Israel-Palestinian conflict and Pan-Islamic Terrorism in the Middle East and beyond - *By Jim Mpungu Godfrey -Terrorism &National Security expert)*



1. The connection between the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Pan-Islamic terrorism in the Middle East and beyond.

The formation of Israel had its origins in terrorism. The newly arrived Zionists practiced terror acts against the local Palestinians and the colonial overseers, the British. Although the Jewish nation had settled in Israel from about 1200 B.C., by the time of the First World War, the weakened Ottoman Empire allowed the world powers to plan for more influence in Arabic lands. With the Balfour Declaration, England believed that the Jews would sign onto their side of the war. The Arabs believed from their reading of the declaration that they had the right to review the terms and that their independence was assured. From the text:

"With the promise of independence to both Zionist and Arabs alike, the British Government had unwittingly sowed the seeds for an almost ceaseless succession of wars. In the decades to come, the Jews and Arabs would fight conventional wars that would then turn into what is now modern-day terrorism…" To sum, Israel achieved statehood, and Palestine did not.

The history is Israel is of brutal evolution; a struggle to survive in a deadly environment of hostile neighbors and refugees. Ergo, it was the Zionists who were the first practitioners of terrorism. The Israeli rightist, "Stern," gang was involved in assassinations. The NMO, or National Military Organization, also worked during the 1940s, against both British and Arab Palestinians. It is from its bloody beginning that Middle Eastern terrorism became centered on the struggle for control of the areas claimed by both sides of the conflict.

The PLO, Hamas, The Islamic Jihad, and many others were formed from the Palestinian side in reaction to the eve increasing military, economic, and political clout of the Israelis. Because of Israel's victories in various wars in the region, their was antithetical reaction from the Pan-Islamic world. The Iranian Revolution was not done by Arabs, but was Persian in it's origins. The groups of South East Asia, Abu Sayyaf and MILF of the Phillipines, and the recent Bali bombers, note the injustice of their, "brothers," in the sense of Islamic brotherhood, or, "Umma," with the Palestinians who still under the control of Israel occupation.

2. The link between Western foreign policy and the proliferation of terrorism worldwide.

The West has had a definite influence on terrorisms emergence, but I would not go so far as to say cause. The training of the Afghan Mujahadeen, or Holy Warriors, in their fight with the

occupying Russian forces created the Taliban and greatly aided Bin Laden.
The C. I. A. and other organizations trained the Afghan resistance. This training of the anti-communist forces was a phenomenon widely recorded in spy novels, but never receiving much of a spotlight as it regarded; 1. the other side, and 2. was part of the shadow world of intelligence, private armies, etc.
From the perspective of victimization, the U. S. continuing state support for Israel allows for the desperation of the resistors, who I call terrorists. This is the most important, and obvious, example, of the so-called provocation of terrorism.

The Irish Republican Army could be perceived as an outgrowth of the portioning of Northern Ireland as part of The Crown. The subsequent occupation by the Brits fed fuel to a fire which was bound to receive excessive media attention. Regardless, the decades long drama continues with CNN live at the marches of the Orangemen.

The end of the cold war, it seems more and more, caused the Western powers to believe that they were without an enemy. Therefore, they became indecisive and too relaxed in their observations, not persistent enough in their efforts to combat the terror groups which were in symbiosis with the former cold war.

Russia's problems in Chechnya are of a similar hue, but are considered an Eastern Power.

The largest insult for a terrorist is to be ignored. The text notes that terrorists want attention and publicity to preach their macabre theatre. With the dissolution of the U. S. S. R., a diplomatic game ended but some players kept on playing. These happened to be on the front lines of the Cold War; Afghanistan, Sudan, the Communist terror groups of the S. E. Asia. The connection between the icy standoff with the Russian Bear is directly linked to The War on Terror.

3. Is there a parallel between international Islamic fundamentalist terrorism and fundamentalist Christian domestic (special interest) terrorism? (motives, methods, and moral justifications of each category)

Terror comes in many forms. Religious terrorism, the text notes, is rapidly increasing.
Islam and Christianity both have fundamentalist, extremist elements. From what I've gleaned, the Islamic groups are more of a threat, being more integrated and supported by the cultures from which they emerge. The fringe right of the U.S. is often niche-specific, having special interests with, for example, and the legality of abortion.

Muslim fundamentalist organizations are focused on a major cultural shift, from the Western viewpoint, anyway. The installation of Sharia law, which is a strict interpretation of the Koran, is desirable. A total rule of Islam over any form of secularism. The Christian terrorist in the U.S. is motivated by returning prayer to school, outlawing abortion or, "child murder," and other goals which are less all-encompassing than those, say, of the Taliban.

Methodologies of the religious extremists in the U.S. have shot abortion staff, planned water poisoning, and worked with explosives. They are quite dangerous and have no problem with a nuclear war, in that they could continue their divine path in the time of Revelation. The Islamic fundamentalist has more of an opportunity to achieve goals as there is no equivalent of an Afghanistan in the Christian, "West." The tactic of suicide bombing used by

the fundamentalists from the West Bank to Tikrit, are not to be found on the special interests of Pat Robertson's fan club, "Operation Rescue." Hostage taking, assassination, and bombing are utilized more often in the planning of the Islamic organizations than the record of the U. S. fundamentalist.

Aside from flying planes into NYC and the Pentagon and other kamikaze actions, there is a shared belief in the divinity of their respective causes, which could lead anywhere, and history is not over yet, despite the post modern relativism that claims, from here in Old Germany anyway, that we—Krauts anyway-- have evolved past all conflict. Indeed.

Religious extremists do share a lot in the sense of moral justification: they see the world as a battlefield between the forces of light and darkness, winning is disconnected from politics, a total destruction of the enemy is commanded, killing is a sacramental act, the purpose of their operation is to kill, or convert, for God, religious texts are taken out of context, they are on Godly missions, they have no wider audience, the terror act is deified, the enemy is pure evil and must be eradicated from the Universe.

I am reluctant to call these moral excuses, but such is my morality. Personally, I believe that religious terrorism is the most dangerous form in that the adherents have nothing to loose, and, just maybe, dozens of virgins to win. That's the morality.

If you have some comments please send them to me at j.godfrey@gea-university.org
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