

Are We in the 4th Quarter of History?

I believe so.

Something happened on Friday, May 14, 1948, that differentiates this historical era from any other.

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On that day two men sat in a quiet corner of the F Street Club in Washington, D.C., and worked out the wording of a statement to be released by the White House. One of them was Harry Truman. He became president of the United States when Franklin Roosevelt died early in his fourth term. The next few years led Truman into one of the most tumultuous chapters of American history. Under his leadership World War II came to an end, the United Nations was formed, the U.S. military was desegregated and the Marshall Plan was initiated. He was president during the surrenders of Germany and Japan. He witnessed the fall of the Iron Curtain over Eastern Europe and the Bamboo Curtain over China and parts of Eastern Asia.

Yet, of all Truman's decisions, none more hearkened into the past or bore more implications for the eternal future than the one he and his special counsel Clark Clifford had met to discuss: the confirmation of a Jewish state. Though much of his administration, including his secretary of state, opposed such a step, Truman was resolute. Himself a Christian, he had sought the counsel of prominent pastor J. Frank Norris of Fort Worth, Texas.

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Norris reminded Truman of God's promise to Isaac: "Live here as a foreigner in this land, and I will be with you and bless you. I hereby confirm that I will give all these lands to you and your descendants, just as I solemnly promised Abraham, your father" (Gen. 26:3, NLT).

Truman sent Norris a thank-you note. Shortly thereafter he made his decision.

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