



by Greg Albrecht

Evil Monster Revives in Europe?

Plain Truth editor Greg Albrecht reports from Germany, France, the Netherlands and Belgium—

The beast is emerging from the pit of its exile. Banished from Europe for many decades, the beast is back. The evil monster is raising its ugly head, spewing venom and hatred, particularly toward those who believe in the God of the Bible.

Flexing its powerful political and philosophical muscles, the beast seems to be removing the welcome mat on the doorsteps of many European countries.

Jewish citizens of many sovereign states within the European Union are beginning to feel particularly

unwelcome. They are being advised by law enforcement officials not to wear the Star of David or the yarmulke (skull cap) in public. While there is an intense debate within France about wearing “ostentatious” clothing with religious symbolism, including head scarves worn by Muslim women, only clothing worn in public that identifies one as being Jewish is worthy of a special warning in the current climate.

New Wave of Anti-Semitism

A new and virulent revival of centuries old racial and religious hatred is sweeping across the European continent like an apocalyptic xenophobic epidemic. Recent surveys

reveal that the beast of anti-Semitism around the world is at its highest level since the end of World War II.

Many Europeans believe that the more recent acts of anti-Semitism in Europe are due to anger over Israeli actions against the Palestinians. In an ironic turn, Jews and Israelis, the people of the Holocaust, are now being demonized as Nazi-like oppressors of Arabs, Muslims and Palestinians.

The truth is ignored or swept under the carpet—perhaps because the truth hurts, and perhaps because the truth behind anti-Semitism is too ugly and reprehensible even for those who do not believe in God.

The Islamic-Arab population in France, estimated at six million—almost 10 percent of the entire population—represents a growing animosity to Jews and Christians. France initially rallied to America’s suffering side after the terrorism of 9-11, but then quickly started to regroup under “not in my backyard” politics considering the huge Muslim population in its ghettos.

Europeans are apprehensive about the spread of Islamic fundamentalism within their borders, spread by soapbox *imams*, preaching an angry message to second and third generation Arab immigrants, many of whom live in suburban ghettos.

Many Europeans fear terrorist acts in their countries, on soil that was saturated in the 20th century with the blood of two world wars and the Holocaust. Europeans are justifiably tired of hearing the words “war” and “Europe” in the same breath, and many are falling prey to the all-too-human reaction of finding a scapegoat. And as in centuries past, one of the primary scapegoats is once again wearing a Star of David.

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The last decade has seen a relentless growth of racial and religious hatred across Europe, as a German newspaper noted, "Whether Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Portugal, France, Belgium and now Holland, everywhere the right-wing populists are on the march." (For a view from a Dutch Christian, be sure and read "Alarming Rise of Anti-Semitism" by Henk Askes, on page 11).

Something ugly and sinister, with grave implications for Christians and Jews, has been brewing in Europe for many years, and the hostility is now beginning to be openly displayed.

Politically Correct Hypocrisy

That racial and religious hatred should be an acceptable part of any culture where the value of tolerance and diversity has been enthroned as virtually the only worthy value is the height of hypocrisy. Why isn't the politically correct culture protecting Jews and Christians?

The rising tide of anti-Semitism has reached virtually epidemic proportions in several European countries, including France, but it is largely ignored by the mainstream media. Yet, while religious and racial hatred and thuggery is being indulged in some parts of

Europe, paradoxically, a major European push is underway to criminalize any criticism of homosexuality.

If minority groups whose causes happen to be championed by the guardians of political correctness (in many cases justifiably so) were subjected to the bitterness that Christians and Jews hear and receive, the uproar in the media would be deafening.

In 1991 media mogul Ted Turner boldly proclaimed Christianity to be a religion for losers. Just over a decade later some of the media seems to have decided that it is acceptable and politically correct to despise Christians.

20th century Europe provided the fertile soil in which hatred and animosity, and eventual de-humanization of Jews, could escalate into a Holocaust. The same racial and religious hatreds exist today. Little has changed, except a new willingness for the

beast of racial and religious hatred to come out of the closet and be expressed.

The liberal elite of the 21st century, in government, education and the media have joined forces to approve and legitimize racial and

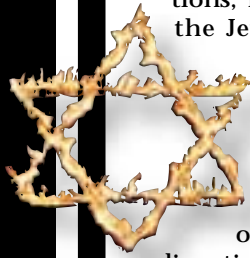
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religious hatred. Hatred of Jews is actually fashionable in some elite European circles.

Daniel Bernard, the French ambassador to Great Britain, recently called the nation of Israel a “sh_____ little country.” Following this politically incorrect and decidedly intolerant remark, Bernard asked rhetorically, “Why should the world be in danger of World War III because of those people?” In response to a suicide bombing directed at Jews, a European politician told the press, “The Jews have been asking for it.”

One must consider whether Europeans, intimidated and goaded by Muslim populations, have made Jews and the Jewish state of Israel targets of a bitter campaign of vilification. European anti-Semitic rhetoric seems to be hiding behind the skirts of self-righteous indignation over Israeli policy, and thus overt racism and religious prejudice are being justified.



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The logical inconsistency of European hatred of the Jews is that the Jews who are being targeted for violence in places like Paris, Berlin and Brussels are not Israeli citizens, and most have never even visited the state of Israel. This hatred is not merely local and national, it is racial and religious.

If current feelings continue to grow, the agenda of radical Muslim terrorists will actually be adopted by the European mainstream. Terrorists whose agenda includes Jewish and Christian targets seem to have many secular Europeans falling into willing compliance.

Lessons from Jedwabne

While considering the implications of European racism and bigotry toward Christians and Jews, I re-read *Neighbors* by Jan T. Gross. I read *Neighbors* when it was first published in 2001, but I wanted to read it again while I experienced and grappled with today's Europe as an American Christian.

Neighbors is the story of what happened in the small Polish town of Jedwabne, when, on July 10, 1941, half of the town was murdered by the other half. Only a handful of the 1,600 Jewish residents of Jedwabne survived. Jan T. Gross attempts to answer the haunting question, “Why?”



Jedwabne was occupied by soldiers of the Soviet Union until its takeover by the German military on June 22, 1941. The Germans encouraged local populations they

occupied to commit atrocities against their Jewish neighbors, but in the case of Jedwabne little encouragement was necessary. The Polish residents asked their German occupiers if they would permit murder and mayhem against the Jews.

Mayor Marian Karolak of Jedwabne met with the German occupation forces, and after being assured that the Germans would not intervene, a town council of the Poles of Jedwabne decided upon the mass murder of their Jewish neighbors.

Most of the killing was done in one day. The murderers did not wear a German army uniform nor did they display a swastika. This was a case of neighbors killing neighbors. Gross estimates that the murderers included about one-half of the Polish males of Jedwabne, who participated in a primitive orgy of blood-letting against their small town neighbors.

Gross' account of Jedwabne is not the first attempt to explain the Holocaust in a larger context than simply the blood lust of one sick and deranged man, Adolph Hitler. Daniel Goldhagen's *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* (1996), carefully presents the evidence that Hitler capitalized on centuries old anti-Semitism that was always simmering in German culture (and within organized Christianity for that matter!). Goldhagen helped to enlarge the picture about the ultimate culpability for the Holocaust, from Hitler to





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willing volunteers within German society.

But questions remained after Goldhagen's work. Why the Germans and not other nationalities? Jan T. Gross offers further perspective into the end result of racial and religious hatred with his chilling account of the atrocities perpetrated by Poles upon their small town Jewish neighbors. The atrocities apparently took place after civil restraints were lifted, restraints that Polish society and that of their Soviet Union occupiers had previously imposed.

Within a few weeks of German occupation, ordinary Poles, who apparently had not received the same kind of indoctrination and hatred against the Jews that Germans had experienced in their culture, perpetrated a frenzy of murder, without the justification of German cultural conditioning. Why?

Even secular scholars realize that when all moral restraints are lifted, the base and profoundly evil acts of our sinful human nature are unleashed.

Christopher Browning's *Ordinary Men* was part of Goldhagen's research. A careful historian, Browning suggests that German soldiers who perpetrated Holocaust atrocities were average people who were twisted into immoral barbarians. Browning interviewed 210 men from one German battalion

who were responsible for killing 39,000 Jews. He concluded that the depravity of these *Ordinary Men* was part of their humanity, not simply because they were Germans influenced by Nazism.

History teaches us that when moral order and sensibility are no longer the glue that holds a society together, when all moral decency has been cast off, then human beings often behave like animals.

At such times, do we humans revert to being animals because we evolved from them, because we are nothing more than civilized animals? Or, do we degenerate into coarse and crude animal-like behavior, without a moral dimension, because we no longer accept any higher moral authority?

God—The Real Target of the Final Solution

The motivation of the new 21st century coalition of the willing against Jews and Christians may be found in the corresponding attempt to exterminate the God of the Bible. European culture has been corroded and weakened by generations of liberal thinking and humanistic philosophical presuppositions. The rejection of the God of the Jews and Christians encouraged by the Enlightenment is now a reality. Secular values have replaced sacred beliefs.

Wave after wave of socialism, humanism, relativism and pluralism have eroded historic Judeo-Christian foundations in Europe. The United States is following a similar pattern, but still hasn't sufficiently "overcome" its Christian values and beliefs. Europe once again finds itself as a battleground. This time the armies are philosophical and spiritual—the secular and the state arrayed against the spiritual and sacred.

Just two months ago Roman Catholic bishops in Poland jointly criticized the draft proposal for the European constitution as not only lacking any reference to God, but also discriminating against religion in general.

The battle between the secular and the sacred is not confined to Europe. In the United States this





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past summer, the Episcopal church voted for its first openly homosexual priest to be made a bishop.

The book of Romans explains the human war against God. The apostle Paul presents a masterful, logical defense of Christianity and the God of the Bible. In a cogent and reasoned argument, Paul builds his case that the only answer for human sin is the cross of Christ. He begins by placing all human beings in the same predicament. We are all sinners, he says, whether we knew about the moral code included in the ten commandments God gave to the Jews or not. Ignorance is no excuse for Paul, because the moral code God gave to the Jews is a reiteration of the natural law he placed within all humans, regardless of race or religion.

Paul explained that even polytheistic pagans knew better than to reject what God had made plain to them (Romans 1:18-21). Paul thus argues for natural law—the foundational truth that all humans have a general sense of right and wrong.

Natural law, the God-given moral compass given to all humans, claims that all humans are

accountable—Christians, Muslims or Jews—Americans, British, French or German. We are accountable for brutality and bigotry. We will answer to God for unrestrained religious and racial hatred.

Anti-Americanism

Three reasons are normally given by Europeans to explain their dislike and even hatred of the United States; 1) envy (after all, the United States is the only nation in the world with residents from every other country), 2) the accusation that arrogant Americans think they own the world and 3) the allegation that American military force bullies other nations into accepting American culture and economic priorities.

There could be another much deeper cause. The United States is also hated because we represent the last bastion of freedom for the people of the book—for Jews and Christians. The United States guarantees freedom of religion, and that freedom allows Jews and Christians to openly practice their faith and worship their God.

Cultures often seem to need to identify an object of hatred to demonize and ridicule. For the Nazis it was the Jews. Fifty years ago in the United States it was the Communists. For today's politically correct, tolerance-is-god, multicultural, postmodern, value-neutral western culture, biblical Christianity incites hatred because it dares to assert that moral standards defined in the Bible are absolute and universally true.

Some of the Europeans I talked with expressed concern about growing anti-Semitism as well as anti-Americanism and disagreed with the views of many of their countrymen and women. Ironically, in most cases further

conversation revealed that these people were either Christians or Jews.

A Christian Holocaust?

Remember the old proverb of the frog and the pot of hot water? A frog dropped into a pot of hot water will hop out. But a frog placed in a pot of cool water that is slowly heated will adapt to the imperceptible change in the environment and will slowly be boiled to death.

The ominous and murky waters of racial and religious hatred have always existed. What has changed in our world today is the gradual increase in temperature—around the world there are pots of racial and religious hatred that are boiling. Racial and religious hatred has intensified because of the relentless onslaught of socialism, humanism, relativism and pluralism upon the God of the Bible.

Scholars estimate that 70 million Christians have been martyrs for their faith. In his book *The New Persecuted: Inquiries into Anti-Christian Intolerance in the New Century of Martyrs*, Italian journalist Antonio Socci estimates that 45 million of those Christian martyrs died in the 20th century. The global persecution of Christians is ignored by the mass media and is completely under-estimated by most Christians, with many pulpits strangely silent about the Christian holocaust.

How hot will the water need to become before western cultures intent upon throwing off all restraints of the one true God justify overt hatred and persecution of Jews and Christians? □

For a related story, be sure to read "The War Against God" in the January/February 2003 issue of *The Plain Truth*. Visit our website at www.ptm.org/03PT/JanFeb/warGod.htm.

