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Subject: The Passion - Mel Gibson  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 18 Feb 2004 19:33:01 GMT  
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Any comments on Mel Gibson's movie, The Passion? Opening day in America is February 25th, 2004.

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Subject: Re: The Passion - Mel Gibson  
Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Fri, 20 Feb 2004 01:07:06 GMT  
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Seems like a lot of noise his imaginary friend. What's the diff how he portrays him?

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Subject: Re: The Passion - Mel Gibson  
Posted by [artsybrute](#) on Fri, 20 Feb 2004 03:58:12 GMT  
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Now that you asked...Mel Gibson says he was close to suicide before making this movie and that it saved his soul. He also says that his wife will burn in Hell because she isn't Catholic. Contrary to the Church's doctrines and historians like Flavius Josephus, he portrays Pilate as the poor civil servant devoid of choice and the Jews as evil, and he shows them as physically similar to Jews of today. At a time when anti-semitism is so rampant in Europe that the French police do not even investigate the murder of Jewish schoolchildren in their playgrounds, and when terrorists are trying to turn anti-semites to their cause, this film is not very well timed, to say the least. I'm not against paying ballplayers a quarter billion dollars, or actors even more for their services. And the truth is that Mel Gibson is one of my favorite actors. I had the Road Warrior before it even came out in the US. But he's a nut (who usually plays nuts in his movies) and should not be trusted with displaying his own version of the events, especially at this time, just to make himself feel better. Not when it could result in the forfeiture of lives and social unity. He says he loves all peoples, and that we all are sinners including Jews. But that does not give him the right to single them out to show the rest of the world why they are sinners. Just because he claims it wasn't his "intention" to single them out does not mean that he isn't doing great harm. And I don't even blame him. Before Hollywood, acting used to be considered a very low-class method of earning a living. Now we turn actors into role models. At what point did we vet them for ethics and intelligence? We're the idiots.

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Subject: Ummmm.....  
Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Fri, 20 Feb 2004 05:47:59 GMT

"At a time when anti-semitism is so rampant in Europe that the French police do not even investigate the murder of Jewish schoolchildren in their playgrounds" Do you have a reference that substantiates this? It seems a little over the top.

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Subject: Re: Ummmm.....

Posted by [artsybrute](#) on Fri, 20 Feb 2004 21:52:10 GMT

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Well, I won't go searching for all the old news articles where the police were quoted as saying these incidents were just the act of youths and were not worth investigating. It may even be in this quick google search. From a quick scan, most links seem to refer to the French government's promises to pursue these matters, something they have not yet done. It's not a simple issue. IIRC, there is a huge population of Palestinian immigrants in France, most of whom are poor. The French government is afraid of igniting any spark there. These people are also becoming a large political force in France. Just these two pressures alone prevent the French from pursuing such matters. But this is spreading to Belgium and even England. I don't know how politically knowledgeable you are, but the Europeans generally view government differently from the way Americans do. The USA is big on civil liberties and self-direction, which is how we define democracy. Europe, on the other hand, views government as being charged with providing order. For example, they say the Axis powers as the outgrowth of free elections, which showed the futility of the masses trying to govern their own affairs. The US saw the war as being won because of the industriousness of free people. This is a whole subject in itself, and has implications regarding the US not joining the world court (a democracy of \*governments\*) and how our president deals with the United Nations, sometimes ignoring them and acting unilaterally. Anyway, I'm glad you now seem interested in the repercussions of Mad Max's actions.

quick google search

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Subject: Think I'll skip it

Posted by [newsjeff](#) on Sat, 21 Feb 2004 22:04:18 GMT

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I know how it ends.

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Subject: Well....

Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Sun, 22 Feb 2004 01:06:55 GMT

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there's nothing in the search results you cited or any news report I've heard that mentioned the "uninvestigated killing of Jewish children in their playgrounds". That still seems quite over the top. That there is a centuries old "tradition" of anti-semitism in western Europe there is no doubt. That it parallels the black racism of the US is also quite true. But open season on school children? Unsubstantiated

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Subject: You may be right....

Posted by [artsybrute](#) on Mon, 23 Feb 2004 00:37:35 GMT

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"there's nothing in the search results you cited or any news report I've heard that mentioned the "uninvestigated killing of Jewish children in their playgrounds". That still seems quite over the top." You're right, I can't find the reports of children dying in the schoolyards. I tried the Weisenthal site where I found [http://www.wiesenthal.com/social/press/pr\\_item.cfm?itemID=5852](http://www.wiesenthal.com/social/press/pr_item.cfm?itemID=5852), but I can't find the list of incidents in France that is mentioned. As for attacks on children in French schools, there is

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=151220&contrassID=3&subContrassID=0&sbSubContrassID=0> For a list of anti-semitic acts in Europe including people being killed in France and Tunisia, there is

<http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=169625&contrassID=2&subContrassID=15&sbSubContrassID=0&listSrc=Y> For firebombings of schools and houses of worship in France only until about a year ago, there is

<http://www.coldfury.com/Sasha/archives/003553.html> So maybe I spoke out of turn. I thought those killed were the schoolchildren in the kindergarten schoolyard that was attacked by teenagers. I can't find that particular incident right now. However, there were killings and there were attacks on schools. "That there is a centuries old "tradition" of anti-semitism in western Europe there is no doubt." What all these reports agree upon is that anti-semitism in (all of) Europe is \*growing\* at an alarming rate. Many agree that anti-semitism is a barometer of social intolerance in general. No, I won't do searches on that. "That it parallels the black racism of the US is also quite true." Only in that it is a barometer. There is an alarming amount of racism and bigotry all over the world. Some believe that the tribe (or gang) mentality was a survival mechanism for humans in the past and is therefore a natural phenomenon. I think we all agree that acts of bigotry have no place in the modern world, so fueling the bigotry itself is inappropriate. "But open season on school children? Unsubstantiated" I'll agree that I have not found mention of deaths due to attacks in schoolyards so I spoke out of turn, but these attacks are prevalent and documented above. (I used to have a link to an Israeli site on anti-semitism in Europe until my computer crash and I remember that incident clearly. I also had links to problems in Thailand, the middle and far east, especially a news site discussing anti-chinese prejudice in Malaysia. In that regard you are right, it is all the same problem). But we still disagree. To me, just because I can't quickly find links to the deaths of these particular schoolchildren does not mean that, as you put it, saying it's open season on schoolchildren is quite over the top. One teenage boy was stabbed 27 times, two young girls were hurt in their schoolbuses, and other schools and schoolbuses were firebombed. Rabbis and businessmen were attacked, some were killed. You may take me to task personally for not being able to document a particular incident, but I do not believe that you can discount the

fact that there is a growing problem that does not need to be fueled. Also documented above is Chirac's early denial of any anti-semitism in France until a year or so ago. This denial led to the paucity and brevity of investigations surrounding these incidents. And this is just in France, which was only used as an example. So I still think the point, that it is irresponsible for Gibson to ignite a powder keg of (documented) emerging anti-semitism, stands.

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Subject: Re: You may be right....

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 23 Feb 2004 05:50:06 GMT

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I'm probably not equipped to enter into a discussion about anti-semitism or any sort of stuff like that. Watching, hearing or experiencing certain events actually makes my adrenaline flow, which then puts me in a sort of fight-or-flight mode. I've always been one of those guys that wants to go kick ass about bad stuff. But that tends to perpetuate the problem and I guess that means that my initial reactions are sometimes not what I'd like them to be. So I'm silent about anti-semitism, anti-muslimism, anti-christianity, anti-hinduism or anti-atheism. Damn it, I left out the Buddhists and the Zoroastrians. Well, I'm gonna be silent about their dissenters too. Seems better to be "for" something than "against" something, but I'm sure in no position to judge. I just hope that I can be cool sometimes. I agree with your idea that intolerance and bigotry act as a sort of barometer of social unrest. It does seem to come in waves, and it does seem that people are more tolerant when they are secure and happy. I guess that's pretty much a no-brainer. When we see someone that is intolerant, we're probably looking at someone who is scared, angry or hungry. Something like that. If we see a whole culture become that way, then a large part of the culture is probably scared, angry or hungry. The ones that aren't are probably agitated by the ones that are, so the social mood swells. I also agree with your hypothesis that gang mentality might be a survival mechanism for humans, with long roots back into tribal cultures. That is an interesting observation, and one that I agree with. Sounds reasonable. One would like to think that if they were in a culture that was doing something really stupid, they would buck the system and go towards the side that wasn't being so stupid. But I don't guess we get to see how we'll really react until we're in the soup.

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Subject: I guess I was unclear

Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Mon, 23 Feb 2004 18:16:12 GMT

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"You're right, I can't find the reports of children dying in the schoolyards." I find it perfectly plausible that children might have been murdered, on a playground or otherwise, under the killer's assumption that they were Jewish (even though I didn't see any reference to such an act). Clearly, Israeli citizens of all stripes are quite likely to be murdered by Palestinians while they go about their normal everyday lives. What I refuse to accept is the "uninvestigated" part of your assertion, as in depraved governmental indifference to the murder of children in schoolyards. I don't believe

any government would sanction such a thing. As to whether it's a growing problem, that's open to investigation. You may remember quite a period of insanity in the US a couple of years ago when many were claiming the black churches were being burned in some sort of coordinated effort. There were rallies and vigils all over the country. Politicians jumped on the band wagon as they are wont to do, promising investigation and punishment (see link below for summary). In fact, more white churches had burned than black and black church burnings were at an historical low. Federal and private groups were only able to link something like 20 percent of all fires to racially motivated arson. An equal number of black churches were burned by blacks, some in arson-for-insurance fires. In short, the massive country-wide arson attack on black churches was a creation of the media supported and promoted by interested parties. Like the tidal wave of anti-semitism you cite, there was plenty of reason to believe it was true. There were dozens upon dozens of articles in the press. Many awful things had happened in the past that gave an air of credibility to the claims. But in the final analysis the arson free-for-all did not exist. Fixation, obsession, media attention, and grandstanding all conspired to build a public perception that did not have any basis in reality. The truth with respect to the church fires is evident - nearly 10 years later you'll be hard pressed to find any ongoing claims or records of prosecutions that substantiate the earlier hysteria.

<http://archives.cjr.org/year/96/5/churches.asp>

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Subject: Re: I guess I was unclear  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 23 Feb 2004 18:40:03 GMT  
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It's real easy to jump to conclusions. We all have preconceived notions, and the the facts fit our "model," then we often make that sudden conclusion and immediately react. I remember the OKC bombing, and everyone thought it was Muslim terrorists. The whole country was shocked to find it was not. I have a real bad habit of wanting to nuke the guys I'm pissed at. I guess I'm not alone in that.

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Subject: Re: I guess I was unclear  
Posted by [artsybrute](#) on Mon, 23 Feb 2004 22:40:21 GMT  
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Oh, then we must definitely agree to disagree. If you go back to those links, you will find reports by the BBC and other non-US news sources of Chirac's denial that anything anti-semitic had happened. If I can find the article, he was quoted by reliable news services as saying it was just kids being wild. Some of the articles have headlines declaring that he finally acknowledged the problem. This cannot be mapped to the church arson, as they are totally unrelated issues. As I mentioned before, the French government is primarily concerned with maintaining order, not guarding civil liberties. At the time of these attacks, the Palestinian population (what did the articles say, something like 3 million?) were being brought to a boil and, if you remember, were protesting the United States. IIRC, it was at the time the US either went into Afghanistan or Iraq (I

think the former). The situation was very bad there and French law enforcement was scared. To this day I don't know if shrugging off the violence at the time was the right thing to do. MANY organizations brought pressure on the French government to publicly recognize the violence. All that is documented. They did gloss over the violence. (BTW, that is one reason Gulianni (sp?) was considered such a hero in NYC. When anti-arab sentiment became very strong following the WTC tragedy, he said that not only would crimes against Arabs and Moslems be prosecuted, they would be prosecuted as bias incidents. He just said no. Very few mayors could have done that. Thank goodness the mayor wasn't someone like Lindsey. Imagine what the French must have been going through when they had a large Palestinian population in a country that opposed the US invasion of Muslim countries at such an emotional time). I learned years ago to get my world news from international sources as well as US sources. Each country "underemphasizes" different stories. The US news services played down this issue, but the stories are available on English and Israeli websites, not to mention the Jewish Federation and sites of some non-partisan civil libertarians. So I absolutely positively disagree with the view that these incidents could not have been glossed over. They were. Not like the church burnings, this is much closer to incidents in the US where mistreatment of blacks is swept under the rug. Do you not believe that there are still such communities in the US? Or do you think the law is egalitarian, equal for those with and without power, connections, education and money? You don't believe that local sheriffs and judges have the power to tip a few scales? But you know, that is a totally different issue and I'm getting tired. There is no reason for me to try to prove the French denials and glossing over of the incidents. Anyone can start at the last set of links I posted and find them. But again, the point is that Mel Gibson is acting irresponsibly, and that a large part of the American population gives public figures the power to make such an impact. I respect your opinion and wish I shared them.

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Subject: Re: I guess I was unclear

Posted by [artsybrute](#) on Mon, 23 Feb 2004 22:57:37 GMT

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I couldn't agree more. People are not computers. We act on intuition and emotion a lot of the time, and with a mob psychology in many instances. "Right" or "wrong", that is what it means to be human. As an aside, not many newscasters were playing down the Muslim terrorist angle either. Much of the media gives all the news that's fit to emotionally fuel. Just look at all the corrections in the beginning of newsmags like Newsweek. I think it is really hard to get the news these days. At the time of the OKC incident, I think only business publications like the Wall St. Journal and the Economist played down the Muslim angle. But the same people buy their periodicals no matter what the news, unlike the tabloids. Also, as you alluded, I think we are becoming accustomed to making judgement calls without enough data. The classic example is to ask how many people actually read the bills on which political candidates voted before choosing "their" candidate. Most people get all bent out of shape because of the bill's name or a description quoted by the opposition. We're just too busy. As far as wanting to nuke the other guy, remind me to tell you where I was on 9/11 when we get together, Wayne. To want to nuke the other guy is human. To refrain from doing so is also human. Conflict is human.

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Subject: Yeah  
Posted by [artsybrute](#) on Mon, 23 Feb 2004 22:59:53 GMT  
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Humans, you gotta love 'em.

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Subject: Re: I guess I was unclear  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 24 Feb 2004 00:16:20 GMT  
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"To want to nuke the other guy is human. To refrain from doing so is also human. Conflict is human."Cool quote.

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Subject: Re: Yeah  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 24 Feb 2004 00:19:23 GMT  
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When you go to the zoo, what's the most dangerous animal you see?The homo sapiens.

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Subject: Re: The Passion - Mel Gibson  
Posted by [Bill Martinelli](#) on Mon, 01 Mar 2004 21:47:52 GMT  
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what went on, There was little explanation and the viewer would need a background on the events to comprehend the interpretation. The use of flashbacks to bring in more common or recognizable events was out of place. I've seen better movies. I give this one 2 chisels.

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Subject: Re: The Passion - Mel Gibson  
Posted by [Mike.e](#) on Sun, 14 Mar 2004 01:17:22 GMT  
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I wont get into the corrupt catholic ideas - their entire idea is that good works can get you to heaven,making you even with God,yet that seems a childish naive idea at best,some have proven how druids and cult ideas got into catholicism.il stick to my bible based "protestantism" one when you Dont jump around and fall over and blabber in church . And when we die,well see who beleived in the right thing ;-)but doesnt that seem strange Mel Gibson says he was close to suicide before making this movie and that it saved his soul. He also says that his wife will burn in Hell because she isn't Catholic how can making a movie ,when your showing an idea to people,and showing it inaccurately, be good spiritually? and you get paid for it :Pa 'good' actor with strange ideas. Your getting his personal view of an event he hasnt seen Im not gona bother going,ive heard its overviolent.I know the story :P Im a christian.Cheers!  
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