

## France, Scary?

**Alan Forrester** notes that a recent article by Guy Milliere, **France is not a Western Country Anymore**, is scary.

These days, it is becoming hard to find a French politician ready to speak about human rights, freedom or democracy. All of them seem to have the same speechwriter or to belong to the same totalitarian political party; all of them are anti-American, anti-Israeli and "pacifists." They regard Western civilization as something filthy and abhorrent.

If you read the newspapers, it's the same. At times it seems the only difference between the Soviet Union twenty years ago and France today is that in Soviet Union you had only one Pravda, and in France you now have at least ten such propaganda outlets: Different titles, same content. Their party line is clear in reporting on the personalities found in the present Middle Eastern crisis. Saddam Hussein, the "President of Iraq"? Well, maybe he has been brutal, but you know, in "those" countries... George W. Bush? He's a "moron" - a former alcoholic, who has become a crazy fanatic, in fact the most dangerous man on the face of earth. Ariel Sharon? A fascist who loves to kill Arabs. Arafat? A great freedom fighter. When an American general speaks, it is merely propaganda, but when Tariq Aziz pontificates, it is pure truth. Almost everyday you hear anti-Semitic remarks, to boot.

Let's hope that's not the whole story. After all, Milliere himself says

To hear [Chirac] speaking about morality or international law nauseates every decent Frenchman.

Aha! So he admits there's such a thing as a decent Frenchman. Milliere himself is presumably one. **Here's another**.

Seriously folks, remember that the differences between different countries are ones of degree. The true struggle is **between opposing political traditions**.

How do you define "political traditions"?

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