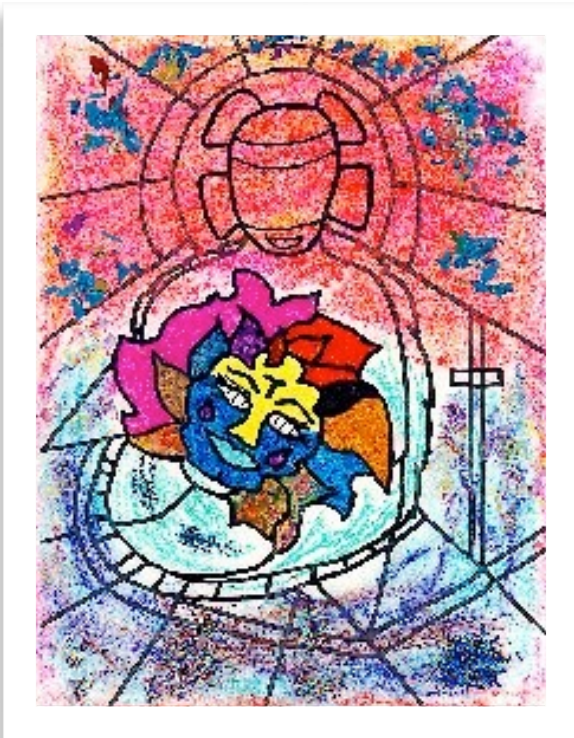


Religions, Nations, And Governments

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Is there an example of a nation or government which has outlasted a religion? Not necessarily outlasted an assault by a religion, although that too would be significant, but principally the question is whether a nation or government has outlasted a religion in duration of existence.

If there is not, then should religion be considered a power in history greater than the power of any nation or government?

I am assuming, based on the standard of longevity, that nations are more powerful than governments. Democratic political philosophy assumes that they are, as do most if not all other kinds of political philosophy.

The question is, I think, are religions or is religion as a class, to include its sub-classes of individual religions, especially the large ones as measured by membership, more powerful than nations and governments?

If religion/religions are more powerful than nations, which are more powerful than governments, then some points come to mind *apropos* our current situation:

- Our customary notion of a "separation" of religion and nation (or, in the language of the Enlightenment, a phenomenon of Christian culture, of "church and state") is simplistic to the point of debilitating and self-destructive. It essays, in effect, to keep at bay a power that could, any time it wishes, overwhelm it -- as we see in the aggressive, lethal-intending creep of so-called Islam through the doors of accommodating laws, attitudes and policies in nations not formed by Middle Eastern tribalism.
- GWOT (Global War on Terror) is a war on religion, or more accurately, a war on distorted religion, which, because it is a distortion of a religion, contains within itself a power capable of overwhelming any nation, or more precisely, any nation that is formed by the distortion of a religion. A nation formed by a genuine religion, in principle, has strength from the genuineness of its religion to defeat any attack by a distorted religion, including one that has arisen in its own territory as a distortion of its own religion.
- At every level of its prosecution, an understanding ¹ of differences between genuine and distorted religion and also of salient ambiguities in the actuality of every religion are essential to the success of GWOT. Sans these understandings GWOT cannot be won.
- The only prominent religious leadership in the Christian orbit to understand and express the *fundamenta* of our situation as well as its forward "Civil Affairs" character following behind as well as within our line of combat is old Ratzinger/new Benedict XVI at

¹ Understanding means standing under and thus participating in the existential reality of a thing. It means union with that thing, whatever it is.

the Vatican.



As Benedict XVI pointed out at [Regensburg](#) in September 2006, the analogous relation between the reason (*logos*) of man and the universal Reason (*Logos* or God) is the one and only basis for making peace among religions and preventing their so-called adherents from periodic insane, irreligious rampancy to the destruction of nations and governments.

Logos Theology is the only basis for making peace among religions because all religions express both the *logos* of man and the *Logos* of God. *Logos/logos* is the common ground of religions and also cultures and moralities. This is the saying, in effect, that all religions speak of the one God and what does not affirm the one God of whom all religions speak is irreligion and not religion.

At Regensburg, Benedict XVI set aside 1500 years of Vatican doctrine based on Aquinas and adopted the Logos Theology of the early Fathers, the Franciscan Doctors and the Fourth Gospel as the Church's adaptive response to the modern situation. He was right to do this. In fact he had no choice but to do it. The fact that the Vatican could switch from sense-based epistemology (Aquinas) to experience-based epistemology (Bonaventura) demonstrates that the Roman Catholic church, despite its errors, keeps ever in its background, as Chesterton noted, a reservoir of common sense.

"He understood down to its very depths the theory of thanks; and its depths are a bottomless abyss. He knew that the praise of God stands on its strongest ground when it stands on nothing."

G. K. Chesterton on St. Francis of Assisi

Logos Theology remarks the immediate existential participation of the Spirit in and as the human spirit: "the Word [*Logos*] became flesh [*sarko-*

logos] and dwelt among us [as human reason/*logos*]." God enters the realm of creatures without destroying their innate structure because his nature (*Logos* = Reason) is analogous to -- and truth be told, essentially identical with -- their nature (*logos* = reason).

Question:

Is understanding the differences between genuine and distorted religion, and the decisive role that understanding has on the success of GWOT, being taught in our schools and universities?

Answer:

To the best of my knowledge the assertion that GWOT cannot be won without understanding the differences between genuine and distorted religion is not being taught at our schools because it is assumed, in light of the current anti-Christian construction of the "separation" doctrine,² that neither genuine nor distorted religion, even if such phenomena exist, are a factor in the calculus of GWOT.

In neither *ecclesia* nor *academe* is the need grasped to understand the impact of "religion" on situations faced. Nor in either *ecclesia* or *academe* is grasped the concomitant need to understand what those difference are and how they manifest themselves and impact historical developments.

For example, combatant commanders tend to see the impact religion has on their operations, but most appear not to grasp the need to understand decisive differences between genuine and distorted religion that impact their missions.

² No separation of anything is more than superficial and temporary and in any case the separation doctrine is not in the Constitution.

Then there is the media's acceptance of every claim to be "clergy" as valid. No suspicion have they that the claim could be spurious. Nor are they equipped or disposed to distinguish a spurious claim from the genuine article. Among "journalists," "writers" and their "editors" there is an attitude that "clergy" and "religious scholars" are inconsequential because religion is.

The hole this ignorant complacency makes in our defensive and offensive lines is enormous and under exploitation.

Right after taking down Saddam, every cleric and religious scholar in Iraq and Afghanistan should have been vetted with the utmost care. Most are demonic leaders of distorted religion. Case in point: the so-called al Sadr.

President Musharraf should have been given courage and resources to round up every cleric and religious scholar in Pakistan and shut down every madrassah in that country. Madrassahs are military training facilities.

The Saudis should have been pressured to do the same in their territory.

Salafi (Wahhabi) and Shiite clerics and religious scholars and their "schools" are the source of "terrorism." They are the engine and the cannon fodder vexing mankind.

Palpable progress in GWOT will be made when clergy of all religions are vetted for genuineness and shut down if they are demonic.

The Hashemites and their religious scholars together with Christian theologians and Hindu pundits could do the vetting very well. These should be teamed in this project with Coalition military experts.

To quiet the demonic clergy and scholars who claim to represent Islam and to shut their "schools" must be the mission of every country.

Schools train young hearts to be pure and young hands to be work for the welfare of all, without caveat.

Demonic clerics and scholars have not been pursued systematically, although at least on the combatant commander level their generative role as terrorists has been noted and sometimes dealt with appropriately.

"Multiculturalism" gets in the way in the Coalition Forces also. Multiculturalism in principle does not and does not want to distinguish between genuine and demonic clergy and religion because it considers religion irrelevant to the psycho-social cultural agenda of its humanistic assumptions. Multiculturalism is a demonic and destructive doctrine originating in demonic academic faculties who behave as demonic clergy and scholars.

These SmartCards assist in identifying genuine and demonic [clergy](#), [scholars](#) and [religion](#).

A.M.D.G.