

[hajib Americans won't do]

## You've Come A Long Way, Baby

A package deal: third-world immigrants and medieval misogyny

By Brenda Walker

WASN'T DIVERSITY in immigration supposed to enrich America, to brighten up our boring Calvinist lives with vibrant swaths of ethnic color? How then do we square the sentimental view of the invigorating immigrant infusion when we read about the Atlanta indictment in March of an Ethiopian man, Khalid Adem, for circumcising his daughter with a pair of scissors? Perhaps the multicultural idea needs a closer examination.

In fact, evidence is accumulating that offensive foreign traditions, including horrifically cruel child abuse, are being imported to America under the friendly rubric of diversity. Multiculturalists have lectured at length that all societies are equal and should be celebrated. Cultural equivalence is a reassuring mythology in these politically correct times; however, the truth is that numerous Third World cultures condone the most terrible brutality, particularly violence against women and girls.

The Atlanta case shines a light on a dirty little secret about African immigrants—that female genital mutilation (FGM) is common in many of their societies. The World Health Organization estimates that the prevalence of FGM in Ethiopia is 85 percent. FGM is a procedure that ranges from clitoris excision to the entire vagina being removed under unsanitary conditions with no anes-

thetic. Some girls go into shock and even die from blood loss, and adult women who have been genitally mutilated may suffer bladder and kidney infections, painful intercourse, and difficult childbirth. In 1996, Congress found it necessary to outlaw FGM in America—another effect of importing “diversity.”

The Atlanta arrest may be an anomaly because there is evidence that, rather than being stamped out, FGM has merely gone underground. (The Centers for Disease Control estimate more than 160,000 females in immigrant communities in the United States may have undergone the procedure.) For example, a Somali math teacher in Houston vowed to send his

FGM is only one of many objectionable cultural practices and attitudes brought to America in the continuing influx of multicultural immigration. Other illegalities include so-called “honor killing,” like the 1999 Ohio murders of a 39-year-old female doctor, her father, her sister, and her 2-year-old niece by the doctor's disgruntled Pakistani husband. Another unacceptable import is forced marriage, particularly of underage girls: in Nebraska, a Shi'ite refugee of the 1991 Gulf War decided to fight the assimilation of his 13- and 14-year-old daughters by forcing them to marry adult Muslim men. The family was unhappy to learn that this matter, considered normal in

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daughter to Somalia to be cut because, “This was a way of ensuring a girl's good behavior. It prevents them from running wild.” In October 2002, when the U.S. government considered banning Somali refugee families because of FGM, Somalis slated to enter America rushed to mutilate even toddlers after they learned that the practice was illegal here.

Iraq, is grounds for criminal prosecution in the United States.

What would women's rights pioneers like Susan B. Anthony have thought at the sight of all-enveloping Islamic veils in Arab immigrant communities on American streets? There's no doubt the suffragists would be shocked that millions are admitted

from the most extreme woman-hating societies: reformers didn't devote their lives to women's equality so that far worse oppression could be imported a century later. Anthony and her peers would recognize that Islamic veils in this nation send a message that oppressing women is an acceptable cultural expression, rather than an affront to American women and freedoms gained only after a century of struggle.

Furthermore, the erosion of women's social standing is not an imaginary worry but a definite possibility illustrated in European nations where Islamic immigration has been common. In Denmark, for example, Muslims now comprise only 4 percent of the population but are the majority of convicted rapists, and their victims are Danish women.

In nearby Norway, a professor declared that locals should get used to increased instances of rape: "Norwegian women must realize that we live in a multicultural society and adapt themselves to it." The professor evidently believes that violence against women is an acceptable price to pay for the new diverse society, and requiring Muslims to obey the laws of their adopted nation is too much to ask. Swimming pools have been a flashpoint in Holland, where European women have been threatened by Muslim young men for appearing in Dutch pools without being covered in the Islamic style.

In America, the largest influx is from the south, and much of Latin culture is still imbued with deep-rooted machismo that can boil over into brutality against women. The *Washington Post* reported, "When it comes to punishing sexual violence against women, surprisingly little has changed in a century. In many parts of Mexico, the penalty for stealing a cow is harsher than the punishment for rape." In 19 of Mexico's 31 states, the laws require that statutory rape charges be

**New intelligence information suggests a developing al-Qaeda operation to conduct a mass-casualty terrorist event or series of events in Europe this summer.**

Information obtained from diverse sources indicates that the terrorists may be planning to use unconventional biological or chemical weapons. Some intelligence agencies believe that the target of choice will almost certainly be the Olympic Games in Athens, where security is predicted to be suffocating but possibly ineffective. Athens aside, the alternative target of choice is Italy and the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. Italy is regarded as politically vulnerable because of widespread popular opposition to the Iraq War. It is also a uniquely symbolic target because Rome is home to the Vatican and the Catholic Church. An authentic Osama bin Laden audiotape broadcast in early April set the stage for an impending attack by offering a three-month suspension of violent activity in Europe contingent upon withdrawal of European troops from both Iraq and Afghanistan. Subsequent to the audiotape broadcast, the Italians intercepted a series of suspected terrorist communications that suggest Rome or Milan as probable targets of a summer terrorist attempt. Berlusconi, a strong George W. Bush supporter committed to remaining in Iraq following the June 30 deadline, has turned his country into an inviting target for al-Qaeda, with the continued Italian presence in Iraq serving as a pretext for the terrorist attack. Rome's support for the Iraq War has already been shaken by the taking of Italian hostages and by the devastating suicide truck-bombing of its forces in Nasiriyah. A successful al-Qaeda attack on the Italian mainland would make Berlusconi's position untenable.



**Friends of Israel are turning up in the strangest places.**

Dan Senor, Press Spokesman for Iraq occupation head Paul Bremer, is a former American Israel Public Affairs Committee intern who was widely perceived as a strong advocate of Israel when he served as deputy in the White House press office. Ahmad Chalabi, anointed by the Pentagon as Iraq's ruler-to-be, is also reported to be a man who knows how to help a friend, particularly when the friend is Ariel Sharon. Though many observers would blame Chalabi for the bad advice that has led to the current mayhem that is tearing Iraq apart, Chalabi's nephew Salem has now been placed in charge of the trial of Saddam Hussein. Salem is a partner in the law firm Zell and Feith, which is based in Jerusalem. Zell is a West Bank settler and Feith is our own highly esteemed Douglas Feith, who occasionally masquerades as Undersecretary of Defense for Planning. With Salem on board, the neocons and the Chalabi family will undoubtedly be pleased with the trial's outcome. Since the court proceeding is taking shape as an American-Israeli joint venture to benefit the Chalabis, there is speculation regarding Ahmad's enduring hold over the notoriously fickle affections of his neocon friends. There are rumors that the deservedly moribund pipeline project to send Iraqi oil to Haifa may again be on the table. ■

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