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ding "kill list," poring over to ity for a drone strike at a top terrorist arises — but his family is with him — it is the president who has res imself the final moral calculation." — Io Becker & Scott Shane. The New York Times – http://nvti.ms/IK

NOT SO F.A.Q.

#13

WHEN WAS YOUR LAST CONFESSION? DO YOU LIKE YOUR TERRORISTS WHITE OR RED? DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE MOST FRIGHTENING THING IN

EDITORIAL WHATS TRENDING IN FEAR?

Ve don't generally talk about our fear for the most of us, our daily routi convince the rest of the pack that a ngs that one should be cautious n ipset – especially when you're n actly alpha-material. Now withi social structures that we try vigate through as we grow up, a ing to fear in public might be inter ted as a sign of weakness, a mo version of rolling on the grou xposed – a grovelling display of sub ervience in a society that holds only grudging respect for its leaders an ing but contempt for anyone ou the alpha-class. Truly, the Grou not feel like the safest place t ow your innermost fears and inse rities. In fact, most of the times that actually start a sentence with ot really afraid of a<u>nyth</u>ing – they jus ow that what they are about to te u actually sucks for you and as such ght elicit some negative emotion your behalf (e.g;. 'your credit card not been accepted' or 'we had to e both vour kidnevs'....). something akes them feel quea ich in turn m he 'fear' that they refer to is the fee ng in them that hopes that you're r oing to cry or yell or – God forbid ask them for help. Basically anyth hat is not in the pre-written pro social script. Oh we've all heard

oken with a smirk that says the xactly that.

n't do that.' – the

ooth tigers or roving band The odds of winning are cl

to bend our feelings of fear in

pias so paralyzing and debilitatin

THE TARKIN DOCTRINE A DISSERTATION ON THE UNSPEAKABLE

 "Fear will keep the local systems in line. Fear of this battle station." – Grand Moff Wilhuff Tarkin

about others. Consequentially, the

eelings of fear also become the one

confronting someone higher up the

ranks than yourself is as real as you

decide to ma<mark>ke it for yourself – and</mark>

is decision will correlate highly with

person's desire to do well within that

oes not matter at this point whethe

u're running for president of the

lub, in order to be successful you'll

ave to please at least the majority of

FOLLOW THE LEADER ON

enfer, c'est les autres. The majority

f our fears are a direct result of what

think other people think of us, and

nce we all seem to be dealing with

ige inferiority complexes and feel

tions of third party judgments are

ally not very positive. Of course, th

out the purity of your immortal sou

ind a thousand lifetimes in purgatory

r indulging in vanity, Jesus was not

n Twitter and if he had been, his 12

llowers would not exactly have con

tituted the Mark Of The Trendsetter.

ife was complex enough when i

vas simple but since the dawn o

rrassing yourself has expand

o a whole new apparatus that i

operational 24/7 and more perma

of the fashionable young ad

is a perpetual game where referees

might change sides at any given time

and only the highest scores are worth

a second glance. Stand out too much

and you're a pariah, fit in too much

and you're just another unique snow-

flake of mediocrity in a blizzard of

things better and more interesting

than you. Dreams of finding yourself

in class with no pants on, fears of pub-

Social awkwardness strikes, leaving

you suffocating in your brand new sec-

ond hand shirt and vintage designer

jeans, gasping for a gulp of air and

something cool to say as the loudest silence ever builds up in your ears to

a deafening roar. Maybe you should

look at your phone and see if you have

an excuse you can mutter and walk off

with - make one up in case of none

being available - but for God's sake,

whatever you do, don't look like vou

care about how you look because the

deserving of human empathy. Face

life is a test and you are consistent a

HAWAI VS. #YOLO

The concept of your immortal sou

makes you look even more sad and un-

lic rejection by a desired male/female.

ent than hernes. The

internet, the platform for em

is not good enough t any easier. Forge

ocial strug

act that advertisement is profession

ally chipping away at your self-confi

ngs of unfulfilled potential, our esti

ır audien

INSTAGRAM

ntry or president of the hooligan

up, whatever that group may be: it

we had to guess, we'd say you're up in a dark pit outside of time (as in scared of a bunch of things. Death you're not leaving anytime soon) that eatures a lot of flogging, dragging and robably ranks pretty high amongst nybody alive (or at least, thos hipping mixed with the visual imagong us who actually have a life, ery of fire (flaming clothes, whips and ou pathetic social reject), followed chains, burning genitalia, etc...). Notalosely by the basic physical fears ble difference: Jahannam has 7 levels, the top one being reserved for regular hat relate directly to our survival lions, heights, disease, violence,...) sinful Muslims – the floors below are out the ones that really warp the living reserved for Christians, Jews and other shit out of the human mind are gener sorted infidels. The Chinese have ally the ones that have sprung from anywhere between 3 and 10 'Courts Of Kthe complex social clusterfuck that Hell' or up to 18 'Levels Of Hell' (reduced we've created over the last centuries The fragile consensus that we call civil society is dependent on everyone's reluctance to disturb the balance: basically we've built a huge house of cards and now we're actually trying to live in it, which means that everybody is walking on the tips of their toes fo fear of making the whole thing crash down. The framework of our world has so many pitfalls that we have to dread a single wrong step, especially with everybody's smart phone camera's perched for the kill. As if ve couldn't live without 90% of the ocial circle that we despise anyway for not really knowing us, a feel that is in itself a re verse psychological projection base on how much of a shit we don't give

> not getting proper bang for your buck while the offer

ed) – load up on unbearable pain and listress in our hot water cauldrons or

ell Houses' to reintroduce the fe of Hell to sinful (read: all) youn bers of the community: th ave a boiling oil cocktail at the bar n the lobby. Cool off in our Ice World hod actually entails decorating ding to look like Hell – includi here frostbite will slowly eat away at your body, or get hot and steamy in cast of bad actors who re-enact ur five-star inferno (guaranteed hotter cenes of sin and punishment, a med at scaring youngsters into ing with The Lord instead of sex, n any Chines<mark>e Hell you'll find in your</mark> ocal Chinatown!). High-profile quests ugs & rock 'n roll. Includes strobe vill receive special accommodation in

chiatrists and treated with prescri tion drugs. Time flies in the 21st cen tury – the world has gotten bigger ye easier to reach so you better make sure you let The Good Times Roll be fore the hourglass runs out. Religio has become a comic footnote in con temporary culture - the Bible is the epitome of uncool while the inter net has brought the world into you living room, showing you all the action you're missing out on. No need to worry about eternal damnation (still wait-ARMOR ing for the first Google user review on that one), what you need to be afraid of is not getting proper bang for your buck while the offer lasts. As far as COSMETIC CIVILITY FROM ABOVE we know, you only live once – so you

> So what's the modern application of fear as an instrument? By far the most orilliantly coined strategic keyword and political reinvention of the past decade as been terror and the subsequ war against it – it is a classic political ilitary term that has its origins in Latin (terrere – to frighten, strike fear into), a strong foothold in popular culture and a variable control span that can be adjust ed to include virtually any target. Unlike other politically motivated acts of violence, terror is aimed not at military or political targets but strikes straight at the civilian population with the goa of spreading fear amongst the public. Terror in the post-9/11 era has been carefully redefined and re-marketed, discussed in many late-night brainstorm sessions before being presented to the public. It is now a deplorable tactical measure that can only be resorted to by the 'enemy' because of its insidious and inherently evil nature – as a result, declaring a War On Terror is the military equivalent of taking the moral high ground. It wasn't always like that: ter-

DRONES IN SHINING

sequentially, declaring a war on that method and the ones practicing it is a great way for to a leader to cater to is nation's civilians, especially if your opulation thinks it needs to be afrain f terrorist attacks, whether or not that fear be justified. At the same time. War on Terror is not limited by territorial restrictions or army uniforms which provides a wide margin to operate in You can make your enemies include anyone you like and you can take the fight anywhere you wish. The strategic advantages of starting a war against an undefined enemy gives you the liberty of changing targets and methods as you go along. You can stick your POW's in secret CIA prisons around the world because they are not soldiers but terrorists, a lower form of military foe than a man in a uniform and as such undeserving of any protection granted by the Geneva Conventions You can make half of Pakistan live in perpetual fear of your drone strikes (consider the meaning of true terror) and still get a Nobel Peace Prize in the ror has often been a government tool process, just because you're doing it

re not our own - we believe in then on good faith – very much the same vay that people in the Middle Ages believed in Hell. Why? Because we need hat framework - it gives us a clear-cut oice on how to feel, act and talk. The fact that people accept fear as a given mind state hints at how primitive our consciousness really is: we revel in the simplicity that fear offers us. What we are really scared of is life and the infi nite complexity of it - combined with our natural hardware, our instinct that demands that we make some kind of rational sense out of it all. The truth is we humans are all equally blessed and cursed with the ability to understand the world around us - sadly, most of us shrink in fear at the opportunity/ responsibility of doing exactly that and instead rely on the words of oth ers. At the same time, survival isn't the straightforward race that it was for 99,99% of our evolutionary process. Even a fear as remote and intangible as a terrorist threat or a life of mediocrity puts the world in some kind of (skewed) perspective and gives meaning to with more charisma than the guy besome of the complexity around you; fore. Militants and insurgents are the us against them, me against the world. Fight or flight is dead; we hide from new forces of evil; they don't get the our fears behind laws, embargoes, empathy that we reserve for rebels and

from the Buddhist version which mentions 118 levels). As in most versions of Hell, sinners are assigned a chamber and corresponding punishment based on the nature of their sins vet Chinese Hell (Diyu) seems more imaginative with its resources and does not ely primarily on fire like conventional Nestern Hell, Visitors to this exotic retreat will be able to eniov a myriad of never-ending torture methods, including but not limited to tongue-ripping, eye-gouging, skinning, being gored by nimals, burning, sawing and having hooks pierced into the bodies while eing hung upside down. better make sure that you're peaking all the time, before you're too old t wear skinny jeans and be in the club What you need Our lives have become that much subjected to the free market, we approach to be afraid of is it with the same goal of profit maximithat may potentially run and ruin your life. The fear of speaking in public or zation and squeezing it for every last drop of happiness and enjoyment we

religion of choice) is not exclusive to

Western religion. The Islamic equiva-

ent to Hell (Jahannam) is pretty much

he same thing, which means you end

on Eternal Redemption but are essent

tially based on the same mechanis

as Little Red Riding Hood or Cinderell

The fact that the concept of Hell has

recurrent themes throughout differe

cultures points out exactly how prin

tive a tool it is: it uses primal fea

(darkness, fire, pain,...) that are proty much universal to the species t

scare the individual into being a go

person. That might have worked in

ficacy in the neo-hedonist year of

2013: we want our fears personaliz

and custom-catered, labelled by p

can get out of it. Only in the Western

or partial remission of temporal pun-

ishment due for sins that have bee

forgiven through the act of Confes-

sion (basically a sentence reduction

on your time in Hell/Purgatory). Orig-inally limited in time (e.g. 40 days

of redemption) and granted only for

works charity and prayer, indulgences

would become a great source of abuse

during the late Middle Ages as pro

fessional 'pardoners' became whol

sale vendors who catered to even the

worst sinners, selling indulgences up

ing forever, there was no limit on the

amount of sin you could pay off). This

practice would be one of the primary

causes of the Protestant Reformation

and the consequent rift in Christianity

it is also a prime example of an inutionalized body of authority capi

lizing directly on a fear it has created

self. This business model – which

vas essentially built on Holy Hot Air

inanced everything from papal hats

nd robes to cathedrals and full-blown

to thousands of years (eternity last-

world will you find a copy of The Way

ancient times but we doubt its ef-

lasts.

Of The Tao next to someone's toilet spiritual enlightenment is something we try to squeeze into the daily routine when we have 5 minutes available to take a shit. Anything to steer clear of the existential void gaping beneath your Converse Chucks (the preferred isit Diyu yourself and experience firstsneaker of the life-enjoying individual and the perpetual spiritual agony of ing tortured, killed and reborn only who lives by his own rules and is not o be tortured again – book once and afraid to show it). uffer for all eternity! Go for a vitalizng climb on the Mountain of Knives r take a refreshing dip in our Pool Of ° In 'Murica – round the period of ood (parental supervision prohibit oween – hardline Christians use

THE WORLD IS? DO YOU LOATHE FEAR? HOW ORIGINAL IS YOUR SIN? ARE YOU PEAKING RIGHT NOW? WHAT WOULD JESUS FEAR?

ARE YOU SCARED OF A MILITARY ANIMAL? WHAT IS THE NORM? HOW DOES PANTONE 666 MAKE YOU FEEL? WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SCARY MOVIE? DID YOU FEEL DOWN WHEN THE APOCALYPSE DIDN'T HAPPEN?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US? WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

Comrades! The insurrection of five kulak districts should be pitiless ssed. The interests of the whole revolution require this because 'the last suppressed. The interests of the whole revolution require tims because the tast decisive battle' with the kulaks is now under way everywhere. An example must 1. Hang (and make sure that the hanging takes place in full view of the people) no fewer than one hundred known landlords, rich men, bloodsuckers Publish their names. 3. Seize all their grain from them. Designate hostages in accordance with yesterday's telegram

Do it in such a fashion that for hundreds of kilometres around the people might see, tremble, know, shout: "they are strangling, and will strangle to death, the bloodsucking kulaks" Telegraph receipt and implementation.

Yours, Lenin. PS: Find some truly hard people"

n<mark>cer - CAB002300 - Fema</mark>le, age 75 - Lung (T-28000) - Neoplasm, m<mark>alignant, NOS (M</mark>-80003) - Patient id: 496 Ings of bats are © Ralph Steadman ever since Fear And Loathina In Las Veaas was first published in 1971 – pe ever since Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas was first published in 1971 – period.



BARBAROUSLY REPORTED HOURS BEFORE DOOMSDAY

Finding ourselves writing on the su ject of Fear in the unique year of 201 we thought it seemed appropriate spend our potentially last field report on documenting the anxious hours before the supposed apocalypse. O course, this highly accurate report would be safely encapsulated within an indestructible tube and launched into space by means of rocket propulsion, mere seconds after meeting our deadline of 90 seconds to Doomsday If we all had to go out with a bang, at least we would have had the proverbial balls to face our fears. We would have attempted to publish the fitting nes on how to collectively step nto the darkness and send a mesage in a bottle to the future, hoping nat one day it might arrive and be read with awe and inspiration when intelligent life returns to Earth.

ke great drops of blood falling age, we learned. There are highly ophisticated wars and conflicts ing on for decades on this planet aiting to escalate and manifest eversible man-made disaster. the a sectarian group of gious extremists or a maniac dice constantly living under the he new happy. Deal with it.

ing him. And being in an

TRAVELING WITH GODSPEED, CHASING HE MYTH

rain became like great drops of blood the weeks before the culmina- out of our cataclysmic predicament. on of all the eschatological mass Precious time was ticking away, alfalling down upon the ground. ysteria we had tried to circumvent though we still had plenty of time to ese what-if-scenarios with massive complete this story, since Nazareth On the cruel list Irinking and drug abuse. Although was situated at hardly six kilometers e whole doom circus didn't bother from our daily base. Of course we had of death causes, a dark suspicion that Nazareth wasn't us that much, we noticed a considerthe right place to find our answers, able increase of frightening binges awaiting a not to mention having any real hopes n our agenda, some of them running up to the 48 hour mark. We like to of meeting the actual Jesus. Indeed gigantic meteor to believe that these mind-expanding after a short survey, the only things trips can be quite resolving, althoug we found were the complete excess splatter earth has they didn't really help us to get rid of of parking space next to the 19th cenour end-of-the-world paranoia. Can tury church and the realization that to be somewhere one find a proper solution through hard liquor doesn't need to be served eligion, the cause of so much evil? A in a fancy glass to be consumed so on top. arge part of the world's population is early in the morning. But If God's very epending on the religious rumors it own Son didn't go back to the place vas conditioned into over the course where he grew up, where did He go nstead? We figured out that he The worst and most dangerous part history. Life suggested that the about this whole buzz is that we ain answers about our existence are night as well have went to his mothpeople started thinking and wondebe found in the belief of a collecwho had been spotted in a cave ion of gossip and unsubstantiated everal times by a young girl called ring, with an abominable admiration umor, more than in rational diaernadette Soubirous in Lourdes. and fascination, towards the end logue and common sense. In Chrisof this planet. The apocalypse is so ianity, the end of the world is often highly anticipated that everyone ENTERING THE CAVE related with the Second Coming of wants to be there when it happens. **OF AGONY** Just to feel special. To be able to go to the Afterlife and say 'I was Christ. The Mormons of The Church The rain poured down when we go to the Afterlife and say 'I was arrived in Lourdes, which became there.' That's what apocalypses do of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints famous for its apparitions of the to people. It almost seems like we're Virgin Mary and had developed into waiting for an inevitable, collective a major place of Roman Catholic pil-grimage and miraculous healing. All morning we had been desperately searching for answers until the only thiar we were left to be afraid of searching for answers until the only meteor to splatter earth has to be thing we were left to be afraid of was the imminent deadline we were about to exceed. Due to an acute lack of time, we were forced to locate a everyone we love, hate or don't care orning traffic at ludicrous speed, urdened by heavy, cold rain and vinds and maddened by a persistent, closer variant of the real commune about, than silently blow out that threatening click sound in the moand outline all kinds of End-Of-The-World scenarios, all of which they case with the power to push the wrong ing. We still had hours left. The radio of Lourdes in the South of France, so last, lung-cancer-filled breath into a we found one near Ghent, Belgium. sterile environment, all by ourselves. Nevertheless it was the very Lourdes You don't want to be the one perwhere a man called Pieter De Rudder son dying in a plane crash, do you? once miraculously recovered from There's gradual forms of dying and dozens of schools in Michigan cana broken leg. We were suspiciously to go out with a big bang seems to eyeballing two old women when we be the most peaceful. It gives some celed classes this week due to rumors of violence tied to the date. In kind of skewed importance to your China, government authorities were entered a souvenir shop that was cracking down on a Christian group selling truckloads of similar thanklife, some insane kind of sense – and you-our-lady-the-Blessed-Virgin-Maryshells which were left nearby the shop immediately after purchase. "Follow the shells", one woman said when we asked for directions to spreading panic about the world's end, while preaching that Jesus had reappeared as a woman in central China. And in France, dozens of journalists were staring expectantly at

at must have been tumbleweed rollary's cave. So there we were, soaking down off a mountain in Bugarach, ng wet and walking in the mud, as we passed by the cave that symbolized a commune in the Pyrenees.

tor with the wrong assault codes. research we found out that this guy ows of brutal hazards. Paranoid to be some kind of teacher who performed miracles, rose from the dead and achieved other amazing feats of

most vile, devious and unremorseand other disturbing image ul souls. Please note that the Avici ackage is offered exclusively to a spe-

cific set of clients. Send personalized request forms for specific details and NOTE TO THE FREE **MARKET MERCHANTS:** In Christianity, indulgence is the full

FOREVER ALONE

So Hell is not just other people, it's also a recurring cultural phen that exists even in cultures that claim b have nothing in common with each ther. Does that make it more real and mething you should be afraid of? ably not, and not just due to the fact that as a technologically advanced species, we've dug some pretty deep holes around the world and so far, none of them have opened up transdimensional gateways to the realm of Satan yet. Looking at it from a social ethical/political point of view, Hell is a thinly veiled attempt at complete social mind-control aimed at basically every person gullible or subservient enough to believe in it. Using the concept of a 'Hell' as a behavioural modifier is a long-term ethical strategy that corresponds to what psychologists call 'positive punishment', which means altering undesired behaviour by making a person associate that behaviour with an added punishment. The core mechanism lacks subtlety and is actually quite naïve in its set-up: convince a person (read: society) that there is an omnipresent being keeping tabs on everything you do and if you spend your life consciously being a dick, that being will make sure that his assorted minions (Ox-Head, Hades, Lucifer, Maalik, ...) will facerape your soul for everlasting eternity. It's a negative-impulse-based fear tactic designed to scare you into being a good person, a Sword Of Damocles

failing it. The fact that winning (reaching alpha status in your desired group) is a near mathematical impossibility does not make you any less of a pa thetic loser because we're all in the that taps you on the head every time same race and if the man before you you think about pillaging someone's trips and falls, it's more profitable to harvest and raping his wife or - more walk over his back than help him up. contemporarily – plundering a nation's pension fund and giving yourself a multi-million dollar lay-off bonus, ETERNAL DAMNATION IN something we civilized folk would of

course never dream of doing

of the country ... The government being tortured for eternity for all the bad shit you didn't atone or tithe for (donate 10% of your income to your that hold a self-proclaimed monopoly Robespierre

Pot and Russia (the 'Red Terro lom fighters even if that is exactly Lenin and his Bolsheviks) but also inwhat they are. Robespierre's dissertaclude France with its post-revolutionary tion on terror and its necessity looks Reign Of Terror, when the guillotine or good in the history books but unfit for 'the National Razor' became a symbol marketing purposes in modern times. for the Revolution. We demand that we not just be the winners, we also have to appear to be

in post-revolutionary nations dealing

with (perceived or fabricated) opposi

tion. Examples include far-from-home

dictatorships like Cambodia under Pol

the good guys while doing it. Fear is fed to us by governments

and marketeers, who give us ideals to fall short of and

enemies to be afraid of.

ow it doesn't take a strategic analyst figure out that a military method aimed at the civilian population will ot do well in the public ratings. Con- be afraid of. These second hand fears

FROM THE FEAR OF LIFE TO A LIFE OF FEAR - ATROPHIED BRAIN **MONKEY HYSTERIA** Editorial conclusion: we need fear for first visit to the gym.

variety of reasons. In a society that s increasingly complex and critical yet physically safer than ever before, fear is an impulse that gives us a line on he abstract and offers us a way to act accordingly. Fear is fed to us by gov-rnments and marketeers, who give us ideals to fall short of and enemies to

take a terrorist to scare us: we have the most out of everyone, which means we are already living in fear of not having the most and having what we own taken from us. A word of advice to those living in fear: the main reason that you're scared is because you're not using your head. We know that it might seem like a huge challenge to start using it from now but there's no use in wallowing around it in self-pity like a fat man who keeps putting off his

and custom-made t-shirts - hoping

that whatever scares us doesn't pop

its ugly head into our reality. It doesn't

CAN NOT UNFEAR

Life is big and complex and crazy and full of insecurities and the only way to find any kind of truth is one step at a time, for yourself and by yourself. atever vou do, don't take mv word



When he joined the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in 1970, officer Bassam Abu Sharif gave him the code name "Carlos" beca of his Venezuelan roots. After several bungled bombings, he achieved notoriety for the 1975 raid on the OPEC headquarters in Vienna, wh killed three people. This was followed by a string of attacks against Western targets. Ramírez is currently serving a life sentence in France | the 1975 murder of two French counter-intelligence agents and an informant for the French government. While he was in prison he was furth convicted of attacks in France that killed 11 and injured 150 people and sentenced to an additional life ter

THE EXPERT

QUESTIONS: What is our modern, western society most afraid of nowadays?
Do you think the individual pressure on people is peaking these days? The pressure to achieve, to look good, Is it difficult to sell fear to a society

Rik Pinxten Professor and researcher in cultural anthropology at Ghent University. In 2004, he received the Ark Prize of the Free Word for his book The Artistic

state of denial. Of course we know cide. You can't handle this alone even - or at least everyone should know though you are expected to. Failure is not an option. So when all normal, vaguely - that this political cocoon ing is nonsense. We have never put social connections and structures are gone the individual is left in the cold our footprint on the entire world like If you lose your job in this currently this before. Mutual independence or internet tendency - as some refer to very unstable market, you might as it - became the rule these days. Obwell just go mad. This has to result in repression and murder That's ind viously the internet as an instrument indicates that. You're connected with vidualization on the loose, abused by the whole world but at the same time the market and the economical circles you depend on it. This also correlates with all the perfect new media tools that are at their disposal. Except, they with the enormous urbanization that has been going on in the world, espeare perfect for only one group. It's cially since World War II. In 1900, only always bad for weaker people. And four generations ago, approximately we're all in a weak position. I dare you to remain indifferent after you're 10 percent of the world's population lived in a city. Now we're reaching up told that you're not cool enough for a to 60 percent. The world is starting couple of months straight. We really

remedies for fear is

Christ's agony at Gethsemane. So we were somewhere halfway be-It was the one time we had high tween POSTRmagazine's HQ and hopes for during this trip, even Nazareth, the first stop of this confusing journey. After doing a little called Jesus of Nazareth was believed

wizardry. Some of the gospels portray Jesus as an apocalyptic prophet, preparing his fellow Jews for the imminent end of the world. Therefore he had to be the perfect guy to help us

though somewhat later our world would collapse again - after discovering that Mary had been removed from her cave for restoration. Redemption was in the workshop getting an overhaul. Society had tricked us again. Every Christian country in Europe has at least a dozen places called Lourdes or Nazareth and all of them are equally meaningless in a quest like this one. We were completely disillusioned, and the

usades or travelling genocides to the oly Land. Extra scumbag-points go to the Church for convincing its followers at it had a monopoly on a completely tional yet indispensable and infinite source that –for them– couldn't hav ome cheaper if it had been made i hina: a clean conscience. Take that r profit maximizati virtue be the spring of a popular rnment in times of peace, the

spring of that government during a revolution is virtue combined with ter ror: virtue, without which terror is destructive: terror, without which virtue is impotent. Terror is only justice prompt severe and inflexible; it is then an em anation of virtue; it is less a distinc principle than a natural consequence of the general principle of democracy, applied to the most pressing want

We're constantly living under the shadows of brutal hazards. Paranoid is the new happy. Deal with it.

Throughout the course of history, many theologists, scientists, philosophers and futurologists have tried to predict the end of times. There's a word for that. Eschatology includes the study that is concerned with what are believed to be the final events of history. Well, dear aliens of the future, for the last past decade or so, another alleged apocalypse evolved into an unequaled worldwide craze and even became a hot selling business. Or at least, until December 21, 2012. The date on which the Mayan calendar supposedly ends, heralding the coming of an apocalypse by neans of an interplanetary object or a supernova. The End Of The Fifth Era, time of cataclysm and destruction. Before it turned out to be the most unspectacular non-event in the history of eschatology, the end of to announce and even advertize the "approaching" Apocalypse. But why is it that this time the media was trying to stimulate the mass hysteria to such an extent? Even the sober guys amongst us must have been started

point. Perhaps after another batch of

quality newspapers tried to suggest

didn't happen. reflecting on the continuation of human existence post 12/21 at some

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Although you can place us in the large group of people that didn't really

into the streets only to eventually believe the world was going to end turn on each other. After all, it was according to the Mesoamerican Long Charles Manson who predicted that Count calendar, all this absurdity sure an apocalyptic race war would occur had sharpened our inherent sense of in 1969, prior to ordering the Tate-

prophecy somehow turned out to be to bring it about. One of the most

elieve that there will be a Second Coming to the Earth sometime in he future, preceded by increasing war, earthquakes, hurricanes and nan-made disasters. That time - if anytime – was now. The date on the newspaper said December 20, 2012. We were randomly driving through

the Mayas 13th b'ak'tun was shame- would reject with dismissive scorn button would - in a fit of hysteria was thick with delusional chatter lessly exploited by all possible media and laughter the day after Doomsday and delusional despair - attempt to of the paranoid kind, reporting that end the world with the flick of one switch? What if the people started ranting and raging? Running riotous paranoia here at the desk. What if the LaBianca murders in an attempt





In 1873 the Marquise of Courtebourne-de Nédonchel had a Lourdes grotto built in the

pon our arrival in Lourdes the grotto was closed for structural works and we found Mar

Culously healed of a compound fracture while praying there

ndina outside in the poorina rain, alone.

gardens of her château at Slotendries. It was claimed that in 1875 Pieter De Rudder was mire

fieldwork on the Navaio people. He is an advocate for interculturalism over multiculturalism.

Society. Pinxten conducted his

"That's individualization on the loose, abused by the market and the economical circles with perfect new media tools."

There's still a very precocious feeling of fear that has its origins in 1990, when the Berlin Wall was destroyed. It is caused by a big switch that has gerous. been taking place in the last couple of decades. In the past five centuries,

our western society had been colonizing and ruling the whole world, which of course gave us the feeling that we were superior. We were, so to speak, the embodiment of progression because of our dominant and excellent material position in the world. About one generation ago, we started feelthings are going today is absolutely ing that we were about to lose all of barbaric as it involves the questionthis. Nowadays other people come ing or even the rejection of any form of solidarity. This kind of individualover to our regions to take profit of our superiority and wealth and ization implies that the market will there's nothing we can do about it. find and address you, which is a piece This gut feeling, or should I say gut of cake with tools like the internet or fear is expressed irrationally in politiyour cell phone. So there you are as cal concepts like national socialism an individual, with a desire to distinand cultural conservatism by being guish yourself in that market so that dismissive of any kind of culture that you can raise your market value. But is not one's own. Just take a look at how much can an individual take? the wave of neo-nationalism or Mitt How many capacities and gualities does one have? Can you buy quality to Romney's ideology. It is a new brand of passive-aggressive xenophobia tune up your social profile? I sincerely that celebrates cultural inertia in doubt it. So the answer is yes, that's

an era of dynamic global change -

the political equivalent of living in a

to be mainly populated by city peoneed a profound counter movement ple and along with this urbanization for that, and it's not going to come comes migration. It's always been from the industrials or the economy. like that, even in ancient Rome and I'm afraid it's not. Take the so called

Athens. At this point however, we're not prepared at all. And if you don't Arab Spring, through which social know how to deal with your fears, media had a considerable importhen your fears will get stronger. The tance. We notice that in a few years world has gotten significantly bigger Islamic tendencies became much stronger worldwide. Why? Because over the last few decades and there is a lot more that you might find scary they realized they were humiliated out there. My question is: how do for generations, reaching back to the we learn to live with the difference days of colonization and stretching in a positive way? People still have into the western oil politics of the last the reflex to get rid of the difference decades. Their time is now. You can to solve the problem, but that's nonsee that it pays off to talk fear into the sense. We can say it or dream about it people with the certainty of the Islam. but it really is a tragic, old-fashioned which is comparable with the certainconception of things. That's not going ty of our nationalism. It was striking to reduce our fear, it will only increase to see that in any of those states durit. To live in a situation like this for a ing the recent elections, most liberal long time is not healthy, it's even danthinkers who finally made it to modernity got scared and didn't show up. Whereas the recruitment of votes by

² Now you're touching another side of the fundamentalists succeeded like the whole internationalization story. never before. So at this point there the one that is currently being used are a number of regimes that are reby the market. In our regions, individally floating on fear. Comparable with ualization was already apparent for what George Bush junior did right afcenturies. Nowadays it is strongly inter 9/11. These kinds of politics are creasing because of the internet and very disadvantageous for a civilian population. other new media. I think that the way

⁴ At this point, I think that the great encapsulation of the more or less self-sufficient West, the very secluded Islam, the Indian Hindu fundamentalism and other threats to our wealth like the Chinese and Russian economy creates a very dangerous constellation. This means we are sitting on a ticking time bomb - unless we can manage to come to some kind of a global agreement. So the political and economical power positions will continue to change, but changes always include certain risks. And with all the available military toys and mawhy we notice an increase of psychochos in this world, we're facing a pological pressure, depression and suitentially enormous conflict.

