

Our European friends

What happened? Did we do anything wrong? I just do not understand them anymore. Or maybe I do, and I am afraid of the answer.

What I am referring to is how the world, and especially our European friends and allies, reacted to our response to the 9/11 attack. What did they expect? That we bring flowers to Afghanistan as a sign of peace and love, and slap their hands in one of their caves while sharing with them a puff of their delicious opium? (The Europeans cherish to give flowers to political leaders).

My dear European friends, you do not have a clue of what happened in this country and how deeply we have been wounded. This was an outrageous attack of war! Thousands of innocent people have died. A wonderful city and a country are still shocked and trying to recover from the rage and the pain of what happened on that dreadful day.

The Europeans reacted as if what they saw was a Hollywood production. The difference is that this time real people were paying the price. The blood in the streets was ours. The fear and rage we felt was ours. A country confused and ready to go to war was real. The tears were real. The economic collapse was real. The desolation of New York with most buildings proudly showing the American flag was real. Police and National Guard patrolling the streets as if the city was under siege were real.

Do they understand why we all display our flag on cars, trucks, and homes? We are all sticking together, ready to fight. What do they know about these feelings? The younger generation never had them. Never.

Some said it was an American conspiracy to gain control of the Middle East. Others suggested we did it to protect our energy interests in the region. They forget that their energy source is the one we try to protect. Others protested we were killing innocent civilians. Others suggested we should have approached the issue from a diplomatic viewpoint. My point, from the sense I have from how our European friends reacted, is that they do not have a clue of what really happened to this country.

Maybe this is another way of putting their heads in the sand and move on, trying to ignore the fact that when there is a problem around the world it is always Uncle Sam that comes to the rescue. See, for instance, what happened in the Balkans. Meanwhile they keep bickering on how to make the European Union even bigger.

The deep, hidden resentment they have against us is because they know they will never become the type of economic, military, and financial powerhouse we are. They are too wrapped up in their socialist ideas geared to protect the producer and not the consumer, with their sclerotic business system that produces a 10% unemployment rate.

The only exception to this sad state of affairs is the marvelous response of the English people, ready to go to war with us. With all their forces and training, ready to fight and get their hands dirty, while the other Europeans, with all their incapacity and unwillingness to act, try to pass judgment on what really should be done.

I would have liked to see more enthusiasm and compassion from our European friends. Too bad!

12-10-01