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## Better-Management Newsletter 23 March 2016

### Advice to the next POTUS / Focus on the EU disaster / The aftermath of Brussels / Extremism begets extremism

Here is part 2. of a commentary by John Mauldin, phrased in the form of advice to the next US president (although the ideas often seem to have been penned by George Friedman recently retired from Stratfor)...

[http://ggc-mauldin-images.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/pdf/160321\\_TFTF..pdf](http://ggc-mauldin-images.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/pdf/160321_TFTF..pdf)

#### Focus on the EU disaster

With a Brexit referendum about to be held in the UK in June, and with the recent attacks in Paris and Brussels, the Schengen Treaty, allowing free movement between countries of the EU, must now be dead even though its rules are still being applied in many places. Last night's (NZ time) Brussels attacks were graphically portrayed on Al Jazeera TV who succeeded only in capturing the extensive fear, uncertainty and doubt that resulted from the attacks on the Metro and Airport. Everyone who was either involved or watched the footage must have been persuaded that their indigenous Muslim community constitutes a risk.

<https://www.stratfor.com/analysis/brussels-attacks-tear-fabric-european-union>

Putting the matter in perspective we weigh the random attacks affecting 300-500 people at a time against the total population of the EU at about 500 million. *(Editor's note: whilst reading these 4 points, consider other 'conspiracy theories': Terrorists were rarely commented on until after 911 produced the 'war on terrorism'; the US has since invaded several Middle East Countries for dubious reasons (some latterly proven false) and ruined them, eg Iraq and Libya; there is considerable evidence that covert US operations encouraged, armed and financed ISIS; the main result is massive instability in Europe and other parts of the world. Could his be the intention of some world power-brokers?)*

1. All Western "terrorist" attacks seem to emerge from radicalised Muslim youth. No-one has any way of knowing who and when they will turn from peaceful observance of a country's laws to become a radical. (for a study of radicalisation, Dr Hussain's book, "The Islamist", gives a good perspective of radicalisation of a young Hussain himself in Britain)
2. In the 1950s and 1960's Dr Karl Popper wrote lucidly about the risks to open societies like ours, from people with base motives. (his book "The Open Society and its Enemies" was focused on Communist threats but his warning applies equally well to radical Islam). From 1950 to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, everyone regarded Communist sympathisers as "fifth columnists" because all were antagonistic to the Western way of life (including both democracy and capitalism) and were disposed to work against our society, religions and culture – some peacefully, some not, but you never knew. Unfortunately, we do not appear to recognise that the teachings of Islam

are similarly disposed; yet we seem to publicly accept the rights of Muslims to live and work among us in a way that would not have been tolerated from those with Communist sympathies.

3. It is radical Islamists that are now effectively providing the argument for closing borders, and countries that ignore the attacks due to perceptions of fairness towards peaceful Muslims are simply setting themselves up for further attacks. The stronger the religious convictions of Westerners, the more they promote fairness to Muslims, yet it is their own (typically Christian) ideology that is at greatest risk from radical Islam – as the recent ISIS genocides of Yazidis and other sects shows.
4. The flood of “refugees” that is now being regarded as a crisis for Europe, did not need to happen. Politicians of a modern “PC” frame of mind allowed and in the case of Frau Merkel and some other leaders including the outspoken Pope, encouraged the influx. But this is not just an influx of peaceful refugees. Mixed in are Islamists and radical Imams who are devoted to spreading the Umma and over-throwing European laws, culture and religious beliefs, encouraged along by established Muslims already living within the EU. Few share the same culture, language and state religions of their target host countries, many are just economic migrants or migrants with some ulterior motive other than personal survival.

### **The aftermath of Brussels**

1. The likes of Nigel Farage (UK) and Donald Trump (USA) have registered strong opposition to the free flow of Muslims between countries in the EU etc...
2. The spokespeople for Islam have decried these calls and said that it would be much better for Western countries to persuade the radicals that ISIS/al Qaeda/Islamist ideology is wrong and that more Muslim refugees should be accepted.

All spokespeople for the Muslim community are obliged to promote their interests, and fearing a backlash, what else can they say? But their words are transparently self-serving and more people will likely vote for extreme parties in the next European elections.

Turkey is a Muslim country and its leader is an active supporter of the idea of global Caliphate. So what good will come of Turkey joining the EU?

Of course, Dr Marc Faber makes a good point about interference of the major powers in the Middle East...

<http://thecrux.com/marc-faber-hillary-clinton-would-destroy-the-whole-world/>

### **Extremism begets extremism**

Is Enoch Powell turning in his grave yet? Big power geopolitics seldom helps.

The problem is that radical Islam is also unaffected by any reasonable forms of persuasion, when the background is a seething cauldron of competing ideologies in the Middle East and Asia, where sects are busy killing each other (and in fact anybody at all) to promote their own version of the antiquated Muslim religious dogma. Each Muslim faction promotes their own dogma and has done so for five hundred plus years. Each Imam gives their own version of the Koran.

Progress for any beneficial change will take many generations. An example is the supposed “great advance” which was reached in Saudi Arabia last week when religious scholars upgraded the status of women from being equal to machinery and kitchen appliances, to being equal to goats and camels – still chattels but also effectively sub-human in the eyes of the law.

The sad fact is that, not only will European unity likely be torn apart by the Islamist attacks, but unless freedom of movement within the EU is curtailed, Islamists will continue to attack at will and just make life miserable for everyone there. As the frequency of attacks continues, Muslim youth will continue to be disadvantaged in Europe and this in turn will yield up more radical Islamists.

Elsewhere in the world, the existence of Muslim refugees could conceivably spawn the same problems relating to radicalisation and terrorism when those local communities come under stress. But this is far too PC for us to discuss in polite company.

What next? Will Islam and Sharia Law rule the world?

Our leaders know everything...right? Sadly the most unpalatable of all truths is that our leaders just pander to short term populist agendas...so they seldom make anything better.