

Ground Zero mosque...

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As sympathetic as I am toward opponents of the proposed Ground Zero mosque, I don't think they realize how fortunate they are to be able to voice their opinions.

Eastern Christians have never had such luxury. The former cradle of Christianity is now filled with mosques. Many were originally our churches, and were taken as spoils of conquest. Consider Hagia Sophia, the Church of Holy Wisdom. Built in the seventh century, this magnificent temple was later visited by emissaries of the Russian Prince Vladimir, a pagan seeking a new faith. "We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth," the delegates reported, adding, "we know only that God dwells there among men." Hagia Sophia was the Patriarch of Constantinople's cathedral for a thousand years, until 1453. Then, after generations of effort, the Turks sacked the capital, extinguishing Eastern Christendom's temporal glory and throwing millions of Orthodox Christians into centuries of darkness.

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