

In the wake of the attempted hijacking of a Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas, demands to tighten security at airports worldwide could create opportunities for mischief if more contractors are hired. Israel's Mossad is a small intelligence service, but it is able to operate worldwide through its relationships with Israeli companies, many of which are concentrated in the security-services area. This is particularly true in airport and airline security, where Israelis have achieved market dominance in Europe and North America. An investigation conducted by the CIA in the early 1990s determined that Israeli airline-security companies often acted as the local Israeli intelligence office in a number of American cities, including Houston, Denver, and Atlanta, where Mossad had no official presence. The companies, which included former Israeli intelligence and military officers among their staffs in the United States, would routinely carry out support operations for Mossad. Many of the operations were illegal, including the investigation of American citizens and the exploitation of access to restricted criminal-information data banks at airports at the request of Israeli intelligence. In one case, the CIA was able to intercept a series of back-and-forth faxes to a company operating in Houston detailing precisely the sort of information that was being sought by Tel Aviv. The Agency assessment concluded that the airline-security company was de facto the Mossad Houston Station.

The involvement of Israeli security companies in international air travel is enormous. To cite only one example, International Consultants on Targeted Security (ICTS) was the security company at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, where Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab boarded his flight to Detroit. In addition to its airport-security screening contracts worldwide—including Hong Kong, Bangkok, Auckland, Singapore, and Macau—ICTS also serves 200 carriers in 65 European airports, including London Gatwick and Frankfurt. It is the security contractor in Europe for Continental, American, U.S. Airways, Delta, and United Airlines. In the U.S., it provides security at Chicago O'Hare, Newark, Los Angeles, and Boston through a totally owned subsidiary, Huntleigh.

Israeli human rights groups have long claimed that airport-security teams have used their access to restricted databases and files to collect information on profiled Arabs and other targeted individuals under cover of managing security operations. In November 2009, an Israeli security official was deported from South Africa for conducting aggressive operations against Arab travelers through the Johannesburg Airport. It was reported at the time that the Israelis had also been collecting information on other travelers belonging to groups critical of Israeli policies, including one woman named Virginia Tilley, who was taken to a room and given a hostile interrogation before having her luggage searched and her documents copied. Tilley was a researcher at the South African Human Sciences Research Council, a think tank that had been critical of Israeli policy in the West Bank.

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religious belief has been closely associated with temporal power. Once the power to enforce conformity and suppress dissent declines in states where there has been a state religion, religious belief itself declines precipitately, for it is seen as having chosen the wrong side of history. There is no danger of this in the U.S., and the religiosity of Americans keeps alive the little platoons that are so important in maintaining the vigor of civil society independent of government.

Finally, there is American military power, unprecedented in world history. America spends more on its military than the rest of the world combined. This should secure its predominance for the foreseeable future.

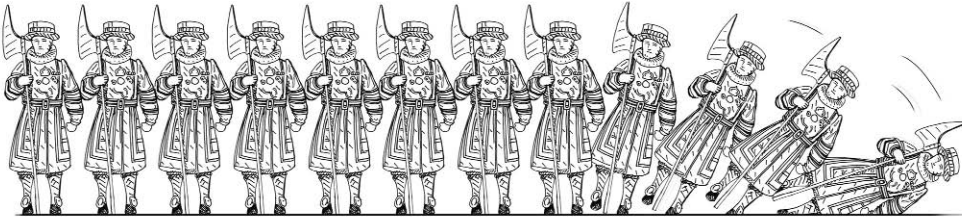
In short, the United States is free, or nearly so, from the principal factors that have led to the decline and immobilism of Europe, its sclerosis, rigidity, and lack of ability to confront the challenges facing it.

But like Europeans, Americans have not proved deeply attached to limited government, and the difference between Europe and America in this respect is only one of degree rather than type. The extension of government power in the current crisis is not meeting much resistance. The leaders of American life have placed almost religious faith in a man who promises to extend the role of the state.

American religiosity strikes foreigners as superficial and as much a kind of communal psychotherapy as a genuine faith. American religion is Dale Carnegie transposed to a mildly, and unconvincingly, transcendental plane; a lot of American religious services are like meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous without the alcoholics.

Moreover, military power is often if not illusory at least of limited use, especially when nations have scruples. Where a public opinion exists, the full force of military power cannot be employed on the task of limitless repression. And

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Hail Cesar

Perhaps we are less racially sensitive in Britain than you are in the United States. Most people here, at any rate, would not have been as concerned as Sarah Palin was

by Harry Reid's remarks about "Negro dialect." Most people here would have thought that Senator Reid was just being charmingly old-fashioned.

Britons tend to focus on immigrants rather than on racial minorities, no matter how dark-skinned (or light-skinned) those minorities are. There is a feeling on the street now that there are too many Poles and Romanians in London. In Piccadilly Circus on Christmas Eve, I came across four young men wrapped in sleeping bags and blankets. One was awake and rolling a cigarette. I assumed the men were Scottish drunkards and asked the smoker where they were from. "Poland," he said. He was ingratiatingly contrite about the state he was in. I gave him a small amount of money and, like a neurotic nun, asked him whether he'd be going to Mass on Christmas Day. "Oh, yes," he said, and grinned.

But without immigration, where would we be? Many of the most distinguished Englishmen and women have been immigrants: William the Conqueror, William of Orange, George I, Joseph Conrad, Henry James, T.S. Eliot, Lady Randolph Churchill, Lady Astor, the Duke of Edinburgh, Conrad Black, Mary Reid. What is true of England is even truer of the United States. The roll of honor is thunder in our ears: Alexander Hamilton, Andrew Carnegie, George Shearing, Bob Hope, Oscar Peterson, Henry Kissinger, Cary Grant, Lucky Luciano, Captain James T. Kirk.

Perhaps the greatest immigrant in recent years, however, is Cesar Millan, the Mexican-American dog trainer who has taken the world by storm with his TV show. Not only is he a good advertisement for immigration—he is a good advertisement for illegal immigration. He slipped across the border 20 years ago, and while still undocumented set up the Pacific Point Canine Academy. In 2000, he regularized his status and, in 2004, launched "The Dog Whisperer" on the National Geographic Channel, subsequently winning two Emmys. Last year, he became a U.S. citizen. Good for Cesar; good for the United States.

And good for all of us. There is something about this cocky, strutting, brave Mexican that is instantly appealing. But has he got anything to teach me? Hard to say. Just after Christmas, I adopted Harry, a freckled, 8-year-old Springer Spaniel, and a few days later I did the only thing possible under the circumstances: I bought Cesar's *Be The Pack Leader: Use Cesar's Way to Transform Your Dog ... And Your Life*.

Now I feel guilty. Here's why. Harry is a coward. I like that in a dog, but I am not sure that Cesar does. The other day in the park, Harry and I were approached by a tough Afro-Caribbean geezer accompanied by an even tougher Staffordshire Bull Terrier. No doubt both were pussycats, but I am pleased to report that Harry gave them almost as wide a berth as I did. His eyes were in the back of his head as we passed the

man and his dog, and Harry looked shiftily sideways at me, perhaps for reassurance. He didn't get any, and that's where I went wrong.

According to Cesar, I am supposed to be the leader, not the cringer. I am supposed to show "calm assertive energy" like Oprah. I am supposed to recognize Harry's energy level, which, ideally, ought to correspond to my own. There are four types of energy in a dog, Cesar teaches: very high energy, high energy, medium energy, and low energy. Who'd have thought? In the dog world, says Cesar, "energy is personality." When I read that passage to Harry, he looked at me with big, sad, reproachful eyes and shrugged. "Whatever," he said. "Who is this guy?"

Much of this stuff could have been dreamt up in a solar-powered Los Angeles tanning parlor, but I come to praise Cesar, not to bury him. The man is a genius, the American Dream made virtual reality, and as savvy as they come. Twenty years ago, he could not speak American. Now he speaks it more fluently than most natives, instructing us, for example, to get in touch with our intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and instinctual sides. At the same time, though, he has little time for gringo sentimentality. "Your dog is a dog," he says, "not a baby or a small furry person with a tail" and "This is a choke chain—learn how to use it."

Nothing Cesar says applies to Harry, of course, or to me. Harry is not just a dog, and I am not a leader. There will be no transformation. Still, thank heaven for the Dog Whisperer. He may not please the American Humane Society, but he sure pleases me. ■