

HOUSE ORGAN

From the Archeology of the Future

The following, evidently a compressed transcript of an academic lecture, was recovered from the ruins of Brooklyn after the great flood of 2110. From internal evidence, the events discussed appear to have been from early in the year, 2010.

What we've learned this semester is that the world is divided according to how rich and developed it is. At the top are the advanced nations, and these are naturally called the First World. The richest and most powerful, because it has the most weapons, is the United States; and the country with the highest percentage of people with advanced technical degrees, and also the highest percentage of really fancy weapons per capita, is Israel . . . so these two countries are the most representative of the First World.

Just below them—well, actually, way below—is the Second World. Most of these countries have been gotten rid of, because they had a backward economic system called Communism that couldn't produce wealth, and they had no respect for Human Rights, like freedom. One of the few countries that still hangs on in this category is Cuba, but it's a real mess and just has no respect at all for Human Rights like Freedom.

Below them—well, not really below, more to the side—is the Third World. Most of these places used to be colonies of the First World. This was sort of like going to school, as you are doing, where attendance was taken and assignments and discipline were taught to them. After they learned their lessons well enough, they were allowed to become like junior partners and helpers to the First World, and to have their people work in factories owned by First-Worlders that make our sneakers and video games. They can also help the First World by loaning their country for something called Clean Development Mechanisms. This is so the First Worlders can put stuff in like big forests with only one kind of tree, or can mine the garbage dumps for useful gases like methane, and then—don't ask me exactly how this works because it's so sophisticated I don't understand it yet—this allows the First World to keep on putting Carbon Dioxide into the air without actually wrecking the climate, which not that many people believe is going to happen anyhow, because it's very complicated and scientists are often crooks.

Then below them—and this time I really mean below—there is the Fourth World. These people are total losers and don't even have a proper government, though sometimes they are lucky enough to live on top of natural resources, so they can help us out.

Now when bad things happen to the Third World, the First World helps them, like when Haiti, which is one of the most backward places, had that awful earthquake that Rev. Robertson said they deserved because they made a pact with Satan by their slave rebellion against France, which is definitely a First World country. The U.S. sent lots of ships and planes with troops to keep order so that rabble rouser Aristide couldn't come back and ruin everything; and Israel won the affection of the world when their Army came in and set up that really efficient high-tech medical station. You should have seen the press coverage! . . . it was like they needed that relief with all the trouble they have from those violent Arabs who

resent them so much and won't share their country with Jews who haven't had a Homeland for 2000 years . . .

What's that you say? That the Israelis pulled up and left after two weeks. Well, maybe the Haitians didn't need any more help . . . Oh, you say that Cuba sent more than 1,000 Cuban and Cuban-trained doctors and other health workers to Haiti, from places as far away as Bolivia, Mali, Lebanon and Nigeria, and as near as New York City, Houston and Oakland, and they are planning to stay for years and help rebuild the entire health system. . . Well, I don't know about that, because I watch TV and read the papers every day, and I never saw a word on Cuba helping Haiti.

But that's the thing about these totalitarian countries. They control everything. It's like I said, no Freedom at all. In the United States, which is the Leader of the Free World, people are free to do what they please. Take that fellow, Andrew Joseph Stack III, who couldn't get the I.R.S. off his back just because they wouldn't let him declare his home as a Place of Worship. He showed them a thing or two! Burned down his home after making sure his wife and daughter weren't there, and flew his plane into the I.R.S. building. Only got one guy and him a VietNam vet ready to retire; what a hero! It's like Congressman King of Iowa said: "It's sad the incident in Texas happened, but by the same token, it's an agency that is unnecessary. And when the day comes when that is over and we abolish the I.R.S., it's going to be a happy day for America."

Here in the advanced countries, the little guys have a say in things. Like the way that School Boards in Texas, South Dakota, Louisiana and Kentucky are rising up and taking the curriculum away from Climate Scientists as well as the Darwinian evolutionists. Now our children will be reading textbooks that cast doubt on Global Warming as well as the crazy idea that we are descended from apes. And a little doubt goes a long way where climate change is concerned.

So we do have politics here, but it's orderly. Not like in South Africa, where people aren't so civilized and haven't learned to doubt climate change. There an alliance is forming between community activists in black townships, environmentalists, trade unionists, and international climate activists, to stop a World Bank loan to the country's biggest power company, Eskom, just because it wants to build the world's fourth most CO₂ intensive energy generator, right near Pretoria, the capital. 200 groups in all joining up. They seem to have traded in Progress for a nebulous concept called "Climate Justice," not to mention showing ingratitude toward the one institution dedicated to rescuing the Third World from poverty and backwardness. Go figure.

Well, that's all the time we have for today. Good luck on the exam—and don't forget, that only the top ten percent of grades will have a chance at a dead-end job once you graduate.

—Joel Kovel