

ANTI-MUSLIM PARTIES ARE GAINING STRENGTH IN EUROPE

Read the following excerpt from a March 31, 2002, St. Louis Post-Dispatch article:

“Copenhagen, Denmark—A wave of anti-Muslim sentiment has bolstered far-right parties in some European countries since Sept. 11 and left the continent’s large communities of foreigners wondering how long their welcome will last.

“The changing mood has found its fullest political expression in Denmark, where an anti-immigrant party won 12 percent of the vote in parliamentary elections in November, nearly doubling its showing from the previous election. Its campaign posters featured a picture of a young blond girl and the slogan: ‘When she retires, Denmark will have a Muslim majority.’”

1. In “the course chat room” discuss with at least one other student your reaction to the campaign poster. What parallels can you draw with events in Nazi Germany? Could a campaign poster of this nature appear in America? Support your answer.
2. Engage also in a “chat room” discussion about your reaction to the following comment made by the Danish Prime Minister: “Many Danes feel that too many immigrants do not respect Danish values.”
3. Go to the following web site to acquire information about Denmark and the Jews during the Nazi period. <http://www.Auschwitz.dk/Denmark.htm>

Answer the following question in a short paragraph. “Why should one be surprised at Denmark’s present hostility towards Muslims living in Denmark”?