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***ISIS and Apocalypse:
Some Comparisons with End Times Thinking Elsewhere and a Theory***

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Abstract

This paper will review “End Times Thinking” in Jewish, Christian and Islamic cultures to identify some common themes among myriad differing details. Simply put, some people have believed for hundreds or thousands of years that their prophets will return to earth someday to rescue humankind from sin (or in a common Shi’ite version, a son of the Prophet Mohammed will return, named or called the “Mahdi”). Some Christians think that Jesus will return to administer vast changes, ranging from “rapture” to annihilation; some Jews that a “Messiah” is destined for those tasks, but focused on saving the Hebrew people of Israel. Generally, the earth is supposed to be purified by these processes, so that some “true” religion can be manifest on the entire earth, which would then be free of war, famine and perhaps suffering of all kinds.

I then present a theory based on behavior genetics and the “selfish gene” hypothesis. This suggests that such beliefs may reflect an ancient template that encourages some to believe that they alone are the center of both the universe and God’s love. Some think that God wants them alone to populate the earth, or rule everyone else. Such people are easy prey for demagogues who abound in desperate places and royal courts. This is demonstrated today in ISIS. In the early history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormons), a group of Mormons killed some 120 people from the East who were on their way to California. This shows that a belief system of exceptionalism can arise in churches of much more recent origin. Today, a radical group of Mormons that follows this idea is exemplified by the Bundy family of Southern Nevada, USA. ISIS is still killing hundreds of people, but the LDS Church made some changes in the late 1800s that helped them co-exist better with others.¹ How the LDS Church came to grips with modernity and literally decided to coexist agreeably with others provides some clues to how any church or religion might moderate so that a real “end” to civilization (and possibly humankind) can be avoided. The presence and spread of WMDs (Weapons of Mass Destruction) lends urgency to this fix.

Introduction

In 1979 I encamped with a “Christian Patriots Defense League Freedom Festival” surrounded by armed militia (‘protecting’ us from ... someone). I was prepared to learn about reloading ammunition, long term food storage, Bible study with non-traditional Bibles, and other survival skills useful for the Apocalypse they believed was soon to come. But I actually came to study that kind of thinking, common in the deserts of my youth, and significant to causes of war I had now decided to study seriously. Forty-seven years later

end times thinking remains common today, and is not confined to Christianity. To some degree it is eternal, surviving every projected deadline for apocalypse to come (so far!). I have seen dozens of cults rise and fall since with their leaders' predictions about divinely ordained "End Times" that are always close, but never arrive.

Such end times thinking is often associated with violent behaviors and 'militant religion.' The modern gang or death cult ISIS expresses a particularly virulent Islamic version. They think the world is destined to transform at a decisive battle between good and evil (unbelievers) in Dabiq, Syria where Western "Crusaders" will be defeated and a global Islamic Caliphate will be born.² In their dreams of course. But dreams are enough to inspire suicide bombers, mass rapes of captured women, and beheadings of hundreds (maybe thousands) of people including a great many Muslims not "pure" enough for ISIS. They subscribe to a particularly harsh 'Wahhabi'³ school of Sunni Islam, so Shi'ites are as much at risk as Christians and Jews where ISIS rules.

While much less publicly brutal, and far fewer, there are Jewish enthusiasts among settlers in the territories occupied by Israel who are just as committed to ruling the whole world in due time. But first they must establish "Eretz Yisrael" stretching roughly from the Nile in Egypt to the Euphrates River in current Iraq. They work on that diligently, confiscating a few hectares every day from Palestinian land on the West Bank of the Jordan River, slowly digesting it. There are millions of "Christian Zionists" who have a similar interpretation of scriptures that they think are infallible. If you dig deep, you can find hundreds of versions of allegedly infallible scriptures and interpretations of scripture. An especially violent version I heard at the Christian Patriot's Defense League Freedom Festival claimed that the one 'god' of all these faiths would kill one third of all Jews promptly, another third more slowly, until the surviving third renounces Judaism and converts to Christianity. This is a very strange way for a 'loving' and 'omnipotent' god to treat 'his' 'favorite' peoples. Could there be something else behind such thinking?

I think so and perhaps even know what that is. Selfish genes may be even more powerful than we thought. So after briefly reviewing varieties of apocalyptic thinking among "peoples of the books," I will introduce a theory about origins based on behavior genetics.

First: some solutions, because describing problems often crowds out time for solving them. Modern terrorism begs to be solved right away. Millions of unemployed teen-aged males are maturing today in desperate circumstances. Demagogues and WMDs await them. Dialogue among civilizations is one solution to frictions that are inevitable when civilizations encounter each other. Dialogue can make the difference between destructive clashes and productive encounters with fertile consequences for all. The ISCSC is a pillar of that paradigm, so kudos to its members.⁴ Youth who have vision can also help, so cultivation of enlightened youth who are searching for wisdom instead of memorizing dogma and learning to fight for "god" is another solution. But we cannot expect them to come to us; we must go to them, even into deep deserts and favelas of the world.

End Times Thinking

End Times Thinking, or beliefs that the world is destined to “end” in some global war of good against evil ordained by a ‘God,’ has many roots. Sometimes it is called Apocalyptic thinking, because one root is ancient scriptures in the Jewish Torah and the Christian New Testament. “Apocalypse” actually derives from ancient Greek and means uncovering hidden truths about the world, but its meaning has been conflated with Armageddon, named for the place where Jewish mythology puts the decisive battle where good defeats evil and multitudes of humans including many Hebrews die young by violence. Interestingly, that place is a biblical hill called Megiddo, south of Haifa in modern Israel. Why such thinkers often expect the end of the world to ignite in their neighborhood may be one clue, as is the persistence of such stories even when hundreds of deadlines are passed without the earth or even human civilization self-destructing. Yet.

Michael White of the University of Texas, Austin, claims this idea began when the Temple of Solomon was destroyed and Hebrews were enslaved by the Babylonian Empire in 586 BCE.⁵ He then summarizes 600 years of repression culminating in a four year war with the Romans who crushed them and destroyed the rebuilt Temple again. Then he writes:

“The destruction of Jerusalem in the year 70 C.E. leads to yet another stage of apocalyptic reinterpretation. They have to retell their story. They have to rethink their own past. ... In the period between roughly 75 and 100 C.E. we have a proliferation of new Jewish apocalypses, documents like Fourth Israel, or Second Baruch, or the Apocalypse of Abraham.”

Therefore many scholars conclude that prophecies of doom in scripture often reflect historical consequences of the clash between Rome and both Jews and Christians from this period, not predictions of events thousands of years in the future. Many Christian theologians think the same about the “Book of Revelation.” This book of the New Testament is filled with highly symbolic images, an Antichrist, with active angels and demons engaged in a final war between good and evil where multitudes are slaughtered. “Revelation” is often cited by Christian fundamentalists as a historical guide to the future. But a different “historical-critical” school of Biblical interpretation says these are just codes for conflicts that ended almost 2000 years ago.

A famous public intellectual Noam Chomsky said in an interview on Jan. 31, 2016 that:⁶

There are not too many countries in the world where two-thirds of the population awaits The Second Coming, Chomsky said, adding that half of them think it is going to be in their lifetimes. “And maybe a third of the population believes the world was created 10,000 years ago, exactly the way it is now. Things like that are pretty weird, but that is true in the United States and has been for a long time.”

Such beliefs endure to this day. The end of the second millennium after the birth of Jesus (2000) focused many such anxieties, inspiring the “Christian Patriots” I camped with, and

authors like Hal Lindsay. Lindsay (along with Carole Carlson) wrote “The Late Great Planet Earth” in 1970, which was reprinted by Zondervan dozens of times and ultimately sold about 35 million copies. He wrote a sequel, “The 1980’s: Countdown to Armageddon,” and Lindsay was followed by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins who wrote another best-selling series called “Left Behind.” There appears to be a big market for such ‘prophesies.’ The technical term “eschatology” was created for the study of end times alleged by a myriad of faith traditions. Hal Lindsay’s version has been labeled “premillennial, dispensational eschatology” for example, but there are many others, few of which die when deadlines pass without global destruction and visions go unfulfilled.

As noted earlier, Islam has versions of its own, both Sunni and Shia. Here the Mahdi is assisted by Jesus, who by inference is a secondary figure, but still respected and powerful. Some versions have Moses helping too. One can find rough analogues among the Hindu, Buddhist and Taoist traditions.⁷ End times thinking resonates with something, and desperate people have needed hope for a long time. With millions of poorly educated and unemployed youth pouring out of failed or failing states today, we cannot safely watch this process forever. Demographics is destiny, and a volcanic pressure is building. So I turn now to a simpler hypothesis of how such behaviors might come to be, and a search for what that might suggest for solutions.

Selfish Genes

Behavior genetics considers something called the “selfish gene” hypothesis,⁸ which posits that natural selection will encourage behaviors that promote aggressive propagation of those genes indifferent to anything like human morals, unless they are constrained by other factors like kin selection for altruism, group selection for more general cooperative behaviors, or laws, social norms and police with big batons who declare that people cannot kill their neighbors just because they want their stuff, or think they are better than others. Another label for this idea is secular government instead of theocracy. So that is another solution to this problem, if you can establish and protect secular governments. And those must be committed to protecting minorities, all minorities including the ultimate minority – individuals – lest they degenerate into police states.

The essence of “selfish genes” is to promote selfish ideas among individuals and groups with ideas that contribute to group cohesion when faced with a world of problems and human competitors. Models of group behaviors that result can be found in the territorial competitions of chimpanzees and baboons. The phenomena of in-group / out-group double standards and demonizing “others” reflects this ancient pattern. When uncontrolled by conscience or effective social actions this selfishness animates both psychopaths and demagogic leaders of death cults.

A great deal of thought and commentary about a possible “Clash of Civilizations” followed a paper (and subsequent book) by former ISCS member Samuel Huntington in 1993.⁹ Current events, and the rise of militant religious terrorism, provide practical reasons to

revisit this topic now. The clash is not just philosophy or social science theory; it's real and intersects with other important clashes like tradition vs. modernity, and wealth vs. poverty. On November 21, 2015, the BBC World News reported that apocalyptic thinking is integral to ISIS organizing in Syria and Iraq, and has such appeal that it is attracting thousands of European and other youth to join the ISIS cause to create a modern Caliphate.¹⁰ Millions of teenaged males are now maturing in desperate circumstances in many more places than Iraq and Syria, and they are very vulnerable to demagogues. These are problems that need to be solved sooner rather than later.

This is a solvable problem, albeit hideously expensive and awkward for professors. It cannot be solved just from classrooms, because most of the people who believe such things do not come to our classes or read our books. Someone must go into the field and tame them. After a few days at that Christian Patriots gathering, I had enough courage to ask a KKK speaker if it was really true that the Bible taught that all Jews are evil and all blacks were born to be slaves, as he claimed. He quoted from Luke 29, a section I read in his Bible that does not occur in mine! So to actually rebut the guy, I would have had to pull out a Bible of my own to point out differences. One only goes so far when undercover in remote locations surrounded by armed militia! But the practical point is, religious extremism is taught, and the solution to that is better, non-extremist teaching.

Moments later a tiny old man pulled my ear down to whisper "The funny thing is, they always forget that Jesus was a Jew!" Perhaps I was not the only person there to study them that day.

The Bundy Clan of Southern Nevada, USA

Cliven Bundy was a fairly ordinary and therefore unknown rancher on lands near Bunkerville, Nevada who decided changes in federal grazing fees on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered land were excessive and stopped paying them in 1993. Bundy continued to graze his cattle on these federal lands for 20 years, while courts and other bureaucracies moved slowly, and his debts piled up. On March 27, 2014, the BLM closed some of that land and on April 5 started to roundup trespass cattle. Self-styled "militia" enthusiasts gathered, and on April 12 a group of armed protesters confronted the men employed by the feds to round up the cattle. The BLM then backed down to avoid bloodshed.

This made Cliven Bundy a mini-hero in the "Sovereign Citizens" movement, one of dozens of names used over the years for conflicts between rural folk and the federal government extending over generations and to many other parts of the USA. "Posse Comitatus," the "Oath Keepers," and "Freemen" are other groups in this diffuse network of discontent. At that time national press seldom if ever noticed that Mr. Bundy had 14 children and subscribed to a fundamentalist wing of the LDS Church. This is relevant to the genetic theory noted here. Two of his seven sons made news again on January 2, 2016, when they occupied the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon with

armed militia in support, allegedly, of two other ranchers from that area who had been convicted of arson and sentenced to prison. Ammon Bundy claims he began leading this occupation after receiving a divine message ordering him to do so.^{11, 12}

This time the Federal government waited weeks, but not years, to try to contain the situation and persuade the armed occupiers to go home. There were many initiatives including town hall meetings where the public expressed respect for common concerns but also asked the occupiers to go home peacefully. But those efforts failed and the patriarch Cliven Bundy even served the Oregon Harney County Sheriff with a legal notice from Nevada, by registered mail, on February 1, 2016 that the county and federal officials had to stand down because “The People” owned both Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and a whole lot more. A neighbor of Mr. Bundy, Robert “LaVoy” Finicum, 54, had joined the Bundy sons in Oregon and swore never to be arrested if the occupation turned violent. Armed, and after resisting arrest at a traffic stop in Grant County, Oregon, Finicum was shot and killed on January 26, 2016, and became a martyr for this cause. Ultimately, even Cliven Bundy was arrested at the Portland, OR airport on February 10, 2016,¹³ trying to get to his sons to support their part of the revolution against federal authorities.

Now here is the point of this long digression. Mormonism did not exist 2-3,000 years ago when Jewish and Christian scriptures were written, or 1400 years ago when Islam’s Qur’an was made. The LDS Church was formally organized by a man named Joseph Smith in 1830 in Upstate New York. It became known for polygamy, aggressive proselytization, and block voting, which alienated enough neighbors that they were run out of New York to points west, and then from Missouri to Nauvoo, Illinois where the founder and his brother were shot dead in 1844. Surviving Mormons fled west under a new leader Brigham Young and eventually settled in the Salt Lake Valley of Utah. Young eventually had 55 wives, 59 children (from 16 wives), and, according to Bagley, approved the Mountain Meadows Massacre trying to protect his chosen people from potential genocide by the US Army,¹⁴ although the Church disputes this point (that Young approved or ordered the massacre; after years of denial the murders of about 120 Christians heading for California has been thoroughly documented and admitted by the Church). Mormonism is less than 200 years old, but it expresses behaviors institutionally that one would expect of selfish genes, driven by arithmetic and scripture to try to outnumber everyone else who is not a ‘pure’ member of God’s chosen elect.

Dig under the skin of ISIS and you can see another example of the selfish gene theory. ISIS rose from disaffected Sunni’s in Iraq and Syria. And it was fueled by Saudi money. Ask why the founding King of modern Saudi Arabia, Abdulaziz Ibn Saud, had 45 sons from more than one wife and many “consorts” and you can see a similar belief system wrapped in totally different scriptural justifications. King Saud and his ancestors made a deal with imams of the ultra-strict Wahhabi branch of Sunni Islam that he would subsidize their proselytization massively, if and only if they would agree to cause trouble only OUTSIDE of the Kingdom. So today they fund thousands of extremist religious schools, called *madrassas*, in Pakistan and in scores of other countries, which teach that unbelievers will

ultimately submit to Sharia Law administered by clerics authorized by conservative guardians of orthodoxy, like current Saudi Arabia and Iran are ruled, except that Iran has Shiite and even deeper Persian roots. It bears emphasis that the bitterest active rivalry in that area today is between Sunni Saudi Arabia, and Shi'ite Iran. Both include minorities of the other, who suffer from that fate.

This belief system encourages perpetual wars and occasional genocides, because frictions between “true believers” in theological purity and neighbors can easily turn lethal. And when people have 45 sons and even more daughters like Ibn Saud did, or just 14 children like Cliven Bundy did (or 11 as LaVoy Finicum had) they inevitably want (in their eyes “need”) more land, which is usually owned by someone else on our crowded earth today. Hence the endless conflicts in western North America (and in deserts everywhere) over water and arable land.

You see the same belief system among the settler movement in Israel which has been colonizing occupied territories since 1948 but more aggressively since 1967. “Settlers” have a birth rate about twice the already high base, and this combined with migration encouraged by both policy and ideology leads to a 5-6% increase in Jewish residents of West Bank territories per year since 2001.¹⁵ A sustained 5% growth rate means doubling every 14 years. They “need” more land too, and they are taking it from loser Palestinians, millions of whom were already displaced to Gaza, Lebanon and other neighbors where they animate very violent and extreme political movements like Hamas and Hezbollah dedicated to destruction of Israel and the Jews therein.

Such demographic and ideological wars have been fought before. Consider the “Religious Wars” between Catholics and Protestants in 15th and 16th century Europe. And the colonization of both North and South American by people of European ancestries. In Minnesota USA, the population changed from 1% European and 99% Native American in the year 1800 C.E., to 99% white Europeans in 1900 C.E., with the remaining 1% divided about equally between Native Americans and blacks.¹⁶ That is a total demographic transformation in just one century, and a belief called “Manifest Destiny” was integral to that. Selfish genes, religious language. The history of humankind is littered with such conflicts including thousands of wars, genocides and near genocides. Some are happening in the Middle East today where Christians are at risk, and a close read of the Bible shows that they happened all too often thousands of years ago as well.

We turn now to how Mormons adjusted to such pressures, and how the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints even changed doctrines to better coexist with other cultures in the deserts and mountains where my relatives killed each other over selfish genes wrapped in religious language.

Implications of the “Selfish Gene” Hypothesis for Solutions to Current Dilemmas

The Selfish Gene hypothesis suggests that in addition to simpler forms of selfishness that are better understood, evolution may have produced a behavioral template for mass violence against conspecifics (other humans) from “other” groups, under conditions of stress and encroachment. Considered alone, this would have severe implications for war and genocide. It would suggest they are inevitable, but they are not.

The history of human life on earth also provides contrary examples of peaceful existence, and even coexistence with other groups. Former ISCS President Matthew Melko wrote about “52 Peaceful Societies” in 1973.¹⁷ And despite over 3,000 wars¹⁸ and hundreds of genocides,¹⁹ many civilizational conflicts once thought inevitable have quietly calmed down over time. Stephen Pinker of Harvard notes that the actual frequency of wars and casualties of war have been slowly declining since about 1994 (year of the Rwandan genocide).²⁰

The Mormon experience provides these clues to why, and how peace can be promoted even among “chosen peoples.” Having suffered enormously from living a “strange” religion and proselyting it to others, LDS Church leaders made three major changes. They moderated the aggressive proselytization that got them in such trouble during the early days (no one wants strangers trying to convert their children by threats). They accepted the superior political authority of the US government (without yielding their claim to supreme religious authority, as many other churches and others claim to this day). And they renounced polygamy as church doctrine in 1890 so that Utah could become a formal US state in 1896.²¹

Of course there were some who rejected these changes, but the desert west of North America still was big enough, and empty enough, for them to find places of refuge like the polygamous towns of Hildale Utah and Colorado City, Arizona.²² Change comes slowly to fundamentalist groups, but even they can change if circumstances require it. The selfish gene hypothesis urges us to never forget that the template for mass, ethnic or religious conflict remains even if not expressed today. But we already know that men can kill each other, for rage or profit or other base reasons, despite our constant efforts to educate the young to better ways.

The LDS Church still has one of the best organized outreach programs of any church, with a requirement that young Mormon males who wish to advance in the hierarchy as respected “Elders” are expected to serve two-year missions, often in other countries. But unlike the early years, these missionary efforts are carefully negotiated with destination governments, and often with other religious authorities in those countries. This is done expressly to minimize frictions that would otherwise be inevitable, as evidenced by the rich Mormon history to date.

ISIS is just the latest aggressive, religiously motivated group to capture the world's attention by its violent efforts to create a new institution to dominate the entire world. They will not be the last, because that drive may be eternal, rooted in a primal lust of men to out populate each other. But so is rape, rooted in ancient drives, and despite millions of failures, polite society has learned ever better how to train young men to control that urge, and to deal effectively with those who will not or cannot control themselves. Of course much remains to be done, but that should not obscure the fact that much has already been done to solve these problems. We overcome human "nature" every day when we teach children to pee in toilets and wear clothes. It is not impossible.

In a previous work, which won a small but meaningful national award, I dealt more thoroughly with human nature and the idea that war is inevitable. The end of that chapter has the most quoted passage of the entire book which I would like to repeat here.

War is not inevitable. Human conflicts are inevitable, but war is not. War is a social institution. Institutions have been created by people; therefore they can be changed.²³

I conclude with a phrase from the Lakota Sioux who were almost eliminated in Minnesota: Mitakuye Oya'sin, which means "We are All Relatives." This too is confirmed by genetics, very thoroughly confirmed by population genetics, but politicians do not act that way yet.

¹ The Mountain Meadows Massacre was the largest slaughter of Christians (called Gentiles by the LDS church) during the colonization of western America by Europeans. This was not done by Indians as originally alleged by LDS church leaders, but by Mormons in 1857. References on that include The Mountain Meadows Massacre, by Juanita Brooks, 1950, reprinted by Oklahoma University Press in 1991; Mountain Meadows Witness: The life and Times of Bishop Philip Klingensmith, by Anna Jean Backus, Arthur H. Clark Company, 1996; "The Mountain Meadows Massacre of 1857: A Civilizational Encounter with Lessons for us All," by M. Andregg, in Comparative Civilizations Review, No. 64, Spring 2011, pp. 38-52, and the LDS Church endorsed version of events, Massacre at Mountain Meadows, by Ronald W. Walker, Richard Turley Jr., and Glen M. Leonard, Oxford University Press, 2008.

² McCants, William. The ISIS Apocalypse, St. Martin's Press, 2015.

³ Olidort, Jacob. "What is Salafism? How a Nonpolitical Ideology Became a Political Force" in Foreign Affairs, Vol. 94, No. 6, November 24, 2015, accessible at: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/syria/2015-11-24/what-salafism>. It should be noted that "Wahhabism" is a particular version of Salafism, based on an 18th century imam from what is now Saudi Arabia, named Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab.

⁴ The ISCS is the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations, for whom this paper was written. Website: <http://www.iscsc.org>.

⁵ White, Michael. "Apocalypticism Explained: The Political History of the Jewish People." White was an historical consultant for a PBS Frontline Production "Apocalypse" accessible at: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/apocalypse/explanation/jews.html>

⁶ "Chomsky Interview: 'The US is one of the Most Fundamentalist Countries in the World,'" by Meera Srinivasan, in The Wire, January 31, 2016, accessible at: <http://thewire.in/2016/01/31/chomsky-interview-the-us-is-one-of-the-most-fundamentalist-countries-in-the-world-20491/>

- ⁷ Wikipedia on “End Times” with sections on each major and several smaller faith traditions can be accessed at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/End_time .
- ⁸ One author associated with this idea is Richard Dawkins, who wrote The Selfish Gene in 1976, republished by Oxford University Press in 1990, and 2006. But the roots of this idea go much further back to the genesis of the modern, synthetic theory of evolution.
- ⁹ Huntington, Samuel P. “The Clash of Civilizations” in Foreign Affairs, Vol. 72, No. 3, pp. 22-49, 1993.
- ¹⁰ Jessica Stern, and J.M. Berger. ISIS – The State of Terror, published by William Collins Co. on March 12, 2015 and referenced on BBC World News on November 21, 2015, in a piece called “ISIS and the Apocalypse.”
- ¹¹ Binder, Melissa. “Oregon militants: Why the Bundys’ Mormonism matters,” in The Oregonian, January 5, 2016.
- ¹² Sepulvado, John. “Mormon Faith Serves as Powerful Symbol for Oregon Protesters,” an interview with Audie Cornish on “All Things Considered,” National Public Radio, January 4, 2016. I note here also that Mormonism is rare in affirming direct revelations from “God”, for the whole church, to potentially any Mormon “Elder”, but do affirm revelation to their President who is an equivalent to the Catholic Pope in authority and alleged access to “infallible” insights.
- ¹³ Zaitz, Les. “Nevada Rancher Cliven Bundy Arrested by FBI in Portland” in The Oregonian, February 10, 2016, accessible at: http://www.oregonlive.com/oregon-standoff/2016/02/nevada_rancher_cliven_bundy_de.html
- ¹⁴ Bagley, Will. Blood of the Prophets: Brigham Young and the Massacre at Mountain Meadows, Oklahoma University Press, 2002.
- ¹⁵ BBC World News Report of November 25, 2009, titled “Palestinians shun Israeli settlement restrictions,” accessible at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8379868.stm. This report includes much demographic data.
- ¹⁶ Andregg, Michael. “Dakota Land in 1862, a Genocide Forgotten: How Civilizational Transformation can get lost in the Fading Rate of History,” in Comparative Civilizations Review, No. 59, Fall 2008, pp. 73-98.
- ¹⁷ Melko, Matthew. 52 Peaceful Societies, Canadian Peace Research Institute Press, 1973.
- ¹⁸ Eckhardt, William. Civilizations, Empires and Wars: A Quantitative History of War, Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press, 1992.
- ¹⁹ Markusen, Eric, and David Kopf. The Holocaust and Strategic Bombing: Genocide and Total War in the 20th Century, Boulder CO: Westview Press, 1995.
- ²⁰ Pinker, Stephen. The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined, Viking Books, 2011.
- ²¹ “Utah Becomes a State” from the “I love History” website of the Utah Division of State History, accessible at: <http://ilovehistory.utah.gov/topics/government/statehood.html>
- ²² “Changes are Happening in the Polygamist Towns of Hildale and Colorado City, News Report on Channel 4, Salt Lake City, published on Feb. 23, 2015, and accessible at: <http://www.good4utah.com/contact/don-hudson/changes-are-happening-in-the-polygamist-towns-of-hildale-and-colorado-city>
- ²³ Andregg, Michael. On the Causes of War, St. Paul, MN: Ground Zero Minnesota, 1997, 1999, 2001. Chapter 7 is on “Human Nature, Nurture, Free Will and War” and the quote comes from page 29.