

# Muslims Making Atheists

Here in Sydney, Australia, where I've been lecturing for a week, I may have had one Australian-born waitress or waiter, and one Australian-born taxi driver. As is my wont, I have been asking all my waiters, waitresses, and taxi drivers where they were born and, whenever possible, having some discussion about their native country.

I say "whenever possible" because, unlike in the United States, where taxi drivers, whether foreign- or American-born, are known for being talkative, in Sydney, apparently, the influence of the famous British reserve is still very much in evidence. I ask a driver where he was born, he responds, and the discussion is pretty much ended.

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## What Kids Now Learn in College

As high school seniors throughout America will be receiving acceptance letters to colleges within the next month, it would be nice for parents to meditate on what they are getting for the \$20–\$50,000 they will pay each year.

✘ The United States is no better than any other country, and in many areas worse than many. On the world stage, America is an imperialist country, and domestically it mistreats its minorities and neglects its poor, while discriminating against non-whites.

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## **If You're Ever Murdered . . .**

I'd like to offer a simple proposal that, if enacted, could generate a great deal of a most precious resource: moral clarity.

It concerns the death penalty.

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## **Chris Christie Leads on Israel**

New Jersey governor Chris Christie addressed the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) last week. In the few words reported by *The Weekly Standard*, he said just about everything one needs to know about Israel, about its relationship with the U.S., and about American political leadership:

*America should stand by its friends and its democratic allies, even, and sometimes especially, when it's unpopular to do so.*

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## ***Two Kinds of Fanaticism***

*The Muslim world is threatened by religious fanaticism. The Western world is threatened by secular fanaticism.*

*Both seek to dominate society and to use state power to do so. Both seek to eliminate the Other – for Islamic fanatics that means non-Muslim religions and secularism; for secular fanatics it means Christianity and virtually any public invocation of God. The Islamists impose sharia law; the ACLU, and the Left generally, impose secular law. The Taliban wiped out public vestiges of Buddhism in Afghanistan; the ACLU and its allies seek to wipe out public vestiges of Christianity in America – as it did, for example, in Los Angeles County when it successfully pressured the County Board of Supervisors to remove the tiny cross from the county seal. A city and county founded by Catholics – hence the name “The Angels” – was forced to stop commemorating its founders because they were religious.*

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