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Subject: OT: An interesting paradox - Islam and the Pope  
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Sat, 16 Sep 2006 22:48:09 GMT  
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I don't want to start another religious or political thread - I just found this ironic, at best:

The Pope is under fire from the Islamic community because he quoted a Byzantine emperor's ancient writings in a talk rejecting religious motivation for violence. The emperor, in obscure writings hundreds of year old, characterized the teachings of Muhammad (Islam's founder) as "evil and inhuman" because of his command to "spread by the sword the faith". The Pope made no such characterization - just quoted the old guy, and it isn't even clear if he quoted any of the "offensive" text.

As a protest, two Catholic, two Anglican, and one Greek church in the West Bank were attacked by Palestinians using guns, firebombs and lighter fluid - charring the churches and riddling them with bullet holes.

Umm...reality check:  $2+2=4$ . The Earth still circles the Sun. And doesn't reacting with violence just prove the Emperor's assessment, and then some? Yet the press and the Islamic world seem to have missed the irony of this response, or at least are reluctant to admit it.

The Pope's comment is getting more press than the fact that violence was actually perpetrated when the churches were torched. To note, this was a response, not a crime.

Why are we (the world culture) so quick to defend Islam and work so hard to avoid offending Muslims, regardless of the cost - even if it means rewriting the definitions of peace and violence? Just something to think about....

Ignorance isn't bliss, it's the last step one takes before falling off of a cliff.

Back to music...  
Dedric

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