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De Talleyrand-Périgord agreed to become ambassador to the United Kingdom. In this role

en King Louis-Philippe came to power in the July Re



HOW UNITED IS YOUR NATION? < **RE Y**OU A MOROCCAN OR A IOROCCAN'T? **OW MANY ILLEGAL** MIGRANTS DOES IT TAKE TO **REMODEL A COUNTRY?** HOW LONG WILL YOU BE **STAYING?** 

# **EDITORIAL**

reword To The Flemish Fascista - <sup>-</sup> ord nationalism can be broken dow nto two pieces. The first part is 'na onal', which derives from the Latir asci or birth - of which natio is the st tense (c.g. To be born). As such, i efers primarily to the place where one vas born and the race one is a part of. The suffix -ism has a variety of uses ind meanings but in this particular ase it implies a doctrine or philoso hy. An ism is a mindset in which the ments that make up a person's relity are attributed meaning based on w they pertain to whatever aspect of ality the ism in question deals with: the case of nationalism, the particuar aspect becomes whichever part of he planet vour mom was in when you xited through her birth canal. It is a echanism that allows humans to reluce the complexity of their everyday eality by flattening the playing field ind focussing on one aspect of that re lity. Every ism is another permutatio mankind's physiological predispo tion (read: neurotic compulsion) nehow make sense out of the seem igly senseless reality that is presen It becomes a viewfinder through h a person frames the world an signs meaning based on whicheve actor weighs the heaviest in their parcular doctrine of choice. In the case of ionalism, otherwise intelligent and ional people bend their logic based where somebody drew an invisible ne in the sand at some point in time nd then declared that from then on he people on both sides of those lines mehow even more differen m each other than normal human duals already are. It is but one of ny tricks used by humans who are ther unwilling or incapable of dealg with the actual complexity of their eality and instead choose to dumb it lown to a level that is acceptable to hem. The human purpose is to forn understanding of your surrounding d apply that understanding to you sonal situation. Nationalism allow person to only have to understand vhat happens inside a certain geo raphic area and not concern themelves with whatever may take place utside of it. so if you think that your nationalit

ARIS

efines who you are, you may be abolutely right: that very thought might ust define you as the kind of idiot who ould actually believe that a combi-

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England and France w

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AAAE N

an. As a result o

time (show me Persia on a map)

## BANNER

THE BLOOD-SPLATTERED

that remains divided based on ethnic-"Everything should ity and nationality. be made as simple as possible, but no simpler."

Albert Einstein

The primary symbol of nationality is of course the flag – the national banne that waves proudly as an icon of generic values across the board. The colors of the flag represent whatever values are deemed to correspond with the was small ocal culture: red is for courage/blood, blue and yellow are for justice but can also indicate prosperity and wealth, black is for military success, white is or peace, you get the generic picture. ote that these perceived values are not inherent to the flag itself but rather lepend on whoever is raising/waving/ ming/defiling it. This is because the symptomatic of the human inability ncept of a flag - by its very nature or unwillingness to understand the insupposed to be divisive: flags were creasingly globalized society around irst used on the battlefield so that oldiers (read: peasants with pickaxes and no military training whatsoever) ould be able to identify each other ind thus not kill each other off in a olind panic. Remember, this is in the Olden Davs before military uniforms (bar a few Roman, Greek and Spanish tempts in the Even More Olden ays) where – in the heat of battle – it ouldn't always be clear which sheeparmer was fighting alongside you and which one was trying to perforate your vital organs with a rusty pitchfork. So yes, flags were originally devised to bring people together – but it was nainly for the purpose of killing other we need to be scared of.

It may be illegal to call your flag an asshole – seek legal counsel before taking further action.

you are reading this in a building that is structurally intact and not cut off from either the power grid or a brewing the stuff yourself, you don't and economically insulated enough to be living in relative peace and safety. You are not likely to have seen firsthand any of the blood that has seeped into your nation's soil. However, flags main very fresh links to a not so very single-handedly ended a continentdistant but extremely brutal past. That wide war. There is no residual credit in plains not only why different people being the genetic descendant of somehold different feelings when it comes o certain flags but also why the conept of flag desecration is not only a commonly used form of social and tend there is. political protest, it is also illegal in more countries than you would probably think. So, for those eager to make a olitical statement but unclear on what legally qualifies as desecration of the flag, here is a quick overview: burning, rinating/defecating on it. defacing it vith slogans, daubing it with excre nent (note that daubing is the specific m used here, which is odd to say the east; excrement (i.e. shit) is usually ung, not artfully dabbed with a size paint brush), stepping or spitting n it, stoning it, shooting/stabbing it, ragging it in the ground or hurling in sults at it. You read that right. It may be illegal to call your flag an asshole -

somehow it feels like such a list would miss the point. If you want inspiring tales of national heroes who rose bravely against unlikely villains or per-*It is reactionary* haps tragic martyrs who died for their countries then you should be watching conservatism at Braveheart or the History Channel. The truth is that the very idea of a country its most simpleis an illusion that is only holding up because everybody is agreeing with minded; everything it. There are no lines in the sand except for the ones that we have made was better before up, although admittedly those imaginary lines have some very real consewhen the world quences. But the lines are also blurry: the customs booth does not stand on holy ground. The Roman emperors would laugh at the petty squabbling of small-town Flemish nationalists if Socially speaking, nationalism is the

they hadn't been dead from patricide political equivalent of closing your for the past 2,000 years. Nations come eyes and covering your ears with your and go hands and hoping that everything and everybody else just goes away. It is

#### JUS SANGUINIS: **ORPHANS OF THE STATE**

struggle. Mehran Karimi Nasseri, in

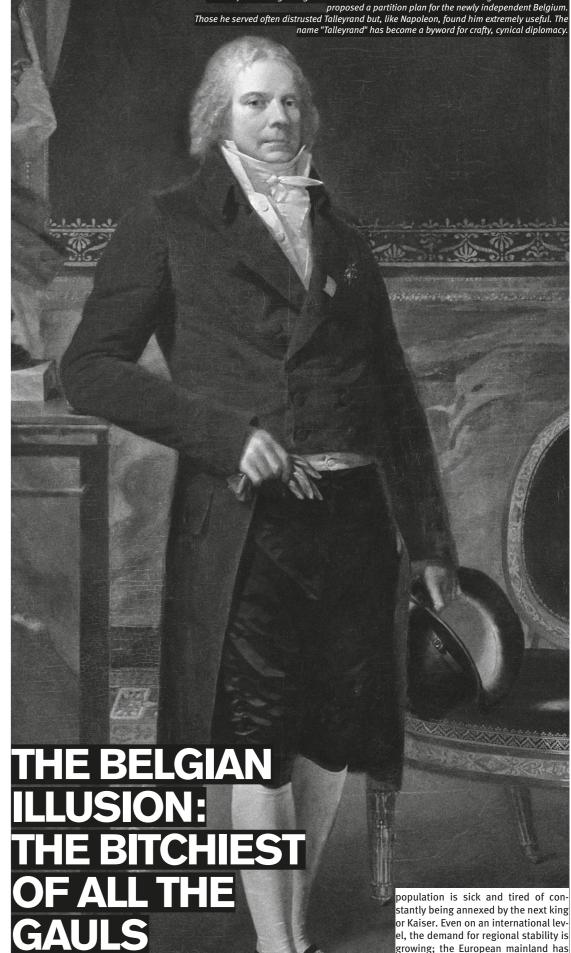
case you were wondering.

the course of our known history but

Statelessness is a condition in which us: not every caveman is equally curious to find out what lies beyond an individual has no nationality, which the mountain, so to speak. It is reacmeans that no laws or rights apply tionary conservatism at its most simto them. The UN department responple-minded; everything was better besible for keeping tabs on individuals fore when the world was small, so let's and groups in this condition esticlose our curtains and our borders mates that there are around 12 miland pretend that the Earth is flat and lion people with no recognized naas far as you should be concerned, it tionality worldwide. Famous examples ends at the little creek behind old man include nobody, except for maybe that Barnes' wheat field. Who would have Iranian guy who lived at Paris CDG thought that in 2015 (approximately Airport for more than 17 years, inspir-125,000 years after early humans coning Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg trolled the use of fire) we would still be into buying the rights to his story and huddled around our campfires prethen making the movie Terminal with tending that there's nothing out there out ever mentioning the man's name once while simultaneously changing the main character's nationality into something vaguely Caucasian thereby making it easier for the average Anglo-Saxon audience to identify with his

**GOD BLESS "INSERT COUNTRY OF CHOICE"** When talking about nationalism, it's

impossible to neglect the concept of patriotism; that sense of national pride that makes wherever you are The irony is that from just that tad better than anyplace else. What nationalists eagerly dub when it comes to patriotism is usually nothing more than a device that allows people who being alone, we're really haven't done anything noteworthy in their entire life to blatantly take all in it together unmerited credit for other people's achievements. Put locally: Belgians and that is might make some of the best beers in the world but unless you are actually becoming



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## WHO WILL LEGALIZE THE ALIENS?

## DO YOU KNOW THE WORDS TO **YOUR NATIONAL ANTHEM?** WHICH QUEEN WILL GOD SAVE? WHAT LANGUAGE DOES MONEY ALK?

VHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF **YOUR TRIP?** DID THEY TAKE YER JERB?

WHOSE FLAG ARE YOU

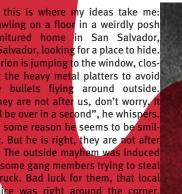
MAVING?

WHAT IS THIS COUNTRY DOING **FOR THE DOOMED? O SAY CAN YOU SEE?** 

s, following U.S. Flag Code nke rep with hand-sewn "I ly 22 2014 as a Bridge architect Jol tin "the July 22 to commemorate They switc media discussion. Am ı cultural gap ever

A FIFFI





Guatemala has to be rder guards ng food and on's phoneed to encode example: if I in Guatemala 50 people apcall him to say toes will arrive oes equals one s auite well, but Depending on the law, one trip hree months."

e american

was used to rally young men to enlist. While ny was shown as a "mad brute". In this poste an kultur and carrying the half-naked body of a THE TOWER OF BABBLE: UNITED IN ISOLATION

ther action

seek legal counsel before taking fur-

On an individual level, nationalism is the partial outsourcing of identity rather than going through the arduous and testing process of developing a genuine original personality for him self, the human will instead adopt the personality trademarks that are associated with the first grasped-at straw at hand, namely his nationality. Ove the course of history, this mechanism has resulted in a global society that is united only in the way it is divided and whose longest-running tradition is that of war. The root of this phenom enon lies at the micro-level of human behavior and interaction, more precisely the fear of being alone. We want to believe that flags unite us and brin us together in things bi

selves because the ma rrified of how small and ess we think we are by o wareness and abstract t wo amazing new feature to the homo sapiens mo eedless to say that there v to be some bugs on an level. All you have to do is basic metaphysical fear the 200,000 year long matrix of p diluted chaos\* and you end up we are right now: a globalized

got to know some covotes who int duced him to their art of business. ousiness that helped him build a fis ing farm which he wants to strengthe in the future A business that helped him send his kids to elite colleges in the United States. A business that made him a drive a fancy 4x4-Pickup with flatscreens all over the interior. "But still I am considered a criminal over here. Police is looking for me. Bu I am not responsible for the reasons that make people want to leave. It' the politics of this country, not me am the wrong person to hunt!"

Villain? Saint? You'll decide. Nev theless it seems a little out of pla to feel sympathy for this man. It's secret for those that start the trip t

the drop out rate is at least 50%. Dro

out rate either means being caught by

authorities and deported on their own

costs, or it means death. "From a group

of ten people, five make it across the

border", Marlon says, shrugging his

ers. "My job is to reduce risks. I

nate them entirely." Most of

increasingly clear it would be best if you would just shut up and finished your drink. You really as the world gets shouldn't be talking at all, lest you actually invented the steam engine or smaller. mastered the art of bread-baking or

body who did something worthwhile idea of a nation is nothing more than any given number of years before you, the result of human fear; the fear of be regardless of whether or not you preing alone and the desire to be a part of something bigger – strength through Most of the time however, patriotism is nothing more than a device used by powerful men to put the screws to those who can not defend themselves. After all the waving of flags and giving of speeches, it usually boils down to a few dozen/hundreds/thousands families being pulled out of their homes and butchered for no apparent reason; most of the time it comes down to some emperor, prince, regent, duke, shah, king, president or a willing coalition of any of the aforementioned douchebags wanting to have more money/power/territory/resources and feeling entitled to take it from somebody else. Most of the times, that somebody else will have a slightly different ethnicity than the first group, instantly rendering him into a gypsy foreigner and therefore alien enough to bear the brunt of the domestic ma-

### The truth is that the very idea of a *country* is an illusion that is only holding up because everybody is agreeing with it.

jority's outrage.

You can ask anybody from K many mechanisms used alestine, The Basque mind to deal with osovo, Korea, Armenia o eir everyday li untry that is deemed g on the another country about cro huma xperiences. Ask a microa senior citizen fro ose diffe oro's and cons ıman l nust al e check with ar has a sense cumst

can go conflig ught

numbers. It's a cosmetic solution to an existential problem that stands at the very core of the human condition Nationalism is a consensus of the weak; at some point all of us might fee like we are alone in this universe but it takes a special kind of coward to think that if we all hide behind the same flag. we won't be lonely anymore. Or that it will somehow make a difference. The irony is that when it comes to being alone, we're all in it together and that is becoming increasingly clear as the world gets smaller. If television opened our window to the world then the internet kicked the front door in and dumped the assorted insanity of human reality right into our living rooms. So you can be forgiven for seeking the comfort of the group the risk is that if your choice is motivated by something as trivial as a national border, you will only be compounding the problem further.

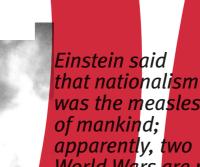
The reality of things is that the very

## \* c.q. chaos being order too complex to

#### WE CAN'T ALL JUST GET ALONG

wad of territorial CODA: Our society did not grow from top to bottom; if there is such a padding for thing as a national culture then it can reasonably be stated that such a Europe's war-torn culture would have grown from the micro-dynamics of individual human mainland. interaction and the chaos that is the reality which surrounds and com pounds it - instead of the other way around. Nationalism is but one of Belgium was basically created by

urope's major powers in 1830 sure the Dutch, the French ans would all stop fig e cir-'s lives. re blindly ar



lisease

World Wars are not enough vaccination against the

A DM7 or demilitarized zone is an

area in which treaties or agreement

between nations, military powers or

contending groups forbid military in-

stallations, activities or personnel.

Examples of said Zones include such

world-famous non-attractions like

Antarctica, The Kuwait-Iraq border, the

Sinai Peninsula and the roughly 4-km

wide, 250-km long strip of barren,

landmine-ridden land that separates

these Zones are all relatively young

and as such can barely hold a candle

to a DMZ that has been around for so

long, it had it's very own flag, national

anthem and monarchy. Welcome to

some to be nothing

demilitarized zone

avant la lettre – a

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Even back then

Belgium was

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Belgium!

North and South Korea. However,

wing; the European mainland has ecome a perpetual battlefield and all the violent bloodshed and territoria rejigging just isn't good for business.

#### **BELGIUM'S NEXT TOP** MONARCH

ower than the next. Kings all over rope were treating territorial maps o what to do with the roguish Bel like coloring books, making up their gians? At the London Conference of 1830 it was decided by the powers that own nations and their new borders as were that the much-disputed territory they went along on their gold-plated would from then on be an independent chariots. Long story made a bit shorter, after the Dutch kicked some French country with an actual government and ass in 1815, they in turn became the its very own monarchy. In order to keep latest ones to annex the Belgians all parties involved from being temp ed to further invade their neighbors those "bravest of all the Gauls." For and make off with a new province or about a decade, the Dutch king William I treats his newly conquered backyard two, it was agreed upon that in the inand most of the people in it like absoterest of the greater good, the vaguely triangular patch in between the three lute manure: taxes are up, morale is down and civil unrest is growing by the aforementioned superpowers would henceforth be known as Belgium, a day. Uppity Protestants are making fun of rural Catholics, the French-speaking proper real actual totally not made-up for practical reasons sovereign nation. working class is being economically starved and the mustache-twirling However, this was not the only plan on dandy's in Amsterdam think they're so the diplomatic table: the French promuch cooler than everybody else. posed the Talleyrand partition plan. which would have divided the country

So inevitably, on August 25th of 1830, up mainly along the language lines. the insurgent shit hits the fan and More than 150 years later, the irony the Belgian Revolution breaks out in of that plan and its ultimate rejection Brussels under almost Shakespearian seem oddly palpable in light of current circumstances: after a performance separatist notions. Even back then of the romantic nationalist opera 'The Belgium was considered by some to Mute Girl Of Portici', riots erupt in the be nothing more than a buffer state, city (riots which, it somehow seems a demilitarized zone avant la lettre - a worth mentioning, immediately spill wad of territorial padding for Europe's over into looting) and the Dutch flag is war-torn mainland. Its coming into extorn from the roof of city hall. However, istence was not defined by its own citinobody seems to be quite sure of what zens; instead, its very independence is supposed to happen next - some was something that had been granted guy decides to raise a French flag but by a greater political power - more as a he is quickly flogged and told to find strategic measure than anything else something else. The next best thing is a yellow-red-black rag that is put To give the whole thing a cosmetic together in a local textile workshop; shred of credibility, it was then decided that the freshly founded country the color scheme is a reference to the should probably have a king. But fo lack of any actual local royalty (pig-

"Brabant Revolution" which took place a few years earlier (forget about keeping track of all the Revolutions that farmers, remember), where to find 'shook" the European mainland in one? The newly formed Belgian Concenturies past, national and internagress held a vote and decided that tional power struggles have the unique honor would be offered been Europe's favorite o Prince Louis of Orleans, son of the 45). The Dutch King nch king Louis-Philippe. However, ed at the revolt i tes and sends sels to restore e Dutch army lutionaries of national rise up, mainly

ed pseudo-state that was last an d by his own family not 40 years So, the Belgians had their adces rebuffed. They offered a man throne and had it thrown back at This raises a few questions ch as "How shitty must a place be fore a man will politely decline to the king of it?" and "Did this rova jection cause the Belgians to feel orned and humiliated and if so, was ne experience bad enough to traumaize them?". But more importantly, if ouis would not be King, who would

ing decides that in light of inter-

nal relations it's probably not in

milv's best interest to have his

sitting on the throne of a freshly

Leopold I (full name Leopold Georges Christian Friedrich of Saxen-Coburg was born on the 16th of December in the beautiful year of 1790, in the Ehren burg Palace of Saxon-Coburg – a beauiful castle that stands 617 kilometers from the Royal Palace in Brussels, twice as long as the distance between Ostend and Arlon which is about as far as you can drive in Belgium. He spent his early days learning how to go potty like a big boy before becoming a colonel of the Izmaylovsky Guard Regiment at the advanced age of 5 years old and noving on to reaching the rank of major general at 12 before politely declining to join Napoleon's army and then

ean po chine guns two minutes, "Weld my friend. You have just witnessed one of the main reasons why people desperately want to leave thi Marlon opens the wind his new and fancy y some damage. "A ne up a coffee

Bad

"In a r<mark>egular</mark> month more than 4000 people are on the way to the States. It is a sad story, a socia desaster but it's also the fundament of my work."

El Salvado is a small country that r heard of before. ur probably n you have a gan sh or you are lecting travel po ward locations of t on the pacific coast o next to Nicaragua and lor holds a six mill still trying to rec a brutal civil war, v nty years ago. S v. that the civil wa ver end t it was replaced by the gang war een the rivaling Maras 18 and rucha. According to official stas nationwide war claims mor tist than 30 ualties a month. And we all know th official statistics nev

tell the full story BO ZAR



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Meet Marlon, a coyo

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like this: I do have s

ev is spent iving the law.'

is working

would be too

cellpho

f gohere's a of his cellging while we are talking - he doesn't answer one call. "Sometimes I just can't handle all the pressure. Sometimes I need **t** 

take a small break, event if it's g 30 minute break." He pours coffee. He looks tired. The worst part of the jo

Grande! You know wh drug cartels. They o man is crossing the heir permission ioney plus acc nounce and p f travellers in

to to land of the free.

the costs of the trip.

drivers and accomodation

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your mind. Each ref

"It is expensive, yes. Bu

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Prices are negotiable

ometimes the refugees have

error here. will liquidated artel. No witnesses a ruel? Vell. Marlon is us

ng hell He fought in the civil war as an eightvon't vear old. He pulls out his wallet. Inside oaid**==**a photo of h<mark>y</mark> mbat. The gun is wav l "I don't 0000 know how killed. I stopped enced the terro ant to war. Now I ember: I

make thi eople of El Salva the US, der and got stuck a

ccur in the mexican desge of the trip, where the several SIMwalk up to 50 kilomene. No alimentation them die because they die, they are left b up is bigger than ave to carry on." the i it to the United like this: they

n fast food chain in construction ng paid minimum in undercover life, getting caught and eral authorities Those a family member in the

abandoned houses, away ery form of social interaction. the money they earn is way better an any job perspective El Salvador would have to offer for them. And even more: the money the earn is partly sent back to the families back in El Salvador. The amount of the so called "remesas", almost 4 billion dollars in the year 2013, surpasses the nation's anual GDP by far. From an economical perspective, El Salvador depends highly on the process of imigration, and on people like Marlon.

"I want to continue my work for, let's say two or three years from now on. By then i should be able to establish my fishing farm as my core business. I want to break the circle by giving salvadoreans a job in their country." If he gets caught in the meantime the verdict for assisting in illegal immigration is 10 years in prison. At least.

t Bart De Wever a.k.a. the man who single-handedly brought back the art of flag waving in the Flanders region like it were 1302. He played ominent role in the 2007 Belgian government formation and presided over his party's victory in the 2010 federal elections when the ist New Flemish Alliance (N-VA) became the largest party in both Flanders and in Belgium as a whole. Their ultimate goal? To separate misch speaking part of Belgium from the French speaking part. Why? Because of pride and personal gain. The tools he loves most to 🗞 lish this aoal is fear mon ing, spreading a false sence of pride and patriotism in combination with populist phrasing.



mpaigning against the diminutiv rench Emperor as part of the Imperial Russian Cavalry before his 21st birthday. Ah yes, a typical Belgian if ever here was one.

So until the day of Enlightenment comes, you pig farmers are better off holing up in your church towers with a pair of binoculars and a pitchfork.

So history shows us that in spite of all the treaty-signing and banner-waving, there is no such thing as the Belgian nation. Sure, there is a slab of sovereign territory that has a government and a postal service but that's a far stretch from national unity. Belgium is a test; it is a test of whether or not nodern, civilized people who have had history lessons in high school can get along with each other and retain constructive outlook on the present and the future without resorting to livisive rhetoric as soon as the economy hits a slump. So far, we are not exactly acing the exam. Einstein said that nationalism was the measles of nankind; apparently, two World Wars are not enough vaccination against the lisease. So until the day of Enlighten nent comes, you pig farmers are better off holing up in your church towers vith a pair of binoculars and a pitchork. It's a strange world out there.