

3. Modern barbarism

We don't choose barbarism. Nobody in his right mind would do that. But since it's happening anyway, we have to assume that we aren't in our right minds. We just sit back and watch it engulf us in silent awe; powerless, bewildered and frightened. The nations that constitute the United Europe were so keen to conjure an abstract sort of family life together that they didn't do the homework necessary to avert disaster. The essential differences between apples and oranges became irrelevant to the point where folly seemed an acceptable substitute to clear thinking providing the aim was noble. Those of us watching the growing catastrophe from a distant field are oblivious of the fact that we're engaged in a similar folly at global level, investing in nonsense while the urgent matters are ignored.

Barbarism can be defined as the state you find yourself in when you've renounced civilization. The renouncing is generally done unconsciously, through laziness and low intelligence. Only a fool would do it intentionally. But, as it turns out, only fools do it unconsciously as well. There must be a lot of fools amongst us because it's happening at break-neck speed now. In zombie mode, we never give a moment's thought to what civilization means or what it entails by way of contribution from its beneficiaries. We go on doing that until the term becomes an abstraction with no basis in concrete reality.

Barbarism is the natural state of the common herd in mechanical or zombie mode, locked into blind vision and self-gratification mode. Civilization is the unnatural state that comes about when, little by little, the common herd adopts ideas espoused by influential minorities and bright and courageous individuals. The quality of those ideas varies with the minority and the individual. When the quality is off, we have a return to barbarism. We moderns are living that default form of barbarism now. And the prognosis looks bad indeed unless there's a Second Coming or a friendly alien race invades to save us from our selves.

I don't like to leave a subject without a coda. If we want to reverse this deadly trend, we need to revisit the now moribund practice of turning to worthy people to lead, not the dregs. Europe has had a binge of unworthy leaders for too many decades and the chickens are all coming home to roost. Europe is safe with its title as the world's capital source of trouble for the planet. They've already summoned Australia's contribution to plug the money hole, and it wouldn't surprise me if Australian troops will be shipped over there yet again when the fight between kids gets out of hand once more.