

# MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE®

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## RENEWAL 3 – CULTURE

### INTRODUCTION

OUR COUNTRY AND ITS GOVERNMENT ARE NOW THREATENED BY A HALF DOZEN MAJOR ISSUES ALL OF WHICH INDIVIDUALLY HAVE THE POWER TO SERIOUSLY DIMINISH THE QUALITY OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT FOR OUR SOCIETY, AND IN COMBINATION TO REDUCE IT TO A LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY WE REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE AND, THEREFORE, MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ENDURE. CULTURE IS ONE OF THESE ISSUES.

THEY HAVE MUCH IN COMMON AND OFTEN OVERLAP IN THEIR ORIGINS AND CONSEQUENCES, AND YET WE CONTINUE TO IGNORE THE FACT THAT IN VARYING DEGREES THEY ARE THE RESULT OF OUR OWN ACTION OR NEGLECT. WITHOUT OUR INVOLVEMENT, EFFORTS AND CHOICE OF DIRECTION THEY WOULD NOT NOW BE A CAUSE FOR CONCERN. “OUR” IN THESE MATTERS CAN RELATE TO SOCIETAL OR NATIONAL SCOPE, AND SOMETIMES A COMBINATION OF BOTH.

CRITICAL AREAS THAT WE WILL EXAMINE IN FUTURE ISSUES WILL BE OUR NATIONAL DEBT, IMMIGRATION, POPULATION, OUR ENVIRONMENT, RELIGION AND ECONOMIC POLICY. KEY TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THEM IS HOW THEY HAVE DEVELOPED, HOW THEY INTERRELATE IN MANY WAYS AND WHY THEY HAVE DEFIED ANY SENSIBLE SOLUTION. BUT EVEN WITH THIS INFORMATION IN HAND, A CRUCIAL QUESTION OF OUR TIME AND POLITICS MUST BE ASKED, DEBATED AND RESOLVED — IN A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC SUCH AS OURS HOW CAN SUCH VAST, SOCIETAL QUESTIONS BE PUT TO THE PUBLIC? AND, OF COURSE, MORE IMPORTANTLY, AND IN REVERSE FORM — HOW CAN THE AMERICAN VOTER BEST EXPRESS HIS/HER OPINION ON THESE

VITAL TOPICS IN THE FACE OF OUR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT’S FAILURE TO ENGAGE THEM. DOES THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN HAVE THE RIGHT, OR THE MEANS, TO DETERMINE CULTURAL, SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, ETC. PARAMETERS IN OUR OR OTHER NATIONS?

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IN 1911 BARON HARDINGE, VICEROY OF INDIA, CONVENED A DURBAR IN DELHI THAT WAS PERSONALLY ATTENDED BY KING GEORGE V AND QUEEN MARY OF ENGLAND. IT WAS A MOMENTOUS EVENT FOR BOTH COUNTRIES.

THE DURBAR WAS THE OCCASION OF ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL RULERS WHOSE WEALTH, STATUS, COSTUME, TROOPS AND CUSTOM WERE ON FULL DISPLAY. KING GEORGE AND QUEEN MARY SAT FOR HOURS BENEATH A CANOPY TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW EACH LEADER AND HIS SPECIAL TROOPS. IN ONE OF THE WEEK’S DEFINING MOMENTS, FORMATIONS OF 50,000 BRITISH AND INDIAN SOLDIERS FOUR MILES LONG PAID HOMAGE TO THEIR MAJESTIES. THE DURBAR WAS A “BIG DO”. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, IT WAS INTENDED TO EMPHASIZE BRITAIN’S REACH AND AUTHORITY AND THEIR IMPORTANCE TO INDIA.

AND TO FURTHER SYMBOLIZE THIS RELATIONSHIP, KING GEORGE ANNOUNCED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PALACE TO HOUSE THE HEAD OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THE COMMISSION

**IN THIS ISSUE** WE DISCUSS OUR CULTURE, INCLUDING RACE AND ISLAM, AS A FORCE IN OUR AMERICAN RENEWAL.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE** WILL RETURN TO OUR INCREASINGLY BITTER IMMIGRATION PROBLEM. WE WILL REVEAL STARTLING EVIDENCE OF OUR GOVERNMENT’S ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING MISUSE OF TAXPAYER FUNDS, THAT IS NEITHER ACKNOWLEDGED NOR PUBLICIZED. THIS WILL BE A “MUST” READ.

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FOR WHICH WAS ASSIGNED TO EDWIN L. LUTYENS, ENGLAND'S MOST OUTSTANDING ARCHITECT, WHO WOULD EMPLOY HIS BRILLIANCE AND CREATIVE MASTERY OF ARCHITECTURAL LANGUAGE TO REFLECT THE STATUS AND POWERS WITH WHICH ENGLAND WOULD MAINTAIN ITS EMPIRE IN INDIA.

THE VICEROY'S PALACE WITH ITS SURROUNDING GARDENS, OFFICE, STAFF QUARTERS, MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE AREAS WAS HOME TO ABOUT TWO THOUSAND EMPLOYEES. ITS CONSTRUCTION TOOK FAR LONGER THAN PLANNED BECAUSE OF THE PRIORITIES DEMANDED BY BOTH WORLD WARS AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION. ITS EFFECTIVE LIFETIME WAS APPROXIMATELY 16 YEARS FROM ITS COMPLETION IN 1931 TO 1947 WHEN INDIA CHOSE INDEPENDENCE. A DREAM, A WAY OF LIFE, AN EMPIRE, A CULTURE PRONOUNCED BY KING GEORGE V AMONG UNRIVALLED POMP WAS TERMINATED BY A FRAIL NATIVE INDIAN IN A LOIN CLOTH AND SHAWL.

THE GRANDEST PLAN OF ANY CULTURE CAN BE ALTERED SUDDENLY OR GRADUALLY BY HUMAN INTERVENTION. THE VICEROY'S PALACE, AFTER INDIAN INDEPENDENCE, BECAME ITS PRIME MINISTER'S PALACE. GEORGE V DIED IN 1936. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT HE COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT LESS THAN A DECADE LATER ENGLAND WOULD BE WITHOUT ITS PALACE AND ITS DREAM.

FOR OUR PURPOSE, THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT POINTS TO BE NOTED. THE ENGLISH COLONIAL AGE AND EFFORT IMPOSED ITS CULTURE FIRMLY AND BROADLY UPON INDIA WHICH UNDER GANDHI, IN THE AFTERMATH OF WWII, JUST AS FIRMLY AND BROADLY REJECTED IT. BOTH OF THESE CULTURAL SHIFTS WERE THE RESULT OF HUMAN INTERVENTION.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF CULTURAL CHANGE BROUGHT ON BY HUMAN INTERVENTION IS THE HOLOCAUST. THE JEWISH CULTURE WILL NEVER AGAIN BE THE SAME AS IT WAS BEFORE THE HOLOCAUST BECAUSE THE PAIN, LOSS AND OUTRAGE OF THIS EVENT HAVE BEEN SO FULLY OBSERVED, EXPERIENCED AND RECORDED BY JEWISH SENSITIVITY THAT THEY CANNOT BE DISLODGED.

THE COURSE OF A CULTURE CAN BE SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED, OR EVEN TERMINATED, BY HUMAN INTERVENTION WHICH IS MOSTLY DETERMINED BY POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. THIS REALIZATION IS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND MUCH OF THE WORLD'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONFLICT.

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## WHAT IS CULTURE?

IT IS AN EVER CHANGING COLLECTION OF BELIEFS, IDENTITIES, SPEECH, RELIGION, POLITICS, ARTS, ETHNIC OR RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS, GENETICS AND OTHER HUMAN ATTRIBUTES THAT ARE FOUND IN ANY GROUP OF PEOPLE, AND WHICH THE GROUP DRAWS UPON, WHETHER CONSCIOUSLY OR NOT, TO EXPRESS IDENTITY AND COHESION.

THERE'S ROOM FOR BOTH AGREEMENT AND ARGUMENT IN THIS DEFINITION, AND MOST CULTURES WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT IT AS WORKABLE, RATHER THAN THE REASON FOR A WAR OF SURVIVAL. IN OUR PRESENT CENTURY ON PLANET EARTH, HOWEVER, SUCH ACCEPTANCE WOULD BE UNUSUAL AS CULTURE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED A LEADING ROLE IN THE CONTINUING POLITICAL PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW THAT IN AMERICA DOMINATES OUR GOVERNMENT, MEDIA AND ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

THIS IS A RELATIVELY RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN OUR, AND THE WORLD'S, HISTORY. IT USED TO BE THAT CULTURES COULD COEXIST WITH POLITICS. NOW, THEY ARE OFTEN FORCED TO COMPETE. THE INDIVIDUAL HUMAN BEING THAT USED TO BE THOUGHT OF AS A POLITICAL UNIT IS NOW ALSO A CULTURAL UNIT POSSESSED OF MANY MORE DIMENSIONS WHICH CAN, THEREFORE, BE MORE EASILY MANIPULATED AND INFLAMED.

SUCH EFFORTS DEPEND UPON LARGE NUMBERS AND THEIR SUCCESS HAS BEEN GREATLY ENCOURAGED HERE AND ELSEWHERE BY MASS MEDIA AND THE UN WITH THEIR ABILITY TO MAGNIFY THE VOICES OF SPECIFIC GROUPS.

THIS REPRESENTS A MAJOR TURN-AROUND FOR THE UN WHICH WAS CONCEIVED WITH THE IDEA THAT IT COULD SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE FOR MANY AND NOW FINDS ITS ASSEMBLY HAVING BECOME AN ARENA OF COMBAT WHERE EVERY VOICE MUST BE HEARD.

ACCORDINGLY, CULTURE WARS PLAY OUT CONSTANTLY AROUND THE WORLD, EASILY MOVING FROM ONE CAUSE, ONE CRISIS, TO THE NEXT. IT HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY. RATHER, UNTIL RECENTLY, CULTURE TROOPS WERE HELD IN RESERVE IN THE REAR, FAR FROM THE FRONT LINES, AND ONLY PUT INTO ACTION TO CLEAN UP AFTER THE MILITARY AND THE POLITICIANS HAD MOVED ON. TODAY CULTURE TROOPS ARE NOT ONLY ON THE FRONT LINES, THEY ARE THE FRONT LINES AND ARE ENGAGED IN HAND TO HAND BATTLE AS LETHAL AS THE ALTERNATING FLOW OF WWI GERMAN AND ALLIED FORCES ACROSS "NORMAN'S LAND" TO THE RHYTHM AND REASON OF ASSURED ANNIHILATION.

UP UNTIL NOW, THE GREAT CULTURAL WARS OF THE PAST CENTURY WERE THE RISE AND DEFEAT OF COMMUNISM AND FASCISM IN THE GENERATIONS FROM THE END OF WWI THRU THE COLD WAR.

OUR PRESENT WARS IN THE NEAR EAST, WHILE NOT SO CLEARLY LABELED, ARE VERY MUCH CULTURAL WARS EVIDENCED BY THE ORIGINAL NEOCON PREMISE FOR DEMOCRATIZING THIS TROUBLED AREA, WITH THE PROSPECT OF PICKING UP MILLIONS OF BARRELS OF IRAQI OIL A WELCOME ADD-ON.

IMPERIALISM HAS A WAY OF BLURRING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN POLITICAL AND CULTURAL WARS, BUT, REGARDLESS OF OUR INTERPRETATION, OUR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WARS (I/AW) WERE VIEWED FROM THEIR BEGINNINGS BY MUSLIMS AS AN ASSAULT UPON ISLAMIC CULTURE AND THE RELIGION AT ITS CENTER IN A WAY THAT OUR MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY AND ITS SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE CANNOT COMPREHEND.

ISLAM, THE CULTURE, IS SOMEWHAT OF AN ANOMALY IN OUR 21ST CENTURY AGE, AND IT COUNTS ON ISLAM, THE RELIGION, TO SUPPLY THE MISSING INGREDIENTS. THIS IS NOT A RECENT EXCHANGE, HOWEVER. IT HAS EXISTED FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AND CANNOT BE EASILY DISLODGED OR BROKEN OUT FOR SEPARATE ARGUMENTS. OUR FAILURE TO GRASP THIS IS EXTENSIVE.

IN MOST OF ISLAM WOMEN DRESS IN BLACK WITH ONLY THEIR EYES VISIBLE. THIS IS A CULTURAL NORM WHICH MUSLIMS SEE AS THREATENED BY OUR SEXUALLY CHARGED AND FREER CULTURE. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT MUSLIMS ARE WILLING TO FIGHT AGAINST INVASION BY BIKINI-CLAD, BLONDE, MEDIA-PERVASIVE SHOCK TROOPS AS WELL AS THE LESS FLAMBOYANT WAYS OF COMMERCE AND POLITICS. BOTH CAN DECIMATE ISLAMIC CULTURE.

MUSLIMS ALSO FEAR, AND WITH GOOD REASON IN VIEW OF PRIOR EXPERIENCE, THAT THEIR POLITICS AND TERRITORY ARE ALSO TARGETED FOR CONVERSION TO MORE WESTERN MODELS AND USAGE. IT'S LITTLE WONDER THAT WE ENCOUNTER SUCH STRONG RESISTANCE. OUR MILITARY FOOTPRINT IN THE NEAR EAST CONSISTING OF BASES, TROOPS, SPECIAL FORCES, INTELLIGENCE UNITS AND UNMANNED AIRCRAFT CONTINUES TO GROW, AND IT IS THIS HOSTILE PRESENCE IN THE ISLAMIC HOMELAND THAT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT ITS INCREASINGLY VIOLENT RESPONSE.

IT'S REALLY QUITE SIMPLE. ISLAM DOES NOT WANT TO HAVE ITS TERRITORY, CULTURE, GOVERNMENT OR COMMERCE TAKEN OVER BY OUR WESTERN WAYS AND VALUES.

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF ARGUMENTS, PRO AND CON, WHICH WE CAN THROW INTO THE MIX, SOME OF WHICH HAVE NO CONNECTION TO ISLAM, BUT WHICH SERVE OUR OWN POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC PURPOSES. AND WHILE SURPRISE IS AN EMOTION THAT DOES NOT SUIT US IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, A GOOD GUIDE WHICH WE FAILED TO USE WOULD HAVE BEEN TO ASK "WHAT WOULD WE DO IF WE WERE IN ISLAM'S PLACE?"

THE I/AW ARE CULTURE WARS AND WILL NECESSITATE A LONG, EXPENSIVE AND TURBULENT PERIOD OF RESOLUTION AFTER THE FIGHTING HAS ENDED. HISTORY SHOWS THAT THE PRICE OF EMPIRE IS ALWAYS TOO HIGH. SPIRITUALLY AND ECONOMICALLY THIS IS TRUE FOR AMERICA'S TWO CURRENT I/AWS, AS, LOOKING AHEAD, WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT THE

CONDUCT AND PLACE OF RISING ISLAM IN OUR WORLD HAS THE POWER, THE SCALE AND THE EMOTION TO BECOME A DOMINANT ISSUE OF OUR TIME.

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OUR AMERICAN CULTURE WAS FOUNDED ON AN ENGLISH BASE, AS THE EARLY SETTLERS BROUGHT WITH THEM A HERITAGE OF ENGLISH LAW AND LANGUAGE WHILE REJECTING MONARCHICAL GOVERNMENT. AND THE EARLIEST ARRIVALS, THE PILGRIMS WHO STARTED OUR PROCESS, WERE MEMBERS OF A SMALL, BUT HIGHLY DISCIPLINED, GROUP INTENT UPON SEPARATING THEIR FAITH FROM ROME'S FINANCIAL CORRUPTION AND LITURGICAL EXCESS. THEIRS WAS A WAY OF PURIFICATION WHICH LED THEM TO BE CALLED PURITANS, AND, AS CHURCH LEADERS IN SEVENTEENTH CENTURY AMERICA ALSO SERVED IN PUBLIC OFFICE, CHURCH AND STATE WERE OFTEN JOINED.

THESE ORIGINS ARE SO FAR BEHIND US THAT THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IS MORE HISTORICAL THAN PRACTICAL NOW. CULTURES, OURS AND OTHERS, HAVE GROWN IN SIZE AND SHAPE AS THEY ATTEMPT TO REFLECT THE CHANGES IMPOSED BY LANGUAGE, TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATIONS, RELIGION, TRADE, POLITICS AND CONQUEST.

CULTURE IS A MOVING MASS, ALWAYS ADDING AND SUBTRACTING, AND YET WE CAN CITE SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF OURS THAT HAVE ENDURED OVER THE YEARS. WE HAVE TENDED, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, TO BE OPEN, PATIENT, INDEPENDENT, GREGARIOUS, INDUSTRIOUS, CHARITABLE AND LAW ABIDING. THESE AND OTHER ATTRIBUTES COMBINE TO FORM A PROFILE THAT RECOGNIZES FREEDOM AND THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE.

WOULD WE DO, AND BECOME, THE SAME AGAIN IF WE HAD THE CHOICE? THE ANSWER IS A QUALIFIED "YES". BUT, WHILE WE MAY BE SATISFIED WITH OUR CULTURAL HISTORY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES, THERE ARE OTHERS FOR WHOM OUR PROFILE ACTS AS A CHALLENGE, AN IRRITANT, A THREAT OR A TARGET. IN THESE OTHER SOCIETIES THEIR CULTURAL FORCES ARE MIXED OR MATCHED IN DISPROPORTIONATE WAYS WITH PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES SO PERVASIVE AND ENDURING THAT THEY HAVE BECOME INSTITUTIONALIZED AND AN ACCEPTED PART OF THEIR OWN PROFILE. THE TENSIONS OF UNDERLYING DIFFERENCES CAN BE RELEASED AS WARS OF CULTURE OR TERROR.

CULTURE IS LIKE SOME OF THE OTHER PRESSING ISSUES OF OUR TIME AND PLACE IN THAT WE CREATE IT AND IT, IN TURN, FORMS US. OUR CREATIVE FORCE IS A COLLECTIVE ONE, NOT AN INDIVIDUAL EFFORT, BUT THE INTERACTION BETWEEN ITS MANY INDIVIDUAL INPUTS COMBINES TO FORM A MASS IDENTITY THAT ACTS UPON EACH AND EVERYONE OF US.

THIS IS NOT UNLIKE THE ECONOMIC PROCESS ASCRIBED TO "THE MARKET" WHEREBY VAST NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUAL CHOICES COMBINE TO SET PRICES AND VALUES WHICH THEN DETERMINE OUR GROUP CHARACTERISTIC AND HOW WE ARRANGE OUR ECONOMIC LIVES.

AS WE PROCEED IN THIS ISSUE AND IN SUBSEQUENT

ISSUES, WE WILL NOTE THE PREVALENCE OF THIS PROCESS — HOW INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS COMBINE IN A GROUP RESULT WHICH THEN INFORMS OUR COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES.

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## RACE IN AMERICA

RACE HAS EXISTED AS A PROBLEM IN THE US IN VARYING FORMS SINCE OUR EARLY DAYS WHEN AFRICAN SLAVES WERE IMPORTED TO PLANT, TEND AND PICK OUR SOUTHERN COTTON CROP. IN EUROPE SLAVERY EXISTED, BUT ON A LESSER SCALE. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE OF AFRICAN SLAVERY AND OURS IS AN IMPORTANT ONE. IN THE EUROPEAN LABOR FORCE SLAVES WERE INCIDENTAL TO THE MAIN SUPPLY OF PEASANTS WHO OFTEN WERE BORN, WORKED, DIED AND FOLLOWED BY THEIR OFFSPRING ON THE SAME ESTATE. WITH A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS SUPPLY OF LOW COST LABOR TO WORK THEIR VAST PROPERTIES, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR LAND OWNERS TO BUY SLAVES IN GREAT NUMBERS.

AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SITUATION EXISTED HERE IN OUR SOUTHERN STATES' AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY BASED ON COTTON. ITS CULTIVATION IN HIGH HEAT AND HUMIDITY REQUIRED A SPECIAL TYPE OF LABOR FORCE IN ORDER TO WORK AND SURVIVE, AND IT WAS FOUND EARLY ON THAT AFRICAN SLAVES WERE BEST SUITED TO THESE CONDITIONS. THE RESULT WAS THAT SLAVERY PROVIDED A SUBSISTENCE LABOR FORCE.

OUR SOUTHERN COLONIES, AND LATER STATES, OF VA, NC, SC, GA AND MD HELD MORE POLITICAL POWER THAN THEIR NUMBER MIGHT SUGGEST AND BECAUSE OF THEIR SIZE AND LEADERSHIP CARRIED SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE. SLAVERY IN THE SOUTH STARTED AS A PRODUCTION (I.E. LABOR) PROBLEM. WITH COTTON'S INCREASING POPULARITY IT GAINED ACCEPTANCE, WAS BUILT INTO THE COST STRUCTURE AND BECAME AN ECONOMIC FACTOR OF REAL IMPORTANCE IN OUR EMERGING NATION.

ITS NEXT TRANSFORMATION TO POLITICAL STATUS FOLLOWED IN SHORT ORDER SO THAT BY THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY, WHEN SLAVERY HAD BEEN DECLARED ILLEGAL AND ABANDONED IN EUROPE, IT WAS SO ENTWINED IN OUR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LIVES THAT ITS REMOVAL BECAME A GREATER THREAT THAN ITS PRESENCE.

BUT OUR RACIAL PROBLEM IS NOT ONLY ABOUT BLACKS. FROM THEIR EARLIEST PRESENCE OUR COLONISTS ENGAGED IN COUNTLESS WARS WITH NATIVE AMERICANS. UNFORTUNATELY, WE USED MANY OF THE SAME TACTICS OF BRUTALITY, DECEIT AND DEPRIVATION WITH BOTH BLACKS AND THE AMERICAN "INDIANS". WE HAD COLOR-CODED NAMES FOR EACH, REDSKIN AND NIGGER, DESIGNED TO DENOTE THEIR INFERIORITY AND OUR SUPERIOR STATUS.

EARLY ON, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PROBLEM OF RACISM IN OUR COUNTRY HAD STRONG ECONOMIC ORIGINS. THE PART PLAYED BY SLAVES IN OUR ECONOMY WAS TOO TEMPTING ECONOMICALLY TO LIMIT IT TO OUR SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST STATES. AS THE COUNTRY EXPANDED WESTWARD, SO DID SLAVERY AND IN A CURIOUS WAY ITS POLITICAL ARGUMENT

BECAME STRONGER THAN ITS ECONOMIC VOICE. AS WE MOVED WEST, FIRST TO THE MISSISSIPPI AND THEN BEYOND, NEW STATES COULD BE ADDED AND ACCEPTED BY CONGRESS ONLY ON A BASIS OF PARITY. ADD ONE SLAVE, ADD ONE FREE.

THE ECONOMIC BASIS FOR THE TREATMENT OF OUR INDIGENOUS TRIBES WAS MUCH MORE SIMPLE. AS OUR POLITICAL CONSCIENCE GREW TO EMBRACE INDEPENDENCE AND THEN PROCEED EVEN FURTHER TO UNDERTAKE TERRITORIAL EXPANSION, YOUNG AMERICA LOOKING WESTWARD HAD EVERY REASON TO SEE A GOLD MINE. THE ONLY PROBLEM TO CLAIMING IT WAS THAT IT BELONGED TO "THE REDSKINS". THIS "GOLD" TOOK THE FORM OF THE LAND, MOSTLY VIRGIN FORESTS AND PRAIRIES, WHICH WAS THE DOMINANT FORM OF CAPITAL OF THE DAY, AS IT HAD BEEN FOR CENTURIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

AND IT WAS FREE; THAT IS, NOBODY OWNED IT. NOT EVEN THE "INDIANS" WHO HAD NO SENSE OF OWNERSHIP, BUT THEY WOULD LEARN AND AT THE KNEE OF A MASTER. WITHIN THE TIME OF APPROXIMATELY A CENTURY WHAT THEY HAD FISHED, HUNTED, TILLED AND REVERED WAS NO LONGER THEIRS. IT WAS GONE. IT HAD BECOME PART OF OUR "MANIFEST DESTINY", THE CLOSING OF OUR FRONTIER, OUR PATH TO BECOMING A WORLD POWER.

TODAY, AMERICA IS UNDERGOING A LATINO INVASION PREDICTED TO APPROACH AS MUCH AS 40% OF OUR POPULATION BY MID-CENTURY. PROLATINO GROUPS IDENTIFY THESE NEW ARRIVALS, MOSTLY FROM MEXICO, AS LA RAZA (THE RACE) AND VIEW THEM AS INHERITORS FROM NATIVE CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN SOCIETIES POSSESSED OF SUPERIOR CULTURAL, HISTORIC AND GENETIC QUALITIES. THERE ARE MANY FACTORS INVOLVED IN THIS RECENT WAVE OF JOB SEEKERS, BUT THE BASIC UNDERLYING CAUSE IS AGAIN ECONOMIC.

THE LATINO MIGRANTS WANT JOBS AND SOCIAL BENEFITS (I.E. EDUCATION, MEDICAL CARE, FOOD STAMPS, WELFARE SUPPORT) AND GET THEM. POLITICIANS WANT THEIR VOTES AND GET THEM. AND THE CORPORATE SECTOR WANTS A CONTINUING SUPPLY OF CHEAP LABOR AND GETS IT. THERE'S SOMETHING HERE FOR EVERYBODY AND IT'S CALLED MONEY.

FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS FROM THE FIRST SEVENTEENTH CENTURY INDIAN WARS ON THE ATLANTIC COAST TO THE CLOSING OF OUR FRONTIER, PHYSICAL ABUSE AND CRUELTY WERE PRACTICED BY BOTH WHITE SETTLERS AND NATIVES IN A CYCLE OF RETRIBUTION THAT WAS SOMETIMES INTERRUPTED, BUT NEVER COMPLETELY BROKEN. THE ULTIMATE CYNICISM LAY IN THE REPEATED BREAKING OF TREATIES AND RESETTLEMENT OF THE INDIAN TRIBES TO RESERVATIONS OF SMALLER SIZE AND LESS SUITABLE LAND. IN THE END, BY THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY, EVEN THE MYTH OF "THE GREAT WHITE FATHER IN WASHINGTON", AS WELL AS OTHER SACRED INDIAN BELIEFS, HAD BEEN SACRIFICED TO OUR TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS AND POLICY.

BLACKS, TOO, FACED PHYSICAL ABUSE OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD BOTH DURING THE PERIOD OF THEIR SLAVERY AND AFTER ITS ABOLISHMENT. IT WAS DURING THE LATTER THAT EXTENDED WELL INTO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY THAT, IN SPITE OF FEDERAL LAW, CRUELTY IN THE FORM OF LYNCHINGS CONTINUED IN SOME OF OUR SOUTHERN STATES. THIS COULD

INCLUDE CASTRATION, HANGING, BURNING ALIVE AND TAR & FEATHERING AS WELL AS THE CONSTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE OF A LIFE LIVED IN FEAR. THESE METHODS WERE EQUAL TO ANY OF THOSE EMPLOYED BY TOTALITARIAN STATES, AND YET TOOK PLACE IN AMERICA AND WERE EMPLOYED BY AMERICANS AGAINST AMERICANS.

HERE, AGAIN, THE CYNICISM OF OUR POLICY IS EVIDENT. IN DEFENSE, IT CAN BE ARGUED THAT THE LYNCHING CULTURE WAS LIMITED TO A PARTICULAR REGION. THAT IS TRUE IN ITS LATER STAGE, BUT BEFORE THEN ITS PRACTICE WAS WIDER. WHAT IS MOST PAINFUL IS THE REALIZATION, WHETHER SOONER OR LATER, WHETHER IN SMALL OR LARGE DEGREE, THAT THE LYNCHING CULTURE WAS PART OF OUR CULTURE.

THROUGHOUT OUR EXPERIENCE OF RACE IN AMERICA, WHICH HAS BEEN GREATLY EXPANDED IN THE PAST HALF CENTURY BY OUR ALTERED IMMIGRATION POLICIES, THE MONEY FACTOR HAS BEEN A CONSTANT WHETHER IN THE APPROPRIATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN LAND, THE ENFORCED SERVITUDE OF OUR SOUTHERN COTTON/TOBACCO ECONOMY OR THE EVER INCREASING SOCIAL PAYMENTS OF CONTEMPORARY IMMIGRATION. THE VALUE, THE PURPOSE AND THE EXCHANGE OF MONEY CAN BE REGULATED BY NATIONS AND IS BOTH AN INSTRUMENT AND PRODUCT OF POLICY. POWERFUL AS IT IS, THE FULL VIEW OF RACE IN AMERICA REVEALS ANOTHER, PERHAPS EVEN STRONGER, ELEMENT WITHIN OUR CULTURE.

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THE IDEA OF “THE OTHER” AS AN ANTAGONISTIC FORCE GOES BACK TO OUR EARLIEST STAGE OF HUMAN, AND EVEN ANIMAL, DEVELOPMENT. INDIVIDUALS MATED AND CREATED FAMILIES AND FAMILIES THEN FORMED INTO THE NOMADIC TRIBES THAT ROAMED THE EARTH IN SEARCH OF FOOD, WATER AND PROTECTION FROM NATURE’S EXTREMES.

IN PROCEEDING FROM ONE VALLEY, OR RIVER, OR PLAIN TO ANOTHER, THEY MIGHT WELL BE MOVING INTO TERRITORY “SPOKEN FOR” BY OTHERS. IF SO, SUCH CONFRONTATIONS USUALLY RESULTED IN BATTLES. OVER THE MILLENNIA, AS CIVILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT SPREAD, THE SOCIAL AND SECURITY INSTINCTS RETAINED FROM PRIOR GENERATIONS LED INDIVIDUALS AND TRIBES TO COMBINE INTO UNITS OF GREATER EFFICIENCY, PLEASURE AND SAFETY.

FROM THEIR INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP ATTITUDES AND ACTIVITIES THERE EMERGED PATTERNS, OR PROFILES, THAT WE HAVE COME TO CALL CULTURE. AT FIRST, THESE CULTURES WERE ONLY SUBJECT TO INVOLUNTARY, MASS ACTION, BUT THAT IS NO LONGER TRUE. CULTURES ARE SUBJECT TO EXTERNAL CONTROL BY POLITICS OR “OTHER MEANS”. ALTHOUGH THIS USUALLY TAKES THE FORM OF TERMINATION, COLONIZATION CAN BE AN INCUBATOR, IF NOT A STARTING POINT, AS WITH OUR MA PILGRIMS, MORMONS IN UTAH AND AUSTRALIA’S PENAL COLONY. THESE ALL STARTED AS PRODUCTS OF AN EXISTING CULTURE TRANSFERRED TO AN OPEN, UNDEVELOPED LAND INHABITED BY A MORE PRIMITIVE INDIGENOUS CULTURE, AND WHICH BY DINT OF GROWTH AND PROSPERITY THEN ATTRACTED OTHERS IN NUMBERS SUFFICIENT TO OUTNUMBER THE INDIGENOUS

STRAIN.

THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS, OVER LONG INTERVALS OF TIME AND WIDE SPACES, THE ACT OF COMBINATION WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY WHAT WAS SHARED IN COMMON. ENCOUNTERS WITH NEW OR STRANGE GROUPS THAT LACKED COMMON BLOOD, EXPERIENCE, APPEARANCE OR SENSE OF IDENTITY CAUSED THEM TO BE VIEWED AS “THE OTHER”. WITH LIFE, ITSELF, OFTEN IN THE BALANCE, THIS VIEW WAS NOT EASILY CHANGED. OVER THE YEARS, AS IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE POLITICS OF APPROPRIATION AND AGGRESSION, IT HAS BECOME A HARDWIRED ELEMENT IN MOST PRIMITIVE AND DEVELOPED CULTURES OF OUR TIME. IT ABOUNDS THROUGHOUT OUR WORLD IN POLITICS, RELIGION, LITERATURE, ART AND OTHER AREAS OF HUMAN CONTACT, READY TO BE CALLED UPON TO DEFEND AGAINST REAL OR IMAGINARY DANGER. FOR WHITES, THE IDEA OF “THE OTHER” IS ENHANCED BY RACES OF DARKER SKIN AND THE BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION OF DARKNESS WITH EVIL. REMEMBER THAT FOR WELL OVER A THOUSAND YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY DAILY LIVES WERE SEEN AS AN UNENDING STRUGGLE WITH THE DEVIL WHO COULD APPEAR, THREATEN OR PUNISH AT WILL. HE WAS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE “PRINCE OF DARKNESS”, USUALLY DRESSED IN BLACK, AND INHABITED REGIONS OF PERPETUAL DARK NIGHT. SYMBOLICALLY, EVIL AND BLACK HAVE LONG BEEN JOINED.

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RED AND BLACK ARE THE DEFINING LENSES THROUGH WHICH WE MUST VIEW RACE IN AMERICA, AND THEY ARE BADLY IN NEED OF CORRECTION.

IN NOVEMBER, 2010 IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE SENATE HAD APPROVED \$4.6 BILLION TO SETTLE LITIGATION BROUGHT BY A COALITION OF NATIVE TRIBES AND A GROUP OF BLACK FARMERS AGAINST OUR DEPARTMENTS OF THE INTERIOR (DOI) FOR \$1.2 BILLION AND AGRICULTURE (DOA) FOR \$3.4 BILLION.<sup>1</sup> THESE SUITS INVOLVED DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT ISSUES, BUT THEY SHARED A HISTORY OF MANY YEARS OF TRIAL — AND ERROR!

THE INDIAN TRIBES’ LITIGATION WAS THE MAIN TOPIC OF ONE OF OUR PREVIOUS ISSUES<sup>2</sup> AND OFFERS A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE INEPT AND FRAUDULENT METHODS OF THE DOI. IN BOTH THE NATIVE AMERICAN AND BLACK FARMERS CASES GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRATS DETERMINEDLY PRACTICED TECHNIQUES OF OBFUSCATION AND DELAY, “KICKING THE CAN” DOWN THE ROAD FOR THEIR SUCCESSORS TO DEAL WITH.

THIS, OF COURSE, PROVED EXPENSIVE, AS EXTENSIVE LEGAL EXPENSE WAS INCURRED. EVENTUALLY, THE FINAL AWARDS, REFLECTING BOTH THIS ADDED COST AND ACCRUED INTEREST, WERE SWOLLEN FAR BEYOND THEIR ORIGINAL AMOUNTS.

FOR OUR GOVERNMENT, THE ECONOMIC RESULT WAS AN UNNECESSARY NEGATIVE, BUT IT PALES IN COMPARISON TO THE FAILURE TO CONVEY PROMPT AND DESERVED “JUSTICE”. AS CIRCUMSTANCES OF FRAUD AND MISMANAGEMENT BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA) AT THE DOI EXTEND BACK OVER A CENTURY, ANY BENEFITS FROM THE RECENT

SETTLEMENT WILL BE DIRECTED TO DESCENDENTS THREE OR MORE GENERATIONS REMOVED FROM THOSE WHO WERE FIRST DEPRIVED OF THEIR PROPERTY. THERE IS A SIMILAR, BUT NOT AS LENGTHY, TIME GAP IN THE BLACK FARMERS' SUIT.

LOOKING AT BOTH CASES, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF RACIAL OPPORTUNISM PRESENT. THE DOI AND DOA AVOIDED ANY MEANINGFUL ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT SIMPLY BECAUSE IT WAS WITHIN THEIR POWER (AND CULTURE) TO DO SO. WITH ALL THE POWER OF GOVERNMENT BEHIND THEM, THEY ASSUMED THAT THEY COULD DEFLECT AND/OR EXHAUST THE RESOURCES OF RACIAL MINORITIES AND WEAKEN THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN COMPENSATION FROM LONG PAST ACTIONS.

AND THE REVERSE IS THAT IN TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AMERICA WITH ITS INCREASINGLY PRO-MINORITY ATTITUDES, THEY MIGHT HAVE INFLUENCED THE AMOUNTS OF THE AWARDS. RACIAL OPPORTUNISM CAN WORK BOTH WAYS, EITHER IN PLAIN VIEW OR BEHIND THE SCENES. IT DIFFERS IN SHAPE AND SHADE FROM RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND DIVERSITY AND USUALLY APPEARS IN LESS THAN CONFRONTATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE, NEVERTHELESS, PERSONAL OR PUBLIC ADVANTAGE IS TO BE GAINED. VISIBLE OR NOT, IT IS VERY MUCH A WORKING PART OF THE MACHINERY OF RACE IN AMERICA.

IN SEARCHING FOR AN ANSWER TO OUR RACIAL PROBLEM WE ARE OFTEN STRUCK BY CURIOSITIES AND CONFLICTS THAT SEEM TO MOCK OUR EFFORTS TO FIND ITS SOLUTION. ASSIMILATION IS SUCH A CURIOSITY. IT HAS HAD DIFFERENT MEANINGS FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS, WHETHER ETHNIC, RACIAL OR NATIONAL, OVER OUR HISTORY. IT WAS A JOINT STATEMENT OF IMMIGRANTS' ASPIRATIONS AND OUR POLICY TOWARDS THEM DURING THE NINETEENTH AND MOST OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURIES. MORE RECENTLY, IT HAS FALLEN INTO DISFAVOR AMONG MANY GROUPS WHO SEE AMERICA AS AN ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY HOSPITABLE PLACE TO WHICH TO TRANSFER THEIR NATIVE CULTURE AND IDENTITY.

THE MORE WE TRY TO DEFINE ASSIMILATION, THE MORE IT SEEMS TO ESCAPE US, AS "ONE SIZE FITS ALL" DOES NOT WORK FOR IT. PERHAPS IT'S BETTER TO SEE IT NOW AS NO MORE THAN AN EXPRESSION OF THE POTENTIAL FOR SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ACCEPTANCE IN AMERICA.

ONE KEY ASPECT OF ASSIMILATION, AS IT IS OF CULTURE, IS LANGUAGE. HERE, THIS MEANS BOTH LEARNING ENGLISH AND BEING ABLE TO SPEAK IT SO THAT IT IS EASILY UNDERSTANDABLE TO OTHERS. IN THE HEYDAY OF OUR LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY IMMIGRATION WAVES THIS WAS SOMETIMES ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE NEWCOMER'S OWN LIFETIME AND CERTAINLY BY THAT OF THE NEXT GENERATION.

AND YET, THERE ARE TODAY OUTSTANDING ANOMALIES. THE EXPANDING LATINO PRESENCE OF THE PAST HALF CENTURY CLINGS TO SPANISH AND ITS USE BEYOND THE FIRST GENERATION.

HENRY KISSINGER, WHO HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY, STILL SPEAKS WITH AN ACCENT SO HEAVY THAT COMPREHENSION CAN BE DIFFICULT. GIVEN HIS INTELLECT AND THAT HE CAN ARRANGE HIS SCHEDULE TO SUIT HIS OWN PRIORITIES, HIS INABILITY TO ADVANCE BEYOND HIS PRONOUNCED ACCENT IS, PERHAPS, A MATTER OF WILL, NOT

SKILL.

SIMILARLY, AFRICAN-AMERICANS HAVE MAINTAINED FOR MANY GENERATIONS THEIR ACCENT AND THE ALTERED ENGLISH SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION FORMS FROM WHICH IT DERIVES. THIS "BLACK ENGLISH" OFTEN RESULTS FROM A CONSCIOUS EFFORT NOT TO APPEAR "WHITE" OR BE LIKE "WHITEY".

IN ALL OF THESE INSTANCES, THE MATTER OF IDENTITY IS EVIDENT AND BELOW THAT, PERHAPS, SOMETHING DEEPER AND CULTURALLY CONTINUOUS — THE FEAR OF THE OTHER.

LOOKING BACK OVER ALMOST FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF WHITE INTERACTION WITH NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE BLACKS THAT WE IMPORTED, WITH ALL THE PAIN THAT RESULTED, ONE QUESTION REPEATEDLY COMES TO MIND. HAVE THESE TWO EXPERIENCES, THE RED AND THE BLACK, BEEN WORTH ALL THE ABUSE, VIOLENCE, TORTURE, PAIN, HARDSHIP, AGONY, ETC. THAT HAS ACCOMPANIED THEM?

THERE ARE NO SET ANSWERS — NOT FOR WHITE, NOT FOR BLACKS AND NOT FOR THE INDIAN TRIBES. INDEED, IN EACH DIFFERENT GROUP ELEMENTS ARE PRESENT THAT SUGGEST THERE CAN NEVER BE CONSENSUS.

THE OPINION OF A BLACK GEORGIA LYNCHING VICTIM A HUNDRED YEARS AGO IS UNLIKELY TO BE THE SAME AS THAT OF A WELL PAID CIVIL SERVANT WORKING IN THE WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY AND LIVING IN A VA OR MD SUBURB. JUST AS DIFFERENT PROBABLY WOULD BE THE VERDICT OF A NATIVE AMERICAN FAMILY FORCED IN WINTER TO WALK BAREFOOT BEHIND CAVALRY HORSES FROM WI TO OK, WHEN BEING RESETTLED BY THE ARMY TO ANOTHER RESERVATION, AS OPPOSED TO THAT OF A CONTEMPORARY NATIVE AMERICAN DESCENDENT EMPLOYED AND SUPPORTED BY FEDERAL PAYMENTS AND HOUSING.

THE CRUELTY AND FEAR DIRECTED AGAINST BLACKS IN OUR DEEP SOUTH HAS, THANKFULLY, BEEN ENDED. BUT IN MUCH OF ITS PLACE THEY ARE NOW EXPOSED TO THE RANDOM VIOLENCE, POVERTY AND TERROR OF THE INNER CITY (AND NOW EVEN SUBURBAN) DRUG CULTURES. IS THIS A FAIR EXCHANGE? IS IT A FAIR QUESTION?

RACE IN AMERICA IS ONLY A PART OF OUR CULTURE. IT POSES HUGE QUESTIONS BECAUSE WE DEMAND OF IT IMPOSSIBLE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF EMOTION, JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS. OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS, BUT WE HAVE BEEN STAINED BY WHAT WE HAVE GAINED. THESE STAINS MARK US SPIRITUALLY AND MENTALLY. THEY MARK OUR SOULS AND THERE IS MUCH WORK LEFT TO DO.

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## BEYOND RACE

RACE IS BY NO MEANS OUR ONLY CULTURAL LESION, BUT IT CAN LAY REASONABLE CLAIM TO BE OUR MOST ENDURING, SENSITIVE AND CONTENTIOUS WOUND. IT HAS BEEN WITH US AND BURDENED OUR SPIRITS FOR SO LONG THAT IT HAS CREATED A SPACE AND MOOD OF DEPENDENCY THAT APPEALS TO BOTH BLACK AND WHITE ELEMENTS AND HAS THE EFFECT OF DELAYING

REAL SOLUTIONS.

WE HAVE MANAGED, HOWEVER, IN THE PAST HALF CENTURY TO CREATE OTHER WAYS WITH THE POTENTIAL TO DISTURB OUR SOCIETY AS MUCH AS RACE. ONE OF THESE IS OUR RECENT EMBRACE OF DRUGS — MOST NOTABLY MARIJUANA, COCAINE, “METH”, HEROIN AND OTHER CUSTOMIZED FORMS OR COMBINATIONS — TO PROVIDE OUR LIVES WITH ILLUSION, TO MAKE THEM SEEM DIFFERENT OR BETTER, TO ALTER THE REALITY OF OUR EXISTENCE.

TODAY DRUG USE RANKS AS ONE OF AMERICA’S LARGEST COMMERCIAL PURSUITS. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, USE DRUGS WITH VARYING DEGREES OF ADDICTION. ONCE CENTERED IN OUR URBAN POVERTY CENTERS TO NUMB THEIR ANGUISH AND HOPELESSNESS, THEY ARE NOW SOLD AND USED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

OUR GROWING USE OF AND ADDICTION TO DRUGS HAS BEEN THE BASIS FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MARKETING SUCCESS. IN SCHOOLS, IN BUSINESS, IN ATHLETICS, AT HOME, WHILE TRAVELING, IN ALMOST ANY CIRCUMSTANCE AMERICANS SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THEIR POCKET PHARMACY.

THIS NATIONAL “HABIT” HAS NOT BEEN PAIN FREE. IT HAS COST HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND USER LIVES AND MANY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS. IT HAS REACHED INTO EVERY CORNER OF ACADEMIA, GOVERNMENT AND COMMERCE. IT HAS PLACED IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS ON FRAGILE RELATIONSHIPS AND DESTROYED THEM, AND IT SUCKS MONEY OUT OF OUR ECONOMY AND SENDS UNBELIEVABLE AMOUNTS OF IT TO GROWERS, BLENDEES AND DISTRIBUTORS IN PLACES SUCH AS AFGHANISTAN, ITALY AND MEXICO.

IN OUR DRUG SATURATED WORLD WE ARE ALWAYS BUYERS IN A SELLERS’ MARKET. AND SO, WE PAY, AND PAY MORE, AND PAY AGAIN. WE HAVE CREATED A NEW CULTURE IN THE SPACE OF JUST TWO GENERATIONS, AND IT IS DESTROYING US. AND YET WE CONTINUE, URGED ON BY OUR POLITICAL LEADERS TO PLAY OUR PART IN WHAT THEY HAVE TERMED “THE WAR ON DRUGS”.

THIS IS A WAR WE CAN NEVER WIN. THERE IS TOO MUCH MONEY, POLITICS, COLLUSION, CORRUPTION AND VIOLENCE INVOLVED ON THE PART OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND THERE IS ALSO, OF COURSE, COLLATERAL DAMAGE TO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS. THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR FBI AND DEA, POLICE, CUSTOMS, COAST GUARD AND BORDER PATROL ARE BRAVE AND COMMITTED, BUT THEY ARE OVERWHELMED AND UNDERPAID.

THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY RECENTLY REPORTED THAT “ABOUT 21.8 MILLION AMERICANS OR 8.1% OF THE POPULATION AGE 12 AND OLDER REPORTED USING ILLEGAL DRUGS IN 2009”<sup>3</sup>. WITHIN THIS TOTAL ARE SOME MIXED INDIVIDUAL RESULTS. COCAINE USE DECLINED WHILE MARIJUANA, ECSTASY AND “METH” ALL SHOWED INCREASES. THE MARKETING CARTELS SEEM SKILLED IN INTRODUCING NEW PRODUCTS TO LURE NEW BUYERS AND CREATE DEMAND.

OUR COSTS ARE NOT LIMITED TO DOMESTIC PROJECTS. WE SEND BILLIONS IN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO, COLOMBIA AND OTHER CARIBBEAN/CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SERVED AS FINAL TRANSFER POINTS FOR DRUGS DESTINED FOR THE USA.

THE “WAR ON DRUGS” POSES QUESTIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY THAT ARE NOT EASY TO ANSWER. IN AFGHANISTAN, WHERE THE OPIUM CROP IS A MAINSTAY OF THE ECONOMY, WE USED TO ENGAGE IN A POLICY OF ERADICATION WHICH HAD BAD ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES FOR THE LOCAL GROWERS. WE NO LONGER DESTROY THE CROP, BUT THAT POLICY IS NOT RISK FREE EITHER, FOR, IF WE PERMIT OPIUM PRODUCTION, WE WILL BECOME PART OF THE PROCESS — PASSIVE, PERHAPS, BUT STILL INVOLVED. SUCH A POSITION WOULD FAVOR THE ACTIONS OF MIDDLE MEN AND INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS AND, AS A RESULT OF OUR AUTHORITY, IF NOTHING ELSE, WE WOULD FIND OURSELVES TAKING ACTIONS AND MAKING DECISIONS THAT MOVE THE MARKET. THERE IS NO POSITION OF PURITY HERE, AS OUR POLITICAL AND MILITARY ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN INVOLVES US IN EVERYTHING IN THAT COUNTRY.

AT HOME, THE QUESTION OF PUNISHMENT FOR DRUG OFFENDERS HAS NOT BEEN DEALT WITH EFFECTIVELY. THE “KINGPINS” THAT ARE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH MULTIPLE CRIMES OF MURDER, CONSPIRACY, FRAUD, TAX EVASION, THEFT, ETC. CAN BE GIVEN LIFE SENTENCES. BUT OUR PRISONS ARE FILLED WITH PERPETRATORS OF LESSER DRUG CRIMES. THE COST OF INCARCERATION IS OFTEN MORE THAN STAYING AT A GOOD HOTEL. THIS ADDS ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT COST ELEMENT TO OUR “WAR ON DRUGS” AND GENERALLY FAILS TO HAVE ANY REHABILITATIVE EFFECT. AS THE DRUG MONEY IS GOOD, THE RELEASED PRISONER CAN QUICKLY PUT HIS/HER FORMER SKILLS AND CONTACTS BACK TO WORK AND RETURN TO THE OLD JOB, OR SOMETHING VERY MUCH LIKE IT.

UNDER SHARIA LAW IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES, VIOLATIONS CAN BRING AMPUTATIONS OF HANDS OR FEET. THIS ILLUSTRATES ONE ASPECT OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MUSLIM CULTURE AND OURS IN THE WEST, BUT THE MUSLIM PENALTY SERVES TWO PURPOSES QUITE WELL — PUNISHMENT AND ECONOMY. IT PROVIDES THE CRIMINAL WITH A CONSTANT REMINDER OF HIS CRIME AT NO COST TO THE STATE.

MEXICO’S CIVIL, POLITICAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT APPARATUS MAY NOT SURVIVE THE BLOODSHED AND VIOLENCE NOW TAKING PLACE. SOME OF THIS HAS SPREAD ACROSS THE BORDER AND CREATED A LAWLESS ZONE IN AZ WHERE WE REFUSE TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT OUR OWN CITIZENS<sup>4</sup>. WE HAVE ALLOWED THE DRUG CULTURE TO DEGRADE OUR OWN CULTURE OVER A LONG PERIOD AND IT HAS BECOME SO BAD THAT WE MAY AT LAST BE FORCED TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION.

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## ISLAM

RELIGION HAS BEEN A KEY CULTURAL COMPONENT IN MANY SOCIETIES. PARADOXICALLY, IN SINGLE FAITH SOCIETIES IT USUALLY ACTS AS A STABILIZING FORCE WHEREAS IN MULTI-FAITH CIRCUMSTANCES IT BECOMES A SOURCE OF CONTENTION, THEN DIVISION AND OFTEN VIOLENCE.

LACKING ANY “AUTHORIZED” RELIGION, FOLLOWING THE DILUTION OF THE PURITANS’ NUMBERS AND MESSAGE, THE US STARTED ITS NATIONAL LIFE FREE OF ANY RELIGIOUS

CONSTRAINTS AND IN AGREEMENT TO EXTEND TOLERANCE TO THOSE WHO WISHED TO WORSHIP HERE PEACEFULLY.

AS OUR EARLY SETTLERS AND NEW ARRIVALS WERE WESTERN EUROPEANS, THE RANGE OF THEIR DIFFERENCES WAS SMALL, THE MOST NOTABLE BEING BETWEEN CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS. BUT THE UNDERLYING PREMISE WAS HUGE, AND, WITH OUR GROWTH, HAS EXPANDED ITS REACH TO SHADE OR INFORM MULTIPLE PARTS OF OUR CULTURE. THIS HAS OCCURRED WITHOUT ANY SERIOUS CONFLICT OVER THE PAST TWO PLUS CENTURIES BECAUSE SOCIAL ASSIMILATION WAS POSSIBLE EVEN THOUGH DIFFERENCE MIGHT BE RETAINED WITHIN THE NEW FORMS OF WORSHIP.

ENTER ISLAM, AND AMERICAN RELIGION AND CULTURE FACE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE AND TEST OF TOLERANCE. THIS IS BECAUSE ISLAM COMMANDS ADHERENCE TO CUSTOMS OF DRESS, LAW, DIET, WORSHIP AND PUNISHMENT WHICH PRECLUDE ANY REAL ASSIMILATION.

IN ADDITION TO THESE ATTITUDINAL DIFFERENCES ISLAM HAS BEEN INTRODUCED TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC BY OUR GOVERNMENT IN WAYS THAT WORK AGAINST ASSIMILATION. AS THE RESULT OF OUR NEAR EASTERN MILITARY VENTURES, OUR STATE DEPARTMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO RESETTLE THOUSANDS OF MUSLIMS IN THE US. THESE ARE NOT INTRODUCED GRADUALLY INTO THEIR NEW COMMUNITIES BUT ARE DEPOSITED IN HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS INTO TOWNS OR CITIES SELECTED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT ACCORDING TO CRITERIA IT WILL NOT MAKE PUBLIC.

BEAR IN MIND THAT THESE NEW ARRIVALS COME WITH THEIR OWN LANGUAGE, LAWS, CUSTOMS, DRESS, CHILDREN, DIET AND SOCIAL PATTERNS SOME OF WHICH (I.E., SEX, MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, MENU, PRAYER) ARE QUITE OPPOSITE TO OURS, AND YET CAN CLAIM TO BE PROTECTED BY OUR CONSTITUTION. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE A COURSE OF POLICY AND ACTION THAT WOULD BE LESS LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE AND ACCOMPLISH ASSIMILATION.

IN THE PAST AMERICA HAS BEEN ABLE TO ASSIMILATE ITS IMMIGRANT POPULATION IN WAYS, NUMBERS AND TIMES THAT ARE NO LONGER POSSIBLE IN OUR TIME OF RAPID POPULATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXPANSION. BUT CULTURAL PATTERNS DO NOT ALWAYS BLEND EASILY EVEN UNDER IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES. IN 1800 THE WORLD'S POPULATION WAS 1 BILLION; TODAY IT IS AROUND 7 BILLION AND PROJECTED TO REACH 9 BILLION BY MID-CENTURY. AS A RESULT WE CAN OBSERVE THE CONSEQUENCES OF INSTANT COMMUNICATIONS AND SURGING POPULATION ON THE ASSIMILATION PROCESS.

THERE IS LESS TIME AND LESS SPACE THAN BLENDING REQUIRES, BUT THE CRACK OF THE MULTICULTURAL WHIP IS HEARD ACROSS THE LAND AND WE ARE INSTRUCTED, LIKE BEARS, TO DANCE TO ITS SOUND.

LIKE ANY OF OUR MASS RELIGIONS, ISLAM HAS ITS PLUSES AND MINUSES, BUT SINCE ITS EARLIEST DAYS IT HAS PREACHED AND PRACTICED AN ATTITUDE OF MILITANT EXPANSION. IN TODAY'S WORLD OF EVER INCREASING CONTACT (BOTH PEACEFUL AND ARMED) ISLAM'S VIEW OF ITS ROLE IS BOTH NARROW AND RECKLESS. ADMITTING THAT THERE ARE INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WITHIN ISLAM TODAY WHOSE VALUES CAN RELATE TO THOSE OF THE WEST, THE SINGLE

MOST DISTURBING REFLECTION UPON IT IS THAT NO LEADING ISLAMIC CLERIC OR HEAD OF STATE HAS COME OUT AND PUBLICLY CONDEMNED THE VIOLENCE AND TERROR PRACTICED IN ITS NAME. INDEED, ISLAM SEEMS TO LACK A LEADER WITH SUFFICIENT UNITY AND POWER TO ADDRESS THE WORLD, SUCH AS THE POPE, THE PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE, THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, ETC.

UNTIL THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS A VOICE FOR MODERATE ISLAM AND THAT IT CAN SPEAK AND BE HEARD WITHOUT FEAR OF REPRISAL, THE WEST HAS EVERY RIGHT TO PRESS THE QUESTION, "WHICH IS THE REAL ISLAM?" THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF ISLAMIC LEADERS WILLING TO DECLARE SHARED INTERESTS AND/OR VALUES WITH CHRISTIAN OR OTHER WESTERN CULTURES, BUT WITHOUT A CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE AND TERROR THEY SPEAK ONLY WORDS, WELL-MEANING ENOUGH TO SUGGEST ANOTHER LUNCH, CONFERENCE OR PROTOCOL, BUT LACKING THE FORCE AROUND WHICH A STRUCTURE OF AGREEMENT AND CONFIDENCE CAN BE BUILT.

ISLAM'S DIFFERENCES ARE NOT ONLY PLAINLY VISIBLE, BUT ARE COMMANDED BY ITS HOLY TEXT, AND SO WILL CONTINUE FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT. THIS IS A DEATH BLOW TO ASSIMILATION EVEN THOUGH THE STATE DEPT. MAY THINK AND WISH OTHERWISE.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS MUST PRACTICE A FORM OF SOCIAL EQUATION, OR THEY WILL COLLAPSE. THIS EQUATION DEMANDS THAT THE MORE DIFFICULT A PROBLEM BECOMES, THE MORE SKILL MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE AND APPLIED TO ITS SOLUTION. THE STATE DEPT., BY ARBITRARILY PLACING LARGE NUMBERS OF VISIBLY, ETHNICALLY, SPIRITUALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIFFERENT MUSLIMS INTO UNSUSPECTING COMMUNITIES, SHOWS LITTLE AWARENESS OF THIS BASIC EQUATION AND THE ROLE IT PLAYS IN ASSIMILATION.

WE MUST EMPHASIZE THAT WE ARE DISCUSSING ISLAM PRIMARILY IN TERMS OF ITS CULTURAL, NOT RELIGIOUS, IMPACT UPON THE USA. WE ARE CONCERNED WITH BEHAVIOR, NOT MATTERS OF DIVINITY THAT FORM PERSONAL FAITH, ALTHOUGH WITH ISLAM IN THE QURAN THEY ARE OFTEN COMBINED.

HISTORICALLY, ISLAMIC COUNTRIES HAVE MOSTLY BEEN POOR ONES WITH EXTREME DISPARITIES OF WEALTH WHICH HAVE ENCOURAGED A COMMON ANGER THAT EXPRESSES ITSELF IN THE VIOLENCE AND HATRED OF JIHAD AGAINST OUR MORE PROSPEROUS AND SEDATE WESTERN CULTURE AND VALUES.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS THAT THE ATTEMPT TO ASSIMILATE ISLAMIC CULTURE POSES TO AMERICA? THE FIRST IS MATHEMATICAL AND IS CLEARLY DEFINABLE AND MEASURABLE. IT IS THE POPULATION PROBLEM WRAPPED IN RELIGION. ISLAM IS A HIGH FERTILITY CULTURE THAT DERIVES FROM THE QURAN'S COMMAND FOR ITS FAITHFUL TO GROW AND MULTIPLY.

WITH AMERICA FACING ITS OWN POPULATION INCREASE OF 100 MILLION BEFORE MID-CENTURY, THE ADDITION OF A NEW HIGH PROGENY GROUP WITH FAMILIES COUNTING FIVE OR MORE BIRTHS WOULD ONLY ACCELERATE AND WORSEN OUR SITUATION.

DO THE MATH! START WITH ONE COUPLE HAVING FIVE OFFSPRING AND THEN REPEAT THE PROCESS FOR TWO MORE GENERATIONS. THE FUTURE BODY COUNT FROM A NEWLY ARRIVED COUPLE TODAY WOULD COME TO JUST UNDER 160

WITHIN THE LIFETIMES OF THE ORIGINAL TWO. AND REMEMBER THAT THIS PROLIFIC PATTERN IS SEEN AS AN ARTICLE OF FAITH BY MOST MUSLIMS.

ASSIMILATION IS DIFFICULT UNDER THE BEST CIRCUMSTANCES AND REQUIRES THE ACCEPTANCE AND COMMITMENT OF BOTH THE HOST POPULATION AND NEW ARRIVALS. ISLAMIC CULTURE DIFFERS FROM OUR OWN IN SO MANY ASPECTS THAT GENERAL ACCEPTANCE AND COMMITMENT ARE AVAILABLE IN SMALL MEASURE, AND THEN ONLY BY POLITICAL FORCE AND THE TEDIOUS APPLICATION OF OUR JUDICIAL PROCESS. ERUPTIONS OF SPONTANEOUS AND JOYFUL WELCOME ARE NOT TO BE EXPECTED.

IN DEALING WITH CULTURES THERE ARE ALWAYS LESSER AND LARGER DIFFERENCES. MOST PROMINENT WITH ISLAM IS THE TREATMENT OF WOMEN IN MATTERS RELATING TO EDUCATION, MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, THE LAW, WEALTH AND SOCIAL STATUS.

WITHOUT DOUBT, THE MOST OFFENSIVE TO OUR CULTURE IS ISLAM'S PRACTICE OF FEMALE GENITAL DISFIGUREMENT — A FORM OF PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE IMPOSED FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THE ACCIDENT OF GENDER.

IN OUR COUNTRY, WHERE WE GO OUT OF OUR WAY TO PROCLAIM AND EMBRACE NON-DISCRIMINATION, HOW DO WE MAKE ROOM FOR SUCH A CRUEL FORM OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION? IT DOES NOT STAND ALONE, OF COURSE, BUT COMES WITH OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE SUCH AS HONOR KILLINGS AND BEATINGS ATTACHED.

THOSE WHO ARGUE FOR ISLAMIC INCLUSION ARE BLIND TO THE DIFFICULTIES THAT WILL BE CAUSED BY ITS BROAD DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN. THEY WILL SAY THAT SUCH THINGS WILL NOT HAPPEN HERE, BUT THEY ARE WRONG. THEY ALREADY HAVE AND WILL BE CLAIMED TO BE PERMITTED UNDER OUR CONSTITUTION'S PROTECTION.

ANOTHER AREA OF MASSIVE CONFLICT IS THAT BETWEEN OUR LAWS AND ISLAM'S SHARIA WHICH SPECIFIES CORPOREAL PUNISHMENTS SUCH AS STONING, MUTILATION AND AMPUTATION. ADMITTEDLY, THESE ARE EFFECTIVE IN DISCOURAGING REPEAT CRIMES, AND ISLAMIC PRISONS (NO TV OR AIR CONDITIONING) ENJOY A DECIDEDLY LOWER OCCUPATION RATE THAN OURS.

PUNISHMENTS GO FAR BEYOND THE REALM OF PERSONAL BELIEF. THEY ARE CODIFIED BY LEGAL SYSTEMS AND REQUIRE THE PARTICIPATION OF THIRD PARTY INSTITUTIONS OR INDIVIDUALS TO ADMINISTER THEM. HOW DO WE IN AMERICA, OR ANYWHERE IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION, TURN BACK THE CLOCK TO THE TIME WHEN WE EMPLOYED SUCH METHODS? WE HAVE WORKED TOO HARD TO RID OURSELVES OF THEIR PRESENCE TO ALLOW THEIR RETURN WHETHER UNDER THE GUISE OF LAW OR RELIGION. DEBATE IS POSSIBLE, BUT THESE PUNISHMENTS ARE CARRIED OUT BY HUMAN BEHAVIOR WHICH OUR DEMOCRACY SHOULD NOT TOLERATE IN SPIRIT OR IN FACT.

ISLAM IS A THORNY NETTLE FOR OUR DEMOCRACY TO GRASP EVEN THOUGH ITS ACCEPTANCE HERE IS ARGUED AS PROOF OF OUR OWN VALUES. THE PROBLEM IS THAT ATTEMPTING TO BLEND ISLAM WITH OUR WESTERN CULTURE IS NOT A MATTER OF ARGUMENT. WE ARE DEALING WITH A FORM OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR BASED ON RELIGIOUS FERVOR WITH NEITHER A HISTORY NOR A LIKELIHOOD OF COMPROMISE.

THE PATTERN AND CONSEQUENCES OF ISLAMIC INCLUSION ARE PLAYING OUT IN OUR FULL VIEW IN EUROPE. THE PATTERN HAS BEEN: GAIN ENTRY, MAINTAIN SEPARATE ENCLAVES, OBTAIN CITIZENSHIP, MULTIPLY AND THEN APPLY POLITICAL PRESSURE BY SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE. EUROPE IS IN THE SECOND GENERATION STAGE AND ALREADY RACKED BY CONFLICT. IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE FORCE OF ANOTHER GENERATION OF MUSLIM ASPIRATIONS. THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT ISLAMIC BEHAVIOR CAN BE PEACEFULLY AND/OR PAINLESSLY GRAFTED ONTO A TOLERANT HOST CULTURE SHOULD PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE EUROPEAN TRAGEDY NOW UNFOLDING. THERE, THE THREE COUNTRIES WITH EUROPE'S MOST TOLERANT SOCIETIES — SWEDEN, ENGLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS — HAVE ALL BEEN TARGETS OF SUICIDE BOMBERS AND/OR ASSASSINATIONS.

WE CAN NO LONGER AVOID THE MUSLIM EFFECT ON EUROPE BY SAYING "THAT'S THERE AND THIS IS HERE". CONSEQUENCES, ESPECIALLY EARLY ONES, ARE NOT ALWAYS VISIBLE TO ALL, BUT WILL EVENTUALLY REVEAL THEMSELVES. IN EUROPE, FOLLOWING PUBLICATION IN A DANISH NEWSPAPER OF CARTOONS CONTAINING THE IMAGE OF MUHAMMAD, THERE OCCURED BOMBINGS AND THREATS AGAINST THE PUBLIC SAFETY.

HERE IN OUR COUNTRY THE YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THE CANCELLATION OF ITS PLANNED PUBLICATION OF A BOOK THAT FEATURED THE SAME CARTOONS. SOME VOICES IN ACADEMIA AND ELSEWHERE LOUDLY CRITICIZED YALE FOR BOWING TO A RATHER CLEAR POTENTIAL DANGER, BUT THE YUP EDITOR'S ACTION SEEMS JUSTIFIED AS AN EFFORT TO PREVENT EXPOSING HIS EMPLOYEES TO VIOLENCE AND PERHAPS LOSS OF LIFE IN A BASICALLY UNPROTECTABLE ENVIRONMENT.

THE UNDERLYING TRUTH FAR OUTWEIGHS THE CANCELLATION OF PUBLICATION. YALE'S FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND OF THE PRESS ARE BASIC FOUNDATIONS OF OUR DEMOCRACY AND IN YALE'S CASE WE HAVE SACRIFICED ONE TO SUPPORT THE OTHER. THIS IS A "ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL" SITUATION IN WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, "PAUL" IS A FOREIGN FAITH WITH VALUES THAT OPPOSE OURS, AND EVEN OUR DEMOCRACY THAT OFFERS THEM TO OTHERS.

YALE'S SOLUTION WAS A PAROCHIAL ONE. THE LARGER ISSUE REMAINS. AS MUCH AS WE MAY LIKE TO BELIEVE IT, OUR DEMOCRACY IN OUR TIME DOES NOT FIT EVERYONE. THERE IS AN IMAGE THAT ENJOYS SOME POPULARITY OF AN ADMIRED AMERICA DISTRIBUTING A CORNUCOPIA OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS TO AN APPRECIATIVE WORLD. THAT IT IS NOT A REALISTIC ONE IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD FACE.

YALE CONFRONTED OTHER CONTRADICTIONS. IT HAS EMBARKED UPON A PROGRAM TO BECOME A "WORLD UNIVERSITY" WITH SATELLITE FACILITIES AROUND THE WORLD. ONE IS IN BAHREIN AND THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE OTHERS IN WHOLLY OR PREDOMINANTLY MUSLIM COUNTRIES. MONEY IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR. ANOTHER FINANCIAL CONNECTION CAN BE MADE TO THE LEVEL OF FUNDING, BY BOTH GRANTS AND DONATIONS, THAT YALE RECEIVES FROM MUSLIM INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COUNTRIES.

FOR APPROXIMATELY ITS FIRST THREE HUNDRED YEARS, YALE'S OFFICIAL SEAL AND IDENTIFYING IMAGE DISPLAYED A

BOOK WITH THE WORDS LUX ET VERITAS WRITTEN IN HEBREW. IN RECENT YEARS THIS LETTERING HAS BEEN REMOVED IN ORDER, IT HAS BEEN STATED, TO MORE FULLY REFLECT THE UNIVERSITY'S NEW AND EXPANDED INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE. WAS MUSLIM PRESSURE A FACTOR? BIGNESS, TOO, HAS ITS COSTS.

THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO ADJUST OUR DEMOCRACY AND ITS VALUES TO ABUSES, CONFLICTS OR CLAIMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD IS NOT AN EASY ONE, BUT IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED AND DEALT WITH. WE HAVE WRAPPED OURSELVES IN OUR DEMOCRACY AND IT HAS PROTECTED US, BUT WE MUST CARE ENOUGH TO CARE FOR IT, ALL OF IT.

AT THE END, A NAGGING QUESTION REMAINS. HAD YALE, WITH ITS STRONG TIES TO JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND BAHRAIN, SOUGHT A MUSLIM CO-PUBLISHER, EITHER HERE OR THERE, WHAT WOULD THE RESPONSE HAVE BEEN? THE ANSWER, WE SUSPECT, WOULD BE NONE. AND THAT WOULD BE A LESSON IN ITSELF.

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## THE MEDIA

OVER THE COURSE OF OUR HISTORY THERE HAVE BEEN MANY SEPARATE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES THAT POINTED, AS THEY DEVELOPED, IN THE DIRECTION OF TODAY'S MASS MEDIA. BUT THE CONCEPT OF MASS AS WE KNOW IT TODAY MUST START WITH THE POPULARITY OF NATIONAL COMMERCIAL RADIO BROADCASTS IN THE 1930S. RADIO WAS ABLE TO REACH MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WITHOUT USAGE PAYMENT. IT COULD BE ACCESSED BY A FLIP OF A SWITCH AND COULD BE LISTENED TO WHILE ENGAGED IN ANOTHER ACTIVITY. IT WAS FREE, CONVENIENT AND EASY TO OPERATE.

WITH TELEVISION'S ADDITION OF A PICTURE, FIRST IN B&W AND THEN IN COLOR, AND WITH THE POSTWAR POPULATION SURGING, MARKETERS FOUND IMMEDIATE AND INTENSE WAYS TO MOTIVATE PURCHASES. THIS MADE A WIN-WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR CONSUMERS, ADVERTISERS AND MEDIA, AND THE MONEY FLOW BETWEEN THEM GREW RICHER AND RICHER.

LIKE OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR CULTURE, WE HAVE CREATED OUR MASS MEDIA AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS MANY FAILURES. IN THE FIRST PLACE, PRIOR TO BROADCASTING TECHNOLOGY, OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL MEDIA FORMS WERE PRINT MEDIA'S NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES WHICH WERE PRIVATELY OWNED AND DISTRIBUTED.

WITH BROADCAST, DISTRIBUTION IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH PUBLIC AIRSPACE OWNED BY THE PEOPLE WHICH, IN ONE OF ITS MOST OUTRAGEOUS BOWS IN THE DIRECTION OF CAPITALISM, GOVERNMENT LICENSES TO PRIVATE OWNERS WITHOUT EXERCISING ANY MEANINGFUL CONTROL OVER HOW THIS PUBLIC AIRSPACE IS USED.

WE DO HAVE A FEDERAL AGENCY, THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) DESIGNED TO MONITOR PROGRAMMING AND REPRESENT THE PUBLIC INTEREST, BUT IT IS NO MATCH FOR THE IMMENSE FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL POWER WIELDED BY THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR'S LICENSEES. NO LICENSE HAS EVER BEEN SUSPENDED, FEES HAVE HISTORICALLY

BEEN LOW AND NEW SPECTRUM USAGE IS ASSIGNED BY SEALED BIDS.

IN THE EVENT THAT THIS COZY RELATIONSHIP BREAKS DOWN, AS IT DOES OCCASIONALLY, THE MEDIA FORCES CAN CALL UPON ANY NUMBER OF THEIR EXPENSIVE LEGAL TEAMS TO DELAY AND DEFLECT LITIGATION, AND TO OVERPOWER THE LESS NUMEROUS, EXPERIENCED AND SKILLFUL FCC STAFF ATTORNEYS.

THE MASS BROADCAST MEDIUM OF TV, WHICH USED TO CONSIST PRIMARILY OF A FEW NETWORKS, THEIR AFFILIATED LOCAL STATIONS AND LOCAL INDEPENDENTS, HAS MOVED FAR BEYOND PLAIN TELEVISION. IT COEXISTS AND PROSPERS IN A WORLD OF MIXED OWNERSHIP, TECHNOLOGY AND PRODUCT. IT ENGAGES IN TOURISM, CRUISES, FILM PRODUCTION, CABLE TV, ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS/GAMES, COMPUTERS, SPORTS EVENTS OF ALL KINDS, BROADWAY THEATRE AND MORE. AND OF THIS VAST MIX, WHICH WE NOW KNOW AS THE ENTERTAINMENT/MEDIA COMPLEX, TV HAS FASHIONED A FINANCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACT ON OUR SOCIETY UNMATCHED BY ANY OTHER.

IT FOLLOWS IN THE PATTERN OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF OUR CULTURE THAT WE IDENTIFY IN THIS ISSUE IN THAT IT IS SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE CREATED AND DEVELOPED AND WHICH IN TURN EXERTS A FORMATIVE EFFECT UPON OUR SOCIETY. WELL, YOU MIGHT SAY, "WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME. IT'S PART OF OUR GROWTH PROCESS."

WHAT'S WRONG IS THAT WE HAVE ABDICATED OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING THE KIND OF GROWTH THAT IS MOST BENEFICIAL TO OUR NATION AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE, AND ARE PERMITTING, UNDER PRIVATE OWNERSHIP, PRACTICES THAT ENDANGER OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE HEALTH, BOTH SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL.

THE "SMALL SCREEN", WHICH IDENTIFIES TV AS DIFFERENT FROM THE "LARGE SCREEN" OF MOVIE THEATRES, OFFERS AN ENDLESS EDITORIAL MENU OF SEX, SMUT, PROFANITY AND OBSESSION WITH BODY PARTS AND PROCESSES IN ITS PURSUIT OF "HUMOR".

SEX CAN BE HETERO OR HOMO, WITH ANIMALS, SINGLE, COUPLES OR MORE, AND SHOW EITHER GENDER FROM MINORS TO SENIORS. IT IS RAW, RAUNCHY, DEMEANING AND IS AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES SO THAT CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO IT.

IN YOUTH PROGRAMMING THERE IS, AS WE MIGHT EXPECT, SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. FOR BOYS THERE IS CONTINUING PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, WHICH INCLUDES BOTH GENDERS, AND SPECIAL EFFECTS WHICH SHOW PEOPLE SURVIVING DESTRUCTIVE ACTS WITHOUT INJURY. THE IMMATURE MIND TRANSLATES THIS INVULNERABILITY INTO OTHER AREAS OF LIFE SUCH AS THE LAW, SPORTS, EDUCATION, MARRIAGE, ETC. WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS.

FOR YOUNG GIRLS, DIRECTLY AND BY ASSOCIATION, TV PROGRAMMING EMPHASIZES AND HOLDS OUT THE PURSUIT OF GLITZ, OFTEN FOR GLITZ' SAKE. FASHION, FILM, CELEBRITY, ACTING, RADIO/TV — ALL THE THINGS THAT SPELL GLITZ, FAME AND FORTUNE TO A YOUNG GIRL ARE PRESENTED FULL-FRONT AND REINFORCED BY A PATTERN OF SEXUAL FLAMBOYANCE OR INNUENDO.

FOR BOTH YOUNG GENDERS A LEVEL OF INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGE OR BENEFIT SIMPLY DOES NOT EXIST. AND NOT

FOR THEIR BODIES EITHER, AS THE ACTORS IN TV SITCOMS ARE OFTEN AS OBESE AS THEIR AUDIENCES. WITH YOUNG VIEWERS DEVOTING HOURS OF THEIR DAYS TO TV, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT OUR NATIONAL HEALTH HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY IMPACTED BY BOTH OBESITY AND A SHARP RISE IN DIABETES.

AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR BROADCAST ERA, THE PRIVATE SECTOR TOOK A FIRM POSITION THAT ANY CONTROL BY GOVERNMENT OF PROGRAMMING WAS A MOVE TOWARDS SOCIALISM AND AN ABANDONMENT OF OUR CAPITALISTIC FREE MARKET SYSTEM. GOVERNMENT ACQUIESCED AND THE RESULTS ARE ALL AROUND US, BUT IT IS OUR CHILDREN'S AND GRANDCHILDREN'S LIVES THAT ARE MOST THREATENED AND THAT CRY OUT FOR HELP THAT IS NOT COMING.

THE INDUSTRY'S FILTH MILLS AND THEIR PRODUCERS NOW MAKE THE ARGUMENT THAT THEY ARE ENTITLED UNDER THE CONSTITUTION'S FIRST AMENDMENT TO DETERMINE THE CONTENT OF THEIR SHOWS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE AND TO HAVE THESE SHOWS SEEN BY ANY AND ALL VIEWERS AT ANY TIME. AND, OF COURSE, THEY LOOK FORWARD TO LITIGATING THE MATTER.

WHETHER OUR JUDICIARY WILL ACCEPT THEIR ARGUMENT, IF IT IS PRESENTED IN COURT, CANNOT NOW BE KNOWN, BUT THOSE WHO SEEK TO CLEAN AND ELEVATE THE MESSAGES CARRIED BY OUR AIR WAVES HAVE NO REASON TO DRAW ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PAST DECISIONS.

THIS SUBJECT HEAVILY INVOLVES PERSONAL TASTE, OFFENSE AND OPINION WHICH MAY NOT MAKE A STRONG ENOUGH ARGUMENT TO CHALLENGE CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION. A BETTER APPROACH MIGHT BE TO CITE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL DAMAGE TO CHILDREN THAT CONTINUES TO GAIN SUPPORT IN MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPINIONS.

THE MEDIA/MONEY AND THE JUVENILE HEALTH/ DEVELOPMENT FORCES SHOW NO SIGNS OF BEING ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOME REASONABLE TRUCE OR COMPROMISE, AND IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT THEY WILL HAVE THEIR ULTIMATE CONFRONTATION BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT.

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## MULTICULTURALISM

OF ALL THE FORCES THAT THREATEN AMERICAN CULTURE TODAY NONE IS MORE SERIOUS OR INSIDIOUS THAN MULTICULTURALISM. THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS FOR THIS STATUS, THE FIRST BEING THAT IT CARRIES A FALSE LABEL WHICH SUGGESTS A GENERALLY BENIGN PROCESS OF ACCEPTANCE OF MULTIPLE CULTURES. THIS IS A CLEVER DISGUISE BEHIND WHICH THE MILITANT MULTICULTURALISTS ENGAGE IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT AGENDA AS, RATHER THAN USING DIFFERENT CULTURES TO PROVIDE COMMON POINTS OF REFERENCE, THEY COMBINE THEM FOR AN ORCHESTRATED ASSAULT UPON OUR WESTERN CULTURE IN GENERAL AND ESPECIALLY ITS AMERICAN VERSION.

THERE ARE, SPREAD THROUGHOUT OUR CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY, THOSE WHO ARE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN THE

MILDER, MORE ACADEMIC VIEW OF MULTIPLE CULTURES RATHER THAN THE MILITANT POLITICAL FORM USED TO ATTACK OUR SYSTEM AND ROIL OUR POLITICS.

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY IS A DIFFICULT SYSTEM TO MAKE WORK. IT WAS DIFFICULT ENOUGH FOR OUR FOUNDING FATHERS AND EVEN MORE SO NOW. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT TIME, TECHNOLOGY, WEALTH AND POPULATION HAVE COMBINED TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE COMPLEX AND ESPECIALLY SO IN THE AREAS THAT FULFILL ITS SOCIAL CONTRACT WITH THE PEOPLE SUCH AS LIBERTY, FAIRNESS, EQUALITY, JUSTICE. GOVERNMENT TODAY IS ASKED TO DEFINE AND DISTRIBUTE BENEFITS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES THAT OUR FOUNDERS COULD NOT IMAGINE, LET ALONE FORESEE.

WE HAVE BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF MANY AREAS OF GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS, AND THIS IS ONE. IT IS NOT JUST THAT GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED THE SOCIAL CONTRACT, BUT THAT IN DOING SO IT HAS PUT THE PROCESS OUT FOR BIDS. FOR SALE — CASH ONLY — RESULTS GUARANTEED!

POLITICAL MULTICULTURALISM DERIVES FROM POLITICAL CORRECTNESS FIRST IDENTIFIED AND MENTIONED IN A SPEECH BY LENIN IN 1921. ITS USE IN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE IS DESIGNED TO CELEBRATE THE CULTURES AND POLITICS OF MINORITIES AND TO GAIN SEPARATE POLITICAL TREATMENT FOR THEM BASED ON THEIR ETHNIC, RACIAL OR NATIONAL ORIGINS.

DEMOCRACY IS UNWIELDY AT BEST AND OUR SLOGAN OF E PLURIBUS UNUM (FROM THE MANY, ONE) HAS LONG BEEN CHALLENGED AND HAS PROVED DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE. MULTICULTURALISM SEEMS TO OFFER ONLY "FROM THE MANY, MANY MORE" AND LITTLE CHANCE OF NATIONAL SUCCESS, BUT IT IS NOT THE NATION'S INTEREST WITH WHICH MULTICULTURALISM IS CONCERNED.

QUITE TO THE CONTRARY, MULTICULTURALISM SLICES AND DICES OUR POPULATION INTO SMALLER, NOT LARGER, INTERESTS. IT APPEALS TO THEM ON AN EMOTIONAL BASIS TIED TO THEIR MINORITY STATUS. IT IS ABLE TO EXPLOIT THEIR ANGER AND RESENTMENT AND TO FOCUS THESE HOSTILE EMOTIONS UPON OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND WAY OF LIFE. WHILE MULTICULTURALISM CLAIMS TO BE A UNIFYING FORCE, IT IS IN REALITY EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE — CREATING, IDENTIFYING AND AGITATING AS MANY GROUPS AS POSSIBLE FOR WHICH IT CLAIMS TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ILLUSORY POLITICAL BENEFITS AND REPRESENTATION BEYOND THE MINORITY LEVEL.

MULTICULTURALISM SHOULD BE SEEN FOR WHAT IT IS. IT IS A DECEPTIVE, VIOLENT AND DISGUISED METHOD FOR ACCOMPLISHING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE. IT TARGETS OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM WITH MONEY, LIES AND PROTESTS THAT SOMETIMES TURN VIOLENT. ITS AIM IS TO DESTABILIZE GOVERNMENT BY SERVING SPECIAL GROUP INTERESTS OPPOSED TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST. BEYOND THE COLLAPSE OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM IT SEEKS THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR COUNTRY AND THE WHOLE STRUCTURE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION AND ITS VALUES, AND THEIR REPLACEMENT BY NON-DEMOCRATIC ELITES.

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CULTURES EXIST IN A STATE OF FLUX IN WHICH ELEMENTS ARE CONSTANTLY ADDED AND REMOVED. AND YET, SOMEHOW, THEY ARE ABLE TO FORM A CORE WHICH TAKES SHAPE AND BECOMES AN IDENTITY. ENGLAND HAS ITS PAGEANTRY AND LAW, FRANCE ITS FOOD AND LANGUAGE, GERMANY ITS MUSIC AND SCIENCE, ITALY ITS OPERA AND ARCHITECTURE.

TO DATE, A MUCH YOUNGER AMERICA WITH LESS OF A CULTURAL HISTORY IS MOSTLY KNOWN FOR ITS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS. THIS IS A DANGEROUS INHERITANCE, FOR IN POLITICS YOU HAVE TO PROVE YOURSELF EVERY DAY AND BE ACCOUNTABLE IN THE COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION TO BOTH YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS AND YOUR NEIGHBORS.

THE CONTEST FOR WEALTH AND POWER WHICH UNDERLIES SO MUCH OF OUR AMERICAN LIFE AND CULTURE HAS CONFUSED OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY, AS IT OFTEN DOES OUR POLICIES. REGARDING IMMIGRATION AND CULTURES OTHER THAN OUR OWN, OUR HISTORICAL MESSAGE OF GENEROSITY, WELCOME AND EQUALITY HAS BEEN ABUSED AND TURNED AGAINST US BY OPPOSING INTERESTS SUCH AS MULTICULTURALISM. THESE GROUPS VIEW AMERICA AS A LIMITLESS RECEPTACLE TO CARE FOR THE WORLD'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BY ABSORBING ITS DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS.

IN THIS PROCESS, ANY REFUGEES OR IMMIGRANTS WHO FIND THEIR WAY HERE BY ANY METHOD, LEGAL OR ILLEGAL, ARE DEEMED TO HAVE "RIGHTS" THAT TRANSCEND ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. TO TRANSFORM THESE DISADVANTAGED WITHOUT HOPE IN THEIR HOMELANDS TO PEOPLE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STATUS IN AMERICA MANY LINGUISTIC DECEPTIONS HAVE BEEN PUT TO THEIR PURPOSES AT THE EXPENSE OF OURS.

NORMALLY, SUCH A PROCESS WOULD NOT BE A SUCCESSFUL ONE, BUT OUR GOVERNMENT IS SO LACED THROUGH WITH CORRUPTION, OPPORTUNISM AND COWARDICE THAT IT READILY ACQUIESCES TO THE DEMANDS OF THOSE WHO WISH TO DESTROY OUR CULTURE.

IN ALL THE AREAS WE HAVE EXPLORED IN THIS ISSUE IT IS APPARENT THAT HUMAN INTERVENTION CAN INFLUENCE, AND EVEN ALTER, CULTURE AND IDENTITY. IN RACIAL MATTERS, DRUGS, RELIGION AND OUR MEDIA WE HAVE PASSED LEGISLATION AND/OR INSTITUTED BY DECREE REGULATIONS THAT SHAPE AND OFTEN DEFINE OUR NATIONAL CULTURE. THIS HAS NOT BEEN THE CASE WITH MULTICULTURALISM WHOSE PROPONENTS SEEM TO SPEAK WITH SUCH STRIDENCY AND FORCE THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS REDUCED TO LITTLE OR NO EFFECTIVE RESPONSE.

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IT SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE AS MANY TROUBLED AREAS WITHIN OUR CULTURE AS WE HAVE NOTED AND NOT WANT TO CORRECT THEM, AND BY "CORRECT THEM" WE MEAN OPENING THEM TO MORE TRUTH, FAIRNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC ACCESS THAN THEIR PRESENT AND RECENTLY PAST POLITICAL GUARDIANS HAVE PERMITTED.

WE HAVE USED LEGISLATION WITH MIXED RESULTS,

PRIMARILY BECAUSE ITS USE HAS BEEN VERY SPECIFIC (I.E., AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, DRUG WARS, BROADCAST MEDIA CONTENT, GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ISLAMIC SETTLEMENTS) AND HAVE AVOIDED ANY MENTION OF ITS CULTURAL RELEVANCE. BUT CULTURE IS AN UNDENIABLY CRITICAL ASPECT OF ANY SOCIETY, AND AMERICA, AND AMERICANS, DESPITE THEIR POWERFUL CENTER PRESENCE ON THE WORLD STAGE, CONTINUE TO HARBOR WITHIN THEM A VERY STRONG AND HISTORICAL PAROCHIALISM.

SO, WHAT IS TO BE DONE TO TERMINATE OUR DRIFT TO CULTURAL DENIAL AND FRAGMENTATION? WHY DO WE NOT FACE THIS SERIOUS NATIONAL THREAT TO OUR TRADITIONS AND IDENTITY IN A REASONABLY UNIFIED WAY? ARE WE TOO BUSY MAKING MONEY, WATCHING FOOTBALL OR SITCOMS, SHOPPING OR LESS LEISURELY PURSUITS SUCH AS JUST TRYING TO GET BY AND STAY AFLOAT IN OUR ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY TROUBLED TIMES?

THE TROUBLE WITH DOING NOTHING, WITH BEING "TOO BUSY", TO DEFEND OUR CULTURE IS THAT WITHOUT OUR SUPPORT IT WILL DECLINE; IT WILL LOSE PARTS OF ITSELF TO ITS ATTACKERS; ITS TIES WITH OUR HISTORICAL TRADITIONS WILL BE SEVERED.

WE HAVE SEEN HOW THE CULTURES WE CREATE FORM US IN RETURN. JUST AS SURELY, THE ACTS THAT WE TAKE, OR DON'T TAKE, TO PROTECT OUR CULTURE WILL HAVE THE POWER TO DIMINISH US AS WELL AS IT.

THAT MAY SEEM AN UNCOMFORTABLE CONCLUSION, BUT OUR SUPERPOWER CULTURE IS IN A VULNERABLE STAGE. WE, AND IT, ARE UNDER ATTACK FOR OUR WEALTH, OUR POWER, AND OUR FAILURE TO DELIVER DEMOCRACY BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD IN REAL, RATHER THAN RHETORICAL, FORM.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES LIVE ON THE EDGE, OR WITHIN A FEW STEPS, OF FAILURE. OUR GOVERNMENT SEEMS UNABLE TO GRASP THIS. NOR CAN THEY BE RESCUED BY MORE TROOPS AND DOLLARS. SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE FORCES THAT PROPEL POLICY AND ITS TARGETS ROOM MUST BE MADE FOR INTEGRITY OR ELSE THE POLICY WILL MOST LIKELY FAIL, IN PART OR IN FULL.

IDENTITY IS A KEY ELEMENT IN ANY CULTURE AND ESPECIALLY SO IN TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AMERICA WITH ITS TOTAL COMMITMENT TO IMAGERY, COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING TECHNOLOGY. AND YET WE HAVE AN IDENTITY PROBLEM THAT FRACTURES OUR IMAGE OF OURSELVES AND TO OTHERS.

IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE COUNTRIES ACTUALLY HAVE MINISTRIES DEVOTED TO THEIR CULTURES. THE FUNCTION OF THESE MINISTRIES OFTEN CENTERS AROUND MAINTAINING AN IDENTITY OF CULTURAL VALUE BY EMPHASIZING PAST AND/OR PRESENT ACCOMPLISHMENT. WE HAVE NO SUCH THING.

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WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT HUMAN PURPOSE AND ACTIVITY CAN INTERVENE IN CULTURES AND CAN PRODUCE RESULTS. THE NEXT STEP IS TO RECOGNIZE A CURRENT

CIRCUMSTANCE, UNIQUE TO OUR TIME, THAT HAS CONSIDERABLY ALTERED OUR RELATIONSHIP TO OUR CULTURE. MOST EVIDENT IS THAT OLD DEVIL, TECHNOLOGY — NOT ALL TECHNOLOGY, BUT THE KIND THAT, COMMENCING WITH THE TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, HAS FREED OUR COMMUNICATIONS FROM MOVING ALONG THE GROUND TO MOVING THROUGH THE AIR. AND, AS TRAVEL HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BASIC WAY OF COMMUNICATING, IT IS INCLUDED. THE RESULT HAS BEEN A ONE-TWO PUNCH THAT NO CULTURE HAS BEEN ABLE TO AVOID OR WITHSTAND AND GOES BY A VARIETY OF NAMES ALL OF WHICH COMBINE UNDER THE RUBRIC OF “INSTANT COMMUNICATION”.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR BOTH THE DOMINANT AND THE LESSER CULTURES OF OUR TIME?<sup>5</sup> IT MEANS, FIRST, THAT CHANGES IN OUR WAYS OF THOUGHT AND LIFE ARE ASSEMBLED AND THEN CONVEYED TO THE CENTRAL BODY OF OUR CULTURE FAR MORE QUICKLY THAN EVER BEFORE.

THIS IS DANGEROUS BECAUSE IT REDUCES OUR TIME FOR TRIAL AND ERROR; FOR CULLING WHAT IS IMPRACTICAL, FOOLISH OR PERILOUS; AND FOR MAKING MODIFICATIONS LIKELY TO ACHIEVE WIDE ACCEPTANCE.

AND THERE IS A SECOND NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCE. THE MAIN CULTURAL MASS WHICH NOURISHES, IDENTIFIES AND GIVES MEANING TO OUR WAYS OF LIFE HAS LESS TIME TO ABSORB AND REFINE THE CHANGES WITH WHICH IT IS NOW REGULARLY AND RAPIDLY BOMBARDED.

WITHOUT OUR RECOGNIZING IT, OUR WAY OF CREATING CULTURE HAS BEEN CHANGED. AND AS IT FORMS US, IT WILL, IN TURN, CHANGE US IN WAYS FOR WHICH WE ARE UNPREPARED. WE ARE UNDERGOING A FORM OF SOCIETAL CHANGE JUST AS PAINFUL AND DIFFICULT AS ANY NATIONAL LOSS OF TERRITORY OR BORDER CHANGE.

IN THIS PROCESS SOME PARTS ARE USED TO SUBVERT OUR POLITICAL AND HISTORICAL IDENTITIES. THIS HAS BEEN POSSIBLE BECAUSE AMERICA, WITH ITS COMPETING SPECIAL INTERESTS AND GROUPS, NO LONGER COMES TOGETHER AROUND A CLEAR NATIONAL IDENTITY. “BEING #1” IS SIMPLY NOT AN IDENTITY.

OUR DEFENSE AGAINST THE MULTIPLE ASSAULTS UPON OUR CULTURE MUST COME FROM BEING WILLING TO ADDRESS THE CULTURAL CONSEQUENCES OF NATIONAL ISSUES AND THE LEGISLATION THEY SPAWN. THIS, OF COURSE, IS UNHEARD OF IN OUR GOVERNMENT. WHAT POLITICIAN WOULD RISK EMBROILING HIMSELF AND HIS OFFICE IN CULTURAL ARGUMENT WHERE EMOTION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF GIVING OFFENSE RUN HIGH? AND WHAT LOBBYIST OR SPECIAL INTEREST CARES FOR SUCH MATTERS?

BUT THERE’S A CURIOUS THING ABOUT OUR AMERICAN CULTURE. THERE’S AN UNARTICULATED AND UNTAPPED RESERVOIR OF IT IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND ONE COURAGEOUS POLITICIAN WILLING TO TAKE THE CHANCE TO REACH FOR IT MIGHT FIND THAT THIS CULTURE, IN WHICH WE ALL SHARE AND WHICH FORMS US, HAS THE POLITICAL ABILITY TO MAKE, AS WELL AS BREAK.

WE MUST BE ABLE POLITICALLY TO LOOSEN THE GRIP UPON US OF THOSE WHO CONDEMN OUR CULTURE AND ATTACK IT WITHOUT FEAR OF REPRISAL. WE MUST BE ABLE TO OPENLY

DEBATE SOMETHING AS MISGUIDED AS MILITANT MARXIST MULTICULTURALISM AND TO AFFIRM OUR BELIEF IN TOLERANCE OF APOLITICAL MULTIPLE CULTURES.

AND AFTER DEBATE, WE MUST REFER TO VOTERS CULTURAL ISSUES, NO MATTER HOW SENSITIVE, SO THAT THEY MAY PARTICIPATE IN AND DETERMINE OUR COUNTRY’S PATH TO THE FUTURE. IF WE DO NOT, IF WE ALLOW OTHERS TO CONTINUE TO USURP OUR PREROGATIVE, THEN OUR CULTURE, NO LONGER CREATED BY US, WILL NOT FUNCTION FOR US. IT WILL DETERIORATE AND ATROPHY. ALL THIS WILL TAKE PLACE OVER TIME. THERE WILL BE NO SUBTITLES OR LABELS TO ALERT US. ONLY THE PAIN WILL REMAIN.

AMERICANS ARE NOT AS FOCUSED ON THEIR IDENTITY AS THEY ONCE WERE, AND ARE NOT CLOSE TO THEIR CULTURE. TOO BAD; IT’S THE ONLY ONE WE HAVE. VOLUNTEERS WANTED.

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## CULTURAL RECAP

THE CENTRAL QUESTION OF AMERICAN CULTURE IS “DO WE CARE ENOUGH TO DISCUSS IT AND ATTEMPT TO DEFINE IT FOR OUR AND OUR CHILDREN’S LIVES? ARE WE WILLING TO DEFEND IT BY THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED?”

LIKE MANY OF OUR OTHER KEY ISSUES, WITH CULTURE WE ARE APPROACHING A TIPPING POINT. ACTION AND COURAGE ARE CALLED FOR NOW BECAUSE TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE.

WE ARE THE ONLY SOCIETY THAT HAS EVER EXISTED ON EARTH THAT HAS READILY AVAILABLE TO IT THE TECHNOLOGY, TIME AND KNOWLEDGE TO IDENTIFY THE THREATS THAT WE OURSELVES HAVE PUT IN MOTION. WE ARE ABLE TO REACH OUT OUR HAND AND STAY THE BULLET AIMED AT OUR FOREHEAD AND THE ONRUSHING TRAIN IN THE TUNNEL. BIOLOGICALLY, PHYSICALLY, CLIMATICALLY, CULTURALLY WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO RESPOND, TO CHANGE COURSE. BUT WILL WE?

- 1) THERE ARE ACTIVE FORCES TODAY, BOTH PURPOSEFUL AND NATURAL, THAT THREATEN OUR NATIONAL CULTURE.
- 2) CULTURES ARE MASSES IN MOTION FORMED BY MULTIPLE INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS.
- 3) THEY ARE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION OR DESTRUCTION BY HUMAN INTERVENTION.
- 4) OUR GOVERNMENT HAS PRACTICED SUCH INTERVENTION IN ITS DEALING WITH A VARIETY OF PAST ISSUES.
- 5) TODAY, IT GENERALLY FAILS TO RECOGNIZE OR DISCUSS ANY POTENTIALLY NEGATIVE CULTURAL CONSEQUENCES OF ANY ISSUE, AS IT BELIEVES TO DO SO WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR DEMOCRACY.
- 6) QUITE TO THE CONTRARY, AMERICANS HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR CULTURAL DESTINY AS THEIR POLITICAL OR MILITARY POLICIES.
- 7) WE HAVE MORE TO CELEBRATE IN OUR NATIONAL CULTURE THAN WE HAVE TO FEAR, AND SHOULD NOT BE UNWILLING TO SAY SO THROUGH OUR DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND PROCESS.

AND, FINALLY, BACK TO THE NEAR EAST. IT IS THE CROSSROADS OF THE WORLD, HOME TO: CENTURIES OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE THREE DESERT RELIGIONS; THE GREATEST KNOWN RESERVES OF OUR PETROLEUM AGE'S BASIC FUEL; THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST; EXTREMES OF WEALTH AND POVERTY AS GREAT AS ANY ON EARTH; AND POLITICS OF ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY WHETHER MONARCHICAL OR DICTATORIAL. THESE ARE THE ELEMENTS OUR NEOCON POLICY SOUGHT TO ASSEMBLE AND TRANSFORM BY IMPOSING DEMOCRACY AND CULTURAL CHANGE IN A FORM OF PADDED IMPERIALISM THAT IGNORED REGIONAL POLITICS AS WELL AS GLOBAL RELIGIONS AND ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES.

THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS IN ALL THAT WAS CLAIMED FOR OUR POLICY. WE HAVE MANAGED TO PUT OURSELVES IN A RATHER TIGHT BOX AND IT HAS PANDORA'S NAME WRITTEN ALL OVER IT.

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## WIKILEAKS

THE WORKING THROUGH OF THE WIKILEAKS PROCESS IS REVEALING AT TWO VERY DIFFERENT LEVELS. ON THE SURFACE, OUR NATIONAL (AND INTERNATIONAL) PRIVACY HAS BEEN COMPROMISED AND THE HYPOCRISY THAT ATTENDS DIPLOMACY HAS BEEN EXPOSED WITH TWO EQUALLY INTENSE BUT OPPOSITE REACTIONS.

FOR MANY AMERICANS, WHO HAVE CHAFED TOO LONG UNDER OUR GOVERNMENT'S SECRECIES, RESTRICTIONS AND LIES, THE CANDOR OF THIS MOMENT IS WELCOME RELIEF FROM WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE.

ON THE OTHER SIDE IS A LARGE GROUP OF CONCERNED CITIZENS WHO VIEW WIKILEAKS' ACTIONS AS AN ATTACK UPON OUR GOVERNMENT WITH DAMAGING EFFECT UPON OUR SECURITY, DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN POLICY.

THE PREVALENT FEELING FOR THE FIRST FACTION IS LIBERATION AND CURIOSITY WHEREAS THE OTHER, AND PROBABLY MORE VOCAL, FORCE IS OFFENDED BY WIKILEAKS CHALLENGE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESTIGE AND POWER UPON WHICH MUCH OF ITS STRUCTURE IS BASED.

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER ASPECT TO WIKILEAKS' ACTIONS, AND IT IS A CULTURAL ONE WHICH BEARS NOTING, AS BELOW THE SURFACE SOMETHING FAR MORE SIGNIFICANT IS TAKING PLACE. IN THE RECENT AND RAPID GROWTH OF OUR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SOME OF ITS INHERENT POWER WAS HELD BACK FROM OPEN USAGE IN FAVOR OF FURTHERING COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT. WIKILEAKS BRINGS THIS POWER TO ATTACK OTHERS OUT INTO THE OPEN AND HAS PLACED THE GOVERNMENT ON NOTICE THAT ITS OLD WAYS ARE NO LONGER SACRED AND BEYOND REACH OF CRITICISM.

IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE WIKILEAKS DOCUMENTS' RELEASE, SOME OF OUR LARGEST FINANCIAL SERVICE COMPANIES ATTEMPTED TO ISOLATE WIKILEAKS BY DENYING THEIR SERVICES TO IT. AND THIS IS THE POINT

WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGED. A SMALL GROUP OF COMPUTER HACKERS WAS ABLE TO PENETRATE THESE LARGE COMPANIES' CYBER SECURITY AND SHUT DOWN THEIR WEBSITES. THEY PUT THEIR CYBER TECHNOLOGY TO OPEN USE TO ATTACK THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S FINANCIAL HEART, AND THEY POSED AN ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE CHALLENGE TO THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF ENTRENCHED AND PROTECTED CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OUR FINANCIAL SECTOR. THE CYBER SWORD HAS BEEN UNSHEATHED.

NOT ONLY HAS OUR IMAGE OF CENTRAL AUTHORITY BEEN ALTERED; IT HAS ALSO BEEN DISARMED. THE CYBER "HACKTIVISTS" THAT STRUCK THE LARGE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE MOSTLY A DISPERSED GROUP OF COMPUTER "NERDS" OPERATING UNDER THE ANONYMITY OF THE INTERNET. THEY ARE FEW IN NUMBER AND BEYOND ANY EFFECTIVE REACH OF EITHER THE LIMITED ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES THAT ARE AVAILABLE OR THE GENEROSITY OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY'S MANY LOBBYISTS.

FORGET THE COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE STATE DEPT.! THIS CAN BE A GAME CHANGER! OUR NOTION OF CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPHERES HAS BEEN RECAST IN A WAY THAT CAN MOVE ON AND THROUGH OTHER ASPECTS AND AREAS OF OUR SOCIETY

ECD 1/15/11

## END NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> ASSOCIATED PRESS VIA PALM BEACH POST, 11/20/10
- <sup>2</sup> CF. MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE, ISSUE #8, AUGUST, 2005
- <sup>3</sup> ASSOCIATED PRESS VIA PALM BEACH POST, 9/16/10
- <sup>4</sup> THE BUENOS AIRES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE OF 118 THOUSAND ACRES WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1985 ALONG OUR ARIZONA/MEXICO BORDER FOR PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES AND NATIVE VEGETATION. IT HAS BECOME HOME TO RAPE, MURDER AND VIOLENCE BY ILLEGAL ALIENS, THEFT AND DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY, SMUGGLING ROUTES FOR DRUGS AND PEOPLE AND ALSO MASS MARIJUANA GROWING FARMS OPERATING UNDER ARMED GUARDS AND THE CONTROL OF CRIMINAL INTERESTS. THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE HAS BEEN TO HAVE THE US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CLOSE KEY PARTS OF THE AREA "DUE TO HUMAN SAFETY CONCERNS". MIDDLE AMERICAN NEWS, 12/10
- <sup>5</sup> THE AUTHOR RECOGNIZES THAT THERE IS A SCHOOL OF THOUGHT THAT CLAIMS THAT ALL CULTURES ARE OF EQUAL VALUE. THAT IS A SUBJECTIVE THEORY THAT SEEMS TO APPLY MORE TO THOSE THAT EXIST IN RELATIVE ISOLATION. OUR USE OF "DOMINANT" AND "LESSER" ADMITS TO DIFFERENCES IN LOCATION, SIZE, ADVANCEMENT, ETC., NOT TO "VALUE".

## EDITOR'S BIO

MR. AULT IS RETIRED FROM BUSINESS, A GRADUATE OF YALE UNIVERSITY, AND THE AUTHOR OF A RETAIL FOOD STUDY (LA ROCHE & Co. NYC, NY 1957) WHICH DESCRIBED THE EMERGENCE AND GROWING DOMINANCE OF THE SUPERMARKET IN AMERICAN FOOD RETAILING