



West vs. West: the Vulnerability of Europe

Ignacio Cosidó

In Libertad Digital n° 1056

March 18, 2007

The publication of some cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed in a Danish newspaper caused a large riot in Islamic countries and Muslim communities that included the murder of a nun, attacks on Western diplomatic delegations and various churches, the burning of flags, and violent threats against our governments and societies. A segment of the European left, headed by our president, not only emphatically condemned the publication of these cartoons, but also showed a certain level of empathy regarding the violent protests that they provoked. In the latest news, the left defended imposing restrictions on the liberty of speech in efforts not to further the hostility of Islamists.

Although this same left has shown so much sensitivity towards Islam to the point of renouncing one of the bases of our democratic society to favor a peaceful coexistence with Islamic radicals, it paradoxically is now allowing a project in a largely Catholic country like Spain that gravely attempts to go

against the religious beliefs of the majority of its citizens which it supposedly represents. The project is financed by money from all contributors and praised by public powers. It exalts sexual depravities that go against human dignity, like pedophilia or incest.

Beyond the political implications of this last case (it is inconceivable as to why the responsible politician of corresponding scandal has not resigned), the contrast between both situations requires a deeper reflection on the European incapability to safeguard liberty as the basis of its political system and to defend its own identity, where Christianity undoubtedly forms part of the foundation despite efforts by the left to negate this historical evidence.

It is a fact that Europe is now suffering a double demographic tendency. On one hand, birth rates are amongst the worst in the world. Spain is the most drastic example of this, where we cannot even ensure the replenishment of

our generation. Recently in Spain, the number of foreigners has quadrupled in only five years and they now represent four million people and ten percent of our current population. A good part of this immigrant population in Europe also has Islamic origins, which means that if this rate continues, a fourth of the European population will be Islamic in a few decades.

A second even more troubling fact is that the diminishing population of European origin is becoming less religious while the Muslim population is in a process of radicalization, directing a fundamentalist and even violent position. My impression is that we are doomed to rising religious tension, not between Christianity and Islam as it has been historically, but an asymmetric conflict between a largely "lay policy," in which any religious protest has disappeared from public life, and the Muslim community where religion is not only a personal belief, but also implicates a way of organizing society and even conditioning political power.

A Europe that has renounced its own roots (submitted to an identity crisis of

its own self where relativism dictates), that has lost all moral reference as to what is good and bad beyond the majority opinion, and that has lost the will to firmly defend its deep-seated, democratic principles is a Europe extremely vulnerable before the momentum of those that see liberty as their worst enemy and do not tolerate any other truth than their own - which they want to impose on others by force.

Spain has transformed ever more into the weakest link of this vulnerable Europe. In no other European country is there such an assault on institutions like family, the principles of religious liberty in school, and the supremacy of human life and majority religious beliefs of our society. In no other European country is there a government with a more radical "lay policy" than our current socialist government. No other European leader has shown more symptoms of weakness before violent blackmail than Rodríguez Zapatero.

[Libertad Digital](#)