

This newsletter is the sole responsibility of Allen Polk Hemphill, and does not reflect the views of anyone but Allen. Allen can be contacted, and (free) electronic subscriptions are available at allen@allenhemphill.com
May be quoted with proper attribution.

"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

August 22, 2004



Commentary

Infidels Placed in Perspective

It certainly appears that the extremists of Islam are gaining ground in the recruitment of fighters against us "infidels."

Students of history will recall that this is round three of what may well be a scheduled 10-rounder in this epic struggle. Islam conquered much of southern Europe in a bloody fashion, and then there were the even-bloodier Crusades where Christians butchered Muslims. (In all fairness, the Crusaders were equal opportunity oafs...they butchered Christian as well as neutral and Muslim communities.)

And, as for the Muslims adhering to the Koran in the face of science, the early Christians were no better. The original "Flat Earth Society" were the Christians. By 200 B.C., the Greeks had pretty accurately determined that the earth was a sphere with a 28,000 mile circumference at the equator (off by 15%).

Ptolemy, the great Greek mathematician and geographer, had described measurements of longitude and latitude just after the birth of Christ.

But the Christians believed that the earth was flat, and they based that on a passage in the Bible (Hebrews 9:1-3) that described the earth as having the dimensions of the Tabernacle of Moses...and therefore flat and twice as long as it was wide. The ancient Greeks and Romans knew that the earth was spherical, but it would have been heretical, and therefore suicidal, to disagree with the teaching of the Church, so the world had geographic amnesia for 1,000 years. Roger Bacon got in trouble with the Church over the lodestone and Galileo was threatened with death for supporting the Copernicus theory that the sun was the center of the known universe. The Church

claimed that the earth was the center of the universe and, as such, did not move. Galileo finally recanted under threat of death, but made his famous *in soto voce* remark to the Bishop upon leaving the chambers...*"Eppur si muove"* (Nevertheless, it moves).

So, for more than 1,000 years the earth remained flat (and stationary)...by Christian fiat.

Religious fanaticism that is anti-science is therefore hardly new. Religious fanaticism that is inhumane is hardly new. What is new to those of us alive today is that we are the victims...it is we who are called the "infidels," but Prince Henry the Navigator convinced his father (King John 1) to allow him to attack the Muslim stronghold (Ceuta) in Africa so he could atone his sins by "washing his hands in the blood of the infidel."

While Western culture does not (generally) hold century-long (or millennium-long) grudges, the East certainly does. Some Muslims still want to revenge the Crusades. This makes absolutely no sense to the currently-secular nations of the West, but radical Muslims are not trying to punish just the Christians, they want to enforce radical Islam on EVERYONE who is not radical Muslim...much as the Church punished all "infidels" for a millennium, not just Muslims.

In our modern, scientific world, the insistence of strict adherence to an anti-scientific religious book (in this case, The Koran) may seem insane to us, but there are a few religious sects among us who would have us live by the literal word of the Bible.

The difference is, of course, that the radical Muslim sect that espouses "death to the Infidel" has gained more than a toehold in mosques around the world, and it is their dispersal around the world and ignoring of borders that makes them powerful. If they were nationally oriented, they would be crushed like a grape.

We are more accustomed to fighting nations and armies than individuals. Aircraft carriers and submarines didn't work well against men in black pajamas and will not work well against men in flowing white robes. We are "infidels" (Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Confucians, and atheists, everyone who is not radical Muslim) – and we had better understand that this is not a fight we "infidels" can afford to lose.

(This newsletter is periodically published electronically and delivered primarily by e-mail. Free subscriptions may be had by sending an e-mail to allen@allenhemphill.com with the word "subscribeRB" in the subject or the text.)



Dolphin Realty

Allen P. Hemphill

Real Estate Broker

15817 Bernardo Center Dr,
111, San Diego, Ca 92127
RB Office (858) 487-4750

27739 Mountain Meadow Road
Suite #5

Hidden Meadows CA 92026
Meadows Office (760)-749-5005

Home Office (760) 749-2654

www.allenhemphill.com
allen@allenhemphill.com