

Jihad Al-Kuffar

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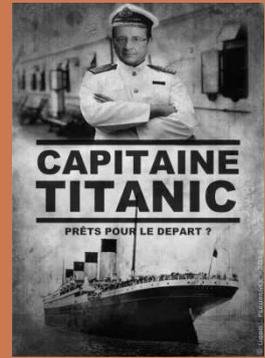
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## LA DÉBÂCLE

March 24, 2014

Even though a recent event in France did not make headlines all over the world, you might have heard that a right-wing party (Front National) made significant gains in local elections on Sunday, March 23. Actually, “the FN, an anti-EU party demanding tough curbs on immigration, took the lead in Avignon, Perpignan, Beziers and Frejus in the south. It was also in second place in Marseille.” [cf., <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26715061>].



Perhaps, the result does not really appear to be surprising, especially when we focus on the great disaster and complete failure (*débâcle*) of President François Hollande and his Socialist Party. The defeat was somehow expected, since the French economy was not expanding and a “protest vote” was the natural reaction to a European policy that is often perceived as a perfect instrument to make the interests of some countries (first of all, Germany) and destroy the economy of other member states (including France). For instance, François Hollande’s approval rating sank below 20 percent in February and several satirical articles represent a crude measure of common feelings that are shared by many people across France. An example is given by the picture above, which was copied from the web page <http://sans-langue-de-bois.eklablog.fr/hollande-n-a-visiblement-pas-etudie-la-trajectoire-du-titanic-a106592934>, published on February 21, 2014.

That said, it seems a good idea to make a distinction between the consequences of strict budget rules and the impact of uncontrolled immigration. Indeed, the severe limit on budget deficit (imposed by the European Union) does not allow several governments to assure adequate pensions or support welfare policies (or provide social benefits to citizens who used to make a living out of overpaid wages and/or political activities and/or socially useful jobs). Nonetheless, there are also positive aspects. Just to give an example, strict rules stop inflation (which might easily rise to double digits). Perhaps, this is poor consolation for many citizens, but a lot of people would immediately suffer, if their countries were forced to buy raw materials, natural gas and oil with local currencies, instead of using euros.

Sure enough, it would have been far better to clearly explain the rules of the game when the Eurozone was established, instead of pretending to ignore that certain governments did not meet basic requirements. However, it is also true that some “weak” countries did improve their average standards of living thanks to the “European experience”. Some of them were even saved by means of resources, which were made available by other member states, despite some grumbling over poor balance sheets (e.g., complaints by German officials, always fond of strong financial rigor) and despite inevitable reactions, in the midst of desperate cries coming from countries where large layers of the population were losing their jobs (e.g., Greece).

As for the problem concerned with *wild immigration*, it is rather different and might cause non-reversible effects. Immigration has often been encouraged (especially by left-wing parties and religious organizations) with enthusiastic participation of huge masses of supporters, but the harsh reality in which we live might suggest that many plans should be cancelled or, at the very least, revised. Thus, it is fairly obvious that more and more people start listening to politicians, who claim that a certain level of solidarity is not sustainable. And we can easily understand the reason of many voters, if we remember that even illegal immigrants benefit from social aid, while unemployment and poverty keep plaguing the citizens of Western countries.

Some pages of *Jihad Al-Kuffar* deal with *wild immigration*, paying special attention to the terrorist threat, since radical fighters often mingle with innocent people, who simply look for new opportunities. However, even though we do not recognize (or do not want to recognize) the danger posed by terrorist organizations, there is still a major problem: the combined presence of masses that feel deprived of their jobs (because of an excessive number of immigrants) and masses that look for a different world (far from their hopeless countries). Of course, the “combined presence” of unsatisfied, frustrated mobs can easily turn into *civil unrest* and this issue is often discussed in *Jihad Al-Kuffar*. Similarly, it is stated that the increasing cost of social welfare is a floating mine and its consequences are unpredictable.

A good example of the message given by *Jihad Al-Kuffar* can be found in Chapter 9. As often happens, a fighter is talking to a fellow militant about some policies, which appear to be quite popular in the Western world, but are filled with dangerous traps and are likely to dramatically affect the lives of the poorest people. Of course, the fighter does not hesitate to give vent to his feelings, when he mulls over the collateral damage that might change the fate of liberal democracies, sooner or later:

*[Think] of the help given by columnists and intellectuals who gained popularity with demagogic arguments and never placed an emphasis on the resources needed to set up reception centers, provide medical care, guarantee security, and possibly, run overcrowded jails. Most of the media simply suggest that wild immigration doesn't entail any cost. In the end, only a few people complain that the money needed to handle immigrants could be used for the poor who already fill Western countries. The mirage of a new age is so captivating that it blinds millions of guys—starting with folks who are denied subsidies, since funds are diverted to other purposes, maybe to free lodging for Third-World families or nursery schools for the kids of illegal immigrants. Lots of citizens seem to be happy with this virtuous policy; they fully agree on progressive plans and keep voting for parties that are fond of alien cultures.*

No doubt, “lots of citizens seem to be happy” and “keep voting for parties that are fond of alien countries”. One day, however, they might change their minds. More importantly, if nothing changes, the consequences of social tensions might get out of control, as already happened in the suburbs (or *banlieues*) of Paris, France, in 2005 and 2007. When the riots broke out, there was heavy damage, but fortunately everything was over pretty soon. Yet, the problem is still there, maybe worse than ever before. Probably, it is wise to seriously think about the future, in France as well as in other countries that are inspired by feelings of international solidarity, but are also oppressed by social systems and bureaucratic machines that do not succeed in paying decent salaries to men and women who have always been citizens of those countries.

## CRIMEA & KOSOVO, UKRAINE & CUBA (& LIBYA)

September 14, 2014

A few pages are enough to understand that *Jihad Al-Kuffar* was written by someone who had always been moved by a strong desire to defend traditional values of the Free (Western) World and put an end to devastating ideological doctrines, including the Communist religion. No doubt, the author of *Jihad Al-Kuffar*



has never been fond of the Soviet Union and its bureaucrats (dead or alive or still in power, perhaps wearing a different uniform). However, he does not feel that it is a good idea to slam Russia (the most authoritative heir to the Soviet Empire) at all costs. And he does not believe that the West should establish strategies in a cold war climate. More importantly, he is not inclined to forget history (*i.e.*, some historical facts, which are quite recent and should not be condemned to oblivion).

Let us start with Crimea, a land that was annexed to the Russian Empire in 1793 and continued to be Russian until 1954, when Nikita Khrushchev (ethnically Russian but very sympathetic toward Ukraine) took the decision to transfer the Crimea Province from the Soviet Federative Socialist Republic of Russia to the Soviet Socialist Republic of Ukraine. Ironically, it is usually claimed that the donation was something like a symbolic gesture, 300 years after Ukraine became a part of the *Tsardom* of Russia. Probably, Khrushchev's initiative was motivated by the noble aim of renewing the friendship and mutual cooperation between two major republics of the Soviet Union!

When it comes to the year 2014, everybody remembers the events that followed the fall of a Ukrainian President, Viktor Yanukovich. In the end, Russia *de facto* annexed Crimea. Note that everything took place relatively quickly, without any bloodshed and without the classical loss of innocent lives, which usually represents the collateral effect of military actions.

That said, may I ask if you see any similarity with Kosovo? Let's have a look... and we will probably find some common features (for instance, in both places independence sentiments ran high) and interesting differences (for instance, Kosovo had been a Serbian land for several centuries, but its independence was hailed as a shining beacon of hope by statesmen/governments/institutions/networks that were ready to blame the Russian annexation of Crimea).

Actually, Kosovo belonged to the Serbs (not the Albanians) even in the fourteenth century. Kosovo is also the very region where the Serbs tried to defend their freedom against the Ottoman Empire. It happened when they fought the so-called Battle of Kosovo (June 15, 1389). Unfortunately for the Serbs, they suffered a tragic defeat. However, that battle has always been a symbol of the Serbian patriotism—and these sentiments became particularly evident in the nineteenth century, when there was a rise of nationalism against the Ottomans, or at the time of Slobodan Milošević, after the collapse of Yugoslavia, which caused a civil war and eventually provoked intervention by Western powers.

All of us certainly remember that the Western powers decided to wage a so-called *humanitarian war* and NATO planes began to strike Serbia in 1999. The *humanitarian war* broke out when the Kosovars were severely hit by the Serbs. The *animosity* of the Serbs was quite evident, but it looks reasonable and legitimate to point out that the Serbs had to cope with a problem that had been intentionally caused by Josip Broz Tito, the former dictator of Yugoslavia. Actually, this farsighted man had made his best to fill Kosovo with Albanians and prevent the Serbs from returning to their homeland, even though they had been forced to abandon Kosovo during World War 2. Sure enough, under the enlightened anti-Soviet, anti-Serbian Tito's dictatorship, the percentage of Serbian Kosovars continued to decrease—by the way, did you know that Tito was born in Slovenia, near the border with Croatia, and was always a staunch opponent of the Serbs?

We are well aware of the end of the stories (of Kosovo and Crimea):

► Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in February 2008, gaining diplomatic recognition as a

sovereign state by some one hundred countries, which do not include Russia

► Crimea is part of the Russian Federation, as claimed by Russia itself, while the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262, adopted on March 27, 2014, and supported by some one hundred countries, insists that Crimea must be recognized within Ukraine's international borders

Here, I do not want to insist on the humiliating conditions that the West tried to impose on the Serbs before the air raids. Neither do I want to mention the collateral damage and the loss of innocent civilians during the NATO air strikes. I would simply like to confess that I am a bit puzzled by some political, diplomatic developments. Most of all, I cannot understand why Kosovo should be an independent state (in accordance with the will of the Western powers) and Crimea should not be a Federal District of the Russian Federation (again in accordance with the will of the Western powers).

In other words, I believe that the Russians have some reason to assume that an Ukraine without Crimea is much more justifiable than a Serbia without Kosovo. The Russians, however, also have other issues to consider. First, why should they be happy if Ukraine gains access to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization? Second, even though the Cold War is now over (as President Barack Obama often claims), would the US be glad to see Russian missiles deployed in Cuba or Venezuela? There seem to be some diplomatic rules that cannot be ignored and Ukraine (whether you like it or not) is a key element of these rules.

Diplomacy also requires that you cannot keep punching a strategic ally (as Russia was supposed to be until a few months ago). If you don't stop, sooner or later that ally will certainly fight back (with the support of nationalist movements and, why not?, anti-Western sentiments spread across the country).

Let's put it this way. Kosovo was not enough: the Western powers also felt the need to attack Gaddafi! Their intentions were certainly good, but was it worth it? So far, the outcome of the military adventure in Libya is not encouraging and can be summarized as follows:

- a blow to the Russian prestige
- a blow to the Libyan economy
- a blow to the security of the Libyan people and foreign investors
- a blow to a US Mission in Benghazi
- a blow to the development of a secular Libya, substantially free from radical violence

Finally, it is wise to remember that the Russians could be very helpful in the war on terror. Their approach is different from Western tactics, but not necessarily worse. Surely, they have often proved to be very determined. Some remarks about their war on terror can also be found in *Jihad Al-Kuffar* (Chapter 15), when a radical militant talks to a fellow fighter and discusses the details of an attack that is being planned by Chechen terrorists. The dialogue takes place in Grozny, Chechnya, in 2001—and a group of terrorists eventually seized some 700 hostages in a Moscow theater a year later. That radical militant does not seem very happy with the plan. He is sure that the Russians will not surrender, nor yield to blackmail. His words sound like a premonition of death for the terrorists who will participate in the operation:

*I already imagine what you can get from the Russians. They would listen to you for some time, trying to wear you out. But if you only kill a hostage, they won't hesitate to use stun grenades or gas or another tool of Satan. Your mujahideen will be stone dead before they succeed in grabbing a gun.*

**P.S.:** As pointed out in this blog last year [c.f. ARCHIVE: Posts2013, post dated June 5, 2013], it must be acknowledged that the Western powers have apparently learned a lesson. Indeed, after taking a strong stand against Bashar al-Assad (a political friend of Russia), they decided to keep a low profile. Probably, they eventually realized that a reliable new leadership was not yet available.

**P.P.S.:** Please note that *Jihad Al-Kuffar* cannot be viewed as a book in favor of Gaddafi or Assad, as clearly stated in several pages

## LET 'S TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT SOMALIA, IRAQ AND SYRIA

October 20, 2014

I am sure that all of us remember the movie *Black Hawk Down* and the years of the US intervention in Somalia. That business in Africa came to an end pretty soon. In fact, the US military was deployed to Somalia in 1992 and left the area in 1995. The whole thing was far from being a success, despite the optimistic words that were used to put emphasis on the scope of the mission: *Operation Restore Hope*.



Several countries got involved in the adventure and several people fell victims (e.g., Pakistani and Italian troops, as well as a nurse of the Italian Red Cross and an Italian journalist together with her camera operator).

Interestingly enough, another operation (*Provide Relief*) had been launched a few years before in Somalia. As suggested by its charming name, the basic idea seemed to be that some troops had to be mobilized and sent to a war area with a smile and with the illusion that they would be in total control of the region—maybe after an enthusiastic welcome by local kids.

Unfortunately, the very initial hypothesis was definitely wrong (and centuries of history are not enough to learn an easy lesson). Indeed, there is a continuous brainwashing process going on (especially in the Western world) that prevents the vast majority of the people from understanding the difference between reality and utopia.

In the name of the noblest ideals of mankind, there is a non-written rule: millions of refugees must be free to move across the world, the West must send almost unarmed soldiers to war areas and the fate of any underdeveloped country must immediately change as soon as a bloody tyrant is toppled. Yet, there are plenty of examples that tell a completely different story. Countries like France and the United Kingdom often go through some turmoil because they are filled with citizens who come from different cultures. Many so-called humanitarian operators and peacekeepers have lost their lives in the Middle East. After the military intervention in Libya, the world got rid of Gaddafi, but the international scenario has not improved and the Libyan people do not give the impression to live better than before.

As we turn to Iraq, we can make similar remarks—but with an important difference. In Iraq there was a dictator, who had proved to be a threat for the West and surrounding countries (including Iran). One day, somebody took the decision to tackle the problem, despite an overwhelming wave of popular protests and desperate pacifism. Almost unanimously, the world took a stand against George W. Bush, from the Syrian President to the German Chancellor, from the French President to the Pope. And instead of keeping a tight rein on a dangerous country filled with dangerous militants indoctrinated by a dangerous *raïs*, most of the Western world (even after the fall of Saddam Hussein) preferred to abandon the Americans until a Nobel Prize Laureate, Barack Obama, eventually took the *wise* decision to abandon Iraq. And we all know the consequences...

Syria is another country in which violence has found an excellent breeding ground for decades. And finally that violence turned against its main sponsor and his regime. After promoting wars on Israel, after destroying Lebanon, after supporting Hezbollah, after keeping close relationships with Iran in order to fight the Great Satan, Bashar al-Assad and his friends are the targets of the most excited Sunni military groups, starting with ISIS.

Meanwhile, the West is licking its wounds, because it decided that there was no need to take adequate measures in Iraq. With a litany of demagogic arguments, the world praised the countries which did not want to be involved in the *Bush's War* and breathed a huge sigh of relief when the *US invasion* was

over. And today a gang of fanatic gunmen is threatening a vast region, a few miles from Turkey, Damascus and Baghdad. In practice, the Western world has intentionally, scientifically chosen a strategy that was anticipated in the book *Jihad Al-Kuffar* a few years ago. An example can be found in Chapter 14, when a radical militant conveys his sentiments to a fellow fighter:

*Allah willing, certain fundamental truths are so strongly rooted that nobody will ever dare to launch a preemptive war. This is the blessed strategy of the governments that want to be sure that a war can only start at a moment of our choice, when our arsenals are rich enough to blow up their countries or when Iran and its Hezbollah allies have all they need to wipe Israel off the map. If the concept of preemptive attacks prevailed in Western societies, we'd see the death of our struggle. A joint attack on holy warriors would drive us to despair. Of course, the infidels would pay in blood and tears—at least, for some time—since scores of martyrs would inflict heavy losses. Driven by faith, we'd continue to claim that Western countries can't export democracy, and we'd strive to stop free elections or reject new constitutions, but sooner or later, we'd lose control of our nations. If the West were willing to fight against us with deeds rather than words, it would be the end.*

## THE RICH, THE POOR AND THE BUREAUCRATS WHO GET THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

November 6, 2014

If you do not live in Europe, it may well be that you never heard of Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker. He is a top politician, who was Prime Minister of Luxembourg from 1995 to 2013 (a Europe record-breaker as longest-serving-head-of-government), Minister for Finances from 1989 to 2009 and President of the Eurogroup from 2005 to 2013. More recently, just a few days ago, he became President of the European Commission. So, the Europeans are under the guidance of a leader, who succeeded in keeping the reins of government for more years than statesmen like Gamal Abdel Nasser or Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev or Jawaharlal Nehru.



Last July, already prepared to take the new office, Mr. Juncker made an interesting statement about his efforts to focus on morality and ethics in the framework of the European tax system. On that occasion, in Brussels, he also took the opportunity to insist that Luxembourg was not a *tax haven*. Next, he pledged to enhance the cooperation between tax authorities and encourage the adoption of a common tax policy.

Unfortunately for Mr. Juncker and his fellow bureaucrats/politicians who operate in his homeland, there is reason to believe that *something is rotten* in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, as shown by some documents made public by the ICIJ (*International Consortium of Investigative Journalists*). What's worse, shocking revelations have emerged while the European Commission is trying to launch an unprecedented crackdown on the tax arrangements offered by individual member states.

Just to make an example, it even happened that "Luxembourg refused to co-operate with the commission in its inquiries", but the European Union did not hesitate to "threaten Luxembourg with legal action at the European Court of Justice" and "then the duchy has provided the commission with all information requested" (as reported in an article posted on the web page <http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/nov/05/-sp-luxembourg-tax-files-tax-avoidance-industrial-scale>).

Surely, I do not want to discuss the ICIJ documents. Whoever is interested in the subject can easily access the web page <http://www.icij.org/project/luxembourg-leaks/explore-documents-luxembourg-leaks-database> and draw his conclusions. Here, I only wish to talk about a page of Jihad Al-Kuffar (the only page) which quotes the statement of a most distinguished member of the Luxembourg establishment.

In the book, everything starts with some comments about the so-called *Millennium Campaign*, promoted by the United Nations, which aimed at promoting "gender equality" and "eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015". After observing that it was quite unlikely that this result would be achieved by 2015 in countries like Afghanistan or Iran or Saudi Arabia or Somalia (just to name a few states), a Syrian militant explains what he feels: "The true objective of the whole operation is a gift to the Third World, without even wondering if the money will be used to buy food for children or Qassam rockets for Hamas or gold taps for Saddam Hussein". The final remarks are self-evident: "I've heard that their goal is 0.7 percent of the gross national product of rich countries. See, they're good guys and will do no harm. They just wish to make everybody happy to offer his 0.7 percent as a contribution to gender equality in our countries by the year 2015 or, with a bit of luck, by the year 2005."

Well, interestingly enough, 0.7 is not a random number that came out by chance, but is a real number that appeared in a statement by the Hon. Mr. Luc Frieden, Governor of the Bank for Luxembourg: "There is no excuse for many countries for not having reached the long-standing UN target for official development assistance of 0.7 per cent of gross national product."  
[cf., <http://www.imf.org/external/am/2002/speeches/pr08e.pdf>]

Incidentally, at that time, September 29, 2002, Mr. Juncker was both Prime Minister and Minister for Finances—but, of course, the Bank of Luxembourg is independent from the Government. Therefore, there is nothing to fancy about a (non-existing) virtuous spiral of people taking advantage from a special tax system and people taking advantage from foreign companies and people taking advantage from their socially correct sentiments toward the poor who live in Third World countries.

Probably, it is also out of place to make fun of a "long-standing UN target". After all, Mr. Frieden's words were no more than a politically correct statement, typical of the third-worldist, do-good attitude that

allows so many politicians/bureaucrats all over the world to feel good about their conscience and their loyalty to the most sacred principles. Above all, a do-good attitude is the best solution to earn votes and sympathy in a Western world, which is affected by a massive crisis and is full of citizens who continue to complain about their poor conditions and the loss of jobs, but seem to be happy to promote international charity.

No one will ever tell certain politicians/bureaucrats that the efforts to help the Third World reduce the financial resources that could be used for the poor who live in their countries (not only in Greece or Portugal, but also in Germany and Holland—and, possibly, Luxembourg).

No one will ever tell them that only a tough tax policy will be able

- to give real help to the poor
- to stop corruption
- to prevent the rich from becoming richer in an illegal manner
- to reduce the benefits that come to the institutions/individuals who trade with unscrupulous carpetbaggers.

No one will ever tell them that it will be possible to give sustainable relief to the poor who live in the Third World if and when their countries are ready to change their way of life (especially in terms of corruption, human rights, working practices). No doubt, the West can do a lot (and invest a lot of money), but there will be tangible results only if and when financial aid is given on the basis of a two-way commitment.

It is clear that the ICIJ documents must be carefully examined before accusing any institution and/or any bureaucrat. It would be definitely wrong to rush into hasty conclusions. However, if something turns out to be really *rotten* in the Grand Duchy, it would not be surprising—in the sense that everywhere, at all levels, we should expect that something might not work the right way. Above all, we should never be duped by people who make big promises and seem to care a lot for the poor.

As I said before, it may happen at all levels. For instance, I remember the case of a man who found out that his wife had been cheated by her father and mother and brother and sister—all family members who used to have an excellent reputation, were very pious and seemed anxious to do good all the time. Some facts and some documents were so shocking that he eventually divorced his wife, even though the couple continued to live together and love each other. The whole story might look funny, but that guy had a choice and had no hesitation. Sure enough, he knew that some friends might feel that divorce was an inappropriate step. Yet, he decided he could not continue to have family ties with certain people. It was as simple as that. He would have been unable to stand the shame, because he had discovered something, which (in his opinion) was much worse than the events that had made Judas world famous: as he used to say, Judas had probably betrayed the son of God, but not his son—nor his daughter.

I mentioned the case of that unfortunate husband because it came across my mind while writing my comments on the Luxembourg affair. It seemed to be an interesting example to point out that many people have the ability to give an excellent impression, even though they are always ready to deceive and do not care about moral values: they rather do all they can to get what they want. And of course, if we look around, we can easily find worse examples (e.g., mothers and fathers who suppress their children). In consequence, we should not be too surprised if the ICIJ documents will eventually force the European authorities to acknowledge that something strange is going on across their continent. Neither should it seem unusual that some politicians/bureaucrats hesitate to enforce fair tax compliance, although they claim that they are committed to clamp down on tax evasion and are willing to help the Third World with the “0.7 per cent” of the gross national product of their countries. Last but not least, don’t forget the politicians/bureaucrats who pretend that they have never seen anything...

That’s all for today, folks. In the meantime, whenever and wherever you hear of people who are eager to do good, it might be wise to remember a short sentence that was written a few years ago in *Jihad Al-Kuffar* (Chapter 9):

*The West [...] is full of individuals who scientifically try to survive with socially useful jobs and is full of bureaucrats who, even more scientifically, create jobs for their friends and get rich with socially useless positions in the state machinery.*