

Political Correctness exposes the West

By Janet Albrechtsen, The Australian, 20 January 2016

To fully understand the significance of the horrific violence in the square outside Cologne's cathedral on New Year's Eve, you need to go back to that same place almost exactly one year earlier. In the first week of January 2015, Cologne's church leaders decided to turn off the lights of the city's grand cathedral. They refused to allow the cathedral to be used as a backdrop for Germans protesting against rising immigration and concerned about the threat of Islamification. Cologne Cathedral provost Norbert Feldhoff said: "The Cologne Cathedral will be shrouded in darkness." Fittingly, Germans have the perfect word for this: *totschweigtaktik*. It means death by silence. Or in this case, death by darkness. Books, ideas, people that challenge the status quo are simply ignored.

Darkness of a different kind

Almost a year later, in the same place, darkness of a different kind enveloped Cologne's cathedral. On New Year's Eve, marauding groups of migrant men, well over a thousand in total, broke into groups to surround women, stealing from them, groping their bodies and their breasts, reaching into their underwear to digitally assault them and even raping a few of the unfortunate victims. That dark night, Europe was violently put on notice about the predictable consequences of the ill-conceived migration policy that has, in the past 12 months alone, seen the arrival of more than a million registered asylum-seekers in Germany alone. Most are from the Middle East and Africa.

Police said "all was peaceful"

Another form of darkness engulfed the square around Cologne's cathedral in the days that followed those attacks. The first reaction from Cologne's police was, like the city's church leaders last year, to shroud the public in darkness. Initial reports by police said "all was peaceful" that night outside the cathedral. More *totschweigtaktik*. Private notes taken by police that night detailed anything but peace. Police received numerous complaints from women of frightening intimidation and assaults by migrant men. One set of notes read: "Several injured women. All suffered attempts to introduce fingers in vaginas ... All were touched on the chest and buttocks. Finger was introduced inside a victim."

One of the victims, Katja L, described being surrounded by foreign men and how she "felt a hand on my buttocks, then on my breasts, in the end I was groped everywhere. It was a nightmare. Although we shouted and beat them, the guys did not stop. I was desperate and think I was touched around 100 times in the 200 metres." Another police note refuted the initial report that migrants were not to blame for the assaults. The note described men as "North African looking" and Arabic speaking. Another notation recorded a perpetrator saying: "I am Syrian. You have to treat me kindly. Mrs Merkel invited me." Police officers found a note on one of the men with an Arabic to German translation of "nice breasts", "I'll kill you" and "I want to have sex with you". Similar attacks took place in Stuttgart, Hamburg, Munich, Dusseldorf and Berlin. A week later, Sweden woke to learn of similarly censored police reports of sexual assaults during a 2014 music festival. How do you say *totschweigtaktik* in Swedish?

600 complaints of robbery and sexual assault

By last week, Cologne police had received more than 600 complaints of robbery and sexual assault. A private police report, leaked to a newspaper a few days after the attacks, revealed how police censored the backgrounds of the men because it was “politically awkward” given Chancellor Angela Merkel’s decision last year to open Germany’s borders to all Muslims who sought asylum.

Here is PC policing writ large and literal

So surely it’s time to join the dots. Start with the church leaders who shrouded the 2015 protests in darkness. Draw the line to police reports that lied about the assaults and rapes committed by groups of migrants. Extend the line to Germany’s national broadcaster, ZDF, which chose not to report the news from Cologne on the major news program the following night. Then draw the line further to German government ministers who also refused to speak of the background of perpetrators for more than a week. Continue the line to Cologne’s mayor, who rejected any link between the assaults and migrants, even after the Cologne police chief admitted the connection, describing the attacks as “of a totally new dimension”. Extend that line a little further to the same mayor who, in the days after the attacks, advised women to keep “a certain distance of more than an arm’s length” from strangers, clearly ignoring that the men were responsible for the assaults, not the female victims.

Join the dots in other Western countries

This series of connected dots emerges from just one small city in Europe. Join the dots in other Western countries. PC police who censor the works of great authors, from Mark Twain to Enid Blyton, as part of a global battalion of self-appointed paternalists who tell us what to think, what to say, what not to say, what to feel. A dictatorial gay lobby that mocks any opposition to gay marriage as homophobic. Refugee activists who deride those who have learnt from experience that support for migration is boosted when migration is controlled by our government, rather than contracted out to people-smugglers. Climate change zealots who ridicule those who ask questions about climate models that have proved inaccurate, claims of climate destruction that haven’t transpired and emails that pointed to collusion and misrepresentation among climate academics. Feminist ideologues who would rather hound opponents off university campuses or retreat to a “safe room” than listen to facts. Students who would rather demolish the statue of Cecil Rhodes than debate the pros and cons of a historical figure.

The pockmarks of political correctness

The pockmarks of political correctness are too numerous to count. But their cumulative effect is clear. More than three decades of political correctness is suffocating liberty in the West. The next outcome is equally obvious: if you join the dots between each episode of political correctness, you end up with the unmistakable image of Donald Trump — or the faces of other right-wing populists whose electoral appeal is on the rise from Austria to Denmark, Finland to Hungary and more.

The stifling imposition of political correctness by the political, media and cultural elite

Those who write off Trump, and other right-wing populists, as nut-jobs and their supporters as hothead members of the forgotten middle class are only half right. The stifling imposition of political correctness by the political, media and cultural elite has created the Trump spectacle.

After years of trying to reason, even debate, with a PC crowd that brooks no disagreement, Trump sticks it up them. People may not agree with every stupid or insulting thing Trump says, but maybe they are liberated by a politician who says what he wants. After years of being told what to think, what to say, what not to say, it's refreshing to listen to a bloke who won't have a bar of the myriad political correctness filters applied to every field of life.

Maybe the rise of Trump is a necessary first step

The shame is that the vacuum created by political correctness is being filled by a man who is not fit to be president. But maybe the rise of Trump is a necessary first step, a clumsy one to be sure, but one that precedes the rise one day of more sensible leaders who understand the cult of political correctness is not a centrist phenomenon. While the cult draws believers from the elites, most ordinary people want more, not less, freedom to think and speak. It's not called common sense for nothing.