

## A REAL LIFE WALKAWAY TESTIMONIAL

The included article below was written by an immigrant who lived as a youth in both Nazi and Communist held countries during and following WW II. This testimonial has been posted on the Walkaway Website: [<https://www.walkawaycampaign.com/>] by author and lecturer, Gerhard Maroscher whose book "[Why Can't Somebody Just Die Around Here](#)" <sup>(1)</sup> provides a vivid description of his family's perilous plight to survive and escape the suppressive socialist regimes of Hitler and Stalin. Gerhard's testimonial offers a clear distinction of how socialism destroys personal freedoms through its totalitarian governance and instead replaces our beloved freedom with authoritarian control, the takeover of private and corporate ownership of property, the replacement of God's Laws with Man's law, and the creation of a single political party, the Progressive Democrat Party in the USA.

(1) Available on websites: [www.Themaroscherstory.com](http://www.Themaroscherstory.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### MY WALKAWAY

I walked away one cloudy, moonless night. I walked all night long. The last miles were through a wooded no-man's land near the border. But I didn't walk alone. I walked with my mother and brother. We walked away from Communist East Germany in September 1946. Prior to walking away from Communist East Germany, we had lived as refugees in Nazi Germany for a time. Since we were ethnic Germans, we were safe. Meanwhile, Slavs, Jews, and Roma (Gypsies) were being persecuted.

That same year my father walked away from communist Romania. His house and small farm had just been confiscated by the government and given to someone "more deserving." He was homeless and facing arrest. His crimes? He was an ethnic German and a landowner. The fact that he was a Romanian citizen whose ancestors had lived in Romania for 800 years was irrelevant. Dad was protected from arrest during the 12 prior months by the communist police commissioner of Bistrita, Romania. The commissioner, Mr. Massler, was Jewish, and Dad's friend. Massler sheltered him because Dad had helped him, at considerable risk to himself, during the early years of WWII. As the central government exercised more control, his friend could longer protect him.

Other people in my family wish they had walked away. In January 1945 my cousin, Hanna Rothmann, was arrested by the communist Romanian police. Her crime was her ethnicity. The fact that she was an honest, hardworking woman of good character and a Romanian citizen meant nothing. What mattered was her ethnic German identity. She was sent to a Soviet slave labor camp. After nearly perishing in the camp, she too walked away in 1946.

The Judeo-Christian ethic, on which Western Civilization is based, brought us the belief in the primacy of the individual. The second sentence of The Declaration of Independence reads, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..." In other cultures and nations, citizens are given their rights by the government. What the government gives, the government can take away.

Individual rights and freedom do not exist under tyrannical governments – Nazis, Communists, dictators and theocrats. Instead, a person's group or collective identity is paramount. Both Nazis and Communists practiced group identity: favoring certain groups, and persecuting others. In this identity game, the hierarchical order of group identity is not fixed. Dad's Jewish friend was in a favored class – for a while. Not many years later the Jews were persecuted in Romania just like the ethnic Germans, Roma, Hungarians, Lutherans, and most brutally, Roman Catholics.

Today's political far-left plays the same identity politics game as Communists and Nazis in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Identity politics means that a person is first defined by group: black, white, brown, yellow, male, female, gay, straight, etc. A person's group identity dictates status, rights, privileges and penalties. Identity politics is as old as humanity. It is communist. It is Nazi. It is tyranny. It is tribal. That tribal instinct lurks just under our civilized façade.

For the first time since my arrival at Ellis Island in 1952, I worry about the future of my beloved America. If it continues, identity politics will tear our nation apart, followed by chaos, bloodletting, and finally oppression.

Walkaway. No run away!...from identity politics. Walk toward individual rights, liberty and freedom.

### **Learning from history**

Throughout history many multiethnic empires have survived for hundreds of years. They survived because the all-powerful government kept tribal, ethnic, cultural and class tensions in check. People knew that the government had no qualms about killing or imprisoning any person or group who disturbed the peace. What happened when these repressive regimes were overthrown or collapsed? With no strong government keeping order, people reverted to tribalism, war, chaos, bloodshed, and genocide. The breakup of Yugoslavia in the Balkans is just one example.

Most people are unaware that America is an experiment: for the first time in human history there is a multi-ethnic country with no strong oppressive government keeping all potential ethnic conflicts in check by threat of force. Why has it been working? It's been working because Americans have taken to heart the second sentence of the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights..."

Woe to us if we identify first with our collective identities and not first as Americans. That road will lead to chaos. Once chaos is in full bloom, the people will demand that someone restore order. And indeed, someone will restore order. Order will be restored by a tyrannical leader. We will then live in either a wonderful communist "utopia" like the one my family walked away from so long ago, or in a Nazi "utopia" like my mom, my brother, and I lived in.

No thank you. I prefer freedom, liberty, and my God given rights.

Gerhard Maroscher