

Historical Dossiers for Unholy Grail

By: **Richard B. Sorensen, PhD Psychology**

April 27, 2011

richardsorensen@gmail.com

www.richardsorensen.com

www.unholygrail.net



Unholy Grail

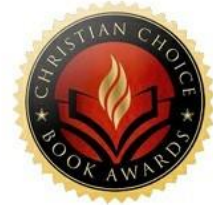


Table of Contents

The first three dossiers are for Unholy Grail, Book #1, and the others are for Book #2

Dossier on the Ancient History of the Jews.....	4
Abraham, Ishmael, and Isaac	4
The Wealth of Egypt.....	6
The Exodus and the Destruction of Egypt	7
Mount Sinai and the Ark of the Covenant	14
The Conquest of Canaan.....	15
The Hasmoneans.....	16
The Civil War of Hyrcanus and Aristobulus	17
Dossier on the Birth of Christ.....	21
Dossier on Herod the Great.....	24
Dossier on the Merovingians and the Carolingians	26
The Carolingian Dynasty	28
Dossier on Islam and the Crusades	30
Muhammad, the Founder of Islam.....	30
Muhammad and the Jews.....	31
Muslim Theology.....	31
Islam and Women	32
Jihad	32

The Quran	33
The Caliphs – Successors to Muhammad	34
The Mahdi and the Destiny of Islam.....	36
The Crusades – European Response to Centuries of Muslim War and Aggression.....	36
The First Crusade and the Capture of Jerusalem	38
Dossier on the Knights Templar	41
Bernard of Clairvaux.....	41
The Growth and Ultimate Demise of the Templars.....	43
Questions regarding the Knights Templar	45
Dossier on Iran.....	48
Dossier on Iraq.....	50
Dossier on Saudi Arabia	52
Dossier on France and Eurabia	55
Religious and Moral Base of France.....	55
French Political Leaders	55
Language and Culture.....	57
Anti-Americanism.....	58
Culture of Cynicism and Hypocrisy	59
Colonies and International Involvement.....	60
Economics.....	62
France and the Arabs	67
Arab Response to French Initiatives	68
Dhimmitude and the Islamic World View.....	69
Andalusia and Historical Revisionism.....	70
Contemporary Jihad.....	71
Guilt Pandering and the Crusades.....	72
Muslim/Christian Theological Initiatives	73
The Religion of Peace.....	73
Muslim Frustration and Deception	74
Muslim Goals for France and Eurabia	75
French Acquiescence and Self-Dhimmination in response to Jihad.....	75
Dossier on the European Union	77
Introduction to the European Union	77
EU Expansion	78

Early EU History.....	79
Jean Monnet – “Mr. Europe”	81
Motivations of Member States for Joining the EU	83
The Renewal of the European Empire of Charlemagne	84
England, the EU, and EU Law	85
The EU and Military Issues	91
EU Propaganda, Enlargement, and Control.....	92
EU Embezzlement and Scandals	94
The EU and the United Nations	95
Eliminating Dissention.....	97
The EU and the New World Order	98

Dossier on the Ancient History of the Jews

*By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.
~ Psalms 137:1*

The country of Israel is a small area only sixty miles wide and one hundred fifty miles long. It is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea on the west and the Arabian Desert on the east, and therefore is a land bridge of relatively fertile ground between Asia Minor to the north and Egypt to the south. This strategic position made the country a battleground throughout the centuries, and the land has been fought over and held by many different nations and peoples: the Canaanites, Hittites, Israelites, Philistines, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Egyptians, Greeks, Syrians, Romans, Arabs, and Jews.

Abraham, Ishmael, and Isaac

The Book of Genesis tells the story of a Chaldean man named Abraham, who lived around 1900 BC. He dwelt in the city of Ur in Babylonia (modern-day Iraq) and received a call from God to leave Ur and move his family to what was then known as the land of Canaan. Genesis describes how Abraham, whose name means “father of multitudes,” was blessed by God because of his faith and obedience. Abraham was told that through his bloodline the Messiah, “The Anointed One,” would come. All of the peoples of the earth would therefore be blessed through his descendants.

After arriving in Canaan, Abraham settled in the area of Hebron, and he purchased the Caves of Machpelah as a burial place for himself and for future generations of his family. This site is now known as the Tomb of the Patriarchs and is one of the oldest identified graves in the world. With this purchase Abraham gave both the Arabs and the Jews, his descendants, a stake in the land.

The internecine war between Arabs and Jews dates back to Abraham. His two sons – Ishmael whose mother was Hagar, and Isaac whose mother was Sarah – are respectively the fathers of the Arab and the Jewish races. Abraham is therefore revered as the father of both peoples, and the bitter conflict between them began as a struggle between his sons and their mothers.

Genesis indicates that Hagar was a servant woman who Abraham acquired for his wife on one of their sojourns in Egypt. When Sarah was unable to bear children, she gave Hagar to Abraham as a concubine. This was a common practice of childless women in those times, as barrenness was considered a deep disgrace. After Hagar became pregnant with Ishmael, she began to despise and taunt Sarah, who eventually dismissed her and sent her off into the wilderness where Hagar and her son Ishmael almost died of thirst before being rescued. Hagar eventually returned to Abraham and again became Sarah’s maidservant.

Mohammad, the founder of Islam, was an Arab, and therefore a descendant of Ishmael. He was born in AD 570, around 2,500 years after the time of Abraham. Mohammad married a widow whose deceased husband had owned a caravan trade; Mohammad continued the business which involved traveling throughout Arabia. In the course of his travels he met many Jews and Christians and became familiar with the Bible. In AD 610 at age forty, he began to experience a

number of visions that he attributed to the angel Gabriel. Although he was illiterate, he committed these visions to memory and told his wife and others to do the same. These eventually became the Quran, the Muslim holy book.

Sarah and Hagar are not named in the Quran, but according to Islamic tradition, their roles were reversed. Hagar was said to have been a princess of Egypt, and was given to Abraham as a wife, with Sarah presumably serving as her maid. Ishmael was therefore said to be “the son of the promise” instead of Isaac. The Bible and Islamic tradition do, however, agree that Hagar was sent away, which doesn’t fit with the Islamic version of the narrative. But Hagar’s expulsion from Abraham is reenacted in the “hajj,” the once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage that the Muslim faithful make to Mecca. It involves running seven times between two hills near the center of the city, as Hagar was said to have done, seeking water to sustain her son.

It is unclear why Abraham would have sent Hagar away if she had indeed been his wife, if Sarah had been the maid, and if Ishmael had been the promised child. Considering that Ishmael was Abraham’s first-born son, why would Abraham, whose concern in life was following what he considered to be the will of God, allow the boy and his mother to be sent into the wilderness and risk their death? This is especially problematic when the importance of children, genealogy, and primogeniture in those times is considered. It is also unclear why and how Hagar could have traveled alone with a baby all the way from the Hebron area to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, a distance of over 700 miles, through a wasteland of mountains and desert. She was originally from Egypt, an area much closer to Israel (she and her son Ishmael later settled in the area of Paran, which is part of the Sinai Peninsula, and on the way to Egypt). There is no historical evidence whatsoever that Abraham and Ishmael ever were in Mecca and given the challenging geography of the area between Israel and the central Hijaz where Mecca is located, it is unlikely that Abraham or Hagar would have gone there.



Thus, it was Isaac, the son of Sarah, born years later when Sarah was ninety years old, who was given Abraham’s birthright. Isaac had twin sons – Esau and Jacob, both of whom became fathers

of nations. Esau's descendants were the Edomites (Idumeans), who lived in the area south and east of Israel, while Jacob's descendants became the Israelites. Jacob was the man who wrestled with an angel of God and who refused to let go until the angel blessed him. He was then given the name "Israel," meaning "he who struggles with God," and which became the name of the nation that ultimately descended from him. The name was full of irony, as the Israelites have struggled with God throughout their history.

Jacob, in turn, had twelve sons, and these became the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel. The tribe of his son Judah later became the leading group, and "Judea," the southern portion of the land of Israel containing the city of Jerusalem, was named for Judah. His name was also the source of the appellation given to all of Jacob's descendents, who later were called "Jews."

Jacob lived around 1700 BC, when the Israelites were still a small clan. The family migrated to Egypt during a famine, where Joseph, one of the Jacob's sons who had been sold into slavery by his brothers around 1680 BC.

The Wealth of Egypt

The first pharaoh of the Egypt's twelfth dynasty was Amenemhet I, who had served as the vizier of Nebtowy Mentuhotep IV, the last ruler of the eleventh dynasty. After leading the Egyptian army in a successful campaign, Amenemhet seized power and usurped the throne in 1688 BC.¹

Twenty-one years later Amenemhet was himself the target of an assassination attempt as part of a palace coup. He was wounded, but the coup attempt was defeated, and the perpetrators, who included pharaoh's baker and cupbearer, were imprisoned. Both of them there met Joseph, who had also been thrown in prison. After getting to know them, Joseph correctly interpreted their dreams, indicating that the cupbearer would be exonerated, whereas the baker would be found guilty and sentenced to death. The baker was killed, and the cupbearer returned to the palace, vowing to remember what Joseph had done, but then forgot about him.

Due to the injuries Amenemhet had sustained in the coup attempt, his son ruled with him as co-regent. The son became known as Sesostris I, the second ruler of Egypt's twelfth dynasty of pharaohs.

Two years later Sesostris also had a dream in which he saw seven fat and seven lean cows. The royal magicians were having trouble understanding this dream and Sesostris became angry with his entire cadre of interpreters. In a panic, the cupbearer suddenly remembered Joseph and quickly had him brought out of prison and presented to pharaoh. Joseph then interpreted pharaoh's dream as a prophesy of what would happen in the near future – there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of intense famine. Disappointed by his own staff, and impressed by Joseph's forthrightness, Sesostris appointed him to organize Egypt to prepare for these coming events.

¹ For more information on the amazing harmony between the history of Egypt and the Biblical account in the book of Genesis, see Ted Stewart, *Solving the Exodus Mystery*.

In 1665 BC Joseph went to work as vizier, the top official of the realm, organizing the storage of grain during the seven-year period of plenty. Extensive storage facilities were constructed in various parts of Egypt, and a large lake and a 200-mile-long canal was also dug to store water from the Nile River for irrigation purposes. The canal still exists and is known as the *Bahr Yusef* – the “Joseph Canal.”

When the years of famine began in 1658 BC, Joseph opened the granaries and began selling grain, not only to the people of Egypt, but eventually to the peoples from the surrounding lands as well. As the drought and famine continued, both the Egyptians and other peoples eventually traded everything they had in exchange for food – gold, silver, and livestock. Virtually everything of value in Mesopotamia including all land in Egypt became the property of pharaoh in a huge transfer of wealth. In the last years of the famine, the people, having nothing else, gave themselves as slaves to pharaoh in order to survive. But despite their status as slaves, no longer owning any land, Joseph shrewdly limited taxes to 20% of the produce, which forestalled rebellion and put the people to work. Joseph also decentralized the administration of the kingdom and encouraged independent action, creating a freer environment with less governmental controls; after the famine was over Egypt’s economy boomed. Sesostri I was thus held in great awe and respect, and the Egyptians worshipped him as a god.

Immense wealth flowed into the royal treasuries, and Sesostri I became one of the greatest and wealthiest rulers in the entire history of Egypt. He financed construction projects all over the country and welcomed Joseph’s family when they came to live in Egypt, not only because of what Joseph had achieved, but also because the Israelites were shepherds. Sesostri now had huge flocks of cattle to tend, and it was beneath the dignity of native Egyptians to be shepherds.

The Exodus and the Destruction of Egypt

The liberal economic policies and the prosperity of Egypt continued throughout the days of the son and grandson of Sesostri I (Amenenhet II and Sesostri II). But one hundred and fifteen years later, in 1550 BC, Sesostri III, the great-grandson of Sesostri I, came to the throne. He was a cruel, brutal, and suspicious man who reversed all of the liberal policies of the prior rulers and centralized all power into his own hands. Having been prosperous for over a century, Egyptian wealth was taken for granted and came to be seen as a divine right. Sesostri III forgot what Joseph, who had died thirty-five years earlier, had done for Egypt with his policies of economic liberalization.

Sesostri III was especially vicious toward foreigners, invading both Libya and Nubia, enslaving the populations, and treating them with great cruelty. He commanded that curses against his enemies be inscribed on pieces of pottery, which were then smashed. These voodoo-type curses became known as the *Execration Texts*, and many shards containing these curses have been found and dated from the time of Sesostri III and his son (Amenemhet III) and grandson (Amenemhet IV), who shared their forebear’s brutality and xenophobia.

The Israelites, who had been given the land of Goshen near the Nile delta by Sesostri I to tend the royal cattle herds, had grown considerably in population and wealth over the one-hundred-year period they had lived there. Sesostri III hated them as well and became paranoid about this

large non-Egyptian population. Therefore, he also enslaved the Israelites, and tried to have their babies killed to prevent further population growth.

The Egyptians buried their dead in tombs, as this was necessary in their belief system in order for the deceased to be raised to eternal life. The tomb would be their future home, and thus all of the pharaohs built elaborate sepulchers for themselves. Sesostri III ordered that the Israelite babies be drowned in the Nile, not only killing them physically, but according to Egyptian religion, also annihilating their souls.

Moses was born around 1526 BC. He was one of the infants who would have been killed under pharaoh's order, but was saved from death, ironically by Sesostri III's daughter, who raised Moses in the palace right under her father's nose. Moses was thus educated as an Egyptian nobleman and lived in the palace until he was forty years old. Sesostri III had died and his son Amenemhet III was ruling Egypt when Moses committed a crime and fled to the wilderness of Midian. He remained there for forty more years, and when he was eighty years old, God called him to return to Egypt and lead the Israelites out of the slavery into which Sesostri III and his descendents had forced them.

The account of Moses and the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt is one of the most dramatic stories in the Bible. Amenemhet III had died, and his arrogant and cruel son Amenemhet IV, grandson of Sesostri III, was ruling Egypt. Because of this pharaoh's intransigence and refusal to let the Israelites leave, ten plagues were successively visited on the Egyptians. The Nile became polluted and undrinkable, frogs, gnats, flies, and locusts devastated the land and crops, their livestock died, the people were afflicted with boils, huge hailstones fell on the land smashing houses and trees, and then the sun was darkened. This was a defeat for Ra, the god of the sun, who was the greatest of the Egyptian gods.

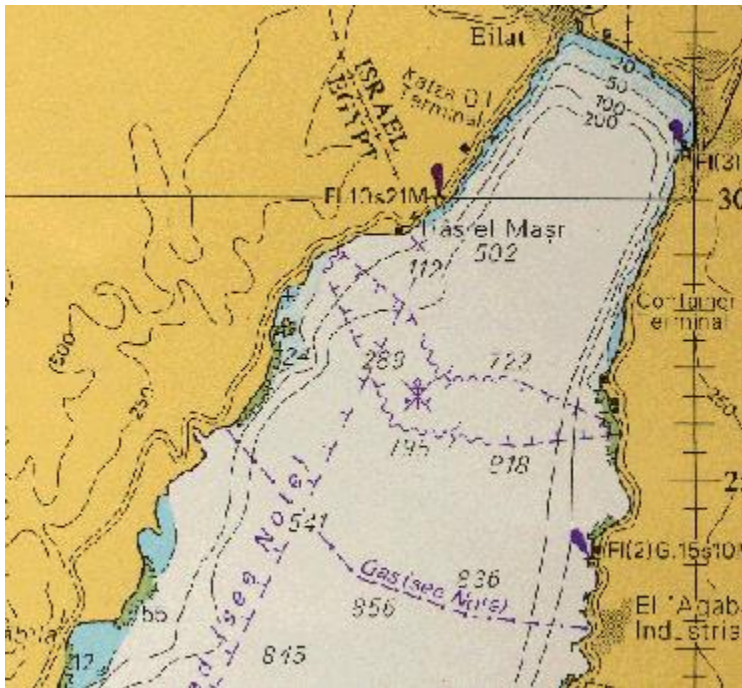
Pharaoh's advisors pleaded with him – "How long will this man (Moses) be a snare to us? Let the people go, that they may serve the Lord their God. Do you not realize that Egypt is destroyed?" (Exodus 10:7) But even after all of these disasters, Amenemhet IV still refused to let them go. Then came the final plague, in which the angel of death slew the first-born of every Egyptian household, but the death angel "passed over" the Israelites, sparing them. To this day the Jews celebrate Passover and consider it the most important of all of their holy days.

After the Passover, with their country ruined and their children dead, the Egyptian people finally rose up. Ignoring their ruler, they threw out the Israelites, and the entire nation of Israel left Egypt.

Moses led the people on a route across the Sinai Peninsula. The exact route of the Exodus has long been a mystery studied by archaeologists and historians. Some have contended that the Israelites merely crossed one of the lakes in the Sinai region, but that explanation does not square with the Exodus story – they must have crossed the Gulf of Aqaba, the north-eastern finger of the Red Sea. There are several explanations as to where this crossing could have taken place:

1. The crossing may have been near the top of the Gulf of Aqaba. Moses would have been somewhat familiar with the area, having traveled from Egypt to the land of Midian and

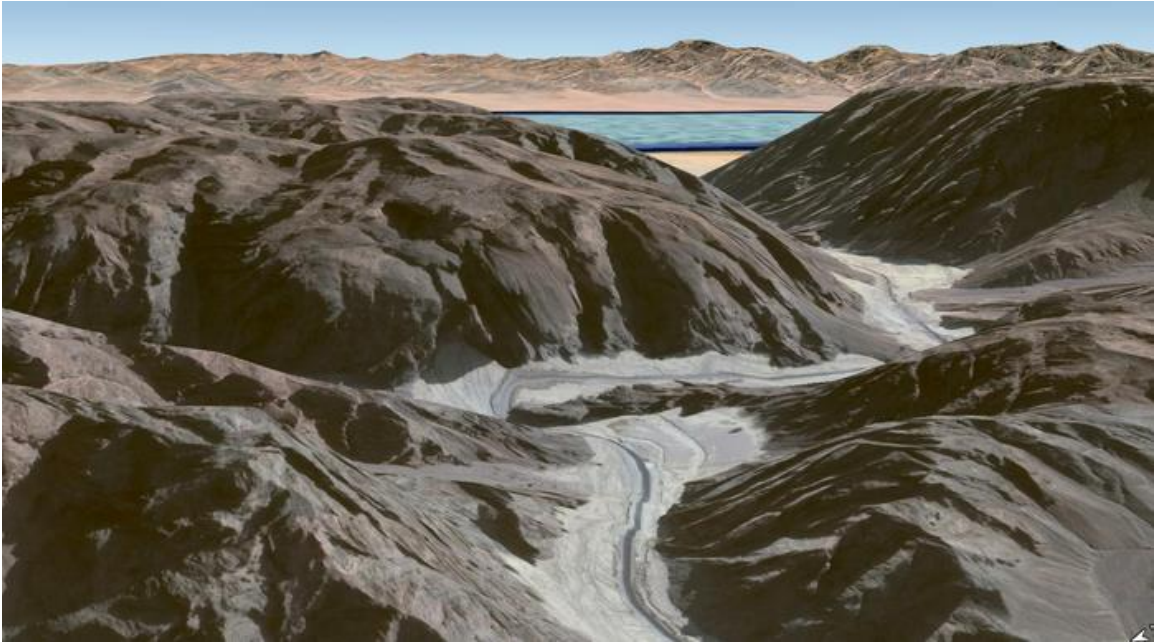
back, so it is less likely that he would have led the people down the Sinai Peninsula, from which there was no possible escape. The main route to that region led around the northern end of the Gulf of Aqaba. Pharaoh was known to have troops in the Sinai region who could have attacked from the northwest, while the main body of the Egyptian army came from the southwest. The children of Israel therefore had nowhere to turn, as the mountains of Sinai come down to the western shore of the Gulf, and there is no coastline other than farther to the south, as discussed below. In this scenario, the northern section of the Gulf of Aqaba would have been blown southward by wind shear.²

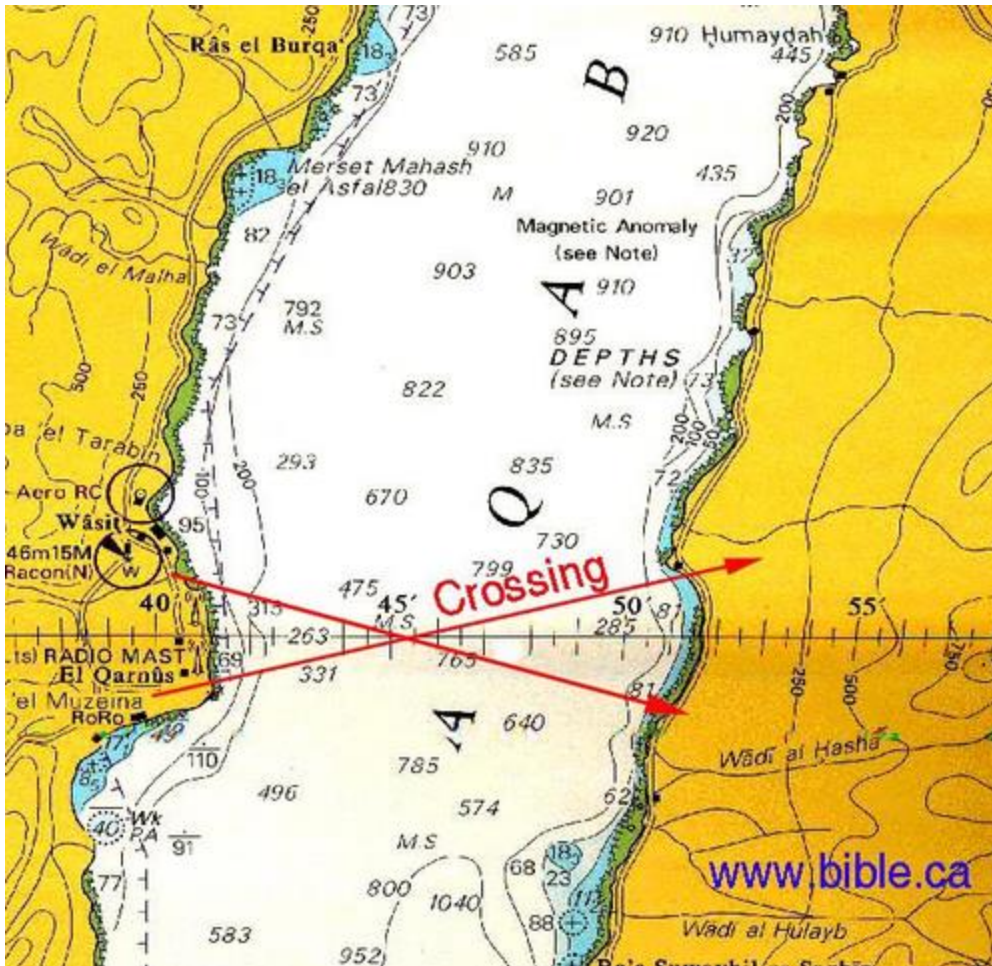


2. Another possibility is half-way down the eastern shore of the Sinai Peninsula. The valleys or *wadis* lead through the mountain wilderness to a large beach, now called Nuweiba on the western shore of the gulf. From this beach the Gulf of Aqaba a deep body of water that is ten miles across to the shores of Arabia. However, the seabed between Nuweiba and the eastern coast of the Gulf is somewhat shallower than to the north or south. This area could have been exposed by wind shear from extraordinarily strong winds, which blew all night before the Israelites crossed.³ However, the Gulf of Aqaba is still quite deep here as show in the nautical map below, as deep as 795 meters, so this site is questionable.

² For more information on this theory of the crossing site, as well as details on the subsequent travels of the children of Israel, see *The Miracles of the Exodus*, by Colin J. Humphreys, Harper, 2003.

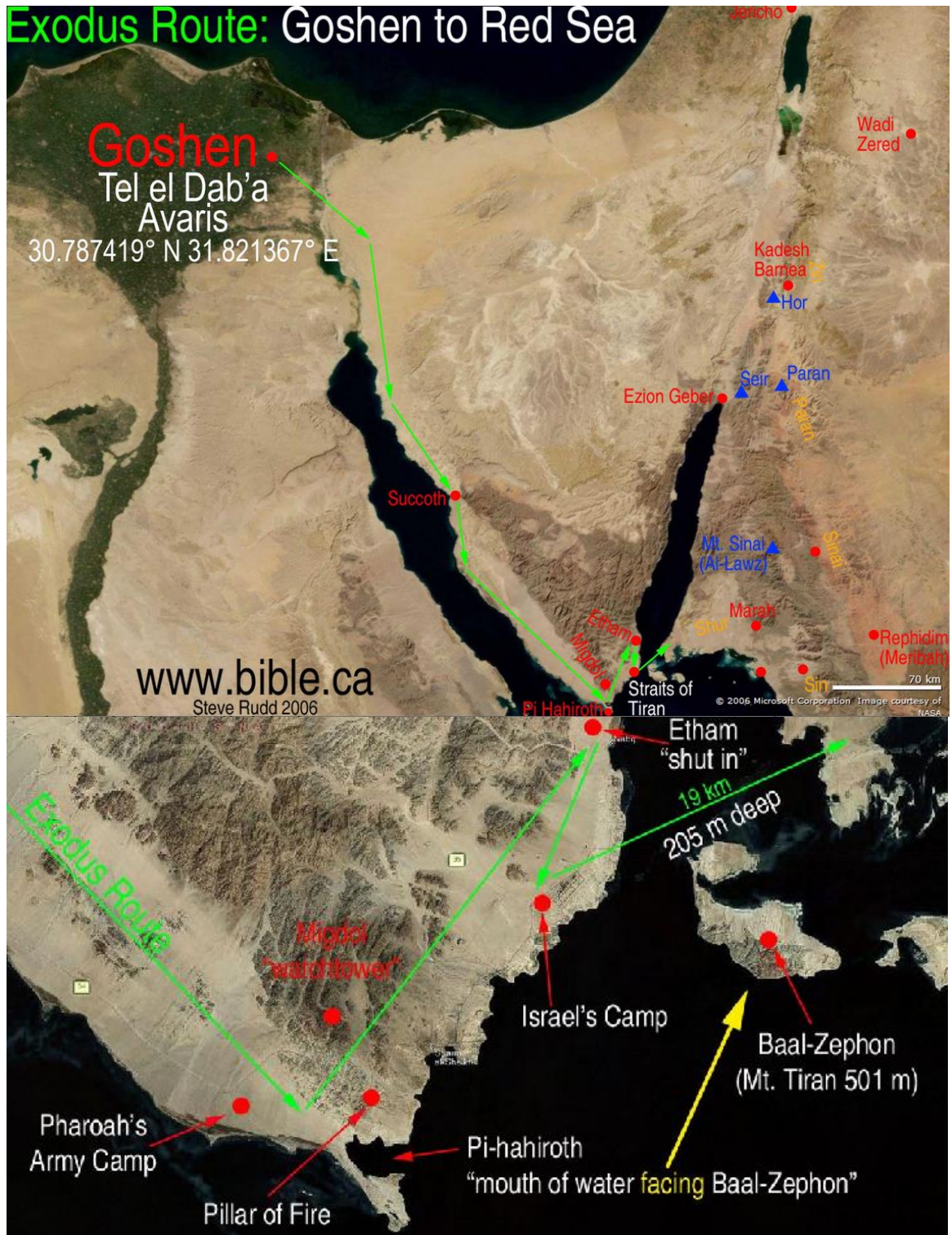
³ For more information on this theory of the crossing site see Wyatt Archaeological Research, www.wyattmuseum.com/red-sea-crossing.htm.

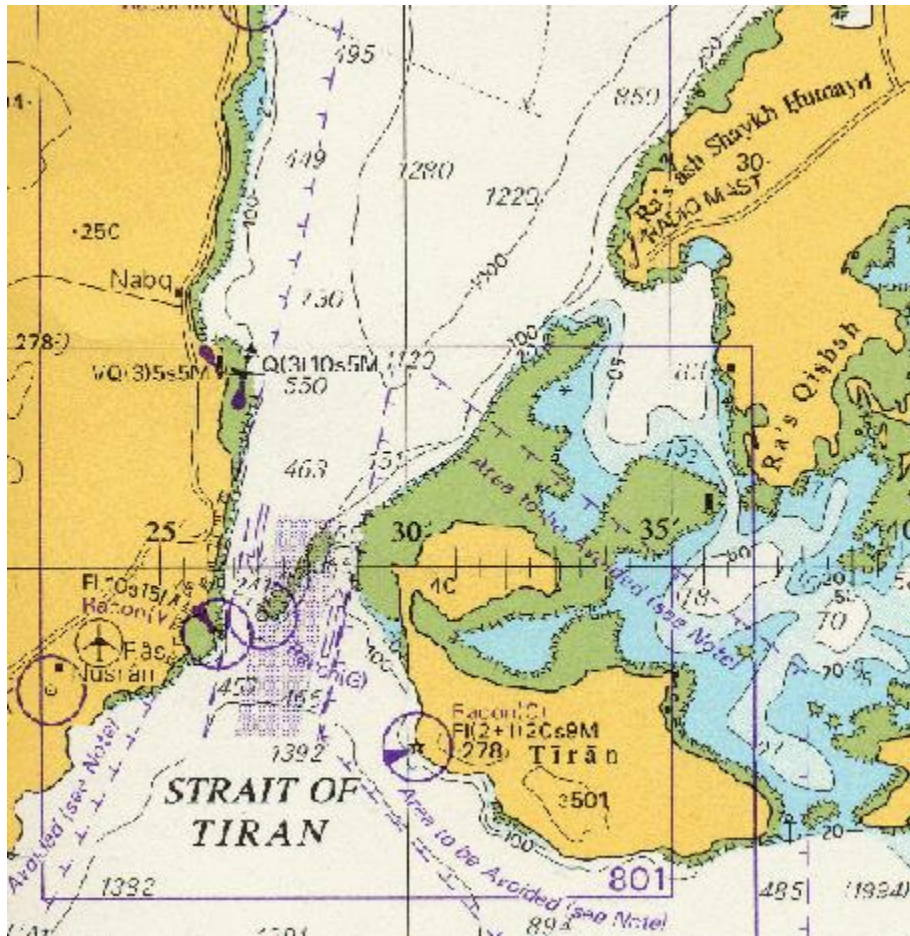




3. Yet another possibility is at the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula as show below. The Gulf of Aqaba at its southern extremity has shallow areas, as well as several reefs where the crossing could have happened. The camp of the Israelites was “before Pi-hahiroth” meaning “mouth of the waters.” Furthermore, Mount Tiran on Tiran Island was a place where the god Baal was worshipped (Baal was a mountain god of storms), which fits with the description of the Israelite camp being “opposite from Baal-zephon, by the sea.”⁴

⁴ See: <http://truebiblecode.com/understanding249.html>, and <https://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-exodus-route-ruling-out-candidates-excluding-red-sea-crossing-points-kadesh-barnea.htm>





In either case the Israelites were being followed by the armies of an enraged Pharaoh, and the people were about to kill Moses for leading them into a trap. But to the amazement of everyone, the sea was parted by a strong wind, and the Israelites were able to cross to the eastern shore on relatively dry land. But when the army of Egypt attempted to follow them, the pursuers were swallowed up as the waters rushed back into place.

Amenemhet IV, the pharaoh of the exodus, had no tomb, and his death in the water was especially ironic because dying in the water without a tomb, and possibly being eaten by crocodiles, was the worst possible fate that could befall an Egyptian, and especially a pharaoh. This is exactly what Sesostris III had sought to do to the Israelite babies, such as Moses, in order to annihilate them. Amenemhet was the fifth generation after Sesostris I, and the last ruler in Egypt's twelfth dynasty. He died in 1446 BC, the year of the exodus, after ruling for only nine years. He perished without an heir – any son he had would have been killed in the Passover. His dynasty, which had been the most prosperous in Egyptian history, died with him, dragging the country far below where it had been even at the start of the twelfth dynasty.

The plagues had devastated Egypt, and every soldier of the Egyptian army had died in the waters of the gulf. With no pharaoh, no army to maintain order, and the economy in shambles, Egypt descended into chaos. The pharaoh's queen tried to rule, but she was soon thrown out of power

and had to flee for her life as the Egyptian government foundered under both internal revolts and invasions from external enemies.

The peasants, who had been ground down under the harsh domestic policies of the last three pharaohs, revolted and looted the palaces and royal treasuries, beating and killing Egyptian officials. The Nubians and Libyans, who had suffered severely under the hands of Sesostri III and Amenemhet III and IV, now took their revenge. A series of weak dynasties followed (the thirteenth through the seventeenth), during which the country was dominated by outsiders, such as the Hyksos. Egypt did not recover until the eighteenth dynasty, several hundred years later. The Ipuwer Papyrus describes the tumult:

If we look at the poem as a whole, we see that it describes an Egypt that is in total chaos and ruin. People are thirsty and desperate for something to drink because the river is blood. The rich are poor, and the poor are rich. There is famine, with even the high-born and officials lacking food to eat. There is barrenness of fields, no trees, no crops. The dead are being buried everywhere. Servants have rebelled against their masters. Maidservants wear valuable necklaces. The wealthy have been turned out of their mansions. There appears to be no central authority in power. Travelers on the roads are robbed and killed. Farmers are carrying shields to defend themselves. Enmarch (2008) aptly titles his book, *A World Upturned* (ironically, he does not believe that the Ipuwer Papyrus refers to the Exodus). Ipuwer's description of this total collapse of Egypt is the kind of situation that we might expect to find if the ten plagues described in the Exodus had taken place.⁵

Mount Sinai and the Ark of the Covenant

Meanwhile the Israelite nation had miraculously survived, but despite their astonishing victory at Aqaba, they were now faced with the wastelands of Midian in the Arabian Desert, with few sources of food or water. But they had been hardened by their long years of slavery in Egypt, making mud bricks for Pharaoh's cities, and they were further toughened by their long trek, which involved not just an army of men, but also a large populace of women and children.

God had commanded Moses to lead the people to Mount Sinai or Horeb, the "mountain of God", which was located in the land of Midian, in western Saudi Arabia where Moses had lived for forty years. The actual Mount Sinai is another mystery. It was traditionally believed to be Jebel Musa,⁶ the mountain in the southern part of the Sinai Peninsula. But given the fact that the Israelites had crossed into Midian,⁷ the place where Moses had spent the middle portion of his life, the mountain of God would be located somewhere in that region. Given these assumptions two possibilities have been proposed: Jebel al-Lawz,⁸ and Hala-l-Bedr,⁹ The former has attracted much attention, but unlike Hala-l-Bedr it is not volcanic, which seems to be more in line with the description of the events in Exodus. Jebel Musa in the Sinai is also non-volcanic.

⁵ For example, https://creationicc.org/2018_papers/04%20Habermehl%20Ipuwer%20final.pdf

⁶ For example, <http://www.ldolphin.org/franz-ellawz.html>

⁷ Midian is now known as the Hijaz region of Saudi Arabia.

⁸ For example, https://arkdiscovery.com/mt_sinai_found.htm

⁹ For example, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1432915/Mount-Sinai-was-volcano-in-Saudi-Arabia-says-scientist.html>

At the top of this mountain, blackened by fire and wreathed in clouds and smoke (i.e., this mountain was most likely a semi-active volcano), Moses received the Ten Commandments from God, written on tablets of stone. The tablets were placed in a golden chest known as the Ark of the Covenant – the most famous and mysterious religious object of all time.

The Ark of the Covenant was a box made of acacia wood, measuring approximately four feet long, two feet wide, and two feet high. The wood was overlaid with pure gold, both inside and out. The lid of the chest was known as the “mercy seat,” and it was here that the high priest of Israel would sprinkle the blood of the offering as an atonement, or covering, for the sins of the people, so that they would receive God’s mercy. Two angels made of hammered gold were placed on top, as if guarding the ark and overlooking the mercy seat. The Ark, which represented the presence of God and the covenant he had made with his people, was carried by the priests in front of the multitude as they marched.

Centuries later, in the time of King Solomon, the Temple was built in the city of Jerusalem, and the Ark was placed in the innermost part of the Temple, known as the “Holy of Holies.” No one was allowed to enter that room except the high priest, and even he went in only once a year on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat on behalf of all of the people.

But all of that lay ahead. To the Israelites in the days of Moses, their ultimate destination was the “Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey” – the land of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, which had been promised to Abraham by God, and to which they returned centuries later. Due to their disobedience and stubbornness, however, God did not allow the older generation to enter, and instead they remained in the wilderness for forty years. At the end of this time, Moses, who was then 120 years old, died on the eastern shore of the Jordan River, never having entered the land that was promised to his people.

The Conquest of Canaan

Joshua, Moses’ servant and deputy, became the next leader of the Israelites, and under his leadership the entire nation crossed the Jordan River and embarked on a systematic conquest, taking over the land from Lebanon in the north to Beersheba and the Negev in the south. After fighting many battles over a five-year period and subduing many of the Canaanites, warfare was halted around 1400 BC, and each of the twelve tribes was assigned a portion of the land. The descendants of Israel, who for such a long time had traveled, eaten, starved, fought, bled, and died together, now went their separate ways to take possession of the land and dwell in it.

The central portion of the land of Israel – where Jerusalem is located – was given to the tribe of Judah. This territory also included Hebron, the original dwelling place of Abraham and his sons, as well as the nearby town of Kerioth, now el-Kureitein, with which the first part of this novel is concerned.

After a lengthy time of self-rule, which included a tribal period followed by the kings of Israel – Saul, David, Solomon, and others – the land of Israel was overrun a number of times and became

a weak pawn, subject to the whims of other nations. The Assyrians conquered part of the country, followed by the Babylonians, who in turn were conquered by the Persians and later the Greeks under Alexander the Great. When Alexander died, his kingdom was divided among his four generals. The successors of Ptolemy in Egypt and Seleucus in Syria periodically fought over Israel. But each nation had its own internal problems, and in 163 BC the Jews saw their chance and reassumed partial control under the leadership of Judas Maccabeus and his family. This family became the Hasmonean dynasty, which ruled Israel for several generations. But one hundred years later, after many intrigues and reverses, the Roman army under General Pompey defeated them in 64 BC. The Romans then occupied the land and exerted their crushing rule.

The Hasmoneans

Before the Romans arrived in Israel, the Jews had high hopes for future freedom and peace, because in the early days of Hasmonean rule the Maccabees had striven for freedom and independence from the oppression of others. The Jewish holiday Chanukah, the festival of lights, celebrates their initial victories over the Syrians and the retaking of Jerusalem. The Temple had been desecrated by the Syrians – pigs had been sacrificed on the altar in order to blaspheme it, and the building was turned into a trash dump. But after the Syrians were ousted, the Temple was cleansed and renewed, and in 164 BC the Jews celebrated Chanukah for the first time.

In later years, however, the successors of Judas Maccabeus degenerated, indulging in self-seeking quests for power and wealth. They became focused on establishing the Hasmonean dynasty and legitimizing it as the rightful successor to King David and his son Solomon, despite the fact that the Hasmonean family was not from the royal tribe of Judah. They also insisted on taking unto themselves the office of high priest. Therefore, they were strongly opposed by many influential Jews who believed that the Kingship and the Messiah must come from the royal line of Judah and David as the Scriptures foretold, and that the high priest must come only from the line of the tribe of Levi. This atmosphere of selfishness and conflict divided the Jews and eventually proved to be a fatal weakness.

Religion and worship were central in importance to the Jews. They worshiped Yahweh or Jehovah, the God who “in the beginning, created the heavens and the earth,” as told in the opening line of the book of Bereshit or Genesis. There were a number of religious factions during the Hasmonean period, but these were broadly divided into two groups: the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

The Pharisees, intellectual ancestors of the Conservative and Hassidic Jews of today, were legalistic conservatives, keenly interested in knowing exactly what God required of them, and devising rules to compel the rest of the Jewish people to meet these requirements. For example, they took the commandment regarding not working on the Sabbath and calculated exactly how far a person could travel before it was considered to be “work.” They were also punctilious in their tithes and offerings, down to the point of giving even a tenth of their herbs and seeds.

In contrast, the Sadducees were at the other side of the spectrum – aristocratic, materialistic liberals who often scoffed at what they saw as naïve fundamentalism and ignorant religious zeal of the Pharisees. They discounted miracles and were interested primarily in philosophy and the

wisdom and power of man. The secular and possibly the Reformed Jews of today are the Sadducees' intellectual children.

Their were also class elements in the division between these two groups – the Sadducees tended to be wealthy, politically well-connected, and interested in other cultures and modes of thought, whereas the Pharisees were poorer nationalistic populists who felt that contact with other nations, particularly in the area of religion and ethics, was essentially moral pollution.

The Hasmonean dynasty had been beset by both external and internal strife almost since its beginning – extreme cruelty and even matricide and fratricide became typical. Hyrcanus I, the Hasmonean king who died in 104 BC, gave the throne to his wife through his last will and testament. But as soon as he was dead, his oldest son, Aristobulus I, seized power. He deposed his mother and had her thrown into prison, where soon afterward she died of starvation. Then he incarcerated his brothers, murdering the most influential one who had fought side by side with him. He died a year later, and was replaced by Alexander Jannai, one of his imprisoned brothers.

Alexander was even worse, being largely responsible for the civil wars that marred his reign and continued after his death. Throughout his rule he was supported by the Sadducees but was opposed by the Pharisees for his womanizing, carousing, violence, ruthlessness, and disrespect of religion, especially because Alexander had appointed himself to be high priest. At one point, after he tried to change some of the Jewish religious laws, a mob pelted him with lemons. His response was exceedingly harsh – his soldiers attacked the crowd, killing around 6,000 people. Blaming the Pharisees, who were led by one of his brothers and a rival to the throne, Alexander had 800 of them crucified on crosses set up around his garden. As they were dying, he had their wives and children killed before their eyes by slitting their throats. Furthermore, this spectacle served as dinner entertainment for himself and his concubines, and may have inspired Nero, the Roman emperor, who provided similar torture-as-entertainment spectacles one hundred years later.

These atrocities severely polarized the Sadducees and Pharisees, galvanizing the Pharisees to move beyond religion and become a potent political force. Alexander died after a long illness caused by excessive drinking, and on his deathbed, he bequeathed the throne to his wife, Salome Alexandra, urging her to make peace with the Pharisees in order to retain power.

The sons of this couple were Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus II. These two were princes and leaders of Israel, but because of mutual jealousy they started a civil war that ultimately destroyed both of them, brought ruin and devastation to their country, and enslaved their people to the Romans.

The Civil War of Hyrcanus and Aristobulus

Hyrcanus was the older son of Alexander Jannai and Salome. He impressed people with his fancy and elegant clothes, and he was also physically striking – a long face with deep-set eyes, a prominent hooked nose, a high forehead – a tall man with a commanding appearance. But having grown up in wealth and indulgence, he was weak, and vacillating, completely unlike his namesake, Hyrcanus I. Rather than attempting to overcome these defects, he covered them over with haughtiness and arrogance. Outwardly he seemed pious, and therefore gained the support of

many religious people who had felt betrayed by the sordid and disgusting behavior of previous Hasmonean rulers. Throughout his life he was the hope of many, but repeatedly betrayed that hope.

These deficiencies made Hyrcanus feel inadequate and defensive, particularly in comparison to his brother, Aristobulus, who was everything that Hyrcanus was not. Aristobulus was shorter and did not have Hyrcanus' commanding presence. But what the younger brother lacked in physical appearance, he more than made up for with his energy, impetuosity, tenacity, and fiery spirit – very much like Aristobulus I. The brothers had never gotten on well with each other. Unlike many siblings who overcome childhood animosities and become close friends as adults, with these two it was just the opposite. They grew to hate each other more as they grew older.

Queen Alexandra, the boys' mother and nominal ruler of Judea, ceded more and more power to the Pharisees and became essentially a puppet. She “ruled” for nine years after the death of her husband, but as her own death approached, she was persuaded by the leaders of the Pharisees, against her better judgment, to give the kingship to Hyrcanus, because they were concerned about losing power if Aristobulus gained the throne. Being king appealed to Hyrcanus' vanity, but even before his mother died, he found himself in the middle of a civil war with his brother. Aristobulus had been carefully preparing for this and had a large pool of disgruntled influential people in the Sadducees, who were determined to regain the former positions of influence taken from them by the Pharisees. But Aristobulus' supporters were much fewer in number than those of Hyrcanus, and most people nominally supported the older brother, until they fully realized his character under stress. When the revolt began, Hyrcanus panicked and stayed behind while his supporters went out to fight against Aristobulus. His absence was quickly noticed, and sensing the inevitable, most of his people defected to Aristobulus in order to avoid being on the losing side. The conflict ended when Hyrcanus surrendered and gave the kingship to his brother. The two embraced in the portico of the Temple in Jerusalem, Hyrcanus was given back his title and position as high priest, and apparently the civil war was over. Unfortunately, it had just begun.

Despite gaining back his priestly position, Hyrcanus had been deeply humiliated and wanted revenge. He did not, however, have the chutzpah to take any real action, and the peace probably would have continued, except for one man who saw an opportunity in Hyrcanus' humiliation.

That man was Antipater II, a clever, devious, and highly political man, but one who could also be charming and winsome; a schemer who was able to conceal his own voracious ambition under the guise of friendship. He was the grandson of Antipater I, who had been a military leader under Alexander Jannai and a governor of Idumea, which is the southern part of Israel, also known as Edom. Antipater's family, therefore, had many political connections with the Hasmoneans, and Antipater carried the additional influence of marriage to an Arabian princess.

Antipater knew Hyrcanus well. He knew that Hyrcanus was weak and vain, and he began to stoke Hyrcanus' resentments against Aristobulus. He also spent time with the Pharisees, magnifying their fears about Aristobulus' support of their rivals, the Sadducees. Antipater's propaganda campaign bore fruit, especially after he secretly arranged for military help from Aretas, his father-in-law, to invade Jerusalem and overthrow Aristobulus. The goal was ostensibly to put Hyrcanus back on the throne in place of his brother.

In a military action organized by Antipater, the Arabian army attacked at a time when conflict was least expected, during a Passover celebration. Hyrcanus objected to the timing of the attack during the high holy days, fearing that they were committing a sacrilege and that the people would denounce him as a crass hypocrite and a desecrater of Jewish religion, but he was ignored.

The attack took Aristobulus and his supporters completely by surprise, and his forces were quickly defeated, but he escaped from Jerusalem, taking much of the treasury with him. He immediately appealed to a Roman officer named Scaurus, a minor general in Syria, offering him 300 talents of gold (approximately 3,000 pounds) for his military assistance. Scaurus readily accepted the gold and simply wrote a letter to the Arabians, threatening to wipe them out if they remained in Jerusalem. Having little reason to stay, the Arabians returned to their homeland. Aristobulus then re-gathered his supporters and attacked Jerusalem, mauling his leaderless enemies, since Hyrcanus was not capable of taking charge, and trust in Antipater had faded after the Arabian army left. Aristobulus easily retook the city and imprisoned Hyrcanus. But Antipater escaped and, taking his cue from Aristobulus, he wrote a letter under Hyrcanus' signature to the Roman general Pompey, Scaurus' superior, requesting military help and offering even more gold.

The situation was thus rich in irony. The two brothers – exploiting religious divisions – had led their people into killing each other, and then both felt compelled to spend the accumulated wealth of the country in trying to buy help from the Romans. Pompey obliged them, but rather than supporting either of the brothers, he led his troops to Jerusalem to conquer and take it for Rome. He quickly assessed the political situation – Hyrcanus was easily manipulated and unimportant; Antipater was a clever man, but one who would follow Roman rule if properly leashed; and Aristobulus was a mad dog that had to be destroyed. Antipater opened Jerusalem to Pompey, and the latter organized his troops to attack Aristobulus, who – along with his supporters – had blockaded themselves in the Temple in Jerusalem. Thus, one group of Jews betrayed the other, generating a bitterness that would last for generations.

Although the Jerusalem Temple at that time was smaller and much less ornate than the original Temple built by Solomon, it was surrounded by high stone walls and was essentially a “city within a city.” The Jews in the temple area put up such a fight that the Temple became the focal point of the Jewish resistance, and the Romans quickly surrounded it to cut off all escape or reinforcement. Siege engines were constructed to smash the walls, but the Jews fought with such desperation that the Romans were initially beaten back with many losses. The Jews of Aristobulus in the Temple were extremely bitter at the betrayal of their brethren who had opened the rest of the city to the Romans, and they determined that they would fight to the death.

Aristobulus' forces, however, could not hold off the Romans forever, and eventually a breach was made in the wall and the legions poured in.

The Jewish soldiers from the Temple fought to the death, while their families jumped from the top of the wall and died or set fire to the buildings along the edge of the wall and burned to death inside. To these bodies were added many more as the soldiers swarmed through the temple area

in a frenzy, killing people because of their refusal to surrender. Blood and body parts were everywhere.

After the Romans defeated the Jewish resistance, the remaining Jewish guards committed suicide to avoid seeing the Temple defiled when Pompey went into the Temple and entered the Holy of Holies. General Pompey was surprised to find that it was an empty room; the Ark of the Covenant and all of the other precious religious objects had disappeared during the Babylonian invasion five hundred years before. He then left Jerusalem, taking Aristobulus as prisoner, assigning Antipater as governor, and Hyrcanus as high priest – a desecrated man serving in a desecrated Temple. But Hyrcanus and Antipater were merely puppets; from that time on virtually all aspects of government in Jerusalem were dictated by Rome.

Much later Hyrcanus would be castrated and have his ears cut off by Aristobulus' son Antigonus, rendering him unfit even to be high priest, and he was eventually put to death by Herod, Antipater's son. But Antipater, the former friend of Hyrcanus, prospered as the puppet ruler of Israel. It was highly ironic that Antipater was not even Jewish. He was Idumean – a descendent of Esau, the brother and rival of Jacob, and he founded what later became known as the Herodian dynasty, which ruled Israel for several generations. It seemed to many as if the Israelites had proven unfit to rule themselves and were being chastised.

The Hasmonean line of kings thus ended in disgrace, having depopulated and impoverished the entire country with them. Antigonus, the last of the Hasmoneans who disfigured Hyrcanus, lost Jerusalem after a long siege and was beheaded by the Romans in 37 BC. As the BC era ended, the Jews were an angry and frustrated people – betrayed by their own rulers, beset by deep socio-political divisions, and enslaved to Rome.

The Jews were desperately looking for a military Messiah, spoken of in the Torah, who would deliver them and establish a lasting kingdom of justice and peace. Instead the temple was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70, and after Roman armies crushed the Jewish Bar-Kokba rebellion in 135, the Jews were forbidden to live in Jerusalem and forcibly resettled among other nations. The Roman emperor Hadrian burned a copy of the Torah on the temple mount, built a temple to Jupiter there, and had the name of country changed from Judea to Palestine in order to wipe out its existence. The Jews did not regain control of Israel, the land of their forebears, until 1948, two-thousand years later.

Dossier on the Birth of Christ

The only true superhero: Jesus Christ!
~ Willie Aames

Sometime in early 3 BC, two years before Simon's wife Dinah conceived her second son Judah in our story, another Jewish wife in Nazareth, a town in northern Israel, also became pregnant. Later that year when the wife was expecting, the couple left their home, but the trip was not done for either business or pleasure. They, along with all of their countrymen, were forced by the Romans to register in a census that had been ordered by the Emperor. In order to comply, they had to return to the city or town of their ancestry at some time during that year. Both husband and wife were from the tribe of Judah, and therefore had to register in Bethlehem, the ancestral town of King David.

With so many travelers on the roads, the inns and guesthouses were full, so when they reached Bethlehem, they could not find any place to stay. The wife was about to give birth, so her husband persuaded an innkeeper to let them stay in his stable. There, on the evening of 11 September 3 BC, on Rosh Hashanah, the first day of the Jewish New Year and the "festival of trumpets," their son was born.¹⁰

This seemingly mundane event in the lives a poor and little-known Jewish family was accompanied by a series of unusual celestial occurrences. A month or so before, on August 12, the planet Jupiter, named after the father of the gods, along with Venus, representing the goddess of fertility, had risen together in the east. Then in September, Jupiter conjoined with Regulus, the "king star" of the constellation Leo the Lion. The lion, being the king of beasts, is the symbol of the tribe of Judah. These unusual conjunctions continued throughout the winter into the following year, culminating with the joining of Jupiter, Venus, Mars, and Mercury in late summer. The planets then separated, and Jupiter continued on its way until December 25, the winter solstice, when it was located in the constellation Virgo, the virgin, and appeared to stand still for a time.

During the same period, an even more unusual celestial event took place. A bright star appeared in the constellation Pisces, the fish, long considered as the symbol of Israel and later of Christianity. This brilliant star or supernova overpowered and dimmed all of the other stars in same region of the sky.

Celestial occurrences were carefully studied by many in the ancient world, especially in Persia, where the kings had long maintained court astrologers. Daniel, or Belteshazzar (his Babylonian name), the Jewish author of the Old Testament book named after him, had been a high official and chief astrologer for both the Babylonians and the Persians. He had written about the birth of the Jewish King and Messiah. Even the Romans were aware of this prophecy – the emperor Nero was later advised by some of his astrologers to consider moving the seat of government from Rome to Jerusalem.¹¹

¹⁰ For a discussion of the dating of Christ's birth and the associated celestial occurrences, see <http://fbcrecordings.tripod.com/id32.html>.

¹¹ In a letter from Suetonius, the Roman historian, to Nero.

When the celestial events described above were observed in Persia, there was great excitement, and several of the senior astrologers set out to see for themselves what was happening. They traveled throughout the spring and summer of 2 BC, arriving in Jerusalem some time in the late fall. They immediately went to King Herod the Great, who at this point was a vile old man at the end of his life, plagued by deteriorating health. The visiting astrologers, also known as “magi” or “wise men,” caused great consternation at Herod’s court by asking the question, “Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east and have come to find him.” Herod immediately brought in the chief priests and asked them about prophecies related to stars and kings, and to his dismay, they showed him a prophecy from the book of Numbers:

A star shall come forth from Jacob, and a scepter shall arise from Israel. It shall crush through the forehead of Moab, and tear down all of the sons of Sheth, and Edom and Seir shall be a possession.

Numbers 24:17

Herod immediately was concerned because he himself was Edomite – an Idumean from the land of Edom. So, along with the astrologers, he asked the priests where this King of the Jews was to be born. They showed him another prophecy from the book of Micah:

But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from out of you will go forth a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.

Micah 5:2

Herod decided that he also had to find this baby, but for a different reason than the magi – so that he could kill it and remove any threat to his throne and the future of his dynasty. Therefore, he told the magi to return afterwards and let him know where the baby was, so that he could go and worship him as well. They agreed and went on to Bethlehem, which is only seven miles from Jerusalem. Sometime near the end of December of 2 BC, they searched the town and eventually located Joseph, Mary, and their baby son who had been staying in Bethlehem for the past year. The magi gave the baby the gifts that they had brought – gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The magi were, however, suspicious about Herod’s motives in wanting to see the child, so they returned home without stopping in Jerusalem. For the same reason, the parents took their baby and immediately left for Egypt. Herod neglected to have the magi followed, because they had agreed to come back and report to him what they found. But after some days had passed with no report, Herod realized that he had been tricked, and in a rage he ordered that all of the babies under two years of age in the Bethlehem area be murdered (the baby Jesus would have been around one year and four months old at that point). This was Herod’s last act of cruelty – he died soon afterward in the early months of 1 BC.

There has been confusion over the date of Herod’s death, which was one of the main indexes used by historians to establish the chronology of Christ. Based on Josephus’ *Antiquities* it has traditionally been inferred that Herod died at the end of March, or early April of 4 BC. However,

modern scholarship has provided new insights into Josephus' manuscripts¹² and presents evidence indicating that the date of Herod's death was actually 1 BC. The primary discovery is that a printer who was typesetting the manuscript *Antiquities* made an error in the year 1544. According to scholars, every Josephus manuscript produced prior to 1544 supports the contention that Herod died in 1 BC.¹³

¹² David W. Beyer, *Josephus Re-Examined: Unraveling the Twenty-Second Year of Tiberius*, in *Chronos, Kairos, Christos II*, edited by E. Jerry Vardaman. Macon: Mercer University Press, 1998.

¹³ Ernest L. Martin, *The Star That Astonished the World*, Second Edition; Portland, Oregon: ASK Publications, 1996

Dossier on Herod the Great

*It would be better to be Herod's pig than his son.
~ Augustus Caesar*

Herod the Great was an ambitious and cruel man who became the king of Israel in 36 BC and ruled on behalf of the Romans. His ancestors were Edomite rulers of Idumea who had been forced to acknowledge the overlordship of the Jewish Hasmoneans. Herod's father was Antipater, the conniving and devious man who saw an opportunity to restore Edomite rule, and who bore a major part of the responsibility for the destructive civil war that impoverished the entire nation. This war ended the Hasmonean dynasty and began Israel's slavery to Rome.

In the aftermath of the Roman conquest in 63 BC, Antipater came out on top because he convinced the Romans to appoint him as their regent, ruling Jerusalem on behalf of Rome. Rule was never easy, however, because of the constant and increasing tax burden imposed by the Roman government. The emperor Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC, and in the ensuing power struggle between Cassius, his murderer, and Octavian, both sides demanded even more taxes from all of the Roman tributaries in order to raise armies and fight each other. In trying to collect these taxes, Antipater underestimated the level of Jewish hatred against Rome and was killed in a riot. His son Herod, who had been the ruler of Galilee under his father, immediately seized power.

Herod, who had commanded troops since the age of sixteen, smashed with ruthless ferocity the Jewish tax revolt that had killed his father. He was further tested by Antigonus, the son of Aristobulus and the last of the Hasmonean ruling family, who had escaped from Rome. Gathering his supporters, Antigonus retook Jerusalem in order to restore Hasmonean rule. Antigonus captured and tortured Hyrcanus, his uncle and the enemy of his father, and he then ruled in Jerusalem for several years. But his army was eventually defeated by Herod and the Romans, and Antigonus was beheaded, bringing the Hasmonean dynasty to a bleak and bitter end.

Herod learned early in life to rule by force and to be totally ruthless; he raised the taxes even higher to drive the people into submission. A confiscatory tax called the *fiscus Judaicus* was devised especially for the Jews – either bow down and worship the emperor or pay him.

In order to show the people that their taxes were achieving some tangible results, Herod went on a building binge. He had the Tomb of the Patriarchs constructed in Hebron, rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, constructed a huge tower of the guard next to the Temple, and created new palaces for himself. Herod eventually designed and built an entire city on the Mediterranean coast, naming it Caesarea in honor of the Roman emperor, with the intent that it would become his new capital city.

From the perspective of the Jews, however, Herod's crowning achievement was the rebuilding of the Temple. It was one of the largest construction projects of its era, comparable by some to the seven wonders of the ancient world. The Temple had been partially rebuilt in the days of Nehemiah around 450 BC, but Herod expanded it and made it much more beautiful. The entire

exterior surface as well as the Holy of Holies inside were covered with gold, and the uncovered portions were faced with white marble. The building shone like the sun. It was said that the Temple could be seen from many miles away and appeared to be a dazzling golden-white mountaintop; in the morning sun, the reflection was so bright that one could not look directly at it. The Temple dominated Jerusalem, dwarfing the rest of the city.

Herod was an energetic ruler, but his personal life was marked by extreme cruelty and capriciousness. After defeating Antigonus and becoming the undisputed ruler of Judea, he demanded that Hyrcanus provide his daughter Mariamme to him as wife. Herod was already married, so in order to make room for Mariamme, he banished his first wife and their son, and later had the son executed. Herod went on to take many wives and concubines, but Mariamme was his favorite. She bore him five children in seven years, but she hated him because Herod had killed her brother for becoming too popular with the people. Despite – or perhaps because of – her hatred, Herod lusted after her continually, but in a fit of unfounded jealousy he ordered that she be executed. After her death his lust for her was so strong that he demanded that she be brought back to life so that he could continue having sex with her. In addition to murdering his first-born son, Herod slew several more of his children who in his estimation were a threat to his rule.

He also treated the religious leaders very badly, killing those who refused to support his decisions. When the Temple was dedicated in 10 BC, Herod murdered the entire Sanhedrin, the ruling religious council consisting of Sadducees, Pharisees, and scribes, because they had objected to the placement of any Roman regalia in the Temple. Later, when several Jewish teachers and their students tried to tear down golden eagle figures that had been placed on the temple walls, Herod had them captured and burned alive. At one point he needed to take an extended trip away from Jerusalem, and to forestall any possible coup attempts while he was gone, he had his father-in-law, Hyrcanus, assassinated. He created a large bureaucracy and a secret police to collect taxes and spy on dissidents, and by the end of his reign many aspects of the government had become very corrupt.

In his last days, Herod was afflicted with painful diseases, perhaps syphilis and gangrene, compounded by kidney failure. Just prior to his death he gave orders to have all of the principal men of Israel shut up in the hippodrome at Jericho and slaughtered as soon as he had died, so that “his grave might not be without the tribute of tears.” Fortunately, this order was never carried out, and instead the Jews had a festival to celebrate his death. Augustus Caesar once said of him, “It would be better to be Herod’s pig than his son.”

Dossier on the Merovingians and the Carolingians

To have another language is to possess a second soul
~ Charlemagne

As the Roman Empire declined, many people groups moved throughout Europe and fought for supremacy. The tribes in Gaul grew and shrank; sometimes they merged with others to form larger tribes, and at times certain tribes disappeared altogether. The Roman presence, which had been a constant for decades, eventually waned as soldiers were recalled for service elsewhere in the Roman Empire, and finally the Empire itself began to crack and come apart. In AD 410 (three hundred fifty years or so after the death of Lazarus and Mary Magdalene), Rome was sacked by the Visigoths, and Gaul was left to itself.

Another of the barbarian groups, known as the Franks, had moved westward during this time. The Celtic tribe of Vercingetorix merged with one of the larger and more powerful of the Frankish groups known as the Salic Franks and intermarried with them. As some point in the fifth century, a Salic Frank named Merovech (from the Latin Meroveus or Merovius) was said to have become the chieftain. He became the founder of a dynasty of Frankish kings known as the Merovingians that ruled France for the next three hundred years, from the 400s to the 700s.

The name “Merovingian” comes from “mer” meaning sea, and “vingian” meaning grapevine or possibly bloodline, and it was later said of Merovech that he came partially from a sea creature. Perhaps this alluded to Mary Magdalene coming over the sea, but it was also alleged that he was related to Posiedon and Dagon, gods of the sea. However, it is also possible that his name was a Latinized form of the German “Marwig” which means “famed fighter.”

The Merovingians were known as the “long-haired kings” because Merovech was said to have always kept his hair long in contrast the Romans. That custom was preserved by his descendants and it was regarded as a mark of royalty. Like Samson in the Bible, their long hair was a symbol of their power, and after childhood it was never cut. No men except royalty could grow their hair long, and for the royals long hair was mandatory. There is a story of two royal sons who were seen as a threat to one of the Merovingian kings, and therefore their mother was presented with two options regarding them: either death or a haircut. She chose death for them, not wanting them shamed by having their hair shorn and their power debased.

The grandson of Merovech was Clovis (AD 466—511). He was a warrior king who conquered and reigned over much of what is now the country of France. He was the greatest of all of the Merovingian kings, and established the concept of what a Frankish king would be and do.

Like other Franks, Clovis was wild. His parties were full of large, blonde, muscular, and drunken men with huge appetites, gorging themselves on meat and beer, throwing food at each other and getting into blood feuds over petty arguments. Clovis also loved his women and had a number of them. In war he would invoke the spirit of Woden, the Norse god of power, to give him and his men the gift of battle-frenzy—the drunken, berserk rage that can take a warrior out of himself, making him invulnerable to wounds and capable of superhuman feats of strength. Woden was also the lord of the slain, the one who leads the hosts of the dead, and the Franks believed that

Woden required discipline and suffering from them—by dancing to the point of exhaustion, by long fasts, or by painful self-inflicted wounds. To the civilized Romans who usually saw them only from a distance, the Franks were barbarian cave men. But Clovis was a very clever and shrewd leader who built strong coalitions, and he knew when to attack and when to keep his peace. As the Roman Empire crumbled, Clovis built a kingdom and a country that has lasted in one form or another down to the present day; it was due to his efforts that France was united much earlier than the rest of Europe, and therefore often dominated politics of the continent throughout its history. Clovis was ruthless and brutal, never allowing anyone to threaten his power; after he had conquered or subdued the kingdoms around him, he began to kill his own relatives who ruled over smaller parts of his kingdom, and anyone who he thought could possibly be a threat. Clovis then would complain, “How sad a thing it is that I live among strangers like some solitary traveler, and that I have none of my own relations left to help me when disaster threatens!” It was said that Clovis made this complaint not because he grieved for his relatives, but in the hope that he could still find some alive whom he could kill.

Clovis’ wife was a Christian, and she encouraged him to convert from paganism. As he was fighting to establish his kingdom, he went into battle with a neighboring tribe and was almost defeated. He promised God that if he won the victory that he and his men would become Catholic, and after a miraculous victory, he was baptized by St. Remigius, the bishop of Reims, along with many of his warriors. Clovis eventually received recognition from Remigius and other bishops as being the king of the Franks, and he returned the favor, giving many gifts to churches and abbeys across Gaul. There is a strong suggestion that Clovis received more than just personal recognition, and that long-term guarantees of allegiance from the church were made, both for himself and his descendants, in return for royal support of the church. Thus, the church and the Merovingian dynasty were bound together, and a quasi-divine status was given to the line of Clovis; so began the long history of involvement between France and the Papacy in Rome.

But even though the society was “Christianized,” religion was mostly a patina—Clovis and his descendants remained pagan in many ways. They continued to revere Woden, to practice magic, to cast spells, and engage in divination, sorcery and other occult rituals. Many years later when the tomb of Childeric I was unearthed, a number of occult items were discovered which included a severed horse’s head, a golden head of a bull and a crystal ball. It was said that the robes of the Merovingian kings had the power to heal, and that, like Sampson, their power lay in their long hair. The Merovingians also were said each to have a birthmark that took the form of a red cross, either over the heart or between the shoulder blades. The people were in awe of their arcane authority, their reportedly clairvoyant ability, and their spiritual or perhaps demonic power. Thus, they were known as the “sorcerer kings,” and they seemingly combined the power of both Christ and Satan in a Gnostic dualism that incorporated both Christian and Satanic elements.

Immediately before his death, Clovis divided his lands among his four sons, thereby weakening the kingdom and leading to much conflict among his descendants. But even though the kingdom was divided, the authority of the Merovingians was unchallenged for centuries, and they ruled by “blood right.” Their sons were not invested as kings but simply assumed the right to rule upon reaching their twelfth birthday. However, the factor that was to prove fatal to the Merovingian dynasty was their method of exercising power. The kings reigned but did not rule—they were the

visible head of the government, leading in matters of war, religion, and justice, but left the day-to-day running of the kingdom up to an administrator who was known as the “major domo” or “mayor of the palace.” Over time these men became very powerful and eventually sought to depose their masters.

Merovingian power continued for another one hundred fifty years until the death of Clovis II in 656. His son Dagobert II, perhaps named after Dagon, the fish god, was only five years old at the time, and Grimoald, his major domo, had the boy abducted and exiled to Ireland. Grimoald, who died soon afterward, was succeeded by his nephew Pepin the Fat (Pepin II, also called Pepin Heristal). In addition to being fat, Pepin was cruel and power-hungry. He seized control of the government, and when Dagobert returned to France, Pepin had him assassinated with an arrow shot through his eye and into his brain.

With the death of Dagobert, the Merovingian dynasty fell into decline forced on them by their own major domos. The long-haired kings continued to “reign” for another one hundred years, but power had passed into the hands of Pepin and his descendants, who had all of the authority of the kings but were afraid to call themselves such, because of the mystique of the Merovingian dynasty in the minds of the people.

Thus the line of Judas and Mary (presuming that such a coupling took place) had been almost extinguished, but after Dagobert II returned to France and before he was assassinated, he married and it was said that he had a son named Sigebert IV, who was supposedly raised in secret in the southwest of France. So, the Merovingian line continued.

The Carolingian Dynasty

The son of Pepin the Fat was Charles, who united the provinces of the Merovingians, conquered even more territory, and fought what was later regarded as one of the most significant battles in all of history, the Battle of Tours in 732 in which the Moors were defeated. It was after this battle that he was called Charles Martel, “the Hammer,” for in the eyes of many, this victory halted the seemingly unstoppable advance of the Muslim armies who had conquered many territories including North Africa and Spain and had appeared poised to take over all of Europe. It is said that after hearing of the great victory, French bakers made rolls in the shape of the Muslim crescent as a testament to how Martel and his army had devoured the invader on the battlefield. They referred to the rolls as *croissants*.

Charles Martel later fought additional battles against the Moors and eventually drove them completely out of France, but like his father, he also refrained from calling himself a king. As major domo he continued to exercise complete power throughout the life of the last Merovingian king Childeric III, who had lived most of his days under house arrest and died childless in 754. Martel himself had died three years earlier and his son Pepin the Short (Pepin III) had become major domo in his place.

The stage was then set for perhaps the most significant act in the history of France and the Catholic Church—the deal between Pepin and the Pope. Rome had been suffering from the attacks of the Lombards, barbarians from the north who had conquered northern Italy and

plundered Rome on several occasions. The Pope was therefore looking for a champion who would remove the Lombard threat. Pepin had the power of the kingship in France but not the title and felt a strong need to legitimize his authority. Therefore, he appealed to the Pope in Rome asking if the kingship should belong to the man who held the title or the one who held the power. The Pope agreed that Pepin as the one who held power should be king, and in exchange for a promise of military help against the Lombards, Pope Stephen II traveled to Paris and anointed Pepin as king of the Franks. Furthermore, the Pope made a solemn pledge binding the Catholic Church to support Pepin's dynasty in perpetuity. Pepin kept his part of the deal by invading northern Italy and defeating the Lombards. This territory was then given to the pope and became the Papal States, which plunged the Roman Church into the politics of Italy and Europe for the next thousand years. Pepin's son was Charles, who became known as Charles the Great or Charlemagne, for whom the Carolingian dynasty was named (from Carolus Magnus, the Latin form of his name).

The secret Merovingian bloodline line of Sigebert IV, the son of Dagobert II, was said to have eventually intermarried with the Carolingian dynasty, as one of his female descendants later became a concubine of Charlemagne. Thus, the purported bloodline of Judas and Mary flowed through the Merovingian and the Carolingian dynasties of France, both of which the Catholic Church had pledged to support. The line continued down through the generations, through the Capetian, Valois, and Bourbon dynasties, which finally ended in the French Revolution of 1789. Surviving elements of French royalty continued to seek power and participate in government, down to the present.

Dossier on Islam and the Crusades

*These things are impure: urine, excrement, sperm...non-Moslem men and women...and the sweat of an excrement-eating camel.
~ Ayatollah Khomeini*

*Islam is a religion that expects and demands victory and superiority. Unlike Christianity whose divine central figure died in helplessness and disgrace as a criminal and as a sacrifice for humanity, Islam's prophet died as the dominant political and spiritual conqueror of his society, demanding jihad from his followers. This is the main reason why Islam is at war with the rest of the world, and why it produces hate-filled individuals such as Usama bin Laden.
~ Richard B. Sorensen*

While the sons of Clovis the Merovingian were ruling over Gaul, a new religion was being formed far to the south in the land of Arabia. This was a harsh land of deserts, barren hills, and nomadic Bedouin tribes who lived amid the desert sands and fought for survival. Muhammad, the founder and prophet of Islam, was born in the town of Mecca around AD 570.

Mecca was the place of a mysterious black stone known as the *Ka'aba*, that had long been revered by the pagan polytheistic Arabs prior to Muhammad. The town's origin was as an oasis in the desert, surrounding a well, known as *ZamZam*. This well was reputed to be one of the places where God had provided water for Hagar, who was the maidservant of Abraham's wife Sarah. As told in Genesis, when Sarah was unable to conceive a child, she had given Hagar to Abraham as a concubine. Hagar gave birth to Ishmael, and then she taunted Sarah, who became jealous. Later, when Sarah's promised son Isaac was born and there was conflict between the boys, Sarah convinced Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away. Hagar almost died in the wilderness, until water was provided for her and her son. Ishmael, who became "a wild ass of a man" was the father of the Arabs, just as his half-brother Isaac was the father of the Jews, so the Arabs and the Jews have the same father – Abraham. The conflict between the Arabs and the Jews thus dates back to the stories of Genesis.

Muhammad, the Founder of Islam

Muhammad was a descendant of Ishmael from the Quraysh Arabic tribe who lived in Mecca, and at the age of twenty-five he married an older widow whose deceased husband had owned a trading concern. He took over the business and while traveling with caravans to Syria and other places he frequently came into contact with both Jews and Christians. He developed a respect for the "people of the book," and came to learn much about the Bible in conversations with these people. Nevertheless, he was illiterate and therefore never read the Bible for himself.

In 610 when Muhammad was about forty years old, he purportedly saw a vision of the angel Gabriel who commanded him to remember and recite various revelations. Being illiterate as many were in that time, Muhammad committed these to memory and later had his wife and others memorize these messages as well. They ultimately became the Quran, the Muslim Scriptures. Over the subsequent years Muhammad received many more revelations supposedly from the angel Gabriel, and his wife and several others accepted him as a prophet. However,

after she and her father died in 619, the people of Mecca grew hostile to Muhammad and to his prophetic pretensions in which he condemned some of their practices, threatened their political leadership, and sought power for himself. Under pressure, Muhammad fled from Mecca in 622 to the oasis of Yathrib, which was later renamed Medina. His journey, known as the *hejira*, is the starting date of the Muslim calendar.

In Medina, Muhammad became a mediator among various Arab tribes. He began allying himself with influential leaders by marrying their daughters; and eventually came to control the markets around Medina. After becoming the most powerful man in the area, Muhammad abandoned his trading business and created a military raiding party for raiding caravans bound for Mecca and elsewhere. Thus he became the warlord of Medina.

Muhammad and the Jews

There was a sizable group of Jews in the region of Medina who supported Muhammad in his first years there. Many of the early revelations of Muhammad were pro-Jewish, as he was initially inclined to respect those who read the Bible. But as Muhammad grew in influence, he began to declare himself as a prophet in the Biblical sense. Seeing this, the Medina Jews drew back and did not support him as they had done earlier. Muhammad then began getting new revelations that were critical of and hostile to the Jews. He later directed that prayer should be made toward Mecca instead of Jerusalem, and he changed the day of prayer from Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath and the original Muslim day of prayer, to Friday. Later, in the process of seizing power, he had many of the Medina Jews beheaded.

Muslim Theology

Much of the Quran is a simplified and modified version of the Bible which Muhammad had heard on his caravan travels. For example, there are five major prophets of the Quran including Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ (Isa in the Quran), and Muhammad, the only non-Biblical prophet. Of the twenty-five minor prophets of Islam, all of them come from the Bible, and include Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, and John the Baptist. But the Bible is rarely, if ever read by Muslims and all prophets other than Muhammad are minimized and eliminated, because of the profession of faith that a Muslim repeats every day, "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his Prophet."

The Arabic word for God is "Allah" which was one of the ancient names for the Arabian moon god. According to the Quran, Allah is like Jehovah of the Bible in some ways, but is much less personal; he is said to be merciful, but also distant, unfeeling, and judgmental. The worship of Allah is called "Islam," meaning "submission." The goal of Islam is thus the total submission of each person to the will of Allah. Even though the worship of sun and moon is forbidden in the Quran, Islamicists still keep their historical connections with the moon god, sometimes called Il or Ilah, which eventually became Allah. The Ka'aba stone that Muslims circle during the Hajj was the center of ancient moon god worship. They bowed and prayed toward the Ka'aba several times a day, just as contemporary Muslims bow and pray toward Mecca five times each day. Historically, many of the Arab peoples worshiped Sin which was another name for the moon god (from which the name "Sinai" derives) and whose symbol was the crescent moon. The Muslim

month of Ramadan starts and ends at the sighting of a new moon, and a crescent moon symbol is placed on the top of mosques where Allah is worshiped.

According to the Quran, Jesus was born of a virgin, was the Messiah that had been promised. He lived a sinless life, performed many miracles, and then ascended into heaven, as the New Testament describes. Muslims also believe that Jesus Christ will return to the earth at the end of days. But Muhammad either did not understand or could not accept the divinity of Christ and therefore saw him strictly in human terms.

Islam and Women

Islam has also preserved the view of women that was normative at the time of Muhammad: women were considered to be inferior to men and only half as intelligent.

Muhammad asked some women, "Isn't the witness of a woman equal to half that of a man?" The women said, "Yes." He said, "This is because of the deficiency of the woman's mind."

Hadith 3:286

When Muhammad was speaking to a group of women he said, "I have not met anyone more deficient in intelligence and religion as you."

Hadith 2:541

Polygamy was common in the upper levels of Arab society. Although Muhammad set the limit in the Quran at four wives and an unlimited number of concubines and slave girls, he himself had twelve to fifteen wives over the course of his lifetime as well as many concubines and slave girls; he was married to as many as nine wives at a time. His favorite wife was Aisha, the daughter of Abu-Bakr. Muhammad married her when she was six years old and consummated their marriage when she was nine and he was fifty-three.

Jihad

Muhammad's transition from trader into warlord led to new Quranic revelations concerning strife, and Muhammad then developed the concept of *jihad*, or holy war. Jihad was to be waged against all who did not believe in Allah or accept the authority of Allah's prophet, i.e., himself, thus justifying all conflict perpetrated by Muslims upon non-Muslims.

If anyone desires a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him.

Surah 3:85

Seize and slay them wherever you find them (non-believers): and in any case, take no friends or helpers from their ranks.

Surah 4:89

Unto all in faith has Allah promised good; but those who strive and fight has He distinguished above all who sit at home by a great reward.

Surah 4:95

For the unbelievers are open enemies to you.
Surah 4:101

But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the pagans wherever you find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them, in every stratagem of war.
Surah 9:5

Muhammad said: whoever changes his Islamic religion, kill him.
Hadith 9:57

Muhammad came to see himself more and more as a dictator. Dissent and denial of his role as the prophet of Allah was harshly repressed with persecution and assassination. His forces fought several battles with the inhabitants of Mecca, winning the first, losing the second and ultimately winning the war in AD 630 when the town surrendered to him. He then ruled over both Mecca and Medina, establishing Islam as the local religion. Thus, Muhammad became the supreme head of all aspects of his society – governmental, economic, military, and religious.

With the conquest of Mecca completed, Muhammad turned his attention to the expansion of Islam, and indicated that the world was to be divided into two parts, Dar al-Islam, the House of Islam, which consists of the places where Muslims rule, and Dar al-Harb, the House of War, the places where they do not rule. He instructed his followers to practice *jihad*, a perpetual and unending struggle to conquer the entire world and to convert everyone to Islam by force, if necessary, or at least to subjugate and control them. In the Sunnah and Hadiths, other Islamic writings that augment the Quran, many rewards are promised to those who fight for Allah, including seventy-two *houris*, beautiful submissive virgin slave girls, in heaven for each male warrior and martyr. Muhammad said that “Paradise is under the shade of swords.” In our day Ayatollah Khomeini, the ex-leader of Iran, elaborated on the prophet’s words,

Whatever good there is exists thanks to the sword and in the shadow of the sword! People cannot be made obedient except with the sword! The sword is the key to Paradise, which can be opened only for Holy Warriors! Any man or woman who denies the existence of God, or believes in his partners [i.e., in the Trinity], or else does not believe in his prophet Mohammed, is impure in the same way as are excrement and urine.

Islam never had the church vs. state controversies that roiled Europe for centuries and led to the concept of separation of powers embodied in documents such as the American Constitution, where no single person or group can gain ascendancy over everyone else. Also, one of the main blessings of Allah was supposedly military victory, which led to a “might makes right” mentality. Therefore, the pattern of one supreme military leader and dictator over all aspects of society persists in virtually all Muslim societies down to the present. When Muslims speak of “purifying society,” this is one of their major objectives.

The Quran

Muhammad’s revelations continued until the time of his death, but the text of the Quran was fluid, being edited and changed at times by Muhammad himself, not existing in written form, but only in the memories of his followers. They memorized the Quran under Muhammad’s direction

and had to memorize all of the revisions as well. The reason that Muhammad gave for revisions to the Quran was that sometimes he stated that the original texts did not come to him from the angel Gabriel, but rather from Satan, and these so-called “satanic verses” needed to be expunged from the text. At times Muhammad seemed to be unsure of who and what the source of the revelation was, and at times he was afraid that he himself was possessed by a demon. Furthermore, on at least one occasion he changed the text at the suggestion of others – one of his loyal followers left him after discovering that some of the words of the supposedly divine revelation of Allah had been arbitrarily changed. The Quran’s revelations, themes, and tone of writing also changed over time in keeping with Muhammad’s political situation, moving from the rebellion and strife characteristic of Muhammad’s early years seeking power in Medina, to an authoritarian emphasis on obedience, which was characteristic of the revelations in Muhammad’s later years after completing the conquest of Mecca. At that point he was recognized as both prophet and supreme leader, attempting to consolidate his power, and to make everyone submit to his rule.

Thus, there were many versions of the Quran, some of which were gradually written down and others which existed only in the minds of the people who had memorized them. The final selection of what was supposedly the authoritative version was made in AD 650, eighteen years after Muhammad’s death, and there were great disagreements over the text after the decision was made. There were twenty-five or so written versions at the time, all differing with each other, and the supporters of these texts as well as people who had memorized all or parts of the Quran engaged in a violent controversy over the version that had been selected. The third ruler after Muhammad unilaterally chose the version he considered to be definitive, and at the same time ordering all of the others to be collected and burned; his version is essentially the one that exists today. Popular discontent led to his assassination in 656, but in spite of this and regardless of the many problems with the text, scholars of Islam teach that the Quran is an exact, word-for-word copy of God’s final revelation from tablets that have always existed in heaven.

The Caliphs – Successors to Muhammad

The Prophet Muhammad died two years after the conquest of Mecca in 632. After his death a number of Arab tribes revolted, resulting in a bitter power struggle. A quickly gathered coalition of leaders declared that Abu-Bakr, the father of Muhammad’s favorite wife, was to be designated as the *caliph*, or successor to Muhammad, and the supreme head of the society. He took power and put down all of the rebels; Sunni Muslims since that time consider him as the rightful successor to the prophet, and he was the first of the so-called “rightly guided” leaders. But Muhammad had supposedly designated another man named Ali as his heir, who was unfortunately not in Mecca at the time of Muhammad’s death. Some felt that Ali had the religious mantle and should have been chosen as caliph instead. These also believed that the caliph should be a direct relative or descendant of Muhammad, a requirement met by Ali because he was Muhammad’s son-in-law, having married the prophet’s daughter Fatima. This group became known as the Shi’a ‘Ali, the partisans of Ali, and the Shiite Muslims of Iraq and Iran descend from them.

Muhammad’s declaration of jihad was immediately implemented; Abu-Bakr first prepared for war against Iraq, but he died two years later in 634 before the fighting actually began.

Omar, the second “rightly guided” caliph, was a military and organizational genius. During his ten-year rule from 634 to 644, Arab armies invaded and conquered the Persian Empire in Iraq, all of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Syria, and Palestine. Omar also provided political and financial organization to this huge and expanding area. He avoided the creation of a central government and allowed conquered populations to retain their language, customs, and even their government and religion as long as they paid tribute. Conquered areas typically were not required to convert to Islam, but they became *dhimmis*, peoples that were subservient to their Muslim overlords. Islam was to be preeminent, and strict rules were laid on Christians that forbade the building or the repair of churches. Omar installed local governors and created a system of taxation to funnel the wealth of captive areas back to Mecca and Medina.

After Omar died, some wanted Ali, the heir supposedly designated by Muhammad, to be the successor, but Uthman, a relative of several on the selection committee and an experienced political and military leader, was chosen instead. Uthman was the third so-called “rightly guided” caliph, and he established what became known as the Umayyad Caliphate. He continued the expansion of the empire, taking Libya, the Caucasus, Armenia, and Cyprus, but he was not popular with the people due to the Quran controversy. In 656 he was assassinated after selecting what he considered to be the definitive version of the Quran and destroying all of the variant versions.

Following Uthman’s death, Ali was made caliph for a short time – the fourth and the last caliph considered to be “rightly guided” by Muslims. Ali represented the conservative and religious side of Islam which had watched in growing concern as their society had become increasingly secularized and corrupt due to the dramatic expansion in the power and wealth of the government. But the Umayyad bureaucracy, which held all of the positions and levers of power, made it very difficult for Ali to rule, and soon afterward the Umayyad supporters chose their own caliph, whose name was Mu'awiyya. Ali was forced to flee and was later assassinated by some of his former followers.

Mu'awiyya moved the capital of the Islamic Empire from Arabia to Damascus in Syria and further secularized Islamic rule, turning it into a hereditary monarchy. The earlier caliphs had lived in much the same lifestyle as their people, but Mu'awiyya took on the trappings of wealth and power, which caused bitter opposition and attracted more popular support to the Shiites and away from the Sunnis. Mu'awiyya chose his son Yazid to become caliph after him, provoking even more resentment because previously new leaders had always been chosen by the elders of the people. When Mu'awiyya died in 680, Yazid attacked Husayn, the son and heir of Ali. Husayn was living in Karbala, Iraq, at the time and had with him only a small group of supporters, all of whom were slaughtered. The battle of Karbala was considered to be the critical schism between Sunni and Shiite Muslims. Shiites still mourn and celebrate the martyrdom of Husayn.

However, the Umayyad Caliphate which had been established by Uthman continued, and later rulers expanded the Islamic empire to its farthest extent. Cyprus, Tunisia, and Afghanistan were conquered, and in 691 the Mosque of Omar was built on Temple Mount in Jerusalem as a challenge to Jews and Christians. In 710 the eastern empire was extended to the Indus region in

India, and during the period of 705 to 715 Carthage was taken as well as all of northwestern Africa – Mauritania and Morocco. In 711 Muslim armies crossed the Straits of Gibraltar and began to invade Spain using Moorish Berber troops from North Africa, and by 716 southern Spain had been conquered. They continued their invasion of Europe and entered France but were defeated in 732 by Charles Martel at the Battle of Tours. Although stopped in France, the Muslims continued to threaten Europe by seizing territory in the Balkans and also in Italy. In 820 the Muslims invaded Sicily and moved into southern Italy; in 846 they attacked Rome and desecrated the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Eventually the spirit and the forces of jihad declined as Islam splintered into ethnic and quasi-religious groups that became competitive with and hostile to each other. The Umayyad (Sunni) Caliphate collapsed in 758, and the Abassid (Shiite) Caliphate became the chief Muslim power; the capital of the empire was moved from Damascus to Baghdad. Expansion slowed and Islamic societies became more focused on peace, rule, and prosperity. During the period of 660 to 950, while Europe was racked with instability and wars from the migrations of various barbarian groups, Islamic culture became the wealthiest and most highly developed civilization on earth, having conquered and taken over the wealth of many other societies. At this point they abandoned jihad to focus on ruling the kingdoms they had subjugated.

The Mahdi and the Destiny of Islam

As Muslims expanded from the small region they controlled at the death of Muhammad in 632, to the huge empire they conquered over the next hundred years, no one government was powerful enough to rule over all of this territory. The office of *caliph* or successor which originally had been occupied by one man considered to be the supreme head of Islam, became vacant, and since then no one has become sufficiently powerful and influential to unite the entire Muslim world. Contemporary rulers such as Saddam Hussein and Mumamar Quadaffi aspired to this but were not able to gain the credibility of all Muslim nations.

The Shiites believe that the twelfth-generation leader and descendant from Ali was taken to heaven by Allah or is in hiding on the earth. He is the *Mahdi*, the messiah who will supposedly one day return to the earth and make himself known.

The Crusades – European Response to Centuries of Muslim War and Aggression

Muslim rulers believed that their destiny was to rule the entire world. But this was not to be, as Europe, which had seemed to be weak and in decline, finally began to organize a counterattack. In 1095 after four hundred years of debilitating Islamic aggression and conquests in which Christian North Africa had been wiped out, Spain, Sicily, and southern Italy taken, France invaded, and eastern Europe continually threatened, Pope Urban II in Rome received a request from the Emperor in Constantinople asking for help against the Muslim Turks. Later that year the Pope convened the Council of Clermont in France, where he preached the sermon that was perhaps the most effective speech ever made in all of European history, a call for all Christian countries to unite against their common foe, the Muslims. Other popes and leaders had called for this in the past, but now the time was seemingly right, and Urban received a huge response. The earlier victory over the Moors in France had proved that Islam was vulnerable, and thousands

wanted to take up arms and smash the infidels who had killed and subjugated so many Christians and wreaked such havoc on Christendom. The strength of this passion in Europe is seen by the fact that the crusader fervor lasted for approximately one hundred and seventy-five years, in many fits and starts, from 1095 to 1271.

Another motive for crusading was that Europe at the time was an armed camp. Society had survived and recovered from the raids and movements of the Magyars, the Huns, the Vikings, the Visigoths, and others, and had developed a military mindset in order to survive. Having subdued outside forces, European nobles began to fight among themselves for supremacy. These conflicts, along with the associated raping and pillaging, had ruinous effects on the ordinary people. Religious movements sponsored by the church such as the Peace of God and the Truce of God had sprung up in an attempt to contain and limit the violence. The pope understood that a crusade would therefore be a way of directing these military energies at the Muslims, the true enemy of Christendom, and the general religious fervor of the times made this call irresistible to many. The first crusade was launched with the cry of *Deus le volt!* (God wills it!), the crusaders were given crosses to sew on their clothing, and they were promised indulgences and the remission of sins by the pope. Many nobles mortgaged and sold all that they had to raise the necessary funds for the journey and the fight.

But unlike the Muslim jihad that had spawned the crusades, this was not an attempt to conquer or re-take all of the Muslim lands; rather, it targeted only those areas which were considered to be part of European Christendom. Pope Urban tried to direct the crusader armies to help the Byzantine Emperor in Constantinople, but the goal that really seized the imagination of Europe was the liberation of Jerusalem and the restoration of the places associated with the birth and death of Christ. After Palestine had been conquered by Islamic forces during the rule of the Caliph Omar, Muslims had ignored it, and Jerusalem had become a backwater, but Christian pilgrims had still been allowed to visit the holy sites of the city. However, when the Turks took over they had forbidden Christian pilgrims from traveling to the holy places, and later ambushed and killed many of them, causing much anger and resentment. The crusade leaders understood that the land of Palestine was surrounded by a sea of Muslim-held territory, and that an effective conquest would require a long-term perspective, but most of the people involved did not have the patience for such a war. So, the focus came to be set on Jerusalem and wresting control of that city away from the infidels.

The crusades were also different from the Muslim jihad in another very significant way, in that Europe suffered from a serious deficiency which almost led to disaster in the first crusade and ultimately doomed all of the rest of them to failure: there was no central military and political leader who had the respect of everyone and who could command the obedience of all of the troops. Instead, the crusades were a series of popular movements consisting of smaller armies, each led by its own knight, duke or king, each with its own agenda, and who would often set out at their own times and in different directions.

A few of these crusader groups consisted not of armed soldiers but peasants, women, children, and older men who, like everyone else, had been caught up in a desire to undertake a great work for God. Unfortunately, this led to tragic waste of life such as happened with the People's Crusade of Peter the Hermit, which consisted of up to 100,000 people, most of whom were

poorly armed and unfit for traveling and fighting. Virtually all of participants in the People's Crusade were eventually massacred by the Turks. The so-called Children's Crusade of 1212 was even more ill-advised. It was led by a young man who had supposedly seen a vision and believed that the Mediterranean Sea would part for the journey to Palestine, and that the Muslims would throw down their arms and surrender when they got there. The participants in the Children's Crusade were disbursed and captured even before they were able to leave European territory.

The First Crusade and the Capture of Jerusalem

The first crusade was launched in 1096. The largest and most significant army was led by Raymond of Toulouse, who was considered to be the overall leader. Smaller armies were led by others, including Godfrey and Baldwin of Bouillon from Lorraine, who were descendants of the Merovingian kings.

The road taken by the crusader armies first led to Constantinople, the seat of the Roman Empire. The crusaders then ill-advisedly marched across the Anatolian plains of Turkey in the middle of the summer with small supplies of food and water; many men and horses died on the march. But they held on their course and reaching the southern edge of Turkey, they headed for Antioch on the coast.

Antioch had been one of the largest cities of the Roman Empire and was massively fortified; after a long discussion the crusade leaders decided on a siege and settled in for a long wait. However, that winter was particularly cold, and there was little food to be had because all of the nearby areas had been denuded; consequently hunger, starvation, and disease swept through the ranks. Then it was learned that Turkish Muslim troops from the east were marching to relieve Antioch; the crusaders grew desperate and many deserted and left for home. But one of the leaders managed to bribe a captain on the wall of the city to open the gate, and the crusader forces then quickly took the city. When the Muslim army arrived, they found Antioch in Christian hands, but the former besiegers now became the besieged, as the Turks surrounded the city. The situation became grimmer as there were even fewer food supplies inside the city. More of the crusaders attempted to desert, and those caught by the Turks were tortured, disemboweled, and beheaded outside the city to further demoralize the Christian forces.

But then a "miracle" occurred: one of their priests had a vision in which he was supposedly told the location of the Holy Lance, the implement which had been used to pierce the side of Christ. The priest led the crusaders to the site that had been revealed to him and they began to dig, but after digging for a day they had found nothing. Finally, when they were ready to give up, the priest himself jumped down in the hole, and after a few minutes of additional digging he pulled out a lance head. The crusaders attached a pole to the head and paraded the spear throughout the city. Morale improved dramatically; this was a clear sign that they would be victorious, and they immediately planned an attack against the besieging Turkish forces.

The Muslim army was made up of rival groups, and as the siege had worn on, they had begun to fight among themselves. When the crusader army came out of Antioch several days later and assembled against them, the Muslims were surprised at its size, and several of the Turkish groups

deserted and rode off. This caused a panic among the rest, allowing the crusaders to rout them and drive them away, resulting in a seemingly miraculous victory.

The march from Antioch to Jerusalem was fairly easy – the towns and cities were relatively small, and the inhabitants gave the crusaders supplies in return for peace. The crusaders finally reached Jerusalem in June 1099, and immediately tried to attack the city, but the attack was easily repulsed, as the fortifications of Jerusalem were even larger than those of Antioch. Then they received more bad news – in a replay of the potential disaster at Antioch, the Egyptians were raising an army to attack them before they could take Jerusalem, and if they could not capture the city they would be slaughtered outside of its walls.

Just then another miracle occurred: Genoese ships arrived at Jaffa carrying building materials, and crusaders were able to cart the materials to Jerusalem and build siege engines for storming the walls. The heat of the summer was intense, and they were in a desperate hurry to finish and attack before the Egyptians got there. But again they were quieted and motivated by the same priest who had found the lance in Antioch, and on 8 July 1099, the Muslim defenders of Jerusalem watched as the crusader army, now barefoot and dressed as pilgrims, walked around the city to the Mount of Olives where they listened to a sermon from one of their priests.

The actual attack began several days later as the siege engines were rolled up to the walls of Jerusalem. The battle was intense, but now that the crusaders were actually fighting for Jerusalem, they were ferocious. Godfrey's soldiers were the first to defeat the defenders arrayed against them, and they quickly entered and opened the city gates allowing the rest of the crusaders to pour in. They killed not only the Muslim soldiers defending the city but also women and children and did not even spare the Jews who had not participated in the fighting. This left an ugly stain that was long remembered by their Muslim adversaries. Nevertheless, the victory was hailed as one of the greatest in history, and it fired the imagination of thousands back in Europe when they heard how – against all odds – the struggling, fractious, and naïve crusaders had come thousands of miles and had retaken the City of David from the infidel.

The kingship of Jerusalem was first offered to Raymond of Toulouse who had been the most influential leader, but he initially refused, coyly indicating that he would not be king in the city of Christ. The kingship was then offered to Godfrey, whose soldiers had been the first to enter the city. He declined the title of king but accepted the rule of Jerusalem, taking the title “Defender of the Holy Sepulcher.” In time, Godfrey de Bouillon became the symbol of the age, the ideal knight whose deeds were immortalized in story and song. He was selected as one of the “Nine Worthies” who embodied the historic ideals of chivalry, and who also included Hector of Troy, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Joshua, David, Judas Maccabaeus, King Arthur, and Charlemagne. Thus, Godfrey de Bouillon, the possible descendant of Judas and Mary Magdalene and heir to the Merovingian and Carolingian dynasties, became the first Christian ruler of Jerusalem.

However, while the larger-than-life Godfrey was being celebrated in Europe, the real one was struggling to hold on to Jerusalem and the gains that the crusaders had made. After the victory of Jerusalem many of the crusaders considered their vows to have been fulfilled, and so they returned home, leaving the area dangerously undermanned. Godfrey himself died a year later and

his brother Baldwin took up the kingship of Jerusalem. He attempted to maintain and enlarge the precarious Christian hold on Palestine, and because the crusader position was always relatively weak, he and others continually called on the rest of Europe for support, resulting in the other crusades in subsequent years.

The crusades had a negligible effect on Islam as a whole, and the Muslim response to the crusader victories was initially quite muted. Muslim states eventually came to live at peace with the Christians, even forming alliances with them against other Muslim governments. This relative peace continued until the days of Saladin, the Arab war leader who was able to create a Muslim coalition and to renew the spirit of jihad. After being in Christian hands for eighty-eight years, Jerusalem was retaken by the forces of Saladin in 1187. It then remained in Muslim control until it was taken by the Jewish forces during the Six Day War of 1967.

Dossier on the Knights Templar

*Not unto us Lord, not unto us, but to thy name give glory.
~ The Templar Motto*

The First Crusade which resulted in the taking of Jerusalem in AD 1099 gave rise to a mysterious and arcane organization known as the Knights Templar. It was founded in Jerusalem some time during the period 1113-18, a few years after the European forces of the First Crusade took the city. The founding members were nine knights who dedicated themselves to the protection of Christian pilgrims making their way to the holy places in Palestine.

King Baldwin, the ruler of Jerusalem at that time, gave these men quarters under the temple mount in Jerusalem, and thus they were initially called “The Poor Knights of Christ of the Temple of Solomon” which was eventually shortened to “the Knights Templar,” the name by which they became known. Stories were later told that the knights performed excavations under the temple mount and they were said to have found documents, treasures, and perhaps even the Ark of the Covenant which had supposedly been hidden there by the Jews during their last stand against the Babylonians in 586 BC.

Virtually all of these knights were from the Champagne region of France, and were sponsored by Hugh, the Count of Champagne, and a powerful leader. He was intimately involved with the crusades, and was the liege lord of Hugues de Payen and Andre de Montbard, the first two Grand Masters of the Knights Templar. Count Hugh is said to have had a conclave concerning Jerusalem in 1104 in France and then traveled to the Holy Land, remaining there for several years. It was also said that the Count considered joining the Templars, but decided against it, and instead provided financial support by giving land to the Cistercian order of monks.

This initiated a series of interesting connections between Cistercians and the Templars, both of which were nascent monastic organizations in the early twelfth century but became exceedingly rich and influential.

Bernard of Clairvaux

Bernard de Fontaines, later known as St. Bernard of Clairvaux, the nephew of Andre de Montbard (who was later a Grand Master of the Templars), was a leader of the Cistercian order from a very young age. With funds from Hugh, the Count of Champagne, the Cistercians built a new monastery at Clairvaux in 1112, and Bernard, at the age of twenty-five, became its first abbot. Prior to 1112, the finances of the Cistercian order were very limited, but shortly thereafter the order expanded tremendously, and by the time of Bernard’s death, the Cistercians had become very wealthy and had 165 abbeys across Europe, many of which Bernard had personally established. In his later career Bernard became the most influential churchman of his time. Thus, there were many familial, spiritual, and political connections among the Templars, the Cistercians, and the Champagne region of France.

In its first years, the Knights were a tiny organization, declining in numbers from the nine knights who founded the order, and perhaps on the verge of dissolution. It is speculated that at

some point during the early years between 1118 and 1128, Huges de Payen, the first Templar Grand Master, wrote a letter to Bernard asking for support. Bernard had even then become influential in ecclesiastic circles, and also had blood relations to the Templar knight Andre de Montbard. Furthermore, Bernard's father had fought in the First Crusade, so Bernard agreed to help them. He wrote a document praising the Templars entitled, "In Praise of the New Knighthood," and he drew up the Templar rules of order, basing them on the same ordinances used for his Cistercian monks, but designed for fighters rather than clerics.

In 1128 the knights returned to Troyes, France, for a council sponsored and initiated by Bernard and held at the Cathedral of Troyes. Pope Innocent II was in Troyes at the time dealing with other issues, and Bernard, in a well-planned move, used the occasion to force the Pope's hand concerning the Templars. Innocent was indebted to Bernard for the latter's extensive help in securing the papal election of 1130, and the pope was also interested in maintaining good relations with the ruling house of Champagne to which Bernard was related. Innocent therefore designated the Knights Templar as a papal order, free from all taxation and secular control, and responsible only to the pope himself.

Thus, infused with new vision and papal support, the Templars returned to Jerusalem with a large contingent of new knights who had been inducted into the order. Over time the order received many gifts that were used to produce income to support their military operations in Palestine, and they came to see their main purpose as fighting for the overall Christian defense of the Holy Land.

Troyes, the provincial capital of Champagne, became the Templars' European headquarters, with Bernard as their European spokesman and cheerleader. As the "Pope Maker" Bernard became one of the most influential men of his time. He continually encouraged the support of the Templars, as well as the crusades in general as he traveled around Europe, thus giving rise to speculation that there were special deals made between the Templars and the Cistercians.

From the outset the Knights Templar were essentially monks who took vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, but were dedicated to military rather than to clerical pursuits. The Templars developed the reputation of being ferocious fighters, highly respected and feared by the Muslims, and in battle they wore a distinctive white tunic with the red Templar cross so that they would be easily recognized. Unlike the typical European army of that time, the Knights were highly disciplined and dedicated to total obedience to their leaders, and thus were able to maintain order and control even in the most difficult battle situations. They were never allowed to retreat unless allowed to do so by their leader, and then not unless the odds were greater than three to one against them. The Knights refused to ransom any member captured in battle; therefore, the Templars fought to the death. They were also highly organized, having developed a number of skirmishing techniques, such as the use of colored flags to direct troops in the heat and confusion of battle, and they trained their members in all aspects of warfare. Therefore, the Knights Templar were the most dependable, organized, and ferocious fighting force of the crusader era, and attracted many to be trained and to fight with them.

Despite Templar support, the Crusader Kingdom in Jerusalem was always on shaky ground because it was a small Christian kingdom surrounded and potentially threatened by much larger

Muslim nations. The crusader leaders continually called for more military support which eventually came (the second through the ninth crusades were all attempts to strengthen or retake Jerusalem). But all of these attempts were too little, too late, and too disorganized to have any serious impact.

In 1145 one of Bernard's former disciples became Pope Eugenius III. He was a rather weak man completely under the influence of Bernard. By this point over forty years had passed since the initial crusader victory, and Christian forces had suffered several setbacks, so under Bernard's direction, the Pope called for the Second Crusade to revive the flame of Christian sovereignty in the Holy Land. Unfortunately, the Second Crusade had the same leadership problems, rivalries, and betrayals as had the First Crusade, with the additional liability that the Turks were now aware of the Christian objectives and better prepared to resist. The Second Crusade was an unmitigated disaster; it resulted in the annihilation of the Christian armies sent to the Holy Land, and was over by 1149. Bernard, who was blamed for the outcome, spent his last days defending himself from the intense criticism that was heaped upon him. He died four years later in 1153.

However, the Order of the Knights Templar continued and became very wealthy. They established preceptories (strongholds) in Jerusalem, Antioch, England, Italy, Portugal, Hungary, and several in France, using the property that had been given to the order, but their purpose remained the maintenance of military forces in support of Christian rule in the Holy Land. Jerusalem was lost to the Muslims only a few decades later in 1187 and was never retaken despite a number of further crusades over the next one hundred years. Therefore, the Templars lost the purpose for their existence, but having reached a position of size and influence they turned their attention in other directions.

The Knights became the first international bankers of history. Using their preceptories as treasure houses, they invented the concept of paper money, almost by accident. In those days of poor roads, slow travel, hostile politics, and frequent highway robbers, it was very dangerous to carry treasure for long distances. By paying a fee to the Templars, a man from England, for example, could deposit gold in the London preceptory and be given a paper receipt in return (elaborately signed and sealed). Then he could travel to France, Italy, Portugal, or even Palestine, and get his gold back when he arrived at his destination. The receipts issued by the Templars were thus one of the first instances in world history where paper money was employed.

The Growth and Ultimate Demise of the Templars

The wealth of the Templars further increased as they were freed from the expense of maintaining an army in Palestine. Furthermore, they did not pay any interest or taxes on the gold put in deposit in their vaults, which was often left there for long periods of time, and which they would sometimes acquire if the note holder did not return to claim his or her property. They also maintained very high ethical standards (death was the penalty for embezzlement and several Templars were executed for stealing funds), so they came to be highly trusted.

The Templars thus had a large, expanding pool of funds that they used to make loans for huge profits. They expanded their landholdings which were free from taxation, and over time became extremely wealthy, powerful, secretive, and arrogant. This generated an increasing level of

resentment from the rulers in whose domains they operated, especially in France where most of their property was located.

In 1285 Philip IV le Bel (the Fair) became the king of France, but despite his good looks he was a cold, secretive, and power-hungry man who was jealous of the Templar wealth and landholdings. The royal treasury was bankrupt because of the many wars that the French kings had engaged in; the Templars had made loans to the government to finance these wars, and Philip therefore owed them substantial sums. In order to raise funds, Philip first expelled all of the Jews from France and seized their lands and assets. It is said that he had Jews arrested, blinded in one eye, and then threatened them with blindness in the other if they did not give him their treasures. He also targeted the Italian Lombards, confiscating all of the assets of their banking concerns. Philip is credited with becoming one of the first rulers to devalue the currency of his own country. By contrast, the Templars had set a standard price for gold and silver by weight, regardless of the country of origin, in an effort to enforce fair standards of exchange. But Philip had all of the gold and silver coins in France recalled and melted down for his use, and then introduced coinage of lesser purity and value, thereby causing a public outrage.

But these measures were not sufficient, and having exhausted other sources of wealth, Philip then went after the Knights Templar, who, having already made large loans to the king and being concerned with the crown's poor credit rating, had refused to give him any more loans.

At that time, the papacy had fled in fear from Rome and with French support, had set up its court in Avignon, France. The pontiff at the that time—Pope Clement V was essentially a lackey of the king, and one of the conditions of French defense of the Papacy was that Clement would submit to French royalty. Philip forced the pope to retract papal support of the Knights Templar and to formally disband the organization. On Friday, 13 October 1307, Philip had all of the Templars in France arrested and charged with sorcery and heresy (this date is the source of the notion that Friday the thirteenth is bad luck).

There is another possible reason that the knights were forsaken by the Papacy. Some of them apparently had become members or supporters of the Cathars, a Gnostic sect that was centered in southwestern France. The Cathars required their members to take up a life of poverty, and to abstain from meat and sex, which was in contrast to many in the French clergy at that time who were wealthy and debauched. The Catholic Church regarded the Cathars as heretics, so in 1209 Pope Innocent III had instigated the Albigensian Crusade in an effort to wipe them out. This crusade continued sporadically until its climax in 1244, when the Cathars made a last stand in their mountain fortress of Montsegur in the Pyrenees. There is a legend that several of their leaders escaped from Montsegur by climbing down the sheer face of the mountain at night with the treasures of the Cathars strapped to their backs. This supposedly occurred several weeks before the final assault when the remaining Cathars barricaded themselves in their stronghold at the top of the mountain and set fire to it, killing everyone. The purported treasures were said to have possibly included the Shroud of Turin and the Holy Grail.

King Philip IV was thus able to repudiate his debt to the Templars and seize their lands, but he found little treasure. The Templar leaders had brought a large amount of gold with them when they were called to come before Pope Clement, prior to their betrayal, and presumably that was

seized. But most of the Templar assets would have been invested in lands and estates, and these were also taken from them. It is said that some of the Templars were able to escape with their treasures, and a number of Templar ships were said to have left France in the days prior to that fateful Friday the thirteenth. They supposedly bore the Templar records and remaining treasure to Scotland, and perhaps elsewhere. It was rumored that some fled across the mountains from France into Switzerland and were perhaps instrumental in founding that country and in creating the Swiss banking business with its emphasis on secrecy.

It is told that the Templars who came to Scotland supported Robert the Bruce, King of the Scots, at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 when Scotland finally won its independence from England. In gratitude for their support, King Robert supposedly granted them safe haven in Scotland, and they became associated with various groups of freemasons, thus launching stories of historic connections between Freemasonry and the Knights Templar. Rosslyn Chapel near Edinburgh built by the St Clair family was said to be at times the repository of the Templar treasures; when America was founded several centuries later it was supposedly the Freemasons and Knights Templar who provided the leadership and the treasure to carry this through, as depicted in the movie *National Treasure*. However, that story has grown in the telling, and there is little or no documentary support for any significant Templar involvement in Scotland,

King Philip le Bel of France put captured members of the Templars on trial, and in 1314, Jacques de Molay, the Grand Master of the order, was burned at the stake along with the Master of Normandy, Geoffrey de Charney. It was said that de Molay cursed both Philip and Clement from the flames, and both the king and the pope died within the next year.

Even though the Templars were formally disbanded they still continued as a semi-secret society; Grand Masters were thereafter chosen in secret, and the organization has continued in various forms down to the present.

There are many mysteries associated with the Knights Templar. Perhaps the most significant is their purported discovery of treasure under the Temple of Solomon during their years in Jerusalem, as well as the story of the Cathar treasures being spirited away prior to the sack and ruin of Montsegur during the Albigensian Crusade. Tales tell of gold, silver, gems, documents, and perhaps even the Ark of the Covenant, the Shroud of Turin, and the Holy Grail being found and sent to a secret hiding place in Europe and even America for safekeeping and to help establish the Templar banking empire. Is the secret treasure of the Knights Templar hidden somewhere, only to be revealed at an opportune moment in the future?

Questions regarding the Knights Templar

Following are some of the questions asked about the Knights Templar, and answers from the author:

- Q:** Did the Templars actually discover any treasure under Solomon's Temple during their time there?

A: Probably not. Some think that treasure taken from the Temple was their seed capital, but the organization did not achieve any real power or wealth until after 1128 (the

number of knights had dwindled in the meantime), when Bernard of Clairvaux gained papal support for the order. The foundations of Templar wealth then came from donations of wealthy lords who also sent their sons to train and fight with the Templars, the elite fighting force of their day. No records of any physical treasure have ever been found. However, it is possible that the Templars discovered documents, which they kept and hid.

2. **Q:** Were the Templars involved with the Cathars during their last stand against the Albigensian Crusade at their mountaintop fortress of Montsegur in 1244? Did they help carry off any Cathar treasures, such as the Holy Grail?
A: A few of the Templars were Gnostic Cathars, but the vast majority were Catholic. The supposed escape from Montsegur by three Cathar men prior to the destruction of the fortress is a myth promoted by Otto Rahn, the twentieth century German mystic and Cathar enthusiast. Rahn's writing's were the inspiration of many current books on related topics, such as sacred geometry, Gnosticism, the Druids, the Holy Grail, the sacred feminine, and the movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Cathar historians and others, however, have debunked Rahn's ideas and demonstrated that they have no historical basis.
3. **Q:** Were the Templars involved in any forms of devil worship, such as with the head or image of Baphomet?
A: Probably not. The Templars were a Catholic monastic order, and there is no clear indication that any of them worshipped the devil or the head/image of a man. They were, however, accused of this by the French King because he wanted to prove that they were heretics, and thus worthy of death. Some Templars confessed to this, but the confessions were dubious, as they were obtained by torture. The Baphomet head may instead refer to John the Baptist, who was revered by some Templars.
4. **Q:** Did the Templars sail to Scotland from France with boatloads of treasure prior to the attack by the French King Philip le Bel?
A: There is no definitive record of this event, and no record of the Templars serving at the Battle of Bannockburn or being rewarded by Robert the Bruce. But after the Templars were wiped out in France, some survivors did make their way to Scotland. Escaping Templars undoubtedly grabbed all of the treasure they could, but most of their assets were in French land and buildings, as well as in the form of loans, all of which were lost to the king of France. However, there are a number of Scottish preceptories, and some early Templar graves have been discovered.
5. **Q:** Is there Templar treasure buried under Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland?
A: Rosslyn was built in the period 1446-86 by William St. Clair. Records are clear that he built and dedicated it as a Christian place of worship (i.e., it was not built for Masonic or Templar purposes). There are Masonic symbols in the chapel, but its connection with Templars is probably fictitious.
6. **Q:** Did the Templars found Switzerland?
A: Very likely they played a part. See the book *The Warriors and the Bankers*, by Alan Butler and Stephen Dafoe.

7. **Q:** Did the Templars sail to Oak Island in Nova Scotia and hide some of their treasure there?
A: This is one of the more ludicrous and imaginative Templar theories, with no historical basis whatsoever.
8. **Q:** Did Templars and Freemasons hide their treasure in America, as alleged in the movie *National Treasure*?
A: This is another romantic and fanciful theory with a dash of evidence, and a huge load of speculation. A number of the founders of America were Freemasons or had associations with Freemasonry, but there is no indication that any Templar treasure was brought to America and hidden there.
9. **Q:** Jacques de Molay, the Templar Grand Master who was burned at the stake—was it his image that appears on the Shroud of Turin?
A: No. See the essay *The True Holy Grail* on the web site www.unholygrail.net for more information on this and other aspects of the Templars and the Shroud.

Dossier on Iran

Iran is a country with a long and proud heritage as the home of the Persian Empire, but by the early 1900, it was more or less a backwater, a pawn of Britain and Russia. Then oil was discovered, and those two countries fought each other over oil rights; they used local political rivalries to keep Iran divided and weak. However, after World War I, an amazing man of energy rose from obscurity to become one of the greatest leaders that Persia had ever had – Reza Khan, who became Reza Shah Pahlavi the Great. Like Peter the Great in Russia and Kemal Ataturk in Turkey, Reza prodded into action his often backward and lazy country that had long been dominated by reactionary and semiliterate mullahs who studied the Quran and little else, but who nevertheless had long dictated policy for all aspects of government and society. Reza Shah had no patience for Islamic religious leaders; he installed a meritocracy, replaced the Islamic Sharia-based judicial system, improved the military, nationalized the oil fields, modernized economic and financial institutions, reformed education, and pioneered the emancipation of women. He even changed the country's name from "Persia" to "Iran" in 1935 as a symbol of its break with the past and his love of Germany; he admired the German ideals of racial supremacy (Iran means "Aryan" in Farsi). Reza Shah also lived very lavishly like an oriental potentate of the past and dealt harshly with dissent, setting a pattern for future rulers. These actions generated fierce opposition from the entrenched Islamic mullahs whom he had sidelined, but it was many years before they could stage a comeback.

Iran's two major foreign adversaries were Britain and Russia, and the Shah tried to distance himself from them by making Germany Iran's largest foreign trading partner. In the 1920s and 30s both adversaries became distracted with other issues, but unfortunately for the Shah, the growing power of Germany caused Britain and Russia to form an alliance. The allies were especially concerned about German access to Iranian oil, which was a necessary resource for the German *Wehrmacht*; therefore, they invaded Iran and deposed the Shah in 1941. For the sake of stability, however, they allowed his son, Mohammad Reza Shah, to rule in his place. Because the son was weaker and more vacillating than his father, other political groups, sensing vulnerability, moved to attack him. The Russian-backed communists tried unsuccessfully to assassinate him in 1949 which led him to form the Savak, an internal security and intelligence force similar to the KGB in Russia, that ruthlessly suppressed dissent. He also sought foreign support from the United States.

These actions further alienated the opposition, and for a short time in 1953 his prime minister, Mohammad Mosaddeq, seized power. The Shah immediately fled to America, but with the aid of the British MI5 and the American CIA, Mossadeq was overthrown and Reza Shah was put back on the throne. But the Shah's vulnerability, along with his liberal policies of emancipating women; allowing alcohol, gambling and pre-marital sex; and restricting the influence of Islamic clerics, eventually led to the Iranian revolution of 1979 in which he was deposed. The Islamic mullahs finally regained power. The leader of the Islamic opposition was the Ayatollah Khomeini who had long been a thorn in the Shah's side. The Shah had exiled him years before, but immediately prior to the revolution the Ayatollah moved to Paris where he was supported by the French government in the hopes of establishing a French presence in Iran and suppressing American and British influence.

Khomeini immediately reinstated Islamic Sharia law, took away most of the rights that had been granted to women, enforced strict dress codes, created a morality police, and continued the Shah's policy of harsh repression toward dissenters. In many ways the country returned to its pre-World War I ways of rule by mullahs, and this, in turn, generated much popular resentment from those who had been supporters of the Shahs and economic reform (Khomeini stated, "economics of for the donkey.") He died in 1989, and since then the country had been vacillating between secular and religious rule.

In 1997 Mohammad Khatami was elected president. He was a moderate who attempted to reach out to other countries and roll back some of the policies of Khomeini. But this proved hard to achieve because prior to his death, Khomeini had modified the Iranian constitution to create the offices of a Supreme Leader and a Guardian Council. These positions are by law reserved for Islamic clerics, who were thus assigned many of the powers that in other countries would normally be vested in elected officials. Therefore, Khatami clashed repeatedly with the Iranian clerics, and was not able to achieve many of the reforms he sought.

In 2005, after most of the other candidates for office were disqualified by the Guardian Council, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, an Islamic militant and the former mayor of Tehran, was elected president. Ahmadinejad was the hand-picked candidate of the Iran's Supreme Leader and has made many hostile statements about the immanent destruction of Israel. He has also who has pushed nuclear development and has cultivated a close relationship with Russia.

Dossier on Iraq

Like Iran, the modern nation of Iraq was an unfortunate creation of the British who drew the borders of the country after World War I without listening to their Arab expert, Lawrence of Arabia, who was the European with the greatest insight into the Arab mind of his time. Similar mistakes were made in the African nations of Uganda and Rwanda, whose borders were drawn to include several tribes who were hereditary enemies of each other, and who then engaged in vicious wars for supremacy and the control of the government and the capital city. Iraq contains three distinct ethnic regions: the Kurds in the north, the Sunni Muslims in the middle, and the Shiite Muslims in the south, all of whom are at odds with each other. Like Iran, the country has had a long and proud history as the cradle of civilization going all the way back to Nimrod and the Babylonian Empire, but in modern times had become a pawn of other nations.

After World War I the country was ruled by a succession of minor dictators until Ahmed Hassan Al-Bakr and Saddam Hussein brought the Ba'ath Socialist Party to power in 1968 by overthrowing the existing government. Saddam eventually sidelined Al-Bakr and became the dictator of the country after Bakr's death (it was rumored that Saddam poisoned him). Saddam immediately began to consolidate his power through harsh and ruthless repression of opponents as well as socializing the economy to exert governmental control over all of its disparate parts.

After the Iranian Revolution of 1979 which brought Ayatollah Khomeini to power in that country, tensions between Iraq and Iran escalated dramatically. Saddam was Islamic only when it suited him – he and Khomeini hated each other. Ever the belligerent opportunist, Saddam believed that Iran would be weak and disorganized following Khomeini's coup, so he immediately launched a series of attacks to take over the Iranian oil fields near the border. Iran retaliated, and the result was an eight-year war of total stupidity with huge losses on both sides. Almost two million soldiers died in the conflict which ended in a stalemate. The economies of both countries were devastated, and Iraq was saddled with \$75 billion in foreign debt.

Saddam then compounded his errors by attempting to recoup his fortunes with the invasion of Kuwait in 1991 to seize their financial and petroleum assets. He had always viewed Kuwait as an illegitimate state, created for the convenience of the British. But Kuwait and the non-Arab world did not see it that way. This led to the Gulf War of 1991 in which Iraqi forces were quickly routed by the Desert Storm coalition which defeated Saddam but did not remove him from power.

The Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south, seeing their chance, revolted against the Sunni Ba'athists, but they were crushed by Saddam's forces, who among other atrocities, used biological weapons against them.

The coalition responded by imposing a no-fly zone over northern and southern Iraq, as well as economic sanctions against the sale of Iraqi oil. The sanctions resulted in widespread Iraqi hardship, and hyperinflation set in which reduced the value of the Iraqi dinar almost to the level of toilet paper. Therefore, the oil-for-food program was launched by the UN in an attempt to ameliorate the suffering of the Iraqi people. This program became a source of billions in

corruption until the Iraq war of 2003 destroyed the Ba'ath party and toppled Saddam's government.

Dossier on Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is a harsh land with a relatively small population. The country can be roughly divided into four regions – the Hijaz, consisting of a strip of land in the west running along the Red Sea from north to south and containing the holy cities of Mecca and Medinah; the land of Najd, consisting of the central portion where Riyadh is located; the eastern oil-producing region along the Persian Gulf; and the Empty Quarter, consisting of the southern desert along the somewhat undefined border with Yemen and Oman.

Since the days of Lawrence of Arabia, Saudi Arabia was thought of by westerners as being similar to the American wild-west – a country of gunslingers where the toughest gang seized control. To a large degree that picture was accurate, as the Arabian Peninsula had long been ruled by semi-nomadic Bedouin tribes who fought each other for dominance. Those who are unfamiliar with Arabian history are often surprised to learn that despite the ancient civilizations all around it, the current Kingdom, named after the tribe who finally conquered all of Arabia, is very young and did not fully come into existence until 1932.

Even more surprising is that the country’s history is intimately associated with Wahhabism, the “purest” and most intolerant of all of the sects of Islam. In the eighteenth century an influential Muslim cleric named Ibn Abd Al-Wahab had taught that a return to the pure teachings of the Prophet in the Quran was necessary for all of Islamic society. He came from Medinah, and due to his condemnation of some of the local rulers, he became unpopular there, so for protection he moved to Najd and aligned himself with Muhammad bin Saud, the leader of the House of Saud, one of the Arabian tribal groups and the ruler of the area around Riyadh.

Saud was intrigued by the notion of purifying the entire Arabian Peninsula and bringing it entirely under his control, and the two of them made plans to do so; Al-Wahab gave his daughter to Saud’s son as a wife to cement their alliance. Al-Wahab became the founder of Wahhabism, a small Saudi Arabian branch of Islam that called for a militant jihad against all impure versions of the faith (i.e., those that were not Wahhabist), particularly the Sufis and the Shiites, as well as against all non-Muslims.

Thus, like Muhammad himself, bin Saud cleverly used religion in order to seize control and maintain power, and in 1744 he established what became known as the First Saudi State in a small region around Riyadh, which at the time was a mere oasis in the desert. His son later conquered more of the surrounding tribes, taking the title the “Sultan of Najd,” and in the early 1800s, his grandson went even further, seizing the Hijaz and capturing the holy cities of Mecca and Medinah in eastern Saudi Arabia. Like today’s Taliban in Afghanistan, the Saud family also carried out Wahhabi-inspired campaigns in Iraq to destroy Shiite shrines in Karbala and Najaf in order to “purify” those cities.

However, those aggressive actions brought the Saudis to the attention of the Ottoman Empire which considered them to be simply one more band of pesky desert rebels. Troops from Egypt were sent in, the Hijaz was retaken, and eventually Riyadh and all of Najd fell to the Ottoman Empire by 1818. The House of Saud was crushed, and the land was then ruled by the Ottomans under the House of Rashid, the most formidable of the competitors to the Saud tribe.

But the Saud line continued in exile, and in 1902 Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud, who still called himself “The Sultan of Najd,” retook the Fortress of Masak in Riyadh with only twenty men – hence the comparison of the Riyadh fortress to the Alamo in Texas. Over the next ten years he fought a series of inconclusive battles with the Rashidis until World War I. The British, who were the enemies of the Ottoman Empire, supplied Ibn Saud with cash and weapons. Ottoman support for the House of Rashid ceased as their empire was dismantled in the aftermath of WWI, and Ibn Saud, assisted by the British, conquered all of Najd by 1922. In 1925 he retook the Hijaz, including both Mecca and Medinah.

For centuries the holy sites in Mecca had been administered by the Hashemite dynasty of Jordan, but Ibn Saud declared that from that point on Mecca and Medinah would be under the suzerainty of the House of Saud. By 1932, Ibn Saud had finally subjugated all other tribes on the Arabian Peninsula. He then renamed the combined lands of Najd and the Hijaz as “The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia” after his tribal name and proclaimed himself as the king. The Royal Family of the House of Saud grew from there. Ibn Saud had many wives and concubines and a large number of children, somewhere between fifty and two hundred.

Saudi Arabia was mostly desert and therefore poor and undeveloped until oil was discovered in 1933; later it was determined that the country had the largest oil reserves in the world. Through the influence of the British agent John Philby, Ibn Saud formed a partnership with Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company. This partnership became the largest joint venture in history, bringing immense wealth to the Kingdom, and eventually resulting in gargantuan construction projects in the 1970s and 1980s which transformed Riyadh, the Saudi capital, from a small backwater town into a major metropolis.

The huge inflow of dollars brought many other benefits to Saudi society – all of the basic services such as education and health care are provided free by the government and there is no taxation. But the political system was still an absolute dictatorship run by the Saud family, and the increased wealth also introduced new tensions. Wahhabists began to turn against the Saud family that had brought them to prominence. They claimed that the House of Saud had become a bunch of playboys corrupted by the West and should therefore be swept away and replaced by clerics, such as the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran. The cautious Saudi rulers adopted a stick-and-carrot philosophy, repressing dissent, but also co-opting the Wahhabists by giving billions to their cause and imposing the Wahhabi version of Sharia fundamentalist Islamic law on their country and exporting it to the rest of the world.

Thus Wahhabism, an obscure and extreme sect of Islam, also become the wealthiest one. Wahhabi leaders used the billions of dollars at their disposal to promote their sect of Islam on a global scale by building mosques and madrasses (religious schools) all over the world, including in Europe and America. Wahhabists established the Taliban in Afghanistan and funded militant Muslim groups in Palestine, Africa and elsewhere, exhorting them to jihad and providing money and weapons to overthrow the existing governments and to impose strict Islamic rule. A number of African wars, such as the genocide in Sudan, were Wahhabi investments in action, and Saudi Arabians were especially active in funding Yassir Arafat and the PLO.

The term “Wahhabism” has become increasingly associated with “Islamic terrorism” throughout the world by the actions of Usama bin Laden and others. This is not completely accurate, as Usama was actually a follower of Sayyid Qutb, a radical Egyptian ideologue who was executed by President Nassar in 1966. Qutb taught that to be totally pure, Muslims must not only withdraw from modern society, but fight it to the death. “Qutbism” was thus one of the well-springs of the culture of hate embraced by Wabbists and Muslims from other Islamic sects. Qutbists dedicated their lives to jihad and martyrdom and tried to inspire the Islamic world with the degree of their devotion to Allah.

The main customer for Saudi oil is the United States, and the association of the term “Wabbabism” with Muslim terrorism became an embarrassment to the Saudi government. Saudi rulers have thus downplayed their Wahhabi roots and have tried to substitute the word “Salafi” instead (Salaf is a term referring to the Prophet Muhammad), emphasizing their connections to mainstream Sunni Islam. But regardless of the name, an uneasy partnership of Saudi petrodollars and Muslim terrorism has been created.

Dossier on France and Eurabia

If it were not for the government, we should have nothing to laugh at in France.

~ Nicolas de Chamfort

Freedom does not always win. This is one of the bitterest lessons of history.

~ A.J.P. Taylor, author

Religious and Moral Base of France

The heart and soul of all peoples lies in the religious and moral milieu of society. France lost its soul in the French Revolution of 1789 and has never fully regained it. For centuries since the time of Pepin and Charlemagne in the 800s, the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in France had been in bed with the kings and politicians, and many in the upper echelons of the church grew wealthy, powerful, self-satisfied, and unconcerned with the spiritual needs of the people. Payback finally came during the Revolution when many of the hierarchy literally lost their heads to the guillotine in the terror and confusion that followed. All church property was nationalized, and France officially turned its back on religion and became a secular state. From that time on the government switched continuously from monarchy, to republic, to oligarchy, and finally back to a republic dominated by left-wing socialists, but all the while retaining its anti-religious bias.

French Political Leaders

Along with political instability, the French national pride had taken a number of serious blows since that time, especially the humiliating defeats and occupations of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 as well as World Wars I and II. The fact the America had emerged victorious from both World Wars as well as the cold war standoff with Russia, and had become the single remaining world superpower, was especially galling to French political leaders, who have long been famous for their pomposity and their hissy fits. Charles De Gaulle, who said, “I am France,” and “when I want to know what France thinks, I ask myself,” was for many was the personification of French arrogance. De Gaulle had this to say about his own people: “I have tried to lift France out of the mud. But she will return to her errors and vomitings. I cannot prevent the French from being French.”

François Mitterrand was another top politician who was obsessed with his place in history. After he was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer and given only a short time to live, he traveled to Egypt to “commune with the Pharaohs.” There he ate his famous last meal, which consisted of a small yellow-throated songbird called the ortolan, which is said to embody the soul of France. Ortolan is a delicacy, but it is illegal to eat in France because it is an endangered species. The bird’s head is first bitten off and discarded, and the rest of the bird is eaten in one mouthful, bones and all. Mitterrand, who was in very poor health, refused further food and died eight days later.

The French political scene is dominated by énarques who are graduates of the most exclusive French school of all, the ENA – École Nationale d’Administration. This school was established

by De Gaulle and intended for the scions of the upper crust, the sons of the existing French political and business leaders, who in turn will become the future leaders of France. Énarques are more-or-less “made men,” an informal club that works together to perpetuate its own power and defend its members, creating a culture of political cronyism at the top of French society. Énarque credentials are an unspoken requirement for high political office, and high French énarque officials return the favor by viciously defending French interests. French negotiators are notorious for their one-sided view of issues and their tenaciousness in pursuing policies to benefit their parochial interests. Like French poodles grabbing and holding on to pant legs, they continue to gnaw on the ankles of others until they finally get their way.

In the lead-up to World War II the French had touted the impregnability of their Maginot line, the defensive shield supposedly protecting them from Germany. But in 1940 the German *Wehrmacht* simply went around it and the entire country of France collapsed within a month, almost without a fight. Charles De Gaulle was the only French general to have attempted a counterattack during the German offensive and it was easily crushed by the Germans. The French people went through paroxysms of self-flagellation and doubt, hating their own weakness and ashamed of how the Germans had simply walked in and taken over. But at the same time, they were greatly afraid of a military conflict like World War I in which an entire generation of young Frenchmen had perished in the trenches of Verdun.

When this period of French history was studied, the French armistice records were sealed and a pall of silence had been cast on the subject, until Robert Paxton’s 1972 book *Vichy France* opened the floodgates. This book revealed that rather than promoting the resistance and opposing the German invaders, the wartime government of France had instead opposed the allies and attempted to make long-term deals with Hitler, with the goal being the joint Franco-German rule of Europe and expanding the French colonial empire at the expense of Britain. At the time the Germans were fixated on their own power and ignored these French initiatives, and it was not until after the war that the EU was formed with a Franco-German empire in mind. But this vision remained as the goal of the Vichy government until Hitler’s downfall in 1945. Therefore, despite Hitler’s duplicity and brutality, the Vichyites preferred an arrangement with the Germans and dreaded the prospect of an American invasion and victory. De Gaulle had to flee to England for his life, as Vichy collaborators condemned him to death; the Vichy leaders switched sides only when it became obvious that the Third Reich would collapse.

A number of ugly facts were also revealed about the Vichy government, such as the anti-Semitic laws which were enacted even before the Germans asked them to do so, and that seventy-five thousand French Jews, including women and children, were rounded up and shipped off to German death camps, not by German soldiers, but by the French police, some of whom then grabbed their real-estate and other assets. Other embarrassments included the fact that the last group of defenders of the German Reichstag from Soviet troops included French soldiers who, encouraged by the Vichy government, had volunteered to join the German SS. At the end of the war De Gaulle pardoned and promoted many former Vichy partisans. The latter survived and prospered in post-war France, and included men such as François Mitterand, the former president of France, and Hubert Beuve-Méry, the founder of *Le Monde*, France’s largest daily paper.

The French communists who supported De Gaulle after the war were also some of the strongest supporters of Lenin, Stalin, and the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 in Russia. Like others in the Vichy government, they had also been pro-Nazi until Hitler betrayed them by betraying Stalin and invading Russia, which to them was the communist Garden of Eden. Many French communists continued to believe that Russia was a worker's paradise even after Nikita Khrushchev's incredible mea culpa of 1958 in which he revealed that life under Stalin had been absolute hell, and that the leader of world communism had been a murderer who had tortured and killed millions of his own people, and in the process had created a huge web of gulags and secret police in an effort to communize and control the entire population. French media personalities such as the actor Yves Montand and the philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, another Vichy partisan who switched sides at the last moment, instead marched in the streets, supported the Soviet "peace efforts" of the 1950s and condemned America. Concerning communist China, Sartre also asserted that "Mao's revolutionary violence was... profoundly moral," revealing how little the French communists truly understood the real Mao Tse-tung, who was a ruthless and vicious mass murderer as a military man, and later an unfeeling tyrant and sexual tyrannosaurus who infected many girls with the venereal diseases he was carrying. European communists completely ignored the stories of Mao's insane cruelty where his victims were hauled through the streets to their execution with rusty wires through their testicles; stomachs were slit open and their hearts scooped out; babies were grabbed and torn apart at the limbs and thrown into wells; and women had teeth pulled out by pliers, noses and ears were twisted off, and then were hacked to death. Alexander Adler an author and former member of the French Communist Youth League recalled, "They would not, could not believe that Stalin and Mao had committed such crimes." Like the Arab denial of the Holocaust, many French communists stubbornly believed that it was actually Russia who had won World War II, and not America.

An intense struggle for political control ensued after the war between the forces of the left and right, with much of the French public simultaneously fearful of and apathetic to the outcome. The French response to the American invasion in Normandy was therefore conflicted and half-hearted. Reminders of the huge US D-Day losses generated feelings of thankfulness as well as guilt, and the ultimate American victory over Germany caused joy as well as resentment. Many of the common people felt and still feel a great debt of gratitude to the American and British forces, especially those who live in the Normandy region of France, but that feeling was not shared by those in power.

Language and Culture

France's long history of European domination where the French language had been the international tongue of diplomacy, and French food, clothing, perfumes, and culture were often the envy of the world, had led to a legendary national arrogance in which the French considered their language and culture to be superior to everyone else. Therefore, the fact that the English language has replaced French as the world's lingua franca was another serious blow to French pride – even the term "lingua franca" is an acknowledgement that French was once considered to be the general tongue. What was even harder for the French to swallow was that the language which replaced theirs in world significance was that of the England, France's long-time enemy and hated rival, as well as the upstart country of America, England's protégé. Through the Académie Française, the quasi-governmental group dedicated to maintaining the purity of the

French tongue, the French have attempted to create native language equivalents for every English word and phrase, for example, replacing the word “software” with “logiciel”. But despite those efforts, the international use of French is on the decline, and English is now the global requirement for educated people and necessary for many activities and occupations. In an act of ultimate sacrilege, even the EU Parliament proceedings in Strasbourg are done in English.

Anti-Americanism

In the current age of fast travel and instant communications, the common people of America and Europe have intermingled and enjoy each other’s culture. But life is different at the top, and while American politicians generally ignore the French, their counterparts in France despise America. Like the intense all-consuming Arab hatred of the Jews, French politicians have increasingly defined themselves in negative terms – what they are against instead of what they are for. They are against America and everything that America stands for, especially free enterprise and religious liberty. François Mitterand, the former French President, said,

France [i.e., the general French populace] does not know it, but we are at war with America. Yes, a permanent war, a vital war, a war without death. Yes, they are hard, the Americans, they are voracious, and they want undivided power over the world.

French foreign policy, typically obsessed with its own status, has therefore largely come to be based on a knee-jerk anti-Americanism. As Lionel Jospin, a former French prime minister said, “If French is no longer the language of a power, it can be the language of a counter power.” France is aggravated by American success and irritated that Americans ignore them. But at heart the French are conservative and secretly admire America, and their disdain for it is thus driven primarily by the deep emotions of envy and jealousy.

Alain Duchamps, an academic, writes, “We cannot understand why the Americans succeed and have such strength, while we with our moral high ground and intellectual traditions become weaker and weaker and less important to the rest of the world,” thus making a huge assumption that France actually has any moral high ground from which to issue its criticisms.

Dominique Moisi, the historian says, “It is schizophrenic – how could a country of such great culture like France fall so madly in love with American culture? The combination of love and hate is because the US represents a mirror for the French. It is both our dream and our nightmare.”

Jean-Francois Revel, a wartime Resistance hero and member of the Académie Française says in his book, *The Anti-American Obsession*, that the French, “sweepingly condemn American society, branding it as practically the worst association of human beings that history has ever seen,” and that their condemnation is based on “sheer ignorance and/or sheer determination to ignore the facts.”

This anti-American mindset is continually trumpeted and nurtured by the French press, which unlike virtually every other free country in the Western world, is subsidized by and thus beholden to the French government. Not surprisingly, French papers are largely ignored and

considered to be irrelevant because they are essentially sycophantic lackeys for French politicians, similar to how the major American TV networks (ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN) have become advocates and shills for the democrat party. The total readership of the largest French national dailies such as *Le Monde*, *Libération*, and *Le Figaro* is only around one percent of the French population, and the main readers are the politicians inside the Ile de France, the French equivalent of the American phrase “inside the beltway,” who are continually looking for validation of their own biases. One of the favorite Americans in France, especially in French government and media circles, is Michael Moore, the leftist filmmaker.

This intense negative bias is, however, usually concealed during moments of world press exposure by gaseous phrases that are spoken with a straight face, such as “France is America’s oldest ally,” or the front-page headline from *Le Monde* following the 9/11 attacks – “We are all Americans.” In order to understand such comments and fit them into context, it is helpful to hear the words of a French media executive: “France is a country of compromise. It has become the basis of this culture. Saying one thing while doing another is a way of life here. Cynical behavior is seen as chic. To be called a cynic is to be given a compliment.”

Culture of Cynicism and Hypocrisy

Evidence of French cynicism abounds, and France has always believed that it can exempt itself from rules it tries to force on others. French environmentalists rant about American nuclear waste but say little about the fact that unlike America and every other western country, France produces virtually all of its electricity from nuclear reactors. While much of the rest of the Western world is trying to move away from nuclear power, France has announced its intention to build even more nuclear plants. Even more blatant is French criticism regarding the Kyoto Treaty on greenhouse gases. America did not have any problems with the spirit of the treaty, but rather with the penalties in the fine print, which essentially made the document a bald attempt to use environmentalism to extract huge amounts of cash from the US and transfer it to third world countries. However, most French cars and trucks run on diesel fuel (called “gasol” in France), which is much more dangerous and polluting than gasoline, and with the largest population of diesel vehicles in Europe, France would never be able to live within its own emission limits if the treaty was ever implemented. Diesel pollution is killing people in France, but it is cheaper than gas, and therefore it is the fuel of choice. Even so it costs over twice as much as gasoline in the US due to exorbitant French taxes.

However, the whopper of French hypocrisy was their accusations against America concerning the 2004 war in Iraq. The destruction of Saddam Hussein and the Ba’athist party may very well have been a huge American mistake by President Bush, as Saddam’s purported weapons of mass destruction turned out to be largely desires in his own mind, and/or they were removed to Syria before they could be found. Iraqis are responsible for their own country and government, and Iraq was therefore not worthy of the American blood and money shed there. Furthermore, US efforts to create an Iraqi democracy fly in the face of the general Islamic desire for a theocratic dictatorship. Virtually every country in the Arab/Muslim world is a dictatorship with all of the associated problems of corruption, poverty, and a down-trodden populace, and many of the political forces in Iraq seek a return to that type of government.

But French animosity toward American objectives was not due to them suddenly getting religion and being concerned for the Iraqi people. In contrast to Jacques Chirac's moralistic UN stance, France had long been prostituting itself with Saddam and his sons Uday and Qusai, and for years French leaders had propped up the Ba'athist party and ignored Saddam's brutality. The French government was always involved in major contracts between French companies and foreign governments, and government officials and their political parties typically got a cut of all of the action. A number of prominent politicians had fed from the Iraqi oil trough, including Jacques Chirac, for whom Saddam was a frequent house guest. Chirac came to power and stayed in power by means of payments and kickbacks made to him and his party by Iraq, which allowed him to buy votes and dominate elections. France was the country that continually sold weapons to Iraq, as well as the nuclear reactors that Saddam was attempting to use to create weapons-grade plutonium before they were destroyed by Israel. Virtually the entire arsenal of military weapons that Saddam used against Iran, Kuwait, and his own people were supplied by France. For example, the planes used to spray and kill the Kurds with various biological weapons were all Mirage jets from the Dassault Corporation that had been fitted with aerosol sprayers. The French military industry, including firms such as Dassault and Thompson CSF, actually produced more weaponry for Iraq than they did for domestic consumption and other export nations combined. At some points during their relationship with Saddam, an amazing figure of over sixty percent of French military production went to Iraq. When America took Saddam apart, first in the Gulf war and finally in the 2003 invasion, they destroyed those weapons as if they were toys, and this was a huge embarrassment for France and for the French military firms who had built them.

France was also the main oil dealer for Iraq, and the country's international debt to France was in the billions – all this would potentially be lost if America invaded and the Ba'athist regime was ousted. French intransigence at the UN and their shrill cries of "American unilateralism!" were therefore simply mercenary efforts intended to protect their investment and stop the gravy train from ending, combined with their fear that America would gain even more world influence and prominence at French expense. Memos found in Iraq after the war showed that France had been betraying the US by sending secret information about American actions to the Iraqi government. In regard to French demands that America seek UN approval for action against Iraq, France has repeatedly sent troops to Chad, Congo, and other African nations when French interests were threatened, and did not bother to even inform the UN of its actions.

Colonies and International Involvement

Once the nature of France's colonial involvement is understood, the colossal hypocrisy of their statements about American policy and their lack of any moral high ground whatsoever becomes readily apparent. The history of French involvement in Iraq was not an aberration – it was instead typical of the way French leaders had dealt with all of their foreign interests. Richard Perle sums this up as follows: "Few governments in the world praise human rights more ardently than does the government of France, and few have a worse record of supporting tyrants and killers."

France always considered its African colonies, when it had them, as a *vache* – a cow to be milked – a source of slave labor and cheap resources. The French Foreign Legion created an

African empire for France that was administered by back room deals with local dictators or strongmen, similar to the way in which Chirac later dealt with Saddam in Iraq. Elf Aquitaine, the oil company created by Charles De Gaulle, was the designated corporate representative for France in Africa. They were involved in both legitimate business as well as corruption and served the French government in a number of ways: negotiating deals for oil, uranium, and other resources; gathering intelligence; serving as bagmen for political payoffs; laundering money; gun running; and getting the Foreign Legion involved if the dictators and strongmen that they dealt with became too uppity or decided that they wanted to change their business arrangements. Elf was kept on a short leash and the actions of the company were for the most part controlled by the French government through a coterie of quasi-official politicians such as Jacques Foccart, Charles Pasqua, and others who worked for De Gaulle and later French presidents. Elf eventually became involved so deeply in corruption and payoffs to so many countries and competing politicians that it led to resentments, backstabbing, betrayal, and eventually public revelation of a small portion of its filthy and disgusting laundry.

Thus, France did not display even a pretence of interest in the residents of its colonial empire. Instead it used corrupt deals backed by military force to keep the existing regimes in power in order to maintain the flow of resources. This occurred in many African countries such as Rwanda, Gabon, Togo, Cameroon, Congo, Angola, Cote-d'Ivoire, and the Central African Republic, and one of the reasons why Africa has been kept poor and dependent has been and continues to be French intrusiveness. France's incestuous relationships with Africa became known as "Françafrique" – "friq" is French slang for "cash". Johnathan Fenby in his book *On the Brink*, wrote:

For decades France backed its favored dictators with 8,000 troops stationed across the continent and an equal number on standby at home. In all the French have intervened on more than two dozen occasions since the 1960s to put down rebellions and mutinies, to prop up French friends, and to perpetuate what the *Wall Street Journal* dubbed a "virtual empire." ... At the height of the Rwandan tragedy, France helped to supply weapons to the Hutus [they are French-speaking], who came to be known by the French term of *les génocidaires*, and sent in troops to provide a safe haven for the killers [their targets were the Tutsi people who are English-speaking]... Some years later, *Le Figaro* quoted Mitterand as having said that, "in countries like Rwanda, genocide wasn't such a big deal."

Meanwhile the UN's own commander in Rwanda, General Roméo Dallaire, noted that "there would have been much more of an outcry if people had shot 800,000 mountain gorillas than 800,000 humans." Other reports indicated that the French actually trained the Hutu killing squads themselves, and then pressured the EU to provide \$300 million in funding to establish a large African army in order to "maintain peace." Much of this money would then be used to buy weapons and military expertise from France, providing additional sources of graft for French politicians and their military industry.

The country of Cote-d'Ivoire was handled in typical French style. French traders first came in the 1840s and began a conquest of the interior which was only accomplished after a long war over a series of decades. Their goal was to develop export crops – coffee, cocoa, and palm oil, and they enacted a forced slave-labor system to cultivate the land. But France gradually changed their

tactics as independence movements swept Africa. When the country became independent in 1960, France did deals with Houphouet-Boigny, the first president, and helped to prop up his government in return for export concessions. Houphouet-Boigny became the absolute dictator of the country with the assistance of French troops.

In 1965 Jean-Bédél Bokassa, a former sergeant in the French colonial army, became the dictator of the Central African Republic, an impoverished country in the middle of Africa. With the active assistance of the French government he ruled the country with an iron fist for fourteen years, periodically welcoming French politicians and entertaining them, and providing large amounts of uranium for French nuclear reactors. Bokassa drained the country's meager treasury, transferred its assets to private Swiss bank accounts in his own name, and spent millions to stage a huge coronation at which he proclaimed himself emperor. He paid for this largely with IMF loans granted by the French IMF director Michael Camdessus. Like Idi Amin in Uganda, Bokassa became an insane sadist who murdered and dismembered political opponents and other people he did not like, as well as their children. He eventually became so corrupted and cruel that the population revolved, and France had to disown him. When he was deposed and overthrown, his palace refrigerators were found to still be packed with the body parts of his former enemies who he would periodically eat, and he was later accused of cannibalism. But despite this the French Legion put his cousin David Dacko into power, and Bokassa and his family, 17 wives and 50 children, were granted political asylum in France when he was forced to flee for his life.

In Gabon the French have had a long history of intrusion dating back to De Gaulle and his African bagman Jacques Foccart. Omar Bongo, the President of Gabon came to power in a 1967 coup in which French military forces helped him depose the prior president. Bongo is the longest-serving leader in Africa, and has been supported by French influence all along, winning several sham elections in order to stay in power. Elf Aquitaine had a protected monopoly on Gabonese oil production.

The 1997-98 civil war in Congo-Brazzaville is one of the clearest demonstrations of the naked greed that has characterized French actions in Africa. An election had overturned the rule of the French-supported strongman Denis Sassou-Nguesso and replaced him with Pascal Lissouba. What motivated France to ignore the will of the people in this African country, and to help usher in a civil war that killed thousands of Congolese and impoverished the survivors? Lissouba, seeking to distance himself from the domination of France, had offered oil-drilling contracts to Exxon instead of Elf Aquitaine, which threatened Elf's oil monopoly. With French military assistance, Sassou-Nguesso began a war that ousted Lissouba and returned the country to a military dictatorship. This war was ignored by the press even though it resulted in the death of 10,000 people, and another 800,000 were forced to flee their homes.

The French incursions in Vietnam and elsewhere in Southeast Asia were undertaken for similar reasons as in Africa, and then given over to America when they became too difficult and expensive to handle. This is the French legacy of international involvement.

Economics

Economically, France has descended into a morass of debt, welfare handouts, government micromanagement, and socialistic laziness. Most French workers have five to eight weeks of vacation each year plus holidays, and on top of this the workweek has been reduced to thirty-five hours, resulting in very low worker productivity. One of the recent bestsellers in France was *Bonjour Paresse*, or “Hello Laziness.” Virtually the entire country takes off the month of August, and it has become almost impossible to get anything repaired during that time. The problem became so serious that it reached the national level, and the French president declared that companies and workers needed to split their vacations between July and August. The result was that now people cannot get anything repaired in July either.

Even during the rest of the year, getting service in France can be difficult. A woman had purchased a brand-new French-made car, only to run into problems with the car’s starter – sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn’t. The authorized garage refused to even look at it, and the mechanic explained that the warranty only covered the starter in the event of a “full breakdown,” not one that happened only occasionally. He gave her the phone number of a twenty-four-hour service line to call in the event that the starter did fully break down, which it eventually did. When she called the twenty-four-hour hotline, no one answered.

But everyone still expects their government-supported benefits to be paid. French labor unions are a serious problem and a huge drag on the economy – in a stroke of French oxymoronism, there is even a labor union for the unemployed. The French government is by far the largest employer, providing a huge pool of people eager for more regulations to guarantee their jobs, and more taxes to pay their salaries – just so long as others are taxed. Influenced by powerful communist-dominated unions, featherbedding and institutional torpor have become the order of the day. French compulsory public education begins at age two in order to thoroughly indoctrinate the young and ensure that they are not led astray from the pure socialistic mother’s milk fed to them by the government.

The English word “entrepreneur” was French in origin, but sadly the French have largely abandoned the word and forgotten its meaning. Stung by high taxes, recalcitrant workers, union strikes, and oppressive government regulations, companies and professionals are increasingly bidding *adieu* and leaving France. It was recently discovered that over 265,000 of the best and brightest doctors, scientists, and engineers had left France in the last ten years, and the best students often go to American universities.

The other popular corporate alternative to leaving the country is seeking tight links to the government in order to obtain favorable treatment and become part of the system of cronyism and corruption that is French government. The corruption is so deep and widespread that most simply shrug it off and feel that it cannot be corrected.

A glaring example of this is past president, Jacques Chirac. Despite Chirac’s characterization of himself as coming from a poor background, the reality is that his father was a top executive at Dassault Aviation, and Jacques became a protégé of Marcel Dassault, the owner and founder of the company. When the Germans took over France in 1940, Marcel drove the boy Jacques and his mother to safety in southern France, and later helped to script Chirac’s political career, starting with pro-business and lower-taxes speeches, and then becoming a socialist after being

elected. Chirac's father François was a partner at Dassault Aviation, and Jacques later rewarded the company with numerous military contracts, even ordering the government to pay Dassault for development costs of outdated versions of Rafale fighter jets over the objections of André Giraud, his defense minister.

Chirac had at least nine pending investigations of fraud and graft, including vote rigging, skimming public contracts, forging invoices, making false expense claims, and paying party activists from public funds. To avoid these, he helped author legislation that prevents him from being prosecuted while in office, and he has the means to ensure that he will "remain in office" of one sort or another for the rest of his life. His trial was set to begin in March 2011, but was delayed.

Roland Dumas, the disgraced French finance minister, was the President of the Constitutional Council at the time and was responsible for forcing through the changes to French law providing complete judicial immunity for Chirac. Dumas was also one of Saddam Hussein's attorneys, and when his mistress' book *The Whore of the Republic* was published, it raised questions as to who the real whore was – Dumas, his mistress, or both of them.

Corruption is worst at the top, but it has filtered its way into all levels of French government. In French mayoral elections of 2000, eight mayors with criminal records were elected, and another ten have a variety of charges pending against them.

Comparing the productivity of France to America led to French handwringing and teeth-gnashing, but instead of reducing taxes, eliminating socialism, and improving competitiveness, French political and business leaders have consistently taken the opposite tact of using crises as an excuse to create even more government controls, and then trying to get others to bail them out. Énarques have a hatred of markets because they dislike it when any group of uncredentialed people, i.e., non-énarques, such as stock traders or small business owners, gain any degree of the control that they seek to reserve for themselves. Markets and market forces are therefore seen largely as "Anglo-Saxon evil" in the same way that the hapless King John of England, who was actually French, viewed the Magna Carta when he was forced to sign it in 1215. Despite capitalistic influences in France, French political leaders have always hated the free market and have grimly tried to control it. Echoing Karl Marx, they accuse it of all kinds of evil to the detriment of the French public, in a continual replay of King John's resistance to the Magna Carta. The economist John Maynard Keynes observed the following:

Each time the franc loses value, the [French] Minister of Finance is convinced that the fact arises from everything but economic causes. He attributes it to foreigners [i.e., British or Americans] in the corridors of the Stock Exchange, and to the unwholesome and malign forces of speculation. The attitude is rather close to that of the witch doctor who attributes the illness of cattle to the "evil eye," and the storm to an insufficient quantity of sacrifices made before some idol.

When it came to economics in the EU, France's leadership and involvement was largely centered on strategies of using the value of the euro to support French deficits, and to insure markets for French goods, as well as providing subsidies and protecting French farmers and companies from

competition. Essentially the idea was to get others to pick up France's tab to the extent that was possible.

French finance ministers, *énarques* all, were obsessed with keeping the value of the French franc high and on par with the German mark, in a policy known as *Franc Fort*. This was done partly because of French pride – a high value for the currency supposedly indicated that the finance ministers were doing their jobs. It was also done because the Maastricht Treaty, which specified the terms of EEC monetary union, required that the currency values of all EU member countries remain within a narrow percentage range of each other. The goal of the French finance ministers was to obtain control of the German *Bundesbank*, the largest and most influential bank in Europe, as well as other German assets after the European monetary union was finally put in place, so they had to play along and follow the rules until they could achieve this objective. In the meantime the French economy was in decline, and in order to prop up the value of the franc, the finance ministers were forced to keep French interest rates high to satisfy investors so that they would not dump franc-denominated investments and cause a decline in the value of French currency. This caused further erosion in the French economy, with low levels of business growth and high levels of unemployment, all to support a power play on behalf of the French insiders. The real motivations behind European monetary union were therefore not to create a utopia for the benefit of all as advertised, but rather to create a system where one group could dominate everyone else. The proponents of the system are perfectly willing to screw over the general populace, even those in their own nation, in order to achieve their aims. As one anonymous *énarque* explained, "Of course we want monetary union. Ninety percent of the elite want it. There is a little danger because the people do not want it, but we will take care of that." French government forces have now largely achieved their goal; Jean-Claude Trichet, a former governor of the Banque de France, a dyed-in-the-wool *énarque*, and by many accounts clueless about economics, is currently the president of the European Central Bank.

France's economic troubles have gotten deeper and more intractable, with a growing gap between rich and poor, rising unemployment at double-digit levels, larger welfare lines, increases in violent crime, hikes in the cost of living, Arab immigrants taking more jobs, and the resulting anger, frustration, apathy, and cynicism of the general populace, who have responded with intense criticism of the government, cheating on their taxes, and trying to grab all of the government benefits and scraps that they can get. The number of bankruptcies in France exceeds those in America despite the fact that the American population is more than four times larger. Many former French commercial success stories such as Airbus and French Telecom are on life support and require continual government bailouts; French Telecom debt exceeds \$15 billion. A recent World Economic study ranked France twenty-sixth among all nations in terms of growth markets – behind Portugal.

It is here that the general business culture of France and other continental EU countries, especially Belgium and Germany, contrasts most sharply with America and Britain. All are capitalistic in that they have a stock market, privately owned corporations, employees, etc., and from 10,000 feet up they look similar. But in America and to a lesser extent Britain, companies operate in a more free-market environment, allowing them to hire and lay off workers, undertake new initiatives, retrench if necessary, and respond more quickly to the changes in the business landscape. They also have fewer government safety nets underneath them to shield them from

failure and poor decision-making. Thus companies are forced to make wiser decisions and better use of their resources, and to move more quickly to satisfy their customer's needs by providing better products at lower prices than their competitors in order to retain their customer's loyalty.

But in France and much of the EU, companies are micromanaged by the government with little latitude or freedom, in a system known as "corporatocracy," or "Rhenish capitalism." The government creates monopolies and fiefdoms of these companies; staff, money and influence continually moves between the corporations and government in a club-like insider atmosphere that is rife with influence peddling. This makes it very hard for new firms to break in and effectively compete with the existing members of the club, who collude to fix prices and keep newcomers out. This is also true of a few American firms that work closely with the government, but in France and Germany the practice is spread across the entire economy.

Protected companies in general become stodgy, slow, unwieldy, inefficient, dependent on government bailouts, and reluctant to take on new initiatives and employees. Entrepreneurs scare them. In the words of the economist Joseph Schumpeter, "It is the oldest, largest, heaviest, and most decayed trees that are most at risk of being uprooted," by the winds of economic competition. The prospect of having competitors that move faster, provide better products at a lower cost, and therefore threaten their control and eat their lunch, motivates the managers of corporatist companies to take action. But the action that these managers usually take is to hire more lawyers and lobbyists to persuade the government to make new rules to keep entrepreneurs out, rather than focusing their efforts on making their own operations more efficient. Companies and unions together become ossified, and the public has to pay the price in terms of higher taxes and prices, and fewer economic opportunities. Small businessmen and entrepreneurs who are the real engine of economic growth and job creation therefore have few advocates and no real seat at the table in France and the European Union.

Stodgy and ossified companies are typical of all socialist economies. The EU, like Soviet Russia, criticizes free-market systems as being "unfair and cruel to workers"; Mitterand, for example, often sermonized against free-market economics, and was quoted as saying, "money rots the very conscience of the people," apparently because he and his socialist party knew that principal so intimately, as they themselves were thoroughly corrupted. But the reality is the exact opposite – unemployment is higher in France and Germany than in the US because there are few incentives and many disincentives for entrepreneurs to launch new businesses and hire more people. The main problem with a free-market economy is that power and control becomes democratized and vested in the hands of business owners instead of bureaucrats, which is the real reason why socialistic governments hate it.

Unfunded pension liabilities are another ticking time bomb, especially because France has a negative birth rate, and therefore a declining number of young workers to support retirees. French society has become accustomed to a lifestyle of leisure and children are an inconvenience. The French government provides financial incentives for larger families of three or more children, but even the prospect of money from the government has not convinced many French parents to have more babies. Pension liabilities now total around two hundred percent of the current French GDP and growing.

There are some hopeful signs of individual French companies finally going against the grain and demanding longer workweeks and greater productivity from workers. To its credit, the French government of Chirac and De Villepin has recently attempted to create job programs for youth, among whom the unemployment rate ranges from twenty-five to fifty percent across France. Companies are hesitant to hire new workers because French law makes it very hard to fire unsatisfactory employees; the government jobs program would attract firms to hire young workers and increase the number of entry-level jobs. But this initiative has met with riots and intense opposition from labor unions, university students, and leftist groups, who are against it because the measure would allow companies to terminate workers. Aside from these efforts, French political leaders in general have lacked the courage to publicly admit that these deep-rooted problems exist, let alone address them, because the solution would involve economic pain and sacrifice that the French are unwilling to make or even to seriously consider. Instead some are griping that even more government subsidies and leisure are needed.

Many books describing these problems have been published in France, such as: *France is Falling Down* by Nicolas Baverez, *Adieu to a Departing France* by Jean-Marie Rouart, and *French Disarray* by Alain Duhamel. According to Baverez, “France is becoming an industrial and entrepreneurial desert.” Perhaps the best recent comparison of the economies of the US vis-à-vis Europe – France, Germany, and Italy – was the book *Cowboy Capitalism: European Myths and American Realities*, by Olaf Gersemann, a German reporter. It has been hailed by top economists as a landmark study in readable economics, and it absolutely demolished the notion that the French and European system of corporatism and social welfare creates a better economy and working environment than the free-market system in America. The European systems are worse in virtually every way unless you are a government insider.

France and the Arabs

During and after World War II the French general and later president Charles De Gaulle was mistrusted and snubbed by the other allied commanders and countries for his arrogance and focus on his own interests. He was deliberately kept in the dark about the timing of the D-Day invasion, and France was not invited to the allied war counsels at Yalta and elsewhere. To salvage French pride, he therefore he began a clever attempt to recreate a French-led empire in competition with America and Russia. He eventually brought France into the European Union, but unlike other internationalists, De Gaulle’s vision was an EU dominated by France, where Germany, the perpetual aggressor, would be kept in a permanent position of subservience. This would enable the French-led Europe to become a rival to the United States and would restore France to its former position of world dominance.

What is less well-known is that De Gaulle also began a union of Arab and African countries with the same purposes. Unlike both England and America, which had essentially given up their colonial domains, De Gaulle’s goal was to rebuild the French colonial empire under a different guise that was indirect and hidden, in order to continue providing resources to France on favorable terms.

Algeria was the original foundation of French colonialism. This large and influential African nation was conquered by French forces in 1830 and formed the basis of French ambition for an

African colonial empire which was undertaken in order to compete with their archrivals, the British. The vision of Napoleon III in the 1860s was a French empire stretching from Algeria to Turkey, and he also wanted to extend French dominion to Mexico. but French forces were defeated by the Mexicans and Napoleon III was never able to accomplish his ambitions, and a few years later they were defeated by the Germans in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, in which Napoleon III himself was captured and sent into exile. French daydreams of empire were thus crushed, and further dismembered by the African independence movements. De Gaulle seemingly washed his hands of Algeria following the violent independence movement of 1954; thousands of people with European roots known as *pied-noirs* and living in Algeria, were caught in the crossfire – persecuted by the Muslims and abandoned by France. But even though the old-style colonial rule ended, France was not finished with Africa, and De Gaulle adopted a more subtle policy of behind-the-scenes control via the French Foreign Legion and Elf Acquitaine.

France has been deeply with involved with the Arab and Islamic world for a long time. Napoleon III styled himself as the “protector of Islam,” and along with help from the Vatican which controlled the Christian holy sites in Israel, France resisted the efforts of Jews in Palestine to gain influence, especially when the British began to establish a Jewish protectorate there during and after WWI. France has therefore long been the most anti-Semitic of all of the Western nations, and the French-Arab connection has great appeal for both parties, as it was based on their mutual antipathy toward Israel, America and Britain.

Arab Response to French Initiatives

But the Arab countries had a different idea. Unlike the rest of the world they unite with others not on the basis of history, economics, or even ethnicity, but strictly in terms of religion. Their allegiance is to Islam, and that is the main factor in forming international alliances. Arab and Muslim politics is, to a large extent, simple and binary: if you are Muslim, you are a brother, if not, you are an enemy. This has not stopped Muslim countries from warring against each other, usually with the claim or the excuse that the other’s religion has been corrupted, but in times of crisis they unite against their common enemies. Moslem armies had almost succeeded in conquering Europe in the centuries following Muhammad, and they saw the French initiative as a chance to finish the process and bring France and ultimately the rest of Europe back under the dominion of Islam.

Islamic societies in general are not interested in personal freedom. Their goal is the opposite – the conformity of the entire society to the will of the Allah as interpreted by those in power, therefore it is not surprising that every Islamic nation in the world is a dictatorship or one sort of another. One Iranian had this to say about his own country:

Today we are all poor third-world countries sinking deeper and deeper day after day. Human rights are non-existent, women are second-class citizens, minorities are persecuted, poverty is rampant, and we are known as nations of terrorists. This is what Islam has given us. Look at our countries; all Islamic counties; look at us! See how miserable, barbaric and pitiful our societies are. If we are not fighting with others, we are fighting among each other. What do you expect from a people who are brought up to believe that [as said by Muhammad], “Paradise is under the shade of the sword”? What do you expect of people that eulogize martyrdom and

celebrate death? What do you expect from a society whose spiritual leader [Ayatollah Khomeini] said, “Economy is for the donkey”? What do you expect from a society that dresses up their toddlers as suicide bombers?

Dhimminitude and the Islamic World View

In Islamic thought the world is divided into two portions: *Dar al-Islam* – the “House of Islam” where Muslims rule and where *Sharia*, Islamic law is in effect, and *Dar al-Harb* – the “House of War” which consists of the rest of the world. Jihad will therefore continue until the entire world is conquered and/or converted and brought into Dar al-Islam. Included in the House of Islam are *dhimmis*, non-Muslim regions and peoples that have been conquered and are now subservient and obedient to Islam.

Jews and Christians under Muslim rule had to acknowledge the superiority of Islam at all times, and criticism of Sharia drew extreme punishment. Dhimmi peoples had to adopt a servile language and obsequious demeanor for their own preservation. The law stated that dhimmis were permanently inferior and should be continually humiliated; the life of a dhimmi man was valued at half that of a Muslim, and half again less for a dhimmi woman. Dhimmis were forbidden to possess arms and could not defend themselves from either physical or legal attacks – they could only beg for mercy. They could be judged under the provisions of their own laws, but dhimmi legislation was not recognized in Muslim courts, and Sharia always superceded dhimmi law. Dhimmis were forbidden to have authority over Muslims, to own or buy land, to marry Muslim women, or to have Muslim servants. They were also required to wear distinctive and subservient clothing, their living arrangements were regulated, and they could not ride a horse or a camel. A dhimmi had to hurry through the streets, passing only on the left (impure) side of a Muslim; he also had to lower his eyes and accept any and all insults without reply. Fawning and cravenness were thus the prescribed dhimmi behavior and attempts at resistance and independence were met by harsh reprisals. Slavery was and is officially sanctioned as long as the slaves are non-Muslim, and some Muslim countries still continue to allow this practice. In Saudi Arabia, for example, slavery was not banned until 1966, but it still continues in covert and hidden ways.

Killing a Muslim is a crime punishable by death, but if a Muslim kills a non-Muslim it is a misdemeanor under Sharia law. Violence by Muslims against non-Muslims is often ignored and even encouraged, and the killing of Jews is noble and commendable. For example, in the Palestinian town of Taibe in Samaria the cars and houses of Arab Christians were firebombed by Muslims, and the residents of the town forced to flee as their homes burned to the ground. The Palestinian Authority police force did not even bother to show up until hours later. The reason for this action was that a Christian man from the town dated a Muslim woman, and the entire Christian settlement was attacked in revenge. The woman was forced to drink poison and murdered by her own family in what is known as an “honor killing.” These are common among many Muslims in the Arab and African world and are considered the appropriate action to take in such circumstances.

In Afghanistan there are many crimes against Sharia law occurring daily with impunity, such as opium dealing, alcohol being sold publicly, and prostitution. But something recently happened there that is supposedly much more deadly – an Islamic man named Abdul Rahman converted to

Christianity. He was arrested, thrown in jail, and faced the death penalty, but was released on the grounds of “mental instability” after political pressure was applied to the Afghani government by the US. Furthermore the judge, the attorneys, and his family all agree that he should die, and he did not even have a lawyer. His father told reporters, “You cannot make anything out of such a son – he is useless”; one of his jailers was quoted as saying, “We will cut him into little pieces”; a Muslim cleric in a nearby town declared that “Abdul Rahman must be killed – Islam demands it”; and after he was released, crowds of Afghani people marched in protest of the court decision, shouting “Death to Christians!”

Another example of dhimmitude in action is in Jakarta, Indonesia, which is largely Islamic. Several Muslim children came to play with Christian kids at a church-run school. When this was discovered, Muslims went into a rage; the women running the school were put on trial and sent to prison for three years. Hundreds of Muslim activists were bused to the courtroom each day by Islamic societies; they stormed the trial, disrupted the proceedings, and threatened the judges as well as the entire Christian community with death unless a guilty verdict was returned. Many of the churches in the area were firebombed and forced to close because of Muslim hate attacks directed against them, and Islamic radicals have engaged in targeted beheadings, torture, and property destruction of Christians while the police look the other way.

Dhimmi laws were not historically enforced to the same extent in all Islamic societies, but they clearly have the potential of creating institutionalized discrimination worse than many forms of slavery. Furthermore, Sharia is the law of Allah and the Quran, and thus it is not open to debate or modification. Therefore the conditions described above are, in general, the way that Muslims have treated, and will continue to treat non-Muslims whenever Islam becomes the dominant political force.

Andalusia and Historical Revisionism

To prepare the way for dhimmitude in Europe, Muslims have been promoting an historical entity known as *Andalusia*. This was a region in Spain where the Castilians were once a dhimmi society under the rule of the Moorish Caliphate, which invaded Spain in 711, conquered the country by 720, and ruled the land for the next seven-hundred years. According to Islamic propaganda, Andalusia was a golden age for Spain, when a benign Muslim government ruled for the benefit of all, and backward Europeans were civilized by enlightened Islamic rulers. It is alleged that all of Europe was supposedly populated by savage barbarians who owed the entire development of their culture to Islam. Jews and Christians were supposedly grateful to live under the protection of Muslim rule, and their scholars were said to have knelt in awe at the feet of Muslim sages, who had discovered and developed all of the secrets of science.

The noblest civilization ever known to mankind is our Islamic civilization. Today, Western civilization is nothing more than a product of its encounter with our Islamic civilization in Andalusia and other places.
Sheikh Abd al-Rahman, Imam of the al-Haraam mosque in Mecca, February, 2002

It was the Islamic State that established that established a beacon of science for all humanity in the spheres of engineering and law. The era of the Islamic State became a golden age, at a time when Europe was living a life of ignorance, like

beasts, without knowing law, human rights, or women's rights. In France there was [even] debate regarding whether women were considered human. Islam arrived and illuminated the minds of men. Andalusia is testimony to this... Let all hear: this same Islamic culture that enlightened the land, takes precedence over Europe. Sheik Jamal Al-Nazzar, from a Friday sermon in Iraq, 2003

The early Muslims produced great mathematicians and scientists, scholars, physicians and astronomers, etc. and they excelled in all fields of knowledge of their times, besides studying and practicing their own religion of Islam... The Europeans had to kneel at the feet of Muslim scholars in order to access their own scholastic heritage.

Mahathir Muhammad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, 10th OIC Summit, October, 2003

Before Israel dies, it must be humiliated and degraded. America will be of no avail to them. Their generals will be of no avail to them. The last of their generals has been forgotten. Allah has made him disappear. He's over. Gone is that Sharon behind whose back they would hide and find shelter, and with whom they would feel relatively secure. Today they have frail leaders... Allah willing, we will make them lose their eyesight, we will make them lose their brains... We say to this West, which does not act reasonably, and does not learn its lessons: by Allah, you will be defeated. Israel will be defeated, and so will whoever supported or supports it... I say to the [European countries]: hurry up and apologize to our nation, because if you do not, you will regret it.

Hamas leader Khaled Mash'al, from a sermon in Damascus, 3 February 2006

The problem with the above statements and thinking is that they are all presumptuous lies and half-truths. Virtually all of the advancement in the fields stated above came not from Islam, but from the Greeks, the Romans, Byzantines, Hindu, and Judeo-Christian peoples and cultures.

The Andalusian utopia is thus a myth, and its actual history was very different than what is stated in Muslim propaganda. There were continual revolts against Muslim rule as well as feuds between competing Muslim groups. Dhimmi uprisings were crushed with massacres, pillaging, deportations, slavery, beheadings, and extreme brutality. As specified in Sharia law, dhimmis could not defend themselves, and if one dhimmi harmed a Muslim, the entire community was liable to enslavement, pillage, and arbitrary killing. The Spanish ultimately engaged in a long series of wars against their hated Moorish enemies, who had come from North Africa to enslave them. In light of the true history of Spain, the harsh expulsion of the Moors back to North Africa after 1492, becomes completely understandable.

Contemporary Jihad

This pattern of jihad followed by the dhimminization of conquered peoples continues today. For example, the genocide in Sudan, which receives very little press, is a continuing attempt to Islamicize and wipe out the Christian population in the western area of the country. Over two million people have been driven from their homes, and the attacks and firebombing of towns in the west have finally stopped because there are no more towns left to burn; the war is now

focused on periodic attacks of refugee camps. Omar al-Bashir, the dictator of Muslim Sudan, is considered by many to be the worst and most vicious dictator in the world.

The recent war in Cote-d'Ivoire also received very little press – like the case of Sudan, it was an attack from the Muslim north on the non-Muslim south. France sent troops to its former colony, but they mostly stayed in protected enclaves and observed the fighting. When the French government attempted to step in and arrest some of the leaders of the northern Muslim forces to quell the violence, they were stopped by a huge outcry from French Muslims who are entirely on the side of the jihadists. As Islamic forces carry out vicious wars of jihad in Africa, Europe and the UN have functioned for the most part as passive observers.

Guilt Pandering and the Crusades

Muslims continually criticize Western attacks against Islam, whereas the many wars of Islamic jihad waged against numerous peoples and countries is completely excused and passed over. The centerpiece of Muslim hate speech is the Crusades, in which Antioch, Jerusalem, and a few other Muslim areas were taken by Christian forces. The Crusades were not an isolated war, but rather were a response to centuries of Muslim aggression in which Persia, Egypt, North Africa, Turkey, Spain, Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, Malta, and many other regions were all raided and conquered by the sword, and Europe was continually threatened. Muslim speakers lacerate Christians for the Crusader conquest of Jerusalem and the innocents that were killed there, while completely ignoring Muslim aggression which was larger by orders of magnitude. For example, after the Muslims retook the city of Antioch in 1268, the commander ordered that the gates be shut, and every man, woman, and child in the city was hunted down and slaughtered. It was the worst atrocity performed by either side in the entire crusader era, and it was committed by Muslims against Christians.

In America “whiteness” studies are taught on some college campuses in a continual attempt to denigrate the history of white people and generate American guilt over the past treatment of Indians, blacks, and other minorities. This is done to demonize traditional American history and create an environment where demands for reparations and affirmative action will be granted ad infinitum. The same type of teaching occurs on an even wider basis in Europe to indoctrinate college students with Europe’s guilt over the Crusades, as well as to cast the Palestinians as innocent victims, and place all of the blame for the conflict on Israel and America, supposedly the source of world evil. The EU has taken billions of euros from European taxpayers and given it to organizations that will push Eurabia; the money has gone to establish schools, rewrite history books, and fund college professors who preach dhimmitude and anti-Americanism. All of this effort is having an effect: in a 2003 survey conducted by the European Commission, respondents identified Israel as the greatest threat to world peace. Europeans are thus being brainwashed with their own money into believing that America and Israel are their enemies and Islamic societies are their allies, when the very opposite is true. Furthermore, Europe is teaching its children to be ashamed of their own ethnicity and history, and to be apologetic to Muslims in the manner of a craven dhimmi. It is as if Europe leaders are suffering from Stockholm Syndrome – like a battered wife they are identifying with their potential tormentors. Because of the threat of al-Qaeda attacks, Europe supposedly needs to distance itself from the America, but through its continual dhimmi behavior of fawning, pandering, and appeasement they are making

themselves contemptible and emboldening Islamic jihadist leaders, as Neville Chamberlain did with Hitler.

Muslim/Christian Theological Initiatives

Arab propagandists have also succeeded in getting a number of Christian and quasi-Christian pastors and theologians to dhimmimize Christianity. Efforts of the extremely liberal World Council of Churches and other groups to eliminate the differences between Islam, Judaism, and Christianity/Catholicism have been twisted by Muslim leaders into a claim that Judaism and Christianity are simply inferior versions of Islam, which has supposedly superceded them. These efforts ignore the unbridgeable gulf between Christianity and Islam. Christianity is a religion of faith based on a divine and human savior who sacrificed himself to satisfy the justice of God, and who called on his followers to love and care for even their enemies. In contrast, Islam is a religion of works where you must perform the five duties (profession of faith in Allah and Muhammad, daily prayer, giving alms, fasting during Ramadan, and pilgrimage to Mecca). Then you are superior to non-believers and are called to fight against them to either conquer or forcibly convert them. Islam is the work of one man who saw a series of visions that were memorized by his followers which eventually became the Quran, and then he died. Christianity in contrast is rooted in the Old Testament, written by many authors and going back thousands of years; Christ, the central figure, was killed and then rose from the dead.

A full-blown set of doctrines known as “Palestinian replacement theology” has been developed by Muslim thinkers. It is based on the ancient heresy of Marcionism, which denied the Jewish antecedents to Christianity and sought to eliminate the Old Testament in the Bible. In this theology, Jesus Christ has been co-opted and transformed into a Palestinian who suffered at the hands of evil Jews, in a perverted parody of how current Palestinians are supposedly tortured by Israel. Thus a theological environment is created where Israel and the Jews can be blamed for Muslim aggression, and Christians in America, the supporters of Israel, become the enemy and the bogeyman of both Europe and the Muslim countries, and are relentlessly denigrated by government, media, and higher education. Sadly, the remaining Arab Christians in Palestine have been so thoroughly dhimmimized and cowed by the Muslim culture of extreme hatred surrounding them that they have been one of the major sources of Christian support for Palestinian replacement theology.

The Religion of Peace

Muslim apologists attempt to downplay and hide all of these actions, and instead present Islam as a religion of peace. This is certainly true for many individual Muslims and families, and it is also true for some Islamic countries, especially in regions where Muslims do not control the government. Many Muslim individuals and families are loving, caring people who reject the messages of hate, and want to live in peace with their neighbors, whether they are Islamic or not. There are also a few brave Muslim leaders who have spoken out and criticized hate speech and warmongering. However, the aim of the Islamic world leadership is to follow Muhammad, their prophet, who commanded them to conquer the world for Allah.

I was ordered to fight all men until they say “There is no god but Allah.”

Muhammad

I shall cross the sea to their islands to pursue them until there remains no one on the face of the earth who does not acknowledge Allah.

Saladin

We will export our revolution throughout the world... until the call “There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah” is echoed all over the world.

Ayatollah Khomeini

I was ordered to fight the people until they say there is no god but Allah and his prophet is Muhammad.

Osama bin Laden

Strict Muslim societies such as Iran seek to return to Sharia law, which demands and institutionalizes subservient dhimmi status for all non-Muslims. Thus, the religious leaders of Islam who supposedly speak for God are continual promoters of intolerance, discrimination, violence, and hatred.

Muslim Frustration and Deception

Why lies behind this hatred and frustration? Like France, the Arabs feel that they were once the world’s most powerful society, and they long for a return to their position of world dominance so that everyone will bow down to them. Furthermore, the Quran teaches the superiority of Muslims over non-Muslims. Therefore, it is intolerable to Muslim leaders and intellectuals that Western societies are wealthier, stronger, and more powerful than those of Islam, and it is especially intolerable that the tiny country of Israel has been able to successfully defy the combined might of the Arab world. Muslims are thus confronted with the agonizing reality that their societies are the ones that are poor and inferior, but unfortunately, they are fixated on and limited by the teachings of the Quran and Sharia law, and therefore they cannot come to terms with reality in order to make the necessary societal changes that would produce the freedom and prosperity that countries such as America and others in the west have experienced. So instead they construct an elaborate web of lies to explain the world to themselves and others.

The recent Danish cartoon debacle is a good example of this need to deceive and to continually press the nerve of hatred. When a dozen anti-Muslim cartoons were first published in a Danish newspaper nobody cared, so the Danish Imam Abu Laban went to work. He added a number of other images that had never been published by the Danes, including a cartoon of a dog taking a Muslim who was kneeling in prayer, and he ultimately claimed that the Danish papers had published 120 cartoons. Similar to the lies that Muslims tell about Jews, Abu Laban warned that the Danes were making a movie designed to mock Muhammad, that the Danish government was burning, desecrating, and banning the Quran, and that it was attempting to outlaw Islam by prohibiting the construction of mosques, which ironically is standard Sharia policy for synagogues and churches in Muslim lands. Eventually his efforts bore fruit – Muslim anger was aroused, Danish products were boycotted, and there were anti-Danish riots in a number of Muslim countries in which fifty people were killed and many injured.

Muslim Goals for France and Eurabia

The Arab objective was thus to turn the French plan to dominate them on its head. France was slated to become the first European land of dhimmitude, followed by the rest of Europe. The term *Eurabia* had been coined to describe this political initiative and the resulting combination of European and Arab nations, who have virtually nothing in common except their mutual desire to exploit each other. The Arabs have single-mindedly used the Eurabian initiatives to continually push their two major agenda items: the annihilation of the Jews and the State of Israel, and a universal jihad to Islamicize the entire world. Through alliances with existing anti-Semitic groups in Europe, as well as threats of terrorism and oil shortages, they have succeeded in cowing Europe. European energy fears are largely overblown, because most of the Arab oil-producing nations have one-dimensional economies that are based almost entirely on oil revenue, and they need to sell their oil just as much as Europe needs to buy it. Nevertheless, the general mindset of European leaders toward Arabs is pandering – excusing Palestinian terrorism and legitimizing Palestinian demands to take over Israel and Jerusalem.

French and international journalists cover the Iraq war in microscopic detail, scrambling for any possible errors and scraps of news that would be detrimental to American influence, such as the Abu Ghraib prison conditions, which were front page news for weeks. But the cruel wars of Africa that reveal the disgusting history of French and Islamic perfidy go almost entirely unreported.

French Acquiescence and Self-Dhimmination in response to Jihad

French political leaders have actively assisted the dhimminizing process in their own country through immigration laws and employment policies. Citizens of former African colonies were allowed to obtain French citizenship and freely enter the country, and Moorish, Algerian, and Turkish workers were invited to take jobs that the French did not want. Therefore, the population dynamics of France have gradually shifted to the point where between ten and fifteen percent of the population is now Islamic. Muslim women are told to stay home and raise their children, and Arab families are encouraged by their leaders to have large families so that they can become dominant in society more quickly. Exacerbating this trend is the low native French birth rate, and with the substantially higher Muslim birth rate, it is estimated that Muslims will become a majority in France within several decades, if current trends continue.

Since the French revolution of 1789, the government and media of France have been militantly secular and anti-Christian, so the introduction of large numbers of people with a strong and aggressive religious faith was especially distressing. Not having any religion themselves, the French are at a loss as to how to handle this onslaught. As the Arab population has increased, Muslim suburbs and ghettos have developed, especially in the larger cities such as Paris, with corresponding increases in the rates of crime and violence. Native French concern and resentment has also grown, reducing dialog and cooperation, and sometimes causing tense and ugly stand-offs between the two sides. This led to anti-immigration political movements and personalities such as Jean-Marie Le Pen, who surprised the French establishment with the strength of his support, and who has polarized France with his strong rhetoric. Le Pen opponents used the slogan, “Vote for the crook [Chirac] and not the fascist [Le Pen].”

Another result of Muslim immigration into France has been more persecution and hate crimes against Jews, who are a convenient target for the anger of both sides, especially as the French media, under pressure from the Arab League, blames Israel for Muslim aggression. In the words of a French media luminary, Israel is the “shitty little country” that is responsible for all of the Arab and Muslim unpleasantness.

The increasing hostility and alienation that Arab immigrants have experienced cements them as a nation within a nation. Thus, an Islamic fifth column is being created within France, a large pool of potential recruits for Islamic terrorism and jihad. Nevertheless, people scoffed at the notion of any sort of large-scale revolution of French Muslims – how could an outbreak of violence be possible in the most tolerant and advanced society in Europe?

Dossier on the European Union

We shall have World Government, whether or not we like it. The only question is whether World Government will be achieved by conquest or consent.

~ Paul Warburg

At the end of a century that has seen the evils of communism, nazism and other modern tyrannies, the impulse to centralize power remains amazingly persistent.

~ Joseph Sobran, columnist

Introduction to the European Union

Unlike the United Nations, which has no true authority of its own and is simply an association of sovereign nations, the member states of the European Union have all ceded to it increasing degrees of real power and control. To many, the European Union is a poorly understood organization of groups whose authority is seemingly confusing and redundant. These included the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council of Ministers, the European Commission, and other organizations with more specific functions, such as the European Central Bank, the Court of Auditors, the Court of Justice, and so on.

The Council of Ministers is the oldest and consists of EU ministers and insiders from the various states of Europe. There is no popular vote on these members and no term of office. This group is more-or-less the “senate” of the EU and approves legislation passed by the European Commission, but it can also introduce legislation of its own.

The European Commission functions as the “executive” branch of government and has a President chosen by the Council of Ministers who then selects twenty-five individuals to function as his or her cabinet, one from each member state in the Union. Each cabinet head or commissioner in turn is assigned to set and carry out policy in a specific area, such as law, human rights, energy, and so on, and each one presides over a large bureaucracy that carries out the commission directives. There is likewise no popular vote on commissioners, but they serve for a five-year term and must be confirmed by the EU parliament. Since the 1980s and the presidency of Jacques Delors, the President of the Commission has been considered to be the chief spokesman for the EU.

The European Council is another “executive” branch and consists of the heads of state of all of the member nations. The Council provides a forum for periodic summit meetings between the leaders. It has no executive or parliamentary powers but can exercise enormous influence by virtue of the power of its members and their ability to affect policy, and the heads of state can in some cases veto actions they are opposed to.

The European Parliament consists of members who are elected from each member country and is the “house” of the EU. It is the most democratic of the EU institutions, but its powers are limited by the fact that the Council of Ministers has potential veto power over its decisions, and many laws are promulgated instead by the EU Commission. The parliament is the youngest of the EU institutions and serves to provide a patina of democracy over the whole.

Thus, the branches of the EU government are loosely based on the equivalents in the US constitution, and when the European constitution was drafted, there were abundant references to how Europe was “reenacting the Philadelphia constitutional convention of 1787.” However, the motivations of the Americans in 1787 and the Europeans in 2002 were, for the most part, exactly opposite from each other. Revolutionary War-era American leaders were highly suspicious of centralized power and carefully crafted a government of checks and balances between the branches. The US Constitution is a fairly terse 4,600 words in length. In contrast, the EU constitution is over 60,000 words, and was written for the most part by people who wanted to preserve and extend centralized power. Rather than serving as checks and balances, the branches of the EU serve to protect the supranational power of the other branches, and the constitution was written in bureaucratese and carefully crafted to promote a supranational government while attempting to conceal and minimize that fact. Following is a statement illustrating this, taken from the “Fundamental Principles” in the introduction to the European Constitution:

Under the principle of subsidiarity, in areas which do not fall within its exclusive competence, the Union shall act only if and insofar as the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, either at central level or at regional and local level, but can rather, by reason of the scale or effects of the proposed action, be better achieved at Union level.

The word “subsidiarity” above means that the EU can assume additional powers to those that is already has whenever it decides that an action can best be carried out at the EU level. In other words, the EU can arrogate to itself any powers from the member nations that it wants to take, and for which it can come up with a reason. It should also be noted in order to understand the above quote, that the politically correct and more warm and fuzzy term for EU “powers” is instead its “competencies.”

EU Expansion

The European Union is a growth industry with increasing employment opportunities; in addition to all of the ministers, legislators, and bureaucrats there are swarms of translators, bookkeepers, secretaries, support staff, administrative assistants, and security personnel, as well as hordes of lawyers, paralegals, and lobbyists. The EU has to maintain a huge translation staff in order to translate the mountains of information produced in one or more of the four main languages (English, French, German, and Spanish) into all of the others spoken by the member nations. This is a Herculean task, often falling way behind. All of these government workers must be fed, clothed, and housed, and the EU has over seventy buildings in Brussels and many more in other European cities.

The European Parliament meets three weeks a month in its new \$750 million Brussels headquarters, and then in a perverse act of bureaucracy and politics (which was pushed through by France who insisted on having its own EU government center), the entire organization packs up and travels three hundred miles back and forth to its new \$400 million building in Strasbourg for the final week of each month. The construction cost overruns that occurred at Strasbourg were typical of the EU except when it was revealed that each office has a luxury shower costing \$12,000 each. But criticism of this was brushed aside and the EU rolled on. All of this must

somehow be paid for through additional taxes and inflation imposed on European citizens, who must carry the weight of both the EU and their own country's government on their backs. To weary Europeans, already overburdened with taxes and regulations from within their home countries, the EU is often seen as simply additional layers of red tape wrapped around the existing bureaucratic layers. The VAT (value added tax) was devised specifically to fund the EU, and it placed virtually all of the huge record-keeping burden on businesses. The standard VAT sales tax rate in Europe is 15% but may go as high as 25% on some types of goods.

With many skeptics wanting to dump it as England did in the Brexit initiative, the EU has had to work hard to make itself relevant, which is a difficult task given that it requires European taxpayers to kick in more of their resources to pay for the privilege of having more government. The idea therefore was for the EU to enlarge itself so that it would become too big to stop.

Early EU History

According to its official history, the EU was formed out the ruins of World War II, in an effort to ensure peace and prevent the rise of another Hitler. But the real genesis of the European Union was World War I. During the hellish trench warfare of 1916, the French were being smashed to pieces by the superior German artillery. The Germans could launch shells at up to seven times the rate of the French guns, many of which were leftovers from the Franco-Prussian war of 1870.

The 1870 Franco-Prussian conflict marked a sea-change in the way that war was conducted. Due to the new techniques in ordnance and artillery that had developed in that era, the fundamental character of war had permanently changed, from a test of men and resolve, to a battle between rival industrial systems. In the WWI trenches of Verdun, the French guns alone fired over twelve million shells, and the Germans many more; this war became the most violent and prolonged act of annihilation that the world had ever seen. Shattered by the obscene moonscape of destruction, disease, and dismembered body parts, French soldiers in 1917 had deserted the front en-mass, and it was only with great effort that the mutiny was suppressed, and the war continued. France did not have the raw materials or the manufacturing capacity to match Germany, and in desperation the government turned to the French industrialist Louis Loucheur and gave him near-dictatorial powers in order to turn the tide. Loucheur organized French production, and more importantly, coordinated the massive shipments of material from Britain and America.

After the war was over Loucheur reflected on his experience and concluded that industrial organization was the key to winning any major war in the future. From that insight he developed an idea for preserving peace, which was to remove all corporate and national control over the industries which were critical to modern warfare, namely coal and steel, and vest hegemony over them in some type of "higher authority."

Loucheur's vision of a supranational organization was shared by other powerful and influential people. This had been the dream of Cecil Rhodes, the millionaire politician and DeBeers mining company founder, who also founded the Rhode's Scholarship and the Round Table group in England in the 1890s to push this initiative. When Woodrow Wilson was elected US president in 1912, the insiders who stage-managed his election and controlled his presidency assigned Edward M. House, an Englishman from the Round Table group, to be Wilson's handler and

mentor. Under House's influence, and against his own repeated promises and better judgment, Wilson brought America into WWI, saving France from certain defeat. The Round Table group was then reconstituted in England as the "Royal Institute of International Affairs" (the RIIA), and after the war House founded the Council on Foreign Relations (the CFR) as a matching organization in America with essentially the same purposes. It is a testimony to the power and influence of Edward House and his insider backers, that the US State Department has been dominated by internationalists with CFR and RIIA connections ever since his day, and down to the present.

The aftermath of WWI seemed to be an ideal time for starting an international organization dedicated to peace. The dream of Woodrow Wilson had been to form a "League of Nations," the first international body in history, and in 1919 his dream was realized. Wilson was awarded the Nobel peace prize for his efforts, but the American people had largely been opposed to the war, and the Democrats were crushed in the election of 1920. The US Congress, reflecting American sentiment, refused to join the League and turned its attention back to domestic affairs.

It is at this point that Jean Monnet, the true father of European Union, began to emerge. Monnet was born in 1888 in Cognac, France, and was the son of a wealthy brandy maker. He dropped out of college to work in the family firm and got involved in the marketing and distribution aspects of the business, spending most of his time abroad. During World War I he worked alongside Loucheur to support the French war effort and convinced his liquor distribution contacts in North America to get involved in the lucrative business of transporting war material from America and Canada to France. After the war, Monnet concurred with Loucheur's assessment of the need for a higher authority to prevent any nation from continuing to control its coal and steel industries. He became the Deputy Secretary General of the League of Nations in 1919, but he grew disillusioned and resigned four years later because he felt that the League was essentially toothless. The League required a unanimous vote of its council to take any action, and it did not have any armed forces of its own, so it was limited to using the bully pulpit to settle disputes. Monnet believed that the only solution that would prevent future large-scale war was a "supranational authority" to which all countries would cede complete control over their coal and steel industries. This authority would then be run by men who would be committed to the world rather than to any individual nation. Thus, an embryonic New World Order would be formed whose sovereignty could later be expanded.

Getting sovereign nations to cede a critical part of their power to a third party was a highly delicate process requiring stealth, deception, and a very long-term focus. Some of the insiders who carried this out, including Jean Monnet, were high-minded men who believed that they were doing this for the good of humanity, and that the secrecy and duplicity involved were an unfortunate but necessary ingredient in accomplishing what they thought was best for the world; in other words, the end justifies the means. Therefore, it eventually became necessary to hide much of the actual history of the EU and develop an official hagiography to conceal many of the seamy details. In contrast to the EU's own statements, it is clear that submerging the sovereignty of European nations into a union was conceived in the mind of Monnet and others long before WWII, which is the time frame indicated in official EU history.

... Supranational power is necessary. Goodwill between men, between nations, is not enough. One must also have international laws and institutions. Except for certain practical but limited activities in which I participated the League of Nations was a disappointment.
Jean Monnet, reflecting on his experience from 1919 – 1922

Regardless of the official EU history, the organization came into being primarily through the tireless efforts of this man, who dedicated a large part of his life to fulfilling the vision that he had developed with Louis Loucheur during WWI.

Jean Monnet – “Mr. Europe”

Jean Monnet was a short, self-effacing, ideas man who was described as looking like Agatha Christie’s famous fictional Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot. He was the “ultimate insider” who for most of his career preferred to work in the background and have others lead and champion his ideas. He was never elected to public office, but nevertheless held many positions of great power and influence throughout his career. Monnet had a knack for making friends in high places and being in the right place at the right time, and he was very adept at developing plans and then convincing influential people to accept and eventually adopt his ideas as their own. As indicated above, his first experience doing this was during the crisis of WWI, when he sought out the French Prime Minister René Viviani and convinced him to strike a deal with Monnet’s North American shipping contacts. His career in politics spanned sixty years (1916 – 1976) and he eventually became friends with, or at least known to, virtually all of the movers and shakers of his day, including Charles de Gaulle, Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, and many others. Perhaps even more significant was his friendship and association with many of the internationalist members of the CFR and the RIIA, such as George Ball, John Foster Dulles, Dean Acheson, Allen Dulles, George Kennan, John Maynard Keynes, and others. These associates, who were often behind the levers of political and media power in America and Britain, proved to be invaluable. Monnet and other internationalists struggled for over thirty years to achieve the goal of a supranational authority in Europe, and throughout that time Monnet’s CFR and RIIA contacts provided favorable press reports, news coverage, insider influence, and even direct financial assistance.

Many were interested in creating a “United States of Europe” in the years following WWI, but although the countries of Europe endorsed this in principle, they each had their own concerns and reservations. Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg later joined together to form the “Benelux” group, but France was reluctant because the French wanted control of the whole. England, which had long been at odds with continental Europe, consistently refused to consider any type of supranational approach because it would involve the surrender of British sovereignty.

Then the Great Depression hit, and during those lean years between the wars, European internationalists were funded at times by grants from the Rockefeller and Ford foundations, and even from CIA and US State department foreign aid slush funds. Covert American funding for European integration movements continued until 1960.

Germany, the loser in 1918, had been humiliated and crushed by France after the WWI armistice, causing hyperinflation and severe depression in Germany. The democratic German Weimar

republic went down in flames amid pictures of people carrying huge baskets of newly printed and still wet money in order to buy a loaf of bread. The country thus became a fertile breeding ground for would-be strongmen, with Hitler and his Brown-Shirts ultimately coming out on top. The German arms buildup in the late 1930s exposed the weakness of the League of Nations, and the League was completely discredited by the conflict that followed. The death of the League was the famous picture of Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister of England, getting off a plane and waving a piece of paper that represented the peace agreement negotiated with Hitler in which parts of Czechoslovakia were given away in exchange for peace. A year later Germany reneged on the agreement, invaded Poland, and World War II began.

France was quickly occupied, and it surrendered within a few weeks. The only resistance to the German army was put up by French forces led by the general Charles De Gaulle, who had to escape to England following the German occupation. Monnet was also in England, and he attempted to get De Gaulle and Churchill to sign a document that would create a joint French and British “nation” as the foundation for a new Europe. But to Monnet’s disappointment, Philippe Petain, the head of the Vichy collaborationist regime in France, angrily rejected this proposal, preferring to deal with Hitler and the Germans instead. Monnet sensed that Petain was wrong, and that the future lay with America as it had in 1916. He therefore arranged to become an ambassador to the US and was sent there to persuade Roosevelt to enter the war so that America, in Monnet’s words, “could become the great arsenal of democracy.” After Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt responded with the American invasions of North Africa and Normandy, and the rest was history, with Germany eventually capitulating in 1945.

Monnet’s objective down through all of these years was the surrender of national control over all European coal and steel facilities to a higher authority. The nations of Europe had formerly been unwilling to consider such a thing, but with WWII over and Germany in no position to protest, Monnet finally achieved his goal. He chaired the team that wrote and negotiated the Treaty of Paris creating the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which was organized primarily to take control over the “Ruhrgebiet,” Germany’s industrial district where all of its weaponry had been produced.

After several more years of negotiations, six of the European nations finally signed the treaty – Benelux, France, Germany and Italy. On May 9, 1950, Robert Schuman, the Foreign Minister of France, gave a speech which later became known as the Schuman Declaration, in which he formally invited Germany to jointly manage their coal and steel industries. May 9 was officially declared as “Europe Day,” and Robert Schuman was designated as the “Father of Europe.” However, it is a fitting tribute to the secretive and deceptive nature of the EU that virtually all of the Treaty of Paris as well as the entire text of Schuman’s speech were actually written by Jean Monnet, the real Father of Europe, who was appointed to be the first ECSC president in 1952.

However, Monnet’s goals were much larger than merely controlling coal and steel. As he himself said, “Our community is not a coal and steel producers association; it is the beginning of Europe.” Therefore, he immediately began pressing to expand the scope of his “high authority” over other aspects of government. New initiatives were quickly introduced for European defense (the European Defense Community – EDC), politics (the European Political Community – EPC), and the economy (the European Economic Community – EEC or the Common Market). The

EDC and EPC were ultimately abandoned due to French intransigence, but the EEC, the most significant of the initiatives, was retained. This was another signal to Monnet that more deception was necessary in order to sell additional reductions in national sovereignty, and it took six more years of negotiations with the group of six until the Treaty of Rome establishing the EEC was finally signed in 1957.

Motivations of Member States for Joining the EU

Some find it difficult to understand why national leaders would want to surrender the sovereignty and independence of their nations to a larger entity which would have much less concern for their specific interests and problems. A large motivating factor was the appeal to politicians of place and position in a more powerful political entity; a second factor was the fear of tariffs and restraints on exports that a supranational entity could impose which could cripple and potentially destroy domestic industries; a third and potentially the most powerful reason was the atmosphere of *groupthink*, the sense of inevitability cultivated by the leadership, and fear of being marginalized and penalized by the group. But there were other factors unique to each country as well.

France had for centuries viewed itself as the ruling force on the continent and saw the EEC as a way to extend that rule over the rest of Europe and use the resources of others to support the French lifestyle. In French eyes, the EEC was possible renewal of the Carolingian Empire and of Louis XIV, the Sun King.

Germany likewise saw itself as the ruling force on the continent. Since 1870 they had superseded France, and in their eyes, they had taken France's place as the dominant nation of Europe. They were the country in Europe with the largest population, the Deutch Mark was the strongest currency, the German Bundesbank was the largest bank, and they believed that their Aryan race, their superior productivity, and their strong work ethic entitled them to be the leader of Europe.

Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg were part of the "middle kingdom," the land between the great states of France and Germany, which had been the perennial battleground in the highly destructive Franco-German conflicts. Thus, there was a strong desire among these people to somehow contain and muzzle the aggressive tendencies of Germany and France. Belgium contained both French and German regions, and both identified with and feared the aspirations of its powerful neighbors. Like France, the Belgian government had become very socialistic with a large welfare burden and correspondingly large budget deficits. It was said that the country was "heaven for the renter and hell for the entrepreneur," and with Brussels as the European capital, Belgium looked forward to having the EU pay its way.

Italy was a welfare state similar to France in Belgium, but its deficits were even larger due to endemic government fraud. Joining the EEC was therefore seen as a strategy to bail out the regime and support the Italian economy with other people's money. The country was divided between the more productive north, and the mafia-influenced and welfare-state south, and it was run from Rome by the forces of the Christian Democrat party from southern Italy. They kept the tax revenues flowing continuously in a southerly direction, building up tremendous resentments and secessionist impulses among northerners. Italians have had long and bitter experience with

domination by “Christians” (both the Catholic Popes and the Christian Democrats), interspersed with flings of communism, so it was often heard on the street, “better to be ruled by Brussels than by Rome.”

Spain was a poorer country than the others and saw the Common Market in a similar manner to Italy, as a means of enriching itself at the expense of others. Spain had large fishing fleets and was eager to exploit the rich fishing waters of the North Sea around the UK then controlled by England. Joining the EEC and getting the English barriers to these waters removed would enable the Spanish fleets to take over, which they eventually did, driving many small UK fishermen out of business.

Denmark, Norway, and Sweden viewed the EEC with suspicion, understanding that it was dominated by France and Germany, and would therefore be run primarily for the benefit of those two countries. The Norwegians were concerned about the potential rape of their fishing industry (which later happened to Britain), and they rejected EEC membership. The Danes and the Swedes joined the EEC but despite the support of their politicians and the media, the people ultimately rejected the monetary union which came later. The Danes have a history of wariness toward politicians, and the government area in Copenhagen is known as “Radhus Placen” – “Rat House Place.”

Ireland had long been the stepchild of England and saw EEC membership as a way of asserting its independence, like a teenage son who was finally able to grab the car keys from an overbearing father. There were also many connections between Catholics in Ireland and on the continent, and Ireland was given many financial incentives to enter the EEC.

Britain was perhaps the most reluctant EEC member of all. It was historically one of the wealthiest and most powerful nations in Europe, and London was the largest European city, and a world center of finance. It therefore had the least to gain and the most to lose from EEC membership. Britain was in many ways much more in tune with America than with Europe, especially in its focus on free-market economics. Furthermore, England was the traditional enemy of France and later Germany, and therefore forces on the continent used the EEC to screw England whenever they could. English politicians would periodically attempt to do deals to diplomatically isolate France from Germany, only to find out later that the two countries had closed ranks against them. More so than any other European nation, Britain bore the brunt of the EU costs, with virtually no benefits whatsoever to show for it. For its troubles, its agricultural and fishing industries have largely been ruined, and it has gotten a huge new bureaucracy that is attempting to micromanage every aspect of the country as is common in France. With this background it is understandable how the “Brexit” initiative was launched, and why the UK left the EU.

The Renewal of the European Empire of Charlemagne

Overarching the motivations of all of the above nations was a Vision of a Unified Europe, a reconstitution of the Holy Roman Empire of Charlemagne, which encompassed much of the territory of the above nations (except Scandinavia, and the UK). References to Charlemagne occur repeatedly, and it is no accident that the former name of the office structure housing the

EEC Council of Ministers in Brussels was the “Charlemagne Building.” During one of the EEC summit meetings held later, Valéry Giscard d’Estaing of France and Helmut Schmidt of Germany met at Aachen, the principal seat and the burial place of Charlemagne. The two leaders paid a special visit to the throne of Charlemagne and a special service was held in the Cathedral of Aachen. After the conference was over, Giscard remarked that “Perhaps when we discussed monetary problems, the spirit of Charlemagne brooded over us.”

The term “Europe” thus was often used in a quasi-religious way, as a modern-day successor to “Christendom” but without the Christianity which had been a part of the original. The concept of “Europe – the new Christendom” was very fluid, and the treaties defined it in such amorphous language that each region could interpret it differently, in the way that best suited their own biases. But for most, especially France, the Christian religious element was ripped out and replaced by secular humanism, and especially by leftist dreams of a communist/socialist utopia where the borders of the nation-states would disappear and everyone would somehow live in peace and prosperity, under the dominion of the French *énarques*. They would thus be ruled over by a benevolent regime who would supposedly govern unselfishly for the benefit of all.

This is the dream of communism and the faith of socialism. It is a religion, and the religious nature of this faith in secular leftist politics is demonstrated by the fact that many stubbornly clung to their beliefs even in the face of the repeated failure of such politics to provide any of the above – neither peace, nor prosperity nor benevolent government. But people still believed and stubbornly clung to their faith, and men such as the Frenchman Jacques Delors, who later became President of the European Commission and the first to style himself as the President of Europe, exploited this undercurrent of leftist religious belief to advance the EU cause. He conceived of EU bureaucrats as being missionaries and soldiers in a crusade to conquer Europe, and shamelessly used EU tax monies to promote the organization, suppress dissent, and to hire educators as propaganda tools. He thus became the first “Pope of the EU.”

In Soviet Russia those with opinions in opposition to the Communist hierarchy were considered insane lunatics and committed to gulag-style mental institutions. Europe was more civilized and did not take things to those extremes, but dissent was nevertheless considered unacceptable, and those expressing it were fired and suppressed. The EU, especially under Delors, went to great lengths to squelch dissent and to make sure that every conference, symposium, and educational event was dedicated to proclaiming the orthodox socialistic views held by the EU hierarchy.

England, the EU, and EU Law

In the period following the formation of the Common Market, England was undergoing a national identity crisis. It had just shed its colonial empire, the Beatles and teen rebellion were the new thing, and suddenly everything from the past seemed old fashioned and questionable. In this spirit of national doubt and questioning, Europhilic English politicians decided that the time was right, and they filed an application to join the EEC even though the English population had virtually no interest. The political cover for this was the fear that if England did not join it would somehow miss out and become economically excluded from the rest of Europe.

Monnet and other members welcomed the prospect of bringing England in the European fold, but the application was vetoed by Charles de Gaulle, the president of France. De Gaulle was an ardent French nationalist who had consistently opposed the unifying efforts of Monnet. He wanted a European Union with France at its head and was not yet prepared to allow the English to join and interfere with French efforts to control the EU.

De Gaulle had become president of France after the war in 1945 but had retired from politics in 1953. In the 1950s the French government had begun to socialize their economy to an even greater extent than in the past, and had granted huge subsidies to farmers, thus insuring a market for French produce at above-market prices. Unsold and high-priced agricultural products were piling up, and the subsidies were bankrupting the government. There were also serious political problems – the French colonies in Indochina and Algeria were revolting and threatening to send insurgents into France. In an atmosphere of deepening crisis, De Gaulle reappeared on the scene and offered himself as the leader if the current government would grant him temporary dictatorial power to resolve the crisis. In 1958 he was elected premier, and he immediately rewrote the French constitution more to his own liking, thus ending the Fourth Republic of France and beginning the Fifth. De Gaulle withdrew troops from all of the French colonies, and over the next four years he ended French colonial involvement, settled the Algerian crisis by allowing Algerians free immigration to France, but at the cost of abandoning the French people living in Algeria.

By 1962 de Gaulle was finally prepared to turn his attention back to the economy where the most vexing issue was the large subsidies that had been granted to French farmers. But he rejected the thought of lowering subsidies and restoring a free market because he feared that it would cause a revolt and reduce his own party's political support, which came largely from the agricultural sector. Grasping for a solution, he began to rethink his opposition to Monnet, and to envision how in one stroke he could control the EEC, bail out French agriculture, reduce the financial pressure on the French government, and create a permanent subsidy to France from the other countries of Europe.

Therefore, De Gaulle's placed all of his focus on creating what became known as the "CAP" (common agricultural policy). This essentially amounted to the use of most of the EU tax receipts (around 90%) being given back to farmers in the form of subsidies and price supports for agricultural products. Since France had by far the largest number of farmers among the EU members, enacting de Gaulle's CAP program would mean that there would be a huge transfer of wealth, with the bulk of it going to France. De Gaulle knew that if England was a part of the EEC before the CAP was enacted the British would deny this proposal, and so he and President George Pompidou who followed him in 1969 consistently delayed and vetoed England's application to join until they could get the CAP in place in such a way that it could not be altered.

It took eleven years of contentious negotiations for France to get its way, but the French diplomatic énarques persevered. Free market economists were aghast at this huge socialistic money grab that was being forced down their throats, and finally the Dutch Agriculture Minister Sicco Mansholt, who ironically came from a socialist background, decided to try to turn back the tide. He attempted to cut subsidies, reduce the number of cattle, and lower price supports in an

effort to improve productivity and competitiveness. However, thousands of farmers in Benelux rioted, several people were killed, and Mansholt's own life was threatened. The EEC members finally capitulated; in 1970 they passed the French-inspired CAP legislation in a document known as the Treaty of Luxembourg, and in 1971 it was ratified by all of the members.

At this point the French strategy with England did a 180-degree flip-flop – it was then essential to get England into the EEC as soon as possible so that English wealth would immediately begin flowing across the channel to France. It has long been said that George Pompidou was more “moderate” than Charles de Gaulle because after 1971 he finally supported England's EEC membership request, but the reality is that his policies and goals were exactly the same as de Gaulle's. In May of 1971 a summit meeting between Heath and Pompidou was held and the good feelings generated by this event were supposedly responsible for the thaw in Franco-British relations. But that was purely theatre for the media. French resistance to England's EEC membership disappeared only when the CAP legislation was finally ratified. Pompidou's frown was then replaced by an eager smile and a *Oui Monsiuer!* The time had come for the shearing of Britain.

Unfortunately for England, the Prime Minister at the time was the internationalist Edward Heath, who was convinced that the long-term success of England lay in becoming an EEC member. Even though the British public at the time had virtually no interest in joining, Heath immediately made this a public issue and eventually staked his entire political future as well as that of England on EEC integration. As he looked into the television cameras in 1973, he lied to his entire nation:

There are some in this country who fear that going into Europe we shall somehow sacrifice our independence and sovereignty. These fears, I need hardly say, are completely unjustified.

Heath immediately got a taste of what was in store for England when the EEC members indicated what England's contribution to the budget would be. There was a phase-in period that would last several years, but England's contribution would eventually be 19% of the whole, with possible future increases, and 90% of this would go toward the CAP program. Thus, there would be a permanent net transfer of wealth from Britain to the EEC, and thus to France.

Another serious problem was that joining the EEC meant that England and the other applicants had to ratify and be bound by all of the accumulated law that had been passed, by this point over 13,000 pages, many of which had never been officially translated into English. This was known as the *acquis communautaire*, and accepting it was absolutely non-negotiable – once an EEC law was passed all of the member nations had to abide by it. One of the major activities of the EEC was developing laws to somehow equalize, control, and essentially micromanage all aspects of commerce for the sake of safety, union participation, women's rights, the environment, and many other contentious and contradictory issues. Also, as the trade barriers between member countries were removed and formalized in EEC customs law, European nations came up with other creative ways of protecting their domestic industries, and a large part of EEC lawmaking activity was related to simultaneously creating new barriers and to reining in protectionist attempts, with lobbyists for all sides fighting over and providing benefits to cooperative EU

lawmakers. The number of EEC rules and regulations making up the *acquis* was exploding exponentially. James Callahan, an English representative to the EEC once remarked,

I remember one low point when nine foreign ministers from the major countries of Europe spent several hours discussing how to resolve differences on standardizing a fixed position of rear-view mirrors on agricultural tractors.

The French eventually wore Heath down; he had made promises and expended his political capital on integration, so eventually his instructions to his ministers were, “swallow the lot, and swallow it now.”

One of the issues with the *acquis* that England swallowed and overlooked at the time, but that later came back to bite them very badly was related to fishing. This industry was a large part of the English economy, and the waters off England were some of the best fishing regions in Europe containing around 80% of the fish. The international Law of the Sea had been passed allowing each maritime country to extend its borders out to 200 miles from its coast, but under EEC law, other member countries had the rights to fish in the waters of any EEC member, right up to the beach. Thus, England’s fishing resources were fair game once it became an EEC member, and this was to create huge problems in later years, and did great damage to England’s fishing industry, especially from the huge fishing fleets of Spain. Norway discovered this issue and the fisheries minister resigned in protest. The Norwegians eventually voted down EEC membership and have never joined the EU, but England went ahead.

Even though England resisted monetary union, the country was still subject to all of the EU rules and regulations which had already been passed and were being made in Brussels at a furious pace. For many Brits their first real experience with the EU was when these regulations began to be enforced in the early 1990s by newly created organizations within the British government. One Englishman who ran a small garden center had for years been employing an unused quarry on his own land as a compost heap. He was informed by the authorities that under new EU waste regulations, his dead leaves and other composting materials constituted “controlled waste.” Since he did not have a waste management license, he would have to hire a contractor to remove and dispose of the materials at a cost of £20,000, and he also faced prosecution for committing a criminal offence. Another man owned a butchery which had been a family business for 100 years. He was informed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food that he must now make extensive structural changes to his facilities. If he did not comply within six months, he would lose his license and be forced to close the business. Although the butcher shop was just across the yard from his slaughterhouse, he would no longer be allowed to carry meat between the buildings unless he built a refrigerated tunnel between them. After considering the cost of this he decided that his only option was to close.

But the issue which most fully crystallized British hatred and opposition to Brussels was ironically the conversion to the metric system. An English fruit vendor was arrested and prosecuted for the crime of pricing and selling his bananas in pounds instead of in kilograms. This arrest made the front-page headlines, and many stories began coming to light of how these and hundreds of other ridiculous laws, made by a distant, unfeeling bureaucracy that was completely out of touch with local conditions, and enforced in ways that often lacked common sense, were ruining the economy and killing small businesses. Furthermore, these businessmen

had no recourse within the country because local politicians had no right to challenge or modify the slightest part of any EU law.

Many of these regulations were not even coming from the EU itself, but from academic and environmental pressure groups, consultants, lobbyists, trade groups, and other NGO's (non-governmental organizations) all of whom were seeking to impose their own will and spin on Europe. At the time there were over 1,600 committees operating in Brussels, and over 170,000 lobbyists, and the numbers have since grown larger. All of these regulations were supposedly vetted and passed by various organizations within the EU, but most were merely rubber stamped on the way to the Council of Ministers who only had time to review twenty percent or less of the new legislation – the rest was passed automatically. All of their meetings were confidential, and it was once observed that the only countries which were as secretive as the EU were Cuba, North Korea, and Iraq. By 1998 it was estimated that more than 3,000 ministerial meetings were being held each year (an average of 60 per week) in a vain attempt to keep up with the flood of new laws, many of which were not even translated in time for them to be properly reviewed. The “Common Market” which was supposedly a “free trade zone” was thus encumbered with thousands of rules, making it the most highly regulated trading zone on the planet. Far from opening markets, the laws served mainly to protect insiders, especially in France, who managed to create many regulations specifically designed to protect its own companies. The eyes of the people began to open and gradually the hatred of Brussels began to grow.

Veiled hostility between England and the rest of the EEC became more-or-less a permanent fixture. When Margaret Thatcher was elected to office in 1979, she spent five years trying to get a more equitable split on England's budget contribution. At one point she even attempted the so-called “nuclear option” to get the English parliament to suspend EEC payments or even possibly to leave the EEC entirely, but there were too many Europhiles in the British government for the measure to succeed.

Despite the drain of the EEC payments, the later years of Thatcher's time in office were ones of prosperity and growth in England as her attempts to privatize the economy and limit the power of unions began to pay off. The period of 1987-88 were the peak of Britain's boom years, as the entire country became energized by the free-market initiatives that Thatcher had made. Over one hundred thousand new companies per year were being created in the period, far exceeding past numbers, and investors around the world began to pour resources into England, in an effort to join the action. But the final years of Thatcher's term became grim, as the influence of Eurocrats in the British government had grown large and interest rates rose precipitously. Thatcher was by far the most effective opponent to the EU political machine, so funds from EU, CFR and RIIA-inspired sources began flowing into the political coffers of Europhilic British politicians in order to destroy the “iron lady” of England.

Thatcher was marginalized by the EU and the press, and became a minority of one, vainly trying to halt the runaway train of increased “competencies” for the European Union, and their desire to control everything—money, education, energy, communications, transportation, politics, law, defense, and foreign policy in the same ways that they had already gained control of national economies. In the media, England was often said to be “missing the train,” “traveling in the slow lane,” and many other clichés and metaphors, although it was never clear exactly what the bad

consequences would be, and why it was so important to catch that train. During this time Thatcher made a famous speech in 1988 in Bruges, noting that:

It is ironic that just when the countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, who have tried to run everything from the centre, are learning that success depends on dispersing power away from the centre, many in this [European] Community want to move in the opposite direction. We have not successfully rolled back the frontiers of the state in Britain only to see it re-imposed at a European level, with a European super-state exercising a new dominance from Brussels... Europe will be strong precisely because it has France as France, Spain as Spain, and Britain as Britain, each with their own customs, traditions, and identity. It would be folly to fit them into some sort of identikit European personality.

Her speech ruffled many feathers, because this was exactly the intention of the EEC leaders, who at that time were pressing forward with monetary and political union. One of Thatcher's last and most powerful speeches was a literal prediction of what lay ahead for Europe and her feelings about it:

Mr. Delors said at a press conference the other day that he wanted the European Parliament to be the democratic body of the Community [in place of parliaments in the member states]; he wanted the European Commission to be the executive, and he wanted the Council of Ministers to be the senate. No! No! No!

The London *Sun* responded with the famous headline "Up Yours, Delors!" but led by the BBC media chorus, the tide had turned against Margaret Thatcher. She was done in by betrayals from her own ministers and she finally resigned in 1990. Two years later the French EU Commission President Jacques Delors, pushed through the Maastricht Treaty, which was the definitive step toward monetary union, as well as formally replacing the EEC with the European Union (i.e., the Common Market was replaced by a full-blown European government). Ironically, the EU federation was created on the same day that Boris Yeltsin dissolved the Russian federation and declared that "the Soviet Union had ceased to exist."

Margaret Thatcher's political party, the Tory conservatives, was effectively taken over by Europhiles, and the Prime Ministers who succeeded her – John Major and later Labor party leader Tony Blair – were both supporters of the European Union. Thus, like the CFR in America with their quasi-control and influence over US Republicans and Democrats, the EU effectively captured both of Britain's major political parties. English voters now have the unappetizing prospect of choosing between the EU-oriented Tory conservatives, and the more socialistic and union-oriented Labor liberals.

In the succeeding years England has slipped backward with higher prices, serious declines in agriculture, and a poor economic outlook. Large numbers of Englishmen are leaving the country, and many are moving to France, of all places. In spite of very high French taxes they are buying up French farms and real estate because they can get much better deals there than in England, as well as more CAP-based agricultural subsidies. Sir Nicholas Henderson, the British Ambassador to France, had this to say about his own country:

Our decline in relation to our European partners has been so marked that today we are not only no longer a world power, but we are not in the first rank even as a European one.

England was, however, assisted by the people of Denmark who have long distrusted even their own politicians. Despite the support of all of the main Danish political parties, the Danish people rejected the Maastricht Treaty after the government distributed 300,000 copies of it and the Danes saw how unreadable it was. Even the Danish Foreign Minister, Paul Schluter, admitted, “I don’t understand it and I negotiated it.” When the Danes voted *Nej*, shock waves traveled across Europe because if any member state failed to ratify a treaty, it had to be declared void. Portugal’s Foreign Minister stated, “Either the Danes must be expelled from the Community or forced to reverse their decision.” Years later the Danes again showed their common sense in the face of the combined Danish political and media establishment by rejecting the Euro.

Frantic EU leaders immediately began searching for ways around their own limitations which years before had been carefully inserted into the organization to prevent them from taking the very action which they took next. The answer, which naturally came from Jacques Delors, was in the principle of “subsidiarity” that allowed the Union to take any action it deemed to be prudent and necessary, even if individual member states rejected it. Thus, the EU shrugged off its own constraints, and the move toward a New World Order rolled on. However, it did so without the UK, which after a long and contentious series of ballots, finally left the EU after the Brexit referendum in 2016. Negotiating the exit terms took four years and the UK finally dumped the EU and left in 2020.

The EU and Military Issues

In 1991 Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and the response was the Desert Storm action undertaken by the US and Britain. The EU was divided, and many insiders considered the organization to be weak and ineffective. As the Belgian Foreign Minister stated at the time, the EU was “an economic giant, a political pygmy, and a military larva.”

Immediately following the actions in Iraq, another war in Europe was brewing. Yugoslavia was a country that had been created after WWII and had been held together under the iron fist of the communist dictator Josip Tito, who ruled from Belgrade, in the portion of the country previously known as Serbia. The Soviet Union was in the process of breaking apart, Tito had died, and the various regions of Yugoslavia who had suffered greatly under Tito’s grip began to declare their independence. Croatia and Slovenia were the first to secede, and Slobodan Milosevic, the current dictator of Serbia sent in troops to crush the secession movement.

This was exactly the type of crisis that Delors and others were looking for – a heaven-sent opportunity to assume more powers (in EU-speak, to “increase Union competencies”) in the area of political and military integration. The EU sent a negotiating team of three foreign ministers, led by Jacques Poos of Luxembourg, who said,

The hour of Europe has dawned... if there is one problem that can be solved by Europeans it is the Yugoslav problem. This is a European problem, and it is not up to the Americans to resolve it.”

The Slovenians initially greeted the EU negotiators with Europa flags flying, until the people found out what the agenda of these ministers actually was. The European Union, which for decades had been struggling to achieve a federal state, could not conceive of why Slovenia, Croatia, and the others would want to break up the Yugoslav federation and become independent. The negotiators met with the Serb dictator Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade, and Poos said in support of him, “the idea of national self-determination is a dangerous basis for international order.” The Luxembourg minister also scorned the idea that “tiny Slovenia” could survive on its own as a nation, even though its population was six times larger than Luxembourg.

Even more telling was that the European Union had just made a huge €700 million loan to Serbia, which Milosevic used to buy weapons. The EU negotiators insisted that Slovenia and Croatia should revoke their declarations of independence as a condition for cease-fire with Serbia. But the Slovenians and the Croats instead began to burn the EU flags and use them to wrap their garbage. An eleven-year war began, with thousands of Croats, Slovenians, Bosnians, and Serbs killed while the EU military observers observed, the EU politicians debated, the EU mediators mediated, and the EU negotiators negotiated, trying in vain to convince the peoples of the former Yugoslav republic that life would be better as a federation under Serb rule. EU intervention was thus a disgusting fiasco, and to the huge embarrassment of the European Union, they again had to be bailed out by America. Countless atrocities were committed, especially by the Serbs, and the conflict continued until the US finally entered the war and brought peace soon afterward by bombing Serbia, arresting Milosevic, and putting him and several of his military leaders on trial for war crimes.

Although no one in the EU would admit it, the continuing war in Yugoslavia was a huge indictment of the European Union, whose main *raison d’être* was to prevent wars from occurring. Instead of preventing the Yugoslav war, the EU perpetuated it, and ultimately had to get outside help to end it.

EU Propaganda, Enlargement, and Control

It was at the beginning of the 1990s that the EU grew large and powerful enough to begin imposing its own will on its member states in Europe rather than having to continue to kowtow to national leaders. Jacques Delors had just succeeded in first marginalizing, and then with the help of EU-loving politicians in the British government, which he had helped to put in place, finally eliminating Margaret Thatcher, who had been his most intelligent and highly placed critic. This gave Delors much cachet in France and elsewhere on the continent, and he immediately began looking for strategies to further centralize the EU and reduce the power of the member nations, who naturally were often in disagreement with what the central government wanted to foist on them.

Delors found it in a concept known as “regionalization,” which became the new EU buzzword, and a “Committee of the Regions” was formed. The stated goal of this effort was ostensibly to create more harmony among all of the diverse areas of Europe, but the real goal was to break down national sovereignty and the existing centers of power. They would be replaced by regions of the former countries which would then be less powerful and more amenable to EU control.

The existing countries would remain on the map as before, but the national governments of the European nations would, in Delors' plan, be marginalized and replaced by balkanized "duchies." To implement the plan, Delors authorized the local governments in each region to negotiate directly with the European Commission for access to government money, bypassing the national governments and pitting the regions against each other in a money grab at the EU trough. Almost overnight the number of lobbyists in Brussels increased ten-fold.

Over time Delors had packed the EU Commission with his own people until it became essentially a French socialist machine. He saw regionalization as not only destroying opposition to the EU in England but also reducing the influence of Germany, the perennial opponent of France, and possibly returning Europe to something more like the French-dominated power balance that had existed during the time of the Sun King Louis XIV, and prior to the unification of Germany by Bismarck. If German unification could be rolled back, and Germany transformed back into Bavaria, Burgundy, Pomerania, and a series of other regions, German influence could be muted, and France could reassert its historic role of European domination.

But with Euroscepticism abounding and hatred of the EU growing, even regionalization was deemed to be insufficient to develop a European conscience in the populace. The EU therefore created "Jean Monnet chairs" in 491 European educational institutions and financed 2,319 teaching positions for "Jean Monnet Projects" across Europe. These educators were challenged to come up with ways of promoting European integration and improving the EU's public image. With the help of many of these academics, the EU Commission developed a White Paper in 2001 which contained a complex plan for winning the hearts and minds of Europeans.

The core of the plan was a concept known as "networking." This involved working with churches (emphasizing peace), women's groups (emphasizing feminism and female rights), gays (emphasizing homosexual and transgender rights), unions (emphasizing benefits and reduction of corporate power), local authorities (emphasizing business and funding opportunities), etc. Each group would therefore receive a different EU spin, and the groups would then be linked together to create pro-EU political pressure. All of this activity was to be funded by EU tax revenues.

Another proposal from the White Paper was "regulatory reform." The EU Commission, along with its lobbyists and NGOs, was spending large amounts of time and energy passing huge volumes of regulatory law, but it was up to each country to implement and enforce that law. The existing regulatory bodies in each EU country, covering areas such as food safety, maritime activities, air safety, etc., were deemed to be too arbitrary and not strict enough about making everyone toe the EU line. Therefore "regulatory reform" was proposed, which involved setting up agencies in every country in order to remove regulatory enforcement from national control. The shell of existing regulatory organizations would remain in order to conceal this process from the populace, but the staff would be managed in such a way that they would be responsible only to the EU Commission, even though they worked directly in the target country. Thus, all of the EU laws would be fully implemented and enforced everywhere. A powerful side benefit of this process would be that the national governments would be responsible for paying the regulatory staff, and cost for this effort would thus be born by each European country directly rather than

the European Union itself. Therefore, each nation would be forced to pay for its own regulatory strangulation.

“Regionalization,” “networking,” and “regulatory reform” were to be followed up by “tax harmonization” a code word for implementing a Europe-wide income tax payable directly to the EU. This would provide vast new revenues that could then be used to further expand government influence and control. This has so far been rejected but is continually presented as a requirement for the proper functioning of the Union.

EU Embezzlement and Scandals

The explosion of regulatory legislation and lobbyists led to many huge multi-million-euro embezzlement schemes, which were developed by EU commission insiders who came up with many creative ways to siphon off funds and receive kickbacks. This had been going on for a long time, with the Commission stalling inquiries and stonewalling attempts at reform. Finally, Paul van Buitenen, a Dutch EU accountant, sent a 600-page document listing many EU financial crimes to the European Parliament in December of 1998, and others began coming forward with stories of corruption, mismanagement, and fraud. For example, the EU maintained a €2.7 billion overseas aid program which was rife with corruption. One EU-funded program to build roads in Cameroon had led to a partial felling of a rain forest designated as a world heritage site, with the mass destruction of wildlife and the bulldozing of villages. This was done through the collaboration of the Cameroonian government along with French logging companies, who had become adept at exploiting EU aid funding.

The call went out for reform and eventually the entire slate of commissioners resigned in 1999. But despite press coverage and repeated condemnation, the commissioners, including Jacques Santer, the disgraced Commission President who succeeded Jacques Delors, went on to take other EU jobs, and business more-or-less continued as usual. The Commission destroyed many incriminating documents, set up an anti-fraud unit as a bureaucratic smoke screen, and the unit served instead to muzzle the press and protect the EU from criticism. Mr. Buitenen, the whistleblower, was suspended and reassigned at half of his former salary. The same situation was repeated several years later in 2004 by Marta Andreason, the EU Commission’s chief accounting officer. The Commission had historically hired individuals with little or no accounting skills, and Ms. Andreason was one of the first professional accountants ever hired. She noted that the computer systems created for the Commission had never been integrated with each other, in a planned effort at obfuscation. She also revealed that the EU Commission still relied on single entry bookkeeping allowing officials to transfer large sums without leaving any corresponding ledger entries. Her final assessment of on the Commission’s financial operations were that it was “chronically sordid – an open till waiting to be robbed.” Marta Andreason was quickly fired. The Court of Auditors, which is the EU’s own body for policing its finances, has refused to certify the financial statements of the European Union since 1995.

Jules Muis, the former Director-General of the Commission’s Internal Audit Service, wrote a scathing criticism of the EU after he retired. He indicated that the Commission still relied on non-qualified accountants who were unaware of normal accounting practices, allowing it to “get away with practices that breached its own law.” He also said that the Commission operated a

“perverse incentive structure that rewarded staff if they managed to avoid discovering financial malfeasance.” Mr. Muis was threatened with retribution, and was told, “We have ways of breaking people like you.”

Thus, critics of the EU must be prepared for personal ruin, as the organization now has the legal right to take such actions. The EU Court of Justice has ruled that the Union is allowed to suppress the personal rights of any individual attempting to criticize it. Hans Martin Tillack, the Brussels correspondent of Germany’s Stern magazine, was jailed for writing a series of articles exposing EU fraud, and the European Court brushed aside decades of precedent and case law to allow all of his records and notes to be seized in an effort to find his sources, the EU whistleblowers, and to deal with them. After Bernard Connely’s book, *The Rotten Heart of Europe: the Dirty War for Europe’s Money* was published, he was fired, threatened, and blackballed by the EU. When he challenged this in court, the prosecutor indicated that criticism of the EU was akin to extreme blasphemy. In 2001 the court decided that the EU can lawfully suppress political criticism of its institutions and leading figures, and it upheld the firing.

The EU and the United Nations

It is ironic that so much trust is placed in international organizations such as the EU and the UN, and that many people see these organizations in a less negative light than they do national governments, especially that of America. Polls around the world have shown that large numbers of people will only support war if it is approved by the UN. But despite the appeal of the UNESCO propaganda with its children of all colors laughing and playing together, the reality is that UN is shamefully and disgustingly corrupt and is completely unworthy of trust.

UN officials are involved in drug-dealing in Cambodia; refugee extortion in Kenya; sexual slavery in the Balkans, and “Sex-for-Food” in Western Africa, where UN staffers on “peace missions” have routinely demanded the sexual favors from very young girls in exchange for the delivery of food, which was donated and paid for by the dues of member UN countries.

The antics of a US prison guard in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq were front page news for weeks and led to calls for the resignation of Donald Rumsfeld, the US Secretary of Defense. Politicians such as Ted Kennedy made ridiculous statements, such as, “Saddam’s torture chambers are now open under new management.” But the systemic pedophilia that has occurred in a large percentage of UN missions goes almost completely unreported. Even Bill Clinton, with his cigars and his nubile intern in a blue dress, is a boy scout compared with the UN people. Didier Bourguet, a UN staffer in Congo and the Central African Republic, enjoyed many 12-year-old girls, and as a result he is now on trial in France. His lawyer excused his actions on the basis that he is simply doing what other UN staffers do, and that a UN pedophile network is operating throughout Africa and Southeast Asia. There should be continuous worldwide calls demanding that the UN be defunded, and that the entire leadership be put on trial for crimes against humanity, but instead this is simply swept under the rug. Question: how can you safely rape and have sex with many underage African girls? Answer: wear a blue helmet.

The genocide in Sudan is typical of the failure of the UN to achieve any meaningful results. While ten of thousands were killed and millions were forced out of their villages and into refugee

camps by the forces of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of northern Sudan, the UN did nothing except to send in study groups. The issue is that northern Sudan is Islamic, and its aggressive jihadist policies are supported by the entire Muslim bloc, who are a large part of the UN. Ironically, both al-Bashir of Sudan as well as Colonel Gaddafi of Libya have in the past been appointed as chairmen of the UN Human Rights Commission, and it was announced at one point that the presidency of the UN Conference on Disarmament would pass to Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

When the tsunami of 2005 hit Southeast Asia, rescue organizations such as World Vision and others from Australia and America were quickly on the scene, but the UN humanitarians were unable to arrive for weeks, and then spent their time holding press conferences about the need for more donations to UN humanitarian programs.

The Oil-for-Food scandal is another example of how the UN and its leadership has largely escaped the condemnation that it so richly deserves and is a case study in how protected bureaucracies create guilt and compassion in western countries, and then use these emotions to crassly enrich themselves. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General is from the Ashanti tribe, the ruling group in Ghana, West Africa. His son Kojo was earning a salary of \$30,000 per year, but somehow came up with a quarter million to invest in a Swiss football club through Iraq Oil-for-Food slush funds. Also involved was Kobina Annan, Kojo's brother, who is the Ghanaian ambassador to Morocco, with ties to a man who is being investigated for bribery involving a \$50 million UN building contract, and who coincidentally was also the son of the Ghanaian ambassador to Switzerland. Meanwhile, Secretary-General Kofi refuses to resign and insists that he is committed to reforming the UN, despite the fact that his brother, his son, his son's best friend, his former chief of staff, his procurement officer and the executive director of the UN's largest-ever aid program have all been implicated in the scandal. In another strange coincidence, many of the high officials in the Ghanaian government own or have directorships in companies with UN contacts, and ties to various UN programs. Paul Volker, the Oil-for-Food scandal investigator, who, to his credit, has brought some of this to light, has avoided a confrontation with Kofi, because Volker himself is a UN staffer. The UN is thus investigating itself. Annan has promised to bring "reforms," perhaps by replacing the Program Oversight Committee with the Program Oversight Committee Oversight Committee, but the reality is that the Oil-for-Food debacle *is* the UN – socialist utopians, bureaucratic embezzlers, and panders of guilt and anti-Americanism.

Even when scandal is not involved, actions taken by the UN have tended to make the world worse rather than better. Like the European Union and other globalists, the UN leadership believes that they know how to run things better than anyone else. Ironically, the people who have been under UN wing the longest and where permanent UN agencies have been set up – the Palestinians and the inhabitants of Kosovo – are also the most comprehensively damaged people on the planet. Those societies have problems unrelated to what the United Nations has done, but UN involvement has resulted in the perpetuation of problems because UN policies treat the people of these countries like dependent children who are incapable of taking care of themselves and making their own decisions. For example, in the aftermath of the Hamas win in Israel and the cutoff of American aid, there have been frantic calls from the EU and the UN to send millions more in aid to the Palestinian government, because "Palestine is in danger of immanent

collapse.” The reason that it is in danger of imminent collapse is that the Palestinian Authority has continually been given foreign aid, and the society has become dependent on EU and UN handouts, which have allowed it to focus Palestinian efforts on destroying Israel rather than creating businesses and building up Palestine.

The wreckage caused by the UN is not limited to politics. Its involvement in gender programs has typically provided a large platform for the most virulent feminists in the world, who are given public funds to promote their pro-abortion and anti-family agenda, camouflaged by UNESCO propaganda.

Why is there such silence about the crimes and excesses of the UN, and why is there not a continual chorus of front-page articles demanding real reform? The answer is threefold: 1) the adversaries of the UN typically have much fewer resources and less access to public opinion; 2) the UN, like the EU, plays hardball with any insider who wants to defect and tell the truth, and therefore it is very hard to learn what is really going on; and 3) the press largely consists of left-leaning liberals who excuse UN actions and hesitate to criticize them, like the French communists who excused the excesses of Stalin because of their belief in the goodness of communism.

Despite the continual news reports about corrupt politicians in America, the truth is that there is much less government corruption in the US than in any other government entity. Is this because American politicians are somehow more moral than the rest of the world? No – it is because they are continually under the media spotlight, like a bug under a microscope, and the opposing political party as well as the media will savage them on any possible issue that can be dug up or invented. Contrast this with organizations such as the UN and the EU where there are positions of extensive power, access to substantial amounts of money, and very little accountability. Eventually there will be systemic and widespread corruption which will be carefully swept under the rug.

Eliminating Dissention

Like the UN, the European Union shook off criticism of its goals and has moved toward more centralized control. In 1998 the European Central Bank was formed, and it was given exclusive control over all monetary policy. Like other central banks it is completely independent of any nation and even the EU itself. It is run by a board of directors, and all of its meetings are secret. The following year the Euro was introduced, eventually replacing the currencies of twelve European nations, as well as being informally used in other countries.

Billions have been spent by the EU on marketing and public relations to hide the above issues from the public. Anyone wanting to form a political party can do so, and plans call for the EU to provide cash to help launch these parties as long as the founders sign a statement agreeing to a large number of EU policies and principles. Conversely, the EU can eliminate any party that it deems to be out of accord. In 2004 the Vlaams Blok, a Flemish nationalist group founded in 1977 and dedicated to controlling immigration and getting Belgium out of the EU, was accused of racism and declared to be a “non-party” and a “criminal organization” by the Belgian courts. The reason for this action was that support for this party was growing faster than any other; it

had captured 25% of the Flemish votes, more than any other party, and held eighteen seats in the Belgian parliament. In disbanding the party Frank Vanhecke, a MEP and a Vlaams Blok Party leader made the following statement:

The consequences of the conviction are, however, serious. According to the law, every member of our party or everyone who has ever cooperated with it, even if he has not committed any crimes himself, becomes a criminal by the mere fact of his membership of or his cooperation with our party. The Ghent verdict... serves as an efficient means to suppress [unwanted political] groups or societies, as the lawmaker intended. I thank those who founded our party in 1977 and all who have supported it in the past 27 years. They have fought the good fight. I thank our one million voters. They deserve a democracy. Belgium does not want to grant them one, but we will. Today, our party has been killed, not by the electorate but by the judges. We will establish a new party. This one Belgium will not be able to bury; it will bury Belgium.

The EU marketing and PR efforts are therefore like putting lipstick on a pig, because the entire tenor of the European Union is one of deception, intolerance, and power grabbing covered up by a marketing patina of caring and sharing. Nationalistic and anti-centrist forces have prevailed at times, but in the spirit of Monnet who understood that a long-term, incremental approach was required, the European Union has gradually become more and more centralized, with the ultimate goal becoming a one-world government.

The EU and the New World Order

CFR-inspired political forces in the US have attempted to take similar actions in America. The NAFTA agreement was signed with Canada and Mexico in an attempt to create a North American “free-trade” zone that was meant to emulate the European Common Market. Constant efforts by Democrats are being made to break down US sovereignty and legalize immigrants; to eliminate all barriers to immigration so that America can be flooded with Hispanics who will then vote for Democrat politicians and break down traditional American power centers.

However, CFR and internationalist initiatives apply to both sides of the US political aisle. President Bush and CFR-inspired Republicans, supported by American oil firms, have prosecuted the war in Iraq, which has required billions to be spent on the military and has created huge US budget deficits and corresponding reductions in the value of the dollar. In turn, it has also provided the Democrats with a huge stick to beat the Republicans, and to argue for more international control, creating a win-win for internationalist forces controlling both political parties.

Thus the world has been coalescing into large political entities of varying power and influence, in three tiers: Europe and America in the first tier; Russia, China, Japan, the Muslim world of the Middle East and Africa, and the Commonwealth nations (Canada, Australia and New Zealand) in the second tier; and Central and South America, India, and Southeast Asia in the third. The groups that hold the levers of power in these countries and regions are the “ten-horned beast” of the new world order. Among these ten, seven are by far the most powerful and influential: Europe, America, Russia, China, the Muslim world, Japan, and Canada. They are the “seven

heads” of the order, with Europe being the head whose power had been diminished and “slain,” only to rise again to worldwide prominence in the figure of the European Union.