



BATTEN IN BRUSSELS

The myth of multiculturalism.

"Having put religious division and bloodshed behind us, we are now going backwards."

THE MYTH of multiculturalism depends on the belief that completely different cultures, and indeed contradictory world views, can peacefully co-exist within the same geographic and political space. The British political and intellectual elite have not only thought that multiculturalism is highly desirable but they have spent the last fifty years actively bringing it about. Now reality has collided with idealism and we find we have something of a problem on our hands.

Britain is a multi-ethnic country, and there is no reason why people of different ethnic and racial origins cannot live peacefully together. But to do so requires emphasising the things we have in common, rather than the things that separate us. However, multiculturalism, the great social engineering doctrine which cannot be questioned, does exactly the opposite. Multiculturalism is not just about cultural diversity, and having a wide variety of restaurants to choose from, as some would have us believe, it has come to mean different cultures competing for dominance in the same national space.

The most disturbing manifestation of this is the so-called "alienation" of Muslims. An ICM poll recently stated that 40% of Muslims wanted Sharia law imposed in those areas where they are dominant, and that 20% have sympathy with the suicide bombers of July 2005. If those figures are true then in what century do these people think they are living, and where do they think they are living? Religion for most people is a matter of private belief. It should only manifest itself in outward behaviour towards others. That kind of multiculturalism is positive. But, for a very vocal minority of Muslims, their religion cannot be separated from the law and public life. They wish to change British society in the image of their religion, not to adapt themselves to our way of life. They have a mission to take us back to the dark ages.

This is not acceptable to the vast majority of Britons, of whatever religious belief or none. But, as usual, our political, intellectual, and media elite have

shown nothing but appeasement in the face of this threat. The Home Office did nothing while extremists like Abu Hamza openly preached sedition and hatred, naturally, of course, while living on state benefits and handouts. It took the London suicide bombers to force the authorities to act. The politically correct stupidity of the authorities was illustrated by one of the most obscene, but illuminating, spectacles of recent years when police officers regularly closed off the road and held up the traffic outside the Finsbury Park Mosque (where even the Mosque authorities did not want him) so that Abu Hamza could preach to his followers. Perhaps if he had parked on a double yellow line they could have done something. It is no wonder, then, that some Islamic fundamentalists see Britain as a weak and corrupt society ready for a take-over.

How has the anti-libertarian Labour government responded to this threat? It has passed increasingly authoritarian legislation removing the traditional freedoms of the British people, instead of using existing laws against sedition and incitement to violence to deal with the religious thugs and extremists. Now the Racial and Religious Hatred Bill will further undermine the rights of free speech and the right to question religious belief systems. Everyone should have the right to say that other people's religious beliefs are mumbo-jumbo. That was acceptable when offended Christians would forgive and pray for the soul of the blasphemer. Apparently it is not, now that an offended Muslim might threaten to kill them. Britain spent 300 years, from the reformation until the emancipation of the Catholics in 1829, evolving from a religion to a secular society. Having put religious division and bloodshed behind us, we are now going backwards.

How should we deal with the situation? We should reassert the secular nature of our society and re-privatise religious belief. Most importantly we must assert British identity, open to all who choose to live here, irrespective of their origin. Central and local government

should ditch multiculturalism as a policy. We should promote a common culture through a sense of national identity based on belief and trust in a set of national institutions. We should now make every effort to integrate our existing ethnic populations into British mainstream culture. Here are half a dozen things we should do without delay.

1. Stop mass immigration (through open-borders and uncontrolled asylum) and adopt a points system so that Britain can invite and accept those people with the correct qualifications and qualities to fit into our culture.

2. Fluency in English must be a key qualification for anyone wishing to become a British citizen.

3. New citizens should sign a declaration of citizenship stating their belief in Britain's legal system, and democratic and secular system of government.

4. Existing British citizens not fluent in English should be given practical assistance to learn the language.

5. English and Welsh should be the only national languages. Signs in foreign languages should be removed from schools, hospitals and public buildings.

6. British citizenship should be granted on a provisional basis, say 5 years. If, within that time, new citizens break the criminal law, or otherwise show themselves to be unsuitable, e.g. by breaking their declaration of citizenship, then citizenship should be revoked and they should be deported.

Do I expect any of these things to be done? It is more likely that a European Arrest Warrant for xenophobia will be issued against me. Of course some of these measures are not possible anyway while we are members of the European Union or signatories to the European Declaration of Human Rights. There is no sign that the politicians in power have the political will to do anything at all - except pass more and more authoritarian and irrelevant legislation.

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