



Straight Talk

by Muriel Sluyter

Two Nations, One Continent

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

America has become two nations, almost. One nation tends to hold fast to the values that made us what we are: a nation different from any other on earth. They believe children should be well educated in reading, writing, arithmetic, music, art, math and other sciences. They believe that the family — meaning Mom, Pop and the kids — is the base unit of a stable society; that the wholesale destruction of the American family is a harbinger of the inevitable downfall of our nation.

They believe that government should be the servant of the citizenry, not their oppressor. When the Roosevelt administration established the REA, getting electricity to farms and ranches, that was serving. When tornadoes, hurricanes or floods devastate an area, saving homes and lives is serving. Controlling and micro-managing citizens' lives is oppression.

They believe that a people who try to live up to the standards of human behavior defined in the Bible can and will be the most successful people on the planet. Most agree with Berlusconi, leader of Italy, that Western civilization is vastly more successful at providing basic freedoms for men, women and children, than Eastern civilization, with the obvious exceptions of Japan and Taiwan, who have adopted a Western lifestyle.

They believe that people are of greater value than animals, rocks and trees. They don't think farmers and ranchers are conscienceless abusers of the planet, while fishes, owls and other wild creatures are untouchable.

They value human life, whether in the womb or out and are horrified at the trade in aborted babies' body parts.

They are deeply concerned for young people who fall into the trap of drugs, alcohol and sex, knowing they damage their brains and bodies, contract sexually transmitted diseases, and compromise and/or abbreviate their future.

They tend to see things in terms of black and white, good and bad, constructive and destructive, rather than in varying shades of gray. They believe in the Constitution

and the freedoms it guarantees. They believe in the innate goodness of their fellow Americans, though they recognize that there are critical problems in our country, that they are getting worse as our culture decays.

The other nation that occupies this continent is very different from the first. They believe in varying shades of gray, rather than black and white. They disbelieve and disapprove of the Bible and its mandates; both are politically incorrect and offensive, especially the sexual restrictions.

They tend to be pro-choice pertaining to aborting babies, but anti-choice concerning educating the ones they allow to live. They value rodents, fishes and predatory animals (wolves and bears are so-o-o romantic) more than farm animals.

Most were intensely offended by Berlusconi's assertion, because they don't approve of Western civilization, though they live and often teach here; perhaps that's because life expectancy is vastly longer here, especially for women. They can be as virulently anti-American as they choose, without retribution. Best of all, there is more food here and it's cleaner, and there is almost no chance of contracting one of the hemorrhagic fevers.

They believe family is whoever is sitting around the dinner table. They favor high taxes and redistribution of wealth.

America used to represent virtue and honor; while some of our citizens were far from honorable, that was still the standard, and it was taught from earliest childhood. Now child pornography is protected speech, while prayer is not. Spanking is child abuse, but soon, if our society doesn't reverse its headlong descent into utter depravity, sex with a child will be protected.

Astonishing. We are, indeed, two different nations