

Georgie Anne Geyer is a nationally syndicated columnist and the author of several books on international affairs. Soon to be published is her newest book, *Americans No More: The Death of Citizenship in America*. This column appeared in the *Washington Times* on September 4, 1994 and is reprinted by permission of the Universal Press Syndicate.

# Europe's Islamic Encounter

By Georgie Anne Geyer

One of the leading Dutch editors was surveying the mood of Europe this summer, when his attention focused on three compelling key words — refugees, Islam and commitment.

"After World War II, we young people were opposed to the old way of thinking," said Hans Moll, a top editor at the big newspaper *NRC Handelsblad*. "Then in the 1960s, there was a strong cultural relativist undertow in intellectual thinking. The idea was that all cultures were the same. Then came the new immigrants with different ways of thinking.

"When I was growing up, we made a laughingstock of the Roman Catholic Church — but when the Islamicists began to come, we stopped making those religious jokes. Nobody said anything against Islam. We were all cowards."

Today, Mr. Moll, a charming and thoughtful man who still dresses in the style of '60s (although he is balding now), thinks differently. Today, he and his friends see the ethos of this changing Europe predominantly reflected in three new factors: (1) resentment against aliens in general, (2) strong feelings they were "taken" by Islam, and (3) a conviction that it is high time European countries demand far more commitment from refugees than has hitherto been the case.

Indeed, everywhere one looked on the Continent this summer, one could see the dramatic degree to which Islam has lost that early panache for young Europeans, for whom it served as a vehicle for handy, if shallow, expression of resentments against their fathers' generation. At the same time, it is becoming ever clearer that the radical fundamental strains of Islam entering Europe are posing a real threat to European societies. That threat is marked not only by numbers of people but by new and lethal forms of both political and cultural immigration that were quite deliberately designed to infiltrate and change European societies.

- In Paris, French police this August staged a massive crackdown on Islamic activists who had been tunneling in among the 3 million Muslims in France, following the brutal killings of five French officials August 3 in Algeria. The police staged 13,000 spot ID checks, and the extremist Algerian "Islamic Salvation Front" actually issued a "declaration of war" against France. (It should be noted that most of Muslim immigrants are law-abiding workers, and many actually come to Europe to escape from the violence and intolerance of the fundamentalists.)

- In France, too, officials laid out the new immigration and asylum laws recently passed. Birthright citizenship, by which any child of anyone born in France is automatically a citizen, has been changed — now those children between the ages of 16 and 22 must actively seek French citizenship. As well, on other levels, there has been a tightening of immigration laws, as well as a number of court cases dealing with Muslim immigrants who have insisted they have the "right" to practice their barbaric female circumcision (removal of the clitoris at age 9) in contradiction of French laws and cultural and moral norms.

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- In England for the last few years, as reported in London papers, the British state has been actively and dangerously challenged by extremist Muslim groups, 155 of whose members from 47 separate organizations actually met two years ago to form a "Muslim parliament" in England as an announced

prelude to forming "Muslim states" in Europe. These states would embrace polygamy, instantaneous divorce, and the abolition of mixed-sex workplaces and public transport.

- In still another instance, Commonwealth immigrants from India in Great Britain have set up "British Hindu Untouchability," or in effect "no go" areas for untouchables — not in India, but in the country that is the world's very wellspring of equality before the law!

According to varied sources, Europe is awakening to the fact that immigrants are coming to actively change European society. France's conservative government recently warned that "the problems of immigration are ahead of us and not behind us," as the government noted that, by only the year 2000, 60 million of the 130 million population

in just Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco will be under 20 years of age and "without a future."

Most interesting to me is the fact that men and women in their 40s, such as Hans Moll, are no longer deluded. "These immigrants, they take an oath to nothing here," he said, "My girlfriend works with asylum-seekers. She sees them as a microcosm of conflicts to come. She's for a stern approach: making things clear from the moment they come, what can be done and what can't." Socialization of the immigrants into Dutch society? "There is none whatsoever," he concluded.

One wonders when these commonsense and appropriate measures of European countries, which have every reason to be proud of themselves and to protect what they have so painstakingly created, will ever reach America's still utopian shores. ■

## **New York State Senate Majority Task Force on Immigration Files Immigration Lawsuit**

On October 18, 1994, the New York State Senate Majority Task Force on Immigration, chaired by Senator Frank Padavan, filed a suit against the Federal Government to recover \$33.6 billion spent over the past six years by New York State and localities as a direct result of federal immigration policy.

The State Senators were joined as plaintiffs in the suit filed in U.S. District Court in Albany by Thomas Gulotta, Nassau County Executive; Robert Gaffney, Suffolk County Executive, and John Buono, Rensselaer County Executive.

The State Senate Majority Task Force on Immigration was formed on March 24, 1994 by Senate Majority Leader Ralph Marino and charged to develop legislation to assist localities, particularly New York City, that are burdened with high costs associated with immigration. In 1993, Senator Padavan, chairman of the Senate Committee on Cities, held a series of public hearing on immigration. A report, *Our Teeming Shore*, was issued in January of this year. The Committee on Cities estimates that immigrants cost New York taxpayers \$5.6 billion annually in the areas of education, health and welfare services, and law enforcement.

The Senate Majority Task Force filed suit on behalf of New York because Governor Mario Cuomo refused to take action on this pressing issue. The seven-count complaint asserts that by failing to control illegal immigration and protect New York's borders and by failing to provide for the consequences, the Federal government has violated the U.S. Constitution and that New York State is entitled to "declaratory, injunctive and restitutionary relief."

*What constitutes a refugee? This editorial comment is reprinted by permission from the New York Post, July 12, 1994.*

# Granting Gays Refugee Status

*New York Post*

Last month the Clinton administration quietly announced plans to open yet another path for mass migration into the United States: political asylum for homosexuals. In a Justice Department directive, Attorney General Janet Reno ordered U.S. immigration officials to consider applicants who claim to have been persecuted because they're homosexual eligible for entry under the asylum laws. Gay magazines report that hundreds have already applied.

In the meantime, word is sure to go out to impoverished folks throughout the world who dream of ways to come here that homosexuality has been rendered a legitimate asylum category — along with race, creed, political orientation and ethnicity.

We've long expected that immigration and asylum would be major issues in the 1998 national campaign. Thus, it will be interesting to see how Americans at large react to the Clinton administration's decision to create a designated entry path for homosexuals seeking to migrate here.

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Popular sentiment aside, the Justice Department directive strikes us as astonishingly ill-advised. Only a handful of countries — Fidel Castro's Cuba and a few Islamic states — openly discriminate against practicing gays. The demise of communism radically reduced the number of regimes avowedly hostile to homosexuality.

But gay activists have now stretched the definition of oppression to include anything short of full endorsement of homosexuality — in the schools and from the pulpits. Using such standards, ample grounds will exist for gays around the world to

employ the asylum vehicle. And insofar as the U.S. remains the world's most tolerant society vis-a-vis homosexuality, it's safe to assume that many will endeavor to do so. Certainly, the multivariied events that took place in New York in late June secured America's status as the international gay mecca.

It has not been established whether there are 600 million homosexuals in the world (a number arrived at by extrapolating from the fabled and dubious ten percent figure claimed by gay activists) or 60 million; nor can anyone know how many heterosexuals are likely to feign homosexuality in order to jump to the front of the U.S. immigration line.

But the new policy — an unsubtle capitulation to the growing gay lobby — represents an invitation to fraud, one that's certain to make the effort to bring a measure of order to the U.S. immigration process all the more difficult. America's notoriously lax asylum system is already subject to wide abuse. Smugglers are well-versed in teaching would-be claimants how to pretend they've either experienced or fear persecution. Declaring an entirely new class of people — "persecuted homosexuals" — eligible for asylum will render it harder than ever to distinguish between individuals who genuinely face persecution and those who are simply anxious to jump to the head of a very long line. ■

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## Sign of the Times

Hand-lettered sign spotted by Arthur Witkin of Hartsdale, N.Y., taped to the information window of the office of the State Department of Motor Vehicles in White Plains:

THE PERSON WHO SPEAKS ENGLISH  
WILL NOT BE IN TODAY

— *The New York Times*, August 17, 1994