

A Brief Essay on the Inquisition

(excerpted from *War Comes to God's House*)

Other infamous episodes that draw our society's disapprobation today include the inquisitions. The most infamous was the Spanish Inquisition. Ask most people about that subject, and if they have even heard of it at all, they will tell you that it was when the Catholic Church persecuted Jews and other “heretics”. That is not exactly the case. Let's take time to delve a little deeper in to the history of the Spanish Inquisition.

In 1492, the Catholic rulers Ferdinand and Isabella completed the seven-century long reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula from the Moors. They were then in possession of lands populated largely by Catholics, but also containing remnants of the Islamic Moors and a considerable number of Jews, many of whose ancestors had been imported to serve the Moors. As Spain had not yet waxed so powerful that another Islamic invasion could be ruled out, the loyalty of Muslims and Jews was a matter of state security.

Ferdinand and Isabella were kings by the grace of God and the authority of His regent on earth, the Pope. Disloyalty to God's anointed rulers would be a mortal sin to Roman Catholics, but the Pope's authority meant nothing to Muslims and Jews; their loyalty was therefore to be regarded as questionable.

Europeans of that day were conversant enough with history to know that the Jews had rebelled continuously against Roman authority, against any authority but their own in fact. Jews had sided with Persian invaders in the last war between the Eastern Roman Empire and the Persians.

The Persians were defeated and the Jews suffered greatly in the aftermath, but the war broke the power of both empires and opened the door for Arabic/Islamic conquest. Jews were also known to have sided with Muslim invaders against Christian rulers and to serve Muslim conquerors as they did in Moorish Spain.

The fear of Jewish betrayal was not at all unfounded – religious or racial/ethnic ties did not bind them to the nation. They were sojourners in the lands of the Catholic rulers, and were forever open to a better deal. And in every age the Maccabees were heroes of the embattled Jewish communities and rebellion and martyrdom were prime virtues to many among them.

Conversion to Roman Catholicism was required for all who wished to remain in Spain. But the forced conversions were always suspect, especially among the Jews. The royal couple applied to the Vatican for authorization of an “Inquiry” into the faith of the Spanish people.

The little known facts are that the purpose of the Inquisition was essentially secular, not religious, and the notorious Grand Inquisitor Torquemada was serving the Spanish crown, secular government, not the Catholic Church. It was the Pope, not secular rulers, who protested the excesses of the Inquisition. The same Inquisition was applied to Protestants a few years later for they too were not bound by the Pope’s blessing of the Catholic crown.

Yes, its an ugly business looking at it from our comfortable perspective; but religious turmoil, rebellion and war are ugly too and to be avoided at...what cost? Meticulous records of the Spanish Inquisition were kept, because both law and human life were precious and not to taken lightly.

There were about two thousand executions during the first fifty years of the Inquisition, about five thousand over the Spanish Inquisition's 300 year "reign of terror"; most avoidable were it not for the victims' courage, or fanaticism, or pride, or whatever made them choose death over bending the knee.

Two thousand in fifty years – that's about how many murders there are over a five year period in Washington D.C., or Chicago, or Baltimore, or Detroit where our modern secular society has created an underclass of fatherless, uneducated, undisciplined and unwanted young men. Five thousand pales in comparison to the fifty million plus of our own children executed in the abortion mills of our Godless modern society solely for the crime of being unwanted since the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision.

What hypocrisy to condemn the brutality and superstitious fanaticism of the Middle Ages when our own time condemns millions to hunger by switching corn from food to fuel in a nonsensical remedy for a non-existent crisis, and caused the death of millions from malaria by accepting the fevered speculations of the quasi-scientific novella *Silent Spring*, and condemns the world to living under the threat of weapons of mass destruction, ...oops, I nearly fell off my soapbox, pardon me while I climb down.

Ignoring countless instances of persecution of the politically unreliable by secular rulers because of racial, ethnic, religious (in the non-Christian world), regional, social class, and other reasons, there are many enemies of Christianity who will declare, "If we could only be rid of religion and have a purely secular world, what a paradise we could have." What deadly folly that is!

The removal of a potentially disloyal populace by government is a practice having no requirement for a religious component. The Jews (including Christian converts) were not part of the German “Volk”, therefore unreliable. The “Bourgeoisie” had to be eliminated in order to form a more perfect Soviet Union.

One of the more elemental examples of this practice occurred in the “killing fields” of Cambodia only a few years ago. The Communist Kymer Rouge forced the entire adult population into the fields. At the end of a day’s forced labor, hands were checked. Those whose hands were raw and bleeding were executed on the spot; they were not of the peasantry, with hands toughened by a lifetime in the fields. They might have been educated, they might have been used to a better life, they might be unreliable in the new “workers’ paradise”.

There! Oh, one more stake in its heart probably won’t rid us of the pernicious lie that is draining the life’s blood out of the western world - this idea that “If we could only rid ourselves of this religion, we could have a paradise on earth.” But I have tried. It would be far truer to say, “If only we could rid ourselves of anti-Christian socialist experiments, we could have a paradise on earth.” People might realize that if only they knew their own history.