

Blair Sees the Real Power in Faith

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has a different and challenging view of the 21st century: he argues that religion will replace the clash of political ideologies as the dominant issue of the coming age.

Paul Kelly, Editor-At-Large

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Note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows this article.



Picture: David Geraghty
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Tony Blair believes the West has to ‘provide means by which peoples of different faiths come together and interact with one another’.

Blair’s further message is that the growing aggressive secularism in the West is the wrong response. It misreads and misconceives the nature of the 21st century and the best path to social harmony in a more globalised world.

An unusual mixture, Blair is a champion of both hard and soft power. Indeed, he thinks both are essential. He warns that the struggle against a violent

Islamist minority symbolised by the 9/11 attack on the US a decade ago is ongoing and unresolved. He fears that the West misunderstands how to wage this struggle -- that it requires both fortitude and an embracing attitude towards faith and religion.

Blair, a youthful 58 and three-time elected British Labour PM, now divides his time between his responsibilities as Middle East peace envoy (he has made 67 separate visits to the Middle East since leaving office) and the Tony Blair Faith Foundation focusing on the interaction between faith and globalisation.

“In some ways I’m more interested in religion than I am in politics,” Blair tells me during an interview after his arrival in Australia.

In Perth he will attend a seminar at the University of Western Australia that offers courses with Blair’s foundation. Blair’s view on faith and politics sharply contradicts the contemporary Western trend now so apparent in the Australian Labor Party’s increasingly disastrous move to sever itself from the Christian tradition -- a separation that even an atheist such as Julia Gillard recognises as a major political blunder.

“Some years ago people thought that religion was on the decline and that inevitably as societies developed they became more secular,” Blair says. “Actually, this is not what’s happening. What’s happening, in fact, is that around the world religion is on the rise and that’s not just in the anticipated places.

“For example, the fastest growing part of the world for Christianity is China. You’ve got major evangelical movements starting in Latin America and obviously you’ve got the expansion of Islam; there will be a doubling of the Arab population over the next 30 years.

“So religious faith is important and it’s growing. Yet at the same time globalisation is throwing everyone together.”

This leads Blair to his intellectual conclusion and current career preoccupation. “The issue is this: if faith is becoming a badge of identity and it says: ‘I am what I am in opposition to you’, then that’s when religion is dangerous.

“If, on the other hand, faith becomes a humanising and civilising set of values it can play an important role in making globalisation work.”

For Blair, the fashionable Western idea that religion can be suppressed or confined to the private realm is a delusion and dangerous because it misreads the main issue, which is the character and role of faith and religion in coming decades. “We in the West tend to see people of religious faith as people to be pushed to one side,” Blair says. “That quite aggressive secularism you see in the West does not understand what is happening in the rest of the world. And even in our society where organised religion is in decline in certain areas, but not all areas, the yearning for spiritual fulfilment is still very strong.

“For example, you can’t understand a society like the US without understanding the importance of religion.” He points to the recent Arab Spring to illustrate his argument. There are two movements under way -- the push for democracy yet growing religious intensity. “If you look at the Middle East at the moment there is this move towards democracy, but there is also Islamisation with the persecution of Christian and other minorities and other religious sects.” He has previously argued that in many Arab and Muslim nations “there was more tolerance and less religiosity in the 1960s” than today. A powerful trend in Islam has been the pushing aside of moderate clerics and thinkers and the embrace of hardline dogma.

Blair warns that across Europe there is a “strong reaction” to Islamisation and “some of that finds its way into appalling extremism and sectarianism”. He attributes the high profile of immigration in many European elections to the depth of tensions over Islam, religion and culture. “I would say that all over Europe this is an issue,” Blair says.

Asked about the massacre in Norway by a right-wing extremist ideologue, he says: “I put it this way. It is an isolated act by a fanatic. “At the same time -- if we are far-sighted about it -- we’ll see that in an era of globalisation where societies are undergoing profound changes, you are bound to have this potential for conflict. “The ideology that gives rise to such an act of brutality is an ideology that is centred around this notion of feeling under cultural attack.”

He hammers the need to manage the rise of religious faith and the consequences of its mismanagement with the risk of resulting violence. “There is a real risk,” he says. “And I think it is the most substantial risk we face.”

Blair brings a strategic clarity to the confusion within the West about extremist Islamist ideology and resort to violence. “The threat we saw that culminated on 9/11 is still with us. It is still claiming thousands of lives every year. “But more importantly it is causing great tensions within the Arab world and the Middle East and also between Islam and the West. “I think it is unresolved. The key to resolving it is, in fact, openly and clearly to provide means by which peoples of different faiths come together and interact with one another.”

For Blair, the West must be prepared to fight for its values and deploy hard power when required. These values of “sensible, decent democracy” are the same values that most Muslims want for their own societies. He fears, however, the West suffers from an internal crisis of confidence. “Partly as a result of fatigue and partly as a result of the financial crisis I worry as to whether we have the staying power and stamina to see this battle through.”

Because the struggle is against an extremist ideology it must be met by a soft power strategy in terms of the battle of ideas. Again, this will be a prolonged task. In countries such as Australia and Britain, where most people do integrate, the problem is “within a specific group within Islam”, not the wider Islamic community.

Asked about the key to successful integration, Blair says: “To insist on diversity but also to insist upon a common space, common values and common practices. So in the UK you come in, we expect you to learn English, we expect you to be democratic, to treat women equal to men. “That’s what we’re about as a society. I think that common space or common values are critical to assimilation or integration working.”

Blair warns of the danger of “washing religion out of the school curriculum” and fingers the exact point, namely, “it is not about trying to make people religious but trying to help people to understand the world”. This is the best argument against the rise of secular intolerance and its distorting of history in the education system by seeking to downgrade or eliminate religion in the West’s story. (To read this article in its entirety, go to: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/features/blair-sees-the-real-power-in-faith/story-e6fjrg6z6-1226102974094>.)

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: Ever since converting to Roman Catholicism and leaving his job as Britain’s Prime Minister, Tony Blair has been circling the globe in an effort to unify the religious energies of the various people groups of the world. The globalist leaders (of which Tony Blair is one) have learned from the failures of Stalin/Marx and Mao. They realize that it is not possible to snuff out the religious aspirations of the people, what Karl Marx referred to as the “opiate of the masses.” They are now adopting the practice of: “if you can’t beat them, join them” (and change them).

During the preparatory phase of establishing global governance, these leaders know they cannot force the required unity between the existing nation states when these nations have such diverse religious convictions, some of which are diametrically opposed to one another. Therefore, something has to change, and it is obvious that Tony Blair is their change agent. His actions reveal that their plan is to persuade (now) or force (later) the various religions to abandon their exclusive dogmas and to instead join with other religions in an effort to focus their energy on things that better humanity (as defined by them).

In a sense, they are demanding that people leave their holy books, gods, Messiahs, etc. in exchange for becoming “citizens of the world” who worship “god” by devoting time and resources to those projects ordained by the leaders of the world as contributing to the “common good.”

This plan is the foundation for a global religion, which the Bible declares will someday have the Antichrist’s False Prophet as its head. Three and a half years into the seven year tribulation period the False Prophet and the Antichrist will demand that all the inhabitants of the world worship the Antichrist as their god, or die. I guess by then he will have solved AIDs, malaria, poverty, etc. and the citizens of the New World Order will then be at a loss for what to worship, so why not the Antichrist?

It should be very obvious to biblical Christians that Tony Blair and his mission are in direct conflict with the true God of the Bible and His Messiah, Jesus. God warned His sheep that in the last days nations and leaders would plot against God and His Messiah as they attempt to form a global government (Psalms 2, Daniel, Revelation). Therefore, true Christians should see through the facade of Blair’s plan and realize that it is evil.

Those opposed to Blair’s agenda (not just true Christians) will have to be dealt with if the global government and religion are to be realized (which the Bible declares they will succeed in doing for a season).

Fundamentalist Muslims who refuse to give up their chant of, “there is no god but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet” will be dealt with in the coming wars of the Middle East.

The world leaders are trying to eliminate fundamentalist Judaism by taking away their city (Jerusalem) and their holy place for the third temple (the Temple Mount). According to the Bible, these plans will fail and instead be changed to allow the Jews to build a temple on the temple mount (Matthew 24, 2 Thessalonians 2, Revelation 11). This change in plan will come after the coming Middle East wars completely (and unexpectedly to the globalists) eliminate the Arab Muslim threat from all of Israel’s currently hostile neighbors, without also destroying Israel (Isaiah 17, Psalm 83, Ezekiel 38-39).

Rick Warren (referred to as “America’s Pastor” by the usurping president Obama and other globalists) has embraced, supported and furthered Tony Blair’s mission with his own efforts and resources. Indeed, Rick Warren and the thousands of false shepherds who have replaced the pulpit Bible with Rick Warren’s books

and programs have been a major force in making church going Americans ignorant of the biblical warnings about this last days' deception. He (with the backing of the globalist Rupert Murdoch – who publishes his books) has been very effective in minimizing the fundamentalist Christian threat to the globalist agenda by lulling the inattentive sheep to sleep. As a result, most American church goers are totally oblivious to what Blair's end game will look like.

But the true church sees through the deception and will remain faithful to the chief Shepherd of our souls, the Lord Jesus Christ. We will continue to preach that there is only one truth, there is only one way to be forgiven of sin and to come into the presence of almighty God, and that is through faith in His Son, Jesus. Our message is admittedly narrow-minded and not very cooperative with the world's plan to join hands singing kumbaya around the false god the New World Order. But the truth is the truth (and the empty tomb is proof that it is the truth).

My prayer is that the remnant will double our efforts to spread the message of the gospel while there is still time to do so without being persecuted by Blair's and Warren's Gestapo (which are coming).

John 18:37-38: Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all." NKJV

John 14:1-6: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." NKJV

2 Timothy 4:2-4: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. NKJV