiber. Watch his developing relationship with Rome. Germany, and Europe, yet await a powerful leader with the political vision and the spiritual backing to coalesce the Continent's fractious nation-states into a huge conglomerate that is destined to rule this world just one more time—*the Holy Roman Empire!* ■

VIEW

Crippling

Division and hostility pervade American politics. The timing couldn't be worse.

BY BRAD MACDONALD

GEORGE ORWELL ONCE SAID, "In our age there is no such thing as 'keeping out of politics.' All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia" (*Politics and the English Language*). Critics of Orwell's statement need only look at the present state of American politics to see its truth.

Divisions within the U.S. government are becoming more vicious. Politicians from both major parties are increasingly expressing unwarranted criticism, blind bias, arrogance and even hatred for those they oppose. Crude and offensive remarks are commonplace. Politicians have grown more passionate and personal in their assassination of opponents' character and principles.

Former members of Congress, both Republican and Democrat, say the political atmosphere is worse than ever and has become so poisonous and hostile that it is actually hurting the government's ability to manage crises.

Timothy Roemer, a former Democratic congressman from Indiana, said, "There is not only a poisonous partisan attitude in Washington, but it seems to be paralyzing Congress from acting on some of the most important national security, economic and energy-related issues facing Americans. … It is more divisive than I have seen in my 20 years in Washington" (*Washington Times,* June 27).

The American government is under intense pressure from many varying forces, including terrorism and natural disasters. Of all the problems it faces, however, internal division is the most debilitating—and unnecessary.

Retired New Hampshire senator Warren Rudman recently high-

POINT

Division

lighted the growing wedge between the Republicans and Democrats: "There is a lack of trust and a lack of collegiality between people. I saw it on occasion when I was in the Senate, but nothing like it is now. The whole atmosphere has changed. You walk onto the Senate floor and in many ways it's like walking into a fire pit, literally" (ibid., June 30). This is an embarrassing condemnation of the state of American politics.

"Washington seems to be totally immersed in a 'gotcha' kind of gamesmanship that is not in any way conducive to finding solutions to these kinds of problems," stated former White House chief of staff Leon Panetta. "Everybody is locked in this battle for power, as opposed to any effort to govern the country. When I go to Washington and talk to my former colleagues on both sides of the aisle, they don't see any effort to try to deal with these major issues. *It is really all about how you can beat the other side*" (ibid.; emphasis mine).

The disunity among Washington's politicians was further exposed by Hurricane Katrina. The catastrophe was an opportunity for both parties to unify in leadership—to set aside personal and party interests and work together for the good of the Gulf Coast and the nation. Instead, the conduct of both parties exacerbated the festering wedge of disunity between them. While Democrats exploited Katrina as an opportunity to kneecap Republican leadership, many Republicans circumvented accountability and largely ignored criticism.

Selfishness and personal bias are increasingly becoming the pervading attitudes. Too many politicians care more about "assassinating" each other than about destroying terrorists and others that threaten national security. Too many pay more attention to handicapping and shredding the opposing party than about establishing and maintaining a prosperous, free and safe America.

These problems are particularly on parade before elections. Remember the hostile atmosphere surrounding the 2004 presidential race: Over a period of months, politicians from both parties worked tirelessly—and expensively—to tear down the *character,* in addition to the policies, of their opponents. Using the media as their primary instruments of brutality, they fired verbal assaults, gashed open old wounds, and peppered television screens with openly hostile commercials.

Charles Krauthammer summed up American election politics this way: "[E]very two years the American politics industry fills the airwaves with the most virulent, scurrilous, wall-to-wall character assassination of nearly every political practitioner in the country—and then declares itself puzzled that America has lost trust in its politicians" (*Chicago Tribune,* Oct. 28, 1994).

POISON, POLITICS, PARALYSIS

Democratic Congressman John Lewis speaks against appointing John Roberts as chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Robert Reischauer, former director of the Congressional Budget Office, pointed out the part the media plays in this. "There has been a steady deterioration in the level of discourse and the standards of politeness that are used in discussion. The participants don't seem to care what their opponents think of them as politicians and individuals," he said. "Part of it quite frankly is attributable to the media. To glean the attention of the media, you have to shout louder and have more extreme views" (*Washington Times,* June 27).

This torrent of hostility, divisiveness and arrogance among America's politicians is sweeping away the government's effectiveness. The United States faces a stinging leadership crisis, and it is hurting the health of the nation.

Divided We Fall

Over 2,500 years ago, the Prophet Amos highlighted the importance of unity in leadership to the health of any nation, community or family. Consider, in light of the present condition of America's government, his statement—"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

The U.S. government was designed with a checks-and-balances system in order to foster fair and equitable government—but this has made the very nature of American politics one of opposition, criticism, debate and compromise.

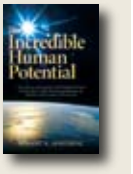
Strong, fair and righteous leadership is increasingly difficult to find in America. This leadership crisis is described in Isaiah 3: "For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away … the mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, the captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator" (verses 1-3). Our leaders have degenerated to a child's level in judgments and decisions. "And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them" (verse 4).

Isn't this an apt analogy? Politicians are becoming more childish in more ways than one. Seeing our nation's leaders lambast one another with childish names and personal abuses—doesn't this remind you of children arguing?

A leadership crisis is the last thing that America needs right now. The nation faces a mounting tally of internal and external crises. To face these, the government needs to be more united, stable and efficient than ever. Instead, political dissent is only intensifying.

The selfish nature within humans is the foundational cause of this leadership crisis. The conduct of our leaders and politicians is simply a manifestation of the carnal nature inherent within all humans. Until this inherent selfishness is banished, American politics will grow increasingly hostile and disunited.

Our free book *The Incredible Human Potential* reveals the source of human nature. It also discusses the only way this carnal influence can be removed. It reveals that the time is quickly approaching when politics will be conducted, at long last, with a prevailing spirit of unity, agreement and love. ■



UNITED STATES

More Suicide Attacks Likely


AP/WIDEWORLD

CONCERNED **L.A. officials arrive at a news conference August 31 to discuss the indictments of four men planning terror attacks.**

On July 7, a new type of terrorist group attacked London—English natives who were sucked into an angry, anti-British subculture that drove them to attack their own homeland. Afterward, many analysts said that because Muslims in America tend to be better integrated than those in Britain, the chances of such an event happening in the U.S. were slim.

On September 1, reality displaced faulty assumptions when the U.S. attorney general said that though some believe attacks like those in London could not happen in the United States, "today we have chilling evidence that it is possible" (Associated Press, September 1).

The attorney general was referring to a foiled terrorist attack in Los Angeles that would have assaulted U.S. military facilities, the Israeli Consulate and synagogues throughout the area. Four men were indicted on charges of plotting these attacks from inside the California State Prison in Sacramento. The instigator was Kevin Lamar James, who founded the radical Islamic group Jamiyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh (JIS) inside the prison in 1997, encouraging violent attacks on the U.S. government and supporters of Israel—or any so-called enemy of Islam.

He encouraged his followers, upon their release, to recruit supporters without criminal convictions, which they did. Two of his followers robbed a string of gas stations in Los Angeles and Orange counties to finance attacks, which were to take place on Jewish holidays to maximize casualties in the synagogues. If one of the radicals had not accidentally left his cell phone behind during one of the robberies, the plot would likely have never been detected until the attacks were launched. Without that one stroke of random coincidence, investigators would not have known this terrorist cell was operational, much less that deadly attacks were imminent.

"Make no mistake about it—we dodged a bullet here, perhaps many bullets," Los Angeles police chief William Bratton said.

The FBI is concerned that prisoners are converting to the most radical forms of Islam. Agents have been ordered to conduct "threat assessments" of those who may engage in acts of violence in the name of Islam upon release from prison. The acting assistant chief of the FBI's Los Angeles office, Randy Parsons, wrote that "recent investigations have identified a clear need to increase the FBI's focus and commitment in this area" (ibid., August 31). In February, FBI director Robert Mueller warned the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee that prisons are "fertile ground for extremists." But the Senate was updated on the influence of radical Islam in prisons in October of 2003—almost two years prior to the foiled Los Angeles attack; clearly, the fact that investigators know the problem exists has not quashed it.

The U.S. is the preferred target for terrorists. The RAND Corporation noted in September 2004 that suicide attacks have made a steady increase in the last decade and warned that the U.S. is next in line for more attacks. In the first quarter of 2004 alone, more than 100 suicide attacks were launched. Last year, the number of attacks deemed "significant" by the U.S. government more than tripled. This does not include attacks on military personnel, such as those in Iraq.

With a rising threat of terrorism worldwide, and a now proven potential for terrorism to grow from within the U.S. prison system, terrorism in the U.S. is more likely than ever. When seeing these attacks take place in other countries, we would do well to remember: The terrorists' number-one target is not Britain or Egypt or Bangladesh; they want to bring down the United States of America. Next time, they might not drop a phone.

EUROPE

5,000 Suicide Bombers in Germany?

Between 3,000 and 5,000 potential Islamic suicide attackers are in Germany, Guenther Beckstein, interior minister of Bavaria, told an online newspaper.


REUTERS

BECKSTEIN

In an interview with *Netzeitung* on September 12, Beckstein exhibited concern that small terrorist cells were capable of preparing attacks without being detected.

"In Germany we have between 3,000 and 5,000 of these Islamists who are prepared to use violence and do not shrink from suicide attacks," Beckstein said (Associated Press, September 12).

Beckstein, a member of Bavaria's Christian Social Union (CSU) maintains that anti-terror laws in Germany are still too lax to deal with security threats.

Currently, Germany's constitution strictly limits domestic troop deployment to defensive missions and prohibits state surveillance except in extreme situations. In response to the July 7 terrorist bombings in London, the CSU, sister party to Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), proposed a constitutional amendment to allow the government to place federal troops on patrol in cities during times of emergency. The proposal has received fierce opposition from other parties.

The CDU/CSU also insists on creating an "anti-terror database," that would provide information on individuals,

REUTERS

MESSY BORDER **Palestinian riot police attempt to prevent Palestinians from crossing Gaza's border into Egypt, September 17.**

to help investigators avert terrorist threats. Disputes between the CDU/CSU and the Social Democratic Party over how much information should be included in the file has prevented its creation so far.

Watch for the growing fear of terrorist attacks in Germany to motivate Berlin to find new ways to secure its country. Right now the debate is in the domestic realm—whether or not to use the German military within German borders. But watch for the nation to increase the use of its military outside its borders to stem the terrorist threat.

Soon Germany will exert the will to take out terrorism at its very head. For more information see our September-October article "The New Islamic Superpower."

ISRAEL

Europe's Help Welcomed in Gaza

Israelis had a devilish time controlling the border between Gaza and Egypt even while they controlled the Gaza Strip. Terrorists were so intent on getting weapons into Gaza that they dug smuggling tunnels under the border.

It should have come as no surprise, then, that as soon as Israeli forces retreated from the territory in mid-September, border controls between Gaza and Egypt collapsed, with tens of thousands of Palestinians flocking across the border into Egypt, and an unknown number of guns, missiles and terrorists making the reverse trip.

Now, Israel is backed into a corner. Having made the concession to the Palestinians, the Jewish government is loath to step in and take control of the border again. And Egypt is certainly no help. Israel needs outside intervention.

Enter the European Union.

Israel has agreed in principle to an EU security force assisting with policing the Gaza-Egypt border.

According to Reuters, the French foreign minister said that "the EU had offered to help oversee Gaza's crossings with Egypt as a third party to enable people and goods to pass without being subject to Israeli control" (September 19).

But is Europe a trustworthy ally for Israel? That Israel would even *consider* inviting Europe in to ensure its security is a remarkable, even startling, scenario.

Europe has an intense interest in the Middle East, Israel in particular. The *Trumpet* has consistently forecast that despite Europe's blatant pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel bias, its ties with Israel would strengthen as it muscles its way into a larger role in the region.

Though Israel has, understandably, been somewhat suspicious of the EU's moves, it has nevertheless tolerated—if not welcomed—Europe's involvement in its affairs. As we stated in a *Trumpet* article last September, "Israel has few friends—and few options. The time will come when it will welcome Europe's involvement in its security."

Indeed, we now see Israel, as it becomes more desperate and comes under increasing international pressure, prepared to invite EU forces in to help in a security capacity.

Senior Israeli officials said that an agreement has been made for EU personnel to work with Palestinian security forces and Egyptian police, though the exact extent of participation by EU forces had not yet been decided.

Also, according to EU officials, Israel is considering an EU offer to take over control of customs at Gaza's seaport and airport.

Certainly, that Europe would make such offers is no surprise. Last year, the EU had already drafted plans to deploy a peacekeeping force in the Gaza Strip following the Israeli withdrawal. And EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana confirmed in July that European law enforcement experts were already helping train the Palestinian security forces (*Der Spiegel,* July 11).

But that Israel would *be open to* such offers demonstrates just how worn down and desperate the Jews are.

After its retreat from Gaza—itself demonstrating Israeli weakness—Israel, to fill a security void, is now looking to an entity that has consistently taken the side of its enemies! This exposes an Israeli mindset that is destined to bring about that nation's destruction.

In the past several years, the EU has increasingly involved itself, much of the time behind the scenes, in the Middle East peace process. At the same time, it has strengthened its economic and other ties with Israel. In September, for example, Israel and the Palestinian Authority signed an agreement to operate a joint transportation office with the EU's assistance. Because the EU has agreed to fund the project, it will "play a major role" in large transportation projects within Israel and the Palestinian territories (IsraelNationalNews.com, September 22).

Though Europe is interested in Israel for reasons of both resources and security, the real prize it is after is *Jerusalem.*

The Bible speaks of a time when European forces will embark on a peacekeeping mission in Jerusalem. Speaking of the "king of the north"—a European power bloc—Daniel prophesies, "He shall enter also into the *glorious land,* and many countries shall be overthrown" (Daniel 11:41). The "glorious land" is the Holy Land. The language employed here indicates that this is a peaceful entry—not forced. It appears the Jews will invite those European armies in as peacekeepers.

But this sequence of events is prophesied to lead to a massive double-cross against the Jewish state. Jesus Christ described it in Luke 21:20: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the *desolation* thereof is nigh."

This is speaking of a time yet future, but even now we can see Israel acquiescing to a security role for the EU. Though it is now just to assist securing the Gaza-Egyptian border, this is nevertheless a truly momentous development.

Watch for the time to come when such forces will surround Jerusalem.

WORLD

Russia, China Stand Up to EU

Three world empires are forming—and are destined to clash in the near future. An incident in September encapsulates this coming reality.

The European Union's three biggest nations—Germany, France and Britain—have represented the Western world in negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program. Not surprisingly, talks haven't dissuaded Iran from pursuing nuclear technology.

The EU's big three planned to take the issue to the United Nations Security Council, but Russia and China stood in the way.

A September 21 Reuters report, headlined "Russia, China may force EU retreat on Iran," stated: "Both Russia and China, which as permanent, veto-wielding members of the council could block any action, warned the West against antagonizing Iran with a council report."

The pressure seems to be working. On September 23, after pulling a U.S.-backed draft resolution that called on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to report Tehran's nuclear program to the Security Council, the EU delivered a *watered-down* version of the resolution to the IAEA.

It is not difficult to see why Russia and China are pressuring Europe: Both have strong ties to Iran.

Russia has historically supported Iran's nuclear program. It signed an agreement with Iran to help complete the construction of the controversial Bushehr nuclear reactor by 2006.

China, meanwhile, has always been willing to overlook Iran's nuclear activities as long as it could be guaranteed oil. Iran is one of China's top four crude-oil suppliers.

Russia and China do not want Europe interfering with Iran. As Russia's foreign minister said, the EU could be escalating the situation into a confrontation of "the West vs. the rest" (*Telegraph,* September 22).

That confrontation is exactly what is coming.

These three empires—Europe, Iran and China/Russia—are mentioned in a single passage of Scripture that tells us exactly how the situation will play out.

Daniel 11:40 states that the "king of the south" (led by Iran) will "push at" the "king of the north" (a united Europe). This push has already begun. Iran defies the West by actively pursuing nuclear energy despite having ample energy via oil and gas. It is the world's fourth-largest oil producer. Tehran is using its resources as leverage to "push" Europe.

According to Reuters, Iran's top nuclear negotiator said Tehran "might link countries' access to its oil to whether they support Iran" in this dispute (September 20). That is a direct threat to Europe: *Keep complaining about our nuclear program, and we'll cut off your oil.* Pushy, indeed!

The prophecy in Daniel shows where this push will lead: The "king of the north will come against him like a whirlwind" and deal a devastating blow to Iran (verse 40).

Where do Russia and China fit? Verse 44: "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him."

Once the EU takes out Iran, it will have an angry Asia to deal with, with Russia and China at the helm of a massive eastern alliance.

BEHROUZ MEHRI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ON THE JOB **Russian engineers work on a plan inside the reactor building of the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran.**

Russia's and China's present threats to veto any Security Council resolution against Iran are but a tiny indication of the disagreement they will have with Europe then.

These three powers are storming onto the scene. They are gaining strength. And they are beginning to clash. For more on these developments, request our free reprint article "The Times of the Gentiles."

Will Iran's Oil Hurt the Dollar?

For half a century, the American dollar has been the world's reserve currency: Seventy percent of all currency reserves are in dollars.

This has a lot to do with the fact that oil, the most important commodity traded in the world, is mostly priced in U.S. dollars. This, together with related economic considerations, encourages the majority of countries—being oil importers—to keep most of their foreign currency in dollars.

The debt-burdened U.S. economy is dependent upon this high demand for its currency in order to remain afloat. The day this demand comes to an end will portend disaster for the American economy.

There is a move underway, however, to end the dollar's reign. Behind it is the world's fourth-largest producer of crude oil—and declared enemy of the United States—Iran.

In August, Tehran reconfirmed that it plans to create a *euro*-based exchange in oil—to compete with the London and New York dollar-denominated oil exchanges, both American-owned.

The proposed March 2006 launch of the Iranian oil bourse (IOB), if successful, would give the euro a foothold in the international oil trade, solidifying its status as an alternative oil-transaction currency. This, in turn, could be a catalyst for a major currency flight from the dollar to the euro—and a disaster for America.

The IOB will see crude oil, petrochemicals and other commodities of the same kind traded in euros.

Iran no doubt has multiple motives for making this move. For one, it makes sense economically, especially since the European Union is Iran's biggest trading partner. But more importantly, it would strike a blow to

BRITAIN

Petitioning for EU Withdrawal

The UK Independence Party (UKIP) launched a nationwide campaign on September 12 to take a question to British citizens: Should the United Kingdom withdraw from the European Union?

The party hopes to gather 2 million signatures in order to petition for a referendum on the UK's EU membership.

Though Britain has no written constitution akin to that of the U.S., nor anything codified regarding the rules for holding referenda, UKIP feels that 2 million signatures should be enough to get the leadership on Downing Street to take note of the British populace's growing anti-EU sentiment.

David Lott, campaign organizer for the party, said that "such a significant amount of votes would be enough to expose their arguments and put pressure on UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, even if a referendum will probably not be the end result" (EUobserver.com, September 14). "With this we want to raise the temperature of the debate," Lott stated.

EUobserver.com broached the question of where such a referendum would leave Britain, should Britons vote to leave the EU: "[I]t is unclear how the withdrawal would actually come about. Under the current EU treaties, there are no rules on how and if a country can leave the union" (ibid.).

But as this magazine—and its predecessor (the *Plain Truth* under Herbert W. Armstrong)—have been insisting for years, Britain *will* ultimately leave this union of European nations. The indications in Bible prophecy of this outcome are very strong, and can be studied in our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy.*

GETTY IMAGES

CAMPAIGN **A UKIP member holds copies of the party's manifesto—its key platform being Britain's secession from the EU.**

UKIP, gaining popularity in Britain—as reflected in last year's European Parliament election results—could have a great deal to do with getting the UK to withdraw from the EU. It could help breed enough discontent with the EU among British voters that the country's leaders are forced to bow to the will of their people.

Iran's archenemy, America—and, by helping Iran become the main hub for oil deals in the region, help drive the Islamic Republic forward in its quest for regional supremacy.

George Perkovich, an Iran expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, stated it frankly: "It's part of a very intelligent, creative Iranian strategy—to go on the offense in every way possible and mobilize other actors against the U.S." (*Christian Science Monitor,* August 30).

For Iran, which foresees a "clash of civilizations" between Islam and the west—particularly America—undermining the dollar could prove to be its best and most effective strike against a more capable military foe.

REUTERS

ON FIRE **An Iranian oil production platform represents the huge clout Iran holds because of this hot resource.**

Asia Times reported that only one major actor stands to lose if oil-trading in euros takes hold: the U.S. By contrast, "Oil in euros would benefit millions … in the EU and its trading partners …. And it would loosen the grip the U.S. has on OPEC members" (August 26).

"One of the Federal Reserve's nightmares may begin to unfold in the spring of 2006," one expert on the subject stated, "when it appears that international buyers will have a choice of buying a barrel of oil for $60 on the NYMEX [New York Mercantile Exchange] and IPE [London's International Petroleum Exchange] or purchase a barrel of oil for €45 to €50 via the Iranian bourse" (*Global Politician,* September 2).

If oil-trading in euros were to get going, the current global trend of foreign currency reserves being shifted from dollars to euros would rapidly accelerate. In turn, "countries switching to euro reserves from dollar reserves would bring down the value of the U.S. currency. Imports would start to cost Americans a lot more …. As countries and businesses converted their dollar assets into euro assets, the U.S. property and stock market bubbles would, without doubt, burst" (Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability, Nov. 15, 2004).

The snowballing effect of a reserve currency switch would be catastrophic for the U.S., according to the *Global Politician.* The U.S. "would simply have to stop importing" (op. cit.).

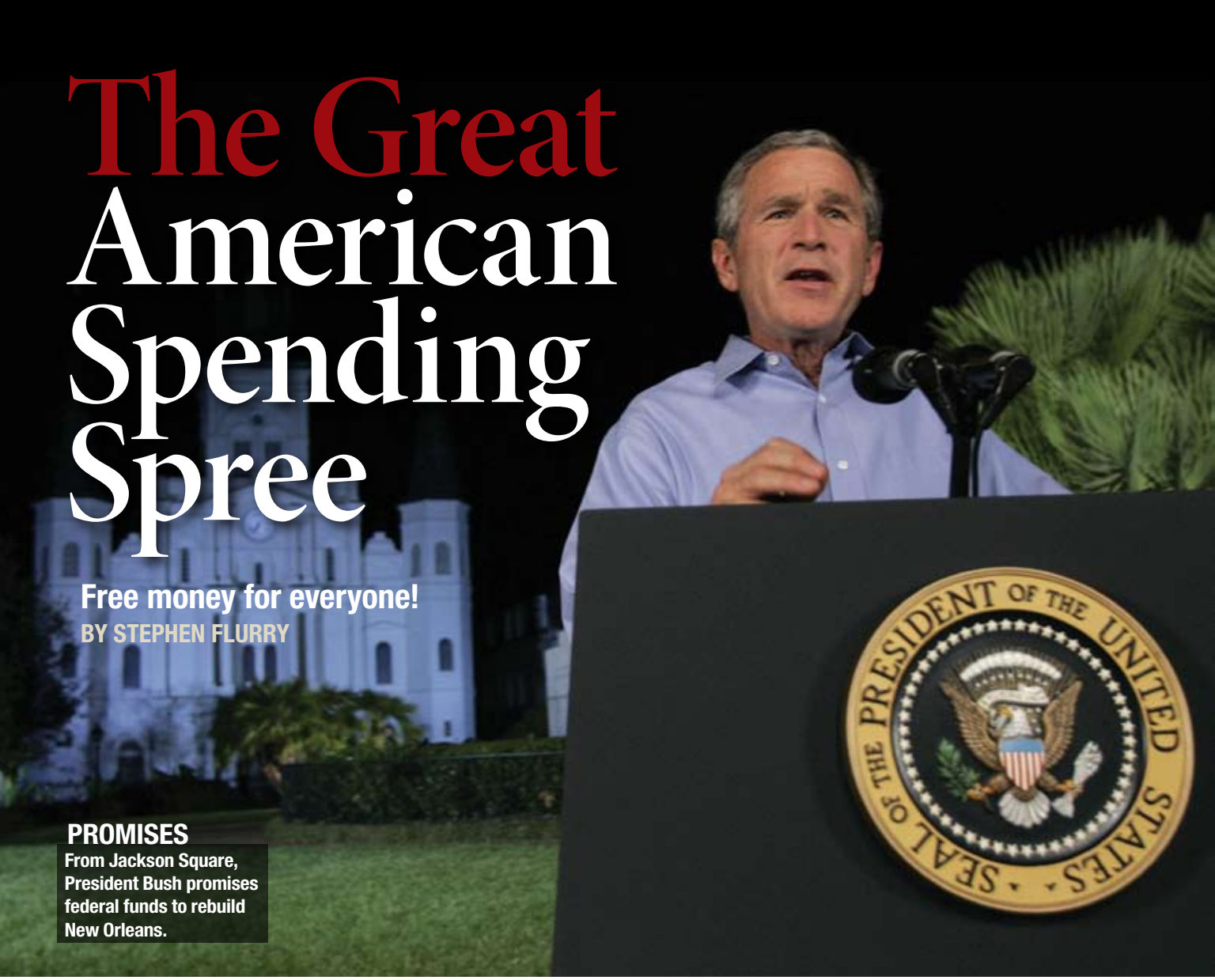
Considering how America's industrial and agricultural heartland has been gutted over the last half century, this possibility would be grave. As one commentator put it, the impact of the Iranian oil bourse on the U.S. dollar—and the follow-on effect on the U.S. economy—could be worse than Iran launching a direct nuclear attack.

Though many economists consider the chances of Iran's ambition succeeding as remote, we can know from Bible prophecy that the U.S. financial system *will be brought down*—along with the U.S. dollar as the reserve currency.

The Great American Spending Spree

Free money for everyone!

BY STEPHEN FLURRY



PROMISES
From Jackson Square, President Bush promises federal funds to rebuild New Orleans.

The United States of America is in the midst of an unprecedented spending spree. Yet, in comments made about the federal budget he submitted to Congress in February, President Bush told a group of U.S. governors, "I presented a good, lean budget to the Congress—it sets priorities, it meets priorities. It … says, if a program isn't working, don't fund it; or if it duplicates efforts, streamline" (February 28).

The truth is exactly the opposite. The *$2.57 trillion* spending plan was America's biggest ever—about $330 billion *more* than would be generated by tax revenue. How anyone can describe a $330 billion deficit as a *lean* budget is beyond me.

And if you think the emergency relief the government has now ponied up to repair the wreckage from three devastating hurricanes will jolt the government into curbing its federal spending, think again.

Unanswered Questions

President Bush said rebuilding the Gulf Coast after Katrina would be "one of the largest reconstruction efforts the world has ever seen." Criticized by the liberal media for not responding to tragedy fast enough, the president seemed to be making up for lost time by sending cash—*lots* of it. "Federal funds will cover the great majority of the costs of repairing public infrastructure in the disaster zone, from roads and bridges to schools and water systems. Our goal is to get the work done quickly" (September 15). But in the rush to throw blank checks at the rebuilding project, a number of critical questions were barely considered.

For example, what exactly is the federal government's role in rebuilding entire communities or cities after natural disasters? As Stephen Moore wrote for *OpinionJournal.com,* "Chicago was burned to the ground in 1871; San Francisco was leveled by an earthquake in 1906; and in 1900 Galveston, Texas, was razed by a hurricane even more ferocious than Katrina. In each instance, these proud cities were rebuilt rapidly and to even greater glory—with hardly any federal money" (September 19). Of course, a lot has changed since those disasters. Today we live in the era of big government and ever-expanding entitlement programs. If something bad happens, welfare recipients simply expect the government to take care of it—plain and simple.

Another question that has been shoved aside is, how can we make sure the free flow of money into places like

New Orleans will be spent wisely? When you hear commentators talk about the history of political corruption at the state and local levels in Louisiana, it is almost accepted as part of the region's cultural charm. The *Washington Post* even labeled Louisianan police forces as "famously corrupt." Last year, the head agent at the FBI's New Orleans bureau described the corruption among Louisiana's local and state officials as "epidemic, endemic and entrenched," saying that "no branch of government is exempt." According to *OpinionJournal*'s John Fund, the number of Louisiana state elected officials per capita convicted of crimes is the third highest of any state in America (September 26). Of course, the mainstream media are much too fixated on exposing President Bush's faults to give any serious attention to state and local officials stealing or wasting billions of dollars. As columnist Peggy Noonan rightly asked, "How much of the $100 billion coming its way is going to fall off the table? Half? OK, let's not get carried away. More than half" (September 22).

In the same speech where President Bush promised truckloads of money for the Gulf Coast states, he referred to the "persistent poverty" all of us witnessed on television during the New Orleans flood. This poverty, he said—echoing the sentiments of his left-wing critics—had its "roots in a history of racial discrimination …." Thus, in an effort to confront widespread poverty and racism with "bold action," the president promised to send lots of money—not for merely replacing what was destroyed, but to build up even "higher and better" than before. He promised tax breaks, government-funded accounts of up to $5,000 for education and childcare for each evacuee seeking a job, etc.

Never mind the corruption—just throw money at the problem and hope for the best. One Missouri congressman even complained about being forced to sign off on the president's initial $62 billion rebuilding bill "even though we knew a lot of the money may go to waste." Isn't this a much bigger problem than poverty or racism? Government handouts for poor people amount to 14.6 percent of President Bush's overall budget, nearly twice the dollar amount that President Clinton spent on poverty. Yet, if much of the money intended to help storm victims disappears or is wasted away in bureaucracy, are these programs really serving their intended purpose? Poverty, after all, is at about the same level it has been for the past 40 years, even though we are dumping money into these programs by the hundreds of billions.

That brings us to another question that has not been answered, although several media outlets and a few maverick politicians have at least *asked* it. That is, HOW ARE WE GOING TO PAY FOR ALL OF THIS? The day after the president promised the moon to the Gulf Shore, he admitted that rebuilding will cost a lot of money. "It's going to mean that we're going to have to make sure we cut unnecessary spending." It makes for a great sound bite. But politicians have been saying things like this for years—even as they continue to spend more money, start new programs and expand the size of government bureaucracy.

> If something bad happens, welfare recipients simply expect the government to take care of it—plain and simple.

Nowhere to Cut?

According to Stephen Moore's column, a few dozen congressmen proposed an amendment be added to the initial $62 billion hurricane relief bill that the president pushed through Congress. The idea was to cut other government programs by 2.5 percent—just 2½ pennies trimmed from every dollar spent by a federal agency. According to Moore, "The Republican leadership would not even allow it to come to a vote, on the grounds that there was no waste which could be easily identified and cut" (op. cit.). *The amendment didn't even make it to the floor.*

When asked later about possible budget cuts that Congress could make, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (who later temporarily resigned from his top position in the House after a Texas indictment) said he would be glad to make cuts, but that "nobody has been able to come up with any yet." A reporter then asked DeLay, whom many consider to be one of the most conservative politicians in Washington, if that meant government operations were running at peak efficiency. DeLay's response: "Yes, after 11 years of Republican majority, *we've pared it down pretty good.*"

Can he be serious? *Federal spending has increased by 79 percent since "conservatives" gained control of the House in 1994.* Yet, presumably with a straight face, Mr. DeLay went on to declare "victory" against wasteful government spending. He told reporters there is *simply no fat left to be cut from the federal budget.*

DeLay's astonishing remarks prompted a number of conservative columnists to put forward long lists of suggested budget cuts—many of them singling out the $286 billion highway bill Congress passed in August. That bill contained a record amount of pork—more than 6,000 pet projects tacked on by politicians from both sides of the aisle, which will cost American taxpayers *$24 billion.*

The most publicized of these additional "earmarks," as politicians affectionately call them, is the infamous Alaskan "bridge to nowhere"—a $223 million project, sponsored by Rep. Don Young. A career politician and member of Congress for more than 30 years, the Alaskan Republican bragged that the highway bill was "stuffed like a turkey" with all sorts of treats for his state. The bridge will be named after Congressman Young, but to honor what? His skillful lobbying for pork?

President Bush had originally said he would reject any bill above $256 billion. Later, he raised the spending limit to $284 billion, before finally signing on—*as he has for every congressional spending bill since becoming president*—at $286 billion.

Going back to the early 1990s, when Democrats controlled Congress, the average number of pork projects stacked on top of spending bills amounted to about 4,000 annually—in itself, an embarrassment. Today, with a Republican majority in both the House and Senate (as well as the White House), there are more than *15,000* pork projects each year.

And yet, neither the president nor the House majority leader can find any room in the budget to cut costs?

Ryan Sager wrote in the *New York Post,* "The point of the debate among the Republicans isn't about whether to spend the money needed to rebuild after Katrina—that's a given. The question is whether, *even under the most extreme of circumstances,* they can make EVEN THE MOST MINOR OF CUTS TO THE SIZE OF GOVERNMENT" (September 19, emphasis mine throughout).

Indeed, if our leaders won't reduce their standard of living even in the midst of a national tragedy, when will they ever do it?

Dangerous Precedent

Politicians throw around the terms *billion* and *trillion* so often these days that it can seem like spare change. To help put the estimated cost for Katrina ($200 billion) in perspective, Stephen Moore said it amounted to about *$400,000 for every family* displaced by the hurricane. Think about the standard of living each of those families could have if starting off with $400,000 to invest! Of course, there's also the infrastructure to build up—particularly in New Orleans—but still, 200 *billion* dollars? That's a lot of money to go around—*more than we've spent on the war in Iraq.*

Moore wrote, "Politicians from seemingly every congressional district appear to be elbowing their way to the orgy table for a slice of this $200-billion pie. At last count, 12 governors declared their states emergency disaster areas, and thus eligible for federal aid. Iowa, Michigan and Utah, for example, states nowhere near the hurricane, are lining up for disaster relief funds" (op. cit.).

And why not? It's free money. If politicians won't sign off on a highway bill unless they GET hundreds of millions of dollars for unnecessary "projects" in their state, why should they sign off on a bloated hurricane-relief bill unless they get some sort of compensation?

Isn't it a wonderful system?

Following up on the president's $62 billion of initial relief, Louisiana's two senators (a Republican and a Democrat) authored the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief and Economic Recovery Act, hoping to push it through Congress while politicians are in the mood to "give." The *$250 billion* bill, according to the *Washington Post,* would cost more, on an inflation-adjusted basis, than the *entire Louisiana Purchase* of 1803. The bill actually calls for the Army Corps of Engineers' annual budget to be increased by *900 percent*—from $4 billion to $40 billion. Besides rebuilding the infrastructure of New Orleans and helping rebuild other destroyed communities in Louisiana, the bill also calls for $14 billion to go toward ecosystem restoration and another $13 billion for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. According to the *Post,* "It also includes hefty payments to hospitals, ports, banks, shipbuilders, fishermen and schools, as well as $8 million for alligator farms, $35 million for seafood industry marketing, and $25 million for a sugar-cane research laboratory that had not been completed before Katrina" (September 26).

Senators Vitter and Landrieu admitted it was a lot of money when they introduced the bill. But they said an unprecedented tragedy requires an unprecedented response.

Speaking of precedent, assuming this bill is approved (or some variation of it), what will it signal to other regions ravaged by future disasters? If the federal government is now obligated to rebuild New Orleans better than before, *and without regard to cost,* what happens if hurricanes intensify? What if the "big one" finally splits Southern California? Or a nuclear bomb obliterates a major U.S. city? How *much* would it take—how *long* would it be—before our fragile economy grinds to a halt?

> Federal spending has grown by 7 percent this year—and that's not counting costs for the Iraq war or the relief needed for Katrina and Rita.

As we told you in last month's *Trumpet,* Jesus prophesied that weather disasters would take a VIOLENT TURN FOR THE WORSE in the days leading up to His Second Coming. "And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven" (Luke 21:11; see also Matthew 24:7). Weather disasters, as they increase in frequency and intensity, are actually fulfilling Bible prophecy.

This prophecy, along with other geopolitical factors, will ultimately lead to a worldwide economic crisis brought on by the collapse of the U.S. dollar. When that happens, it will clear the way for a dangerous new world force to emerge out of the heart of Europe. The *Trumpet,* basing its analysis on the sure word of Bible prophecy, has made this prediction for years.

Debt Threatens Economy

Last year, the leftward-leaning *USA Today* ran an article on the astronomical debt our nation is plunging into. "$53 trillion is what federal, state and local governments need immediately—stashed away, earning interest, beyond the $3 trillion in taxes collected last year—to repay debts and honor future benefits promised under Medicare, Social Security and government pensions," it said. "And like an unpaid credit card balance accumulating interest, the problem GROWS BY MORE THAN $1 TRILLION EVERY YEAR THAT ACTION TO PAY DOWN THE DEBT IS DELAYED" (Oct. 3, 2004). Unless action was taken soon, the paper warned, the consequences could be "catastrophic."

The article quoted Glenn Hubbard, who used to serve as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors for President Bush. "Political leaders know this is a big problem. … I know the president is keenly aware. But in an election year, it's not easy to talk about. The solutions may be very painful. If he is re-elected, *I think he will make this a top priority next year.*"

Sadly, that has not happened. Federal spending has grown by 7 percent this year—and that's NOT counting costs for the *Iraq war or the relief needed for Katrina and Rita*. Under President Bush's watch, the federal government has undergone its largest expansion since Lyndon Johnson's Great Society.

In our May issue, we referred you to a comment made last November in a private meeting by Morgan Stanley's chief economist, Stephen Roach. According to the *Boston Herald,* Roach suggested the United States had less than a 10 percent chance of avoiding ECONOMIC ARMAGEDDON! "It struck me how *extreme* he was—much more, it seemed to me, than in public," one source who attended the meeting was quoted as saying (Nov. 23, 2004). According to the *Herald,* "Roach's analysis isn't entirely new. But recent events give it extra force." That was a year ago.

More recently, an Associated Press story picked up on this same theme. According to journalist Robert Tanner, "A *chorus of economists,* government officials and elected leaders both conservative and liberal is warning that America's NONSTOP BORROWING has put the nation on the road to a MAJOR FISCAL DISASTER—one that could unleash plummeting home values, rocketing interest rates, lost jobs, stagnating wages and threats to government services ranging from health care to law enforcement" (August 27). The article featured an interview with David Walker, who *audits the federal government's books.* He said, "I believe the country faces a critical crossroad and that the decisions that are made—or not made—within the next 10 years or so will have a profound effect on the future of our country, our children and our grandchildren. The problem gets

bigger every day, and the tidal wave gets closer every day."

Two days *after* that AP story was posted, Katrina slammed into the Gulf Shore. And how have we gone about getting out of *that* $200 billion mess? *Borrow more money.* Just charge it to the deficit.

"Certainly, there are those who feel such comments bring to mind the preachers who predict the end of the world at a specific time and place, and have always been wrong …. But something has changed. More than two centuries ago, Benjamin Franklin warned: 'He that goes aborrowing, goes asorrowing.'" That's not the *Trumpet's* warning—it's from the Associated Press!

The article projected this year's deficit to be $331 billion—about $100 billion less than expected—*before the hurricanes,* that is. The nation's overall debt has now surpassed the $8 trillion mark—and it grows by about $1.5 billion every single day. Making matters unbelievably worse, politicians have promised Americans many trillions more in entitlement programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. As mentioned earlier, we would need another $40 to $50 *trillion* in the bank to follow through on all those promises.

One congressman suggested that simply *delaying* the new, multi-trillion-dollar prescription drug benefit for seniors would save us $40 billion this year—money that could then be re-directed to hurricane relief.

Can't do it. *Seniors gotta have drugs. Our troops gotta have guns. Poor people gotta have welfare.* We can't leave *any* child behind in education. Louisiana *has to* have $250 billion to rebuild everything from roads to alligator farms. And how will Alaskans survive *without* a bridge to nowhere? Everyone—poor, middle class, wealthy, young and old, *every* special interest group, *every* politician, *every* state, *every* victim of disasters—EVERYONE *must* get paid.

There is simply no room to make any significant cuts in the federal budget. We MUST keep borrowing.

Day of Reckoning

According to an Associated Press survey, at least 70 percent of Americans consider themselves at least somewhat or significantly worried about America's addiction to deficit spending. *Seventy percent*—that's an OVERWHELMING MAJORITY! Ah, but here's the kicker—only *35 percent* of those surveyed were in favor of the government making spending cuts that would reduce government services! And only 18 percent were willing to have their taxes raised to keep government services where they are. And get this: A measly 1 percent of respondents were willing to raise taxes and reduce spending.

As the AP article noted, "The nation's political leaders could hardly be said to have a mandate calling for fiscal responsibility" (ibid.). That's because most Americans themselves are living far beyond their means! On average, we save NOTHING from what we earn. Debt consumes about 20 percent of the money Americans have left over to spend *after* taxes and payments for food and housing. We are a nation of deficit spenders. And while I haven't conducted a survey, I'll bet a majority of those who are up to their eyeballs in debt worry about their deficit spending, either "some" or "a lot."

> Most Americans themselves are living far beyond their means. On average, we save nothing from what we earn.

But instead of making cuts in the family budget, we go right on spending. And why not? There's *always* free money available. There's *always* a way to bump up the spending limits. There's *always* another credit card we can add to the plan. There's *always* another loan. And we had better be grateful for all these *high-interest* handouts, because there are always—ALWAYS—a lot of things that we absolutely *must* have.

It's the exact same, greed-is-good mentality that paralyzes politicians in Washington and practically every other state and local governing body in America.

A vast majority of Americans are worried about where our deficit spenders are leading this country. But a pathetically miniscule number of people are willing to make any kind of sacrifice, whether personally or nationally, in order to avoid disaster! And for that reason, politicians will continue looting the Treasury—running up astronomical debt for oncoming generations. They do it for the same reason looters raided Wal-Mart during the New Orleans flood—*because they can.* NO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IS THERE TO STOP THEM.

But there will be a day of reckoning. American voters may not hold their leaders accountable for their reckless spending—but one day, in the not-too-distant future, foreign creditors *will.* "In a very real sense," the AP story continued, "the U.S. economy is dependent on the central banks of Japan, China and other nations to invest in U.S. treasuries and keep American interest rates down. The low rates here keep American consumers buying imported goods."

To this point, foreign investors are willing to finance our debt because of how dependent their economies are on Americans consuming foreign goods. As long as there is something in it for them, they will continue financing our debt. And as long as they do that, we will go right on spending. And when bad things like Katrina happen, we'll borrow more to dig ourselves out of a hole.

But the party will not go on forever. Eventually, *outside* "law enforcement" will show up, and the looting will come to an abrupt halt.

Are you prepared for that reality? If not, you had better WAKE UP!

And if you don't like hearing that from the *Trumpet,* then please heed the warning from the Associated Press: "There's no way we're going to grow our way out of our long-range fiscal imbalance," said David Walker, the *one who audits the government.* "I really do not believe the American people have a real idea as to where we are and where we're headed, and what the potential implications are for the country if we don't start making some tough decisions soon."

Are you worried about what's ahead? If so, judging by surveys, you're not alone! A large American majority is worried. The question is, *Are you prepared to make tough decisions?* And will you follow through with sacrifice? ■

Caring for the Poor

Is WELFARE the solution?

TIME LIFE PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES

BY MARK JENKINS

I ALWAYS LIKED GOVERNMENT cheese. Government housing was another matter though; there was a definite roach problem and only the one bedroom for two people.

The other kids at school made fun of me endlessly when I wore dark blue government-supplied shoes with three distinctive stripes going down the sides; of course, the other kids only knew what they were deriding because so many of them had received government assistance themselves. We were all, literally, walking in the same shoes.

But as welfare recipients went, we were doing pretty well. My mom and I never really went hungry. I imagine a lot of the people we all saw on television in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina had experienced a lot worse even before the disaster than we ever did.

Some, like the *Washington Times,* have said the welfare state in New Orleans helped create the anarchy and chaos we saw after the storm. If that's true, we should really sit up and take notice. New Orleans isn't all that unique among U.S. cities.

Louisiana's pre-disaster unemployment rate was 5.8 percent, up from 5.3 percent at the beginning of the year. The national average is 5.5 percent, so we can see that Louisiana is a fair representation of the entire country. Even worse than the unemployment rate, 12 percent of the national population lives below the poverty line. If we are a compassionate, caring nation, shouldn't we get to the root cause of poverty and eliminate it?

And yet, how? Many would say the answer is to enlarge the welfare state. But is this a viable solution to the problems of the poor?

Others, perhaps equally compassionate, would say the welfare state should be dismantled altogether so people can learn to take care of themselves.

One thing is for sure: The United States welfare system doesn't work; thousands of impoverished people stranded on bridges after Katrina struck showed us that.

The Creation of Soft America

A hundred years ago, the United States had no welfare program. The origins of the types of social programs that led to its modern welfare programs lie in the Great Depression. In reaction to the greatest economic disaster in U.S. history, President Franklin Roosevelt sought to stabilize the country, largely by initiating social programs. By 1964, when Lyndon Johnson declared his War on Poverty, social programs in the U.S. were greatly expanding. This had a definite side effect though: what author Michael Barone, in his book *Hard America, Soft America,* calls the softening of America.

Some parts of our society are what he dubs "Hard"—those that involve competition and accountability. The military by necessity remains firm. Large portions of the economy are and have become more adamantine in the last 20 years, with increased market competition and the success of entrepreneurs leading to the growth of companies like Microsoft, Wal-Mart and General Motors.

But as Barone points out, "Soft America lives off the productivity, creativity and competence of Hard America, and we have the luxury of keeping parts of our society Soft only if we keep enough of it Hard."

Clearly, U.S. welfare programs are part of Soft America—and not one of the more successful parts. When President Roosevelt created welfare programs, the recipient worked for the check. But as the welfare state grew, welfare receipt required no work and provided more remuneration than some jobs. Thus, incentive to work dropped and dependency on welfare skyrocketed. By 1970 it was financially better to go on welfare than to take a minimum-wage job. Welfare dependency approximately tripled between 1965 and 1975, and remained high into the 1990s. Welfare, rather than helping people out of a bad situation, created a culture of government dependency.

This was especially true in the African-American community. "The problem blacks faced was not that American society was too Hard for them, that they suffered from too much competition and were being held too accountable. The problem was that they were shut out of Hard America altogether, unable to reap the rewards available in a Hard system for those who achieve. The Softening of American society that started in the mid-1960s—the Softening of criminal justice, welfare, racial quotas and preferences, and education—had the effect of confining most blacks to Soft America. They were left unprotected against crime, deterred from forming stable families, deincentivized to achieve" (ibid.).

Human nature—everyone's human nature—is happy to take a free lunch. To the uneducated and untrained, taking personal responsibility is as difficult as it is important. How much easier is it to allow the government to prop you up—whether you need it or not? It is clear to see how the welfare system becomes a trap for many people.

The Problem With Dependency

When the government in London passed laws to keep prices low for the poor, Benjamin Franklin reacted strongly: "I think the best way of doing good to the poor, is not making them easy *in* poverty, but leading or driving them *out* of it. In my youth I traveled much, and I observed in different countries that the more public provisions were made for the poor, the less they provided for themselves, and of course became poorer. And, on the contrary, the less was done for them, the more they did for themselves, and became richer. … In short, you offered a premium for the encouragement of idleness, and you should not now wonder that it has had its effect in the increase of poverty" (*The Writings of Benjamin Franklin,* Volume 3).

Similarly, when Abraham Lincoln's own stepbrother asked for a loan, he was denied; rather, Lincoln offered him a matching grant. For every dollar the man earned, Lincoln would match it because he wanted his stepbrother to learn a valuable lesson rather than become dependant on the charity of others.

Human nature—everyone's human nature—is happy to take a free lunch. Taking personal responsibility is as difficult as it is important.

These great men in American history understood that creating dependency would never have the kind of results anyone—especially the poor—would want.

Today, though, people have come to *expect* government benefits. Just note the reaction when cuts to Medicare, Social Security and other social programs are suggested. No one wants to give up anything.

Supporters of a welfare state believe, in effect, that people cannot take care of themselves and therefore need the government to do so.

Germany suffered a political crisis this fall because many of the voters simply did not want to tighten their belts. In September, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's party, the Social Democrats, did far better in elections than expected. Analysts attributed that to a desire on the part of the German people to hold on to social benefits and worker protections. Associated Press said Schröder was able to revive his campaign by portraying challenger Angela Merkel's top economic adviser and potential finance minister as "a bogeyman who would destroy the social welfare state" (September 12).

Like Benjamin Franklin observed, when the government takes care of people, many don't even try to take care of themselves.

It cannot be denied, however, that there is a negative effect on the economy as a direct result of welfare. After all, as columnist Michael Hurd observed, businesses cannot sell something the government gives away for free.

Perhaps the worst effect of the welfare state has been on the American family. In his 1992 book *The Tragedy of American Compassion,* Professor Marvin Olasky showed that more women were married prior to 1960. Eighty-five percent of teenage mothers were married by the time their babies were born in the 1950s. Once the welfare state reached full swing, however, some women saw a welfare check as an alternative to a male paycheck and a father in the home. Accompanying the rise in welfare was a dramatic rise in single motherhood.

People often expect something for nothing. But worse than that, too many are willing to manipulate the system. I remember all too well that my home town had improvised store fronts set up to sell non-consumable products—clothes, books, televisions, etc.—in exchange for food stamps, certainly an illegal use of the food stamps and an abuse of an already deeply flawed system.

There is no doubt that this problem of welfare dependency was—and is—reversible. In fact, the problem is nowhere near as pronounced as it once was.

In Wisconsin, changes to the welfare laws brought the number of recipients down by over 90 percent in the early 1990s. Similar initiatives succeeded in Indiana, Michigan and New York.

The biggest impact came when the national welfare laws were changed in 1996, resulting in a drop from 14.2 million welfare recipients in 1993 to 5.4 million in 2001. The main difference: a five-year limit on the receipt of welfare benefits.

Barone gives an account of people changing their minds about applying for welfare: "In Fond du Lac County, I saw women walk out the door when the five-year limit was explained to them: better not to use up the benefits now, but to save them up for when they might really be needed, and go out and get a job" (op. cit.).

See POOR page 33 ▸

BEWARE OF IMMIGRANTS
A California Department of Transportation sign warns motorists—an admonition that could also help Washington's policy-makers.

The Trouble With IMMIGRATION

Foreigners can bring more than just their luggage. BY TRUMPET STAFF

Over 1.2 million legal and illegal immigrants settle on American soil each year. Since 1990, the number of aliens living in the United States has mushroomed 43 percent; the Latino population alone doubled between 1980 and 2000, constituting 40 percent of all U.S. growth. Today, 1 in 10 people in America is a foreigner.

The immigration explosion is not exclusive to the U.S. Fully 40 percent of today's Canadians were either born abroad or are the children of Canadians born elsewhere. By 2011, immigrants are projected to account for *all* net population growth in Canada.

Over the next 25 years, 84 percent of the United Kingdom's population growth is expected to come from immigration.

As for *illegal* immigration, national borders are more porous than ever. In Canada, "gaps in Canada's border security are so severe that an airport accepts international passengers without on-site immigration checks, a marine border unit has no boat, a computer glitch systematically hides information about terrorists, and officers at 62 border crossings are unable to link to a computer to screen incoming travelers" (*National Post,* April 11).

In the crowded UK, where the population is roughly 60 million, an estimated 500,000 workers are thought to be illegal. If spouses, dependents and those not working are added, the "illegal" population is close to 1 million and climbing.

Governments are polarized over the issue. In America, some yearn to liberalize immigration laws. Others assert that uncontrolled immigration has burgeoned into a huge disaster that is rapidly getting worse.

The debate in England over immigration and multiculturalism has taken on extra meaning since London's terrorist bombings in July. In a few states in the U.S., illegal immigration has become so prevalent and its negative effects so dire that the state government has declared certain counties to be in a "state of emergency"—a protocol generally used in the wake of hurricanes, floods, mass riots or other catastrophes.

In this globalized world, *immigration has become a global quandary.*

This issue is a two-edged sword. What was once seen as a blessing to many nations has become a terrible curse with

AP/WIDEWORLD

seemingly unsolvable repercussions. Too few understand the crux of this complex problem.

Two areas affected by immigration cause particular concern: the economy and crime.

Economic Impact

The hard work and perseverance of America's early immigrants did much to help the U.S. become the richest and most powerful nation in the world. By 1869, in no small part thanks to the industrious nature of its immigrant population, America had attained the highest per-capita income in the world. That phenomenal wealth, together with a burgeoning population, created the world's first consumer-driven economy.

But economic tragedy struck. The stock market crash of 1929 gutted the American economy and thrust the nation into unprecedented hardship. It was in the midst of this economic depression that American politicians laid the foundation for a welfare state. From this time forward, the American government became the crutch on which needy citizens could lean.

Concurrent with the rising popularity of the federal welfare programs was the burgeoning of immigration. Immigrants began streaming into America, where many of the poorest and least educated were no longer required to subscribe to the traditional American work ethic and instead could rely on the federal government to take care of them. Similar problems occurred in Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

This trend continues today, and the economic impact of immigrants on the federal government is phenomenal. Immigration analyst Norman Matloff stated, "The reason for this increased reliance on welfare is that for many immigrant groups, welfare in recent years has lost its stigma and has instead become a magnet, drawing them to the United States. As one Chinese senior in Oakland puts it, a common point of view is *mh hou sit dai,* Cantonese for 'Don't miss this great opportunity'" (*Sacramento Bee,* Dec. 14, 1994). Matloff cited census data showing that, for example, 55 percent of the Chinese seniors who immigrated to California from 1980 to 1987 were on welfare by 1990.

In the era of Big Government, burdening the middle class and the rich with heavy taxes and giving handouts to an increasing number of poor dependents is heightening the ethnic strife and racial stereotypes. In this respect, even legal immigrants are placing an increasing burden on the U.S. economy. When we factor in the economic cost of *illegal* immigrants, the picture grows increasingly dire. Illegal *and* legal immigration is costing America billions.

The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) estimated the total impact of illegal immigration on the federal budget: "[W]hen all taxes paid (direct and indirect) and all costs are considered, illegal households created a net fiscal deficit at the federal level of more than $10 billion in 2002. We also estimate that, if there was an amnesty for illegal aliens, the net fiscal deficit would grow to nearly $29 billion" ("The High Cost of Cheap Labor," August 2004).

No state has been more impacted financially by both illegal and legal immigration than California. "Analysis of the latest census data indicates that California's illegal immigrant population is costing the state's taxpayers more than $10.5 billion per year for education, medical care and incarceration. Even if the estimated tax contributions of illegal immigrant workers are subtracted, net outlays still amount to nearly $9 billion per year. The annual fiscal burden from those three areas of state expenditures amounts to about $1,183 per household headed by a native-born resident" (Federation for American Immigration Reform, "The Costs of Illegal Immigration to Californians," November 2004).

The economic costs associated with immigration are hitting the UK as well. The influx of immigrants has profoundly cost the government. The budget of the Immigration and Nationality Department of the Home Office in the fiscal year of 1998-1999 was £300 million; by 2003-2004 that amount had risen to £1.9 *billion*—a jaw-dropping increase of 633 percent.

Many of these immigrants are asylum seekers. More people apply for asylum in Britain than in any other EU country. Why? Because it's easier to enter, remain and claim asylum status there compared to other EU countries like Germany or France. Anyone can claim asylum upon arriving in the UK and cannot be expelled until his claim is rejected and he has exhausted any right of appeal. "Meanwhile, the claimant is entitled to free accommodation, emergency health care, children's education, a cash allowance and free legal aid" (*www.migrationwatch.org,* February 2005).

Families that are denied asylum "continue to receive benefits worth an average of £15,000 a year tax-free" (ibid., January 2004). Britain's shadow immigration minister admitted to the presence of over 250,000 failed asylum seekers in the UK (*Express,* May 18).

An added economic consequence of immigration is the bleeding of cash from host countries. Upon locating work in their host nation, many immigrants (legal or illegal) send a portion of their paychecks back home to their families. In the U.S., for example, Mexicans will send home $20 billion *this year alone,* according to projections by Mexico's Central Bank. This flood of cash will probably be the largest source of foreign exchange in Mexico. The cash from Mexicans working in the U.S. is a driving force behind Mexico's economy: It amounts to the equivalent of 2 percent of its gross domestic product. No wonder the Mexican government has done little to curb the flow of illegal immigrants into the U.S. and, in many documented cases, has actually condoned their illegal entry.

In 2004, India received $17.5 billion in the same manner. China, Pakistan and the Philippines also receive substantial wads in remittance. For these nations, illegal immigration is paying off quite nicely.

Crime

Heather Mac Donald, in an article titled "The Illegal Alien Crime Wave," wrote, "*Some of the most violent criminals at large today are illegal aliens.* Yet in cities where the crime committed by aliens is highest, the police cannot use the most obvious tool to apprehend them: their immigration status" (*City Journal,* Winter 2004; emphasis ours throughout). Mac Donald highlighted Los Angeles as an example: The city is home to numerous gangs, many of which are comprised of illegal immigrants from around the world—particularly Asia, Latin America and South America. Alone and often without money or a place to live, illegal immigrants in big cities are prone to joining gangs in order to acquire food and shelter. Feeling secure among people of his own race or status (illegal), the new immigrant oftentimes embraces the gang as a surrogate family, and crime becomes his new occupation.

Mac Donald highlighted the following examples:

- In Los Angeles, 95 percent of all outstanding warrants for homicide (which total 1,200 to 1,500) target illegal aliens. Up to two thirds of all fugitive felony warrants (17,000) are for illegal aliens.

■ A California Department of Justice study reported in 1995 that 60 percent of the 20,000-strong 18th Street Gang in Southern California was illegal; police officers said the proportion was actually much greater. The bloody gang collaborated with the Mexican Mafia—the dominant force in California prisons—on complex drug-distribution schemes, extortion and drive-by assassinations, and committed an assault or robbery every day in L.A. County. The gang had grown dramatically over the previous two decades by recruiting recently arrived youngsters, most of them illegal, from Central America and Mexico.

■ The leadership of the Columbia Lil' Cycos gang, which uses murder and racketeering to control the drug market around L.A.'s MacArthur Park, was about 60 percent illegal in 2002. A Mexican Mafia member and an illegal alien controlled the gang from prison while serving time for felonious reentry following deportation.

Referring to another L.A. gang, Mac Donald stated, "[D]ozens of members of a ruthless Salvadoran prison gang have [sneaked] back into town after having been deported for such crimes as murder, assault with a deadly weapon and drug trafficking. Police officers know who they are and know that their mere presence in the country is a felony. Yet should a cop arrest an illegal for felonious reentry, it is he who will be treated as a criminal for violating the LAPD's [Los Angeles Police Department's] rule against enforcing immigration law.

"The LAPD's ban on immigration enforcement mirrors bans in immigrant-saturated cities around the country, from New York and Chicago to San Diego, Austin and Houston. These 'sanctuary policies' generally prohibit city employees, including the cops, from reporting immigration violations to federal authorities."

Making matters worse than the fact that illegal immigration contributes to high crime rates in many of America's larger cities is the reality that many of the illegal immigrants committing the crimes are protected by misguided policies set up by city and state governments.

"[Sanctuary] laws testify to the sheer political power of immigrant lobbies, a power so irresistible that police officials shrink from even mentioning the illegal alien crime wave. 'We can't even talk about it,' says a frustrated LAPD captain. 'People are afraid of a backlash from Hispanics.' Another LAPD commander in a predominantly Hispanic, gang-infested district sighs: 'I would get a firestorm of criticism if I talked about [enforcing the immigration law against illegals].' Neither captain would speak for attribution" (ibid.).

James R. Edwards, an author who specializes in immigration, stated, "The impact [of illegal immigration] is seen *particularly* in crime: Record-high auto thefts in Arizona, drug trafficking in Salt Lake City, human smuggling rings in Los Angeles, D.C. sniper Lee Malvo, money laundering, prostitution, gang murders, and even slavery" (The Claremont Institute, Nov. 22, 2004). The evidence proves that illegal immigrants are a driving force behind high crime rates in many American cities, particularly those close to the southern border.

Reflecting the impact illegal immigrants are having on America's crime statistics is the impact they are having on the U.S. prison system. America's prisons are chock-full of illegal immigrants. The facts and figures are stunning.

"In 2002, nearly 29 percent, or 39,000 inmates, in the federal prison system were non-citizens. Based on prior research, we estimated that 59 percent of this total are illegal aliens. This translates into 17 percent of the federal prison population, and thus 17 percent of the $4.1 billion prison budget can be attributed to illegal alien households" (CIS, op. cit.). The fact that 17 percent of America's prisoners are illegal immigrants demonstrates the vast extent of their involvement in crime and criminal activities.

In Britain, illegal immigrants similarly contribute to crime. The large numbers of illegal immigrants seeking to work in the UK give rise to organized criminals who *recruit* and *supply* cheap labor for agricultural, catering, construction, food processing and manufacturing job markets. The majority of illegal immigrants entering the UK would not be able to do so without forged or stolen travel documents, transportation access, fraudulent sponsorship and other benefits provided by these crooks.

"Serious and organized criminals involved in both smuggling and trafficking make extensive use of bribery and corruption to support their activities. They exploit border guards, police and customs officers, and a range of political and official contacts in order to operate unhindered. They also collude with professionals who can assist them, including those in the legal profession" (National

When Is Illegal *Legal?*

Though it is increasingly easy for illegal immigrants to become legal by simply "laying low," the attempt is now underway to remove the term "illegal" from any person of foreign birth who skirts the law to enter the United States.

In June last year, the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) reported on this trend in California. "Hispanic advocates have successfully pushed the idea that to distinguish between a legal and illegal resident is an act of irrational bigotry, not a consequence of the law," the report read. "'These are hate, wedge issues,' cried Dolores Huerta, a regent of the University of California, as the California State Senate repealed a recently enacted law giving driver's licenses to illegal aliens. In signing the ill-fated law, former California Governor Gray Davis had explicitly renounced any distinction between illegal and legal immigrants."

In that CIS backgrounder, Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.) was quoted as saying, "'Amnesty—there's an implication that somehow you did something wrong and you need to be forgiven.' It's the border that is illegal, not the crossing of it without permission. 'No person is illegal.'"

These politicians would brand anyone calling for immigration controls as a racist.

The CIS article continued to show that in 13 states, illegal aliens can get driver's licenses. Many states grant them college tuition and scholarships. "One hundred banks, over 800 law enforcement agencies, and dozens of cities accept an identification card created by Mexico to credential illegal Mexican aliens in the United States" (ibid.).

When is illegal not illegal? The answer is, when those in government treat them both the same, and the standing laws of the land are not enforced.

In its conclusion, the CIS report stated, "Advocates for amnesty argue that it is the only solution to the illegal alien crisis, because enforcement clearly has not worked. They are wrong in their key assumption: Enforcement has never been tried. Amnesty, however, *has* been tried—in both an industrial-strength version in 1986, and in more limited doses ever since—and it was a clear failure. Before we proceed again to the ultimate suspension of the nation's self-definition, it is long past time to make immigration law a reality, not a charade."

Criminal Intelligence Service report, 2003). Some illegal immigrants work for months or years to pay off the fee that these criminals charge.

Evidence also shows that illegal immigrants are used by organized criminals in drug trafficking, vehicle theft and even aggressive begging and pick-pocketing (especially in bigger cities like London) in order to obtain credit cards that can be used for further criminal activity.

Some believe immigration restrictions would not help solve crime problems and that the focus rather needs to be on dealing with the crime itself. They argue that crime is an inherent part of any society. While this argument has some validity because it recognizes that crime will exist as long as human nature remains unchanged, it is flawed.

Consider the gang situation in California. If every illegal immigrant was deported out of California and if illegals were prevented from coming in and joining gangs, would gang-related criminal activity stop? No. But would it drop? Yes—and probably quite dramatically.

While prevention of illegal immigration wouldn't cure our crime problems, it would definitely reduce the number of crimes occurring in many of our larger cities, particularly those closer to our borders.

Because our enforcement agencies are handcuffed by lack of resources, as well as bureaucracy and political correctness, criminal activity conducted by illegal immigrants will only grow worse. Our cities will increasingly be robbed of peace and safety.

Terrorists in Our Midst

The economic and criminal impact of poorly managed immigration is hijacking the economies and largely peaceful societies of the U.S., Australia, Britain and Canada. Uncontrolled immigration, however, presents an even more sobering threat.

"After decades of attempting to dam the flow of Mexican immigrants crossing into the United States illegally, federal agents say a new crisis is emerging along the southern border, and they are helpless to stop it. Non-Mexicans are spilling over the border in record numbers—*some from countries with terrorist ties—and most are set free soon after being captured"* (*Christian Science Monitor,* July 26). America's porous borders have become an attractive option for terrorists seeking entry into the nation.

LONDON TODAY

- **At least 85 percent of those seeking asylum in England live in London.**
- **About 70 percent of England's net international migration is to London. A net 100,000 immigrants per year arrive in this city, while about the same number of existing London residents move to other parts of the United Kingdom.**
- **In inner London, 55 percent of all births are to foreign-born mothers.**
- **Almost 30 percent of London's population is made up of ethnic minorities.**
- **Children in London schools speak more than 300 languages.**

"Already this year the number of non-Mexican apprehensions has far outpaced last year's total in just eight months" (ibid.). Illegal immigrants from nations other than Mexico are flooding into America at an unprecedented rate.

"Other than Mexicans" (OTMs) must be returned to their country of origin. Officials cannot just send them back across the southern border, as they do most Mexicans. U.S. law dictates that they be detained in the U.S. pending a deportation hearing. "The problem is, immigration detention centers are packed, so most OTMs are given a court summons and told to return in three months. *A full 85 percent don't"* (ibid.).

According to the U.S. Border Patrol, 465,000 OTMs have exploited this "catch and release" program and settled illegally in the United States. The *Christian Science Monitor* quoted T.J. Bonner, president of the National Border Patrol Council: "It's an insane policy which encourages OTMs to come into the country illegally, and *we shouldn't be shocked that they are coming in record numbers."* While most OTMs come from Central and South America, more than 600 of them entered the U.S. in 2004 from "countries of concern"—countries that support terrorists.

There is no mistaking the fact that weak immigration policies and practices are contributing to the economic and societal destruction of America, Britain and Canada. Combine these facts with the probability that terrorists are penetrating our porous borders and setting up camp, and we should easily recognize the severity of the immigration issue. This is a serious problem. National security is on the line.

The solution lies beyond politics. The curses immigration has thrust upon the Western world were prophesied in the Bible. The reasons behind the failure of our immigration practices are spiritual.

In our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* (free to *Trumpet* readers upon request), we explain that the nations of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the UK comprise the peoples of biblical Israel. This is important to understand, because the Bible has specific prophecies concerning these nations. One of those prophecies discusses the problem that these nations would have with immigration.

God gave a dire warning to the Israelite peoples concerning immigrants from other cultures (the Bible uses the word *strangers*). He said that if the children of Israel were to rebel against His laws—to turn away from His commandments and embrace the practices of the heathen—they would suffer terribly (Deuteronomy 28:15-19). The curses included this prophecy: "*The stranger that is within thee* shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail. Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee: And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever" (verses 43-46).

The imminent fulfillment of the stranger rising up in great numbers and overwhelming the Israelitish people is a sign of God's curses being poured out on these nations. Lax immigration policies and weak borders are playing an instrumental role in the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. God is cursing the nations of biblical Israel for their failure to hold fast to His laws. God is humbling us—imploring us to turn to Him.

Unless the people of Israel repent, "strangers" will continue to pour through their ports of entry and *get above* them until they lose the inheritance afforded them by Almighty God. IT IS PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT. IT IS HAPPENING EVEN AS YOU READ THIS MAGAZINE.

Proud to Be an American?

BY RYAN MALONE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO be "American"? Do immigrants strengthen or weaken the broad sense of national identity?

Few questions would elicit a more diverse and emotionally charged range of opinions than this one.

Whatever our opinion on the subject, we must acknowledge that, in fundamental ways, the American identity has broken loose from its historical moorings. In its infancy, the national identity included a specific religious-moral belief system and a particular political ideology. Its central elements included, in the words of Samuel P. Huntington in his book *Who Are We?,* "the Christian religion, Protestant values and moralism, a work ethic, the English language, British traditions of law, justice and the limits of government power, and a legacy of European art, literature, philosophy and music."

A distinction must be made. America as we know it today was conceived through *settlement,* NOT immigration. We must distinguish between *migration of settlers—or colonizers—*and *immigration* that occurs once a country is established. Settlers leave one society to create a new community in a new and often distant place. Settlers, "imbued with a sense of collective purpose … have a decisive and lasting impact on the culture and institutions of that society" (ibid.). Immigrants, by contrast, move from one society to another, rather than creating a new society.

Culture, as Huntington defines it, refers to "a people's language, religious beliefs, social and political values, assumptions as to what is right and wrong, appropriate and inappropriate, and to the objective institutions and behavioral patterns that reflect these subjective elements" (ibid.). Unlike skin color or ethnic heritage, someone's culture can change. People can convert to other religions or systems of values and beliefs. They can learn new languages.

Initially, this was the basis of U.S. immigration: There existed an American identity, and people of all creeds and races could take on that identity. In other words, they could *Americanize.*

The Melting Pot

This Americanization process was given a metaphor in Israel Zangwill's 1908 play *The Melting Pot.* In the play, a youthful Russian-Jewish composer in New York calls America a pot where everyone melds together and re-forms. Theodore Roosevelt, to whom the play was dedicated, called it a "great play"; he agreed with Zangwill's concept. He, like presidents before him, welcomed large-scale immigration into the U.S., *as long as those immigrants became Americans.* "Either a man is an American and nothing else, or he is not an American at all," Roosevelt famously proclaimed.

Another U.S. president, John Quincy Adams, said that for immigrants to succeed in this land, they had to "cast off the European skin, never to resume it."

Until the 1960s, that is largely what immigrants did.

The height of immigrant assimilation occurred between about 1870 and 1920. Almost every city with a large immigrant population had Americanization programs through local schools and businesses.

The heart of the Americanization process revolved around LANGUAGE. The idea that language is an identifier of nationality can be seen in Genesis 10:31-32 and Genesis 11:7-9, where God *divided* the nations by separating their languages. Unable to communicate, humankind split along linguistic lines.

Though during America's assimilation years immigrants came from various language backgrounds, they underwent a vigorous education to learn the American tongue. Contrast that with Congress's 1975 amendment to the Voting Rights Act that introduced bilingual ballots in certain districts. Or San Francisco's 1980 trilingual voter pamphlets, ballots and registration forms (in Spanish, Chinese and English). In 2002, some 335 jurisdictions in 30 states had to provide electoral services in non-English languages; 220 were required to do so in Spanish. Huntington shows that this service is also often provided for *very small* language minorities: "In 1994, for example, Los Angeles County spent over $67,000 on voting services for 692 Tagalog speakers."

Immigration Education

Another central part of the Americanization process was the public school system. That has also changed dramatically since the early 20th century.

In 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court determined that schools could not "simply provide non-English-speaking schoolchildren with the same instruction as English speakers and instead must provide some remedy to compensate for this deficiency in their knowledge" (ibid.).

Soon bilingual education came into vogue. And before long, as Huntington points out, it evolved from a transitional step—a way to help children learn English—into "an emblem of cultural pride."

The assimilation that schools once provided American immigrants no longer exists. Even the extent to which young people view themselves as American is declining. One study during the 1990s at a San Diego school showed that, of schoolchildren born to at least one immigrant, the proportion identifying themselves as "American" after three years of high school dropped by half. Even the proportion identifying themselves as hyphenated Americans (e.g. Mexican-American) fell 30 percent. But the amount identifying themselves with another nationality (e.g. Mexican) increased 52 percent ("Children of Immigrants: Health, Adjustment, and Public Assistance," 1999). The public school system actually *diminished* these students' sense of national belonging!

Looking at a brief history of education since the mid-20th century, we can see why American students have come to this point.

During the 1960s—a time of civil strife and moral erosion—came a dramatic rise in immigration. It represented a changing ethnic mix: For the first time, most immigrants were coming from non-European regions, and not because they *wanted* to "be Americans."

Meanwhile, educators became bent on cracking the melting-pot ideal and replacing it with *multiculturalism*. Though parts of this doctrine seemed laudable—celebrating the diversity and good in other cultures and learning from those attributes—its implementation nurtured a kind of contempt for traditional elements of American identity. Not only did "equal treatment" of other cultures come at the expense of teaching American values and culture, it even did away with teaching simple facts about American history. Consider: By the mid-1990s, students could graduate from 78 percent of American colleges without taking one course in the history of Western civilization. Not one of the top 50 colleges and universities required a course in American history. And 90 percent of *Ivy League students,* as polled in the early 1990s, could identify Rosa Parks while only *25 percent* could identify the author of the phrase "government of the people, by the people and for the people."

"Multiculturalism is in its essence anti-European civilization," Huntington opines. The more disturbing agenda of multiculturalists was not necessarily to teach about diverse cultures the world over, but to study only those cultures deemed once oppressed by the European-American cultures. It thus became a disparagement of the "evil white race."

Multiculturalists look forward to a time when America "may never again be culturally 'united,' if 'united' means 'unified' in beliefs and practices" (Betty Jean Craige, *American Patriotism in a Global Society*).

Multiculturalists are getting their wish: Never before has America been so divided.

Disunity and Disaster

Modern education says Americanization is *un-American*—that it implies differing cultures are inferior—when, in the past, all it meant was uniting the people of the land under one moral system and creed.

Education isn't completely to blame. Many immigrants now enter America with *no intention* to become American. Because many of them are Latin American, a large number come to join a *separate Latino culture* existing within the nation. The rising growth and influence of this group in the U.S. has driven some Hispanics to advocate two goals, explained by Huntington: "The first is to *prevent the assimilation* of Hispanics into America's Anglo-Protestant society and culture, and instead *create a large, autonomous, permanent, Spanish-speaking, social and cultural Hispanic community* on American soil"; the second goal stems from the first and seeks to "transform America as a whole into a bilingual, bicultural society" (ibid.).

These goals, if realized, guarantee disunity and disaster!

As the Prophet Amos asked, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

American politics is already riddled with division; consider the state of politics should the nation form into two separate cultural camps!

One of Abraham Lincoln's most famous statements—actually quoting Jesus Christ—was that a house, or nation, divided against itself cannot stand. The division America faced in Lincoln's day involved the lamentable mistreatment of the "strangers" within its gates—something God's Word expressly forbids. But a century later, the cause for division had become the crusade to preserve immigrants' cultural uniqueness by *not assimilating.* And this more recent problem has come to not only threaten American *identity*—but even to threaten internal PEACE AND STABILITY. Incorrect immigration practices are deepening the racial and cultural divisions within America today.

Theodore Roosevelt knew of these dangers. Years after the premiere of *The Melting Pot,* aware of the potential for ethnic strife in such a diverse land, he warned: "The one absolutely certain way of bringing this nation to ruin, of preventing all possibility of its continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities, an intricate knot of German-Americans, Irish-Americans, English-Americans, French-Americans, Scandinavian-Americans, or Italian-Americans, each preserving its separate nationality."

Roosevelt's fears are in danger of being realized. America has become a complex patchwork quilt of races, ethnicities, religions, languages *and loyalties.* The more each of these groups puts its own identity and loyalty above the national identity, the weaker becomes the moral and political fabric of society.

Ethnic hatred, racial strife and religious divisions are destined to grow more fierce. The 1992 race riots in Los Angeles, Calif., and Christian-Muslim clashes recurring in Dearborn, Mich., are only precursors to what is coming.

These tensions will also explode on the world scene and spark a cultural clash unlike any in humanity's history.

The End of Immigration Troubles!

Thankfully, however, we are not far from the time when these massive problems will be solved—when Jesus Christ returns to save mankind from self-annihilation and usher in a world where immigration troubles will *cease to exist.* They will not be solved through man's melting-pot metaphors or his versions of multiculturalism. They will be solved by the direct supernatural help of our great Creator.

Note how this new world will operate:

Debates over language will be obsolete because all will speak ONE PURE LANGUAGE (Zephaniah 3:9).

Morally and religiously, all will subscribe to ONE belief system—one perfect way of life based on God's law (Isaiah 2:2-3).

There will be no crime, no disease.

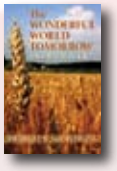
Gone will be the desire to leave one's own land for one with more opportunity—*for every nation will have plenty!* Each man will enjoy the blessing of owning his own plot of land (Micah 4:4).

Relations between nations and ethnicities will be characterized by cooperation and peace. Cultural diversity will be celebrated, and the right kind of multiculturalism will be used to uphold the strengths of all peoples.

And though there will be no melting pot on the physical level—but rather an appreciation of the variety God created within the diverse cultures—ALL will be GOD'S PEOPLE, eventually *assimilated* into one *spiritual* nation. ■

Incorrect immigration practices are deepening the racial and cultural divisions within America today.

For more on this subject, request our free book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like.*



THE BOOK PART SIX

Archeology Proves Bible History Accurate

Is the Bible religious myth or accurate history? Some highly educated people say the Bible's history cannot be trusted. What do you think? Here is an important article to help you clarify your thoughts. BY DENNIS LEAP

The Bible is the only ancient, well-organized and authentic framework in which to fit *all* the facts of history. The Bible does not record all history. In fact, there are huge gaps in the history contained in the Bible. Yet, without the Bible and what it reveals from prehistory, ancient history and prophecy—which is history written in *advance*—you cannot truly understand *any* history. No worldly source can help us as the Bible does!

But what do modern men say about the Bible? Most agree it is a book for the religious, but think its history cannot be trusted.

For centuries, until the so-called Age of Enlightenment—also known as the Age of Reason—the Western world accepted without question the historical accuracy of the account of the Garden of Eden, the Flood, the Tower of Babel, the history of the patriarchs and the Exodus from Egypt. However, in the 17th and 18th centuries, European intellectuals began to claim that only through human reason could true knowledge be obtained. Rather than the Bible, scientific reasoning became the source of authority—the ultimate judge of all truth. The Bible came under direct attack.

Then in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the theory of evolution—the fable of a creation without a Creator—and higher Bible criticism spawned by anti-Semite German rationalists, came on the scene and succeeded in completely removing God and the Bible from the picture. German Bible critics argued that the Bible was *unhistorical* and had no reliable basis in fact. They stated that the Bible was merely *Jewish* fable and folklore fabricated in the 5th and 6th centuries B.C.—in other words, that most of the Old Testament books were not contemporary records, but rather had been written centuries after the events took place. Many scholars came to deny the existence of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David and Solomon.

So today, most theologians and ministers look askance at the Bible and its history. The real tragedy is that these men refuse to study into and teach the vital lessons taught by these histories.

Foolish Scoffers

The great men of the Bible prophesied accurately that highly educated men and women who scoff at God and His revealed Word would dominate our world. Although men have sneered at God in every generation beginning with Adam, ours was to be the worst. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools …. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient" (Romans 1:21-22, 28). Although Paul is speaking specifically about the earliest men, we have not changed for the better; we have grown worse.

Since the 17th and 18th centuries, men have produced an amazing fund of knowledge in the industrial and scientific areas. Yet pursuing knowledge about God has been left out. Our generation knows less about God and what God is doing than any prior generation. Modern leaders in education, science and industry have created a *science-centric* world. They have pushed religion into the outer fringes of our civilization. Ours is not a religious age—though some may think it to be so. Paul saw into our day and said that end-time religion has "a form of godliness," but that men deny its power (2 Timothy 3:5). Most of the world's educated believe that mankind has outgrown the need for God. God has been made to seem powerless. This fact should alarm us. It is time we turn back to the all-powerful God.

Many believe that science will save us from our problems. Why can't we recognize that science is about to destroy us? Soon the need for God will come crashing back upon us. Then all men will have to admit that only God can save us.

The Apostle Peter wrote, "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts …. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished" (2 Peter 3:3, 5-6). Peter states clearly that one of the hallmarks of our day is a *willing* ignorance of God. The truth is, men *could* know much more about God but choose not to. What does this mean? Peter warns that willing ignorance of God, along with a great expansion in all other fields of knowledge, is the cause of the soon-coming, final global disaster (verse 7). Mankind, assuming self-rule without God, will bring itself to the brink of annihilation. Thankfully, God promises to intervene and stop our self-destruction.

Here are some perfect examples of what Paul and Peter are talking about. Bertrand Russell, the late British philosopher and avowed agnostic, wrote this in his *History of Western Philosophy:* "The early history of the Israelites cannot be confirmed from any source outside of

the Old Testament, and it is impossible to know at what point it ceases to be purely legendary." Mr. Russell dismisses the Bible as *unreliable legend* in just a few sentences. Even though first printed in 1945, his book is still widely read by university students and is considered one of the best books of its kind. Young, bright minds have been and still are being prejudiced against the Bible, the foundation of true knowledge. Historian R.G. Collingwood, in his book *The Idea of History* (printed posthumously in 1946), tagged the Bible as "theocratic history and myth."

Most scholars lower the Bible to the level of Homer—mythology in poetic form. Unfortunately, many Bible scholars, ministers and theologians agree. Yet, there are mountains of evidence to prove otherwise.

The Bible is a book of accurate history. Contrary to what Mr. Russell had to say, there is evidence *outside* the Bible that proves the reality of its history. However, we hear very little about this evidence.

Detail of the Behistun rock, a carving containing inscriptions in three ancient languages.

New Science: Archaeology

Most scholars have been ignoring pertinent facts. The willing (and sometimes willful) ignoring of the truth has been happening for decades. Even while Russell and Collingwood were writing their books, other scholars were unearthing spectacular discoveries that cast a bright light on the truth of the biblical record. Even prior to the mid-20th century, the new science of archaeology—the digging-up and study of the remains of man's bygone years—caused an earthquake within the anti-God scholarship of the critics. The facts are amazing.

As a science, archaeology has expanded to include the study of all cultures. However, at its earliest stage of development, the infant science was concerned most with ancient civilizations. For centuries, robbers, religious pilgrims, even Napoleon had unearthed and carried away multiple thousands of ancient artifacts from sites throughout the Near East and Egypt. It was during Napoleon's military expedition in Egypt in 1799 that the vitally important Rosetta stone was dug up.

Yet, it was not until the end of the 19th century that a systematic study and evaluation of the Near East began. This geographic region is known as the Fertile Crescent. Egyptologist James Henry Breasted first used the term "Fertile Crescent" to describe the lush, well-watered, crescent-shaped geographic region starting at the Persian Gulf moving up the Tigris-Euphrates valley, then westward over Syria and southward along the Mediterranean Sea through Palestine. The productive Nile valley is often included within the boundaries of the crescent. It is in this geographic region that the lands and peoples of the Old Testament history are located. For nearly two centuries, the Fertile Crescent has been the focus of intense archaeological scrutiny. Even Herbert W. Armstrong supported critically important digs in Jerusalem by sending Ambassador College students there as workers.

There should be strong public interest in the archaeological findings of this region. Although at one time archaeological findings did spark sharp interest by both secular and religious scholars, much is now forgotten or goes unnoticed.

Archaeology has confirmed *without question* the historical accuracy of the Bible.

Gainsaying Not Stopped

The scholars' main attack on Bible history in the early 20th century was that no secular records existed to provide evidence of the Flood, the Exodus, or the lives of David and Solomon. Many claimed that Moses could never have written the first five books of the Bible, since writing had not been invented at that time. But when the curious, energetic men and women dug up the past, these commonly held ideas were proved to be without foundation.

Modern archaeology has challenged the world of education to admit that the Bible is factual. Solid, documented evidence outside the Bible record confirms events and persons that were at one time considered to be suspect or plain false.

Still, some people work tirelessly to discredit the Bible as a God-inspired record of critically important history. Some have stubbornly overlooked overwhelming evidence. Others have purposely misinterpreted the facts to hold on to pet theories. Are we surprised? Not really. Why?

The Bible has the answer. No man of himself can accept or submit to the authoritative Word of God. Paul wrote: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7). Men have been successful in getting rid of God and His great authority (though in reality, God is very much present). They don't want Him back! To admit that the Bible is accurate historically would mean accepting that God does exist—and that His Word holds authority over the lives of all men. The brightest minds know that if the Bible is exact in its history, then its commands are in full force. You cannot separate Bible history from Bible law! The entire Bible is true, or it is false. It cannot be both.

Let's be plain: You can rely on the historical accuracy of the Bible.

Behistun Rock Deciphered

Let's look at several of the more important archaeological finds that confirm Bible history. Not all of these artifacts have been as publicized as some of the more spectacular ones like the Rosetta stone or the tomb of King Tut of ancient Egypt, yet they are momentous in regards to the evaluation of the Bible chronicle.

The deciphering of the Behistun inscription in the 19th century was one of the most remarkable archaeological advancements and the most vital to understanding ancient writings uncovered in the Fertile Crescent. The discovery opened the door for archeology to further confirm the Bible's historical accuracy.

The inscription, like a billboard about the size of half a football field, is situated on a cliff about 300 feet above the base of a mountain in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran. The site lies along the road that connected the ancient capitals of kingdoms of Babylonia and Media: Babylon and Ecbatana. The inscription dates back to 516 B.C. and is an account of Darius I's assumption of the Persian throne (521-486 B.C.). This account was written in cuneiform in three languages (Babylonian, Elamite and Old Persian). In 1835, Sir Henry C. Rawlinson copied and began to decipher the text, finishing the Persian translation in 1846. He and other scholars were soon able to translate the Babylonian and Elamite portions.

Many ancient cultures in the Middle East used cuneiform, but these works were a mystery until the trilingual Behistun inscription was deciphered—the discovery made possible the translation of other cuneiform writings.

The Behistun breakthrough led to others, including the translation of 22,000 tablets at the ruins of Nineveh, Shalmaneser's Black Obelisk, Shennacherib's Prism, and the epic poems of Gilgamesh and Enuma Elish. (These poems contain accounts of the Flood, creation and the tower of Babel that closely parallel the Bible.)

The Fabled Hittites

Bible critics had long sneered at references in the Bible to a people called the Hittites (Genesis 15:20; Exodus 3:8, 17; Numbers 13:29; Joshua 1:4; Judges 1:26 and elsewhere). Their opinion was that the Hittites were simply one of the many mythical peoples made up by Bible writers. Some critics said they may have been a small and unimportant tribe. But the critics were off the beam!

Toward the end of the 19th century, Hittite monuments were uncovered at Carchemish on the Euphrates River in Syria, proving the Bible right. Later, in 1906, excavations at Boghazkoy (ancient Hattusas, capital of the Hittite Empire) in Turkey uncovered thousands of Hittite documents, revealing a wealth of information about Hittite history and culture. The centuries-old Hittite rubbish showed they were a real and formidable power. They were once one of the dominant peoples of Asia Minor and the Near East. They exercised considerable control south into Syria and Palestine.

Still-flowing water courses through what archeologists claim remains of the Siloam Pool in East Jerusalem.

The Bible was right all along! Today, no one questions the existence of the Hittites. Volumes of books exist on the history, art, culture and society of the Hittites. Yet an anti-Bible prejudice still exists. Scholarly people usually believe that if it's in the Bible, it's wrong. But the Bible is right and has always been right.

In 1974, Italian archaeologists found approximately 17,000 cuneiform tablets and fragments at the site of ancient Ebla in northern Syria. The inscriptions on these artifacts date them prior to the 24th century B.C. Noachian Flood. Similar finds were uncovered in Egypt and Mesopotamia. The tablets show that writing was common centuries before Moses. The critics can no longer claim that Moses and his contemporaries were illiterate or that the Pentateuch was written by Ezra in the 5th century B.C.

No Jewish Captivity?

One of the most ridiculous claims of the critics has been that the Babylonian captivity did not take place. This is on a par with those who believe the Holocaust of World War II did not happen. The Bible gives specific details about the captivity of Judah by the armies of Babylon early in the 6th century B.C. (II Kings 24-25). Scholars have said it's all just another Jewish myth. However, between 1935 and 1938, important discoveries were made 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem at a site thought to be ancient Lachish. Lachish was one of the cities recorded in the Bible as being besieged by the king of Babylon at the same time as the siege of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 34:7).

Twenty-one pottery fragments inscribed in the ancient Hebrew script were unearthed in the latest pre-exilic levels of the site. Called the *Lachish Ostraca,* they were written during the very time of the Babylonian siege. Some of them are exchanges between the city's military commander and an outlying observation post, vividly picturing the final days of Judah's desperate struggle against Babylon! Since the 1930s, there has been more unearthing of Babylonian historical texts describing the conquest of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. The historical fact of the Babylonian captivity is firmly established.

We could discuss literally hundreds of archaeological finds that corroborate Bible history. Noah's Flood, the Exodus, David, Solomon and the kings of Israel and Jerusalem as described in the Bible are proven to be historical by non-biblical sources. If you desire to know more, go to your local library and do some self-study. You may be surprised to find how much information is actually available to you. Unfortunately, you will not find this information on your nightly news. Two books we can recommend are *The Bible as History* by

Werner Keller and *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* by K.A. Kitchen.

There are numerous biblically related artifacts in the British Museum located in London. They are breathtaking to see. Even though you may never be able to go to London, it is possible to log on to the museum website (*www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk*) and see pictures of the artifacts. Here is a short list of some of the more important treasures of antiquity:

- The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III (858-824 B.C.) shows Jehu, king of Israel, bowing before the Assyrian king. This is the only known picture of an Israelite king.
- Tablets from the time of Tiglath-Pileser (744-727 B.C.) state that he received tribute from Jehoahaz of Judah. This is the full name of Ahaz (2 Kings 16:7).
- A wonderfully detailed limestone relief from Sennacherib's palace at Nineveh shows the siege of Lachish.
- One of the most important is the cylinder of Nabonidus (555-539 B.C.). He was the last ruler of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. This stele proves that his son Belshazzar was co-regent with him (Daniel 5; 7:1; 8:1). Scholars previously scoffed at Belshazzar's existence.

In his book *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction,* Gleason Archer Jr. quotes author John Elder as saying, "It is not too much to say that it was the rise of the science of archaeology that broke the deadlock between the historians and the … Christian. Little by little, one city after another, one civilization after another, one culture after another whose memories were enshrined only in the Bible, were restored to their proper places in ancient history by the studies of archaeologists …. Contemporary records of biblical events have been unearthed and the uniqueness of the biblical revelation has been emphasized by contrast and comparison to newly discovered religions of ancient peoples. *Nowhere has archaeological discovery refuted the Bible as history*" (emphasis mine). That last statement is the most important. Archaeology has proven that the Bible is accurate history!

A Recent Find

The contribution of archaeology to the Bible record is far from over. In August this year, an incredible find was unearthed in the Old City of Jerusalem. The event did not make national news. It should have!

Workers repairing a sewage-pipe break uncovered the Pool of Siloam in Old Jerusalem. This pool was a major gathering site for the Jews. The Pool of Siloam is central to the account of the miracle of Christ healing a man blind from birth (John 9:1-7). Christ put clay on the man's eyes and then told him to wash at the Pool of Siloam. Obeying Christ by washing in the pool completed the miracle (verse 11). This created an incredible stir among the Jewish elite of Christ's day (verses 14-41). Why? Jesus Christ had made the clay with His own spit on the Sabbath day. The Jews considered this act a breaking of the Sabbath command. Jealous and insecure, the Pharisees declared that Christ was not of God for healing the blind man on the Sabbath (verse 16). A study of the whole chapter makes plain that the entire incident was used by God to show the Pharisees how blind they were to God and what God was doing on this Earth. Of course, they failed to learn that lesson.

Why is all this important today? Here is what the *Los Angeles Times* reported about this incredible archaeological find: "'Scholars have said that there wasn't a Pool of Siloam and that John was using a religious conceit' to illustrate a point, said New Testament scholar James H. Charlesworth of the Princeton Theological Seminary. 'Now, we have found the Pool of Siloam … exactly where John said it was.' A Gospel that was thought to be 'pure theology is now shown to be grounded in history,' he said" (August 9). Do we get it? The scholars are wrong—again. The Bible is accurate—always!

Unfortunately, this archaeological event received very little attention. What if it had? Think about what this find tells us. It not only establishes the historical accuracy of John's Gospel, it reinforces the historicity of Jesus Christ. The find also establishes that it is God's desire to heal mankind of seemingly impossible health crises. God is very real and very powerful. Our modern scholars have their part in making many men, women and children as spiritually blind as the Pharisees of Christ's day.

It's time for all people to seriously question Bible critics. It is time for all Bible critics to stop pointing their finger at God—to quit casting doubt on the Bible record and start learning the true knowledge that will solve all humanity's problems. ■

▸ **POOR** from page 23

God's Welfare Program

What is God's view on welfare? Believe it or not, He commands it.

God gave the Israelites a specific command regarding welfare: "And the Levite … and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest" (Deuteronomy 14:29). God does expect us to take care of widows and orphans; He has special provisions in the Bible to take care of those who cannot care for themselves. James 1:27 tells us that visiting the fatherless and the widows in their affliction is pure religion.

It may surprise some to learn, though, that there is no similar provision for the *poor.* Rather, God says if an impoverished man needs help, we should LEND him what he needs—without interest: "If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren … thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth" (Deuteronomy 15:7-8). God's way helps the man get back on his feet as a productive member of society. That's the kind of welfare that benefits everyone involved.

God's method of welfare is an expression of outflowing concern for our fellow man. It provides for those who cannot provide for themselves—widows and orphans—and provides a means of helping people in times of emergency.

If a society were living by God's laws, that is how the welfare system would work—and society would prosper.

God wants us to be prosperous. He inspired the Apostle John to write: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 2).

In order to receive those financial blessings, though, God expects everyone to work if they are able: "If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). When we do work diligently and obey God's financial laws, He rewards us accordingly—as anyone who follows God's laws can attest.

The time when everyone will live the right way—the way that brings every kind of blessing—is not very far off! ■

If you want to learn more about how to prosper materially and spiritually, you may find our free booklet on *The Seven Laws of Success* of interest.

FAMILY

Record Number of Single Moms


EYEWIRE

On September 8, the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics released its 2003 birth data report, which for many has been cause for great celebration. But, while the director of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy hailed the 33 percent decline in teen births over the past 12 years as "a huge American success story" (if you could call 35 percent of girls in the U.S. getting pregnant at least once before age 20 a success), the 4 percent overall *increase* in births to unwed women *in just one year* provides a little more realistic perspective.

Births to unmarried women in the United States increased to a record 1.4 million in 2003—a staggering 34.6 percent of all births—also a new record.

An analyst at the Family Research Council pointed to the obvious reason for the higher unwed birthrates being that unmarried women are relying too much on contraceptives rather than abstinence. But the fact that teen birthrates (not to be confused with teen sexual activity), by contrast, have *declined*—itself a reflection of the increasingly widespread availability of contraception—indicates that it is more than a matter of ineffective use of contraceptives.

The fact is, more and more women are simply *choosing* to reproduce out of wedlock. No longer is the stigma attached to illegitimacy. Gone are the days when the preferred family model was a husband and wife with children. A *Time*/CNN poll taken some years ago found that fully 61 percent of single women ages 18 to 49 said they would consider rearing a child on their own. More and more women are *choosing* either to be single parents or to just not get married, rather opting for the more flexible "family" arrangement of just living together.

As people do what seems right to them, the wellbeing of future generations is ignored. The lifestyle choices of today have resulted in over 3 million children in the U.S. living with an unmarried parent and the parent's cohabiting partner. About 20 million children live in single-parent households. And with 1,415,995 American children born to unwed mothers in 2003, and 1,365,966 the year before that, these overall numbers are certain to mushroom.

Numerous studies over the years clearly show that what God says in His Word is true: To have the best chance of success in life, a child needs a stable home life, with two married, committed parents. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee" (Exodus 20:12). Ideally, a child needs a mother *and a father* who are honorable in order to fulfill this commandment and reap the benefits. Anything less than that, while the situation can be made to work if necessary, is simply less than the ideal.

The results of children being raised by single parents or unmarried partners abound: Children who live absent their biological fathers are, on average, at least two to three times more likely to be poor, to use drugs, to experience educational, health, emotional and behavioral problems, to be victims of child abuse and to engage in criminal behavior than are their peers who live with their married parents (*www.fatherhood.org*). Not to mention that children who grow up without the example provided by a stable, two-parent home have a much greater chance of perpetuating the debilitating cycle themselves.

Despite the evident failure of modern "family" models, it seems the majority still believe that marriage isn't necessary for raising children. Since 1960, the marriage rate has plunged 43 percent. Less than a quarter of U.S. households are made up of married couples with children.

As students of history are well aware, as goes the family, so goes the nation. As family becomes a broken institution in Western society, we cannot expect our nations to be strong.

For more on just how important the marriage institution is—and its overlooked *spiritual* purpose—request Herbert W. Armstrong's *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?*

ECONOMY

The Lobbying Industry Boom

Few industries have experienced as much growth as lobbying these last few years. The number of registered lobbyists in the U.S. has doubled to more than 34,750 since 2000.

Along with that has come an increase in the amount of money being channelled into lobbying by corporations, labor unions and interest groups. The overall spending on federal lobbying—evidently an extremely lucrative business—has risen 30 percent to $2.1 billion since 2000, but that only gives a small picture of how much money is actually spent.

Lobbying regulations are not tightly enforced. According to a study published by the Center for Public Integrity in April, at least 14,000 disclosure documents required by law had not been filed since 1998. And what is really misleading is that indirect lobbying is left out of official calculations.

Countless dollars are spent by companies to try to profit from tax breaks, loosened regulations, and any other government handouts. Some companies eagerly watch for any opportunities to squeeze more dollars from the government, hiring lobbyists and lawyers to merely keep up with any changes in regulations and in Washington.

But let's not forget the other side of the coin. Lawmakers

FINANCE

Squanderville

ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

America is a nation living beyond its means. Investment guru Warren Buffet, one of the world's richest men, has taken to calling America "Squanderville" for the way Americans have transformed wealth into liability.

Household debt now exceeds disposable income by a record amount. From the early 1980s to the early 1990s, the personal savings rate plummeted from 10.4 percent to 6.5 percent. It fell further, to 2.2 percent, by 2000 and remained there until last year, when it dropped to 1.8 percent. As of July 2005, it is *negative.* According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the July personal savings rate nose-dived to minus 0.64 percent.

Surprisingly, this negative rate occurred against a backdrop of record-high seasonally adjusted earnings of $10.3 trillion. Out of that amount, $1.2 trillion was paid in personal taxes, leaving $9 trillion in disposable income. But of that, Americans spent $9.14 trillion—$58.8 billion more than they earned (*Washington Times,* September 4). In other words, for every $100 earned, Americans spent $100.65.

Only one other time since the Great Depression have Americans had such a dismal savings rate. That was during the month following the September 11 terrorist attacks, when the savings rate fell to minus 0.2 percent. It was then attributed to consumers holding back from spending during the uncertainty immediately following the attacks and consequently increasing spending in October.

How is a negative savings rate possible? Debt. Consumers finance expenditures by borrowing on credit cards or home equity, selling investments (stocks, bonds and other assets), or by using savings from previous months.

According to the *Daily Reckoning,* Americans' negative savings rate has been supported by extra debt. Since 1990, median household income has risen only 11 percent after adjusting for inflation, but household spending has jumped almost *three times* that—by 30 percent. Between 1992 and 2004, household debt doubled to more than $10 trillion. Instead of producing more to offset the increased spending, Americans are borrowing more.

What does this mean for America?

As a nation, we have been over-consuming. As a result, we have not planned for retirement, especially this last generation. The majority of Americans have less than $25,000 accumulated for retirement, while many experts recommend figures around $500,000.

People have also been skimping on emergency savings. A Gallup poll recently found that only 41 percent of people have an emergency fund; 31 percent of those said that it would not last as long as three months.

Americans' indebtedness does not bode well for future economic growth, since savings fuels investment and a nation's subsequent growth. Borrowing to finance investment can work, as long as the profits from that investment pay the interest on the borrowed money. Unfortunately, investment has not been the purpose of recent debt in America. Americans are going deeper into debt for more toys.

All this debt is leaving the nation's economy overexposed to disasters. Peter Schiff, an economist at Euro Pacific Capital, asks whether Hurricane Katrina will be the pin that pops America's "savings-starved economy" (*www.europac.net,* September 1). Since the United States lacks the domestic savings required to rebuild New Orleans, it once again has to rely on the kindness of foreigners buying our debt to fund the reconstruction.

It appears that indebted American consumers won't regret all that debt until foreigners stop being so eager to finance their bad spending habits. When that happens, rising interest rates will help pop the housing bubble; refinancing will stop; construction will grind to a halt; unemployment will rise; bankruptcies will escalate.

How long could you afford to be out of a job and still make your mortgage and credit card payments? As Paul Kasriel, senior vice president and director of economic research at the Northern Trust in Chicago, said, "America is going to become reacquainted with a lost value, something called thrift or saving" (*Beloit Daily News,* Nov. 12, 2004).

AP/WIDEWORLD

LOBBY LOBBY Lawmakers mingle with lobbyists during a recess at the State House in Augusta, Maine.

are accepting billions of dollars, allowing money to influence their decisions. It is doubtful that lawmakers will institute stricter regulations or enforcement of regulations when they are some of the biggest benefactors. The growing industry means more lavish meals and private trips paid for, and more campaign dollars and fund-raisers.

Adding to the greed cycle are former members of Congress routinely becoming lobbyists themselves.

This growing industry does not bode well for the nation of America and its taxpayers. It means government spending will continue to mushroom out of control as lawmakers spend more and more money, putting a higher priority on the interests of lobbyists than the people they should be representing.

To contribute possible items for this column, send them to **SOCIETYWATCH, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083,** or e-mail ***societywatch@theTrumpet.com.*** If you e-mail a story from a website, be sure to include the URL address.

Hurricane Katrina

[O]ne would have been pardoned for believing that the unbelievable television images of human misery wrought by Hurricane Katrina were of an African nation, like Zimbabwe, with a white minority or a Caribbean island nation. There is always the uncomfortable feeling in many minds that perhaps the response to the hurricane would have been far swifter had it struck such white-dominated states as New Hampshire or North Carolina. However, the sight of pre-industrial images coming out of New Orleans will do one thing: They will help Americans and others in the Western world understand and feel intimately what for us in Africa is life as usual—lived for so long that it comes as news to us that this could be a disaster. That is how much most of the world suffers, every week, for generations.

Timothy Kalyegira—Uganda

The Big Men

Thank you so much for your article "The Big Men" (September-October). It is obvious that the bane of Africa's problem is leadership. Africa is a continent blessed with enormous natural and human resources, and it's capable of attaining great heights only with a disciplined, responsible and honest leadership. So instead of the G-8, UN, and other international agencies, etc. giving aid or organizing aid concerts for Africa, it would be more reasonable for them to enact a law banning these "big men" and their families from saving or investing these stolen funds in their countries—because most of the Western countries, like the UK, U.S. and Switzerland, have provided a safe haven for these stolen and looted resources from Africa.

Dozie Doodoo—Lagos, Nigeria

Salvation for All Religions?

This is regarding the article "Can People of All Religions be Saved?" (September-October). First I would like to thank you for writing such an article because I was always asking myself the same question, and this article helped me straighten my thoughts. For a couple of years, I have studied religions, and my main focus is Islam. I am trying to understand why so many people turn to become Muslims and forget what God has said. I wanted to find out the truth that blinded so many people. I talked to many Muslims and new converts and the sad truth is that they are blinded. … Today I am sad because so many people turn to be Muslims at an alarming rate, and because I know Islam and understand it, it frightens me …. I am waiting for the day of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, so He can show the whole world the truth ….

Florina—E-mail response

Eyes Have Been Opened

I want to say that I am deeply impressed with the quality of work being done at the *Trumpet*. It is so refreshing to know that you are one of the few (Christian) media organizations giving unbiased, honest and three-dimensional reporting on world events. When I watch TV here in the U.S. sometimes, I am appalled at the fact that the media and this generation have become like the proverbial ostrich with its head in the sand. The media take one activity and stick with it like that's what makes the world go round. A lot is happening around us, and most people are so buried in their personal worlds and plugged in to their iPods and Discmen sets and reality TV that we cannot see. But then, once again, thanks a million for opening our eyes, and keep the good work going. …

Toyin Adebola—Bronx, N.Y.

I am writing to commend your magazine for the glorious work you have been providing since the days of the *Plain Truth*. I am a regular and a committed reader of your monthly work. … American media have demolished the average mind and reduced the majority of the population to unparalleled levels of sub-intelligence with dumbed-down chat shows and reality TV programs. The press that is the primary tool of the liberal and evil minds ensured a complete destruction of intellect and ability to foster independent thinking. … Thanks to your work, I have been able to find solace in … this evil-driven world. Only your magazine has the courage to tackle the disastrous issues that no one wants to know and understand. … Perhaps most crucial of all is the collapse of the family and related values under our very own noses, which will cause the collapse of the Western world in no time. Sadly, people will not heed the warning; neither will your work penetrate the ubiquitous blind hearts and minds as the forces of trivia and deception consume the rest of the population. A minority is there following, believing and urging you to continue your message.

Simon Adams—Australia

I have been getting the *Trumpet* for a while now. When I read my first magazine I was hooked. I knew there was a reason for all the events that are happening in the world. I didn't know how to analyze it until I read your magazine. I'm not a religious person, but I do believe in a higher spirit. A lot of people do keep their head in the ground like they don't see what is happening. But I do know it's going to get worse before it gets better. Thanks for keeping me informed, and keep up the good work. You can't reach all, but the ones you do appreciate it.

Willie Wrice—Illinois

Thanks for the informative articles in your August 2005 issue, especially the one on Europe's clay nations ("Clay Nations Trouble Europe"). I like the *Trumpet*'s realistic approach to prophecy. You do not teach unscriptural doctrines such as the rapture or tell the masses the coming antichrist is a clone.

George Taylor—Cassatt, S.C.

Man With a Mission

I have just recently begun to read your magazine …. I found it quite educational and foresighted, which helps me to accept God in an enlightened and informed manner. Your article on [Iranian President Mahmoud] Ahmadinejad (August) is quite lucid and touching. However, I feel it was slightly tilted to suit the feelings and expectations of some hidden authority. Come to think of it, every nation gets the kind of leadership it deserves. Iran has a right to have its country ruled by whosoever it desires. Just because it does not conform to the yearnings of the U.S. and the Western powers does not make its choice of leadership and processes less acceptable. …

Shafi Ahme—E-mail response

Comments?

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O How Love I Thy Law

In a country with no respect for law, illegal immigrants fit right in. BY MARK JENKINS

Imagine what a fantastic country America would be if everyone acted with a profound respect for law. Illegal drug use would be nonexistent. You wouldn't need a lock on your door. Those commercials about protecting yourself from identity theft would make no sense at all.

What kind of respect do you have for law? The *Trumpet* often discusses problems in society that could be cured with one simple change in mentality: respect for law. The Bible always speaks with profound respect for law—whether God's law or man's law. A true Christian doesn't dodge his taxes; rather, he or she will "render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's" (Matthew 22:21).

Today, products are available with no purpose other than to circumvent law: radar detectors, programs to remove copy protection from DVDs, pirated copies of software, and so on.

One message the mass media clearly, consistently sends is a *disrespect for law and authority.* Movies, video games and other media often show the criminal as the hero, measuring success by how much money he can steal and how much government property he can destroy doing it. Even the more law-abiding heros still tend to disdain other authority figures.

And when one of those movies is released, pirated copies show up all over the world and all over the Internet within hours—if not before the movie is even in theaters.

In all too many cases, U.S. law can be broken with no fear of repercussion. When the Supreme Court ruled against medical marijuana in June, for example, law enforcement officials said they wouldn't bother enforcing the ruling, and marijuana suppliers said the ruling would have no effect on their business.

Even the most shallow observation shows that our society does not respect our government as a whole, our leaders as individuals, our laws or our international reputation.

Then we wonder why illegal immigration is so out of control. How can anyone expect an illegal immigrant to respect the law in a country that itself continually disdains the law?

The breaking of law is at the core of the illegal immigration issue. There is often debate about whether crime rates go up because of illegal immigrants. This overlooks the fact that illegal aliens have already broken immigration law. Do we really want people to enter our nation who exhibit, simply by their presence, disrespect for our laws?

Rather than discuss how severe the penalties should be for illegals, politicians discuss which benefits they should be provided. In-state college tuition has been at the center of such debate; so have medical benefits.

Instead, there are generally two appropriate benefits they should be discussing: (1) a monetary penalty and (2) a trip home.

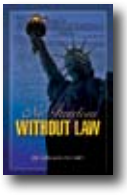
Legal immigration, of course, is a different matter. When people enter a country within the bounds of the law, they belong in our national home and should be treated with all of the hospitality we have to offer. But when people enter the country illegally, they are trespassing.

The truth is, the reason illegal immigration hasn't been curbed is that the government doesn't respect its own laws enough to enforce them.

Historically, when disdain for government and law becomes widespread, societies fall. When that happens in the U.S., the result of disrespecting law will be apparent to everyone.

With Bible prophecy as our guide, we can look ahead to the return of Jesus Christ and think about how wonderful society will be when it is under His perfect leadership. And *what* will make a Christ-led Earth into a utopia? The number-one thing that will revolutionize this Earth is the enforcement of God's PERFECT LAW. Christ's return would not effect positive change on Earth if He didn't bring this law with Him—*and enforce it!*

When Christ does return, every man, woman and child on Earth will find out why King David was inspired to write: "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day" (Psalms 119:97). What a fantastic time that will be! ■



For more explanation on this subject, request our free booklet *No Freedom Without Law*

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