

## The Afghanistan Solution

By now, most people accept the fact that I am a brilliant political speech writer. I have been besieged with offers to write for various politicians since the publication of my ideal speech several months ago...but being a retired person with lots to do, I have respectfully declined.

But when my friend Fred, the famous Archeologist, came by the other night to show me a new scroll he had found in some ruins near a place called Kandahar, I wondered if I shouldn't rethink getting into politics. As always, biblical stories gave me some good ideas.

Fred's scroll gave me a great idea. It turns out that this ancient parchment is a different version of the biblical story about the Maccabees. These guys nailed the remnants of Alexander the Great's empire in the middle of the second century BC. According to Fred, Judah Maccabee, their leader, went to the area now called Afghanistan before he and his family kicked butt to get training. Fred also had a scroll from a third century historian that added some meat to the various uprisings the Jews did over the centuries. The Zealot's uprising prompted the Romans to burn down Jerusalem and demolish the temple, but that didn't deter the "stiff-necked" people one bit. They kept rebelling and the Roman Empire just couldn't stop it.

The final uprising was organized by a guy with the unlikely name of Bar Kochba and he was very successful for a time. The Empire brought in several legions and eventually put down the rebellion. Then, according to Fred's new scroll, some guy whispered a new strategy in the ear of Hadrian, the emperor of the day, finally ending these insurgent rebellions once and for all. They threw them out. No Jews, no rebellion. They spread them all over the known world so they wouldn't get together in sufficient numbers to cause problems. Thus, the "Diaspora".

That reminded me of Afghanistan. Everybody knows that this country has had an interesting history, in fact not unlike the ancient Jews. Alexander the Great conquered it for a time, then got his ass kicked when he decided to continue on into India. Nobody tried it again until Britain in the nineteenth century. They finally left without success. The Soviets tried and that was the beginning of the end for them, too. Now the US is there. Same old stuff. Like most people, I have wondered if there is a solution, military or otherwise, towards this ancient land of fierce, warring tribes. Traditional wisdom says that wars against an insurgent force are never won in the long run.

So here's what we do about Afghanistan. We stop fighting all these tribes just the Romans did. We adopt Diaspora strategy. We round up every Afghani, man woman and child, ship them to all parts of the globe just like the Romans did to the Jews, repopulate the country with Americans and announce that it is our fifty-first state. We rename it "East Dakota".

Voila!!! Problems solved. No more Al Qaeda, no more Taliban. There is no way they can compete with American know-how when it comes to producing, consuming and distributing a consumable commodity, namely cocaine. We legalize drugs and commission our fifty-first state to become the drug producing capital of the world. Like alcohol and tobacco, it is in every drug store, Walmart and gas station. All the underworld drug cartels go out of business, we tax the product, sell it to other countries for a reasonable profit and eliminate our national debt.

I can hardly wait for Fred to bring around another scroll. Maybe he can come up with an unexpurgated version of the Koran. What if the prophet said cocaine is ok? New markets and no more insurgency from them too. It's way too hard to wage uprisings when you are stoned all the time.