

The Passy Press

Letters to the Editor

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To: Nick Gardiner enpg@thepassypress.com

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Subject: Views on Making The People Pay for Government's Incompetence

Dear Sir,

Ambassador Daniel Simpson in his recent post on Passy, "Migration into Europe is an American Responsibility" closes with an unarguable truth: "We need a coherent foreign policy in the Middle East – one currently missing in action, one that does not take bombing and drone attacks as its first choice."

However, he begins the same paragraph with a notion that is less persuasive: "America needs to offer now to take 100,000 [Middle Eastern refugees] based on our 310 million population, [and] our responsibility for the situation."

Even to the degree that flawed American strategy may indeed have led to beheadings and acts of intolerance, and even though it is less than far fetched to suggest that at least some of this tyranny would not have happened had it not been for U.S. strategy and policy, it is the barbarism of those who would slaughter and behead that is to blame, not the American *people*.

Ambassador Simpson correctly realizes that "bombs and drones are no strategy". They never will be. Whomever in our Government thought they were had best go back to history class. The delusion of forcing change on a people or nation by remote control from afar (i.e. most currently, bombs and drones) is and always has been exactly that: a delusion. Bombs alone offend and alienate. Witness London in the Blitz, Hanoi in the Vietnam War. Of themselves, bombs are no strategy.

To make the U.S. citizenry, "We the People" bear the burden for the mistakes of a few misplaced authorities in our government, who thought they knew something about strategy, would be putting our unprecedented free American citizenry in the position of Russian serfs, who had to pay for the extravagancies of the Tsars in the form of the civil wars and forced labor of the ensuing regime, and even (though admittedly carrying the case to the extreme) Germans in Dresden who through seeing their homes fire-bombed paid for Hitler's excesses, and Japanese in Hiroshima and Nagasaki who fell victim to their rulers' strategic incompetence. I admit that the foregoing examples are of situations run entirely amok – but, historically, abuse of a population at the hands of guilty governments starts small, but grows. And, it remains a reality that the 100,000 "refugees" from the Middle East would likely include a few terrorists intermingled within who could and would create havoc on undeserving American citizens who had nothing to do with the flawed strategy.

The overwhelming majority of "Our 310 million population" does not live in gated communities, is vulnerable to threats of crime and disease that would come along with a hastily integrated 100,000 refugees, and cannot afford to see opportunities swallowed by 100,000 new competitors in the job market. After all, the 310 million did not make the flawed U.S. strategy.

And, though some of the refugees may indeed be fleeing U.S. bombs, there are a preponderance of other factors including beheadings, and religious intolerance, not of American making. It is the uncivil brutality of ISIS and others like them, who are clearly the main perpetrators. Yet, also, to make the people pay for their leaders' mistakes is one of the many traditions obviated by our founders' wisdom and the unprecedented idea of a people to whom the Government is responsible instead of the other way around. Without the immoral brutality of radical Islamic perpetrators, the flawed American strategy, though ineffective, cannot be compared to cutting off heads and crucifixions.

A related question that begs an answer is "Why should *European* nations bear the burden of these refugees?" Certainly the people of Hungary, Greece, Austria, Germany, and the many others nearby, have no responsibility. Now would be an ideal time for us to begin working with the civilized countries of the world to provide what temporary assistance can be made available in way of shelter proximate to the countries from which the refugees have fled while we work as a community of nations to eradicate the sort of racial and religious discrimination that leads to the brutality that has caused so many to flee the Middle East – all this while we sort out *our own* influx of migrants through our southern border. Just as the community of civilized nations had to rise to the challenge of eradicating extermination camps in World War 2, we once again face a challenge to civility itself that we ignore at our own peril – and the world's. To take the refugees and settle them in America while heinous crimes against humanity continue in the now chaotic Middle East is no solution.

What we need in the Middle East today is a restoration of the situation U.S. Presidents from Truman through Eisenhower, through Kennedy, Nixon, Carter, and Reagan worked so hard behind the scenes to build and maintain – an effort that, while it lasted, was a boon to the prosperity of the whole world: a Middle East that maintained a touch-and-go neutrality, which, though touch-and-go indeed, and an informal neutrality at that, took us through the Cold War to become an unprecedented example of the success of "peace through strength". Most importantly, these U.S. Presidents of the past succeeded in establishing a viable status quo favorable to our side without a shot's being fired. It can be done again. Ambassador Simpson is correct that U.S. makers of strategy have bungled the situation. Were Putin's Russia to have the military might of Khrushchev's Soviet Union, now that the Russian military has seized control of the populations we won over 1946 through 1979 (roughly) without a shot being fired, the situation would be dire indeed. But once again we are called upon to achieve the ideal with yet another victory by peace through strength. Today's challenge: build up the U.S. Military so that, once again, it is undefeatable. Be ready to use it if we must and let the world know of our resolve. But, meanwhile, elect leaders with the wisdom, experience, and education to make sound judgments.

Sincerely,

Mike Wyly

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