

Another Elephant In The Room

Some snapshots of the interaction between Islam and other religions today:

In **Cordoba, Spain**, Muslims have petitioned the Vatican for permission to pray in Cordoba Cathedral, because it was once a mosque. Muslims are of course already allowed to enter the Cathedral as visitors, as they are allowed into all churches and synagogues. Incidentally, the mosque that became Cordoba Cathedral was built on the site of a demolished Christian church. Of course, in those days, the prevailing values were – well – medieval.

Last week, in **Zamfara, Nigeria**:

Governor Ahmed Sani of Zamfara State, has ordered the demolition of all churches in the state, as he launched the second phase of his Sharia project yesterday. Speaking at the launch in Gusau, the state capital, Governor Sani disclosed that time was ripe for full implementation of the programme as enshrined in the Holy Quran. He added that his government would soon embark on demolition of all places of worship of unbelievers in the state, in line with Islamic injunction to fight them wherever they are found.

What, like **this**?:

In Jeruslaem, Israel, four years ago, the Palestinians rejected a peace treaty that would have given them an independent state. They embarked instead on a murderous war to destroy the Jewish state. They claimed that the war was a spontaneous uprising sparked by Mr Sharon desecrating a mosque by entering it while being Jewish. They were **lying**: they had been planning the war for some time, and Sharon had never entered the mosque. However, the very idea that he had, caused an upsurge of anti-Israel feeling and violence among Muslims worldwide. Why? The doctrine that by entering a mosque, a Jew justifies the mass killing of Jews in retaliation, is never criticised in the press. On the contrary, Western coverage of these events usually condones it by blaming Sharon for his 'provocative' action of walking near the mosque. Incidentally, the mosque that he did not enter was built on the ruins of the ancient Jewish Temple.

Meanwhile, in **Sudan**:

Over the last 15 years, the Sudanese government has ... imposed a reactionary version of Islamic law that includes crucifixion, stoning to death of mothers who are out of wedlock, and "cross amputation" (removing the hand and foot from opposite sides of the body); waged what the U.S. House of Representatives has called a "genocidal" war on its southern, largely Christian and animist population; promoted forced conversion to its brand of Islam; strafed refugees with helicopter gunships; and manipulated food relief as a weapon, resulting in the death of over two million people — more than in Rwanda, Bosnia, Kosovo, Cote D'Ivoire, and Liberia combined. It has also produced four million displaced people, the largest such population on the face of the earth.

Sudan has just been **re-elected** to the UN Human Rights Commission.

Why is there so little public criticism of the values that inform the behaviour of Muslim governments towards non-Muslims?

Intimidation is one reason, but it is presumably not the main one. What is?

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Two Possible Reasons

Public criticism is extremely limited when,

- 1) There is not a free press in the countries where the behavior takes place.
- 2) There is not separation of church (or synagogue or mosque) and state. Borders are respected not only as physical boundaries but as religio-political boundaries.

Information starts at home.

Further, public criticism of values is limited when underground protest and press results in imprisonment and death.

by a reader on Sat, 05/08/2004 - 23:24 | [reply](#)

multiculturalism?

most people, I think, aren't that interested in doing, say, what LGF does. too much work and such. too complicated..

most self-styled intellectuals, the type who would be interested in doing that kind of commentary, sad to say, seem to be politically correct cultural relativists (why? we can blame colleges, the media, and umm, i dunno). and they are very nasty to people who try to be reasonable. LGF is deemed a hate site, or at the least biased and just one point of view.

-- Elliot Temple

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by **Elliot Temple** on Sun, 05/09/2004 - 06:20 | [reply](#)

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