

THE DEVSHIRME AND THE JANNISSARIES

The history that most people are taught and aware of is a highly selective recollection of past events. It is a given, of course, that modern man has not the time or energy to learn everything there is to know about history. But what is troubling is the fact that certain historical incidents are exclusively emphasized and repeatedly hammered into remembrance, while others are deliberately glossed over and ignored, and the result becomes one where people's perception of, and reaction to, reality is far different than history teaches that reality to be.

It almost appears that there has been a deliberate, systematic attempt to teach history in such a way as to villify Christians in general, Catholics in particular, and including the Japhetic peoples who have an intimate history with the Religion. Our collective memory is reconstructed in such a way, as to believe that all White Christian people have exclusively been guilty of the genocides, slaveries, and wars of conquest of the past and that all other peoples are innocent of such atrocities. It has also been indoctrinated into our minds that we have no need for solidarity or defense as we have eternally been the unjust aggressors, rather than the target of an aggressors hostility.

Such is not the case. It's hard to believe that such a brilliant and effective campaign of deceit as a means of mobilizing and agitating the hatred of a multitude of peoples against a God-fearing and peace-loving people could have its origin anywhere other than in the mind of a dark and satanic power. At the very least, it must be conceded, such deceptions and manipulations must have arisen in the plans of groups or organizations of men who wish us harm. To defuse and thwart the attacks of our enemies, we must also call attention to certain historical occurrences so as to give a more accurate and balanced view of history. This will take time, as our enemies have taken years utilizing the public forced educational system to compile layer upon layer of public brainwashing into the minds of our children.

Today the average American educated man believes White Christians alone to be responsible for slavery. White Americans are lambasted again and again for their alleged role in slavery, accepting guilt for all that's wrong in the world today. Unknown is the fact that Europeans were some of the last to get in on the slave trade. Black, African, slaves first arrived on Portugese docks in 1441. By the early 1500's Pope Paul III issued the papal encyclical 'Sublimus Deus' which outlawed slavery in the Catholic world by excommunicated any who engaged in the practice. The Protestant kings, having severed themselves from the moral authority of the papacy were beyond the control of the Pope to force to abolish the practice. Given the absolute monarchial nature of those political systems, the people, who also largely abhorred slavery, neither had the ability to force the Protestant kings to outlaw its practice.

Upon the successful completion of the American Revolution, power was placed into the hands of the American people, who also, largely, detested the institution of slavery. George Washington became the first president in 1789 and was immediately confronted with the Abolition movement. In less than 31 years, in 1820, their efforts led to the abolition of the 'slave trade'. This was a concession. While it did not outlaw the practice completely, which was the goal of the Abolitionists, it did stop any more slaves from being brought into the country. This was largely due to the fact that the Abolitionists were unable to political overpower the wealthy elite who profited from and desired to maintain possession of, their slaves. yet the Abolitionists continued gaining strength and in less than 41 years, a civil war was fought that abolished the practice forever, in which millions of White men shed their blood for the Greater good. Such are the facts behind the supposed 'crimes' of our fathers.

Much of the rest of the world, however, began and perpetuated the practice of slavery for thousands of years without any moral qualms whatsoever or any attempt at sacrifice to alleviate the suffering of an enslaved people. Many American Blacks admire the Muslims, despite the fac

or because of it, that they are some of the biggest enslavers the world has ever known. Muslims have enslaved Africans, Europeans, Indians and Persians since time immemorial, and indeed, the practice continued long after the Japhetic peoples eradicated it in their own lands, and amazingly, unbeknownst to the mass public, continues unabated in some Islamic lands today.

Shortly after the inception of Islam in the 7th century, the Muslims hordes expanded out of the Middle East in pursuit of wars of conquest and slavery. By 700 AD Christianity was exterminated in North Africa. By 711 AD Spain fell into slavery to Muslim overlords. On the other side of the Mediterranean, the Arabs became bogged down in a struggle with the Eastern Roman Empire, also known as the Byzantine Empire, the Christian Empire founded by the Emperor Constantine which had its capital in Constantinople; the modern day Istanbul of Turkey.

The Byzantine Empire was a largely Japhetic Christian Empire encompassing much of the Balkan peninsula and Mesopotamia. The Muslims were clearly the aggressors. This struggle lasted until the fall of Constantinople in 1453, at which point an imam ascended the pulpit of the Hagia Sophi, arguably the grandest Christian Church up to that point, and proclaimed, 'There is no God but God, and Muhammed is His prophet', and turned it into a mosque.

The Christian Europeans suffered extensively under the Islamic yoke. According to the Islamic doctrine of Jazzyoa, non-Muslims were forced to pay a special tax to their overlords. This has taken some draconian forms throughout Islamic history. For the Greek, Romanian, Xerbian, Bulgarian, and Mesopotamian peoples under the yoke of the Ottoman (Muslim) Empire, this meant forced contribution to the Devshirme. According to this state policy, 1 out of every 40 Christian households had to deliver up a child a year for enslavement to the Sultans regime. The slaves could be sent as laborers, field workers, palace servants or other destinations, but the most common destination was the Jannissary Corps.

The Jannissaries were the corps d'elite of the Ottoman military machine. They were the military conscripts forced to serve for life. Forbidden to marry by law, they were exclusively taken from Christian homes as children, beaten and disciplined extensively, indoctrinated into Islam and subjected to a Spartan style military upbringing. Then they were used to fight and die waging the Sultans wars of conquest wherever he may deem to send them. The Jannissaries were some of the most highly trained and feared fighters the world has ever produced. Some of the most bloody battles between Christian Europe and Islam occurred as the Muslims sent the Jannissaries to enslave the very people whose homes they were taken from as children. The Jannissaries were highly expendable and launched wave after wave attacking strongholds that other Muslim fighters refused to attack. Indoctrinated into a belief that death for the Sultan was a means of attaining martyrdom and paradise, they did not hesitate to lay down their lives on command. Such was the fate of White Christians under the yoke of non-white heathen overlords.

Today, we're taught that we are the bad guys and that the dark skinned non-Christian peoples of the world are more just and fair and, therefore, our submission to their leadership is all that is necessary for world peace. We're taught that if only white people were stripped of any opportunity of wielding power or influence the world would be a better place. We're taught that we can expect no abuses of authority if only the right (non-white) people had a chance to govern.

Such is not the case. Remember the Jannissaries. Remember the shattered lives and broken homes. There was no compensation, no apology, no acknowledgment of Islamic guilt, there was no restoration of land to the Christians the Muslims still reside on Byzantine soil, deemed 'Turkey' today. If there is a difference between this and the enslavement of Blacks by Whites or White theft of Indian lands, I know not what it may be. Except, of course, our people, becoming cognizant of their error and able to change it, did all they could to remedy the situation, while the infidel did not.

Learn your history. Their has been no fairer or juster people than the Christian Japhetic peoples of the earth. Would our enemies ever let us forget it if we had made Jannissaries out of darker, non-Christian peoples? No. We'd be reminded every day..

"COUNT " DRACULA

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold Grace of God." 1 Pet 4:10.

The Church teaches that God has not one gift, but many, and many callings whereby He supplies the needs of His people. The Church also, at times, consolidates believers with similiar vocations into 'Orders', whereby they may combine their collective charisms to complete tremendous tasks that God has entrusted to them. There is the Dominican Order, or Order of Preachers, for instance, whose mission is to preach the Word to the world. The Vincentians, who reach out to the poor, the Salesians, who educate the children and the less fortunate throughout the world, etc. There are a smany Orders as their are needs of a suffering humanity to be alleviated. Some Orders exist to meet an immediate need, then fade away. Some have existed for well over a thousand years.

The fictional 'Count' Dracula was loosely based on a Wallachian Prince, Vlad the Impaler. Vlad's father, also named Vlad, was a member of the Romanian nobility confronted with the ever growing threat of the Islamic Ottoman Empire encroaching steadily into Christian European lands. As related in the previous article, the Ottomans had been closing in on the Byzantine Capital, Constantinople, for hundreds of years by the time of the younger Vlad's birth in 1431. By that time, much of Mesopotamia was solidly in Muslim hands. Greece, Bulgaria, and Serbia were also enslaved and controlled by the Sultan. Constantinople was surrounded and beseiged, yet valiantly refusing submission, hoping against hope for deliverance. In especially troubling times of besiegment, the Patriarch would remove the city's most sacred relic, the robe of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which they had retained since Apostolic times, and parade it around the city walls to strengthen the men's souls.

The Turkish menace threatened all of Europe. They threatened to conquer Rome and even boasted that they would erect a mosque in the heart of Christendom. The Popes dire warnings and repeated calls for a crusade against the infidel fell on deaf ears as France and England were embroiled in the Hundred Years war. (1337-1453). Outnumbered and outgunned, the lesser Christian powers on the periphery of Ottoman controlled territory were forced to yield and pay tribute, slaves, and hostages to maintain their soverieghty. At least for the time being.

Although Eastern Christendom had seceded from the catholic fold and embraced the schismatic Orthodox faith, the Church could forsee it's own demise had the Ottoman expansion been allowed to continue unabated. Failing the resources for a crusade, the birth of a new, militant Order was formed. The 'Order of Dracul' (Latin for Dragon) was originally comprised of the nobility of these eastern lands, including Hungary and Romania, and had for it's mission the defence of the Catholic Faith, to struggle against the Hussite heretics, and to wage warfare against the (Muslim) infidel. The elder Vlad converted from Orthodoxy to Catholicism and became one of the Orders founding members. Yet he was also a tributary to the Ottomans, his two sons, Vlad and his brother, being hostages in the Sultans court. Hence Vlad Jr. received the nickname Dracul'a', meanimng, 'somm of the Dragon'. in Latin.

As a hostage in Muslim hands for much of his childhood, Dracula was exposed to unspeakable cruelties. The children of tributary nobility were fregently exposed to tortures and death for the failure of their parents to comply with the terms of their parents 'treaties' with the

Sultan. Indeed, Dracula witnessed as one child had molten lead poured into his eyes and mouth due to his parents delinquency in paying tribute to the Ottomans. In addition to this, the Sultan was a notorious homosexual, demanding sexual favors from the hostages to satisfy his sexual deviances. Draculas brother was repeatedly raped by the Sultan and became one of the Sultans lovers. During one of the Sultans attempts to assault Dracula, the young Vlad seized a sword and wounded the Sultan, fleeing for refuge in a tree and refusing to come down. With nowhere to run, he had no choice but to return to the Sultan, begging forgiveness for his 'crime'. Overlooking his transgression, the Sultan never touched young Vlad again.

As may be expected from an individual living under such horrid conditions, Dracula developed a morbid personality. He took pleasure in tormenting and impaling small animals at an early age, and later, of committing unspeakable atrocities against human beings as well. Dracula was no saint for sure. He is not today venerated by the Church for his holiness. Yet, in God's Providence, he did serve a purpose.

Upon the death of the elder Vlad, Dracula's usefulness as a hostage became moot. He could no longer be used as a bargaining chip to control Romania's rulers. Regaining his liberty, he immediately set about waging an internal power struggle to regain his rights of the nobility for the Romanian province of Wallachia. As can be surmised from his fictional counterpart, he was utterly barbaric and ruthless. No torture or vengeance to break his enemies will was deemed too horrific for him to perpetuate. For a minor rebellion, he had an entire village enslaved, then used them as forced laborers to construct a fortified castle at the summit of a mountain, slaughtering them all and flinging them to their deaths upon the completion of their grisly task. In time, even his own men became fearful of him, lest his unstable disposition and rage cause him to turn on them also and rend them to pieces.

Yet, he did have his redeeming qualities as well. Upon the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the Ottomans turned their sights on the rest of Europe for new conquests. Dracula, however, was not in the mood for submission. Upon assuming command of Wallachia, he immediately stopped the payment of tribute to the Ottomans. He also abolished the contribution of Romanian slaves to the military ranks of the Ottomans Jannissaries. A showdown was inevitable.

For an insignificant province to wage warfare alone against the mighty and vast Ottoman empire was almost unfathomable. It was debateable if all of Europe combined would have been a match for the muslim empire that stretched from the Balkans, encompassing much of the middle east, Egypt, and North Africa. The Sultan was almost certain that the Wallachian madman would be forced to sue for peace or fight a defensive war. Almost certain that he could consolidate Ottoman interests elsewhere, as wallachia would be forced to wait until he could bring his full attention to bear on the problematic situation developing there with young Vlad.

A little too certain. As the Sultan was crushing some uprisings in the Balkans, Dracula moved his forces into Ottoman territory, launching a one man crusade single handedly. Raiding and plundering all the way into the Sultans camp, he forced the Sultan to devote his energies to war with Romania. It wasn't long before Ottoman forces were crossing a ford into wallachia. Before the elite vanguard of Ottoman Jannissaries had secured the Romanian bank of a river to hold a position for the transport of Ottoman troops, Dracula again materialized and attacked the vanguard, as the main force, across the ford, was helpless to intervene, merely spectating as the insufficient vanguard was cut to pieces.

Retiring into the forests, Dracula again plotted his next moves. Again and again he attacked superior numbers with his light, mobile, horse mounted troops. At one point, surrounded by the enemy, the Jannissaries awaiting the Sultans order to launch the expected final assault, a jannissary, admiring Draculas cause and daring, possibly of Romanian descent, fired an arrow through his castles window with a

message warning him of his dire situation. A Romanian concubine of Draculas seen reading the message, immediately flung herself out a window to her death, choosing to die rather than suffer the degrading slavery of the Turks. Dracula escaped to live another day.

But Dracula proved to be an evasive and elusive enemy. Muslim scouts went out, yet never returned. Soon the cause of the problem would be made known to the Sultan. Emerging from dense forests into an open plain, the Jannissaries faced a grisly discovery. Miles upon miles of the missing muslim scouts and captured prisoners of war were found impaled in a huge crescent shaped configuration. Some still alive and groaning in agony, it is said that the Sultan trembled uncontrollably when brought the hews of the sight, asking himself what couldn't a man do if he could force his men to commit such acts. Demoralized and disconcerted, he found himself unable to command his troops spirited campaign. A general retreat was sounded. New tactics would have to be employed. The war was temporarily over. Europe was safe, for the time being.

Later on, Dracula was imprisoned then killed in internal politics due to the fact that noone felt safe around him. He was buried, and remains so today, under an Orthodox monastery in Wallachia. The Ottomans continued their sinister designs by backing puppet contenders for Eastern European thrones who would advance their interests. In fact, Dracula's brother, the former lover of the Sultan, eventually replaced him as a Sultan puppet. Yet, in spite of all the reverses of fortune, Dracula did what he could in his time to secure the liberty of his countrymen and keep the muslim menace to Europe a little further back. for all his shortcomings and barbarity, he did serve a greater purpose in God's Providential plans. It is said repeatedly throughout the Church that God won't allow an evil to occur unless He can bring a greater good out of it. Maybe Draculas story is one of those myriad examples.

RESOURCES

Catholic Home Study Service
P.O. box 363
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-offers study courses from
Vincentian father Lukefahr

St. Josephs National
Prison Ministry
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-offers Traditional PO Box 445
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