

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
**DO YOU REALLY
PREFER EUROPE?**

By Stephen L. Bakke  January 18, 2015



Here's what provoked me:

Arthur C. Brooks did a commendable job of giving a fresh face to analyzing the economic perils faced by Europe. And he did it for the New York Times that seems to respect his opinion – or at least is willing to listen. A writer ignored the content and took out after the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) whose president is Mr. Brooks. This letter is certainly one that needs to be exposed and redirected.

Here's my response:

Do you really prefer Europe?

On 1-11 Arthur C. Brooks of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) presented an interesting, unconventional, yet worthy analysis of causes for Europe's economic problems. He directs attention to statistical trends for traditional Europeans such as aging population, declining family culture, low fertility rates, low labor participation rates, etc. He notes that youth in Europe tends disproportionately to be immigrants, and he suggests that European leaders recognize immigrants as assets – not merely liabilities to manage. Brooks also draws on comparisons with the U.S. which are clearly favorable to the U.S.

What about the Brooks message is ideologically conservative? NOT MUCH! Yet, "ideologue" is the label William Beeman gives to Brooks in his 1-18 letter "Europe." Probably because it's the AEI president Beeman is criticizing, he jumps into several foolish talking points without any regard for the valid (politically moderate) content of the Brooks article.

Beeman accuses AEI of sins (unrelated to the Brooks article) which are unsupported, at best. AEI has very legitimate goals for our country and economy, and is a leader in championing "results oriented" policies rather than emotionally motivated and misdirected "good intentions." Beeman looks right past the accurate European data Brooks presents, and praises Europe for containing all of the policies "opposed by the AEI." In spite of very desperate economic conditions for many European citizens, Beeman proclaims that European lives have been enhanced by these failed policies.

Mr. Beeman, do you truly envy Europe and prefer its policies and economic conditions, or do you just oppose AEI?