

History, Culture and Religion

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Inhoudsopgave

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Religion.

In the book *"The German Genius"* by Peter Watson, national socialism, fascism, and communism are considered to be the children of Enlightenment¹. The killing of the Jews has been a part of the operations of these "isms". To consider this as a part of Enlightenment too, is too simple. In the dark ages a new and inspiring crusade usually started with a massacre of the Jews along the river Rhine. The Jews are the scapegoats through the ages and the phenomena of pogroms is not related with Enlightenment. Religion is one of the major causes of the killing of people.

An interesting phenomena described in the above-mentioned book was the temporary alliance of the educated elite with the mob (Hannah Arendt in *"The German Genius"*). This type of alliance has been described by Toynbee in *"A study of History"*. The intermingling of the minority elite with the proletarian majority as a forebode of the decline of the society or the disintegration of cultivation.

Toynbee mentioned that religion unites a country. Luttwak in *"The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire"* paid some attention to this subject and mentioned the Sassanids as an example. What does unite people in the 21st century and what defines a country?

In The Economist, August 23rd 2014, a Swedish study on Crime and Poverty was reviewed. On the basis of this report, one could conclude that socialistic/communistic regimes unavoidably leads to mass murder: the twentieth century illustrates this in an extreme way.

In *"The Middle Ages"* by Johannes Fried you find a chapter with the title *"Waiting for Judgement Day and the Renaissance"*. In the beginning of that chapter Fries wrote: *"Down on earth, mighty and all powerful, stands the Angel Saint Michael, the weigher of souls. Clad*

¹ This looks like historicism. Historicism is about the doctrine that history is controlled by specific evolutionary laws whose discovery would enable the prophecy of the destiny of man.

in shining gold armor, he performs his duty, separating those who are blessed from those who are been damned. The man who imagined and brought to life this awe-inspiring scene was the artist Hans Memling.....". By a struck of lightning, I experienced the resemblance with the angel of Death, with the name Mengele. This occurred by seeing the movie: *"Im Labyrinth des Zweigens"*. Is this just a coincidence or was this business from Hell, orchestrated by the Nazis with this painting of Memling in mind? Memling painted this in 1470.

Religion and Culture.

For a decade or so religion has been the subject matter of contemplation and research. I mention just two recent publications. One written by Johnson and the other by Van Schaik and Michel.

The first one is about supernatural power, or god, or whatever you like as something supernatural, and the effect of supernatural power on the behaviour of human beings. Well, to summarize in the first book the influence of supernatural power on misbehaviour and the resulting punishment is discussed. So far so good.

Then exemptions of punishment of misbehaviour are given. These examples are presented as the exemptions proving the rule about the behaviour of people being aware of punishment after misbehaviour when a superpower is watching you all over the place. The exemptions proving the rule. The exemptions found are falsifying the rule. These effusions of the author undermine his reasoning. For example, in a major Canadian city the police went on strike. So, the citizens were wondering what could happen. Well, no problem at all. The murder rate increases, and the burglar rate increases. Misbehaviour exploded. This was again considered to be a prove of the influential corrective role of supernatural power. Here the study of Johnson turned into a joke. Furthermore, it is amazing the author brings Richard Dawkins to the stage to underline the importance of his story. Amazing indeed.

The second book represents a far more sophisticated study of the relation of culture and religion. Religion is developed by people as an instrument to rule complicated social structures like urban life. No supernatural power out of the blue. Just an instrument to structure urban life. Of course, the priest caste stayed close to their religious system with as few adaptations as possible. No alterations, otherwise, the system could collapse. And as a consequence, the priest caste would lose their policing powers. Again, Dawkins comes into play.

Both books are a sort of Richard Dawkins promotion. I hope it will make much good to him.

Out of Africa: a reversal.

In The Economist(November 28th 2015) attention is given to students who want to rename buildings honouring slave-owners and racists. Well, that is just a start. What should follow is that all people with DNA of the old world leave the US to their natives and return to Europe. For their wellbeing, all other people of colour, black, brown, and yellow, should also return to their respective countries.

What about Europe? All people with DNA of the Huns return to Asia. All Muslims(it is a race and a religion) return to the area of Mecca.

There are some details left. For example, all Greeks have Turkish DNA. So? Well, at the end

of the day we are finally reversing “Out of Africa” where our roots are.

So far so good. What is really at stake in Europe is not willing to defend the dominant culture. Then decline is irreversible (Toynbee).

Multicultural or Multiethnicity?

In the Netherlands you can still experience the thinking about a so-called multicultural society. When you listen carefully it is about multiethnicity. Multicultural does not exist at all. What you see in the Netherlands is a clash of ethnic groups not willing to participate in the dominant culture. That creates serious problems. The discussions on the subject matter are contaminated by the subject of slavery. Culminating in a silly discussion on Black Peter by people who are still cherishing their victimhood of 300 years ago. Instructive in this respect is the dialogue between Jamie Foxx and Javier Bardem in the Hollywood picture “*Collateral Damage*.” There Javier Bardem lectured Jamie Foxx on the important role of Black Peter in society. I had the feeling Jamie Foxx considered this lecture informative and instructive indeed.

Well, when you listen carefully you will learn that we still suffer of the occupation/ colonisation by the Romans and by the related forced labour. However, the silver lining was the inoculation of work ethos. Ok, we sacked Rome, but that is just small beer compared with the emotional damage we experienced during all the successive centuries. Christianity freed us from the shackles of Rome and gave us rest over at least a period of 400 years in the monasteries. Consequently, we lost our work ethos. That is the reason we denominated that period to be the Dark Ages. Then came the Spaniards. From them we learned a thing or two of the fighting ethos. In the 19th century we, at least in the Netherlands lost our fighting ethos. Well, as mentioned before we are still suffering. Again, a silver lining. We have the well fare state to look after us. A lot of people from other parts agree with that and come to our country. Here the law of conservation of misery is at work and we are in the middle of multi-ethnicity with a vengeance.

Literature.

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