

## **ALL BUT US ?**

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**May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

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### **INTRODUCTION.**

The book here synopsised is America Alone, the End of the World as We Know It, by Mark Steyn<sup>1</sup> (Footnotes at end.)

This is a most unlikely book to be found synopsised in a Christian collection. It’s one of those ‘end of the world’ kinds of books that might not attract attention in Christian society, since it’s about politics and not God. Its writing style might turn off Christians from the older generation. It’s hard to sift out the author’s main points and the relations between them. Finally, it does not dig into who is personally behind what is reported and why. The causes are held to be corporate, without any apparent guidance.

However, the book reports something that is a surprise to this reader, in terms of what is presently wrong with the world and where it is subsequently headed. That is, this book reports yet another element of the signs of the times, which are the focus of this series of synopses. And, it connects that new element with the element previously examined in the synopsis of Professor Huntington’s book<sup>2</sup> about government and Christianity. Steyn’s book also integrates with these two elements the Islamic terrorism that has been observed now, since the ‘90s.

One new element is generally labeled ‘demography’. Specifically, it is the low birthrate of post-Christian (Western) nations, coupled with the relatively higher birthrate of the Islamic peoples. The second element, which integrates nicely with

Huntington, is the corporate political and economic suicide of the nations of the post-Christian West.

Why is the new demographic element important to us?

It is important because it is the political driver of what is going to happen to the world from now throughout the foreseeable future. It is what is going to happen politically that will concern all Christians. It is, therefore, of critical importance to be integrated into Christians' ability to interpret the signs of these very end-times.

Biblically, it is how Ishmael is going to get even with Isaac.

## **STEYN'S THREE MAJOR POINTS AND THEIR INTERSECTION.**

### **Demography, What is it?**

It is something that the President of the United States started to talk about in the first 100 days of his administration. And, it is the discipline by which Steyn approaches the future of the world in our times.

Webster's defines demography as the statistical study of human populations. Steyn makes both his major points by an appeal to the demographics of two very different cultures, the post-Christian West and the Islamic Mid-East (now becoming global).

### **Birth Rates.**

In the Christian tradition, Western nations are called that because they were historically the nations that formed around the faith propagated by the Church at Rome, which were later assimilated into the Holy Roman Empire. The West was also referred to as the Occident. Whereas, the nations that fell under the sway of the Eastern Church at Constantinople (now Turkey) came to be known as the East or the Orient. Europe's Great Britain established four more 'Western' Christian nations, being what is now known as the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

According to Steyn, the European West is now post-Christian, whereas the U.S. is not. And, in the European West, the birthrate has fallen below replacement level, which is 2.11 babies per woman. Steyn shows that the U.S.'s is right at replacement level of 2.1. Germany and Austria are at 1.3, Russia and Italy are at 1.2, and Spain is at 1.1. What that means is that Spain's population is not quite halving every generation. Surprisingly, Australia's birth rate is also down to 1.7, and Canada's is down to 1.5. And, so, among the Western (formerly Christian) nations, the U.S. is an exception. But, then, as shown in Huntington, the U.S. has always been an exception.

### **Politics and Post-Christian Western Culture.**

What do all these nations with below replacement birth rates have in common? They are all Socialist-Democratic states. What does that mean? It means that the government provides everything people used to do for themselves, including government-provided health care, day care, old age pensions, government-mandated paternity leave, subsidized higher education, shorter work weeks, minimum wages, and other things as well. The list grows every day.

So, what is the cultural effect on its citizenry of this kind of government system? It relieves the younger generation of providing either for themselves or for

their elders. What Steyn calls “*these secondary social impulses*” are elevated over the traditional primary concerns of a Christian nation, which include individual freedom, self-reliance, family, and reproductive activity. They turn those who accept such governmental largess into a self-absorbed, self-gratifying, ‘present-tense’ culture. Steyn concludes that social democracy is really anti-social. He doesn’t explicitly say so, but Christians would naturally come to such a conclusion, once presented with Steyn’s facts.

Quoting Steyn: “*There is one partial) exception to the softening of the West: a nation that still breeds, still puts in a full work week, still maintains a vigorous military. And, what’s the reaction of the rest of the developed world (plus the Democratic Party, the mainstream American media, and the “international law” groupies on the Supreme Court)? It demands America quit monkeying around and sign up to the suicide pact with the rest of ‘em.*” That nation, of course, is the United States.

And, Steyn is correct in my opinion, based on his facts and reasoning. The formerly Christian West is committing suicide, nationally and culturally, by dying out. But, before they actually die, their nations will be taken over politically, through their democratic political system, just as Hitler took over Germany by getting voted into power. Both their political system and their culture will be converted from a culture of (Christian) life to a culture of death, just as was Germany’s. In my opinion, the post-Christian West first lost their faith, next their reproductive life, and finally they will lose their culture.

An interesting fact, of which Steyn may not be aware, is the existence of another book published by Regnery, entitled Suicide of the West<sup>3</sup>, by James Burnham. It was subtitled, “An Essay on the Meaning and Destiny of Liberalism.” It resulted from a series of papers presented at Princeton in 1963. The title of that series was “Liberalism as the Ideology of Western Suicide.” Steyn’s book reports the results of what Burnham saw, back in the early ‘60s.

The suicide of the post-Christian West is Steyn’s first major point.

### **Economics and Post-Christian Western Culture.**

The decreasing European population, due to low birth rates, has a ‘double-whammy’ effect. The first is the suicide of the culture. The second is that with the decreasing population, who is going to pay for the European welfare states that have been established? Who is going to pay the necessary taxes to maintain all those benefits? The answer is, “*Nobody.*” And, that is because, as Steyn says, the twentieth-century social-democratic state was built on a careless model that requires a constantly growing population to sustain it. Who knew?

So, these post-Christian European nations may fail economically even before they disappear culturally because of their declining population. And, although the U.S. is not yet matching the Europeans in low birth rates, we are now being politically moved toward a more Socialist welfare state than previously. How far behind the Europeans are we?

### **Political Takeover of the Post-Christian West – The Strategy.**

It’s simple. Immigrate and procreate. That’s the strategy of Islam to obtain what the Muslims could not, militarily, in the Middle Ages. Islam learned that Western Europe was too tough a nut to crack, militarily, after the Crusades. What we presently

see in Western Europe is the reestablishment of the Caliphate, the long way around. Muslims are immigrating into Europe's population centers in large numbers. Some cities are pressing toward 50% Muslim, which is all it takes to control the democratic politics in those centers. Rotterdam, for instance, now stands at 40% Muslim. In fact, Steyn comments that Muslims don't even have to be a voting majority, in order to control the politics.

But, there is another factor in play. First, the birth rate of the 'native' population in European social-democratic states is below the replacement value of 2.11 and, therefore, those 'native' populations are dropping. But, the Muslim birth rates are high. And, with Europe's population dropping, it's just a waiting game. And the wait may be only a generation or so. That's because Muslim birth rates are markedly higher than replacement. Steyn give examples such as Niger: 7.46, Mali: 7.42, Somalia: 6.76, Afghanistan: 6.69, and Yemen; 6.58. With birth rates like this, a local Muslim population can double in half a generation (10 of 20 years).

Steyn comments that there has already been one example of a post-Christian European state where the Muslim population overtook the native population, which resulted in a violent solution. It was Bosnia, which was democratic, but the Serbs rejected the ballot box in favor of civil war. Thirty years previously, the population statistics had been Serbs: 43%, Muslims: 26%. When the demographics got to Serbs: 31%, Muslims: 44%, the Serbs attacked the Muslims with what was labeled 'ethnic cleansing'. The UN, including the U.S. went in to put a stop to it. What will happen when it's all of Western Europe?

### **Why Violence?**

It's because Islam is a violent religion. So says Steyn.

And, it's not just a religion, as Christians understand religions. Steyn comments that Islam has a political sovereignty, too. Islam projects a globally unitary ideology. And, Islam is also a legal code, which is enforced in every Muslim grouping, be they nations, peoples, or whatever. The code is called Sharia. It directs every form of Muslim personal behavior. It also directs Islamic corporate behavior.

Steyn does not give enough detail about Sharia to enable a Christian or any other reader (in my opinion) to interpret what kind of personal behavior is acceptable to Muslims under Islam. So, I'm going to go to another source that does characterize Islamic law, in order to secure a needed documentary basis for Steyn's point about it. That source is [The Politically Incorrect Guide to ISLAM](#), by Robert Spencer<sup>4</sup>.

Spencer focuses on the fact that corporately Islam operates to fulfill the commands of the Koran (Qur'an). The primary command is to spread Islam until the entire world is either converted to Islam or pays a special tax, the Jizya. The method of spreading the religion among unbelievers is called Jihad. Etymologically, the English meaning of the Arabic word is "strive hard" (against unbelievers). And the context of such strife is the battlefield, as is made clear in both the Koran and other official Islamic writings, such as the Hadith. Thus, jihad is war against unbelievers, in order to spread the Islamic religion.

The question is, "What does Islam permit as methods of jihad?"

The answer is, "Almost anything," according to Spencer. When Muslims are at war (jihad) with unbelievers, killing the innocent is not forbidden. Spencer makes the

point that Islam does not have a holy moral code, as in the Christian (or Jewish) Ten Commandments. This permits a double standard for behavior. One standard between Muslims and another between Muslim and nonbeliever. The latter standard enables such jihad events as observed in the September 11<sup>th</sup> atrocities. “*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*” [Mat. 7:12] does not apply from Muslim to unbeliever.

And, that’s why there is and shall continue to be violence, as local Muslim populations continue to overtake those of the Post-Christian West.

### **The Intersection of Steyn’s Three Points.**

Steyn holds that a new Dark Age awaits us in the intersection of three statistics. They are religion, demography, and terrorism. His treatment of demography also includes the political suicide that prompts the demographic results. So, we are really dealing here with four elements in the signs of the times.

The religious statistic is the increasing popularity of Islam versus the failure of the Protestant Christian Church in the West, ... except for the U.S. (And, it is in trouble there, too, in my opinion.) The demographic statistic is the overtaking of post-Christian countries’ native populations by those of immigrant Muslims. This also shows the political suicide that enables that overtaking. And, the terrorism statistic is what we have already observed from attacks on the various Western countries by Islamic terrorists.

It appears to be only a matter of time until the Islamic strategy succeeds in the post-Christian West. Couple this with the demonstrated inability or desire of Islam to maintain Western civilization as it has been known for five hundred years. The result will be what Christians and hopefully post-Christians would/will characterize as a new Dark Age.

But, what about the U.S.?

## **HOW STEYN’S BOOK CONNECTS WITH HUNTINGTON AND THE BIBLE.**

### **What’s Different About America?**

Huntington showed (see my synopsis) that America was not a country of immigrants, as has been propagandized since about 1965. Rather, it was a country created by 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century settlers, almost all of whom were from the British Isles. They were a people or society first, before becoming a nation. The central elements of the Founding Culture included Christian religion, Protestant values and moralism, work ethic, English language, British traditions of law, justice, and the limits of government power, and a legacy of European art, literature, philosophy, and music.

America was a child of the Protestant Reformation. In Europe, existing countries or sections (Ireland) accepted or rejected the Protestant Reformation of the 1500s. But, in America the Reformation created a new society, because there was no a priori competing sect of Christianity. The country was settled by Protestants. And, they brought with them the mental attitudes of dissidence, ingrained to English Protestantism. These attitudes would keep the country out from under the influence of Roman Catholicism and its European governmental counterpart, the Holy Roman Empire (Germany’s First Reich). And, it would propel the country down a path to a flourishing variety of Protestant sects, or denominations.

For this reason, according to Huntington, there is a distinctively American brand of Protestantism, not found in Europe. America's dissident Protestantism first showed in the Puritanism and Congregationalism of the early settlers. It next appeared in Baptist, Methodist, pietist, evangelical and Pentecostal varieties. In fact, Pentecostalism and the later Charismatic Movement were both born in America in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

American Protestantism not only influenced American Government, it drove the governmental history of the United States. The Great Awakening of the 1700s produced the American Revolution. The Second Great Awakening of the 1800s produced the Civil War. Two more Christian 'happenings' moved the nation's government in the late 1800s and mid-1900s. The latter two were in the area of business and governmental reform. All four of these 'awakenings' drastically altered the course of the nation for the better.

So, America is different from the members of the post-Christian West because America's people and government have been responsive to happenings in the country's evolved Anglo-Saxon Protestant Christianity. At least, up to 1965, that is. With the birth of modern political Liberalism in the 1960s, the country has gradually been steered politically onto a different course, ... toward Socialist welfare statism. But, it has not gone that way so far, so fast, or so soon as the member states of the now post-Christian West. For that reason, the U.S. remains what it always was, an exception to the developmental pattern of the rest of the West.

### **Is America Still Christian?**

According to Huntington, the answer is, "Yes."

Huntington shows that the Supreme Court has repeatedly written, from 1811 until 1931, that, ... "*We are a Christian people.*" Note that it is "*people*", not "*peoples*". The Court has held America to be a Christian society for at least the first 323 of its 400-year existence. The Court has held America to be a unified people, up to 1931. And, many of us elders can remember that unity. But, more important than Court holdings, a large majority of Americans continue to personally identify themselves as Christians. Huntington shows that between 84% and 88% of Americans identified themselves as Christians in three national surveys (like Gallup) between 1989 and 1996.

### **The Connection Between Steyn's and Huntington's Results.**

So, it's not a question of the people of this country operating according to Protestant Christian values. It is a question of the government and the allied elements of elitist cultural groups that Huntington identifies operating against traditional American Protestant Christian values. It is these groups that have since 1965 been attempting to deconstruct the American national identity, moving the U.S. down the Socialist welfare state path. It is Huntington's Deconstructionist Coalition, working through those who actively espouse political Liberalism, that is causing the results seen by Steyn. It is Huntington's Deconstructionist Coalition that is attempting to get the United States of America to sign up for Steyn's National Suicide Pact, in my opinion.

### **The Connection Between Steyn's Results and the Bible.**

My connection of Huntington's results with the Bible was that God is presently judging America for the long-time general idolatry of its churches, using the U.S. government and its Deconstructionist Coalition as the judgmental agent. The specific causal triggering event, identified from the Bible's prophecies in my synopsis of Huntington, is God's people making a covenant with the government to debase the Church, in return for its survival. An example is church incorporation under the state, in order to get a 501(C)(3) federal tax status. This is a relatively recent cause, prompting a judgment that started in the U.S. in the mid-'60s.

What Steyn has added to this interpretation of the signs of the times is that this kind of judgment, if carried to its conclusion, leads to national and cultural suicide. And, as Steyn shows, that is what seems to have happened in Europe more quickly than in America. The reason for this may be the continuing development and influence of Anglo-Saxon Protestantism in the U.S., which did not happen in Europe.

The Biblical pattern for God judging His people through a government that puts them in bondage is that He later judges that government, itself. He does this by allowing the capture by an alien force of the government and the people. What Steyn shows may identify the alien force as Islamism. But, that hasn't happened yet to the U.S., even though the first alien attacks are being seen in post-Christian Europe. The question is whether America will continue playing its exceptional role in such a way as to form the Biblical 'remnant of a remnant,' which restores God's people and Church.

### **The Bottom Line.**

The books by Steyn, Huntington, Weiss<sup>5</sup>, and Barna<sup>6</sup> (the latter two not dealt with, here) form a set of tools, that may be integrated for viewing our world in these times that I think are the very end-times. Specifically, I think these are the "... *beginning of sorrows* ..." talked about by Jesus [Mat. 24:8]. These four books, taken together, provide a multi-sided view of our world that fits the prophecies of the Bible. As such, this view enables Christians to interpret the signs of our latter times in great detail. It enables Christians to do before Jesus' second coming what God's people could not do at the time of His first.

I shall do another short paper, putting together the integration of the synopses of these four books.

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2009

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<sup>1</sup> [America Alone, The End of the World as We Know It](#), Mark Steyn, 2006, Regnery Publ. Inc., ISBN 978-0-89526-078-9, paperback, 224 pp.

<sup>2</sup> [Who Are We?](#), Samuel P. Huntington, 2004, Simon and Schuster Paperbacks, ISBN 13: 978-0-684-87053-3, 428 pp.

<sup>3</sup> [Suicide of the West](#), James Burnham, 1985, ISBN 0-89526-599-0, hardback, 312 pp.

<sup>4</sup> [The Politically Incorrect Guide to ISLAM \(and the Crusades\)](#), Robert Spencer, Regnery Publ., Inc., 2005, ISBN 0-89526-013-1, Paperback, 270 pp.

<sup>5</sup> [The Ultimate Depression Survival Guide](#), Martin D. Weiss, Wiley, 2009, ISBN-13: 978-0-470-39377-2, hardback, 220 pp.

<sup>6</sup> [Revolution](#), George Barna, Tyndale House Publ., 2005, ISBN-13: 978-1-4143-0758-9, hardback, 144 pp.