



The
PROPHETIC
CONDITIONS
Series



OUT OF THE ASHES
**THE RISE OF
EUROPE**



ABOUT THE COVER

Adopted in 1986, the flag of the European Union displays a circle of twelve golden stars, representing the union of the peoples of Europe. Though there are three additional member nations who have not adopted the European currency, the number of stars is fixed at twelve, symbolizing perfection and unity.

PHOTO: Bruce Ritter

Why the PROPHETIC CONDITIONS Series?

Knowledge and technology are exploding, yet the world is drowning in a sea of problems! *Alcohol abuse* is on the rise. Vast regions of farmland are “dying of thirst” due to droughts and erratic *weather* patterns. The allure of *drugs* is fast seducing a younger generation that no longer knows how to be kids. *Crime* is more violent, more entrenched, more widespread than ever. *Immorality* is robbing families and youth of their innocence by “entertaining” sick, perverted, carnal desires. And the earth is choking in the *polluted* filth produced by humanity.

WHY?

The *Prophetic Trends and Conditions Series* will report global trends and problems. It explains why humanity is deluged with such overwhelming—and insoluble—problems.

And points to mankind’s *only solution!*

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The ALCOHOL EPIDEMIC

EARTHQUAKES and VOLCANOES in Prophecy

The Tragedy of DRUG ABUSE

What’s Wrong With THE WEATHER?

The Worldwide CRIME WAVE

This POLLUTED EARTH

WITCHES, WIZARDS and SPIRITS: Grave and Growing Danger

The IMMORALITY EXPLOSION!

Out of the Ashes: THE RISE OF EUROPE

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OUT OF THE ASHES THE RISE OF EUROPE

PART ONE: 1945 to the Present

PART TWO: The Present to the Return of Jesus Christ

Some said it would take Europe 100 years to rebuild after the Second World War. Others maintain that it will never rival the United States in terms of economic, technological and military might. But history—and prophecy—indicate otherwise. World events and an eventual alliance with the Vatican will soon propel the European Union to become the seventh and final restoration of the Holy Roman Empire—a power that will truly “shock and awe” all nations.

Are you willing to learn about this coming United States of Europe? It is upon us NOW! Will you believe it? Will you prepare? Will you watch as this AWE-SOME event unfolds before your very eyes?

THE SPRING OF 1945 found Europe in a smoldering ruin. By the end of April, Mussolini and Hitler would be dead, Germany would surrender on May 7th, and Japan would follow on August 14th. World War II—the greatest war of history in terms of expended human life and national resources—would be finally over. Sixty million people lay dead. More than one trillion dollars had been spent.

Nearly six years of the Second World War, in addition to the remaining effects of the Depression and the First World War, had devastated most European economies, industries, agriculture and societies. The German Blitzkrieg had wreaked havoc on military installations or infrastructure of most all neighboring countries that laid in its path. Much of the natural resources of all participating countries had been plundered in the war effort. Starting in the summer of 1944, British and American bombers had carried out daily and nightly missions that decimated most German cities and other strategic targets.

The result of this mammoth conflict was a pile of burning rubble—a continent so severely crippled during that final fateful summer that many insisted it would take 100 years to re-build. Yet we will see the incredible, almost miraculous, recovery and rebuilding of Europe, owing to its own



BIRTH OF AN EMPIRE: This statue symbolizes the beginnings of the Roman Empire, which ruled Europe for centuries, in various stages. According to pagan Roman mythology, twin brothers Romulus and Remus were abandoned by the banks of the River Tiber. They were found by a she-wolf, who took pity on them and fed them with her milk. Years later, the twins grew up to build a city, which eventually became Rome.

Years Member Nations Were Added



resiliency, plus generous American aid.

Few had taken seriously Mussolini's boasting that he was leading the restored Roman Empire during the course of the war. But the core of the Axis powers—the German-Italian alliance—was historically the sixth of seven restorations of the Holy Roman Empire.

Over the span of history, there have been six restorations of the Holy Roman Empire since the imperial restoration by Justinian in A.D. 554. It was considered a renewal of the former Roman Empire, but now with the recognition of the supremacy of the Pope over the secular emperors.

The second restoration of the Holy Roman Empire was led by Charlemagne in A.D. 800, followed by the third restoration by Otto the Great in A.D. 962. Fourth in this series was Charles V of the Hapsburg dynasty in 1530. Fifth was the restoration by Napoleon with his French-based kingdom in 1804.

This brings us to the sixth restoration discussed above, as it related to the Axis powers in World War II. The foundation was laid for the manifestation of this phase of the Holy Roman Empire by the unification of Italy in 1870 and the unification of Germany, both occurring in the wake of the Peace of Prague, Austria of 1866. Although Mussolini declared himself emperor of this restoration, Hitler was the one who wielded power over this German-Italian alliance, as culmination of the sixth restoration of the

Holy Roman Empire ended in 1945.

In each phase or restoration, the secular emperor acknowledged the supremacy of the pope. Never in history has such an arrangement of rulership existed as was introduced at the inception of the Holy Roman Empire by Justinian.

The Necessity to Rebuild Europe

From both sides of these smoldering ashes, two new superpowers emerged—the United States and the Soviet Union. Britain, France, Germany and Japan essentially ceased to be significant military powers in the traditional sense. The balance of power had shifted, leaving Europe divided—and between two powerful enemies.

The United States undertook the financing of the effort to rebuild Europe. In June 1947, U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall unveiled what would be called the "Marshall Plan." Over the next five years, \$13 billion of aid would be given to Britain, France, Italy and what was then West Germany. The U.S. was compelled to underwrite this for two reasons: (1) Europe had been a great market for American goods, and it was in the interest of sound economic policy to restore this capacity as soon as possible; (2) there was a new threat from the east—Communism and the Soviet Union. Europe had to be strengthened and even re-armed for its own survival as a free society. A strong, rebuilt Europe would stand as a bulwark

against expansion from this new enemy.

Germany, historically the "hub" of economic and industrial strength in Europe, was the essential core of this bulwark. Germany would drive momentum for the renewal of the continent. For Europe to succeed, Germany had to succeed. American dollars and American arms were earmarked to guarantee the success of this frontier bastion of the free world as it faced the threat of Soviet expansionism.

The Beginnings of Cooperation

The Marshall Plan was complete by 1952 and, shortly thereafter, European voices of dissent began to be heard. Some were uneasy with the powerful embrace of America. One of the most outspoken in this regard was the famous General Charles de Gaulle, who was elected President of France in 1958. He strongly disliked what appeared to be the permanent presence of American troops on European soil. He therefore suspended French cooperation with NATO and started his country off on her own race for a nuclear weapon. De Gaulle's stance of European control of its own destiny, free of American hegemony, reawakened the latent desire of a number of influential European political and industrial leaders who long dreamed of European Unity.

This dream is almost as old as Europe itself. Certain visionaries could see the power such a union

could wield. Both Charlemagne (the second of the seven heads or restorations) and Napoleon (the fifth of seven) ruled empires that encompassed most of the continent. But those two, along with the one ruled by Hitler and Mussolini, failed because they were based upon forced subjugation instead of active participation. The post-World War II scenario provided the right conditions for real union, but this time, cooperation would come first. The prospect of future subjugation has been discounted by the number of junior participants intoxicated by the prospect of their inclusion within the security of a European economic combine.

In 1951, France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg established the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). By 1957, the same group signed another treaty in Rome to establish the European Economic Community (EEC), which, for all intents and purposes, was the beginning of the new United Europe. Henri Spaak, former secretary general of NATO, had this to say in a BBC documentary about that significant event: "...we felt like Romans on that day...We were consciously recreating the Roman Empire once more" (Grant R. Jeffrey, *The Signature of God*, 1996, pp. 190-191). As we will see, each step forward on this path toward unity essentially forced the next step and, although there would be the occasional step backward, these were typically followed by several steps forward.

Other countries were invited to join the EEC. Britain was initially interested, though concerned about the loss of sovereign control. By 1961, however, they were economically forced to seek membership. But, due to their close ties with the U.S., they were denied membership by a veto from President de Gaulle, once in 1963 and again in 1967.

In 1967, the ECSC, EEC and a third organization (Euratom), controlling atomic energy, were merged to form the European Community (EC). Finally, in 1973, the UK, Denmark and Ireland joined, Greece in 1980, and Portugal and Spain in 1986.

(Austria, Finland and Sweden would join in 1994, bringing the union to its current total of 15 states.)

Progression Toward Eventual Union

Of course, economic cooperation among a "community of nations" was still just that, and not much different from previous economic alliances and other similar agreements also being established in various regions of the world. An eventual union of states would require actual integration of economies, currencies, governments, etc. The pace of integration accelerated during the 1970s.

In 1970, the original six nations set in motion plans to establish (by 1980) an Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) to integrate the member states' economies and currencies. In 1979, they created the European Monetary System (EMS), linking the exchange rates of members' currencies to the exchange rate of the strong and stable German *deutsche mark*. Interestingly, made formal by German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and French President Giscard d'Estaing (current chair of the Convention on the Future of Europe and thus the main author of the upcoming European Constitution) was the selection of the small German city of Aachen as the site for the signing of the EMS documents. You may recall that Aachen is where the throne of Charlemagne was—and remains to this day.

In 1986, the EC introduced the Single European Act (SEA), which sped up the process of removing all trade barriers and customs frontiers by setting the completion date for this as 1992. In addition, the SEA stepped beyond the usual economic guidelines, and began to create common policies regarding such areas as employment, health and the environment.

Events at that time would immediately influence and expedite European unity. In late 1989, the infamous Berlin Wall came crashing down. Less than a year later, East and West Germany were united as the Federal Republic of Germany. Soon, the powerful Soviet Union began to be dismantled, leaving a dozen eastern European nations free to pursue mem-

bership in the EC. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, communism ceased to be a unifying threat for Europe. To the European mind, the Cold War was now over, although unpredictable leaders of Russia still controlled the same vast nuclear arsenal, as before.

It now appeared that the U.S. was the only remaining world superpower. The Soviet Union had virtually collapsed. However, in the wake of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, a series of diplomatic blunders, spanning the mid-to late 1990s set the U.S. at odds with her former allies. This also further exacerbated an existing rift between the U.S. and its former European allies.

In December 1991, EC members established the Treaty of European Union (often called the Maastricht Treaty), giving birth to the European Union (EU). It committed the EU to the aforementioned EMU, specifically that all member states would unify their economies and currencies by 1999. In addition, the Maastricht Treaty created new structures to begin integrating such areas as foreign policy and security, as well as police and judicial matters.

In May 1998, eleven of the fifteen EU members agreed to relinquish their national currencies by January 1, 1999, for a new single European currency—the Euro. Along with this decision came the creation of the European Central Bank (ECB) and, by January 1, 2002, the Euro would replace the physical currencies of those eleven nations.

Power & Control Within the Union

The European Union currently operates within what is commonly referred to as the "pillar system." The main pillar—the European Community (EC)—contains the major governing bodies of the EU, including the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice, and the Court of Auditors. Two other pillars, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA), flank the main EC pillar.

It is the CFSP that has failed Europe thus far. During both the Gulf War in 1991 and the Yugoslavian crisis of 1991 and 1992, the Union was unable to find and present a common position on foreign and security policy. It is the CFSP, however, that holds the greatest potential for execution of military policy.

When an economically strong Union can speak with one voice in regards to foreign and security policy, and back that up with military might, then we will witness a legitimate superpower. Dr. Habsburg, in his book entitled *Macht Jenseits des Marktes; Europa 1992* (Power Beyond the Market; Europe 1992) wrote: "We need, especially in the area of foreign policy, a genuine European government and a European army." It is this "one voice" that is currently lacking, but it is destined to develop in the course of time.

Above, and influencing, all three pillars, is the European Council, a grouping of the national government leaders. It is in a position to shape and coordinate all EU initiatives, and has been essentially responsible for all developments. Its decisions are almost always unanimous, but require the typical and intensive political bargaining and compromise.

As previously stated, the main EC pillar consists of the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice, and the Court of Auditors. The European Commission is the most powerful administrative body of the Union. It differs from the European Council, in that it focuses solely on the EC pillar. It initiates, implements and supervises policy. It is also responsible for the financial management of the EU, as well as being the driving force behind integration. Member governments appoint 20 commissioners (2 each for Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain; one each for the other 10 member countries) to operate this body.

The Council of the European Union (formerly the Council of Ministers) is the primary decision-making power of the EU and is, thus far, the most impor-

tant and influential body. It essentially adopts proposals and then issues instructions to the European Commission. When this Council meets, member governments each send the appropriate minister to discuss the issue at hand. So, for example, if one Council meeting were defense-related, it would consist of 15 defense ministers, but a judicial meeting would consist of 15 justice ministers.

The European Parliament consists of 626 members, elected by EU citizens, and is the ultimate "Tower of Babel" in terms of inefficiencies due to the language barrier. Although it is the only true democratic body of the EU, it is largely powerless. It can block legislation, but rarely introduces it. It was designed as a consulting body, but *can be* ignored; and it has no power over the Council of the European Union. It can, however, dissolve the European Commission through a vote of non-confidence.

Finally, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) oversees all judicial matters for the Union. Each member country appoints one judge to the ECJ. Although it currently has no direct control over national courts, it has, interestingly enough, established that EU law is above national law.

Sitting outside of the three pillars is another powerful EU body—the European Central Bank (ECB). A six-member executive board, chosen by EU member governments, runs the ECB, and has complete power and control over all EU financial policy.

Recent Problems and Frustrations

As we have seen, there are a few governmental bodies within the EU with some power, but not one unified, overriding and controlling influence. Agreement among 15 nations has been, in general, easier in terms of economic cooperation, but much more difficult in foreign and security policy. Europe has lacked the "one voice" on international issues that the United States of America has, for example, in its President. In addition, the accountability of certain bodies has been called into question, causing much embarrassment and consternation for the EU. For example, in 1999 the EP

initiated an independent review of the European Commission's activities. The report cited corruption, cronyism, and poor oversight among several commissioners, which, in turn, caused the entire Commission to resign. Although these are steps backward, they should only be considered "growing pains," and opportunities for the EU to learn and to strengthen itself.

Paul Kennedy indicates (*The Rise and Fall of Great Powers*, 1987, p. 439) that military and political strength tends to follow economic strength: "And despite their recent woes, the EU since 1993, consists of the world's largest economy" (Lester Thurow, *Head to Head*, pp. 24-25.)! "As such, they are the ones writing the rules of the new economic game" (p. 65). "Britain was in this position during the 19th century, the U.S. during the 20th, and now during the 21st century, Europe is writing the rules. All others will have to play along" (p. 75).

Thurow goes on to indicate that the prospects for Europe are just too good to pass on: "An opportunity as good as this one hasn't existed since the fall of the Roman Empire" (pp. 69-70), and that Europe is essentially forced to become larger and stronger, just to financially survive and compete with the American and Japanese economies. William Pfaff had this to say in the June 23, 1986 edition of *The International Herald Tribune*:

"Count France and Britain, or France and Italy together with West Germany, and you have an industrial agglomeration of Soviet size or bigger, and one infinitely more flexible, innovative and technologically sophisticated. If the European Community is considered all together, it makes up the most powerful economic and industrial combination on earth.

"Common American perceptions of Western Europe as a comparatively weak and declining force in world affairs are justified by neither the indices of productive power nor those of potential military strength. The military capacity of Western Europe, collectively, is equivalent to that of either of the superpowers—should the Europeans wish to make use of it."

The development of a European

Constitution, slated for introduction by mid-2003, along with which will come a sort of “European President,” will no doubt provide some, if not all, of this missing “one voice.”

A Common Identity

In addition to lacking a strong leader, Europe currently lacks a socially binding force. Derek Urwin, in the *Encarta Encyclopedia 2001*, summed up the EU’s problem:

“Almost all EU activity has been devoted to building the equivalent of a state. Little effort as been focused on how to create a European nation with a strong bond of identity across national electorates, making them feel they have much, including a future, in common. The issue of a European identity will be a major challenge in the next century.”

The historical sequence of the seven restorations of the Holy Roman Empire, discussed earlier, relates directly to the European power now riding its momentum to its destiny as a world power. This historical phenomenon is actually the realization of an event prophesied in the Bible.

A parallel prophecy of the whore-ridden beast of Revelation 17 is the fourth (ten-horned) beast from Daniel 7. The ten horns represent each revival of the Roman Empire, of which the last seven are the Holy Roman Empire—the Roman Empire controlled by a mysterious “little horn”

(Dan. 7:8), which is none other than the Vatican! Religion, more specifically Roman Catholicism, will soon provide this strong bond of identity. The conditions are approaching ripeness. Much of the European population believes that materialism and capitalism have failed—there is a certain feeling of emptiness, and a loss of direction and morals.

The Roman Catholic Church is aware of this, and is biding its time, waiting for the right moment to once again provide its faith to the nations of Europe, as a way of hope. Pope Pius XII had this to say about Europe and religion: “Europe...had its eras of greatness when a common faith had animated the hearts of its peoples...” and that it “could have its geopolitical greatness again...if it could create a new heart” (Windswept House, 1996, p. 2). Also, in November 1975, Pope Paul VI stated to a gathering of bishops, cardinals and prelates in Rome, that it was their mission to “reawaken Europe’s Christian soul, where its unity is rooted.” He stressed that it was Catholicism “that made Europe” great.

The current pope, John Paul II, from near the beginning of his papacy (1978), has exhorted Europeans to return to their roots—their religious heritage. In October 1988, he had the opportunity to address the European Parliament and said that Europe had “invested...much in the domain of its economic cooperation,” but now “this

part of Europe...[should] be more and more intensely involved in the search [for] her...spiritual cohesion.”

Otto von Habsburg, member of the European Parliament and son of the last empress of Austria (Zita), told editors of *The Plain Truth* in 1989, “The Community is living very largely by the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire, though the great majority of the people who live by it don’t know by what heritage they live.” Again, time and opportunity will provide the Catholic Church circumstances to educate those people.

In addition, Popes and the Vatican historically seek protection from their enemies, especially during times of trouble, and have typically found this protection in Europe. In addition to defense and support, the papacy considered one of the empire’s main responsibilities to be the enforcement of doctrine and the elimination of all heresies. Those who did not conform were dealt with harshly. Conversely, “kings” have often sought legitimacy and/or authority from this “little horn” that sits in Rome.

Coming Soon – The New Europe

We have seen the speed at which Europe has arisen out of the smoldering ashes of World War II. It obviously did not take 100 years as some had thought. We can see now the structure of its government and how the upcoming Constitution and proposals for a

Timeline: Key Dates in European Integration

‘50 ‘51 ‘52 ‘53 ‘54 ‘55 ‘56 ‘57 ‘58 ‘59 ‘60 ‘61 ‘62 ‘63 ‘64 ‘65 ‘66 ‘67 ‘68 ‘69



European President will affect it and the entire world.

Europe will ultimately attain a great height—current events are creating a more desperate European people. Future events will lead to the sound of this powerful “one voice,” and still others will once again bring about the resurgence of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Bible shows that, throughout history, “the kings of the earth have committed fornication” and “have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication” (Rev. 17:2). The Roman Catholic Church—“the woman drunken with the blood of the saints” (vs. 6)—rides the power of the beast.

The final restoration of the Holy Roman Empire will greatly affect the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and the entire world. It will also affect you and me, as it perfectly fulfills its part in God’s Great Plan, leading up to the Return of Jesus Christ.

war against Iraq. The diplomatic wrangling between former allies, especially between the U.S. and France, leading up to the military action, was virtually unheard of until recently, and somewhat shocking and disturbing to most. Unfortunately, however, the war itself quickly turned the focus of many away from the significance of what occurred, the climate that it has created, and its future implications.

History has shown that world powers, great civilizations or empires rise and fall. There is no denying the facts that the British Empire is but a distant memory, that Russia is a shadow of its former self, and that the United States is bound for this same end. In fact, Bible prophecy is quite clear on this.

Most of those with a realistic outlook would agree that socially, the U.S. is on the brink of disaster. The American family and work ethic are fading fast—if not gone already. Some would even argue that America’s economic, political and diplomatic power and might are already significantly declining. Recent events have proven that the U.S. is no longer able to influence the opinions of other nations as it once did. That leaves, finally, the strength of America’s military, which seemingly remains unrivalled and nearly invincible. But again, Bible prophecy indicates otherwise—God will, in fact, miraculously break the “pride of [her] power” (Lev. 26:19),

and then the American Empire will, like the others before it, reach its conclusion.

The end of the Cold War and the temporary decline of Russia as a superpower essentially left the U.S. alone on top of the world. This unrivalled power and the absence of a balancing power created a vacuum. Most nations do not like the idea of America being the world’s only superpower. In addition, the decline of America’s own strength will also create a vacuum. Both of these vacuums will need to be filled.

In an article from *The EUObserver*, former Irish Prime Minister John Bruton pointed out that the U.S., with its heavy borrowing, huge trade deficit and mounting pension bill, cannot sustain its current power. And Europe, Bruton implies, must be proactive in dealing with this situation. We saw in Part 1 of this series the amazing resiliency of the European continent, and the speed at which it was able to rebuild itself (boosted by the Marshall Plan), since its near-destruction after World War II, into the economic powerhouse that it is today. That economic might has enabled Europe to throw its diplomatic weight around—we have witnessed this in recent months.

Some may scoff and doubt Europe’s military might. These people need only study Germany’s history to realize the ability of this proud, industrious and war-loving people to



THE WORLD has reached a significant and historic juncture. Many feel this, with the advent of a U.S.-led

‘70 ‘71 ‘72 ‘73 ‘74 ‘75 ‘76 ‘77 ‘78 ‘79 ‘80 ‘81 ‘82 ‘83 ‘84 ‘85 ‘86 ‘87 ‘88 ‘89

June 30, 1970: Negotiations with four prospective member states (Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom) open in Luxembourg.

Jan. 1, 1973: Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom join the European Community (Norway withdrew following a referendum).

Jan. 22, 1972: The Treaty on the Accession of Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom is signed in Brussels.

Feb. 28, 1975: First Lomé Convention with African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries signed.

March 13, 1979: European Monetary System (EMS) becomes operational.

May 28: The Treaty on the Accession of Greece is signed.

June 7 and 10: The first direct elections to the 410-seat European Parliament are held.

Jan. 1, 1981: Greece joins the European Community.

June 29, 1985: European Council endorses “White Paper” plan to complete single market by end of 1992.

Dec. 2-4: At the Luxembourg European Council, the Ten agree to amend the Treaty of Rome and to revitalize the process of European integration by drawing up a “Single European Act.”

Jan. 1, 1986: Spain and Portugal join the Community.

Feb. 17 and 28: The Single European Act is signed.

April 14, 1987: Turkey applies to join the Community.

July 1: Single European Act (SEA) enters into force.

June 26-27, 1989: Madrid European Council endorses plan for Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

July 17: Austria applies to join the Community.

Nov. 9: The Berlin Wall is breached.

quickly (and quietly) alter their military status—they have proven that unquenchable resilience time and again. Also keep in mind the nuclear capabilities of France, the military assets (including nuclear missiles) still deployed in some eastern European nations as remnants of the Cold War, as well as a Europe-Russia military alliance.

Others may argue that socially, Europe is not very different from the U.S. However, history has also shown that many countries in Europe have had, and still do have, a special relationship with the Roman Catholic Church. Do not doubt history!

Bible prophecy, or history written in advance, indicates that this relationship will once again be renewed—Daniel 7 pictures a beast with 10 horns, the last seven of which are ruled by a little horn. Revelation 13 pictures a beast with a seventh head having 10 horns. Revelation 17 pictures a great harlot riding a beast with seven heads, the seventh of which has 10 horns. All of these portray a soon-coming, unified European/Vatican power. (For a detailed explanation, read our free booklet *Who or What is the BEAST of Revelation?*)

Prophecy stands sure! The Roman Catholic Church will soon provide the moving force and empowerment Europe needs to become the next world superpower—this seventh and final restoration of the Holy Roman Empire.



The European Emblem: Adopted in 1986, the flag of the European Union displays a circle of twelve golden stars, representing the union of the peoples of Europe. The number of stars is fixed at twelve, symbolizing perfection and unity.

Current Events

To place current events into context, and to understand their future implications, we have to go back to a watershed moment in recent world history—September 11, 2001.

The attack on America by Islamic extremists did create a short period of pro-American sentiment. Nearly every nation in the world, including France, Germany, Russia and China, expressed their sorrow and condolences to the American people, along with their support for an international “war on terrorism.”

The war in Afghanistan, to rid that country of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda training camps, was a multi-national effort with eventual success. A few months later, however, one would be hard-pressed to see any remnants of that original support. France and Germany had suddenly united themselves in what seemed to be a very

anti-American stance. During this same time, the EU has been busy working on its Convention on the Future of Europe, which will eventually produce a European Constitution and President.

Many will recall the “Hitler-Bush” statement made by the German Minister of Justice during the summer of 2002. The media and most of the world attached no meaning to this, eventually dismissing it as political rhetoric only necessary to ensure Chancellor Schröder’s re-election.

However, in a very telling article for *The National Review* titled “Remembrance of Things Past—The German Way,” Victor Davis Hanson described that infamous statement as a sign of a much deeper—but historically familiar—socio-political thought process. He pointed out several other statements from electioneering politicians: Jürgen Möllemann of the Free Democrats spoke of the “intolerant, spiteful style” of some prominent Jews. Former Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping complained that President Bush was trying to please “a powerful, perhaps overly powerful, Jewish lobby.” Schröder himself promised that Germany would not simply “click their heels,” then referred to the “German way,” and said that Germany’s decisions would “be made in Berlin—and only in Berlin.”

Some may insist that all of this is political rhetoric, but Davis concluded his article with these chilling words:

'90 '91 '92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99 '00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09

Oct. 3, 1990: A united Germany enters the Community.

Jan. 1, 1993: European single market is achieved on time.
Nov. 1: Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty) enters into force.

Jan. 1, 1995: Austria, Finland, and Sweden join the European Union.

Oct. 21, 1991: European Community and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) agree to form the European Economic Area (EEA).
Dec. 11: Maastricht European Council (EC) agrees on Treaty on European Union.
Dec. 16: Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia sign first Europe Agreements on trade and political cooperation.

March 12, 1998: European conference launches consultations on issues related to Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Justice and Home Affairs (JHA).
March 30-31: EU opens membership negotiations with Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia.
May 2: Eleven EU member states qualify to launch the euro.
June 1: European Central Bank (ECB) inaugurated in Frankfurt, Germany.

June 17, 1997: Treaty of Amsterdam is concluded.

Jan. 1, 1999: EMU and euro launched in 11 EU countries.

May 1: Treaty of Amsterdam enters into force.

Sept. 15: European Parliament approves new European Commission.

Dec. 10-11: EC decides to open accession negotiations with Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, and the Slovak Republic, and to recognize Turkey as a candidate country.

June 23, 2000: A new partnership agreement between the EU and the ACP countries is signed.

Dec. 7-11: European Council agrees on Treaty of Nice; EU leaders formally proclaim the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*.

Jan. 1, 2001: Greece joins the euro area.

Jan.-Feb. 2002: Euro becomes legal tender, permanently replacing national currencies in EMU countries.

“Mr. Schröder has no idea of the repressed historic forces that he has unleashed both at home and abroad—but unleashed them he most certainly has.”

At issue in 2002, regarding defense and security, was the UK’s vision that the new European and Security Defence Policy (ESDP) maintain strong institutional links with NATO, while France viewed it as a more distant, eventually independent structure. Indeed, by mid-January 2003, Gustav Hägglund, chairman of the Military Committee of the European Union, announced that the European part of NATO and the ESDP would merge.

This essentially gives Europe an immediate military structure (largely paid for by the U.S.) and, although basic, it is almost continental. France and Germany, in the meantime, released several joint proposals regarding European defense and security. This includes, as reported in *The Telegraph*, a proposal to the Convention on the Future of Europe for a new “Euro Army” that would eventually cut all ties with whatever remains of NATO and go far beyond the 60,000-troop “rapid reaction force” that was initially in the works. France and Germany even indicated that they might proceed with implementation of this plan regardless of acceptance by the EU.

The timing of this Franco-German alliance and U.S.-led war in Iraq is also of some interest. An article by William Safire in the *International Herald Tribune* indicated that the recent split between U.S./U.K. and mainland Europe (controlled and fronted largely by France and Germany) is all by German design. Case in point: France was poised to deploy troops and its aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf early this year, when quite suddenly they seemed to do an about-face.

It appears that Schröder made an offer to Chirac that he simply could not refuse: Let us reignite the Franco-German motor and control all of Europe. We will propose a long-term President for the EU that would coincide with but dominate any President

of the European Commission that the Parliament chooses. In return, France had to turn their back on promises made to the U.S. in regard to the coming war on Iraq.

France apparently had told Colin Powell last autumn that no second UN resolution would be necessary. Quite suddenly then, France surprisingly threatened to veto any second resolution. The U.S. had insisted all along that no second resolution was necessary. It appears that Germany’s intention may now be to cut away the Atlantic part of the NATO alliance, essentially leaving the U.S. and the UK on their own, and France and Germany to go their own way, controlling the rest of Europe and building their new superpower.

The pre-war wrangling between France, Germany, the U.S. and the UK, has had significant and lasting effects. An April 2003 visit to the EU by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was, for all intents and purposes, an attempt by both parties to “mend fences,” but if the above Franco-German deal is indeed solid, time will tell that there may be no such fence left to mend.

A European Constitution and President

The Convention on the Future of Europe, headed by former French President Valéry Giscard d’Estaing, is due to release its final proposals to the heads of member states during the spring and early summer of 2003. The main points of significance will be a European Constitution and a European President. Some other interesting proposals include:

- A constitutional treaty that may replace and supersede all previous ones (including the two current main ones that created the European Community and the European Union).

- A new name (one proposal is the “United States of Europe”).

- The governments of EU member states would get one chance to ratify this new constitution. If their citizenry (in a referendum) or their government fails to accept the new treaty, they may find themselves out of the new Europe.

- A European Congress made up of

European and national parliamentarians.

- A President appointed by Congress. (*The Financial Times* reported in January 2003 that German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer is even pushing for the President to be head of both the European Commission and the European Council—which would essentially make him a very powerful President of Europe, especially if he is appointed by a “Congress” as opposed to voted in by the people.)

- Europe’s ability to sign treaties and sit on international bodies (e.g., the United Nations).

- European citizenship (that may eventually supersede and/or replace national citizenship).

The European Commissioners for France and Germany, as reported in *The EUObserver*, even called for a Franco-German federation as the beginning of what some refer to as the “Core Europe.” The proposal indicates that members of this federation would have common governmental institutions, as well as common foreign, security and financial policies. There is some fear among European politicians that the power of the EU will be diminished when it reaches 25 countries in 2004. To counter this watering-down effect, a German named Wolfgang Schäuble introduced the idea of a “Core Europe” during the 1990s. The intention, it is made clear, is not to “build an island without bridges to the European Union.” Other EU countries would be permitted to join this new “Core Europe” if and when they share the goals of the initial Franco-German federation.

As Stephen Castle reported in *The Independent*, some of the stated objectives of the United States of Europe would be “economic and social cohesion, protection of common values, high employment, liberty, security and justice, foreign policy.”

Yet, despite these noble-sounding and lofty objectives, the Daniel 2 image with two feet and ten toes made of a mixture of iron and clay, which represents this final restoration of the Holy Roman Empire, indicates that there will be elements of both strength

and weakness. The strength will come from the iron—the weakness from it being mixed with clay—the fact that ten “kings” or nations will have to unite and agree with the one ruler over them and his alliance with the Roman Catholic Church.

An Important Alliance— Church and State

The Vatican has been closely monitoring the proceedings of the Convention on the Future of Europe, and providing input. At each step, it seems that important European politicians are headed to Rome for a visit with the Pope and other Vatican advisors. The Vatican’s position is made obvious, as indicated by parts of the Pope’s address to the Italian parliament in November of 2002: “If lasting stability is to be given to the new unity of Europe, there must be a commitment to ensuring that it is supported on those ethical foundations which were once its basis” (*The New York Times*).

The Pope went on to say that it was important to ensure that it is built with “the cement of that extraordinary religious, cultural and civic heritage that has made Europe great down through the centuries” (*The Financial Times*). He then pleaded, “Europe, at the beginning of the new millennium, open once again your doors to Christ” (*The New York Times*).

With some rather interesting language, the Vatican, through its semi-official newspaper *L’Osservatore Romano*, commented on Europe’s decision to accept 10 new countries in 2004. The headline read, “New Europe Is Born,” and the article stated that the continent “has not missed the appointment with history.”

The Catholic Church in Poland has been particularly determined in regard to this issue, and hopes to make “Christian values” definite in all of Europe. Prominent religious leader Zoséf Zycinski said, “We do not have the right to use the stones of the Berlin wall to build a new tower of Babel without Christian foundations” (*EUObserver*).

Although the requested mention of Europe’s “Christian heritage” in the new Constitution has received most of

the media’s attention, some of the other requests are even more significant. According to a report from the *Zenit News Agency*, Cardinal Sodano, the Vatican’s Secretary of State, stated that the Catholic Church is looking for the following three issues to be covered in Europe’s upcoming Constitution:

■ Each church and/or religion must be free to organize itself within its “statutes and objectives.” [Editor’s note: Will this guarantee be above national laws?]

■ The identities of each church and/or religion must be “safeguarded,” and dialogue between these institutions and the State must be maintained. [Editor’s note: The Roman Catholic Church is looking to be treated as a state-equal, and is insisting that the usual political and diplomatic ties are maintained between Europe and The Vatican.]

■ Member states must “respect” the jurisdiction of the church and/or religion, especially in regard to national legislation. [Editor’s note: This essentially answers the question posed above: Yes, the guarantee will indeed be above national laws.]

Cardinal Sodano pointed out that the inclusion of Europe’s “religious heritage” is not the weightiest of matters. He went on to indicate that a recent poll, taken in the 15 member states and the 10 states awaiting admission (in 2004), shows that 81% of the citizens identify themselves with “Christianity.” Sodano said, “To exclude this factor would be like constructing Europe without taking Europeans in due consideration. It would contradict the principles of genuine pluralism and, therefore, of a healthy democracy.”

To really envision how the new Europe—this final Holy Roman Empire—will benefit from an alliance with the Vatican, and what the two will do to those under and around them, we must also look at historical examples, including some from previous occurrences of the Holy Roman Empire.

The Harper Collins *Encyclopaedia of Catholicism* gives us a synopsis of the first two emperors. Justinian I (527 to 565) produced codes of legislation that served the empire well and influ-

enced, during and after his reign, both civil and church law. Charlemagne (800 to 814) subdued, in 774, the Lombards, who had been threatening Rome. As emperor, he was able to exercise great influence over the Vatican.

Due to further military conquests and protection given to the Catholic domain, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne “Emperor of the Romans” on Christmas Day, 800. Charlemagne’s vision of a united European commonwealth based on the concepts of “renewed learning” and “religious unity” was indeed successful because he, through his influence and alliance with the Pope, was able to control almost every aspect of secular and religious life, including episcopal appointments, reforms, and the summoning and presiding at all church councils.

Once again, in the mid-900s, the Vatican, this time under Pope John XII, appealed to German king Otto I for protection from Berengar, the count of Ivrea. In recognition of his services, Otto was crowned Emperor (the third of seven) by the Pope in February 962. Otto and John XII drew up the *Ottonianum*, an agreement of mutual dependency, which contained clauses stating that any new pope must fulfill all obligations to the emperor. In return, the emperor would provide protection to the church and its interests (*The Oxford Illustrated History of Medieval Europe*, p. 187).

In 1208, Pope Innocent III organized the Albigensian Crusade, backed by many of the authorities in northern, pro-Catholic France, the objective of which was to eliminate a determined group of Sabbath-keepers in southern France, the Waldenses. Refusing orders from the church to subjugate the Waldenses, the civil authorities in that region paid the ultimate price—destruction at the hands of this horrendous, church-sanctified crusade. The Roman Catholic Church expected all civil authorities to submit to her—those who refused would be harshly dealt with.

This crusade literally destroyed the Provençal civilization, one of the most brilliant in Europe at that time. In the

wake of the 20-year campaign, this decimated region became completely backward, and subservient to Paris and Rome.

To completely eliminate further religious objections, Rome instituted the infamous Inquisition. Anyone even suspected of sympathizing with “heretics” was sentenced to severe punishment by papal decree. For the next hundred years, confiscations, imprisonments, burnings and every imaginable form of persecution were implemented to stamp out those who dared to differ with Rome (see our booklet *The History of God’s TRUE CHURCH*, ch. 4).

Blum, Cameron and Barnes had this to say in regard to Europe, Europeans and the Roman Catholic Church, prior to the Reformation:

“In 1500 Europeans generally still spoke of Christendom rather than Europe to denote the greater entity to which they belonged. The distinction is significant. Europe is a secular concept that came into vogue only in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; Christendom was a spiritual concept, ideationally, not geographically, descriptive. It bore witness to the unity of Western men under the apostolic Church of Rome.

“All except pockets of religious minorities—the Jews, Eastern Orthodox Christians in eastern Europe, Moslems—worshipped according to the same basic rites, accepted the Church’s claim that it alone held the keys to salvation, and recognized the pope as the final authority on matter of Church government, faith, and morals” (*The European World—A History*, p. 118).

Pope Paul III approved the Society of Jesus (whose members were later and more commonly known as the Jesuits) in 1540, during Charles V’s reign as emperor of the fourth restoration. It operated under direct papal command, with the objectives during the counter-reformation to “convert the heathen, to reconvert the lapsed, and, above all, to educate” (Norman Davies, *Europe—A History*, p. 496).

Some quotes from its founder, Íñigo López de Recalde (better known

as Ignatius Loyola, his official Catholic name) include: “I have never left the Army,” “I have only been seconded to the service of God,” and “Give me a boy at the age of seven, and he will be mine for ever.” Eventually, the Jesuits came to be known as the church’s “secret police” and were eventually assumed to be accountable to no one. Their power was somewhat reduced in 1773, but reinstated in 1814.

The sixth restoration of the Holy Roman Empire, culminating in the Hitler/Mussolini Axis power during World War II, is perhaps the most familiar to most readers, as it is the most recent. The decades leading up to 1939 were dark ones for many countries. Since the unification of Italy in 1870, the Italian civil government had not enjoyed very good relations with the church.

In 1922, with fascist forces marching on Rome, King Victor Emmanuel III was essentially forced to ask Mussolini to form a new government. In 1929, however, Pope Pius XI and Mussolini signed the conciliatory Lateran Treaty, which, among other things, restored some African countries as Italian territory, guaranteed the role of the church in the life of Italy, especially as the official religion and educator, and gave the pope’s approval for Mussolini’s dictatorship.

In Germany, Hitler was named Chancellor in January 1933 and, with support of the Catholic Center Party, was able to pass the Enabling Act in April, essentially giving him emergency dictatorial powers. By the summer, Germany and the Vatican had signed a Concordat to protect the church’s rights.

In his book *Hitler’s Pope, The Secret History of Pius XII*, John Cornwell pointed out that Pope Pius XII failed to denounce Hitler and Nazism in his October 1939 encyclical (pp. 233-234).

In addition, Cornwell made evident Pius’ silence in regard to the reports that became known during the early years of the war, of Germany’s mass execution of Jews, citing, “Christianity, and Catholicism in particular, had a long history of anti-

Judaism on religious grounds that had by no means abated in the twentieth century” (p. 280).

Anti-Americanism, Anti-Anglicism and Anti-Semitism

We mentioned earlier the dramatic swing in world opinion toward America after September 11, 2001 and leading up to the war in Iraq. This is especially the case in some European countries that were traditionally loyal American allies. Suddenly, however, it had become very popular to hate America, and, by extension due to their loyal support, the UK.

A poll conducted in late 2002, by the non-partisan Pew Research Center (Washington, D.C.), in association with the *International Herald Tribune* (Neuilly Cedex, France), found that large percentages of Germans, French and Russians opposed any war against Iraq. They believe that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is much more important to Middle East stability, and are generally suspicious of American motives.

At the annual meeting (January 2003) of the World Economic Forum, the outlook was bleak, and all fingers pointed in blame to the United States. A year of corporate scandals, rotating executives, and falling stocks, combined with the threat of war, all provided good ammunition for such pessimistic feelings. And all of these issues are almost directly related to the U.S.

There was concern that a war in Iraq would almost certainly drive up oil and gasoline prices, and increase the likelihood of another terrorist attack, both of which would have tremendously detrimental effects on consumer confidence. Almost every nation seemed to be looking to the U.S. economy as the leading indicator of any sort of global recovery.

A report by the European Monitoring Center on Racism and Xenophobia found that, as has been somewhat the norm at certain times throughout history, social and economic factors are again fueling racial prejudice against Jews, and that these prejudices are on the verge of becoming acceptable. Typically, the coverage by European media, and most political

The European Union Today



statements by governments, in regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, have been anti-Israeli.

The Creation of Desperation

The European economy and, more specifically, the German economy, the largest and most important, has been faltering for some time.

An article by John Schmid in the *International Herald Tribune*, on a report released by the McKinsey

Company's Global Institute, indicated that average productivity growth in Germany slowed significantly through the second half of the 1990s. Although some may believe this to be a weakness, more importantly, it indicates a prolonged condition of political unwillingness that will eventually have dramatic socio-political consequences.

In the same article, Juergen Kluge, head of McKinsey's German opera-

tions said, "The political thinking in Germany—and this applies to two-thirds of the political class in all the parties—is that productivity gains automatically mean lost jobs."

A December 2002 article in *The Financial Times* cited several large German companies as indicating that their country was facing its biggest crisis since World War II, and they questioned their current government's willingness and/or ability to handle it.

Such a political stagnation will eventually force a population, through a seemingly ever-increasing unemployment rate and other pressures, to reach a boiling point.

The creation of a desperate people typically creates a desperate environment. Desperate societies have been known to vote for and allow desperate governments!

The Beast Dominated by Rome

We know a vacuum exists. We have seen how recent and current events have created and are creating an environment ripe for the picking. Europe is on the verge of taking its next big step by instituting a powerful Constitution and President. The Roman Catholic Church is insisting on very specific involvement in this new United States of Europe.

History has proven that European “kings” typically ally with the church from Rome for their mutual benefit. Very recent history has exposed a viral hatred for, and an eagerness to bring down, the U.S., UK and Israel. The continuing economic decline in Europe, and specifically Germany, slowly increases the pressure on its people, and creates a certain sense of desperation, thereby creating a willingness to allow desperate measures.

Revelation 17 portrays a whore riding a seven-headed beast, the seventh head having ten horns. Very plainly, she, as the rider, will control and maneuver the beast to do her bidding—in fact, she will even require her subjects to worship the beast!

The ten horns are ten kings of central Europe who will receive power and give their allegiance to a great leader. This leader, represented by the beast and allied with the Roman church, along with those 10 kings who unite under him, will be the seventh and final restoration of the Holy Roman Empire, to appear with great speed and force. The world will be shocked by the ferociousness of what is now a rather docile EU!

This final Holy Roman Empire has already allied with Russia. Right now, the EU and Russia are drawing closer and closer, and cooperating more and more in regard to defense and security, trade and travel. This will provide Europe with strategic access to Russian oil supplies, as well as their military technology and production capabilities.

God has historically used Assyria to punish His nation of Israel. The modern-day descendents of Assyria are none other than the Germans! And so they, as the largest and strongest nation

of this final Holy Roman Empire, will be used one last time to mete out punishment, in what the Bible calls the Great Tribulation, on the modern-day descendants of Israel—primarily the United States, United Kingdom and the remnants of its empire.

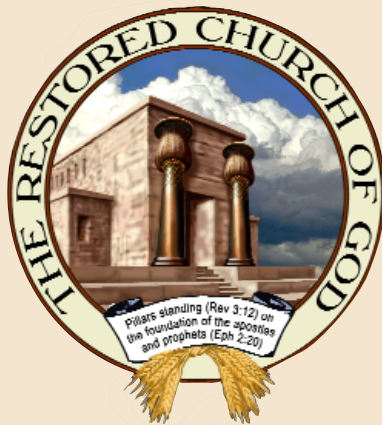
Finally, Europe will break off its alliance with Russia and attack her. Russia, then allied with the “great hordes” of men from the east (China, possibly along with Japan, India, etc.), will counter-attack and cause great destruction (Rev. 9:13-21).

In the end, at Christ’s Return, His power and strength—His government—will destroy and permanently replace (Dan. 2:34, 44-45) the two feet and ten toes of the final Holy Roman Empire.

But first, in fact at this very moment, a great dark cloud is forming over the world. A tremendous power is rising right now in Europe to dominate all nations, requiring observance of its way and worship of its image.

However, there *is* a way to escape.

A warning is now being given. Listen carefully. Read carefully. Act now. For there will come a time when this warning will no longer be able to be given—and then it will be too late... □



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PC009/030516