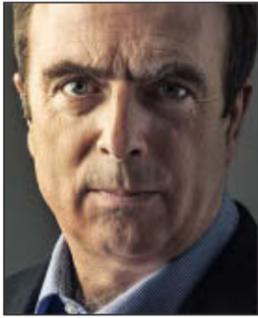


Peter Hitchens



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Reasonable, peaceful, sober. That's why they terrify me...

PLEASE permit me not to care about 'Jihadi John', whose participation in a series of gruesome videos has made him a useful frontman for his murderous accomplices.

They love to provoke us into more futile flailing and squawking about the need to fight back. Most of this fightback consists of adjectives, the only weapons this country now possesses in any quantity. Watch out for them, rolling by like a verbal Red Square parade: 'Horrific!', 'cowardly!', 'extremist!'.

Islamic State's strength depends greatly on its ability to mesmerise Western media.

And the idea of a Londoner presenting the group's macabre videos might have been designed by a public relations man who understands exactly what makes the British mass media salivate.

Even so, there's very little we can do about it. Terror is all about nasty surprises, and MI5, for all its poker-faced grandeur, cannot predict the future. Nor will it help anyone to ban Islamist blowhards from speaking at university meetings. It will just make us look silly.

If you're worried about an Islamist threat to Britain, Jihadi John isn't the problem. That's to be found in the astonishing figure of 300,000 net migrants into Britain last year. A fair number of them will be Muslims, reinforcing what is rapidly becoming a highly influential minority in this country.

AS WE saw in an interesting poll, these Muslim fellow citizens don't want to chop our heads off or murder us. They are reasonable, peaceful people who make better neighbours than many indigenous Britons.

But they think differently from us about the world. And they believe in something, which most of us do not. That's the chief difference between us. And bit by bit, as they become more numerous and find their way into our institutions, helped by their com-



GOING WITH THE FLOE: Despite Warmist dogma, polar bears are thriving

Bear warning is just hot air

LIBERAL leftists love to laugh at Mormons, but the Climate Change Cult, to which leftists all belong, makes Mormonism look mild and undogmatic. In a way it's lucky that the Warmists (perhaps we should call them the Warmons?) have the BBC to do their missionary work for them, or we'd never get them off our doorsteps.

You can almost see the Warmists' brains glaze over as they start to make their incantations about carbon dioxide. And, like the Book of Mormon, the Warmist Bible

is full of the most obvious twaddle, a yawning trap for the credulous.

Most blatant of all their falsehoods is the cult of the poor little polar bear, martyred symbol of man's carbonic greed, stranded sadly on a melting ice floe as it contemplates a watery grave.

In fact these rather savage and uncuddly predators are doing extremely well just now, with numbers at record highs thanks partly to the plentiful supply of nice fat seals in Arctic seas (yes, they

eat those sweet little seals). As Susan Crockford in a new report on the bears says: 'On almost every measure, things are looking good for polar bears. Scientists are finding that they are well distributed throughout their range and adapting well to changes in sea ice. Health indicators are good and they are benefiting from abundant prey. It really is time for the doom and gloom about polar bears to stop.'

And I also ought to point out one other thing. Polar bears can swim.

HAVE you, too, been forced by your bank to have a contactless credit or debit card which you can use without a PIN? Are you frequently urged by shop assistants to 'pay by contactless'?

My advice is to object. The contactless system is an invitation to spend more, faster. It is, by its nature, insecure and means a lost or stolen

card can be quickly used to make plenty of unverified purchases, while you are still trying to cancel it. And the £20 limit on contactless purchases will start to go up in September. How long before it is much, much higher?

Some companies will relent, and give you a non-contactless card. Others are obdurate. They should be challenged.

petence, self-possession and sobriety, they will change society into one that suits them.

I don't see how this process

can be stopped now. I sympathise with a lot of their concerns, though I greatly dislike their attitude towards women.

Like them, I find our way of life tawdry, immoral and often debauched. I just wish we had found our own British, Christian solution to these problems.

But we turned our back on patriotism and the church long ago. And round about the same time, we opened our borders, so wide that I do not think we will ever be able to close them again.

This thing has happened. We are going to have to try to learn to live with it as best and as kindly as we can, for the alternative is horrible. But I for one will never forgive those who allowed this to happen to what was one of the world's great civilisations.

Dr Osborne's dodgy prescription

IF YOU had stratospheric blood pressure, were grossly obese, lived a sedentary lifestyle and smoked constantly, what would you think of a doctor who told you to carry on as you were? That's what I think of George Osborne, and of his admirers.

What can one do about those who are fooled by the Chancellor's phoney boom, with its empty fake jobs, its miserable productivity, its galaxy-sized national debt, its swollen defi-

cit and its dangerous housing bubble? Perhaps I could quietly mention the external debt on our current account. This is the measure of Britain's ability to pay its way in the world. And in the third quarter of last year it hit six per cent, a peacetime record, but not in a good way.

This is partly caused by an appalling trade deficit of £34.8 billion, plus a collapse in earnings on foreign investments, which were in surplus in 2011, and are now heavily in the red.

THERE was much trumpeting of a drop in teenage pregnancies last week, hilariously attributed to sex education programmes that frantically avoid mentioning abstinence or marriage, and assume promiscuity is normal.

If this 'education' is so effective, it's odd that sexually transmitted diseases continue to be rampant, and Britain's teen pregnancy rate remains among the highest in Europe.

Here's another explanation - the 'morning after pill' now available over the counter to anyone who looks 16, and which makes sure that a one-night stand doesn't lead to pregnancy. This charming treatment, by the way, was originally developed by vets, to stop pedigree poodles conceiving after a street-corner dalliance with the local mongrel.

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