

## *DESTINY*

*Does America have the power to control the future? Or should it! Do our leaders today and those in the mix of tomorrow have the wisdom, foresight and perseverance to perpetuate an aura of a peaceful and accommodating destiny on the world stage? What has been our legacy?*

*Today, we are frequently told that Western ideology and culture are the cause of the hatred aimed at America: the Crusade against Islam, the plight of the American Indians, the perpetuation of Negro slavery, and the economic embargo against Japan that led to Pearl Harbor. Alas, the rewriters of history have set the record straight. A dichotomy exists between the old and the new, the conservative and the liberal and those who believe in God and those who don't. A true Christian believes that Jesus would accept his enemies, pray for them and hope they would change their ways and be born again as true believers. It is said that Mohammed stated in the Koran(Qu'ran), " a man's true wealth is the good he does in the world."*

*President Roosevelt reminded in 1933: "a citizen guaranteed equal opportunity in the polling place must have the same in the market place....this generation has a 'rendezvous with destiny'....Private citizen Ronald Reagan, in 1964, 'a time for choosing' (for Goldwater) an apparent rebirth of conservatism reminded "this generation has a rendezvous with destiny, a time to preserve for our children this, the last best hope for man on earth, or take the first step into a thousand years of darkness." He was alluding to the Russian Soviet threat in the world at the time. Again, destiny with a magical aura of hope and consequence.*

*From Isaiah(2:4) war has been the unwelcome answer to an inability to accommodate peace rather than war and that we should, "beat our swords into plow shares, and spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."...and the German Clausewitz reminding that war is a' continuation of politics and accommodation a challenge'. World War One was a terrible reminder wars should end forever and an attempt by French and American statesmen to outlaw war in 1928, though promising fell on deaf ears and bickering at the League of Nations. World War II was a necessary enterprise to thwart the appetite of two ideological and tyrannical regimes in Japan and Germany ending in their total defeat via an Unconditional Surrender strategy. Post-war assistance laid the groundwork for democratic regimes.*

*Something called 'a war of civilizations' haunts us today and argues for a return of Moses, Jesus and Mohammed in conference or séance with peace and accommodation the goal to stop the blood-letting, the religious and cultural animosities in a kind of 'What kind of fools are we?' scenario. Perish the thought!*

*Our destiny seems wrapped up in the dilemma of suspect leadership from our President and Congress together with an inability to reconcile the structurally weak and troubled economy, spiked by ideological arguments –a clash of individualism and collectivism and the cry for a Washington, Lincoln and Reagan type 'man on horseback'. Perhaps even a woman. As they say 'if you find a good man, usually it is due to the influence of a better woman.'*

*As an advisor to the President, man or woman, I would suggest a new strategy which includes the immediate draw-down of all military forces from Iraq and Afghanistan leaving a logistical residue if wanted, an economic and financial symposium (like Bowles/Simpson) to resolve the horrendous debt, the creation of an organization (civilian conservation corps), as in the depression days to provide a logistical base, training and encampments to provide immediate jobs. Simultaneous to this would be an international meeting of Islamic and Western nations to resolve differences, accept truths of each with the proviso that irresolution can lead to total war. Economic well-being for each a part of the recipe.*

*No man is an island but part of the whole.*