

Nationalism

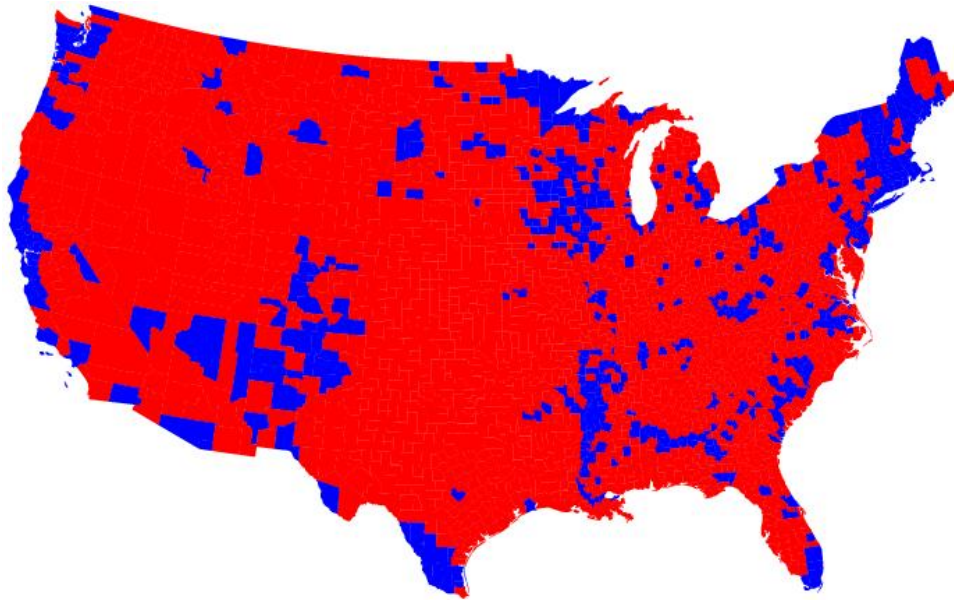
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The Inherent Goodness in America

We hear a lot in news commentaries about the “red states” in the US as if this were some kind of slur. When you see the map county by county of the United States as votes were cast for the Presidency in 2004¹, you see almost nothing but red:

- ❑ areas where the voters supported the basic fundamentalist message of the Republican President;
- ❑ areas where the people were not taken in by Hollywood’s irrational hatred of the current President;
- ❑ areas that were not frightened by the fear-mongering of the Democratic candidate;
- ❑ areas that believed in the inherent goodness and strength of the American economy and armed forces.



Now, while I grant you that this map is somewhat distorted because the red areas are less populated than the blue, urban enclaves, it vividly illustrates that this nation is not what Hollywood and the liberal national media would have you believe.

Relationship with the World

Admittedly, I am too eager to accept the opinions in the last book I read. However, when everything that is said in the book makes sense, and is borne out by facts subsequent to

¹ <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~mejn/election/>

the book's publication, I think it is appropriate to take seriously its content and recommendations. The book in question is "Inside the Asylum" by Jed Babbin, formerly the deputy undersecretary of defense in the presidency of George H. W. Bush. Its subtitle is "Why the United Nations and Old Europe are Worse than you Think," which conveys much more of the substance of the book than its main title.

Summary and Recommendations

There are really three related threads in the book: the absolute depravity of the United Nations (UN), the arrogant, out-moded attitudes of the European Union (EU), and the need to restructure the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as a more effective means of self-defense among like-minded nations across the globe.

The United Nations

This book is a well documented summary of the evolution of the UN from "a wider and permanent system of general security" as envisaged in 1941 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and then Prime Minister Winston Churchill to its current status as:

- ❑ "a central problem for the world,"²
- ❑ A body whose primary objective is the downfall of the United States as a global and political 'hyperpower,'
 - By over-representing the interests of the European Union (EU) members who perceive themselves as in competition, rather than cooperation, with the US, and
 - By permitting the General Assembly, Security Council and bureaucracy to be controlled by representatives of Muslim and Third World states whose sworn objective is the overthrow of Western civilization
- ❑ The handmaiden of terrorism,
- ❑ A world-class financial rip-off eclipsing anything we have seen before,
- ❑ A source of endless, meaningless debate and nothing else,
- ❑ An overstuffed bureaucracy with little or no communication with, or accountability to, the home policies of the member nations, and
- ❑ A vehicle for seizing economic and judicial power from the developed nations.

The recommendation is not to kick the UN out of its palace in New York, but rather:

- ❑ To slowly and quietly withdraw from UN membership, and continue build a new political alliance with the democratic and law-abiding states.³ In particular, no American president should ever again bring a serious issue before the UN Security Council.

² British historian Paul Johnson

³ The Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) currently operates outside the UN to limit the proliferation of missile technology and WMD. It consisted at the time of publication of this text of Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Poland, Portugal, the Netherlands, Spain, the UK, and the USA

- ❑ To reduce the rank of the US representative to the UN from that of a full ambassador.
- ❑ To shut off all funding for the UN until a full accounting of the Iraqi Oil for Food program is completed and the guilty parties prosecuted.
- ❑ To take direct action against those UN organizations such as UNRWA that are actively sponsoring and supporting terrorist organizations.
- ❑ To insist that the next and all subsequent secretaries general be chosen from free, capitalist nations that support diplomacy and oppose terror, and not be selected from within the ranks of the UN beurocracy.

Europe's Self-Imposed Hell: the EU

'The EU began life as a free trade zone, metastasized into a pseudo-state, and seeks a status it cannot achieve: equality with the United States in both economic and political power. It will not achieve either, because Europe is dying ... "Europeans are living in a 'dream world' of welfare and long vacations," and have yet to realize that "they are not moving toward some sort of Nirvana."'⁴ The EU is based on the false premise that combining 25 weak economies will somehow produce an economic super-power.

France and Germany, 60% of the EU by population, are sinking fast. According to the Heritage Foundation, 10 workers in France working a state-imposed maximum of 35 hours a week support 4 pensioners. In 35 years, they will support 7. Germany has the largest and weakest economy in the EU; it is being eaten away by socialism. In the 10 years before 2001, its GDP grew at an anemic 1.5%. Both France and Germany are propping up their economies by violating the constitutional EU debt ceiling of 3%.

It seems that the EU is in fact collapsing. France (inexplicably) and the Netherlands recently refused to ratify the EU Constitution. Let's face it, it takes more than a vague anti-American feeling to overcome centuries of cultural pride and get the citizens of Europe to agree on anything. They still can't agree on the legal definition of marmalade.

The recommendation on reading between the lines: stand back and watch the EU implode.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

One of the really silly aspects of the EU is the obsession of its primary constituents – France and Germany – with disarmament. France is investing significantly in military preparedness without the political will to bring that equipment to bear in solving any national or international problem. Germany is falling rapidly behind, spending less than 1% of its GDP on defense. Under Article 5 of the NATO treaty, all of the member nations pledged to come to the defense of any other that was attacked. This article has only once been invoked, after September 11, 2001. With the exception of France, NATO nations did provide all of the assistance requested by the US in its war against terror: NATO AWACS planes and patriot missiles to protect Turkey, and ships to provide escort duties through the Straits of Gibraltar.

⁴ Babbin page 93.

France effectively withdrew from NATO in the 1960's over concerns about national identity. Germany is essentially ineffective because of its lack of investment in its own military capability.

So Babbin recommends the following approach to rebuilding NATO:

- ❑ America should obligate itself to mutual defense of those nations that share its national security objectives in the post-Soviet era.
- ❑ The NATO member states should be required to invest sufficiently in infrastructure and training to be able to interoperate effectively with American forces in the field.
- ❑ We should withdraw from nations such as Germany that are committed neither to their own defense nor to defending their NATO allies. This withdrawal should include denial of access to American training facilities currently enjoyed by all NATO partners.
- ❑ Seats on the NATO Defense Planning Committee which already excludes France after its defection in the 1960's should be denied to any member nation not committed to active participation as discussed above. Said nations would retain their seats on the Defense Review Committee that does not have the same policy making power as the planning committee.

Conclusion

'That the UN has failed in performing as a forum to resolve the world's conflicts peacefully does not condemn us to eternal war. That some members of NATO value competition over cooperation is a natural evolution of nations' interests that does not prevent NATO from being reformed and rebuilt. That America was unable to gather France and Germany into its coalition of the willing (of forty-eight other nations) to free Iraq does not mean America has failed itself or the world.

It is important for America to build new alliances geared to the war we are in now ...

So let's look at the scorecard: Who prevented war between India and Pakistan and is making both countries allies in the War on Terror? Who liberated Afghanistan and Iraq? Who forced Libya's cooperation to end its nuclear weapons program? Who has been the leader in forcing Pakistan to unravel its own illegal nuclear arms proliferation? In every case, the answer is not the UN and not the EU. The answer is the United States and its various independent coalitions of willing allies. That is the way forward.'⁵

Personal Footnote: Weapons of Mass Destruction

When the liberation of Iraq was launched, one of the primary reasons was the belief, based on intelligence reports from numerous sources, that Saddam Hussein was close to using or selling effective weapons of mass destruction (WMD). This was not too far-fetched since he had already used them on his own people. One of the frustrations encountered during that conflict was that no solid evidence was found to support that

⁵ Babbin pages 141, 142.

conclusion. However, I draw together a few scattered thoughts that lead me to an interesting conclusion:

- ❑ Once the UN started its endless filibustering and passage of resolutions repeatedly condemning Iraq's failure to permit inspections, it must have been obvious that sooner or later, another Iraq offensive would happen.
- ❑ Saddam had months while the forces were building up and positioned to cover up and/or distribute all evidence of WMD activities.
- ❑ There was some discussion at the time of convoys of trucks headed towards Lebanon.
- ❑ The almost irrational behavior of France, Germany and Russia not only in refusing to support operations against Iraq, but to actively oppose such action in any forum in which they had influence.
- ❑ Syria has been identified as an active participant in the Muslim terrorist opposition to US forces in Iraq, and as a safe haven for the surviving Saddam loyalists and the missing funds, including the pilfered profits from the Oil for Food program.
- ❑ There is currently pressure on Syria to withdraw from its occupation of Lebanon, and a supreme reluctance by Syria to comply.
- ❑ The Bekaa valley in Lebanon is a heavily fortified enclave manned by Iranian and Syrian forces together with Palestinian terrorist organizations. It is probably one of the few places on earth that are inaccessible to Western forces.⁶

Wouldn't it be interesting if a serious effort was made to penetrate that fortress? I am personally convinced that such an effort would reveal WMD in an advanced stage of readiness with the finger prints of Iran, Syria and Saddam all over them, and a lot of French, German and Russian brand names on the components and tools.

I would really like to see an expedition into the Bekaa valley revealing the truth of the matter as a vindication of the courageous acts of the coalition forces under the leadership of President Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair.

I would also like to hear the blustering evasions of the liberal politicians both here and overseas, and their mouthpieces, the liberal news media and the Hollywood 'elite.'

⁶ If this was not enough to make it a tourist attraction, it is also a thriving area for farming cannabis (hashish) and poppies (opium) to feed the world's drug habit.