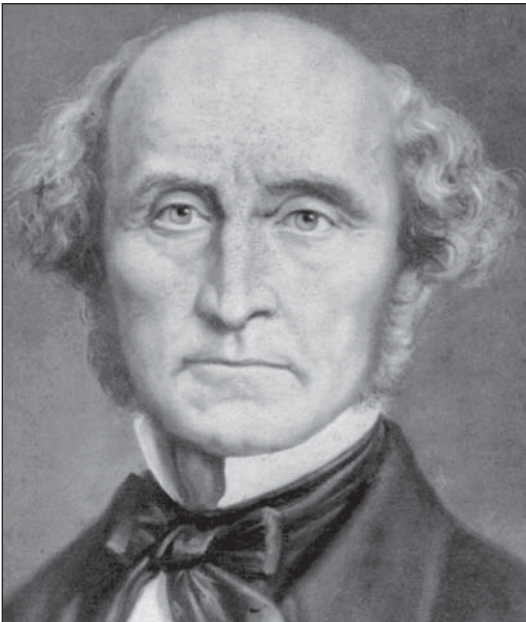


Whether Solzhenitsyn was fair or fully objective is open to discussion, but surely an honest review of the history of the West since World War II in particular—Chamberlain and Munich beforehand not to be overlooked—would provide much support for his characterization. A “decline in courage”—it would appear this is actually a euphemistic way of expressing the reality—pervades Western culture: citizens who claim religious faith largely confine any expression of it to their churches, cathedrals and synagogues; the Judeo-Christian morality, more or less still given lip service by many, is rarely given forceful public voice due to the pusillanimity of those who may boldly and repeatedly breach it in practice; political correctness not only enforces conformity of expression but strives to do so with thought as well; the most debased in art, literature and entertainment is shielded by specious applications of the notion of “freedom of speech and expression” and thus are never exposed for the scatology they truly are; illicit or irresponsible behavior by certain interest groups, racial, ethnic, or sexual, is handled with the gentility usually reserved for unexploded ordnance; illegal immigration—complete with multitudinous examples of the flouting of the host nations’ laws—rarely provokes a disparaging word by the dominant minority directed at the ethnic groups and the nations behind the invasions; enemies of the civilization are fought in a war on terror, the very appellation of which suggests a cowardly unwillingness to admit the identity and character of the enemy; truly powerful nations are never confronted but a third-rate power can be overwhelmed in a sweeping war that is then touted as a great victory for Western military prowess; and all of the above is casuistry and excused rather than exposed for what it truly is.

There is abroad in Western civilization a pervasive fear cloaked on all sides by denial. Most evident in the West’s attitudes and behavior toward Islam, this fear is psychologically a second cousin to the Stockholm syndrome and is symptomatic of an ever steeper slide into moral weakness that then demands that the decline must not be acknowledged but hidden behind a series of fabrications, rationalizations and tendentious euphemisms. Enemies—both concrete and abstract—must be somehow made to seem “friends,” or innocuous, or at least appeased. These “crocodiles” (to use a Churchillian term) may be consuming others but surely they will not consume us.



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John Stuart Mill anticipated the state of our time in Western culture by declaring a great truth for all time: “The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.” Today a selfless minority in the military are ensuring the freedoms of a dissipated and selfish majority. But it cannot and will not last. The reckoning is coming.