

A NATION OF FEARS

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In my lifetime I have watched with dismay the demoralizing effects of FEAR upon nations. I would like to discuss this with you today.

I am sending this article by email as I will be tardy in joining you at our Wednesday weekly Teleseminar on your next date. The reason being my attendance at the Military Luncheon of the Young AFCEANS Vandenberg Air Force Base Unit honoring Col. Hook, Commanding Officer of the Air Rescue Flight for Vandenberg which covers the military Western Pacific Region.

It has been my misfortune to witness the disastrous results of nations and their governments immobilized by fear. I will discuss two that some of you may remember, both from WWII, not so many generations past.

Let's first discuss the United Kingdom (U.K.) in days prior to the time of Winston Churchill when he became Prime Minister.

It was a fearsome time. Hitler had risen to power in Germany and was rattling his sword. Britain at that time was the most powerful influence other than Germany and France in Europe. Most of the European countries except France had no realistic armies after the debacle of WWI.

When Hitler and his hordes of heavily armored, newly developed tanks opened the "Blitzkrieg" through Poland and into France, Britain sent its then Prime Minister (with his infamous umbrella) to enter into an "appeasement" treaty with Hitler. In essence (my words) "we won't join France in declaring War in exchange for your agreement not to extend your military forces against our Island Empire."

And so France fell, with more appeasement on their part by the then government who agreed to a surrender if Paris was untouched by the devastation already wrecked on the northern and eastern parts of France.

This "agreement" led to the fall of Europe and the crucial bombing of London as well as the near annihilation of the Royal Air Force. So much for appeasement. It only buys more time for the bad guys. But the stubborn, brave English people did NOT fall.

Enough of history for the moment. Let's look at America, our own country in these same days.

Europe was at war. France had fallen. The United States nation was fully committed to the policy of "isolation-ism".

"That's their fight. We bailed them out in WWI and once is enough."

That is a putting a good face on a nation itself drowned in fear of becoming involved in another World War. So far it been confined to Europe.

American volunteers joined the foreign armies, -- a few. And good- hearted folks started "Bundles for Britain" groups that raised money for food and cigarettes that were sent overseas. One American group that performed admirably (and suffered huge losses) was our Merchant Marine that was transporting some arms and ammunition for the British as well as the pitiful effort of food from the volunteer groups.

By this time Roosevelt and Churchill had taken over the reins of the governments of the U.S. and the U.K. Roosevelt had studied in England before his polio and believed it was only a matter of months before America would have to become involved to avoid all of Europe becoming satellites of Germany. Both he and Churchill (who became trusted friends) believed that Russia must be co-opted from making appeasement concessions with Hitler. They found a "friend" in Uncle Joe Stalin. They made the deal.

And regretted it when it came to settling who got what part of Berlin. But Russia broke Hitler's back at Stalingrad and the Allies won that war. But did we "win" the Peace. No. Appeasement again to avoid fighting Russian might. So we settled for the Berlin Wall and the "Cold War".

And today -- again—we, the United States are a nation of fear. Or should I say "fears". Fear of economic ruin. Fear of Climate Change, Fear of banks and Wall Street, Fear of unemployed rioters. Fear of flying. Fear of poisoned food and cattle. Fear of radiologic fallout. Fear of terrorists striking anything from nuclear power plants to schools, to water dams. Fear of hurricanes (and possibly volcanos?)

Look at history. A weak nation is sure to topple. So far, bless them, our United States has bought time -- **TIME provided by the strong, courageous Armed Forces of our country.** Now they are

coming home. The same courageous warriors that have tried to bring “peace” to the Middle East. “Peace” to the tribes of the Middle East (by any name) is foreign to their cultures that have existed for more than 3000 years.

The “tribes” live to fight. Each “tribe” large or small is a FAMILY. This article is not a history of that area. Just remember all the famous conquerors that lost their attempts to gain control of the region, usually for control of the wealth of the “silk route and spices.” Look it up. Hannibal, Genghis Khan, Kublai Khan, Alexander, etc.etc.

Only white Europeans and Americans ignore cultures to their then, inevitable eclipse. The defeat of the Crusades; the overthrow of the Ottoman Empire and the decline of Constantinople. But enough garbled history.

There is a lesson here for NIUSR, NGO’s, PVO’s and BUSINESS and INDUSTRY. We are not “governments”. We are the PEOPLE, the Hands and Feet, that work and support governments. We in this country – today – are the BEST – But are we afraid? Yes.

Can the influx of courageous warriors from our returning young men and women change our present culture of FEAR – IN TIME?

BRAVERY AND COURAGE

Personal “Fear” is one of those things that all humanoids are born with such as the sense of taste and smell, both of which can serve as alarms for Fear. In my long and varied lives I have come to understand that all, ALL folks have at least One fear that is their most difficult to overcome.

For example among a group of Mountaineers, that fear is rarely “fear of heights (acrophobia). Whereas among cave divers, it is rarely fear of the dark. But EVERYBODY IS AFRAID OF SOMETHING. When in groups such as rescue teams, each person has his OWN greatest fear but they do not seem to have a commonality. Each one in his group does NOT share the SAME over-riding fear.

Now let’s talk about the difference between Courage and Bravery.

One of my earliest lessons from my father was “ Courage and Bravery are NOT the same. Be careful not to confuse them for “brave people” are often too dumb to know the risk of their actions. Rather “courageous folks” know the degree of risk, but undertake the task because they feel it is their DUTY, whatever the word duty means to them.

Does that mean that courageous people are braver than others. No, it means they act out of Duty rather than as an emotional response. The sense of “Duty” to the “Family” and preservation of that “family” of the humanoid is strong in their genetic history.

One example of courage of a friend of mine was to stay on the trail of a lost climber a few years ago on Mount Hood in the depth of winter and continued falling snow. Although there were others of his team also searching there, he had taken a spur trail and was at that time alone.

In spite of the fact that he had fallen sometime earlier that day and had one fractured leg he had Pressed on. He had comms with the orbiting aircraft overhead and could have called for evacuation. He did not because he thought he had the lost man’s tracks and in the face of a worsening storm felt his chance of finding him high. When the storm hit the new snow would quickly cover what trace there remained of his passage.

Luckily for my friend, the lost hiker was found shortly, already dead . He had slid off a lilted rock that gave way in a small avalanche. Tough luck for him but very lucky for my friend since his leg was not merely fractured but had a “green stick” break that kept him in the hospital for several months. He had known he was “hurt” but felt it his “duty” to give it his **best shot**.

That is only one of the many, many examples I could quote. Now let’s discuss a reverse situation – “cowardice”. That is a condition one seldom finds among the life-styles of those that you run into the field where I have lived the last 50 years of my life—Life-saving. I have only run across it three times.

My definition of a coward is one who knows both the risks and his duty (whatever that may be to him) and DOES **NOT** RESPOND TO HIS RECOGNIZED DUTY.

Not just athletic folks like mountaineers understand duty. Military folks know it well. So do your neighbors who rouse you from your bed when they notice a small flame in your dining room window. We see day by day where courage flourishes among our Humanoid Family.

Animals that live in Families also show united courage in danger. Perhaps all animals do? I only have examples of Family species. One example is Elephants, another is Wolves.

Incidentally did you know that wolves (*vulpes canis*) and coyotes are not relatives? The coyote is related to the dog (*canis lupus familiaris*) , a different genic.

Female elephants will form a protective circle around the mother elephant while she is delivering her calf which can be a long and arduous task. She is completely defenseless while down in birth. A time when tigers and other large cats and other predators find the birth process provides “fair game.”

Now about wolves. Wolves leaving a battle never leave their dead behind but carry them off. Do they bury them? If so where? Do we know? No, at least I do not. But the domestic dog may stay by the body but does nothing to remove it. In fact some dogs will fight to stay with the dead body of its master and even attempt to prevent the body from being removed from its location. Why? At least I do not know. Somehow the dog feels it is his DUTY to protect the body at its death location??? Isn't life interesting when you attempt to learn the most important of answers: WHY? At this time this is all I have to say about “FEAR” and “COURAGE”.

Shall NIUSR join with other like-minded groups, whether the name is BEOC's or Walking Drum or whatever name to turn our America away from a nation of FEAR?? You have the ability to decide. Choose-- In Time and lend YOUR STRENGTH TO THE NIUSR EFFORT.

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