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During the weeks of the World Cup in July, it was fascinating and encouraging to watch numerous YouTube comments from Europeans and others who came to America for the first time. Most of them came to realize that **their media had lied** to them about our country when they portrayed our country as dangerous and filled with unfriendly people. Here is a partial list of some of their reactions, not listed in any particular order.

Size They did not realize how big America is, with vast horizons, wide roads, large parking spaces, giant skyscrapers, and huge trucks, etc. As I lived in England for many years, I know the feeling. England has a population of 60 million, but it is only the size of Alabama, which has a population of only 5.2 million. America has around 345 million people. They were blown away by stores like Walmart, where you can buy most anything: tires, guns, groceries, clothes, paint, drug prescriptions, and a vast number of options for so many products. They were surprised that we have turned gas stations into convenience stores that even have free restrooms. In Europe, many times if you are out in public, you have to pay to use a restroom. They were amazed that there were free refills of drinks in many places and that the portion sizes of food were so large. Unlike America, in Europe you usually have to ask for water at a restaurant and usually not get ice. America has so many different types of food, depending on the region you are in. Everyone loved the Texas barbecues and places like Texas Roadhouse. They had their first experience eating at places open 24/7, such as the Waffle House.

Note: The following observations are not always true, but are basic generalizations.

Optimism and Freedom - British tend to be more pessimistic and cynical about what can be done. Those from Europe mention how their countries are bogged down with bureaucratic rules while they sense freedom and a can-do attitude in America. Europeans tend to focus more on problems, while Americans see possibilities.

Volunteerism - They noticed how many Americans are involved with volunteer projects to help and serve people. I think this may stem from the fact that they live in more socialist-type governments, so they expect the government to do more of such work. When I worked at a church in London, one morning while I went to make toast in the church kitchen, I was shocked to see a mouse in it! I called a church deacon, and he said he would call the local borough government council to come and take care of it. (In America, we would take more personal and immediate action!)

Kindness of Strangers - In Europe, people are slower to make friends and more cautious about talking to strangers. They were struck by how open and friendly Americans are to strangers. While living in Europe, they would stereotype us as 'loud Americans'. It is unfortunate that some American tourists overseas do often display arrogant attitudes. However, they found something different in everyday Americans who just work hard and go about their lives without a lot of bluster and are willing to help those in need.

Convenience - Many of the Europeans liked the idea of being able to have drive-thru Banking and even a Pharmacy instead of waiting in lines inside.

National and regional pride Having now come to America, they now understand why Americans are proud of their country because it has much beauty and many benefits. They were surprised to see American flags everywhere and the patriotism shown before sports events.

My comments: It is likely that many of these overseas visitors would find things about America that were not so nice if they spent more time here, but it is good to hear praise from them about what is good here. Many of us get weary of privileged Americans, such as celebrities who constantly berate our country. The other extreme is those who boast to the world: 'America is the greatest country in the world or even the greatest ever'. You may think that, but there is a verse I have sought to live by both personally and when talking about my country.

**Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;
someone else and not your own lips.' - Proverbs 27:2 NIV**

We do not need to brag, but let our lives and cultures speak for themselves.

Room for Improvement

Although America excels in many areas of life, we fall behind when it comes to honest elections. The Gateway Pundit has been the #1 website for exposing election corruption for the past several years. Several years ago, the first states to practice mail-in voting were Oregon and Washington. It was a great success in putting extreme leftists into office. It has now become a nationwide strategy and a tragedy. Republicans are lousy communicators sometimes. Although they are promoting nationwide voter ID they should be constantly stressing that **176 nations around the world require voter ID**. This is not a Republican idea only, but a common-sense one from around the world. In 2024, India had 642 million votes to count, but did it more efficiently than the USA. Each vote is supported by VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail), which produces a paper slip for each vote that is cast. America can do better, but only if corrupt politicians get out of the way. Unless this changes, America's best days are not ahead of us. Now we must pray.

In our next messages, we will cover two demonic dangers facing our country and the world.

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