



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

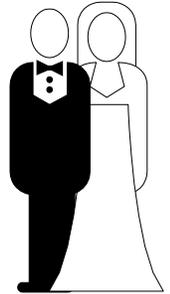
NOVEMBER 20 2010

MARRIAGE: WHAT'S IT GOOD FOR?

November 18, 2010 Time.com reported: "The wedding of the 20th century, in 1981, celebrated a marriage that turned out to be a huge bust. It ended as badly as a relationship can: scandal, divorce and, ultimately, death and worldwide weeping.

So when the firstborn son of that union, Britain's Prince William, set in motion the wedding of this century by getting engaged to Catherine Middleton, he did things a little differently. He picked someone older than he is (by six months), who went to the same university he did and whom he'd dated for a long time. Although she is not of royal blood, she stands to become the first English Queen with a university degree, so in one fundamental way, theirs is a union of equals. In that regard, the new couple reflect the changes in the shape and nature of marriage that have been rippling throughout the Western world for the past few decades.

In fact, statistically speaking, a young man of William's age — if not his royal English heritage — might be just as likely not to get married, yet. In 1960, the year before Princess Diana, William's mother, was born, nearly 70% of American adults were married; now only about half are. Eight times as many children are born out of wedlock. Back then, two-thirds of 20-somethings were married; in 2008 just 26% were. And college graduates are now far more likely to marry (64%) than those with no higher education (48%)



When an institution so central to human experience suddenly changes shape in the space of a generation or two, it's worth trying to figure out why. This fall the Pew Research Center, in association with TIME, conducted a nationwide poll exploring the contours of modern marriage and the new American family, posing questions about what people want and expect out of marriage and family life, why they enter into committed relationships and what they gain from them. What we found is that marriage, whatever its social, spiritual or symbolic appeal, is in purely practical terms just not as necessary as it used to be. Neither men nor women need to be married to have sex or companionship or professional success or respect or even children — yet marriage remains revered and desired.

And of all the transformations our family structures have undergone in the past 50 years, perhaps the most profound is the marriage differential that has opened between the rich and the poor. In 1960 the median household income of married adults was 12% higher than that of single adults, after adjusting for household size. By 2008 this gap had grown to 41%. In other words, the richer and more educated you are, the more likely you are to marry, or to be married — or, conversely, if you're married, you're more likely to be well off."..."

IRANIANS BEGIN 5-DAY, NATIONWIDE AIR DEFENSE DRILL

November 16, 2010 The Jerusalem Post reports: "The Iranian military began a five-day nationwide military drill dubbed 'Defenders of the Sky' on Tuesday, state-run IRNA reported. Army Defense Forces, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), police and Basij have joined the military exercise," drill spokesman Brig.-Gen. Hamid Arjangi told IRNA.

'The military maneuver is staged across the country unlike last year's,' he said. 'Aircrafts of the enemy dubbed 'Orange Forces' were identified and intercepted by our radar systems and then the order to confront the enemy was given.'

Low-, mid- and high-altitude missiles were being used in the drill, he added."..."

HAITI CHOLERA TOLL PASSES 1,000 AS UNREST FEARS GROW

November 16, 2010 Agence France-Presse reported: "Haiti's cholera death toll passed 1,000 on Tuesday as mounting anger at the health crisis saw tensions spike with UN peacekeepers accused by some of being the source of the outbreak. Burning tires wafted thick black smoke across the northern city of Cap-Haitien, where thousands of protesters went on the rampage Monday, setting a police station ablaze and threatening to torch a UN compound.

Two Haitians died in the riots, including one shot by a peacekeeper in an incident that raised fears of further unrest targeting the unpopular United Nations force, which is known by the acronym MINUSTAH. Six UN peacekeepers were injured in a second protest Monday in the central city of Hinche, near the base of a Nepalese unit accused of bringing the *Vibrio cholerae* bacterium into the country.

"We are monitoring the situation in other towns where demonstrations were attempted this morning," a police officer told AFP Tuesday on condition of anonymity. He said Interior Minister Paul-Antoine Bien-Aime and Haitian police chief Mario Andresol would lead a delegation to the north in the coming days to help restore calm.

The cholera death toll rose Tuesday to 1,034, the health ministry said, with about 16,800 people hospitalized since the disease surfaced in late October -- the quake-hit nation's first outbreak since the 1960s."..."

AS EURO ZONE FACES STRAIN, SOME QUESTION ITS FUTURE

November 17, 2010 The International Herald Tribune reported: "Ireland's debt and banking crisis has again raised a worst-case outcome that few expect, but many fear: the possibility that the euro's design flaws could cause one or more members to bolt the currency union.

Though only a small minority of economists predict a splintering of the euro area, a much larger group sees it as a risk — one that has contributed to volatility on bond markets in recent days and helped push the currency down.

“A significant proportion of investors think this is a possible if not probable scenario,” said Elga Bartsch, an economist at Morgan Stanley in London who does not subscribe to euro Armageddon theories. “It seems that the market is giving it a higher probability than before.”

When Morgan Stanley surveyed about 150 clients in September, only 3 percent thought there was a more than 60 percent chance that the euro zone would break up. But only 25 percent of the group, made up primarily of investors, thought the chances of breakup were zero. Looked at another way, that means 75 percent believed there was a risk of a breakup, however small.

“I have never been advocating a breakup of the euro zone,” said Martin Taylor, former chief executive of Barclays bank, who caused a stir earlier this year with a proposal— “half in jest” — to split the euro into two currency zones, one for the north and one for the south. But Mr. Taylor added, “If weaker countries don’t behave in a way necessary to sustain the euro zone, it will break up.”



The Ireland crisis has fed speculation about end-game scenarios by again highlighting the fundamental flaws in the euro project. These include the lack of a mechanism for imposing budgetary rigor on the 16 members and the restricted options for members in crisis. Ireland, Portugal or Greece have no national currency they can devalue to regain international competitiveness.

“The main factor will be the growth outlook,” said Elisa Parisi-Capone, senior analyst at Roubini Global Economics, which sees a 45 percent risk over the long term that a euro member will quit the club. “If they don’t manage to close or adjust the competitiveness gap, it will be difficult.”

For policy makers and many economists, the consequences of a split in the euro zone are too terrible to contemplate. Among other things, if a country like Greece tried to reintroduce its own currency, there would be a run on local banks as panicked depositors tried to withdraw strong euros before they were converted to weak drachmas. If Ireland left, it would lose crucial support for its ailing banks from the E.C.B. The remaining countries would also suffer. Germans, French, Dutch and others have invested much of their savings in southern Europe. And Europe would no longer have a currency with a stature to rival the dollar.

“Do we have an interest in going back to 16 currencies? I don’t see it,” said Michala Marcussen, global head of economic research at Société Générale in London. The ensuing unrest could shake the whole European Union, and threaten its mission — born of the horrors of two world wars — of ensuring peace by yoking countries together economically.

“The institution of European monetary union is so highly integrated into every aspect of life you just don’t pick up and walk out,” said Carl B. Weinberg, the chief economist at High Frequency Economics in Valhalla, New York. “It would take the economic equivalent of war to make it happen.”...

CHURCH LEADER URGES IRAQI CHRISTIANS TO QUIT COUNTRY

November 7, 2010 BBCnews.com “Archbishop Athanasios Dawood, who is based in the UK, made his appeal during a service at the Syrian Orthodox Church in London. The archbishop said Christians had been without protection since the US-led invasion in 2003.

At least 52 people died as security forces stormed a Catholic church in Baghdad to free dozens of hostages. A number of gunmen entered Our Lady of Salvation in the city’s Karrada district during Mass on Sunday 31 October, sparking an hours-long stand-off.

The militants made contact with the authorities by mobile phone, demanding the release of al-Qaeda prisoners and also of a number of Muslim women they insisted were being held prisoner by the Coptic Church in Egypt. After negotiations failed, Iraqi security forces stormed the building, before the gunmen reportedly threw grenades and detonated their suicide vests.

On Sunday, Archbishop Dawood advised all Christians to leave Iraq now al-Qaeda had warned of more attacks there. He told the BBC the attack on the church amounted to “genocide” and there was now no place for Christians in Iraq.

“The Christians are weak - they don’t have militia, they don’t have a (political) party,” he said. “You know, everybody hates the Christian.”...

LARGE HADRON COLLIDER CREATES 'MINI BIG BANG' WITH LEAD IONS

November 8, 2010 The London Daily Telegraph reports: “The Large Hadron Collider has succeeded in recreating a miniature version of the Big Bang by smashing stripped-down lead atoms together. The reaction created temperatures a million times hotter than the centre of the Sun, which have not been reached since the first billionths of a second following the Big Bang.

This was expected to cause atomic particles such as protons and neutrons to melt, producing a ‘soup’ of matter in a state previously unseen on Earth. Scientists, including British particle physicists, will now study the particles in the hope of discovering what holds atoms together and gives them their mass.

The collisions were produced by firing lead ions – atoms with their electrons removed – at incredible speeds in opposite directions around the LHC’s underground tunnel at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, near Geneva. The heavyweight particle collisions follow seven months of earlier experiments crashing protons – which are 200 times lighter than lead ions – at near-light speeds.

Dr David Evans, of Birmingham University, said on Sunday: “We are thrilled with the achievement. The collisions generated mini Big Bangs and the highest temperatures and densities ever achieved in an experiment.”...

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