

**Two articles on**  
**Mass Refugee Migration**  
**from the Middle East**

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**Uyless Black**

# **Mass Refugee Migration from the Middle East**

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# My Turn

## Less suffering would lead to a safer world

By DOUG WELLS  
Guest opinion

The recent terrorist attacks in Paris have rightly stirred the Western world. The response to this violence fails to address long-term resolution. The terrorists have had the hoped-for effect of promoting fear. In our emotional response to this tragic event, we further the agenda of the terrorists. By barring the door of immigration we ensure that the non-combatant refugees of Syria will be made to further suffer after losing everything in an effort to reach freedom and security for themselves and their families.

That safeguards are needed to prevent infiltration by terrorists rightly requires vigilance on the part of the receiving countries. Syrian refugees have come to this country for a number of years and none have been known terrorists. We do increase the likelihood of radicalization if we isolate, distrust, and prevent immigrants from full participation in society. Condemning them and their religion can become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

A resource is being overlooked with the press of this self-protective response. The ranks of terrorists from Western countries are being filled by alienated, disenfranchised youths. We seem to have little response to website indoctrination and radicalization by terror groups. What better way to counter their appeal than to give a voice to refugees regarding their plight? A true propaganda to appeal to right human values and a call to stand against senseless killing of the innocent would perhaps offer a countermeasure to this means of terrorist recruitment.

Also, to enlist the active support of refugees in the correct planning to re-establish a viable home land would offer some input to develop a coherent plan of intervention in that region. The refugees may be those who have no heart for warfare or those who perceive the overwhelming obstacles to stabilizing a region

See MY TURN, C13



Sgt. Pat Kenner, of the Post Falls Police Department, right, and Chief Scot Haug react to comments from the crowd during a presentation Wednesday at the retirement party for the 36-year veteran of the department.

# Goodbye to Big Poppa

Sgt. Pat Kenner retires from PFPD after 36 years

By JEFF SELLE  
Staff Writer

**POST FALLS** — After 36 years on the force, Sgt. Pat “Big Poppa” Kenner holds the record as the longest-serving Post Falls Police officer. He retired Wednesday.

In fact, Sgt. Kenner trained Police Chief Scot Haug when Haug started on the force in 1986. The police department only had two patrol vehicles back then.

“Pat started with Post Falls Police in 1979, and he has lived

through all of the growth since then,” Haug said Wednesday at Kenner’s retirement party. “He has helped mold this department into what it is today.”

Kenner, who was born and raised in Post Falls, said he stayed on with the PFPD for so many years because it felt like the right thing to do.

“I was born here. Why go anywhere else?” he said. “This had the right pace for me. This is home.”

Kenner said his biggest accomplishment during his years of service was becoming a domestic violence trainer and having a hand in training almost everyone in the PFPD.

“I really enjoy training the

new kids as they come up through the ranks,” he said.

Kenner, who is 57 years old, said he became eligible for retirement in 2009, but he just wasn’t ready then.

Now he has plans to help out family and relax a little bit more.

He said he will probably miss coming in to the police department every day and getting into the routine.

“These guys are part of my family too,” Kenner said. “I helped train everyone here.”

And they will miss Kenner as well. At his party, his colleagues projected a message on the screen that read: “You will be missed Big Poppa.”

SHAWN GUST/Press

# A deeper issue in refugee debate: Separation of church and state

Part 1 of 2

By UYLESS BLACK  
Special to The Press

Last week, the House of Representatives approved GOP-initiated legislation that set additional “hurdles” for Syrian and Iraqi refugees trying to enter the United States. According to Associated Press dispatches:

Forty-seven Democrats joined all but two Republicans as the House passed the measure by a veto-proof 289-137 margin, a major setback to the lame duck president on an issue — what to do about the Islamic State and the refugees fleeing them — that shows no signs of settling down. The vote exceeded the two-thirds majority required to override a veto, and came despite a rushed,

early morning visit to the Capitol by top administration officials in a futile attempt to limit Democratic defections for the measure.

I gather the so-called hurdles will entail a more extensive background check of a prospective immigrant. How does the FBI go about doing a background check on a displaced Syrian farmer? The House actions gained a lot of positive coverage from both the liberal and conservative media. The votes represent the mood of the American people, and it may be that these additional measures will filter out more potential or known threats.

I favor such measures, however marginally effective they



Black

might be. But my rationale is not based only on trapping terrorists. It is based on a more fundamental and complex subject: The separation of church and state.

In the AP dispatch and The Guardian newspaper release, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-NY, had this to say about the legislation: “Defeating terrorism should not mean slamming the door in the faces of those fleeing the terrorists. We might as well take down the Statue of Liberty.”

**“Give me your tired, your poor...”**

A plaque located near this statue contains part of a famous sonnet written by the poet Emma Lazarus. It proclaims:

Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses

yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

These noble ideas — and I am not being sarcastic to say they are indeed noble — form the last part of this sonnet. The full sonnet is as follows:

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame, With conquering limbs astride from land to land; Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name Mother of Exiles. From her

See BLACK, C12



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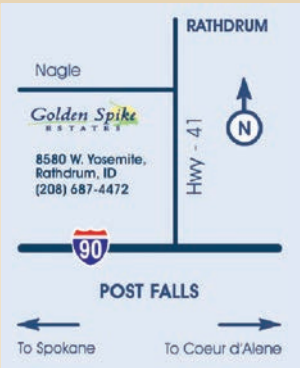


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## Body found likely that of missing hunter

ROYAL CITY, Wash. (AP) — Authorities say a body believed to be that of a 55-year-old missing hunter has been found in central Washington. KHQ reports the body was found Wednesday morning west of Royal City. Thomas Mark Stieg

had been missing since Nov. 20. While an official cause of death has not been determined, the Grant County Sheriff's Office said it appears Stieg fell. There is no indication of foul play. Stieg was last seen

a few miles south of Highway 26. Stieg left home early on Friday morning for a one-day hunt. His vehicle was located. His family said Stieg was an experienced mountaineer and survivalist, as well as a former Marine.

## BLACK

from C1

beacon-hand  
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

In hindsight, it is a near-tragedy that only the last parts of this sonnet have gained fame; so much fame that they are lodged in the overly simplistic ideas of Congressman Jerrold Nadler. I use the phrase near-tragedy because the current mass migrations into Europe (not to mention, migrations of the last couple of centuries) are probably going to result in turmoil. Unfortunately, the most famous part of the sonnet, cited above, does not include the statement that precedes it. For the present situation in the Middle East, Europe, and America, it is important to bring it to the fore, as it forms the basis for America's society.

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips.  
The Statue of Liberty and the foundations of America are based on those who come from abroad, from "ancient lands," to leave their "storied pomp" behind. The essence of America is built on the rites of its melting pot. America's foundations are dependent on gradual, tacit rituals that have led to a blended society. It is a society that continues to honor the history of our immigrants. After all, we are they, and they are we. But the poem advises us to leave the past behind.

The legends that our ancestors carried from their ancient lands have been an essential, positive ingredient in America's melting pot. We continue to pass our history from generation to generation to help keep us prideful and grounded in who we are and why we came to America. The Irish. The Germans. The Chinese. The Polish. The Jews. The Mexicans. The South Americans. All have had difficult rites of passage, but in the long run, they have become part of America's melting pot. They have blended into America.

The Melting Pot has Worked  
How did such a heterogeneous assemblage of humans — a race genetically disposed to clash

with differing cultures and their members — come to such harmony? Tracing back though human history, it is true that many of us lived amicably with others who were of different skin color, who spoke different languages, who practiced different rituals. But for the majority of humans, we have been inclined to change others to our way of thinking through various forms of persuasion, ranging from conversation to killing. It is a mode of behavior ingrained into our makeup. After all, if we are secure, if all is well around us, we can turn our backs while we tend to our fires. Nonetheless, from the beginnings of our country, we citizens have lifted our lamp to those of differing colors and religious cloths who needed protection and succor. This grant of liberty and often life itself came with the understanding that these immigrants would embrace the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. After all, who could not? What better choice could other parts of the world offer?

### The Flame Underneath the Melting Pot: Religious Freedom

The impetus for America's first settlers to come to America was not just for garnering turf and looking for treasures, it was primarily for seeking a place to have the freedom to worship as one wished. During these early days and the times that carried into the era when our forefathers wrote the Federalist Papers, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, there were two ideas that our forefathers held dear. They became the bedrock for how we Americans govern ourselves: The freedom to practice religion, and the separation of church and state.

The founding fathers of America knew well how the tyranny of either the church or state could lead to oppression and autocracy. Their solution to these dual dangers was simple and brilliant. For the state, they created restraining, somewhat competitive bodies of governance with the executive, legislative, and judicial branches acting as constraints on one another. For religion, it was to be separate from the state, with the state assuming a primary position of authority.

In hindsight, it is difficult to imagine Thomas Jefferson or James Madison thinking that the credo of a religion would seek to reverse this relationship; that religion would assume a primary position of authority over the nation's government. Their concerns, and those of other founders, focused on having the freedom to practice a

religion, as well as their fears that religion could serve to suppress societies.

### Foundations of a Secular Society

Walt Whitman said, "There is no false religion — Each one is divine." This statement obviously comes from someone who was taken with religion. Nonetheless, the vast majority of the leaders who formed the American republic were adamant in their stand about the separation of church and state. Below are several quotes from these leaders:

From the "The Rights of Man," Thomas Paine wrote, "Persecution is not an original feature in any religion, but it is always the strongly marked feature of all religions established by law."

From a letter to the Danbury Baptists, Jan. 1, 1802, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "...I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between Church and State."

In a letter to Alexander von Humboldt, Dec. 6, 1813, Jefferson also wrote, "History, I believe, furnishes no example of a priest-ridden people maintaining a free civil government."

In a letter to the members of The New Church in Baltimore (January 1793), George Washington wrote, "In this enlightened age, & in this land of equal liberty, it is our boast, that a man's religious tenets will not forfeit the protection of the laws, nor deprive him of the right of attaining & holding the highest offices that are known in the United States."

Earlier, Washington wrote in a letter to the United Baptist Chamber of Virginia (May 1789), "If I could conceive that the general government might ever be so administered as to render the liberty of conscience insecure, I beg you will be persuaded, that no one would be more zealous than myself to establish effectual barriers against the horrors of spiritual tyranny, and every species of religious persecution."

Benjamin Franklin did not straddle the fence: "When a religion is good, I conceive it will support itself; and when it does not support itself so that its professors are obliged to call for the help of the civil power, 'tis a sign, I apprehend, of its being a bad one."

Nor did James Madison equivocate about the subject. "The civil government ...functions with complete success ... by the total separation of the Church from the State."

Are these ideas of our Founding Fathers still relevant? Have they been overcome by modern times? Have the past few years of massive migrations rendered them impotent? Tomorrow, we'll address these questions.

Uyless Black is an award-winning author who has written 40 books on a variety of subjects. His latest book is titled "2084 and Beyond," a work on the origins and consequences of human aggression. He resides in Coeur d'Alene.

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# My Turn Avista, it is time

By GEOFFREY HARVEY  
Guest opinion

Now that the power is back on for customers across the Inland Northwest, fallen trees are cut up and disposed of, and repairs are underway to damaged property, the time is appropriate to reflect on the most recent weather emergency and its impact on our lives. Having lived in the area for 25 years, this writer has experienced fire storm (1991), ice storm (1996), the wind storm of 2003 and the latest event. In all these events, an average of one per six years, the electric power distribution system and weather in the form of high winds or freezing rain have teamed up to cause widespread property damage and even wider spread disruption of our lives. The average power outage has been three days, but the extremes have ranged out to a week and a half. Yet, it might have been far worse. If the most current event had occurred a month and a half earlier, there would likely have been a repeat of firestorm on a much more massive level. The root cause of the widespread impact of these weather events can be traced back to a single fault in the power distribution system. Except in some newer subdivisions where the utilities were placed underground, the system is suspended on poles exposed to weather extremes and the resulting falling trees and/or aged falling power poles. Such weather extremes can be relied upon to occur on a regular basis, currently an average of a six-year return time. However, warming of the climate which is clearly underway, is predicted by many climatologists to contribute to even more intense storms. Given these facts and predictions, Avista, it is time that your company and unfortunately its ratepayers move toward placing as much of the electric distribution system as possible underground. Underground installation is already required in other regions that experience storms

See MY TURN, C12

# Winter Blessing showcases Coeur d'Alene Tribe's rich culture

Annual event will be held Dec. 3 at Cd'A Casino Resort

By MARC STEWART  
Staff writer

**COEUR D'ALENE** — It's a perfect time to build a small fire, sit close to your friends and family and listen to stories. In that spirit, the Coeur d'Alene Casino and Resort holds its annual Winter Blessing. "The winter blessing is a chance to share who we are," said Casino Resort Cultural Affairs Director Quanah Matheson. "At the same time, we want to give back to the community. We will share a prayer, share the drum and song." The Winter Blessing will be held Thursday, Dec. 3 at the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the event is open to the public. The free event features singing, drums, prayers and storytelling. The casino will also announce donations of \$15,000 to local charities during the festivities. Storytelling was and is a strong element of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's culture. It was used to pass down history, as well as teaching life lessons, including morality and ethics, through humor and drama. "In the old days, we didn't have TV, iPhones and computers," said Matheson. "After the people did all the work, getting food, and cutting firewood, they would get together in their large



A dancer performs at the 2014 Winter Blessing at the Coeur d'Alene Casino and Resort in Worley.

See BLESSING, C12

# WGA grant applications due Dec. 12

Local nonprofits seeking funding for special projects or programs are encouraged to contact the Women's Gift Alliance as soon as possible. The Dec. 12 deadline for nonprofit organizations to apply for a 2016 Women's Gift Alliance grant is fast approaching. Representatives from interested nonprofits should download a preliminary application from the WGA website: www.wgakc.org. Grant applicants will be considered to receive one of three large pooled grants of approximately \$22,000 or one of the smaller endowment grants awarded to semi-finalists. These grants will be awarded next summer. Funding for these grants is generated directly by Women's Gift Alliance members, who for more than a decade have been pooling their financial resources to provide meaningful support to cultural, charitable and educational projects in the community. WGA funds projects that make a significant impact on the community and demonstrate one or more of the following criteria: Address a community problem, enrich the fabric of the community, foster collaboration or partnerships or create a bold new venture. This year, WGA awarded three large, pooled grants of \$22,500 each to Gizmo-cda, KIDS Camp, and Safe Passage (formerly North Idaho) Violence Prevention Center. Two \$2,500 endowment grants were awarded to Farragut State Park Museum at The Brig and Lutherhaven. Since its inception in

See WGA, C12

# Beware the freedom to kill the freedom of religion

## Part 2 of 2

By UYLESS BLACK  
Special to The Press

The irony facing America (and some other non-Islam-based societies) is its legacy of supporting the freedom of worship of any religion, even if that religion contradicts the concept of separation of church and state. Putting the irony in simple terms: Islam can be practiced

in America even though in practice, more often than not, it refutes the separation of church and state, a principle that forms the very foundation of America. Here's the rub. The Constitution does not have anything to say about the state preempting religion. The First Amendment declares, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of



Black

religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." However, as the quotes above make clear and as subsequent court rulings have stated, America's system is built around the principle of church and state separation. As one example, in Reynolds v. United States, 98 U.S. (8 Otto.) 145 (1878), the Supreme Court held "religious duty was not a defense to a criminal indictment." The Court went further in later years. Justice Hugo Black wrote, "In the

words of Thomas Jefferson, the clause against establishment of religion by law was intended to erect a wall of separation between church and state." Here's the second rub. In most parts of the Quran I have read (or read about), all is subservient to Allah. So what? In the Bible, all is subservient to God. However, Islamic theocracies place these passages into practice. Secular democracies do not.

See BLACK, C11

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from C1

I have been taken to task on these assertions. My critics mention Turkey and Indonesia as examples of countries that successfully keep a wall between the two. To some extent, yes. But in Turkey, its political system is evolving toward a more direct role of religion in the affairs of the state. And for most parts of the Muslim world, as in Iran, religion reigns supreme.

It is with regret that I say: The practice of Islam is at odds with and contradictory to the political, religious, and social fiber of America. I welcome those who can correct my supposition. I wish it were otherwise.

If you do come forth, I ask for opinion and facts. As said (paraphrased) by someone much wiser than I, "You are entitled to your own set of opinions, but you are not entitled to your own set of facts." I am seeking dialogue about this subject. I'd rather hear "cons" to my stand than "pros." I can learn more from the former than the latter, but I welcome support as well.

I also welcome those of the Islamic faith who adopt the principle of the separation of religion and state. However, those who do not wish to do so are not compatible with our society. If they do not seek to overturn our government, perhaps there are ways we can help the immigrants without jeopardizing our ways of life — but joining religion and government is not one of them.

## The Melting Pot in Danger

This week one of my friends and I exchanged emails about the mass migration of refugees into Europe, and eventually to other places in the world. The discussion began in the context of the Paris attacks (including the earlier murders of satirical cartoonists). I expressed concern about recent urban violence that has been precipitated by militant Muslims. My friend wrote back to remind me that the vast majority of Muslims are peaceful. He said (paraphrased), Let us not fall into the trap that fewer than 1 percent of Muslims are of this breed. I agreed, and it is much less than 1 percent. It is a minuscule part of the Islamic population.

Nonetheless, the statement my friend made is disingenuous, because it distorts reality. The desperate people leaving their dysfunctional worlds are not coming to, say, America seeking our way of life. They are seeking to carve out their own way of life in America. So have many others. The Irish. The Swedes. The Mexicans. They etched out their own miniature Irelands, Swedens, and Mexicos.

However, the difference between this migration and those in the past is that the Islamic immigrants, if they are to adhere to their religion, relegate the state to that of their religion. Taken in modern context: The practice of Islam is at odds with America's political/religious milieu. Or for that matter, any country that practices democracy, and not theocracy.

The skeptical reader of this essay — from a writer who is a supporter of religious freedom — can say my suppositions are academic, theoretical. I need only ask this skeptic to surf the Web for what some militant Muslims are saying: They intend to take over heretofore secular democracies and replace them with Islamic caliphates (or a world-wide caliphate). It is their belief that they are ordained by their Quran to do so — violently if necessary. This brand of Islam is not interested in proselytizing; it is demanding capitulation. Still skeptical? Start your surfing with Belgium, then

France, then the Boston Marathon — on and on.

Thus far, this small population has resorted to weapons of limited destruction. Unless the cultural and religious climates of this world change over the next decades, it will be only a matter of time before weapons of mass destruction find their way into the hands and bomb-belts of this disaffected population. As recent events prove, they will have no compunction about blowing themselves up. The more mayhem, the better.

## Melting Pot Disintegration and Terrorism

Most of the major religions of the world have managed to evolve beyond their violent origins. Most religions have been able to "tame themselves" in relation to how they guide their flocks in dealing with other humans.

Below is a quote I make in my book, "2084 and Beyond," from Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Infidel (New York: Free Press, imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2007), np.

"I think fortunately the majority of Muslims today will not commit acts of terrorism. But to argue that there is nothing in Islam that leads to violence—that would be a weak argument to a false argument, because if you define Islam as 'submission to the will of Allah,' then you find out what that submission means...you find out that...the sixth obligation is to convert others to Islam, first by peaceable means, then by violent means. So when Islam is violent—you can't argue...that it's not a violent religion. Then you will say, 'What about Judaism? What about Christianity?' Now, adherents of these religions over the centuries have been pacified to understand and accept the separation of the divine and the worldly...Nowhere in the Muslim world has that profound pacification of Islam...taken place. And I think that is the difference."

## Integration of Cultures and Jobs

The media's take on the current unrest and terrorism in Europe faults the state because (a) it has not properly integrated the native and immigrant cultures with each other, and (b) the state has not created jobs for its incoming populace.

The media overwhelmingly criticizes countries such as France, for not providing jobs for the Muslim youths who live in their country. This situation leads to disaffected young people shooting up the population. But they do not kill a country's leaders who are thought by the gun-toters to be the creators of mass unemployment and pervasive inequality. Mindlessly on the part of the murderers, the people they kill might very well be in the same boat as they.

Beyond the jobless issue, the radical Muslims, sitting at a café in Brussels, Belgium, proclaim they are going to replace the Belgium government with an Islam-like caliphate. Those who convert to Islam will be spared. Those who do not will be eradicated. These statements are made with

impunity because of the rights of free speech.

Irony in action: The right of free speech gives a declared potential killer the right to practice a religion that will deny others the right of free speech — and the right to live.

## Ironic payback: Imperialism Redux

As another irony: The aftermaths of World War I and World War II resulted in the triumphant Western nations subjugating, humiliating, and disemboweling what once were natural and prideful tribal turfs, boundaries that separated factions and kept them more-or-less away from one another's throats. The dysfunction spawned by the creation of artificial national boundaries led to many of the modern-day Middle East disorders, creating nation-states in which the citizens have no more in common than night and day.

We read the history of how England, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and other imperial powers dispossessed and exploited the people living in the Middle East (and other parts of the world such as the profound tragedies associated with the creation of Pakistan). However, Europe was the more recent colonist. Earlier, the Ottoman Empire; before that, Russia; along with Sweden, the Mongols, on and on. Subjugation is the legacy we humans leave behind us.

For now, the Islamic militants must surely be thinking — besides establishing Islam as the worldwide religion — it's pay-back time.

## First Generation and Later Generation Immigrants, and the Disproportionate Ratio Effect

The well-intentioned thoughts of people, such as Rep. Jerrold Nadler, likely see the signs being held by the immigrants trekking away from their deviant homelands, "We love Germany!" "Thank you, France!" The signs are carried by a first generation of mass-immigration refugees. The next generations, admittedly a few, will not be carrying signs, they will be carrying guns. The recent Paris killings are a harbinger of things to come.

These peoples' immediate relief of having survived will be surpassed by unsuccessful efforts to live in vastly different cultures. Some will integrate successfully. Others will not. Some members of future generations will not understand the gratitude of their parents, or the fact that neither they nor their parents can find jobs. Meanwhile, the clerics of their faith will pass on the tenets of Islam. It happened before. It is happening now. With the overwhelming influx of immigrants, what is to prevent it from continuing to happen? No wonder subsequent generations of Islamic adherents become dissatisfied and aspire, with religious zeal, to become ambassadors for Allah.

These thoughts lead me back to the discussion I had with my

friend about his correct assertion that the vast majority of Muslims are not terrorists. As he said, let us not fall into the trap that fewer than 1 percent of Muslims are of this breed.

I responded, "And let us not fall into the trap of the Disproportionate Ratio Effect: With the advent of modern weapons, a few can do great harm to many. A very few, much less than the 1 percent you cite, are doing great harm."

It is the Disproportionate Ratio Effect that I find disturbing. That and the additional fact that a few (again, a very few) Muslims are bent on having Islam assume both church and state functions for nations throughout the world. With such ideologues roaming around, with the increased availability of weapons of astounding lethal power, the idea of freedom of religion (the freedom to practice any religion) can very well translate into the freedom to eliminate the freedom of religion.

Even moderate Muslims, if they follow the Islamic creeds, cannot disavow that their religion is an antithetical philosophy to that of America. I've had discussions with Muslim friends about this issue. Some have tacitly purged this aspect of Islam from their practice of their religion, a price they say they are willing to pay for living in America.

Another Muslim, wise beyond his years said he liked the philosophy of the Dalai Lama: If modern tenets prove that age-old religions have outmoded models, ones that do not work in an ever-changing world, the religions should adapt. Throughout the past several centuries, most of the major religions have adapted to a changing and more knowledgeable world. Judaism,

Christianity, even a conservative branch of Christianity named Catholicism have made these adaptations.

Islam has not. Until it does, it is destined to become increasingly unwelcome to the parts of the world that allow the freedom to worship but with the belief that this worship cannot undermine the government of the nation in which it is practiced.

## The Other Side of the Coin

America's native citizens must also continue to insist on the separation of church and state. Some special interest groups lobby Congress and local legislatures for "bringing back religion," as if it had somehow become lost. They contend that America is slouching toward godlessness and the solution is to inculcate religion into government.

I respect the heartfelt beliefs of these citizens, some of whom are my relatives and friends. But I believe their approach to governing America is as dangerous as any other religious creed

that espouses the commingling of prayer and politics. America's history — and many centuries of humans' history before America even existed — has taught us that this separation must be absolute.

Several years ago, I could not have conceived that I would even consider writing this article. Even now, I key-in the words with the knowledge that I might be branded by many as a xenophobe. I trust those readers who have followed my writings over these many years will know I am not such a person. I greatly favor legal immigration for those who pledge allegiance to America's laws. I welcome immigrants of all stripes to my country but with one caveat: "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" That declaration is the story of America.

*Uyless Black is an award-winning author who has written 40 books on a variety of subjects. His latest book is titled "2084 and Beyond," a work on the origins and consequences of human aggression. He resides in Coeur d'Alene.*

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## Credits and Sources

The second paragraph of the article is a direct quote from the Associated Press (AP): <http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/nov/19/house-passes-bill-adding-barriers-for-syrian-and-iraqi-refugees-to-us>.

The sonnet was obtained from: <http://www.poetryoutloud.org/poem/175887>.

Walt Whitman's quote is sourced from: Walt Whitman, "Notes for Lectures on Religion," *Walt Whitman's Workshop: A Collection of Unpublished Manuscripts*, ed. Clifton Joseph Furness, 1964, in Leonard Roy Frank, *Quotationary* (New York: Random House, 2001), 714.

The quotes from America's founding fathers can be found at: <http://aattp.org/twenty-quotes-from-the-founding-fathers-on-the-separation-of-church-and-state/>.

The word "church" is used in this article as it is the accepted part of the phrase, "church and state." The Muslims use the word "mosque."



## Letters to the Editor (Readers Write), December 3, 2015

### **RESPONSE:** God, not separation, is key

Ulyess Black in his article published Nov. 29 attempts to explain why the Islam pursuit of world domination should be dismissed because of the concept of separation of church and state, misses the

mark. The ongoing threat of Mohammedanism which began some 1,400 years ago and was bravely confronted during the Crusades, can only be defeated through a return to acknowledgment of the Kingship of Christ, through His Mystical Bride, the Roman Catholic Church. This does not mean that those not accepting this fact be persecuted by governments that accept it, it means that its citizens abide to laws springing from the eternal law giver, God.

I have addressed the errors of the false perception of Islam as a peaceful religion in earlier articles written to The Press in April and May of this year. To keep this article focused then I will endeavor to address Mr. Black's defense of separation of church and state as the answer to the evils of Islam. He (Mr. Black) seems to be convinced that the acceptance of Muslims of Americanism (the concept of separation of Church and state) will somehow convert Muslims and make them peaceful. Because our secular government (America) does not put into expression Biblical and Church teachings in her laws, is hardly the answer beckoning us to confront the threat of Islamic terrorism. Perhaps it is our punishment, however, for not doing so.

When speaking of the evolution of major world religions, Mr. Black makes an observation that Christianity has evolved throughout the centuries and that Catholicism is not exempt. This is a false assertion. Let's begin with his assertion that Catholicism is a conservative branch of Christianity. I believe Mr. Black needs to study history more in-depth and reverse his presentation. The Catholic Church was founded more than 2,000 years ago by Jesus Christ. For more than 2,000 years then, the label Christian and Catholic were interchangeable. The confusion came after the Protestant revolution against the true faith in the 16th century occurred. We are now witness to hundreds upon hundreds of sects and denominations proclaiming to be Christian since that revolt. In proper perspective then all others referring to themselves as Christians owe it to the Catholic Church as to their origins. This hardly makes Catholicism a branch as put forth by Mr. Black.

Mr. Black insists that America's native citizens continue to insist on the separation of church and state. The current state of America's godlessness is due precisely to the Masonic (Free Mason) principles propagated by the Founding Fathers emphasizing separation of church and state, religious equality and freedom, fraternity and liberty. Americans have equated these principles as freedom to sin with license. Finally Mr. Black's unbridled belief that separation is absolute is dangerous and has the potential to lead souls away from Christ. "He who is not with me is against me; and he who does not gather with me scatters." (Luke 11:23).

**ESEQUIEL VASQUEZ**  
Post Falls





## Letters to the Editor (Readers Write), December 6, 2015

### **BLACK: Not what I wrote**

Regarding the Readers Write letter by Esequiel Vasquez on my article published in the Press November 27-28. Perhaps Mr. Vasquez and I can agree on this idea: It is not so much the practice of religion that leads to misery in the human race, it is the malpractice of religion.

A few more thoughts about his letter.

(a) I did not speak about the "evils" of Islam. I spoke to the evils of how some people practice it.

(b) I did not say the acceptance of "Americanism"... "will somehow convert Muslims and make them peaceful." I said that it would lead to a more "blended" society, one that history has shown is less subject to violence than those cultures that are religiously balkanized.

(c) Mr. Vasquez's last paragraph says I have an "unbridled belief that separation is absolute, is dangerous and has the potential to lead souls away from Christ." I made no such claim, and I do not believe the idea in the first place. As one example, the "soul" of this writer believes in God. As another, my wife is Catholic, and she believes in the separation of church and state.

Mr. Vasquez takes issue with my saying Catholicism has evolved throughout time. He says, "This is a false assertion." Really? We no longer see the Catholic Church mounting Crusades to rid the Holy Land of Muslims (Turks in the days of the Crusade). Modern day Galileos are not imprisoned. The banning of books (the Index) was abolished in 1966. These actions speak to the church evolving.

My article referred to the Catholic Church only once. Mr. Vasquez treats the sentence as if it were the central theme of my article, when it was tangential to the subject of the separation of church and state.

My assertion in the article is that the integration of church and state has the danger of the state dictating which church is to be integrated. It is usually employed as a tool for the political and/or religious leaders to

gain more control. This danger is not an abstract notion. See the Spanish Inquisition for a past example and ISIS for a current one.

If religion and state are integrated, what happens if the resident religion falls out of favor? Imprisonments, beheadings and other atrocities. See Stalin's USSR for a past example. See the Sunni/Shia musical chair tragedy in Iraq for a current one.

In the article, I asked the readers to remember the famous quote, "You are entitled to your own opinions, but you are not entitled to your own facts." Mr. Vasquez has convoluted this idea. He has made up *my* facts!

**UYLESS BLACK**  
Coeur d'Alene





## Letters to the Editor (Readers Write), December 6, 2015

### U.S.: Reach out to distant neighbors

It is quite evident Uyless Black spent many hours studying the Muslim religion and the long-range effect it could have on our freedom of religion. I certainly will not brand him as xenophobe but a person of deep thought.

Study what he has to say and adjust your thinking and possibly his predictions can be avoided. If persons of Christian faith would follow Christ's teachings and leave judgment to God, their neighbors will not turn against them. God will walk with those who walk with Him.

The Dec. 2 piece by Esequiel Vasquez with his philosophy of "one true church" troubles me much more than Mr. Black's "absolute separation of church and state." I quote Black's caveat to our Muslim neighbors: "I welcome immigrants of all stripes. (but) Keep ancient lands your storied pomp! That is the story of America."

I agree, and if 99 percent of Muslims do not endorse the slaughter of innocent people, then they should be more vocal, speaking out against the extremist actions. Practice the Quran's positive aspects and abhor the violence against those of other faiths.

America has been a beacon of freedom and remains atop the list of philanthropy and giving. However, on a personal average, we are donating less and less to chronically undeveloped nations. When we spend more on our pets than our impoverished neighbors, it is hard for third world nations to respect us. America seems to be entering a materialistic age where less of our thoughts are directed toward others. We rise in force to help our close neighbors, as it should be, but sometimes it seems we put our distant neighbors out of sight and out of mind.

Idle hands promote mischievous minds. We haven't come up with an effective means for keeping our present minority communities employed, so how will we merge the flow of more exiled immigrants? The great majority of the refugees are families needing homes and employment. The Statue of Liberty still stands tall in New York Harbor and reads: "... give me your tired, poor, your huddled masses..." So, do we flee from this concept or find a means to let the displaced enter our land?

As I was keying in the final paragraph of this note, an NBC News special announced that a facility in San Bernardino had just been targeted. This compounds the need for answers to the above questions.

**LEONARD BRANT**  
Post Falls