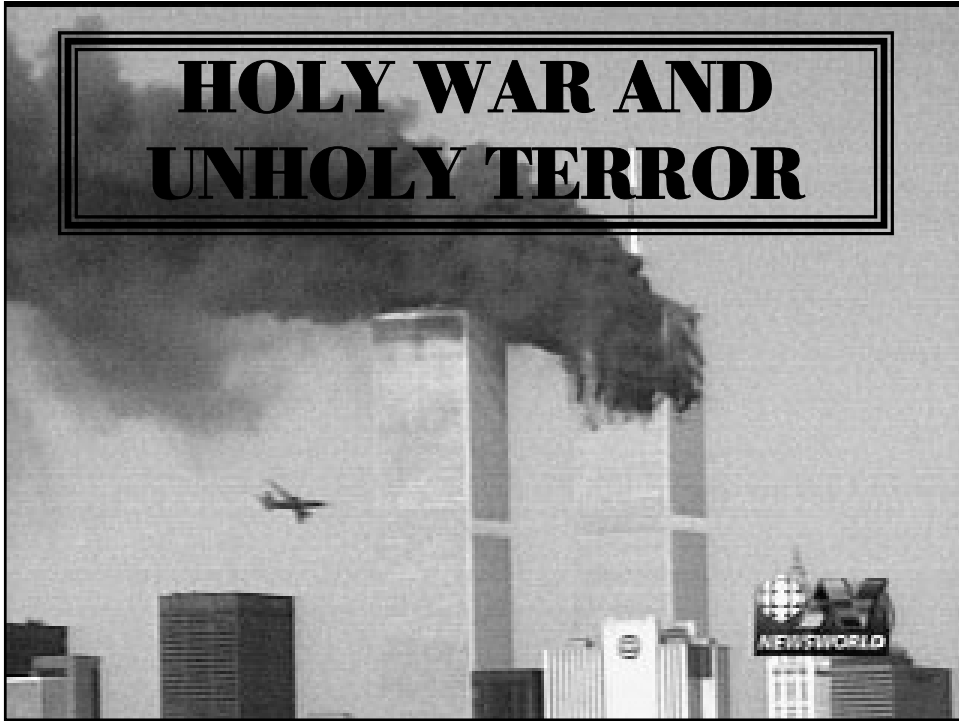


# **HOLY WAR AND UNHOLY TERROR**



**"Islam Condemns  
Terrorism, Islam  
Stands for Peace  
& Justice, Explore  
the Qur'an"**

**- Florida Turnpike  
billboard sponsored  
by the Florida Office  
of the Council on  
American-Islamic  
Relations**



## **How should we pray for Muslims?**

God our Father: in Jesus Christ you have ordered us to live as loving neighbors. Though we are scattered in different places, speak different words, or descend from different races, give us brotherly concern, so that we may be one people, who share the governing of the world under your guiding purpose. May greed, war, and lust for power be curbed, and all people enter the community of love promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **How should we pray for Muslims?**

How great is your love, Lord God, how wide is your mercy! Never let us board up the narrow gate that leads to life with rules or doctrines that you dismiss; but give us a Spirit to welcome all people with brotherly affection, so that your church may never exclude secret friends of yours, who are included in the love of Jesus Christ, who came to save us all. Amen.

## OVERVIEW

Reasons for Islamic Resurgence  
Reasons for Islamic Violence

Violence in the Judeo-Christian  
Tradition

Twin Devils: 1) The USSR  
2) The USA – Why  
they hate us

## WHY ISLAMIC RESURGENCE?

1. Humiliation      Mideast is an honor –  
shame culture.
2. Frustration      Western Cultural  
Hegemony
3. New Confidence      Result of oil wealth and  
the oil embargo of 1973
4. Leadership (and the Internet )  
Osama bin Laden
5. Desperation      A bleak future

## **WHY ISLAMIC RESURGENCE?**

### **1. Humiliation: Honor – Shame – Culture**

Osama bin Laden, in a dramatic video tape, October 7, 2001, spoke of the "humiliation and disgrace" that Islam has suffered for "more than eighty years".

80 years ago the West defeated the Ottoman sultanate, the last of the great Muslim empires. Its capital, Constantinople, occupied, its sovereign held captive, and its territory partitioned between the victorious British and French Empires.

Israel and Palestine - British mandate  
Syria under French control  
(Arabian peninsula considered worthless –  
British and French didn't want it)

Arabs do not think of themselves as 'nations' but as a people – the West arbitrarily carved up borders and made nations out of regions.

## **WHY ISLAMIC RESURGENCE?**

### **2. Frustration: Western dominance in their Lives Muslim Schizophrenia**

The daily lives of young Muslims. "They go filing into the mosques for prayers wearing traditional Muslim garb, and then later I see them around town wearing baseball caps turned backwards and all kinds of hip Western gear. Pop cultures are completely inside Islamic youth culture here (Britain).

***The War for Muslim Minds,***  
Miles Kepel

## **WHY ISLAMIC RESURGENCE?**

### 3. New Confidence

Result of oil wealth – oil embargo of 1973



## **WHY ISLAMIC RESURGENCE?**

4. Leadership – Osama bin Laden and the Internet  
Desire to renew the Grandeur of Islam (750-1005 A.D.)

“Under the medieval Arab caliphate, and again under the Persian and Turkish dynasties, the Empire of Islam was the richest, most powerful, most creative, most enlightened region in the world, and for most of the Middle Ages, Christendom was on the defensive.”

(Bernard Lewis)

## WHY ISLAMIC RESURGENCE?

5. Islam faces a desperate future

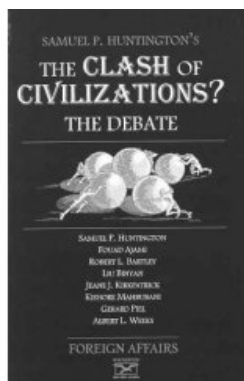
Since September 11, Pakistani leader **Perviz Musharraf** has steeled his spine against the obvious:

“Muslims today are the poorest, the most illiterate, the most backward, the most unhealthy, the most unenlightened, the most deprived, and the weakest of all the human race”

With few exceptions, the contemporary Islamic world is an overwhelmingly ***unpleasant place.***

## WHY ISLAMIC VIOLENCE?

1. Crusades - 1400 years of struggle between West and Islam.



Samuel Huntington, ***Clash of Civilizations***

## **WHY ISLAMIC VIOLENCE?**

### 2. The Reaction to Modernity – The Rise of Fundamentalism

Fundamentalism is

“First of all, a movement led almost invariably by authoritarian males who consider themselves to be superior to others and who have an overwhelming commitment to subjugate women and to dominate their fellow believers.

“Second, fundamentalists draw clear distinctions between themselves, the true believers, and others. They are convinced that they are right and that anyone who contradicts them is inferior...”

## **WHY ISLAMIC VIOLENCE?**

### The Reaction to Modernity – The Rise of Fundamentalism

Fundamentalism is

“Third, fundamentalists are militant in fighting against any challenge to their beliefs, are often angry and sometimes resort to verbal or even physical abuse against those who oppose the implementation of their agenda.

“Finally, they tend to make their self-definition increasingly narrow, to isolate themselves, to demagogue social and emotional issues and to view change, cooperation, negotiation or other efforts to resolve differences as signs of weakness.”

Former President Jimmy Carter, lamenting the rise of  
fundamentalism in the Southern Baptist Convention  
Christian Century, September 20, 2005

## **WHY ISLAMIC VIOLENCE?**

- 3. Belief (by some) that jihad demands response – Western civilization must be destroyed.**

### **Is Islam Inherently Violent?**

*The answer must be a clear no.*

"The callous destruction of thousands in the World Trade Center...some of them Muslims from Muslim countries, has no justification in Islamic doctrine or law and no precedent in Islamic history. Indeed there are few acts of comparable deliberate and indiscriminate wickedness in human history. These are not just crimes against humanity and against civilization; they are also acts – from a Muslim point of view – of blasphemy, when those who perpetrate such crimes claim to be doing so in the name of God, his Prophet, and His scriptures."

Bernhard Lewis, *The Crisis of Islam*

## **IS ISLAM INHERENTLY VIOLENT? Another View**

"I studied the Kuran a great deal...I came away from that study with the conviction that by and large there have been few religions in the world as deadly to men as that of Muhammad. As far as I can see, it is the principal cause of the decadence so visible today in the Muslim world, and, though less absurd than the polytheism of old, its social and political tendencies are in my opinion infinitely more to be feared, and I therefore regard it as a form of decadence rather than a form of progress in relation to paganism itself."

Alexis deTocqueville

## **ISLAMIC VIOLENCE**

### **A view from the center of Islam**

“Without a reformation in the practice of Islam which makes it move forward not backward, there is no hope for Muslims everywhere”.

(A Pakistani businessman writing an editorial, 2005, in The Nation).

Egyptian poet and playwright Ali Salmen, in an open letter of apology to Americans following 9/11

“Extremism may claim God as its redeemer, but it’s really the selfish product of lunacy...These extremists are pathologically jealous. They feel like dwarfs, which is why they search for towers to destroy.”

## **OTHER VOICES FROM THE MIDDLE**

### **Progressive Muslims: On Justice, Gender and Pluralism**

*Edited by Omid Safi, Oneworld, 384 pp., \$24.05 paperback*

### **American Muslims: Bridging Faith and Freedom**

*By M.A. Muqtedar Khan, Amana, 208 pp., \$14.95 paperback*

### **\*What’s Right with Islam: A New Vision for Muslims and the West**

*By Feisal Abdul Rauf. HarperSanFrancisco, 336 pp., \$23.95*

### **The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim’s Call for Reform in Her Faith.**

*By Irshad Manji, St. Martin’s Press, 240 pp., \$12.95 paperback*

### **The War for Muslim Minds: Islam and the West.**

*By Gilles Kepel, Harvard University Press, 336 pp., \$23.95*

### **Western Muslims and the Future of Islam**

*By Tariq Ramadan, Oxford University Press, 288 pp. \$29.95*

## ISLAMIC VIOLENCE FROM JUDEO-CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

"Thus says the Lord of hosts...Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have; do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."

I Samuel 15:2-3

How's that for jihad?

Martin Marty, *Christian Century*, August 23, 2005

***The Theology of Warfare in Ancient Israel*** (Harold Press, 1980)

Millard Lind faces up to violence in the Judeo-Christian tradition with chapters titled:

*"Yahweh as Warrior"*

*"The Conquest as Yahweh's War, and*

*"Warfare Theology in the Deuteronomic Writings"*

## "THE VIOLENCE OF GOD"

"But we also know that the "violence-of-God" tradition remains embedded deep in the DNA of monotheistic faith. We also know that fundamentalists the world over and at home consider the "sacred texts" to be literally God's word on all matters. Inside that logic...you must also believe that God is sadistic, brutal, vengeful, callow, cruel and savage - that God slaughters."

"They (the fundamentalists) believe that the Bible is literally true and they alone know what it means...Suddenly we are immersed in the pathology of a 'holy war' as defined by fundamentalists on both sides".

Bill Moyers, "The Sport of God", September 9, 2005  
From address at union Theological Seminary

## IS THE QUR'AN VIOLENT?

### THE QUR'AN, LIKE THE BIBLE, IS INTERPRETED

- Texts do not speak for themselves – they must be read
- Texts do not compel interpretation – but rather enable them
- Thus the same text(s) may be read in dramatically different ways by different people/communities

## INTERPRETING THE TEXT

• To put the issue at its starkest, there is simply no equivalent in the Koran to the new Testament's admonition to **'turn the other cheek'**; conversely there is no equivalent in the New Testament of the Koranic injunction to 'kill the disbelievers where (you) find them.'...For Christians the New Testament supersedes the Old and corrects its violent tendencies, as in Jesus' celebrated admonition, "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth' (Leviticus 24.20). But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil" (Matthew 5.38-39...Muslims have nothing akin to the New Testament corrective of the **gospel of mercy.**"

William J. Bennett

## **TWIN DEVILS: THE USSR AND THE USA**

### **Devil #1 – the USSR**

- 50 million Muslims lived under the repression of the USSR
- Officially 'godless'
- Muslim children went to Soviet schools, 'brainwashed' about Marxism
- Afghanistan
- During cold war 37 Muslim nations aligned with the West, 6 with USSR
- Saw Soviets as more disciplined and brutal – a more formidable opponent

## **TWIN DEVILS: THE USSR AND THE USA**

- USSR stronger threat because America does not stand by its allies (USA left Beirut after two explosions, left Somalia, Shah of Iran, etc.). When push comes to shove – the USSR digs in – the Americans will flee. "In their view, the US had become morally corrupt, socially degenerate, and in consequence, politically and militarily enfeebled."

## **Devil #2 –USA (leader of the West)**

Osama bin Laden, 2002 **"letter" to America** makes his case – he demands that

- We embrace Islam (you are with us – House of Islam-or against us – House of War).
- "Stop your oppression, lies, immorality, and debauchery". Muslims see our society obsessed with sex. Sex is everywhere in our culture.
- Discover and admit that America is a "nation without principles or manners" (the problem is not Christianity; the problem is that they see us as pagan).
- Stop supporting Israel (Palestine), Indians (Kashmir), Russians (Chechens) and Manila government (South Philippines).

## **Osama bin Laden 2002 "letter" to America continued**

- 'Pack your luggage and get out of our lands...do not force us to send you back as cargo in coffins"
- "Do not support corrupt leaders in our countries" (House of Saud)
- Deal with Muslims on basis of mutual respect and benefits rather than on basis of subjugation, theft and occupation.

The letter ends with a rant against the "sinister Jews" and says the liberation of women is "debauchery".

In sum: "You are the worst civilization witnessed by the history of mankind".

## **MUSLIM HATE**

President Bush addressing the nation after September 11<sup>th</sup> –

“Why do they hate us...? They hate us because they fear that the West, now indisputably led by America, has marginalized, exploited, and oppressed them for centuries. They hate us for the cultural decadence that we exploit and many of them hate themselves for enjoying it. They hate us because we have troops on their sacred soil, and they hate us because we support what they view as the alien State of Israel on their land...They hate us because we are the infidel who has for years beyond numbering in ways beyond numbering humiliated the chosen people of God.”

## **THEY HATE US**

1. We have exploited them
2. Export cultural decadence
3. Troops in Saudi Arabia
4. U.S. support for Israel
5. Source of humiliation and shame

## ON HATRED FOR ISRAEL

***"...for the Middle East to make peace with Israel would be to declare war on itself, to admit that its own fundamental way of doing business – not the Jews – makes it poor, sick and weak."***

**John Neuhaus (First Things)**

## Standard 'Crime Sheet' Against USA

- Treatment of native Americans
- War crimes against Japanese (Hiroshima and Nagasaki)
- American imperialistic aggression in Lebanon, Khartoum, Libya, Iraq and - the major one - **Palestine** where we have aided the Jews (whom they detest – they ultimately trace most of the world's woes back to the Jews who have 'duped us')
- Our support of tyrants such as the Shah of Iran, Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and the House of Saud in Saudi Arabia
- Most importantly, however, is "the degeneracy and debauchery of the American way of life" which is an offense against God and man. Osama bin Laden calls America the "Great Satan, the great seducer, an insidious tempter who whispers in the hearts of men" (Qur'an CXIV, 4,5)

## **A MORAL INVENTORY: Are we a Christian Nation?**

"Frankly, I think Muslims have it right when they say that Christians in the West appear to have produced, or at least acquiesced, to a pagan, sex-saturated, violent, materialistic society. Muslims seem to despise us not because we're so free...or because we're too Christian...but because we are so awfully pagan."

William Willimon, former Dean at Duke University, writing in the ***Christian Century***, November 16, 2004

## **And – A Fearless Moral Inventory Among the Muslims**

Jesus said 'produce fruit'...Islamic culture tends to produce too many 'nuts'

- High birth rate and low productivity
- Growing unemployment, uneducated, unemployable
- Growing number of disaffected youth
- By almost every measurement they are falling farther and farther behind the west
- Humiliation leads to anger-we are the scapegoat for their problems
- Many of their youths yearn for freedoms and pleasures of the West.

**AND FINALLY,  
THE AMERICAN DEVIL'S RESPONSE TO THOSE  
WHO WOULD DESTROY IT**

"The West cannot wage 'war on terror' while maintaining its dependence on Arab oil, appeasing Islamist aggression around the world, turning a blind eye to the Islamic destruction of peoples who are animists, Hindus and Christians, and allow mass immigration to Muslims into its own lands. It risks being the star actor of a Greek tragedy in which the gods make the unfortunate rulers mad before they destroy them, as Yohann Ramati put it" "Waiting to be hit by Moslem nuclear bombs because one does not wish to be ruthless with states sponsoring terrorism, to shift to non-oil energy, or to interfere with the profits of tycoons who do not even care for the economies of their own countries is no prescription for the survival of Western civilization".

*The Sword of Ialam* by Serge Trifkovic, 2002, pg. 260

**NEXT WEEK**

**CORRUPTION IN  
THE  
HEART OF ISLAM**

**Saudi Arabia  
and the House of  
Saud**