



## Straight Talk

By Muriel Sluyter

## We Are Talking Ourselves Down

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### Greetings, Gentle Reader,

In the Middle East, the common people are struggling toward personal and political freedom, and often paying for their struggle with their lives. In America we have both, though we don't value either as do Middle Easterners, because we have always had them.

Vast numbers of Middle Eastern and African women are, by law, their husband's personal property at best, his slave at worst. Many American women talk and teach endlessly of perceived inequality when, in fact, they often receive preferential treatment.

In perhaps a third or more of the world, the common people subsist on a diet that keeps them alive, but malnourished. In our own country, our grandparents labored long hours to keep their families fed. Now it is hard to listen to any conversation that does not include the words "overweight" or "diet," because Americans are overfed.

European economies waddle along, barely able to achieve any growth, because they are socialist, and because personal productivity is less valued there than here. Americans are told our economy is bad, yet our professional money people say it is not only strong, it is growing. That is because most Americans are hard working and productive, which makes for a strong economy.

In most of the rest of the world, governments keep tabs on their people. Citizens must report moves from city to city. But if I want to get in my car and drive to the East Coast, I can do it. I don't have to go to the police station and report my departure, nor my arrival. It's no one's business but my own where I move, because I live in a free country.

In America, I can go to any church I choose. In most Muslim countries I could be executed for going to anything but a mosque, and the form of execution is particularly nasty.

When the tsunami hit South Asia, the UN spokesman immediately let the world know that Americans are stingy. We were stunned. As we pledged vast sums of money and

the physical and medical aid of our military, some Americans expressed hope that this would make the America-haters around the world like us. Surely they could see by our generosity that we are a kind, compassionate people.

No. They choose not to see that. They are taught jealousy and hatred of us from birth. We don't live in mud huts. Our people don't go to bed hungry every night of their lives. Therefore, our being so well off must be the reason they are so desperately poor. We must have taken their share of the world's wealth. It's America's fault.

No. I know it doesn't make sense, but, nonetheless, it is being repeated all around the world, everyday. How can they see it as a lie, when that's all they ever hear, even from some Americans?

Rosie O'Donnell shrieks we are murdering thousands of innocents around the world, and she believes it. In fact, she believes it at the top of her lungs. Why?

Released Guantanamo prisoners say they've never lived so well in their lives, but the media, worldwide, insist they're being tortured. Why?

Some in the highest levels of that media, American and otherwise, tell fellow journalists American military, not the "troops," but the "military," target journalists. Why would they tell this deliberate lie? And, yes, they know it is a lie, as are so many other tales. Their goal is to make others hate America as they do. Since none have the power to persuade quite like journalists, this lie will be repeated around the world as long as America is the premier world power.

We're permitting Americans to talk down our country, and too few of us challenge them. It's time to take a stand.