

Opinion / Editorial

WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT FOR WESTERN COUNTRIES IN CRISIS

By Bill Connor

At the recent European Security Summit in Munich, America again warned Europe to take more responsibility for its defense. The U.S. could no longer continue as the primary guarantor of European Security. Among those delivering the message, under secretary of defense, Elbridge Colby, was direct in stating "The core strategic reality is this: Europe must assume primary responsibility for its own conventional defense." <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2026/02/14/the-conservative-thinker-quietly-shaping-trumps-approach-to-nato-00781630> To their credit, European countries were generally in agreement with their need to take the reins.

A major problem them at the present is the severe lack of forces and logistics necessary to face the main threat, Russia. The other more critical problem is with Western Europeans and the lack of willingness to fight. That must be fixed and America must take heed as we will face the same.

By findings of recent surveys, Western Europe is at the rock bottom of citizens being willing to fight for their nation in war. One survey conducted at the end of 2023 (46,138 people from 45 countries) showed that globally around 50% are willing to fight for their nation. This was an overall decline of around 11% from a similar poll from a decade earlier. According to article about the survey "Willingness (to fight) was highest in West Asia (77%) and the Middle East



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(73%) and lowest in the EU (32%)". From the earlier (2014) survey, of which willingness was higher, France was at 29%, the UK was 27%, Spain was 21%, Italy 21%, German 18% and Netherlands 15%. In contrast, the U.S. was at 44% in 2014 and 41% now. Lower than the world average and going down. <https://medium.com/@alysion42/would-you-die-for-your-country-a700f7fb684a>

There are some European countries with a high propensity to fight, like Finland (74%) and Ukraine (62%), but none of the major Western European countries which are the backbone of the EU and/or NATO. The sizable Western European countries of Germany, Italy, France, Spain and the UK have the lowest propensity to fight in war in the world. This fact exacerbates the problem of them having relatively small military forces and equipment to secure Europe without the United States. Of note, the primary threat, Russia, is at 59% willingness to fight and has massive forces.

Some may blame the low propensity of Western Europeans to fight on the United States acting as the primary force for NATO since the Second World War. The example of long time NATO member Turkey, however, counters that argument with their 73% willingness to fight in war. The real issue is immigration: Western European nations with low willingness to fight are those with unchecked non-European immigration. As our 2026 National Security Strategy puts it, Europe faces "the real and stark prospect of civilizational erasure..... migration policies that are transforming the continent and creating strife, censorship of free speech and suppression of political opposition, cratering birthrates, and loss of national identities and self-confidence." <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-National-Security-Strategy.pdf> The difference between the NATO members with a high propensity to fight, like Turkey and Finland, is in the area of limited and controlled immigration and cohesive culture.

I served with the British forces in Helmand Afghanistan fighting Taliban and maintain many British Veteran friendship. I also travel to the British Isles frequently and have a unique perspective on the British feelings about immigration. Many of the native British, including British veterans, are now openly questioning what they would be fighting "for" if called to serve. They love the traditional democratic Constitutional monarchy, with the unique history of respect for individual rights and freedoms and the Christian religion. Particularly starting in 1997 under Tony Blair, immigration from the developing world to the UK went into hyperdrive and hasn't slowed down since. The UK became a hotbed of Islamism which radicalized and recruited Jihadists who went back to Islamic terror groups like Al Qaeda or ISIS. The willingness to fight for the UK among the new immigrant class is extremely low. The average

Family & Marriage

Principles or Expectations



Roger Rollins,
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"If you set out to be liked, you would be prepared to compromise on anything at any time, and you would achieve nothing." – Margaret Thatcher

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." – Bible (Romans 12:2)

John Adams stated, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Carl Gustav Jung was a Swiss psychiatrist, psychotherapist, and psychologist who believed that "we compromise between who we really are (our true self) and what society expects us to be. We hide those parts of ourselves that are not aligned with society's expectations." Although Jung was raised as a Christian, he did not strictly adhere to traditional Christian doctrine. He believed religion, including Christianity, "is a powerful expression of the human psyche and its search for meaning."

Jung taught that we must adopt a certain stance in relating to the world around us, which he called our persona, the name used for the masks worn by actors in the ancient past. That part of us which we don't display to the public or often even to ourselves is the shadow. We stuff into our unconscious shadow improper instincts, embarrassing emotions, shameful desires, and vulnerabilities. We hide the shadow, and yet it's there, influencing our relationships with others.

In our marriages, we love our spouse and care for them. Often, however, our methods of showing our love are influenced by our own experiences, current and

past. We may have had a previous close relationship, or a previous marriage, where hurtful things happened. We don't like to think about them and certainly not to talk about them, but they can influence our current relationships in significant ways.

In our relationship with our spouse, as we spend more time together, we may learn things that

we don't like or don't agree with. But for whatever reason we don't bring them up and discuss them.

Maybe they aren't a big deal, just a small irritant. But those hidden "irritants," small or big, can pop up unexpectedly. That hidden anger may encounter some unexpected trigger, and we blow up at our spouse at the most unexpected time. We may feel guilty afterwards, but it happened.

Maybe we have repressed feelings and sexual desires that are trying to drive us in the wrong direction. We become susceptible to the pressures and temptations around us. Just watching ads on TV can insert thoughts that shouldn't be there. Everywhere we turn there is some subtle, or not so subtle, encouragement to look again, and to lose control over our imagination.

The best way to deal with all these influences is to acknowledge that they exist and depending on who else is involved, speak of them. If our friends are doing things we don't agree with, we have

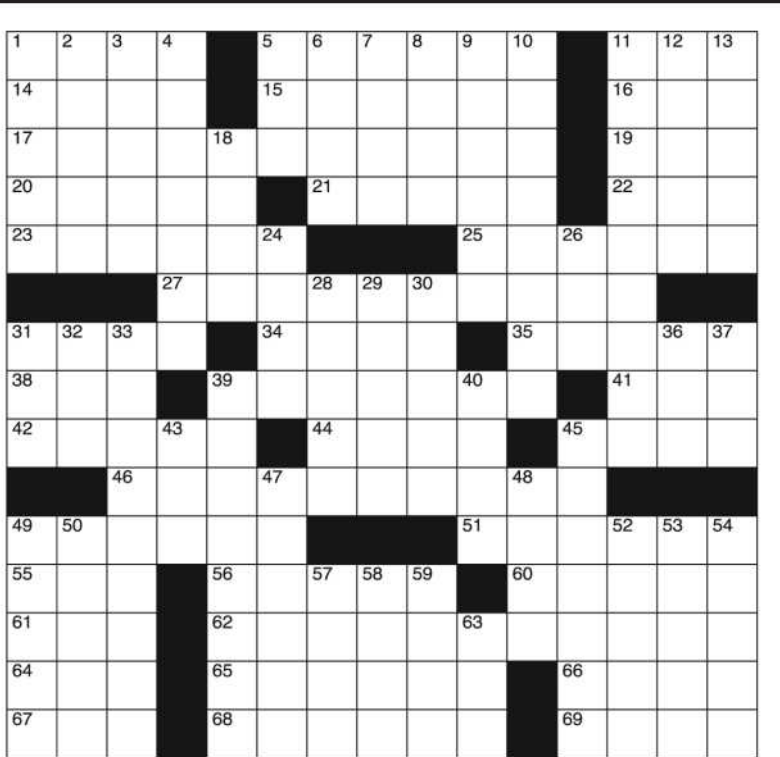
several options. We can join in with them and decide "it's no big deal" We can ignore the "offensive" actions, and just not join in. Maybe it's just a matter of opinion. After all, we might offend them! Or we can try to express our concerns in a non-con-

demning fashion. Hopefully, if they really are our friends, we can have a peaceful and fruitful dialogue.

If it is our spouse whose actions are offending us, the first thing we should do is evaluate our own feelings. After all, we aren't perfect either. If they like fried potatoes and we like them boiled, that is probably ok. There are easy ways to solve the dilemma if we work together. If the differences are more significant, discuss them in a calm fashion. Pick a mutually agreeable time and place to share and listen. Recognize the differences that are minor and resolve them.

Recognize the major differences and agree on a path forward, which may mean talking to a pastor or a trusted counselor or friend. But don't ignore them; untreated wounds never go away; they just fester and eventually burst. (Ref. "The Consolations of Imperfection," by Donald McCullough)

Family and Marriage Coalition of Aiken, Inc. (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689, rogerrollins@gmail.com. Let us know how we can help.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cut quickly
- 5. A way to state clearly
- 11. River in NE Scotland
- 14. Expansive
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Toadstools
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Experimented with
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Acquisitive
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. Everyone has one
- 35. Kalahari Desert lake
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. People 65 and over
- 41. Small amount
- 42. Daughter of Acrisius
- 44. Ornamental box
- 45. Government agents
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Treeless plains
- 55. One's sense of self-importance
- 56. Consumer advocate
- 60. Type of lounge
- 61. Body part
- 62. Can be persuaded
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Arab ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually went away
- 69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Small water spirit (Germ.)
- 3. Heroes
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. Some don't want to share theirs
- 6. Free-swimming invertebrate
- 7. Litigates
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uneasy feelings
- 11. Cross
- 12. A way to remove
- 13. Pages can be dog-___
- 18. Ukrainian city
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Month
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Group of chemicals
- 30. Rider of Rohan
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Southwestern Russia city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Angry
- 37. Drivers' licenses
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. They ___
- 45. Women
- 47. Be filled with love for
- 48. Thick-soled sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The leading performer
- 53. Protein
- 54. "Gunga Din" script writer
- 57. Art ___, around 1920
- 58. ___ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest



SUDOKU

				5	4			
				7	2			9
7	8				1	3		
		2	4	1				
				5	9	6		
	4	9						2
								7
1	5							
		6	2	8				

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as the 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

9	7	6	2	8	3	5	4	1
1	5	4	7	9	6	8	2	3
3	2	8	4	1	6	7	9	5
5	4	9	8	7	3	1	2	6
8	1	7	3	5	2	9	6	4
6	3	2	4	1	9	7	8	5
7	8	5	9	6	2	4	1	3
4	6	3	1	7	8	2	5	9
2	9	1	6	3	5	4	7	8

ANSWER: