

## GERMANY: REFORMATION OR DEATH

October 20, 2016

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On 31 October 1517 German theologian Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses -

'Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences' –

to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church, triggering the Protestant Reformation. They were dark days: the Church was corrupt, Germany was weak, and the armies of Islam had conquered three-quarters of the old Christian world. After capturing Constantinople (the seat of the eastern, Byzantine/Greek Church) in 1453, Sultan Mehmed set his sights on Rome (the seat of the western, Roman/Latin Church). In 1480 he captured Otranto (in south-east Italy) and Rome was evacuated. Then the Sultan died and his plans died with him. In 1529 Suleiman the Magnificent laid siege to Vienna. Were it not that freakish weather had forced the Turks to abandon most of their artillery, they would certainly have captured the city; Germany, then, would have been at their mercy.

Thankfully, God frustrated the Islamic advance while mercifully infusing life into Germany. The Reformation awakened Germans to divine grace, the priesthood of believers and a Biblical work ethic. The result: the phenomenal revival and technological rise of Christian Europe, before which Islam simply could not stand.

But just as Germany had been at the centre of the rise of modern Europe and Western civilisation, so too has Germany been at the centre of its decline. In the latter part of the 19th Century, Germany's imperialist Islamophile leadership of Kaiser Wilhelm II and Max von Oppenheim proposed a strategic alliance with global Islam. It was agreed that, in the event of war, the Ottoman Caliph would declare a jihad wherein Muslims would drive France out of Africa, Britain out of India, and Russia out of the Caucuses, paving the way for Germany and Islam to dominate the world. Strong German-Turkish ties were forged but ultimately the plot failed.

Germany remained aligned with Islam through WW2, through a Nazi-Arab alliance committed to fighting colonial powers Britain and France and ridding the world of 'lesser peoples' like Jews, Roma and Slavs. After WW2, Europe moved to counter American dominance by creating a Euro-Arab Axis (Eurabia) which saw Europe's connections and exchanges with the Arab world multiply. All the while, German Communists were actively subverting the West by means of a (Mao-inspired) Long March through the institutions. Their aim: Cultural Revolution to replace Judeo-Christian values with the moral and cultural relativism of atheistic cultural Marxism. They have been phenomenally successful.

The result is Christianity is in crisis in Germany today. Giulio Meotti reports (Gatestone Institute, 12 Oct 2016) that in the past decade, Catholics in Germany have closed 515 churches while the Protestants have closed 340. The numbers of baptisms and church weddings are in free fall. Formal apostasy is soaring while conversions are few. As Giulio attests, 'religious decline is usually followed by a demographic one'. German fertility has collapsed and is now well below replacement rate. To replace the native population, Germany is taking in migrants - Muslim migrants. Germany's Die Welt estimates that Christians in Germany will be a minority within 20 years. This is doubtless why UNESCO is running ads on German state-funded television encouraging German women to embrace the hijab.

None of this bodes well for religious liberty and Christian security in Germany. For a glimpse of what might lie ahead, one need only look into Germany's refugee shelters, where Christian asylum seekers are persecuted with impunity. A report by a group of German NGOs, led by Open Doors (OD) Germany, reveals shocking levels of persecution of Christians, yet acknowledges this is 'only the tip of the iceberg'. Of the 743 Christian refugees who spoke to OD, 617 (83%) reported multiple assaults, 314 (42%) death threats, 416 (56%) violent assaults and 44 (6%) sexual assaults. Whilst 674 (91%) said the assaults were committed by Muslim fellow refugees, 205 (28%) accused Muslim guards. [For one case that went to court, see RLPB 377 (28 Sep).] While the government is setting up safe shelters for LGBTQI asylum seekers, it continues to resist calls - even from police - to separate migrants according to religion, insisting segregation would go against Germany's multicultural values. Without reformation, revival and miracle, Germany will be lost.

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Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin | RLPB 380 | Wed 19 Oct 2016

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