

MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE®

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VIII

WHO ARE WE?

AND WHY ARE WE NOT WHO WE WERE?

CULTURAL CONTRADICTIONS IN AMERICA

CAUSE AND EFFECT

DIFFERENCES
FRICTION
TENSION
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POLICY
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PREFACE

OUR TITLE QUESTION, “WHO ARE WE?”, THAT WE HAVE ENGAGED IN OUR SEVEN PREVIOUS ISSUES MAY TURN OUT TO BE UNANSWERABLE — EITHER BECAUSE TIME, TECHNOLOGY AND EVENTS ARE MOVING TOO RAPIDLY OR BECAUSE WE LACK SUFFICIENT COURAGE AND COMMON PURPOSE TO FACE THE FEAR AND RECOGNIZE THE REALITY OF OUR IDENTITY.

WHO ARE WE? THERE IS NO QUICK ANSWER. WE ARE A MIXTURE OF IMAGE, IDENTITY AND HISTORY WHICH COMBINE TO FORM OUR CULTURE. POLITICALLY, WE ARE A STOP-ACTION PHOTO OF OUR LAWS AND GOVERNMENT AT ANY PARTICULAR

MOMENT — CRISIS, WAR, ELECTION, TRIUMPH, FAILURE, ETC. HISTORICALLY, WE ARE MORE LIKE AN OIL PORTRAIT, A WORK IN PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE HAVE HAD MANY SITTINGS IN ORDER TO “GET IT RIGHT”.

OUR MANY IMAGES REVEAL WHAT WE ARE, OR WERE. WE ARE NOT SHORT OF IMAGES, BUT MOST AMERICANS DON’T GIVE MUCH THOUGHT TO THE MANY DIFFERENT ONES WHICH WE ESTABLISHED TO DO OUR COUNTRY’S WORK AND TO PRESENT OURSELVES TO OTHERS. WE HAVE BEEN, AND STILL HARBOR WITHIN US, THE SEVERE 17TH-CENTURY NEW ENGLAND PILGRIM PREACHER; THE 18TH CENTURY WEATHERED YANKEE TRADER ON HORSEBACK; THE 19TH-CENTURY PIONEERS IN WAGONS WITH

IN THIS ISSUE, WE PRESENT SOME KEY CONTRADICTIONS THAT OUR FAILURES OF WILL AND POLICY HAVE ALLOWED TO GROW AND CLAIM STATUS IN OUR CULTURE. THIS ISSUE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS THE SECOND OF WHICH CONSTITUTES OUR REPLY TO A READER REGARDING ISLAM IN AMERICA.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE, AND FOR THE THREE THAT FOLLOW IT, WE WILL DEAL WITH THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF OUR CULTURE AND IDENTITY IN THE HIGHLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE OF GOVERNMENTAL CHANGE, AND WE WILL CONTINUE OUR ANALYSIS OF ISLAM’S UNIQUE THREAT TO AMERICA.

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FAMILY, FURNITURE AND ANIMALS MOVING SLOWLY DAY BY DAY INTO THE UNKNOWN WEST; THE LATE 19TH-CENTURY CAPITALIST DEPICTING EXCESS; WW I DOUGHBOYS; THE SOLID 20TH-CENTURY INDUSTRIAL WORKERS; THE BLURRED IMAGES OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION YEARS WHEN PAIN WAS OUR COMMON DENOMINATOR; GI JOE OF WW II; POSTWAR SUBURBAN FAMILIES MODERNIZED FROM COVERED WAGON DAYS.

IF OUR SOCIETY IS THE MIRROR THAT REFLECTS OUR HISTORY, OUR CULTURE IS THE IMAGE THAT IT PROJECTS.

OUR HISTORICAL “PORTRAIT” IS MOSTLY CREATED BY THE ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENT — WARS, POLITICS, TREATIES, TRADE AND, RECENTLY, HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS, WHILE OUR CULTURE HAS BEEN MOSTLY FORMED BY PEOPLE, ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN THIS AREA SINCE THE DEPRESSION YEARS. IF OUR SOCIETY IS THE MIRROR THAT REFLECTS OUR HISTORY, OUR CULTURE IS THE IMAGE THAT IT PROJECTS.

IN THE BEGINNING, GOVERNMENT WAS EVERYTHING — OUR POLITICAL PROMISED LAND AND HOME TO THE LOFTY ASPIRATIONS OF BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES. TODAY, IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO DESCRIBE GOVERNMENT AS WHAT’S LEFT OVER AFTER, OR FILLS THE SPACE BETWEEN, OUR POLITICAL ARGUMENTS. THIS DECLINE IN OUR CONCEPT AND PRACTICE OF GOVERNMENT HAS WEAKENED US AT HOME AND ABROAD AND IS A KEY ELEMENT IN THE LOSS OF OUR VALUES, DEMOCRACY AND JUSTICE. GOVERNMENT IN THE U.S. HAS NOT BEEN OF FIXED QUANTITY OR QUALITY, BUT RATHER HAS EXPERIENCED BOTH THE BENEFITS AND DIFFICULTIES POSED BY OUR EXCEPTIONAL GROWTH IN MONEY AND POWER.

OUR PRESENT FAILURE TO MAINTAIN A GOVERNMENT OF EVEN BASIC INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY HAS HAD, AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE, VERY NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR COUNTRY; AND BECAUSE THE CULTURAL CONTRADICTIONS THAT WE HAVE ALLOWED CAN ACT AS BOTH THE CAUSE AND THE RESULT OF OUR CURRENT GOVERNMENTAL DISTRESS, WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT RESOLVING THEM IS CRITICAL TO THE PROCESS OF CORRECTING AND RECLAIMING OUR GOVERNMENT.

SPQR

THESE LETTERS FORMED THE INSIGNIA THAT ADORNED THE BANNERS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF ROME’S LEGIONS AS THEY EXTENDED ROMAN CULTURE AND POWER THROUGHOUT EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA, THE NEAR EAST (NE) AND ASIA MINOR. THEY STAND FOR THE SENATE AND PEOPLE OF ROME, AND IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT, ALTHOUGH THE CAESARS HELD UNCHALLENGED CENTRALIZED POWER, IT WAS THE IDENTITY OF THE SENATE AND PEOPLE UNDER WHICH ROMAN SOLDIERS FOUGHT AND DIED.

ROME’S EMPIRE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN EVERY IMPORTANT WAY. ITS LIFE WAS MEASURED IN CENTURIES, NOT DECADES, AND IT IMPOSED ROMAN CULTURE, GOVERNMENT AND LANGUAGE (LATIN) IN THE VAST TERRITORY IT CONQUERED. OF THESE, LANGUAGE RANKS WITH ARCHITECTURE AS THE MOST ENDURING, AS IT IS THE ROOT FROM WHICH MOST EUROPEAN LANGUAGES HAVE DEVELOPED.

CONQUERING ARMIES EMPLOY MANY KINDS OF SYMBOLS TO FOSTER AND MAINTAIN IDENTITY BETWEEN TROOPS OF OFTEN DIFFERING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC OR OTHER ORIGINS — SWASTIKAS, CROSSES, FLAGS, ANIMALS, INITIALS (NOTABLY THE NAPOLEONIC “N”) — BUT ROME IS EXCEPTIONAL IN HAVING CONQUERED AND SPREAD ITS LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT THE KNOWN WORLD OF ITS TIME IN THE NAME OF ITS LEGISLATURE AND CITIZENS.

LANGUAGE IS UNIQUELY IMPORTANT IN THAT IT CAN REMAIN AFTER OCCUPYING TROOPS ARE GONE AND, IN A GENERATION OR TWO, CAN BECOME PART OF THE HOST CULTURE. LATIN, WHILE NOT WRITTEN OR SPOKEN TODAY OUTSIDE OF THE VATICAN, IS A PRESENCE IN ALL EUROPEAN ROMANCE LANGUAGES. LANGUAGE IS IMPORTANT! CULTURE IS IMPORTANT, AND CULTURE CAN BE DIRECTED AND CHANGED BY HUMAN EFFORTS.

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IN OUR 21ST CENTURY WORLD, ENGLISH ENJOYS THE SAME STATUS AS LATIN DID DURING THE SPAN OF ROME’S EARLY EMPIRE (27B.C. — 476 A.D.) FOR, ALTHOUGH MANY LANGUAGES ARE RECOGNIZED AND USED IN OUR ERA OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS, ENGLISH HAS BECOME THE STANDARD FOR SCIENCE, COMMERCE, DIPLOMACY, AIR/SEA NAVIGATION AND MILITARY/

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS. THIS IS A STATUS THAT WE HAVE ENJOYED, ENCOURAGED AND IMPOSED WHENEVER POSSIBLE, AND IT IS VIEWED BY US AND OTHERS AS A NATURAL RESULT OF OUR WEALTH, POWER AND SUCCESS.

BUT NOW IN AMERICA AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT EFFORT IS UNDER WAY WHICH IS INTENDED TO DIMINISH ENGLISH'S UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE TO ONE OF PARITY WITH OTHER LESSER LANGUAGES. THIS EFFORT IS ONE OF VARIOUS PARTS, PLACES AND PURPOSES WHICH COMBINE UNDER THE LABEL OF MULTICULTURALISM (MC) TO ATTEMPT TO DENIGRATE OUR NATIONAL TRADITION AND DIVIDE AMERICANS POLITICALLY AND CULTURALLY.

ONE RECENT AND EXTENSIVE BLOW STRUCK AGAINST ENGLISH OCCURRED IN THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION WHEN HE ISSUED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER MANDATING THAT ALL DOCUMENTS AND FORMS USED IN PUBLIC ACTIVITIES SUCH AS VOTING, WELFARE, TAX MATTERS, EMPLOYMENT ETC. BE AVAILABLE IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S NATIVE LANGUAGE. THE LIST OF LANGUAGES COVERED CAME TO SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 160 AND 200 AND INCURRED CONSIDERABLE COSTS FOR PRINTING, TRANSLATING, INTERPRETING, ETC., BUT IT SERVED PRES. CLINTON'S PURPOSE OF BONDING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY MORE CLOSELY WITH THE RAPIDLY GROWING IMMIGRANT POPULATION.

FAST FORWARD TO OCTOBER, 2013 WHEN THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ("OBAMACARE") BECAME LAW AND SECRETARY SEBELIUS OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ANNOUNCED THAT LANGUAGE TRANSLATION WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL ENROLLEES IN 180 LANGUAGES.¹

BETWEEN THE CLINTON AND SIBELIUS PRONOUNCEMENTS, CONCERNS GREW AND ATTEMPTS WERE MADE IN CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION TO MAKE ENGLISH THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, BUT THEY FAILED TO PASS LARGELY BECAUSE PRO-IMMIGRANT FORCES PORTRAYED THESE EFFORTS AS "RACIST" AND ANTI-IMMIGRANT. MORE RECENTLY, THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE UNITY ACT WAS INTRODUCED EARLIER THIS YEAR "TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ROLE OF ENGLISH".²

THERE IS NOTHING INFLAMMATORY IN THE LANGUAGE OF THIS OR THE PREVIOUS ACTS THAT WERE SPONSORED IN CONGRESS. THEY CITED OUR HISTORIC TRADITIONS AND SOUGHT TO REPAIR OUR NATIONAL UNITY THAT HAS SUFFERED SEVERE DAMAGE FROM THE ONGOING ATTACKS BY MC AND PRO-IMMIGRANT FORCES.

LEGISLATION MAY OR MAY NOT WORK ITS WAY THROUGH CONGRESS, BUT THAT IS NOT THE MAIN STORY. THERE ARE LARGER ISSUES ON VERY PROMINENT DISPLAY. WE MUST ALWAYS REMIND OURSELVES THAT WE CAN DETERMINE THE DIRECTION OF OUR CULTURE, AND YET THE TRUTH HERE IS THAT NEITHER OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES NOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE VIEWED OUR FAILURE TO PRIORITIZE OUR NATIONAL LANGUAGE AS A MAJOR ISSUE.

IN THIS AND SUBSEQUENT ISSUES OF OUR ELECTORAL YEAR WE WILL EXPLORE CULTURAL CONTRADICTIONS WITH POLITICAL IMPACTS. THE CONTRADICTION POSED BY THE TREATMENT OF ENGLISH IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND IN OUR

OWN IS EXTRAORDINARY. AROUND THE WORLD NATIONS SMALL AND LARGE ARE COMMITTED TO THE GROWING USE OF ENGLISH AND THE EDUCATION OF THEIR OWN YOUTH IN ITS USE. HERE, WE ARE UNWILLING TO INSIST ON IT EVEN AS THE LANGUAGE OF OUR GOVERNMENT. NOR DO WE REQUIRE THAT NEWCOMERS MASTER IT PROMPTLY, BUT INSTEAD AUTHORIZE DUAL LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION THAT IS COSTLY, INEFFICIENT AND, IN EFFECT, DELAYS PROFICIENCY IN BOTH READING AND WRITING.

. . . A LOSS OF NERVE, JUDGEMENT AND IDENTITY.

THIS SITUATION IS NOTHING LESS THAN A HORROR WITH MANY NAMES IN WHICH WE BETRAY OUR CULTURE, HISTORY AND THE WORLD'S UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE FOR POLITICAL PURPOSE — NOT PRINCIPLE, JUST PURPOSE! AND, OF COURSE, THE FINANCIAL COST WILL AMOUNT TO BILLIONS. THIS IS A CULTURAL CONTRADICTION OF THE WORST KIND, AS IT EXPOSES OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO PROTECT OUR OWN IDENTITY. IT MAY BE CONSIDERED A MINOR POLITICAL INCONVENIENCE BY OUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES BUT THE REST OF THE WORLD CANNOT HELP BUT RECOGNIZE IT FOR WHAT IT IS — A LOSS OF NERVE, JUDGEMENT AND IDENTITY.

WHY? AND WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF THIS FAILURE? ONE FACTOR WHICH HAS CHANGED OUR "AMERICAN WAY" AND NOW STRONGLY IMPACTS OUR NATIONAL LIFE IS THAT WE HARBOR AN INCREASINGLY VOCAL AND ACTIVE ELEMENT THAT DOES NOT "BUY INTO" THE VALUES AND CULTURE THAT HAVE PROVIDED THE FRAMEWORK FOR OUR NATIONAL HISTORY.

NOT ONLY DOES THIS ELEMENT FAULT AMERICA FOR RESULTS THAT OTHERS DEEM ENVIABLE, BUT A GROWING NUMBER OF ITS MEMBERS ACTUALLY HATE OUR NATION FOR ITS WEALTH, POWER AND SUCCESS AS WELL AS ITS FAILURES. THIS FEELING IS NOT EXPRESSED AS A FORM OF CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM, BUT RATHER AS A MEANS TO VENT FEELINGS OF ANGER, ENVY AND DESPAIR GENERATED BY THEIR OWN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RECORD. AMERICA HAS ENDURED THIS SENSE OF GROWING DIVISION AND ANTAGONISM UNDER THE GUISE OF MC FOR TOO LONG. AS IT GOES FAR BEYOND NORMAL POLITICAL DIFFERENCE, IT CAN ONLY BE EXPOSED AND EXPELLED BY THE COUNTER FORCES OF PUBLIC OPINION AND LEADERSHIP.

OTHER NUMBERS, SAME CULTURE . . .

POPULATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY IS A KEY DOMESTIC ISSUE FOR TWO INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT REASONS. WITH OUR POPULATION NOW AT 330 MILLION, OUR ANNUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASES ARE PRODUCING PROGRESSIVELY LARGER NUMBERS WHICH APPLY GROWING PRESSURE UPON OUR ECONOMIC, NATURAL, SOCIAL AND CIVIC RESOURCES. AT THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM CAUSED BY THIS PRESSURE IS THAT, ALTHOUGH OUR RESOURCES ARE FINITE, OUR NATIONAL POLICIES TREAT UNCHECKED POPULATION GROWTH AS POSITIVE AND TO BE

ENCOURAGED. HERE, WE CALL ATTENTION TO A VERY DIFFERENT ATTITUDE EXPRESSED BY THE LATE DR. ALBERT BARTLETT, PROFESSOR EMERITUS IN NUCLEAR PHYSICS AT UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER.

“CAN YOU THINK OF ANY PROBLEM IN ANY AREA OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR ON ANY SCALE, FROM MICROSCOPIC TO GLOBAL, WHOSE LONG-TERM SOLUTION IS IN ANY DEMONSTRABLE WAY AIDED OR ADVANCED BY FURTHER INCREASES IN POPULATION, LOCALLY, NATIONAL OR GLOBALLY?”³

THE SECOND REASON IS THAT NEITHER THE AMERICAN PUBLIC NOR ITS ELECTED LEADERS HAVE RECOGNIZED POPULATION AS A THREAT. IN THE LANGUAGE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS, IT IS NOT A “SUSPECT”, NOR EVEN A “PERSON OF INTEREST”. THERE ARE, UNFORTUNATELY, MULTIPLE EXCUSES AND DEFENSES FOR THIS ATTITUDE THAT WILL HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED, IF WE ARE TO MOVE FROM DENIAL TO REALITY.

IN THIS CENTURY, WE WILL HAVE TO FACE THE POPULATION ISSUE JUST AS INDIA (VASECTOMIES) AND CHINA (1 CHILD) DID, OR OUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONTRACTS WILL FAIL. AND, AS POPULATION PRESSURE BUILDS, HOW CAN WE ENCOURAGE AND ADMIT FOREIGN POPULATIONS COMMITTED TO RELIGIOUSLY ORDAINED HIGH FERTILITY RATES. ONE IMAGE SUGGESTS THAT NATIVE AMERICANS WILL STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN OUR LOW BIRTH RATE CULTURE WHILE THE MIGRANTS WE ADMIT INSIST ON FREEDOM TO PURSUE THE HIGH FERTILITY GOALS THEIR RELIGIONS COMMAND.

THIS PROBLEM POSES A CLASSIC CULTURAL CONFLICT WHICH WE HAVE IGNORED BY DETERMINED INTELLECTUAL OBSTRUCTIONISM. WHAT IS IT WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND? WE KNOW THAT, IF WE RUN A WATER HOSE INTO A FIVE GALLON CAN, IT CAN ONLY HOLD FIVE GALLONS; OR IF WE OVER INFLATE A BALLOON, IT WILL REACH ITS LIMIT AND EXPLODE; OR IF WE APPLY SUFFICIENT HEAT TO A PIECE OF PAPER, IT WILL BURST INTO FLAMES. IN ALL OF THESE SITUATIONS WE ARE AWARE OF THE LIMITS AND CONSEQUENCES OF TESTING NATURAL LAWS.

AND YET OUR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP FOR ALMOST A HALF CENTURY HAS NOT HAD THE WILL TO ASK THE MOST BASIC OR TENTATIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT AMERICA’S ROLE IN THIS GLOBAL ISSUE. THIS IS CULTURAL CONFLICT SECOND TO NONE, AND WE SHOULD REFLECT UPON HOW WE COULD HAVE INFLUENCED OUR CULTURE AND OUR WORLD HAD WE EMBRACED AND SUPPORTED THE FINDINGS OF THE 1972 ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION’S REPORT.⁴

AS WITH OTHER VALUABLE COMMISSIONS LED BY AND COMPOSED OF PRIVATE CITIZENS (I.E., THE 9/11 AND BARBARA JORDAN EFFORTS), THE PRESIDENTS INVOLVED ENJOYED THE PHOTO-OPS AND EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT ACCOMPANIED THE REPORTS’ RELEASES, BUT LACKED THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO “STAY THE COURSE” WITH CONGRESS OR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. END RESULT: MONEY SPENT, TIME AND TALENT WASTED, AND BENEFITS TO THE NATION OR ITS PEOPLE — NONE. THE CRISIS

OF OUR POLITICAL LEADERS’ COWARDICE IS NOWHERE MORE APPARENT THAN IN THEIR REFUSAL TO ENGAGE THE SUBSTANCE OF REPORTS THEY HAVE COMMISSIONED.

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IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA THE CASE CAN BE MADE THAT THE THREE MOST PAINFUL ISSUES THAT PLAGUE OUR SOCIETY ARE DRUG ADDICTION, GUN VIOLENCE AND RACE. EACH HAS CONTRIBUTED ITS OWN DEEP AND PERSISTENT AGONY BUT, WHEREAS GUNS AND RACE HAVE HELD PROMINENT PLACES IN OUR CULTURE SINCE OUR FOUNDING, OUR MASSIVE DRUG USE IS A PRODUCT OF ONLY THE LAST HALF CENTURY

WHAT THEY ALL SHARE IS THAT THEY DERIVE FROM ACTS OF INDIVIDUAL WILL, WHETHER IN THE PRESENT OR THE PAST. MEMORIES ARE THE WINDOWS THROUGH WHICH WE VIEW OUR PAST; AND TIME AND PAIN ARE THE DRAPES WE DRAW ACROSS THEM TO AVOID THEIR TRUTHS, WHICH IS ALSO AN ACT OF WILL. AS WE KNOW CULTURES CAN BE INFLUENCED AND CHANGED BY HUMAN AGENCY, WE MUST ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SERIOUS CULTURAL AND CIVILIZATIONAL DAMAGE THAT WE HAVE ALLOWED TO GROW AND THAT IS NOW SEEMINGLY BEYOND OUR CONTROL.

GUNS

GUNS HAVE BEEN WITH AND PART OF AMERICA SINCE ITS BEGINNING, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER WE BECAME A NATION, AND ARE INDIRECTLY REFERRED TO IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE CONSTITUTION’S SECOND AMENDMENT BY THE PHRASE “THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS” AS NECESSITATED BY “A WELL-REGULATED MILITIA”.⁵ THE CONTEXT FOR THIS PRIVILEGE WAS THE WAY IN WHICH WE EMPLOYED LOYAL MILITIA TO FIGHT OUR WAR OF INDEPENDENCE AGAINST ENGLAND.

AS WE EXTENDED OUR BORDERS WESTWARD THROUGHOUT THE 19TH CENTURY, MANY FRONTIER COMMUNITIES WERE FORMED THAT, LACKING POLICE, COURTS, OR OTHER PUBLIC PROTECTIONS, RELIED UPON PERSONAL ARMS FOR SAFETY, AND IT WAS IN THE HEROIC IMAGES OF FRONTIER LIFE, WHERE LAW WAS OFTEN CREATED AND ENFORCED BY ARMED INDIVIDUALS, THAT GUNS ACHIEVED THEIR OUTSIZED AND EMOTIONAL STATUS WITHIN OUR CULTURE.

FRONTIER LIFE CAME TO AN END IN THE 20TH CENTURY AS OUR POPULATION AND TERRITORIAL GROWTH REQUIRED PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES TO BE INCLUDED IN EVEN SMALL AND REMOTE NEW COMMUNITIES. BUT, AS THE “I AM THE LAW” RATIONALE FOR HAVING GUNS DIMINISHED, IT WAS REPLACED IN OUR RURAL/AGRICULTURAL/OPEN AREAS WITH THE “WAY OF LIFE” DEFENSE.

THE LATTER STILL STANDS STRONG TODAY AND HAS BEEN JOINED BY A NEW BY-PRODUCT OF OUR PRESENT CENTURY — THE TENDENCY TO TAKE OFFENSE AT A VERY MILD LEVEL OF ARGUMENT AND TO RESOLVE IT BY THE USE OF GUNS. SUCH “TRIGGER” RESPONSES WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE CONSTANT PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOC (NRA)

AND THE GROWING INCLUSION OF GUN USE SITUATIONS IN ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BROADCAST AND PRINT MEDIA OVER ALMOST A CENTURY.

THERE IS NO SIGN THAT OUR FIXATION WITH GUNS IS DIMINISHING. QUITE TO THE CONTRARY, SOME STATES ARE MOVING TOWARDS ACCEPTING "OPEN CARRY" LEGISLATION THAT ALLOWS GUNS TO BE WORN OPENLY IN A HOLSTER IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES, INCLUDING, OF COURSE, ONE'S CAR OR TRUCK. RECENTLY, IN FL THE LEGISLATURE CONSIDERED A BILL TO PERMIT "OPEN CARRY" AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AND, AT THE NATIONAL POLITICAL CAMPAIGN LEVEL, A PETITION SEEKING PERMISSION FOR ATTENDEES AT THE GOP NOMINATING CONVENTION IN JULY TO BE ABLE TO CARRY PISTOLS QUICKLY GARNERED OVER 50,000 SUPPORTERS. FORTUNATELY, THE SECRET SERVICE HAD THE LAST WORD, AND IT WAS "NO". STILL, THE IMAGE OF "WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN" LINGERS — AN ATMOSPHERE OF HIGH-STAKE POLITICAL COMPETITION, 'ROUND THE CLOCK ENTERTAINMENT AND DELEGATES BEARING ARMS !

THE ISSUE OF GUNS IN OUR COUNTRY HAS GROWN FROM THEIR EARLY ACCEPTANCE THROUGH MANY TWISTS AND TURNS TO ITS PRESENT BATTLEGROUND STATUS. IN THE PROCESS IT HAS SHIFTED FROM ONE IDENTITY TO ANOTHER — RECREATIONAL USE, LEGAL RIGHT, PUBLIC PROTECTION AND THE CATCH-ALL, TRIGGER SQUEEZE "STAND YOUR GROUND" — AND WITH THE HELP OF INTENSIVE MAINSTREAM MEDIA COVERAGE IS NEVER "OFF THE CHARTS". IT SHIFTS SEAMLESSLY FROM ONE CAMOUFLAGE TO ANOTHER, AS THE PUBLIC DEMANDS, WITHOUT RESOLUTION. WHY? BECAUSE OUR FIXATION WITH GUNS HAS PUT DOWN DEEP ROOTS IN OUR NATIONAL PSYCHE WITH POLITICAL RISKS THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO ADDRESS IN AN OPEN WAY. THIS CONTINUING CONFUSION AND DIVISION DO ENORMOUS HARM TO OUR CULTURE.

DRUGS

NOTHING, EXCEPT PERHAPS OUR SUPERPOWER STATUS, IS MORE ANTITHETICAL TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND ASPIRATIONS OF OUR ORIGINS THAN THE LETHAL AND COMPULSIVE DRUG SUBCULTURE THAT WE HAVE ALLOWED TO BECOME A DOMINANT ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND LEGAL PROBLEM IN OUR SOCIETY. ITS ROOTS LIE IN THE OPIUM USAGE OF CHINESE LABORERS WHO CAME TO THIS COUNTRY IN THE 19TH CENTURY GLORY DAYS OF RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION; AND IN THE PRACTICE OF OUR 20TH CENTURY JAZZ AND DANCE BANDS TO ENJOY THE RECREATIONAL AND STIMULANT POWERS OF MARIJUANA AND COCAINE IN THEIR OFTEN LATE AND LENGTHY PERFORMANCES.

WITH THE PASSAGE IN DECEMBER, 1933 OF THE TWENTY-FIRST AMENDMENT ENDING PROHIBITION, ORGANIZED CRIME EXPERIENCED THE LOSS OF ITS PRIMARY SOURCE OF REVENUE FOR WHICH THE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION OFFERED LITTLE IN THE WAY OF REPLACEMENT. THE NUMBERS' GAMES, EXTORTION, LOAN SHARKING, GAMBLING ALL SERVED THEIR LIMITED MARKETS, BUT LACKED THE MASS MARKET, PLEASURE-ON-DEMAND USAGE OF ALCOHOL. LIKE

INDUSTRY, HOWEVER, CRIME WAS RESCUED BY WW II. THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING IT WERE ONES OF RENEWAL, PLANNING AND RESETTLEMENT IN WHICH WE HAD TO DEAL WITH THE STRANGE, NEW WORLD OF PEACE AND OUR INCREASINGLY DECISIVE ROLE IN IT.

BY THE 1960S WE HAD ACCUMULATED ENOUGH REAL AND IMAGINED CAUSES TO EXPRESS A SURPRISINGLY WIDE RANGE OF POLITICAL/SOCIAL DISAFFECTION. GIVEN SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY (RECALL THE YOUTH MOVEMENT'S MARIJUANA INSPIRED MANTRA OF "TUNE IN, TURN ON, DROP OUT"), AMERICA'S LEADING CRIME FAMILIES QUICKLY BEGAN TO ESTABLISH THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROMOTIONAL STRUCTURE NECESSARY FOR THE LARGE SCALE PRODUCTION, IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF, AT FIRST, MARIJUANA AND, THEN, HEROIN, COCAINE AND, THEIR DERIVATIVES OR MIMICS.

AS WITH ANY GROWING INDUSTRY, COMPETITION WAS FIERCE, RESULTING IN BOTH EXPANSION AND CONSOLIDATION IN WHICH LOSS OF LIFE, NOT JUST MONEY OR TERRITORY, WAS THE COST OF FAILURE. DURING PROHIBITION AND ITS AFTERMATH UNTIL THE 1960S ORGANIZED CRIME CAME TO BE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED BY FIVE ITALIAN FAMILIES EACH OF WHICH, BY AGREEMENT, HAD RIGHTS TO SPECIFIC TERRITORIES AND ACTIVITIES. ANYONE SEEKING TO ALTER THESE DISTRIBUTION MODELS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE RULING FAMILIES WAS SCHEDULED FOR PROMPT AND OFTEN BLOODY ELIMINATION. THE USUAL RESULT WAS THAT UNINVITED NEWCOMERS MAY HAVE PROVIDED A TEMPORARY DISTRACTION, BUT THEY WERE QUICKLY REMOVED AND DRUG COMMERCE IN THE STREETS, BARS, NIGHT CLUBS, HOTELS, TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES AND SPORTS VENUES RETURNED TO SMOOTH, CAREFUL AND MOSTLY COOPERATIVE CONTROL OF THE ITALIAN FAMILIES.

FROM TIME TO TIME, DIFFERENT NATIONAL GROUPS TRIED TO BREAK THE ITALIANS' GRIP. THESE INCLUDED JAMAICANS, CHINESE, RUSSIANS, COLOMBIANS AND, OF COURSE, MEXICANS WHO HAD A DISTINCT EDGE BECAUSE SO MUCH OF OUR DRUG TRADE WAS NOT ONLY BROUGHT IN ACROSS OUR SOUTHERN BORDERS, BUT ALSO GROWN AND/OR PROCESSED THERE. OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS FELL BEHIND THE REALITY OF OUR DRUG ADDICTION AND NEVER REALLY CAUGHT UP.

ALARMED BY THE SPREAD OF DRUG ADDICTION AND THE VARIETY OF DRUGS ENTERING OUR MARKET, IN JUNE, 1971 PRESIDENT NIXON DECLARED "THE WAR ON DRUGS" WOULD BE A NATIONAL PRIORITY AND HAVE AVAILABLE TO IT THE NECESSARY RESOURCES OF TIME, MONEY AND PEOPLE FOR ESTABLISHING CONTROL. SINCE THEN, MANY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, UNTOLD HOURS AND THOUSANDS OF LIVES HAVE BEEN SPENT TO RID OURSELVES OF OUR DRUG HABIT. WHERE DO WE STAND TODAY?

FAST FORWARD TO A TV NEWSCLIP IN FEBRUARY WHICH SHOWED THE HOUSE WHERE MEXICAN DRUG LORD, "EL CHAPO" GUZMAN, HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND WHERE \$22 BILLION IN \$100 BILLS WAS STORED IN ROOMS, CLOSETS, OR OTHER SUITABLE SPACES. THE HOUSE ALSO CONTAINED AN EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF GUNS AND AMMUNITION, BUT IT WAS THE CASH THAT CAUGHT

THE EYE. AND REMEMBER, GUZMAN IS ONLY ONE AMONG THE MANY “DRUG DEALERS” WHO PROVIDED THE DRUGS TO SATISFY THE CRAVINGS OF THIS GLOBAL MARKET IN WHICH WE ARE THE INDISPUTABLE SUPERPOWER.

THE ARGUMENT OVER WHETHER TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA CONTINUES, AND WE MAY EVENTUALLY REACH THAT DECISION BECAUSE FIFTY YEARS OF ENFORCEMENT HAS NOT SUCCEEDED. BUT, IF WE DO MOVE TO THE LEGALIZATION POLICY, DO WE THEN ALSO GIVE A PASS TO THE OTHER MORE POWERFUL DRUGS?

AMERICA IS FAMOUS FOR ITS APPLICATION OF FREE-MARKET THINKING (“THE MARKET WILL DECIDE”) TO MOST OF OUR MAJOR PROBLEMS — WHETHER AS A RATIONALE FOR TAKING ACTION OR AN EXCUSE FOR FAILURE. AS OUR PANACEA FOR A RANGE OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL ISSUES, AND AS MARKET-BASED DECISIONS OFTEN FAIL OR, EVEN WORSE, ARE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, WE SHOULD TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT OUR DRUG MARKET.

LIKE ANY OTHER MASS MARKET, THOSE WHO COMPETE IN IT RELY UPON BOTH EXPANSION TO A LARGER NUMBER OF USERS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRODUCTS. IN THE DRUG MARKET BOTH OF THESE GOALS HAVE BEEN REALIZED.

DRUGS ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS ELEMENT IN OUR NATIONAL GAME OF “LET’S PRETEND”; THEY DENY OR POSTPONE REALITY; AND THEY ARE THE FINAL ARGUMENT IN THAT PART OF OUR CULTURE WHICH BELIEVES THAT ONE MORE PILL OR NEEDLE WILL PERFORM THE MAGIC OF BANISHING THE PAIN AND PENALTIES THAT ATTEND LIFE IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA.

WHAT HAVE 45 YEARS OF “THE WAR ON DRUGS” ACCOMPLISHED? WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF “THE MARKET”? IT HAS GROWN ENORMOUSLY IN BOTH USERS AND PRODUCTS, INDICATING THAT OUR SOCIETY’S DEMAND FOR DRUGS IS UNRELENTING. THE EARLIEST PRODUCTS, MARIJUANA AND HEROIN, PREPARED THE WAY FOR COCAINE WHICH, IN TURN, ENCOURAGED THE USE OF “METH” AND A VARIETY OF “DESIGNER DRUGS” ABLE TO BE PRODUCED IN SMALL LABORATORIES BY NEW CHEMICAL METHODS.

WITH PRODUCTION IMPROVED AND DEMAND CONTINUING TO GROW, DRUG USE COULD ONLY GO UP. AND AS THE DRUG MARKET IS NOT ONLY A BUSINESS EXERCISE BUT ALSO A CONTEST WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, IT TENDS TO BE HIGHLY FLUID IN ITS MARKET DEVELOPMENT, AND NEW PRODUCTS ARE ONE WAY TO CONFUSE OR MOVE AHEAD OF ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.

TOWARDS THIS END, IT HAS INTRODUCED A NEW PRODUCT LINE OF PRESCRIPTION OPIOID DRUGS WHICH CAN BE MANUFACTURED AND MARKETED ILLEGALLY OR CAN BE OBTAINED BY ILLEGAL METHODS FROM LEGITIMATE PRESCRIPTION SOURCES. AS USUAL, THE NUMBERS CAN BE ENLIGHTENING. THE U.S. WITH 5% OF THE WORLD’S POPULATION ACCOUNTS FOR 80% OF ITS OPIOID USE WHICH PRODUCED 28,000 U.S. DEATHS IN 2014.⁶

BUT “THE WAR ON DRUGS” IS NOT JUST A MATTER OF NUMBERS OF THOSE WHO ARE ADDICTED AND THE PRODUCTS THEY CHOOSE TO SATISFY THEIR ADDICTION. BEYOND THE CRIMINAL, JUDICIAL, INCARCERATION, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES CREATED BY OUR DRUG ADDICTION IT PRESENTS MAJOR

SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL CHALLENGES WITH DISTURBING CULTURAL CONSEQUENCES.

... FAVORS ARE THEMSELVES A UNIVERSAL CURRENCY IN OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORLD.

THE DISTRIBUTION BASE FOR THE DRUG TRADE USUALLY BEGINS IN LOW INCOME OR POVERTY ZONES WHERE THE LURE OF BIG, QUICK AND EASY MONEY FROM DRUG SALES CAN EITHER TRANSFORM LIFE THERE OR PROVIDE A “TICKET OUT”. AND, AS WITH ANY HIGH CASH FLOW ACTIVITY, DRUG DOLLARS FROM DRUG DEALERS HAVE READILY FOUND THEIR WAY INTO THE HANDS OF LOCAL POLITICIANS AND THOSE MANY PUBLIC OFFICERS WHO ADMINISTER OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM AT LOCAL LEVELS — PROSECUTORS, JAILERS, DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, JUDGES, SHERIFF DEPARTMENTS, BAIL BONDSMEN, WITNESSES, 911 RESPONDERS, COURT ATTENDANTS. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT ALL THESE PEOPLE TAKE BRIBES. THEY DON’T, BUT THE SYSTEM IS A HUGE ONE WITH MANY PEOPLE IN MOTION HANDLING EVIDENCE, DETERMINING “RIGHTS” AND THEN JUDGING OR SENTENCING ACCORDINGLY. IN SUCH A MIX, A LARGE PAYMENT FOR A SMALL FAVOR CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE. AND EVEN IF NO CASH CHANGES HANDS, FAVORS ARE THEMSELVES A UNIVERSAL CURRENCY IN OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORLD.

ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE SOCIOLOGY OF OUR DRUG TRADE IS POLITICAL — MORE SPECIFICALLY, RACE; FOR IN THE POVERTY AREAS WHERE THE DRUG TRADE CAN BE A CAREER CHOICE, RACE AND ETHNICITY DRAW STRONG LINES OF IDENTITY AND POWER TO WHICH POLITICIANS MUST PAY ATTENTION. STILL, THERE ARE SOME THAT DEFY EITHER POLITICAL OR SOCIOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS. BLACKS COMPRISE THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF THOSE UNDER DETENTION IN OUR JAILS. IS THIS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY COMMIT MORE CRIMES THAN OTHERS OR BECAUSE THEY LACK SOME OF THE SOCIAL BASICS THAT HEALTH, EDUCATION, GOOD PARENTING, NUTRITION, ETC. OFFER IN MORE MEANINGFUL DEGREE TO OTHERS? UNFORTUNATELY, A WORKABLE ANSWER IS MORE THAN WE HAVE REASON TO EXPECT FROM OUR POLITICAL CLASS.

BUT BLACKS ARE NOT THE ONLY GROUP THAT PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DRUG TRADE. BECAUSE SO MUCH OF OUR ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE HAS COME FROM OR THROUGH MEXICO, IT HAS SPROUTED LABOR FORCES THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY THAT ARE WHOLLY MEXICAN AND THAT, IN TURN, HAVE ESTABLISHED BRANCHES OF MEXICO’S MOST VIOLENT YOUTH GANGS IN MANY AMERICAN CITIES. THESE GROUPS PRACTICE MURDER, ROBBERY, RAPE, TORTURE, EXTORTION AND MORE AS BOTH RITES OF INITIATION FOR NEW MEMBERS AND AS THEIR “BUSINESS” WAY OF LIFE.

... OUR SHARE OF THE WORLD’S CONSUMPTION IS OUTSIZED COMPARED TO OUR POPULATION.

IN ALL FACETS OF OUR DRUG ADDICTION AND OUR ATTEMPTS TO ELIMINATE IT, WE CANNOT AVOID NOTICING THE MANY AND SERIOUS CULTURAL CONTRADICTIONS THAT WE HAVE ALLOWED TO GROW TO THE POINT WHERE THEY POSE SERIOUS THREATS TO OUR CULTURE AND FURTHER TO OUR SOCIETY AT LARGE AND OUR CIVILIZATION. WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS; OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE “DEVELOPED” WORLD SHARE IN THE DRUG CURSE, BUT, AS WITH OPIOIDS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES, OUR SHARE OF THE WORLD’S CONSUMPTION IS OUTSIZED COMPARED TO OUR POPULATION.

THIS LAST IS ONE OF THE TWO IMAGES WE MUST KEEP IN MIND IN THINKING ABOUT DRUG USE IN OUR COUNTRY AND CULTURE. OUR DEMAND HAS BEEN, AND CONTINUES TO BE, RAVENOUS — SO MUCH SO THAT, DESPITE ITS DANGERS AND DAMAGES, VICTORY IN THE “WAR ON DRUGS” REMAINS BEYOND OUR REACH. WOULD LEGALIZATION OF ONE OR MORE DRUGS CHANGE THIS? THE ARGUMENT IS MADE THAT LEGALIZATION WOULD “LET THE MARKET DECIDE” AND, IN THE PROCESS, LOWER DRUG PRICES BY ELIMINATING THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT, BUT IT ALSO RAISES OTHER QUESTIONS ON WHICH OUR POLITICAL CLASS IS UNABLE TO AGREE.

THE MOST PROBABLE RESULT IS THAT WE WILL CONTINUE ON OUR PRESENT COURSE REGARDLESS OF ITS INEFFECTIVENESS. BUT THEN THERE IS OUR SECOND IMAGE — THAT OF “EL CHAPO” GUZMAN’S \$22 BILLION IN CASH IN HIS HOUSE. JUST ONE MAN; ONE STASH; ONE HOUSE; IN SINALOA, MEXICO. BUT THERE ARE OTHERS, MANY OTHERS; SOME WILL BE CAUGHT; PROBABLY MORE WON’T. WHAT THEY HAVE IN COMMON IS THAT THEY ARE GETTING RICH BY MEETING OUR DEMAND!

A PHOTOGRAPH IS THE RECORD OF A FIXED MOMENT SEPARATED FROM THE FLOW OF TIME WHICH MEASURES OUR LIVES FROM BIRTH TO DEATH. PHOTOS CAN RECORD ONLY THE SPAN OF AN INSTANT, BUT CAN SUGGEST MUCH MORE, AS DID THE PICTURES OF “EL CHAPO’S” HOUSE WITH ITS \$22 BILLION IN CASH AND HUNDREDS OF GUNS — PISTOLS, SHOTGUNS, RIFLES, AUTOMATIC ASSAULT WEAPONS AND SHOULDER-FIRE MISSILES. THE WORD “ICONIC” IS GREATLY OVERUSED BY OUR MEDIA, BUT HERE IT IS UNAVOIDABLE. HERE, IN ONE IMAGE OF A CRIME SCENE, WE HAVE A PORTRAIT OF TWO OF AMERICA’S MOST DIFFICULT AND DAMAGING ISSUES — GUNS AND DRUGS AWASH IN MONEY. IT COMMANDS OUR ATTENTION BY SUGGESTING THE GREED AND POWER OF THE EVIL THAT NOW INFECTS OUR LIVES AND INSTITUTIONS. GUZMAN HAS ALREADY ESCAPED TWICE FROM MEXICAN FEDERAL PRISONS. WILL HIS “MAGIC” PREVAIL IN ANOTHER ATTEMPT, OR DOES HIS THIRD CAPTURE DELIVER A “THREE STRIKES AND YOU’RE OUT” SENTENCE?

* * *

WHETHER LIFE COMES TO US AS A GIFT FROM GOD OR AS THE RESULT OF A DISTANT AND UNIQUE COMBINATION OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY, WE ARE ITS INHERITORS, ITS BENEFICIARIES; AND, WHICHEVER SOURCE WE ACCEPT, WE MUST LIVE ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF ITS CREATION. OTHERWISE, THERE ARE

PENALTIES CAPABLE OF ERODING CULTURES, CIVILIZATIONS AND LIFE, ITSELF.

... AS THE “WAR ON DRUGS” PROVES UNABLE TO KEEP PACE WITH THE GLOBAL GROWTH OF DRUG USE.

WHATEVER ITS ORIGIN, OUR 21ST CENTURY LIFE IN AMERICA HAS BEEN SHAPED BY BILLIONS OF YEARS OF THE TRIAL AND ERROR BIOLOGY THAT WE CALL EVOLUTION. WHAT IS THERE IN OUR TIME/CULTURE THAT LEADS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, HERE AND IN OTHER WESTERN CIVILIZATION (WCIV) NATIONS TO FIND LIFE SO WORTHLESS OR THREATENING THAT THEY MUST ALTER AND/OR END IT BY DRUG ADDICTION? THIS IS A QUESTION THAT WCIV, NOT JUST THE U.S., MUST ADDRESS AND RESOLVE. EFFORTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN WELL-INTENTIONED, BUT FAR FROM SUCCESSFUL. NEW ATTITUDES AND EFFORTS ARE NEEDED. TIME PASSES AND GROWS SHORT, AS THE “WAR ON DRUGS” PROVES UNABLE TO KEEP PACE WITH THE GLOBAL GROWTH OF DRUG USE.

RACE

THE ISSUE OF THE PLACE OF RACE IN OUR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HAS BEEN WITH US SINCE OUR FOUNDING. THE EXPERIENCES OF SLAVERY, POVERTY, POLITICAL DENIAL AND PREJUDICE THAT BLACKS HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS CONTRADICTS BOTH THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE AND THE SPIRIT OF OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND CONSTITUTION, AND YET THEY HAVE ENDURED IN VARYING DEGREE UP TO THE PRESENT.

OUR PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH OUR RACE PROBLEM WAS MARKED BY FOUR MAJOR EVENTS — THREE POSITIVE AND ONE OF MIXED VALUE. THE POSITIVES WERE PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT ACTIONS — THE CIVIL WAR AND ITS EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION, PRES. TRUMAN’S 1947 DESEGREGATION OF OUR MILITARY FORCES AND THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION’S 1964 PASSAGE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT. AND, MORE RECENTLY, WE HAVE EXPERIENCED THE ELECTION OF B. H. OBAMA TO THE PRESIDENCY WHICH WE VIEW AS AN EVENT OF MIXED VALUE IN THAT, WHILE IT SEEMED TO INDICATE REAL PROGRESS WHEN IT OCCURRED, AS TIME PASSED IT STIRRED UP AND REINVIGORATED OLD ATTITUDES AND EMOTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN PUT OUT OF SIGHT, BUT NOT OUT OF REACH. THIS WAS A SETBACK FOR RACIAL PROGRESS WHICH WAS ALSO SLOWED BY PRES. OBAMA’S POLITICAL ACTS AND ATTITUDES, AS A MORE CENTRIST POLITICAL DIRECTION MIGHT WELL HAVE SILENCED HIS MOST DETERMINED CRITICS, OR AT LEAST HAVE DEFLECTED THEIR CONCERNS.

UNFORTUNATELY, RATHER THAN BRINGING AMERICANS TOGETHER, AS HE EMPHASIZED IN HIS CAMPAIGN AND INAUGURAL SPEECHES, HIS POLITICAL DIRECTION MOVED STEADILY FURTHER TO THE LEFT THROUGHOUT HIS TWO TERMS. WITHOUT COMMENTING ON THE POLICIES INVOLVED, SUCH A COURSE HAD NO CHANCE OF ENCOURAGING UNITY, ESPECIALLY WITH A DIVIDED CONGRESS IN

WHICH THE DEMOCRATS CONTROLLED THE SENATE AND THE GOP THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

* * *

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM, WHICH THROUGH ITS ACCEPTANCE OF SLAVERY SET ITS SEAL OF APPROVAL ON RACISM, WAS NEVER ABLE IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS TO UNDO IT. THIS IS BECAUSE RACISM IS ATTACHED TO LIFE IN AMERICA IN WAYS OTHER THAN POLITICAL — IN CULTURE, EDUCATION, THE WORKPLACE, LANGUAGE, REAL ESTATE, SPORTS AND OTHERS.

THESE MANIFESTATIONS, WHICH ARE MOSTLY MUNDANE AND CONTEMPORARY, RELATE TO ONLY THE SHORT PERIOD OF RACISM'S COMMON HISTORY WITH OURS. TO SEEK ITS ORIGINS WE MUST GO FAR BACK BEYOND OUR D OF I, MAGNA CARTA, ROME, GREECE, EGYPT AND CHINA TO THE FIRST MEETINGS BETWEEN DIFFERENT AFRICAN EVOLUTIONARY BRANCHES THAT ESTABLISHED A SENSE OF "THE OTHER". THEN AND NOW, RACE IS AN IDENTITY ISSUE THAT AROSE FROM THE RECOGNITION OF DIFFERENCES — SKIN/EYE COLOR, SPEECH, DRESS, TERRITORY, MANNERISMS, ACCEPTANCE OR ITS OPPOSITE, HOSTILITY, DIET, WEAPONS AND THE COMBINATION OF ALL INTO A SENSE OF MENACE.

FOR PRIMITIVE TRIBES FOLLOWING GAME ACROSS THE AFRICAN SAVANNAH, A SENSE OF HARMONY AND UNITY WAS ESSENTIAL TO THEIR PROTECTION AND SURVIVAL, FOR THEY HAD TO BE ALERT AND COOPERATIVE TO MEET THE EXISTENTIAL THREATS POSED BY THE VARIOUS SPECIES WITH WHICH THEY SHARED THEIR HABITAT. NOTABLE DIFFERENCES SUCH AS SIZE, SOUND, COLOR, SPEED, WHICH COULD BE DETECTED FROM A DISTANCE, SOUNDED ALARMS THAT COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

... AS THROUGH ALL OF HISTORY, IT IS WHO WE ARE; IT IS PRIMAL.

LATER, AS POPULATIONS, WEALTH, POLITICS, TECHNOLOGY AND RELIGION DEVELOPED AND GREW TO DOMINATE HUMAN INTERACTION, DIFFERENCES WERE INCREASINGLY EXPOSED AND NURTURED TO PROVIDE ADVANTAGE, REAL OR IMAGINED. IDENTITY TODAY IS STILL A SURVIVAL MECHANISM, SOMETIMES OFFERING GRACE AND, AT OTHERS, GRIEF; AND, AS THROUGH ALL OF HISTORY, IT IS WHO WE ARE; IT IS PRIMAL.

RACISM IN AMERICA HAS COME A LONG WAY FROM ITS COLONIAL ORIGINS WHEN IT WAS GIVEN POLITICAL CONFIRMATION AT OUR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BY THE AWKWARD COMPROMISE OF ALLOWING IT TO CONTINUE IN ORDER TO GAIN THE CRITICAL SUPPORT OF THE POWERFUL SOUTHERN STATES.

BUT IN LESS THAN HALF A CENTURY THE COZY CONCEPT OF 1789 WAS NO MORE, AS ENGLAND AND FRANCE OUTLAWED SLAVERY AND HERE THE GROWING VIOLENCE OVER IT IN OUR NEWLY FORMING WESTERN STATES LED TO STRONGER AND WIDER PUBLIC OPPOSITION. BUT, EVEN AFTER OUR CIVIL WAR AND OUR ABOLITION OF SLAVERY, THE ISSUES OF RACE AND RACISM PLAGUE

OUR NATION'S PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT.

RACE AND RACISM, WHILE LINKED, ARE TWO DISTINCT ISSUES, AS WE SAW IN THE ELECTION OF PRES. OBAMA WHICH WAS GENERALLY SEEN AS AN EVENT THAT WOULD MARK PROGRESS IN THE NATION'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RACIAL RELATIONS AND MOVE TOWARDS RACIAL EQUALITY. THE RACE ISSUE IMPROVED, BUT THE SAME CAN'T BE SAID FOR RACISM WHICH IS NOT SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE CONTROL BUT SURVIVES IN THE ATTITUDES OF INDIVIDUALS AND IN INSTITUTIONS ON WHICH WE HAVE PLACED GREAT RELIANCE FOR OUR PURSUIT OF THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL.

RACISM, THROUGH THE VIOLENCE AND SENSE OF VICTIMIZATION OF THOSE WHO PRACTICE IT, HAS BECOME A CATCH-ALL EFFORT WHICH INCLUDES THE GRIEVANCES, MOTIVATIONS, METHODS AND MANIPULATION OF PARTIES OTHER THAN THOSE DEVOTED SOLELY TO SOCIAL RELATIONS.

POLITICALLY, SITUATIONS IN WHICH ONE CAUSE IS LOADED WITH THE OBJECTIONS, RESENTMENTS AND NEGATIVES OF OTHERS APPEAR MORE FREQUENTLY IN OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM THAN IN MOST OTHERS. WE SAW THIS BACK IN THE DAYS OF INTENSE COMMUNIST ACTIVITY FROM THE 1930S THROUGH THE 1970S WHEN THE ACCUSATION OF BEING A COMMUNIST WAS USED AS A BLUNT EDGE INSTRUMENT TO EXPRESS OTHER ASPECTS OF POLITICAL DISAFFECTION. SO PREVALENT WAS THIS BROAD-BRUSH METHOD THAT IN 1938, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ESTABLISHED THE HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF REP. MARTIN DIES. IT REMAINED ACTIVE UNTIL 1975 CONDUCTING DETAILED INQUIRIES INTO MANY INTERESTS AND ASPECTS OF THE LIVES OF THOSE UNDER INVESTIGATION.

THE SAME THING IS HAPPENING IN THE U.S. TODAY, AS IMMIGRATION, MULTICULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER INTERESTS EMPLOY THE ACCUSATION, OR EVEN INFERENCE, OF RACISM TO DEFEAT THEIR ENEMIES. IN OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT THERE ARE NO LIMITS ON CAUSES, INTERESTS OR ANY OTHER WAY TO BE HEARD. AND, IF WE ARE NOT ALWAYS A NATION OF LAWS, WE ARE ONE OF LABELS. WE ARE A COUNTRY AND CULTURE GIVEN TO EXCESSIVE LABELLING, AND WE CAN TAKE A LABEL FROM ONE CAUSE OR ISSUE AND APPLY IT WITHOUT A MOMENT OF HESITANCY OR A TWINGE OF EMBARRASSMENT TO ANOTHER.

CONTRADICTIONS ABOUND IN RACE AS IN OTHER LAW ISSUES OF OUR TIME — EVEN THOSE THAT REVOLVE AROUND RIGHTS OF ACCESS SUCH AS EDUCATION AND IMMIGRATION. FOR INSTANCE, MANY BLACK LEADERS FAULT THEIR GOVERNMENT AND FELLOW CITIZENS BECAUSE THE NATION HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FULLY ASSIMILATE ITS AFRICAN-AMERICAN POPULATION. THEY IGNORE THE FACT THAT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF THEIR RACE CRITICIZE THEIR FELLOW BLACKS AS "ACTING WHITEY" AND WITHDRAW FROM THEM IF THEY ADOPT "WHITE" FORMS OF DRESS, LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION. THIS RESISTANCE TO ASSIMILATION IS ALSO EVIDENT IN ENDURANCE OF THE DISTINCTIVE SPELLING, PRONUNCIATIONS AND GRAMMAR OF BLACK SPEECH THAT HAVE CONSISTENTLY WITHSTOOD THE FORCE OF ASSIMILATION.

. . . IT HAS HAD THE POWER TO COW ITS UNSUSPECTING AND UNINFORMED TARGETS.

RACE AND RACISM USED TO BE NEARLY CO-EQUAL EMOTIONAL ELEMENTS OF OUR NATIONAL HISTORY OF BLACK AMERICA. NOT SO NOW, AS OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PEOPLES AND PROBLEMS OF THE THIRD WORLD AND GLOBAL MEDIA HAVE INCREASED. THE EPITHET, “RACIST”, CIRCLES THE GLOBE AND HAS BECOME OUR TIME’S TERM OF UNIVERSAL CONDEMNATION. SKILLFULLY USED, AS IT HAS BEEN BY OUR POLITICIANS AND OUR MAINSTREAM MEDIA (MSM) , IT HAS HAD THE POWER TO COW ITS UNSUSPECTING AND UNINFORMED TARGETS.

OUR DEMOCRACY’S UNIQUE CHARACTERISTIC IS THAT ITS CHARACTER, ITS PHILOSOPHY, ITS LIFE FORCE CAN BE TRANSFORMED PEACEFULLY AND REGULARLY BY THE WILL OF ITS CITIZENS IN WAYS CONSISTENT WITH THE IDENTITY DECLARED IN OUR D OF I AND CONSTITUTION. THE CHARGE OF RACISM, USED AS A POWER LEVER AGAINST OUR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONSCIENCES, VIOLATES THE VISION OF BOTH DOCUMENTS.

ELECTION YEAR NOTES AND THE TRUMP PHENOMONON

IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE BEGINNING, AS SPECULATION MOUNTED AND CANDIDACIES WERE ANNOUNCED, THAT THE NOMINATING PROCESS FOR OUR 2016 ELECTION WOULD DIFFER FROM PREVIOUS ONES BECAUSE OF BOTH GENERAL TRENDS AND THE RELATIVE STRENGTHS/SKILLS OF THE CANDIDATES. THE POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY OFFERED BY THIS ATMOSPHERE OF CHANGE CREATED AN OPPORTUNITY WHICH TRUMP AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, BERNIE SANDERS WERE ABLE TO EXPLOIT.

AS IN MOST OF OUR SIGNIFICANT RECENT SOCIETAL CHANGES, TECHNOLOGY IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT. OUR CYBER AGE HAS ALTERED OUR POLITICAL LANDSCAPE AS MUCH AS ANY OTHER BY TRANSFORMING THE WAY OPINION IS EXPRESSED AND RECEIVED. UNTIL THE OBAMA ELECTION IN 2008, NEWS AND THE OPINION ATTENDING IT WERE LARGELY FORMED, CONTROLLED AND REPORTED BY OUR POLITICAL ELITES (THOSE IN AND OUT OF OFFICE) AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN OUR MSM, ESPECIALLY ITS 24/7 BROADCAST SECTOR. PUBLIC OPINION WAS LARGELY SHAPED BY THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THEM AND OUR PUBLIC CONVERSATION WAS MOSTLY WITH OR THROUGH THEM. DIRECT COMMUNICATION, ONE ON ONE, WAS LIMITED TO PERSONAL MEETINGS/CONVERSATIONS OR OUR TELEPHONES.

THE GROWTH OF SOCIAL MEDIA OVER THE LAST DECADE HAS CHANGED THAT BY ALLOWING PUBLIC OPINION TO BE EXCHANGED AT THE SPEEDS AND VOLUMES AVAILABLE TO OUR MSM. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE CAN EXPRESS OUR POLITICAL CONCERNS, QUESTIONS AND PREFERENCES WITHOUT THEIR BEING SUBJECT TO THE FILTERS OF THE POLITICAL AND MEDIA POWER STRUCTURES THAT HAVE DOMINATED OUR INFORMATION PROCESS FOR MANY YEARS.

ANOTHER INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TREND HAS BEEN THE DECLINE IN LABOR UNION MEMBERSHIP IN OUR WORKFORCES. IN THE YEARS FOLLOWING WW II, WHEN OUR ECONOMY “RAN ON HIGH” RECONSTRUCTING EUROPE AND LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR MODERN CONSUMER ECONOMY, UNIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN DELIVERING CONTRACTS THAT MOVED THEIR WORKERS INTO MIDDLE CLASS PROSPERITY. WHETHER BLACK OR WHITE, MOST OF THESE MIDDLE AND LOWER-MIDDLE CLASS WORKERS FOLLOWED THEIR UNIONS’ INTERESTS AND VOTED FOR DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES.

AS THE CONTINUING DECLINE IN UNION MEMBERSHIP HAS DECIMATED THIS TRADITIONAL SOURCE OF DEMOCRATIC VOTER SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE WHITE LABOR VOTE, UNIONS ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO COMMAND AND DELIVER “THE PARTY LINE”, LEAVING DEMS WITH THE QUANDARY OF HOW TO REPLACE THIS VANISHED CONSTITUENCY.

IN ADDITION TO THESE TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE CHANGES A CRITICAL FAILURE OF VISION AND PSYCHOLOGY WAS WIDESPREAD AMONG THE PROGRESSIVE ELEMENT OF OUR POLITICAL COMMUNITY. FOR DECADES, LEFTIST THOUGHT HAD SO DOMINATED OUR MEDIA AND POLITICAL FUNCTIONS THAT EVEN CONGRESS, WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE ATTUNED TO PUBLIC OPINION, WAS UNABLE TO BELIEVE THAT MASSIVE CHANGE WAS IN PROCESS. CURIOUSLY, AT THIS TIME, CONGRESS, WHOSE HANDS CAN MOVE OUR LEVERS OF POWER, HAS CHOSEN TO PLAY A DIMINISHED ROLE IN SETTING AND MAINTAINING STANDARDS/DIRECTIONS FOR OUR GOVERNMENT; AND THIS ABDICATION HAS SERIOUSLY WEAKENED THE LEGISLATIVE LEG OF OUR GOVERNMENT’S THREE-BRANCH, SHARED POWER STRUCTURE.

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THESE CIRCUMSTANCES PROVIDED AN OPENING THROUGH WHICH FORCES OF CHANGE COULD ENTER AND BE HEARD. TRUMP, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, ACTED UPON THIS OPPORTUNITY AND PUT IT TO USE, TAPPING INTO A STRONG AND WIDESPREAD CURRENT OF POPULIST DISSATISFACTION WITH THE WAY POLITICAL POWER HAD BEEN GATHERED AND EXERCISED BY ELECTED AND UNELECTED ELITES.

NOW, AFTER OVER A YEAR OF CAMPAIGNING AND WITH SIX MONTHS REMAINING, TWO IMAGES STAY IN OUR MIND AND WILL NOT BE ERASED. AS WITH MANY MEMORABLE INSTANT IMAGES, THEY TELL A STORY BEYOND THE MOMENT. THE FIRST IS THE COLLECTIVE PORTRAIT OF THE PRINT AND BROADCAST OPINION ELITISTS ALL CONCURRING FOR A YEAR OF COMMENTS THAT TRUMP HAD NO REAL SUPPORT OR MESSAGE CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING A CAMPAIGN AND WOULD SELF-DESTRUCT IN THE MATTER OF A FEW MONTHS. ONLY AFTER TOP LEVEL SUCCESSES IN IA, NH, IL, NV, FL, MI, NC AND SC DID THIS CHORUS BEGIN TO CHANGE AND RECOGNIZE TRUMP AS A VIABLE CANDIDATE.

THE SECOND IMAGE IS THE PHOTO OF JEB BUSH CAMPAIGNING IN A NH SNOWFALL WITH HIS MOTHER, BENT BY AGE, PUSHING HER WALKER AT HIS SIDE. THIS WAS MORE THAN

AN IMAGE; IT WAS AN EPITAPH FOR DYNASTIC DREAMS OF A BUSH III IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND A NEXT GENERATION SON STILL TO COME.

EPITAPHS, LIKE PHOTOS OR MIRRORS, CAN RENDER CRUEL JUDGEMENTS.

FOR BUSH, THE FAMILY TIE WAS EVERYTHING, PROVIDING HISTORY, AUTHENTICITY, FUNDING AND CONNECTIONS, BUT IT ALSO CARRIED A NEGATIVE, THAT THE PUBLIC MIGHT CONSIDER IT TOO MUCH, MIGHT EVEN SEE IN RETROSPECT THAT THE KENNEDY EXPERIENCE WAS TOO MUCH WEIGHT TO BE BORNE BY A DEMOCRACY AS FRAGILE AS OURS HAS COME TO BE. BUSH RAISED OVER \$100 MILLION, DANCED AROUND THE DYNASTY MATTER, PRODUCED SINGLE DIGIT SUPPORT NUMBERS AND ENDED HIS CANDIDACY IN FEBRUARY. EPITAPHS, LIKE PHOTOS OR MIRRORS, CAN RENDER CRUEL JUDGEMENTS.

RESPONSE TO INQUIRY — PART 1 ISLAM IN AMERICA

A READER HAS WRITTEN AND ASKED THAT WE PROVIDE A CAPSULE VERSION OF THE MUSLIM PROBLEM IN AMERICA. ISLAM DOESN'T LEND ITSELF EASILY TO ENCAPSULATION, BUT WE'LL TRY.

FIRST, BECAUSE TECHNOLOGY CHANGES EVERYTHING, WE LIVE IN AN AGE OF REVISION DOMINATED BY OUR INSTANT MSM. THINK BACK TO THE 19TH CENTURY GREAT AGE OF THE NOVEL WHEN WRITERS IN RUSSIA, FRANCE, ENGLAND AND THE U.S. PRODUCED AN ASTOUNDING BODY OF WORK.

MANY OF THESE BOOKS WERE HUNDREDS OF PAGES IN LENGTH REQUIRING SEVERAL YEARS OF WRITING, BUT IN ADDITION TO THEIR WRITING TIME EVERY WORK HAD TO BE PROOF-READ, EDITED AND TYPESET. TODAY, THESE LAST TWO FUNCTIONS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED ELECTRONICALLY IN A SMALL FRACTION OF THEIR 19TH CENTURY TIME, AS REVISION IS EASY, INSTANTANEOUS AND CONTINUOUS.

REVISION IS A BLADE THAT CUTS TWO WAYS. IT CAN PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR KEEPING UP TO DATE, OR ITS OVERUSE CAN STALL A PROCESS AND PREVENT IT. NOTHING IS PROTECTED FROM REVISION, NOT EVEN, OR ESPECIALLY, RELIGION. IN 17TH CENTURY NEW ENGLAND WHEN "THE DEVIL" LURKED IN EVERY WORD AND ACTION AND "WITCHES" WERE TIED TO CHAIRS AND SUBMERGED IN WATER TO RID THEM OF THEIR WICKED WAYS, REVISION WAS NOT A PART OF CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS LIFE.

TODAY, CHRISTIANITY, BOTH ROMAN AND PROTESTANT, ALTERS ITS TRADITIONAL BELIEFS BY BOTH REINTERPRETING AND/OR REVISING THEM. THIS PROCESS OF ACCOMMODATION TO THE "NEW" WAYS OF THE WORLD IS THE RESULT OF THE WAY OUR TECHNOLOGY CAN APPLY FINANCIAL, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PRESSURES TO THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND ATTITUDES OF OUR SOCIETY.

ACKNOWLEDGED OR DISGUISED, RELIGIOUS WARFARE HAS BEEN A CONSTANT IN WCIV.

FOLLOWING MARTIN LUTHER'S INITIATION OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION IN 1517 ITS RESULTING SCHISM DOMINATED WESTERN EUROPEAN POLITICS, WARFARE, MONARCHICAL SUCCESSION AND ECONOMICS INTO THE 20TH CENTURY IN WAYS BOTH OBVIOUS AND CONCEALED. AND BEFORE THE REFORMATION, OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS, THE CHRISTIAN NOBILITY JOINED TOGETHER TO SEND TROOPS TO LIBERATE SITES THAT HAD FALLEN TO MUSLIMS. ACKNOWLEDGED OR DISGUISED, RELIGIOUS WARFARE HAS BEEN A CONSTANT IN WCIV.

THE CURRENT PROBLEM POSED BY MILITANT ISLAM CANNOT BE UNDERSTOOD TODAY IN EUROPE OR AMERICA WITHOUT RECOGNIZING AND ACCEPTING THIS BACKGROUND. SADLY, EUROPE'S CULTURE MAY ALREADY BE SO ALTERED BY MUSLIM PENETRATION THAT THE LATEST WAVE MAY END EUROPE'S CHRISTIAN CULTURE AS WE HAVE KNOWN IT WITHIN THE SPAN OF A FEW GENERATIONS. THIS PROCESS OF TAKING CONTROL IS NOW UNDERWAY AND, UNLESS COUNTER MEASURES ARE ADOPTED, WILL ACHIEVE ITS GOAL.

MILITANT ISLAM'S ABILITY TO DO AWAY WITH OTHER CULTURES HAS BEEN ON DISPLAY FOR CENTURIES IN WHICH ITS TACTICS HAVE NOT VARIED — INSTILL TERROR BY EXTREME VIOLENCE; REPLACE ALL OTHER LAWS AND RELIGIONS WITH SHARIA; AND COMMAND HIGH FERTILITY, QURAN-BASED EDUCATION COMMENCING IN THE PRE-SCHOOL YEARS.

ON THEIR OWN, THESE METHODS HAVE ENABLED ISLAM TO BECOME THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST RELIGION AND THE DOMINANT ONE IN A REGION THAT STRETCHES FROM GIBRALTAR EAST TO SINGAPORE. THERE IS, HOWEVER, ANOTHER ELEMENT IN AMERICA AND THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES THAT COULD UNINTENTIONALLY FACILITATE MUSLIM GROWTH. IT IS THE WELCOMING NATURE OF OUR OPEN GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR HESITANCE IN RESPONDING TO SOCIAL OR CULTURAL PRESSURE. THIS IS EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED IN THE EU'S BRUSSELS BUREAUCRACY, AS HAS BEEN EVIDENT IN ITS CONTINUING DIVISION OVER HOW TO DEAL WITH THE CURRENT MIGRANT CRISIS.

THE EUROPEAN TIMETABLE IS WELL AHEAD OF EVENTS IN OUR COUNTRY, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT HISTORY WILL SPARE US A CONFRONTATION WITH ISLAM FOR WHICH OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER AND GOVERNMENT MAY BE POORLY PREPARED — EVEN MORE SO THAN EUROPE BECAUSE OF OUR BRIEFER HISTORY AND BECAUSE OUR WARS HAVE BEEN ROOTED IN POLITICAL, TERRITORIAL OR ECONOMIC CAUSES. AS IN OTHER NATIONS, THEY HAVE SERVED AS TESTING GROUNDS FOR OUR VALUES AND DEFINED OUR CULTURE, BUT NOW MILITANT ISLAM PRESENTS US WITH A NEW KIND OF WAR — A RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED ONE — AT A TIME WHEN WE FACE PERIL FROM BEYOND AND WITHIN OUR BORDERS. HOW SHALL WE RESPOND?

* * *

UNDERLYING THE PROBLEM OF ISLAM IN AMERICA AND OUR ABILITY TO TREAT IT IN A RATIONAL WAY IS THE TENDENCY OF MANY AMERICANS TO VIEW ISLAM ONLY AS A RELIGION WHOSE PRESENCE AND PRACTICE ARE ASSURED BY OUR CONSTITUTION. ANXIOUS TO BE SEEN AS SUPPORTING THE LATTER AND ITS OFTEN REFERENCED “FREEDOM OF RELIGION”, THEY FAIL TO MAKE SOME BASIC DISTINCTIONS WHICH SET ISLAM APART FROM OTHER FAITHS AND WHICH GREATLY INCREASE THE RISK TO HOST NATIONS OR CULTURES WHO WELCOME IT.

THE FIRST AND MOST CONSEQUENTIAL OF THESE DISTINCTIONS IS THAT ISLAM IS NOT JUST A RELIGION LIKE JUDAISM OR CHRISTIANITY. IT COMES WITH A LEGAL SYSTEM ATTACHED THAT PRESCRIBES A CODE OF BEHAVIOR ALONG WITH ITS REWARDS AND PENALTIES. ISLAM, THEN, IS A “TWOFRER”; YOU MAY THINK OF IT ONLY AS A RELIGIOUS FAITH LIKE ANY OTHER, BUT IT IS NOT LIKE ANY OTHER. AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT IT CAN CLAIM TO BE DIVINE MESSAGE, PRIEST, JUDGE, JURY OR EXECUTIONER WITH THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH OVER MUSLIMS AND OTHERS. IN THE NEW AREAS TO WHICH IT EXPANDS NON-MUSLIMS ARE OFTEN GIVEN THE CHOICE OF “CONVERT OR DIE”.

THIS TRUE NATURE OF ISLAM ALLOWS IT TO TAKE DIFFERENT FORMS IN DIFFERENT TIMES AND PLACES, CONFUSING MANY OF ITS OBSERVERS AMONG OUR GENERAL POPULATION AND OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN GOVERNMENT. BUT WHAT IS EVEN LESS UNDERSTOOD ARE THE MULTIPLE POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL POINTS IN OUR DEMOCRACY WHERE ISLAM APPLIES UNRELENTING PRESSURE. THAT PRESSURE OVER TIME, IF NOT RESISTED, CAN BRING DOWN OPEN, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES SUCH AS THOSE IN EUROPE — AND OURS!

ISLAM’S CODE OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CONDUCT IS CALLED SHARIA AND IS ORDAINED BY ISLAM’S HOLIEST SCRIPTURE, THE QURAN, WHICH IS REPUTED BY MUSLIMS TO BE REVELATIONS RECEIVED AND RECORDED BY THE PROPHET, MUHAMMAD, FROM THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL. WITHIN THE MUSLIM FAITH THERE IS CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE AS TO HOW TO INTERPRET AND/OR IMPOSE SHARIA’S COMMANDS, BUT THEY ARE HOLY TEXT AND HAVE BEEN WITH US FOR ABOUT 1,400 YEARS. THEY WILL NOT GO AWAY AND ARE ALWAYS READY TO DO BATTLE WITH OUR COURTS, CHURCHES OR CONSTITUTION.

THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL BODY OF OPINION THAT CLAIMS ISLAM IS A PEACEFUL AND MODERATE FAITH NOT GIVEN TO THE EXTREMES FOUND IN SHARIA, BUT THIS IS DISPUTED BY BOTH ITS LONG HISTORY OF VIOLENT CONQUEST OF OTHERS AND THE CONTINUING, BLOODY STRUGGLE BETWEEN ITS SUNNI AND SHIITE FACTIONS THAT DOMINATES LIFE IN THE NEAR EAST (NE).

SHARIA, AND THE LEGAL ARGUMENT IT POSES IN DEMOCRACIES, IS PERHAPS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON AVAILABLE TO ISLAM IN HOST COUNTRIES THAT ADMIT IT, AND ALREADY WE SEE IT PUT TO USE IN OUR AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS. IN THE TOTALLY MUSLIM HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS OUTSIDE PARIS AND OTHER FRENCH CITIES WHERE POLICE ENFORCEMENT IS LIMITED TO MAJOR INCIDENTS INVOLVING PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMUNITY/BEHAVIORAL MATTERS ARE RESOLVED BY MUSLIM AUTHORITIES.

AND IN ENGLAND COURTS HAVE BEGUN TO ALLOW MUSLIM DOMESTIC LEGAL ISSUES TO BE DECIDED ACCORDING TO SHARIA — WHAT MIGHT SEEM LIKE A MINOR LEGAL PRIVILEGE NOW, BUT FOR WHICH PRESSURE TO EXTEND IT IS SURE TO FOLLOW.

SHARIA IS NOT ONLY A LEGAL SYSTEM; IT IS A SYSTEM FROM WHICH MULTIPLE OTHER FORMS OF STATUS CAN BE CLAIMED AND HONORED. IT IS ITS REACH THAT MAKES IT THE RISK THAT IT IS FOR HOST SOCIETIES, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE OPEN, DEMOCRATIC ONES THAT HAVE MADE SUCH DETERMINED EFFORTS TO BE POLITICALLY CORRECT (PC) THAT THEY ARE LOSING CONTROL OF THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS AND DESTINIES.

ANY IMMIGRANT ENTERING THE US AND STARTING ON ITS PATH TOWARDS FULL PARTICIPATION IN OUR SOCIETY (I.E., CITIZENSHIP) EXCHANGES SOME ASPECTS OF HIS/HER NATIVE IDENTITY/LAWS FOR OURS. THAT’S THE “DEAL” AND IT APPLIES EQUALLY TO ALL MIGRANTS. WERE SHARIA ONLY A LEGAL SYSTEM, THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM, BUT IT DERIVES FROM THE MOST HOLY MUSLIM SCRIPTURE AND IS THEREFORE, AN ALL-IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE ISLAMIC FAITH. IT IS RELIGION. THE MUSLIM MIGRANT MAY HEAR AND SPEAK THE WORDS OF OUR OATH OF CITIZENSHIP, BUT IN THE CHAMBERS OF THE SELF GUARDED BY TIME AND MEMORY, IT IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE QURAN MEMORIZED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD THAT RULES. SHARIA IS PART OF THE MUSLIM MIGRANT’S BEING AND, WITH THE AID OF OUR VERY GENEROUS AND OPEN POLITICAL SYSTEM, IT WILL CREATE EXCEPTIONS TO OUR RULES AND WAYS TO MAINTAIN A SEPARATIST ISLAMIC PRESENCE RATHER THAN COMMIT TO ASSIMILATION.

OUR PERMISSION OF THIS PROCESS IS NOT AS ADVANCED AS THAT OF SOME OF OUR FELLOW WCIV DEMOCRACIES, BUT IT HAS STARTED AND, OF COURSE, AS IS THE CASE USUALLY WITH RELIGIOUS/CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, PRESSURE CAN BUILD. WHILE MEDIA COVERAGE, OPEN BORDERS GROUPS’ PRESSURES AND COURT DECISIONS THAT FAVOR ISLAMIC INTERESTS CAN ALL ENLARGE OUR PERCEPTION OF THE RISK OF MUSLIM MIGRANT ADMISSIONS, THERE IS ONE UNDENIABLE “WILD CARD” — THAT BODY OF OPINION WHICH VIEWS FREEDOM OF RELIGION AS UNLIMITED IN SCOPE AND FAILS TO MAKE ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN RELIGIOUS PRACTICE AND WORSHIP.

THIS DIFFERENCE, QUITE WISELY, WAS NOT ADDRESSED DIRECTLY BY OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WITH THE RESULT THAT IT HAS GENERATED VAST AMOUNTS OF POLITICAL, LEGAL AND JUDICIAL COMMENT. AS THERE ARE COUNTLESS PARAMETERS USED TO DEFINE RELIGION, WE WILL AVOID THAT TRAP, AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT IS SO BROAD THAT IT OFFERS LITTLE HELP IN DECLARING RELIGION’S ROLE IN THE NEW NATION, BUT THE RIGHTS GRANTED BY OUR CONSTITUTION SEEM TO MAKE MORE SENSE IF THEY ARE SEEN AS INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, FROM GOVERNMENT TO ITS CITIZENS, NOT AS BENEFITS FOR UNSPECIFIED GROUPS. WORSHIP SEEMS TO ALIGN ITSELF MORE WITH PERSONAL ACTS SUCH AS PRAYER, REVERENCE AND CONTEMPLATION WHILE RELIGIOUS PRACTICE CAN EXTEND TO GROUP ACTIVITIES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL THAT INCLUDE CHARITABLE, EDUCATIONAL, MEDICAL TREATMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH EFFORTS AND, INCREASINGLY IN OUR TIME, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST

OR IN FAVOR OF ISSUES, CANDIDATES, GENDERS, OR ETHNICITIES THAT MIX RELIGION AND POLITICS.

SHARIA CAN BE SEEN AS A FORM OF LEGAL UMBRELLA PROVIDING MULTIPLE PROTECTIONS. AS LAW, IT PRESCRIBES INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR AND PENALTIES FOR DISOBEDIENCE, BUT, AS PART OF A HOLY RELIGIOUS TEXT, IT ALSO IS THE BASIS FOR ISLAM'S CODE OF SOCIAL/MORAL CONDUCT. THIS DUAL STATUS RESULTS IN A STRUCTURE (AS AUTHORITARIAN AS ANY DEvised BY HISTORY'S SECULAR LEADERS) IN WHICH ARE SPECIFIED BOTH OFFENSES AND PENALTIES THAT CONTRADICT OUR OWN LAWS AND THE SOCIAL PROGRESS THAT WE HAVE STRUGGLED TO ACHIEVE OVER THE PAST TWO CENTURIES.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE CAN POINT TO ISLAM'S PRACTICE OF "HONOR KILLINGS" OR OTHER "HONOR" FORMS OF VIOLENCE; FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION; TEENAGE SEXUAL INDOCTRINATION GROUPS; CORPORAL PUNISHMENTS FOR CRIMINAL OR BEHAVIORAL CODE VIOLATIONS THAT INCLUDE PUBLIC BEHEADINGS, LIVE BURIALS, STONINGS, AMPUTATIONS; AND FORCED MARRIAGES OFTEN INVOLVING CHILD BRIDES. THIS IS ONLY THE "A" LIST. THERE ARE MANY MORE ASPECTS OF ISLAMIC LIFE AND BELIEF THAT VIOLATE OUR AMERICAN ORIGINS, SENSITIVITIES AND GOALS, AS WELL AS OUR WESTERN CULTURE.

A RECENT EXAMPLE OF ISLAMIC "HONOR" VIOLENCE SEEMS TO HAVE OCCURED IN LOS ANGELES WHERE SHEHADA⁷ ISSA, 69, WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH THE HATE CRIME MURDER OF HIS SON, AMIR, 29, BECAUSE OF THE LATTER'S HOMOSEXUALITY. THE BODY OF A SECOND VICTIM, AMIR'S MOTHER, WAS ALSO FOUND AT THE CRIME SCENE AND IS UNDERGOING FORENSIC TESTS. DETAILS ARE SKETCHY AND SOME REPORTS INDICATE DRUG USE BY AMIR MAY HAVE BEEN A FACTOR, BUT ISLAMIC FAMILY KILLINGS ARE OFTEN VIEWED BY THOSE WHO COMMIT THEM AS PERMISSIBLE IN ORDER TO RID THE FAMILY OF SHAME AND MAINTAIN ITS HONOR. WE WILL REPORT ON ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

THOSE WHO CONSIDER ISLAM AS ONLY A RELIGION ENTITLED TO OUR LONGSTANDING TOLERANCE FOR MOST FAITHS FAIL TO RECOGNIZE THE THREAT OF ITS DUAL STATUS, FOR, IF WE PROTECT ISLAM AS A RELIGION, IT CAN AND WILL CLAIM THAT THAT PROTECTION EXTENDS TO ALL ITS PARTS, AND THAT ANY EFFORT TO RESTRICT THEM IS A DENIAL OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY OUR CONSTITUTION.

ONCE THAT ARGUMENT IS MADE, OUR OPEN FORM OF GOVERNMENT CONVEYS A POWERFUL ADVANTAGE TO THOSE WHO WISH TO CONVERT IT TO THEIR BENEFIT. OUR TOLERANCE WILL GRANT ACCESS TO OUR COURTS WHERE DECISIONS CAN FAVOR THE BROADER ISSUE OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW THEORY OVER ITS CONSEQUENCES. WHICHEVER SIDE OF THIS ISSUE WE CHOOSE TO ACCEPT, WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT THE ISLAMIC "RIGHTS" ARGUMENT IS APPEARING MORE FREQUENTLY ON OUR COURT CALENDARS AND SOME JUDGES HAVE ALREADY ISSUED OPINIONS THAT ALLOW THE CONSIDERATION OF ISLAMIC LAW IN LEGAL ARGUMENTS/DECISIONS.

* * *

THE LEGAL PROCESS OF CLAIMING RIGHTS CAN BE A RELATIVELY DIRECT AND PAINLESS WAY TO CHALLENGE SOVEREIGNTY — FROM TRIAL, THROUGH JURY, VERDICT AND SENTENCE — AND CAN PLANT SEEDS THAT GERMINATE, GROW AND CLOUD THE FUTURE. ITS ADVANTAGE TO THE HOST COUNTRY WHOSE CULTURE AND LAWS ARE BEING CONVERTED TO ALIEN VIEWS IS THAT IT TAKES PLACE IN OUR PUBLIC COURTS AND IS OPEN TO OUR MSM COVERAGE.

BUT, BEYOND THE LEGAL EFFORT TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL RELIGIOUS AND/OR HUMANITARIAN RIGHTS FOR MUSLIMS UNDER OUR CONSTITUTION, THERE ARE OTHER QUIETER AND WIDER WAYS TO TRANSFORM OUR CULTURE AND SOCIAL RELATIONS. AND NOWHERE ARE WE MORE VULNERABLE THAN IN THE STATE/FEDERAL AND PUBLIC/PRIVATE MIXTURE OF INTENTIONS, STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, ATTITUDES AND FUNDING THAT COMPRISE OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

THE ISLAMIC IMPACT ON EDUCATION IN AMERICA WILL BE LIKE NO OTHER WE HAVE EXPERIENCED, RELIGIOUS OR SECULAR. WHILE WE CANNOT ACCURATELY PREDICT ITS PATH OR PROGRESS, THE AREAS IN WHICH IT WILL CLASH WITH OUR TRADITIONS ARE EVIDENT.

AT FIRST, IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT MUSLIM MIGRANTS WILL SETTLE AND STAY IN COMMUNITIES THAT ARE EITHER COMPLETELY OR MOSTLY ISLAMIC BY COUNT AND CHARACTER, AND WHERE THE TRADITIONAL EDUCATION MODEL BASED ON THE QURAN WOULD BE STANDARD PRACTICE FOR AT LEAST THE ELEMENTARY YEARS AND PROBABLY BEYOND. IN EFFECT, THIS COULD AMOUNT TO A TYPE OF HOME SCHOOLING WITH NO INTERFERENCE FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE WRITTEN OR SPOKEN MESSAGE. ANY ATTEMPTS TO QUESTION, MODIFY OR CONTROL THIS PROCESS WOULD BE STONEWALLED BY CLAIMS TO OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF "FREEDOM OF RELIGION".

ANOTHER SCENARIO MIGHT DEVELOP IN WHICH OVER TIME MORE MODERATE MUSLIMS MIGHT WANT TO SEND THEIR OFFSPRING TO AMERICAN SCHOOLS TO GAIN THE BENEFITS OF LANGUAGE, TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMICS AND JOB PROSPECTS THEY OFFER. IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH FORESIGHT TO IMAGINE THE CONFLICTS THAT WOULD RESULT IN OUR SCHOOLS, WHERE EVEN THE MOST MODEST MENTION OF RELIGION IS AVOIDED, FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS OF AN EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE FAITH SUCH AS ISLAM.

... THE OPPORTUNITY FOR LITIGATION OVER "RIGHTS" IS ENDLESS.

THERE WOULD BE CALLS FOR PORTRAYING HISTORICAL ISLAM IN WAYS THAT DEVIATE FROM OUR WCIV PERCEPTION, AND THE METHODS OF PC WOULD BE WIDELY APPLIED TO TEXTS, CURRICULUMS AND THE GRADING PROCESS. AS OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IS ONE OF MUCH MONEY AND MANY ELEMENTS — STATE, FEDERAL, LOCAL, COMMERCIAL, PARENTAL, LABOR, AND ACADEMIC — THE OPPORTUNITY FOR LITIGATION OVER "RIGHTS" IS ENDLESS.

OTHER AREAS OF SOCIAL CONFLICT, WHICH CAN EASILY REACH OUR COURTS, ARE MUSLIM DIET AND DRESS REGULATIONS. THESE ARE DISTINCTIVE ASPECTS OF ISLAMIC LIFE THAT AROUSE ANTAGONISMS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RELIGIOUS DIVIDE. JUST LOOK AT THE NE WHERE EVERYBODY DRESSES THE SAME AND DIET HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO RELIGIOUS CONTROLS FOR CENTURIES; AND THEN AT OUR OWN COUNTRY WHERE VARIETY, NOT REGIMENTATION, IS THE NORM.

THE ARGUMENT CAN BE MADE THAT DRESS/DIET ARE PERSONAL CHOICES WHICH ANY GROUP CAN EXERCISE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE, BUT THEY CAN ALSO BE, AND IN ISLAM'S CASE ARE, POWERFUL SYMBOLS — CULTURAL, POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS WHICH, WHETHER BY CHANCE OR INTENTION, CAN DRAW “RED LINES” WHERE THEY OTHERWISE WOULD NOT BE.

DIFFERENCES, REAL OR IMAGINED? SLIGHTS, TARGETED CRITICISM OR COMMENTS EXTRACTED FROM CASUAL CONVERSATION? GLANCES, SUSPICIOUS OR HARMLESS? THESE ARE QUESTIONS ALWAYS PRESENT WHEN WE CONFRONT, OR EVEN CONTEMPLATE, “THE OTHER”. THESE QUESTIONS, AND THOSE RAISED BY ALL THE PREVIOUS CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS, LEGAL AND SOCIAL DIFFERENCES WE HAVE CITED COMBINE TO LEAD TO THE MOST BASIC, AND PROBABLY ENDURING, OF ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT WOULD RESULT FROM AN UNRESTRICTED ISLAMIC PRESENCE IN AMERICA.

WE REFER TO ASSIMILATION WHICH HAS “BEDROCK” STATUS IN BOTH ISLAM'S AND OUR SOCIETIES. FOR US, ASSIMILATION HAS BEEN AN ECONOMIC/SOCIAL SUCCESS SINCE ITS BEGINNING AND A POLITICAL POLICY PRIZE UNTIL IRCA (THE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT OF 1965), WHEN THE GOALS, METHODS AND VALUES OF OUR IMMIGRATION POLICY WERE ALL COMPLETELY CHANGED WITHOUT ANY SERIOUS EXAMINATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES.

ASSIMILATION FOR ISLAM, HOWEVER, PRESENTS A DIFFERENT KIND OF BEDROCK SITUATION — NOT AN ECONOMIC/SOCIAL POLICY ISSUE, BUT FIRST, LAST AND ALWAYS AN ACT OF BETRAYAL IN DEFIANCE OF WHAT IS COMMANDED BY THE QURAN AND, THEREFORE, OF ISLAM'S HOLY LAW.

AMERICA, IN ITS ONLY TWO-PLUS CENTURIES' EXISTENCE AND WITH THE BENEFIT OF AN ORIGINAL LANDSCAPE, HAS ESTABLISHED A NEW FORM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT BUILT ON EQUALITY AND FREEDOM. THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR NATIONAL CONTRACT WITH ALL NEW ARRIVALS THAT THEY WOULD BE GRANTED FULL RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP IN RETURN FOR THEIR RENOUNCING ALL FORMER TITLES AND ALLEGIANCES, LEARNING OUR LANGUAGE AND HISTORY AND PLEDGING THEIR LOYALTY TO THE U.S. THERE IS NO “WIGGLE ROOM” BETWEEN THESE TWO FOUNDATIONAL HISTORIES AND NO TWO ATTITUDES COULD BE MORE INCOMPATIBLE!

ASSIMILATION HAS PROVEN ITSELF BY PROVIDING A SOLUTION TO SOME OF THE NATION'S VERY VEXING ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH ITS RAPID GROWTH IN WEALTH AND POPULATION. BUT NOW IT STANDS AS THE DIVIDING LINE, THAT DETERMINES WHERE ISLAM ENDS AND AMERICA BEGINS. ARTICLES WILL BE WRITTEN, SPEECHES GIVEN

AND MAPS DRAWN, BUT, UNLESS AT LEAST ONE OF THE PARTIES CHOOSES TO RENOUNCE PAST HISTORY AND PRESENT IDENTITY, THE LINE WILL REMAIN AND THEIR WAYS WILL BE SEPARATE.

AS THE PROCESS OF ASSIMILATION IS ONE THAT WE HAVE CALLED UPON TO DELIVER DIFFERENT BENEFITS AT DIFFERENT TIMES, NOW WE TURN TO IT AGAIN TO SERVE AS A CULTURAL FIREWALL. IT IS THE TEST THAT ALL THE ARGUMENTS AND DIFFERENCES WE HAVE CITED MUST EITHER PASS OR FAIL. IT IS A TEST OF SYSTEMS AND BELIEFS THAT MAY BE ADMINISTERED BY LAWS AND GOVERNMENTS, BUT WILL BE DECIDED BY THE CHARACTER AND VISION OF AMERICA'S PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS.

THEY ARE NOT INFALLIBLE, AND CIVILIZATION'S WASTELAND IS COVERED WITH THE BONES OF POPULATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS THAT COMMITTED SUICIDE BY MAKING THE WRONG CHOICE. WHAT IS SO DIFFERENT NOW IS THAT THE SIREN SONGS OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE MEDIA DISTORT BOTH THE CONTENT AND OUR RECEPTION OF THE MULTITUDE OF MESSAGES FROM WHICH WE MUST CRAFT OUR CHOICE AND OUR DESTINY.

ANY CONFLICT WITH ISLAM IS, BECAUSE OF THE MANY AND DEEP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US, ONE OF SURVIVAL, ALTHOUGH WE MAY NOT RECOGNIZE IT IN TIME BECAUSE ISLAM HAS TWO DISTINCT ADVANTAGES.

THE FIRST IS THAT IT CAN USE OUR OWN LAWS, LANGUAGE AND INSTITUTIONS TO SERVE ITS INTEREST. AND THE SECOND IS THAT BY OUR NATURE WE ARE OPEN, WELCOMING AND SLOW TO RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS THAT OUR SYSTEM INVITES.

* * *

ISLAM IS AN AGGRESSIVE RELIGION NOW IN AN EXPANSIONIST PHASE WITH DAILY RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED BOMBINGS TAKING PLACE IN AFRICA, THE NE AND ASIA. EUROPE IS PROBABLY ONLY ONE GENERATION AWAY FROM A MUSLIM POLITICAL PARTY ATTAINING POWER ELECTORALLY IN ONE OR MORE OF ITS DEMOCRACIES. PARIS, LONDON, BRUSSELS AND NEW YORK HAVE ALL EXPERIENCED MAJOR ATTACKS BY MUSLIM TERRORISTS. THESE GROUPS GO BY DIFFERENT NAMES, BUT THEIR COMMON THREAD IS ISLAM. IT MAY BE COMFORTING TO HOPE OR THINK, THAT THEIR ATTACKS WILL SLACKEN, BUT REALISM REVEALS THAT THEY ARE INCREASING IN BOLDNESS AND FREQUENCY.

FOR CENTURIES THE SEA HAS SERVED MANY COUNTRIES AS A PROTECTION FROM INVASION AND FAVORED A SENSE OF SECURITY IN BOTH ENGLAND AND THE US THAT EXTENDED TO WW II. MANY IN AMERICA STILL CLING TO OUR FORMER “IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE” STATUS, BUT NOW EVEN NORTH KOREA IS LAYING CLAIM TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE NUCLEAR CLUB. MUCH OF WHAT THREATENS US TODAY WE COULD NOT HAVE IMAGINED FIFTY YEARS AGO. THE TRUTH IS THAT WE FACE A NEW WORLD, NEW WEAPONS AND A NEW ENEMY — AND THIS TRUTH IS VERY LIKELY TO HURT.

AS WE SAID, ENCAPSULATION DOESN'T COME EASILY WITH ISLAM. WE WILL CONTINUE THIS REPLY IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

EPILOGUE

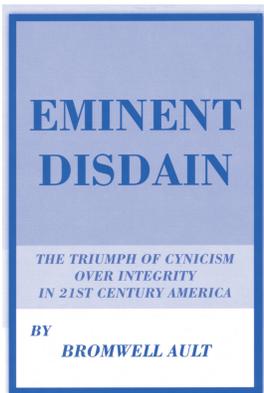
SOME CHILDHOOD NIGHT SOUNDS, LIKE THE WIND IN THE TREES AND THE LONESOME CALL OF A PASSING STEAM TRAIN, STAY FIXED IN OUR MINDS, AS IF TO DEFY TIME. THEY REMIND US THAT NATURE IS ETERNAL AND TECHNOLOGY FLEETING. NOW WE CAN HEAR A NEW SOUND — SOMETHING DISTANT AND UNFAMILIAR. IT IS THE SOUND OF MASSIVE, POLITICAL POWER SHIFTING — AND WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT IT IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY GUNFIRE AND TROOP MOVEMENTS. WHILE THIS SHIFT HAS NOT BEEN CLEARLY ACKNOWLEDGED, OR EVEN IDENTIFIED, BY OUR MSM AND POLITICAL ELITE, IT IS A GUIDING FORCE IN BOTH PARTIES IN THIS YEAR’S ELECTION PROCESS.



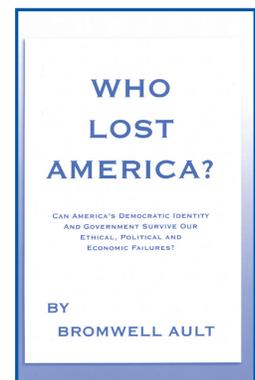
ECD 4/04/16

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; [EMINENT DISDAIN: THE TRIUMPH OF CYNICISM OVER INTEGRITY IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA.](#) ; AND [WHO LOST AMERICA? CAN AMERICA’S DEMOCRATIC IDENTITY AND GOVERNMENT SURVIVE OUR ETHICAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FAILURES?](#)



THE AUTHOR’S MOST RECENT BOOK, [WHO LOST AMERICA?](#), DEALS WITH TOPICS COVERED IN MOC ISSUES 19 THROUGH 27. BOTH IT AND HIS FIRST VOLUME, [EMINENT DISDAIN](#), ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE PUBLISHER AUTHORHOUSE, AT 888-280-7715 OR AT AUTHORHOUSE.COM.



END NOTES

- ¹ SOURCE: THE PROENGLISH ADVOCATE, 20 F STREET NW 7TH FLOOR, WASHINGTON, DC 20001 (202) 507-6203 WEBSITE: WWW.PROENGLISH.ORG
- ² IBID
- ³ WWW.ALBARTLETT.ORG, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
- ⁴ PRESIDENT NIXON, DESPITE HIS MANY FAILINGS, HAD MOMENTS OF PRESCIENCE. IN 1969 HE ESTABLISHED THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION GROWTH AND THE AMERICAN FUTURE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER III. IT WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY DOCUMENT WHICH INQUIRED INTO THE EFFECT OF OUR GROWING POPULATION UPON MANY ASPECTS OF AMERICAN LIFE.
- ⁵ THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. AMENDMENT II DECEMBER 15, 1791
- ⁶ THE NEWSHOUR, 2/22/16 CPB
- ⁷ SHEHADA IS THE ISLAMIC PROFESSION OF FAITH, “THERE IS NO GOD BUT ALLAH, AND MUHAMMAD IS HIS MESSENGER”.