

## DON'T BE ONE OF THEM

It seems to me that the vast majority of humans are reasonable, loving, civic-minded sorts that pose no danger to each other. Yet in human history vile, large-scale episodes of ethnic cleansing and prejudice towards certain groups break out, which stain all humanity with the evil brush. The following chart hints at what I am referring to.

TIME	VICTIMS	PERPETUATORS	NOTES
BC	Hebrew people	Egyptians	Slavery
BC - Modern era	Wide Mediterranean area	Romans	Roman Empire
Modern era	Muslim world	Western Europe	The Crusades
Middle Ages	Eastern Europe	Holy Roman Empire	Empire building
Late Middle Ages	Middle east and Europe	Turks (Byzantine Empire)	"
15 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Centuries	Americas, Africa, Asia	Western Europe	Colonial empires
1490	Moors	Spain	Expulsion
1492	Jews	Spain	Inquisition and Expulsion
15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Africans	America (and many others)	Slavery
19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Native Americans	United States	Indian wars and Removal
20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Jews and other groups	Nazi Germany	The Holocaust
20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Middle East, Latin America	United States	Regime Changes
20 <sup>th</sup> century	Muslims	Balkans	Ethnic Cleansing
20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Ethiopia	Italy	"
20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Armenians	Turkey	"
21st Century	Middle East	Isis / Muslim Fanatics	"

We can look to South Africa, India, Pakistan and many other countries for examples of human misbehavior.

I heard a PBS interview with a Detroit Police captain of Indian heritage. He recounted the stories his family told of the horrors that the Pakistanis inflicted on Indian refugees after the partitioning in the 1940s. The Pakistanis would attack the camps of those Indians forced to flee and beat them, rob them and rape the women and girls. The evil nature of the Pakistan people was imprinted in the boy's brain.

As an adult, successful American, he was able to travel to India and visit assorted uncles and cousins who had not come to America. They regaled him with stories of how they had punished those miserable Pakistanis traveling through their territory by beating them, robbing them and raping the women and girls.

It was a moment of truth for him. For the first time he was able to see that his people too had raped and robbed helpless refugees. He said that he returned to his duties in Detroit a better man.

As Pogo said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Now, who am I to be voicing these stories and opinions? Am I just preaching to the choir? How could this little effort do any good?

I don't have a ready answer to those questions, but by putting this out, on line, on my blog, I might just affect someone's opinion at a crucial time and let that person speak out.