



Peter Mullen

We are in Humpty Dumpty territory again. Words twisted to mean anything you want them to mean. The so-called Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith says,

“As so many Muslims in the UK and across the world have pointed out, there is nothing Islamic about the wish to terrorise, nothing Islamic about plotting murder, pain and grief. Indeed, if anything, these actions are anti-Islamic.”

Well, she might say that. I couldn't possibly comment except to say that, while by no means are all Muslims terrorists, the overwhelming number of the terrorists who now plague us are Muslims and they are doing what they are doing in the name of Islam. Perhaps Islam really is in some corner of reality a religion of peace and love, but the dominant movement in Islam today is jihadism. Don't take my word, the word of a mere Christian, for it. In his outstanding book *Without Roots*, Marcello Pera refers us to the Muslim authorities themselves:

“In Afghanistan, Kashmir, Chechnya, Dagestan, Ossetia, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Bosnia, Kosovo, the Palestinian Territories, Egypt, Morocco and much of the Islamic and Arab world, large groups of fundamentalists, radicals, extremists - the Taliban, Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas, the Muslim Brothers, Islamic Jihad, the Islamic Armed Group and many more - have declared a holy war on the West. This is not my imagination. It is a message they have proclaimed, written, communicated, preached and circulated in black and white. Why should we not take note of it?”

The one thing all these groups have in common is a fierce attachment to Islam. Why doesn't the Home Secretary take note of it? Bishop Michael Nazir Ali, like Marcello Pera, tells it as it is - and gets death threats for his pains. I just adore the way Islamists say, in

effect, “Islam is a religion of peace and love. And if you say anything different, we'll come round and kill you!”

There is effective segregation in Britain today and the ideological cause of it is multiculturalism. Visit Oldham, Rochdale, Blackburn and much of Bradford and you cannot help noticing that there are racial ghettos. It is not likely that you would be stopped if you tried to enter a part of town where the population is overwhelmingly Muslim, but you would not feel comfortable doing so. And generally speaking the “communities” don't mix. When this happened in South Africa, it was denounced by liberals in Britain as Apartheid. When it happens in Britain, it is celebrated by the same liberals as multiculturalism.

It is not “racist” but common-sense to conclude that when you get in one country a sizeable minority who do not accept the rules, customs and mores of that country, then you have the perfect recipe for social unrest. That is multiculturalism. Enoch was damned for saying it in 1968. Now Enoch's words are being repeated by Trevor Phillips, Chairman of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights.

I'm not really enjoying saying “Told you so!” - not much, anyway. But under the heading “We're all going to be poor” I wrote a newspaper column last October to say that we are about to experience a financial crisis more severe than anything we have seen for years. Forgive me for repeating some of what I said then:

“The emerging economic crisis is actually being made worse by the Government - surely a government that will in the not too distant future be exposed as the worst this country has had in modern times. Gordon Brown, as Chancellor and now as Prime Minister, says one thing and does the opposite. It beats me how this man could ever have gained the reputation for prudence. He has consistently taxed and spent as if our hard-earned

cash were only monopoly money. Incredibly, he sold off most of the nation's gold reserves when gold was at its cheapest.”

If Tony Blair could be described as a crook, what words are left to describe his successor Gordon Brown? This man has stolen our pension funds. He has increased taxation brazenly as well by stealth. His attention-grabbing gimmick of cutting the standard rate of income tax in his recent budget actually leaves the lowest paid in our society worse off - because, at the same time as this cut, Brown cynically abolished the 10% rate of taxation.

In a word, the economic crisis and the coming slump are being caused by too much borrowing. Private borrowing - mortgages, credit card bills and personal loans - exceeds £1trillion, the highest by far that it has ever been. Government borrowing is out of control. Private citizens are behaving irresponsibly in their financial affairs, while the government is blatantly incompetent to manage the public accounts.

So what do the financial wizards in the Bank of England do about it? They cut interest rates and suggest that further cuts are on the way. It's a damn risky business because it will make borrowing easier and so encourage people to borrow yet more. As someone said to me here in the City last week, “It's as if the cure prescribed to a desperate alcoholic is to say, ‘Never mind - here's another bottle of vodka!’”

I wonder if you are as fed up with hearing about the American presidential election as I am? And there's over six months to run before we get the result. Do we really have to put up with this ballyhoo every day between now and November? Answer, You bet! I'm not interested in Barack O'Barmy and Hilary Clingfilm or any of the others. We're forever being told that we must take an avid interest because America is our biggest ally. Well



then I might take an interest come November when there's a straight choice between two candidates and the result is imminent. But to pore over the newspapers' daily coverage of the primaries is a waste of our lives.

Of course the real reason there is so much coverage of the US election is that it gets journalists free trips to the States. But even the journalists must be getting bored with what is nothing more than a ridiculously expensive advertising campaign full of thousands of meaningless slogans and sound-bites. Why is the whole of public life in America run after the style of the Oscars? I can't for one minute imagine American journalists coming over here in shoals to cover the elections for Westminster.

We are told that we must take an active interest in politics as part of the whole duty of the citizen. In fact in our secular society voting is about the nearest we come to a sacred act and there's more media ritual on election day than on a religious festival. Why is there so much political chat? All day. Every day. On Radio Four alone there's Today, The World at One, PM and The World Tonight. And then there are all the special programmes from Our Foreign Correspondent and the endless confusion of economic chatter.

Most of this stuff is as pointless as whitewashing coal. We have forgotten that in a sane world, where there is a proper sense of proportion, politics - and even government - is a necessary evil. There should not be so much of it. A good resolution for any politician would be to get himself elected and then go away and be studiously idle for a year or two. The art of good government is not for our rulers to be frenetically active in the vain attempt to convince the people that they are actually doing something. The art of government is to keep a steady hand on the tiller of the ship of state and make a few minor adjustments now and again.

Every party leader talks as if

the country has spent all its history going to the dogs - that is until at last he, the great man, has come to usher in the Age of Gold. I suppose it's fairly harmless. But if it's interest you want, you'd be better off washing the curtains.

UNTIED KINGDOM

If you buy only one book this year, this is the one. It is a comprehensive analysis of Britain today, a sustained piece of criticism of the standard set by such as Matthew Arnold and T.S. Eliot.

The first part is entitled On Loving One's Country "a love," says Robinson "which dare not speak its name." He proceeds to a devastating denunciation of the EU, contrasting the way it is always promoted as "the European ideal" with the corrupt shambles that it is, "the European actuality." He says of the Treaty of Lisbon 2007: "Making all allowance for vagueness and contradiction, it remains a foundation document of a federal state. No patriot could approve it."

This is followed by a defining judgement on multiculturalism: "The underlying question is of how most of the countries of the West allowed their characters to be so compromised by the large scale immigration of groups who had no intention of joining their new nation except economically."

He mentions another unmentionable, the death penalty for murder and convinces us of "the logic of punishment by death."

O joy, the deep joy that comes through reading this stuff which, by its intelligence and wit, provides the only reassurance possible that one is not after all totally insane.

Untied Kingdom by Ian Robinson
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www.edgewaysbooks.com

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