



Straight Talk

By Muriel Sluyter

United We Stand, Divided We Fall

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

By April, 1943, 300,000 of Poland's Warsaw Ghetto Jews had been exterminated in Nazi gas chambers. There were 60,000 left, and they decided to fight. They had few weapons and little ammunition, but tunneled under the walls to get more from the outside.

They knew they couldn't beat the German army, but were determined to die fighting, since they were being killed, anyway. A few survived the death camps, but only because Germany was defeated before they could kill all Europe's Jews.

One sentence written by a survivor must sear the soul of any decent human. "...death had become such an everyday occurrence in the ghetto as to be of secondary importance to a victory that the Germans could no longer take away. For the first time in three years, the Passover Seder...was being celebrated in Warsaw by a people who, if only for the moment, were themselves free."

Remember, 300,000 had already been gassed, and the rest were surrounded by an enemy intent on annihilating them. Yet, for the first time in three years they had a sense of freedom, though only for a fleeting moment.

There is a tragic postscript to this horror story: These courageous Jews, fighting to the death, were hopelessly divided. There were two primary groups—plus some small splinter groups—all of whom hated each other with such passion that violence between them was common. One main group, the ZOB, was made up of men and women with little training, weapons or ammunition. The other, the ZZW, was made up of men only, but they had both training and weapons.

Even under these dire circumstances, neither these two main groups nor the splinter groups would truly work together.

Would the story have ended differently, had they cooperated? Probably not, but there is a lesson here for America. I cannot remember our people having been so philosophically divided and hardened, nor seen so much money poured in by politically motivated groups, including non-Americans, to elect leaders who will espouse their philosophies in return for election to high office.

The Democrats controlled Congress for decades, but the intense animosity of today was rarely manifested by their political opponents. Many Americans, especially Westerners, voted a split-ticket as a matter of principle. Comity was a common virtue. Now, every time a Democrat leader come on TV, the only word I hear is "No!" No compromise. Just "No!" Comity is passé.

A nation divided against itself cannot stand. It will go in endless circles, like a row boat with only one oar, or it will go to war with itself, as we did almost 150 years ago. Students are told the Civil War was fought over slavery. It wasn't. It was fought because political leaders were at each others' throats on many critical issues, and refused compromise.

Several Southern states seceded, the President sent troops and provisions to Fort Sumter, S.C., more states seceded, Southerner's fired on the Fort, and the battle began.

Social Security is in trouble; terrorists cross our borders at will; the UN is a disaster, the President nominates a kick-butt-clean-it-up-or-else kind of guy, and his opponents reach for their smelling salts.

A Supreme Court justice is likely to retire. The majority of Americans are pro-life, but Democrats won't confirm a pro-life justice.

Environmentalists have hijacked our energy policies, blocking legislation for years. They demonize American oil producers, block building new refineries and nuclear power plants, leaving Americans at the mercy of foreign powers.

If there ever was a time when America needed unity, it is now. Our enemies watch us intensely for signs of weakness. Division weakened the Warsaw Jews, it weakened America 150 years ago, and it is weakening America now.