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Clash of rival civilizations



Some 100 days after putting his signature to the Munich Agreement, Neville Chamberlain made the [first visit in modern history to the Vatican](#) by a British prime minister. Beginning in June 1931, Pope Pius XI had repeatedly associated Fascism and Nazism with [pagan worship of the state](#), and the New York Times characterized Chamberlain's meeting as a "[moral alignment](#) which unites those who strive to buttress the established moral order against a new worship of force, race or State." Prior to the meeting, the NYT had written that, "Europe these days is [constantly falling into two camps](#). The division between these rival camps is determined not so much by political or racial as by moral considerations.... Imperceptibly, the fight for world markets becomes a struggle of rival civilizations." With Trump, Putin, Erdogan and [Babiš](#) frequently compared to Hitler, the tendency to see issues on "higher moral grounds" (to quote the Times) is nearly as strong now as it was in Jan. 1939.

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