

MUSLIMS ARE NOT THE PROBLEM

With the chaos in the middle east and an upcoming Presidential election in 2016 the airwaves are awash with pundits of one political extreme or another frothing at the mouth about the so-called threat of "Muslim extremists".

Many of these mouth-pieces of idiocy cast a blanket of blame on all Muslims for the actions of a fraction of their faith. Some pundits and politicians assert that while it may be only a small portion of Muslims in the middle east reeking havoc, the Muslims, in general, across the world passively support it.

Some politicians question why more Muslims don't speak out against "Muslim extremism" or, as some have suggested, why they do not rise up against their oppressive governments.

Muslims, however, are not the problem. Contrary to right-wing blather, Muslims, in mass, reject the hate groups like ISIS. This is evidenced, in part, by the millions flooding out of ISIS held areas (as well as other refugees) to flee the chaos. They also regularly speak out but the media rarely gives them a voice. Rather, they are back-seated to give voice to the pundits of fear.

Nor do Muslims have an obligation to speak out. Those speaking out most loudly against Muslims would do well to think closely about

American history and World history before casting a blanket of blame on all Muslims. Only a few generations ago both Democrats and Republicans had parties full of hate groups — such as the Know-Nothings and the Ku Klux Klan.

The Ku Klux Klan only a few decades ago had a membership of millions. They preached hate, committed murder, rape, bombings, assaults and all sorts of heinous crimes, all in the name of Christianity. Their rituals included burning crosses and giving sermons on the biblical justifications of slavery and racial segregation.

In April of this year three corrections officers in the State of Florida were arrested for plotting the murder of a black prisoner. They were all members of the Ku Klux Klan. Not a single white Christian in their town spoke out against their actions.

The politicians and pundits blame-game is an end-game line used to paint a people as savages while denying the people they are demonizing a platform to speak. Their arguments are always peppered with their own religious notions of moral "truth".

Taking a page from world history: Adolf Hitler is the most recognized and reviled dictator in modern history. His National Socialist party ultimately caused the death of tens of millions in World War II. While Hitler wasn't a churchgoing Christian, he certainly wasn't an infidel either.

Growing up Hitler attended Mass regularly with his mother and he was a choirboy. In fact, Hitler himself asserted the Christianity church heavily influenced

the structuring, staging and rituals of the Nazi party. He was born and raised a Roman Catholic. He did not doubt the divinity of Jesus of Nazareth, he just believed he was Aryan, not Jewish (same as the Ku Klux Klan).

In fact, every German soldier wore a belt buckle embossed with the German eagle holding a swastika with the inscription "Got mit uns" (God is with us). Hitler survived over two-dozen assassination plots — which he credited to "Almighty God" and "Divine Providence".

Prior to invading the Soviet Union Hitler ended his address to his soldiers with, "Almighty God Bless Our Arms!" When Nazi Party officials began removing crosses from classroom walls, Hitler personally reversed the order and had them rehung.

So, do we blame all Christians for Hitler or do we blame Hitler for Hitler? Do we blame all Muslims for terrorism or blame terrorists for terrorism?

One of the first steps that need to be taken in combating the muslim terrorists is giving a larger media platform to real muslims who oppose them. There should be regular commentaries by Muslims in papers, on the radio and on t.v. Not just token appearances once a week when some social or political crisis has gotten to far out of hand.

Rather, what we are doing is giving rise to the new radical right — people like Ted Cruz and Donald Trump — who make George Bush Jr. look like a liberal. As a result, we are going down a path that will have nothing at the end of the road but hurt and regret.

In that respect, we're all the real problem.