

AS THE WORLD TURNS

Like the proverbial soap opera life goes on as the teeth of history make their impressions. "When you and I were young, Maggie, things were -well different"! Time, energy, and commitment let us with others stop the scourge of the Shinto Japanese and the Nazi terror from which was spawned the Communist menace of the Soviet Union. Too, its march has stalled and left its most menacing face in the dregs of history. These were trying times and we faced them, almost too late.

Today the pages of our times reveal new threats inspired by 9/11 and the insidious encroachment of something called 'terror' but in reality the rise of Islam and its many faces with little evidence of an accommodating Islamic presence. Meanwhile the world turns: Quasi-communism with a strong mix of capitalism flourishes in China; Rogue nation North Korea 'softens' seems to agree to a halt of their nuclear program and relations with the United States cautioned by the promise of 'trust but verify'; Counterpart Iran seeks Mideast dominance through nuclear ambition, the annihilation of Israel and aids Shiia insurgents in Iraq, Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon. Russia's Putin 'puts on' the face of capitalism where opportunity exists while seemingly longing for a return of a facade of Soviet influence and power. Nuclear aid to North Korea and Iraq-like Pakistan earlier-argues against minimizing world threats as Russia dances to the tune of self-interest and balance of power ploys; Europe sans Great Britain along with the United Nations rationalizes the Islam threat.

Some of us do not rationalize the 'Islam threat' as it portends no accommodation with the Christian or Jew; there is no such thing as moderate Islam! As Muhammad spoke to his warrior class, "there is no god but God(Al-lah)"and one must accept the word of God forming an Umma (community)of believers. And, "you who believe, fight the unbelievers who are near you."

In looking at the future one can foresee the re-deployment of United States forces from Iraq even if the present counter-insurgency strategy works in Baghdad and Anbar province while continuing the fight in Afghanistan-because some say they are not connected. Will there then be a clamor to bring them home as well as decreasing our Naval presence in the Gulf? Argument persists that we prolong the fight in the Mideast as well as inspire new terrorists to join and fight the Infidels. Have we lost our will and spirit for the fight?

A microcosm of the fight reminds that Hamas and Fatah sat down with Saudi Arabia whose quest was a collaboration of the two as Palestinians -perhaps with money incentive....and what of Israel's right to exist. A battle of ideologies reminds of the turmoil of Whittaker Chambers as he broke with the Communists and accepted God...but believed they would win because of their organization, numbers, converts, dedication, perfidity and blind faith.a familiar ring one with echoes of Islam....

We laughed hoarsely when Nevil Shute wrote his tragic tale..On the Beach...where the survivors of a nuclear holocaust sat numbly in terror and disbelief. Mr. President we need to crank it up and save our civilization while there is time.

