



# The Terror Of Not Knowing

BY KATHLEEN PARKER  
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WASHINGTON — As the manhunt for the Boston bombers reached its climactic conclusion, Americans of all hues and backgrounds heaved a sigh of relief. Thank goodness it wasn't ... fill in the blank:

- A white Christian from the South;
  - A dark-skinned Muslim foreigner;
  - An illegal Latino immigrant.
- Thank goodness. The marathon terrorists it turns out were of a Chechen background. Huh? Is that, like, in Czechoslovakia or something?

If many Americans had forgotten or never known where Chechnya is — or that Czechoslovakia is now the Czech Republic — they were not confused when it came to the Muslim connection. The mere fact that the brothers, Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, were connected to Islam was sufficient for some to justify holding all Muslims in suspicion.

The relief, meanwhile, was that “our” demographic group wouldn't this time be blamed. Even darker-skinned Muslims, familiar with group demonization following 9/11, reportedly were relieved.

As police pursued the bombers, a friend asked me which I would prefer: A domestic or foreign terrorist? Putting aside the unfortunate nature of the question (obviously one prefers neither), I answered foreign, explaining: “Foreign enemies unite us; domestic enemies further divide us.”

This blurted observation has been proved true enough times in the past to qualify as a reasonably defensible proposition. But even domestic terror now divides us. Us-Them has become far more complicated as we have become far more diverse. The Tsarnaev brothers have shuffled our templates into something that eludes easy characterization and denies us the unifying enemy that at least provides a sense of something that can be fixed.

Whom do we hate when the enemy is a composite of our own diverse ecosystem? When “them” is “us”?

Our Boston (alleged) mass murderers were foreign-born but the younger brother is an American citizen, as is one in eight U.S. residents, according to the Census Bureau. (The older brother, who died in a police shootout, was a permanent resident.) Given these facts, it is difficult to infer that being foreign-born makes one more likely to become an anti-American terrorist.

The brothers also were Muslim, but so are 2.75 million others living in the U.S., 63 percent of whom are foreign-



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born, according to the Pew Research Center. Again, it isn't possible to characterize an entire religious group by the actions of two individuals who claim to belong to a certain religion. Most Christians don't wish to be identified with the random Bible-quoting ranter (think Westboro Baptist Church's “God Hates Fags” crusader) any more than a majority of Muslims want to be grouped with radicals who also claim Allah as their guide.

That said, there can be no denying that radical Muslims vastly outnumber those in Christian or other religious groups who believe that killing infidels is a ticket to eternity. It isn't easy to get from “turn the other cheek” to jihad, notwithstanding the Crusades or the Gainesville, Fla., “preacher” who burned a Koran, proving only that followers of the Christian faith have no monopoly on intelligence. Even a tiny percentage of 1.5 billion Muslims, or 21 percent of the world's population, who have embraced jihad is enough to give pause. Moderate Muslims share that pause.

Alas, this is not a comparative religion seminar but an examination of the difficulties ahead as we wrestle acquired biases into submission and resist the urge to demonize groups of people. Discrimination is a life-saving tool in the jungle — steer clear of the hyenas — but it has no place in American jurisprudence. An American citizen gets the full slate of equal rights and responsibilities, including a presumption of innocence, no matter which God he invokes.

Thus, though it is tempting to declare the surviving Boston bomber an “enemy combatant,” as suggested by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., it is essentially a means to deny rights accorded any other American citizen who commits a crime. The only justification now would be that the Boston bomber is believed to be Muslim, which isn't a crime, or that he and his brother may have found inspiration among others of like intent.

Once we begin to discriminate in the assignment of rights to citizens and legal residents based on their thoughts, religious affiliation, assemblage — or our own assumptions — we risk becoming our own worst enemy.

At this juncture, the light-skinned, foreign-born, Muslim-leaning brothers who reigned terror on Boston fit neatly into no category we can define with certainty other than evil, which is, sadly, the unique provenance of the human race. Rooting it out will require more than tighter security or better immigration laws.

Kathleen Parker's email address is [kathleenparker@washpost.com](mailto:kathleenparker@washpost.com).

## Writer's Block

# More Robber Baron Tactics!

BY WILLIAM KERR  
For the Press & Dakotan

Some time ago I wrote about the “Return of the Robber Barons” who helped bring on the “Great Depression.” That article was about corporations accumulating about \$3 trillion in cash as business started to pick up again rather than re-employing workers laid off due to the recession, thus forcing existing workers to increase their productivity.

Another of the tactics of the original Robber Barons was, whenever employees were able to increase production — which also increased profits — the owners kept all of the increased profits for themselves and didn't share with the employees who made them possible. The top 1 percent have been doing that for decades so it isn't really late breaking news.

But a new tactic of the original Robber Barons is surfacing again in a number of our states where state labor and industry departments are cutting back, or eliminating their enforcement staff. It's called wage theft — in other words, not paying those who have done work for them. When workers are not paid and press for payment, some have been given checks for about half of what is owed which then bounced!

According to an article in the March issue of *In These Times*: “As the ranks of low wage workers have swelled since the recession, Democratic and Republican legislatures in more than a dozen states have quietly slashed funding for the agencies that enforce minimum wage laws. ... Low-wage workers facing abusive employers increasingly have no where to turn.”



William KERR

Law firms who used to take some of these cases quit taking them because the workers couldn't afford the amount of work it took them to complete a case, and when they did, their compensation wasn't enough to make it even a break-even case.

This sends a message to employers that following minimum wage laws is not important and employers often read that to mean that enforcement is not likely. In a 2012 study by the Iowa Policy Project found that “wage theft cheated Iowa workers out of \$600 million annually,” according to *In These Times*.

States that have cut their enforcement staffs in half are Ohio, Wisconsin, South Carolina and Missouri. North Carolina, Michigan, Hawaii, Oregon and New Jersey have also had significant cuts in their wage and hour departments.

“In some cases, agencies that enforce labor law have been singled out by conservative groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as being bad for business,” the article stated. “Over the past decade, the chamber

has ardently denounced ‘aggressive enforcement’ of labor law, asserting that, even without policing, the laws will enforce themselves.”

According to Jacob Meyer, a staff attorney with the National State Attorneys General Program at Columbia Law School, “Law enforcement rewards businesses that break the law to undercut competitors.”

Perhaps the toughest state for workers to get any protection from wage theft is Virginia, which reduced its staff to where “budget cuts over the past decade have impeded their ability to perform meaningful investigations” and then in July 2012, they eliminated the entire wage and hour enforcement unit.

local organizations as they make funding requests to the Sertoma Club each year. Through the years, the Yankton Sertoma Club has given back more than \$500,000 to the Yankton Community.

Without the community's support of this event and generous people purchasing tickets (even if they could not attend), these contributions to make Yankton a better place to live, work, and play would not be possible. The Sertoma Club appreciates your generosity and again says a big “thank you” to those who purchased tickets.

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## OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

# Muslim Community Helps Diffuse Plot

**THE STAR, Toronto (April 24):** As the shock of Canada's brush with an alleged Al Qaeda-directed terror plot recedes, it's comforting to learn that a prominent Toronto Muslim cleric played a key role in foiling the attack. More than a year ago he alerted the authorities to someone he felt was an extremist who was radicalizing young people.

That speaks to something very Canadian: The sense that we can count on each other to do the right thing for the wider community, that we are all in this together. The VIA Rail passenger trains that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police say the alleged plotters had in their sights might just as easily have been carrying innocent Muslim passengers as anyone else. The imam who spoke up was motivated by a sense of civic duty and a concern for human life — values the vast majority of Canada's 650,000 Muslims share with their neighbours, but for which they are not always given credit.

Recently, much attention has focused on radicalism among Muslim youth, following reports that the RCMP is investigating Canadians at the forefront of terror attacks in Algeria and Somalia that left scores dead. And the “Toronto 18” also planned carnage here. The problem is undeniably a real one. But it's far from being the entire story.

“Since 9/11 the Muslim community has been working very closely with government agencies, including the RCMP and police forces,” says Yusuf Badat, an imam and director of religious affairs for the Islamic Foundation of Toronto. ...

Or as another Toronto Muslim leader, Muhammad Robert Heft, put it, Canada is “our country ... our tribe. We want safety for all Canadians regardless of their religion.”

Despite this good faith, some feared an angry backlash and demonization of the community after reports that Raed Jaser of Toronto and Chiheb Esseghaier of Montreal had been caught plotting to derail a VIA Rail train between Toronto and New York. ...

In announcing the arrests, the RCMP rightly briefed Muslim leaders, thanked them for their help and publicly credited them with bringing a suspect to their attention.

Tough laws, good policing and vigilant courts all have their role in thwarting jihadist violence. But as the VIA Rail case reminds us, an alert Muslim community and raised voices are the key. If the police have it right, a Toronto cleric's concern saved the day.

# Bombs And Miranda Rights

**LOS ANGELES TIMES (April 23):** Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the 19-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen suspected of planting bombs at the Boston Marathon, was charged Monday with using a “weapon of mass destruction” against people and property, and he faces an aggressive prosecution and the possibility of the death penalty.

But that's not good enough for Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.). Because Tsarnaev and his brother, Tamerlan, “were not common criminals ... but terrorists trying to injure, maim and kill innocent Americans,” the two senators would rather see Tsarnaev plucked from the judicial system, classified as an enemy combatant, deprived of a lawyer and placed in military detention.

To its credit, the Obama administration rejected the senators' counsel. ... The U.S. attorney in Boston said the Justice Department was invoking a “public safety exception” to the Miranda rule that in most cases requires police to advise suspects in custody of their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney. Under the exception, announced in a 1984 Supreme Court decision, police may forgo reading a suspect his rights in the interests of public safety — and if the suspect then makes an incriminating statement, it can be used at trial.

In that case, police asked a suspected rapist who had entered a supermarket where his gun was, and the suspect said it was “over there.” The court allowed the use of that statement even though the suspect hadn't been advised of his rights because police were motivated by a desire to protect shoppers and employees from being harmed by the weapon.

It would have been a legitimate use of the public safety exception in the Boston case if law enforcement officials had refrained from reading Tsarnaev his rights only for as long as it took to establish whether other bombs had been planted. ...

On Monday, a federal magistrate finally informed Tsarnaev of his rights. We hope that, in the days and hours before that intervention, his interrogators didn't exploit his ignorance to build their case. A public safety exception so broad that it swallows the Miranda rule would be bad for the constitutional rights of all Americans.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Thursday, April 25, the 115th day of 2013. There are 250 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On April 25, 1983, 10-year-old Samantha Smith of Manchester, Maine, received a reply from Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov to a letter she'd written expressing concern about possible nuclear war; Andropov reassured Samantha that the Soviet Union did not want war, and he invited her to visit his country, a trip Samantha made the following July.

**On this date:** In 1507, a world map produced by German cartographer Martin Waldseemueller contained the first recorded use of the term “America,” in honor of Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci.

In 1792, highwayman Nicolas Jacques Pelletier became the first person under French law to be executed by the guillotine. In 1859, ground was broken for the Suez Canal.

In 1862, during the Civil War, a Union fleet commanded by Flag Officer David G. Farragut captured the city of New Orleans. In 1898, the United States formally declared war on Spain.

In 1901, New York Gov. Benjamin Barker Odell Jr. signed an automobile registration bill which imposed a 15 mph speed limit on highways.

In 1915, during World War I, Allied soldiers invaded the Gallipoli Peninsula in an unsuccessful attempt to take the Ottoman Empire out of the war.

In 1944, the United Negro College Fund was founded.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. and Soviet forces linked up on the Elbe River, a meeting that dramatized the collapse of Nazi Germany's defenses. Delegates from some 50 countries met in San Francisco to organize the United Nations.

In 1959, the St. Lawrence Seaway opened to shipping.

In 1972, Polaroid Corp. introduced its SX-70 folding camera, which ejected self-developing photographs. Actor George Sanders was found dead in his hotel room near Barcelona, Spain; he was 65.

In 1993, hundreds of thousands of gay rights activists and their supporters marched in Washington, D.C., demanding equal rights and freedom from discrimination.

**Ten years ago:** The Pentagon announced that Army Secretary Thomas White, whose tenure as civilian chief of the military's largest service was marked by tensions with his boss, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, was leaving office. Georgia lawmakers voted to scrap the Dixie cross from the state's flag.

**Five years ago:** Three New York police detectives were acquitted in the 50-shot killing of Sean Bell, an unarmed groom-to-be, on his wedding day. Triathlete David Martin, 66, was killed by a great white shark in the waters off San Diego County.

**One year ago:** The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on Arizona's tough immigration law. (A divided court later threw out major parts of the law.) The Senate offered a lifeline to the nearly bankrupt U.S. Postal Service, voting to give the struggling agency an \$11 billion cash infusion while delaying controversial decisions on closing post offices and ending Saturday delivery. (The House didn't pass a bill.)

**Today's Birthdays:** Movie director-writer Paul Mazursky is 83. Actor Al Pacino is 73. Ballroom dance judge Len Goodman (TV: “Dancing with the Stars”) is 69. Rock musician Stu Cook (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 68. Singer Bjorn Ulvaeus (ABBA) is 68. Actress Talia Shire is 67. Actor Jeffrey DeMunn is 66. Rock musician Michael Brown (The Left Banke) is 64. Rock musician Steve Ferrone (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 63. Country songwriter Rob Crosby is 59. Actor Hank Azaria is 49. Rock singer Andy Bell (Erasure) is 49. Rock musician Eric Avery (Jane's Addiction) is 48. Country musician Rory Feek (Joey + Rory) is 48. TV personality Jane Clayson is 46. Actress Renee Zellweger is 44. Actress Gina Torres is 44. Actor Jason Lee is 43. Actor Jason Wiles is 43. Actress Emily Bergl is 38. Actress Marguerite Moreau is 36. Singer Jacob Underwood is 33. Actress Sara Paxton is 25. Actress Allisyn Ashley Arm is 17.

**Thought for Today:** “There are two great rules of life, the one general and the other particular. The first is that everyone can, in the end, get what he wants if he only tries. This is the general rule. The particular rule is that every individual is more or less an exception to the general rule.” — Samuel Butler, English author (1835-1902).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis*

## CONTACT US

PHONE:  
(605) 665-7811  
(800) 743-2968  
NEWS FAX:  
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ADVERTISING FAX:  
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