

Editorial

What is a nation?

The development of the nation-state rested historically upon the affirmation of the *Filioque* principle by the 1439 Council of Florence. This was the clause that gave special emphasis, within Christian teaching, to the notion that man is created in the image of the living God and thus must participate in the ongoing development of the universe. The principle of the nation-state is that this essential definition of what it means to be human is embodied in the rights and duties accorded to all citizens.

Government then is the instrument through which a nation's citizens determine the fate of their country, not only for themselves but for their posterity and, implicitly if not explicitly, for all humanity, for centuries and millennia to come. Only under the conditions of nationhood, rather than feudalism, does this possibility become the birthright for all men and women.

We need governments because they are institutions which provide a policy forum in which creative discoveries can be deliberated upon, and through which we may hope to ensure the continuity of good policies beyond the span of an individual life. To destroy the nation-state is to commit treason against the human race.

Yet, nations have behaved with incredible stupidity. The Council of Florence was a unique event which gave birth to the Renaissance and all of the good which has followed from it, including the creation of nation-states. Nevertheless, those same Venetian forces who sought to sabotage the work of Cardinal Nicolaus of Cusa and his allies at the council, have been all too successful in subverting nations from within.

Consider how stupidly the Turks and Greeks, the French and Germans, and many others have been led into fruitless war by the modern-day British successors of the Venetians, who also are expert at manipulating national liberation struggles. It is important to distinguish genuine nationalism, which ennobles the human spirit and affirms for all citizens their place in the broad sweep of human history, from racialist theories which promote the extermination of other nations perceived as rivals for land and power.

What distinguishes genuine nationalism is not one's ties to native soil, ethnic stock, or "blood." It is the role of one's nation in changing the world. It is the role in fostering the creative power of the individual mind, which is accomplished by uplifting the power of language to express great ideas. It is the ability of mankind to make a discovery of principle, which is expressed in the process of production and design of products, and which results in a greater power of mankind over nature, per capita, per hectare.

What, then, must we say of the present Serbian government, which has degraded its population to accept the so-called ethnic cleansing in Bosnia?

On Dec. 26, Serbian television broadcast a program which originated in Banja Luka, Bosnia, reporting on a conference held there by the Serb Radical Party. Featured was a speech by Belgrade University professor Miroljub Jevtic. Jevtic is identified as the author of a dissertation against "Islamic Fundamentalism and Jihad." In this speech, he attacked all Muslims, whom he identified with the Turkish nation. He expressed the policy being carried out by the Serbs with full backing from the British government and its dupes.

"The Turk [is] an individual, as well as a nation," Jevtic declared. Attacking the Bosnian Muslims, he called them Turks who "betrayed their religion and accepted the Turkish." He called for their extermination.

"A Turk is a strange being," he is reported to have said. "Unlike them, we Christians are fragile beings who disappear and collapse at a first blow. We are made of forgiveness and goodness, sometimes paid for with our lives, and a Turk lives on plunder and terror. That is the reason we have to repeat it over and over again, and stress: We have no other choice but to exterminate the Turks, because so long as any one of them moves around Bosnia, Kosmet, Sandzak, and other Serb states, he will be a live danger to us."

Is it really the case that the world is willing to tolerate a return of Adolf Hitler's politics, which came to power with British backing? Let us not see history repeat itself on a still more terrible scale.