

## Europe on the Brink: Tensions Rise Amid Warnings of Civil Unrest

In the heart of Europe, a warning echoes louder than most headlines, one that speaks not of politics or policies, but of a continent teetering on the edge of internal strife. Professor David Betz, a seasoned scholar of warfare at King's College London, has sounded an alarm that few in government seem willing to hear: many European nations, including the UK, France, and Germany, are slipping into what he calls a "pre-civil war state."

This isn't the kind of war marked by uniforms and borders; it's something more insidious. A quiet, festering conflict, rooted in broken trust, cultural clashes, and the creeping sense that the state is no longer in control. "We are not talking about the future," Betz cautions. "We are talking about now."

At the core of this unraveling is a crisis of legitimacy. In the UK, the government is seen by many as having lost its grip. Open borders, inconsistent law enforcement, and an unwillingness to confront social decay have created a breeding ground for resentment. But it's not just policy, it's the perception of inequality. Ethnic minorities are encouraged to celebrate their heritage, while members of the white majority who do the same are branded as problematic. Betz calls this "asymmetric multiculturalism", a cultural double standard that leaves communities divided and angry.

Across the Channel in France, unease simmers just beneath the surface. More than a thousand current and former military officers recently warned of the threat of civil conflict, pointing to rising violence and societal collapse. Their words were not dismissed as fringe, because they reflect what many quietly believe: the state has become too weak, too afraid, or too late to stop what's coming.

In the shadow of cathedrals and parliament buildings, entire urban districts, what Betz dubs "feral cities," have slipped beyond the control of authorities. Here, local governance is failing, crime flourishes, and law enforcement dares not tread. These are not isolated ghettos, he insists. They are flashpoints.

And yet, the response from Europe's political elite is silence. The warnings pile up. Tensions rise. Communities fracture. Trust vanishes.

Betz's message is grim but clear: Europe must act, or Europe will burn, not in one sudden blaze, but in a slow, relentless unraveling that turns neighbor against neighbor, and silence into civil war.