

Chapter 11c – National Defense (c): Islamic Jihadism

A. Islamic Jihadism (International Terrorism)

- Term refers to loosely related Islamic terrorist groups (Hamas, al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, Muslim Brotherhood, etc.)
- Today (Dec., 2011): Single greatest threat to American peace and security
- Causes: NOT poverty or U.S. gov't actions. IS: evil religious belief that any violent means to advance domination- justified

a. *Origins and beliefs of al-Qaeda and similar organizations*

1. Islamic Jihadism is a minority view in the Muslim world (**Lawrence Wright, *The Looming Tower*** – v. impt. book).
2. **Abdul Wahhab** (1703–92), Wahhabi Muslims, Wahhabism: preached violence to advance Islam
3. **Sayyid Qutb** (1906–66). Egyptian author. U.S. Educated. Then Egyptian prison. Book: *Milestones*, 1964
4. **Ayman al-Zawahiri** (1951–). Prominent Egyptian family. well recognized surgeon. Influenced by Qutb's writings. Related to group - assassinated Pres. Sadat. Met Osama bin Laden - Afghanistan sometime after release from prison.
5. **Osama bin Laden** (1957–). Born to extremely wealthy family in Saudi Arabia. Studied economics at university, but spent most time in campus religious activities. Fought Soviets in Afghanistan/ was U.S. ally, returned home and later returned to Afghanistan again where he connected with other leaders and radicals like Zawahiri. Eventually turned against the U.S.
6. L. Wright: Radicals saw US as locus of Christian power & crusades as ongoing needing resolution=Muslim domination
7. August 11, **1988** – a few months prior to Soviet withdrawal, **al-Qaeda formed** at meeting in Peshawar by bin Laden/others.
8. *Takfir* – violence justified against fellow Muslims who apostasize (ex. of apostasizing: voting, participating in democracy – gov't belongs to Allah, apostasy = not imposing Sharia)
9. al-Qaeda decided: concentrate not: fighting armies but: killing civilians! Main focus= U.S., primary obstacle to domination.
10. Goal – to impose Taliban style gov'ts over more and more countries. Primary obstacle = U.S.
11. Biblical perspective: Movement seems to be have Satanic motivation(Jn. 8:44 cf. Jn 10:10, Lk 4:18).
12. Cause cannot be from poverty/oppression- the roots of this mov't come from well-to-do leaders. Cause=evil religious view
13. Those who currently join this mov't have a tendency to be middle or upper-middle class and college educated.
14. Opposition to Israel: Judaism = intolerable exception to Islamic dominance in Middle East. Influential Muslim view: Palestine given to the descendants of Ismail, not Isaac.
15. Opposition to US: Zawahiri and bin Laden – 1) Presence of US troops in Saudi Arabia, 2) 1st Gulf War, 3) Support of Israel
16. Fatwa (1998): to kill the Americans, civilian & military, is an individual duty for every Muslim – Zawahiri, bin Laden, etc

b. *Explanations that primarily blame Americans for terrorism are mistaken & harmful*

1. Wallis: "American shortcomings" greatly help terrorists. Our focus should be American-caused grievances & injustices.
2. "Shortcomings": support of military dictators, appetite for oil, American wealth vs. global poverty, military attacks on terrorists
3. By Wallis's argument –any poverty in the world provides him with basis for accusing U.S. of aiding terrorists & evil acts
4. On military attack: acc. to Wallis, winning is losing. Wrong – when defeat is seen as impending, terror recruitment dries up
5. Wallace's argument is counter to Paul in Rom 13:4. Also, lacks careful study = broad unsubstantiated accusations
6. Wallis & 9/11: ultimately his arguments logically conclude that the victim is at fault. **"Blame America": popular theme for pacifists**
7. Undermines sense of right/wrong. Attacking civilians= always wrong, Gov't restraining evil= always good (Rom 13, 1 Pet 2)

c. *Terrorist attacks carried out by al-Qaeda and its allies*

1. 2/26/93-First World Trade Center bomb, 6/25/96-Bombing of Khobar Towers, a US military barracks in Saudi Arabia, 8/7/98-Bombing of US embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, 8/7/98-Bombing of US embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 10/12/00-Bombing of USS Cole in port in Yemen, 9/11/01-Attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon
2. 9/11 did not suddenly appear. Views that cause such attacks have been in the world at least since *Abdul Wahhab* (1700s).

d. *Solutions to Islamic Jihadism – (1) Superior Force*

1. Superior Military Force is the only method proven of curbing terrorism.
2. It is morally right for good Gov'ts to capture &, if need be, kill hardened supporters of terrorist groups (Rom 13:3-4).
3. Traditional law enforcement methods not suitable. Terrorists willing to die in attack – must be caught prior to act.

e. *Solutions to Islamic Jihadism – (2) What about Wiretapping?*

1. Technology yielded 2 effective weapons against terror, later compromised: tracing inter-bank xfers & wiretapping phones
2. Inter-bank xfers: US able to trace terrorist funding (from who - to whom). Recklessly exposed by *NYTimes* 6/23/2006.
3. Phone: US can listen to conversations even when both parties are outside U.S. Most Int'l phone traffic flows through U.S.
4. Additionally, comm. from Afstan. (bin Laden's place of hiding) to the US could also be monitored= possible terror cells in US
5. Results: U.S. Gov't able to discover terror plots before the attacks occurred & able to locate and capture terrorist leaders.
6. Liberal opponents say that "warrantless wiretapping" of almost exclusively foreign terror suspects violates FISA & civil rights
7. "warrantless wiretapping": Every appeals court has found the Pres. of US has the authority to gather electronic intelligence.
8. The top-secret program to listen to terrorist phone conversations was recklessly exposed, also, by the *NYTimes* 12/16/05. Despite the fact that the *NYTimes* admitted in its divulging article that the program was successful.
9. Primary opposition to program – ACLU & many Democratic members of Congress.
10. 7/12/08 bill holds phone companies immune from lawsuits for helping US in anti-terror efforts–ACLU promised to challenge
11. My own viewpoint: Program essential to national security and small threat to the invasion of privacy of ordinary citizens.

f. *Solutions: (3) Holding nations accountable that harbor terrorists*

1. 9/20/01 – Pres. Bush declared all nations harboring terrorists would be held accountable and considered hostile regimes.
2. An important step. W/o the support (passive or active) of nat'l gov'ts it's very hard for terrorist camps and cells to exist.
3. Bush admin. - aggressive policy of interception & attack. Very successful. No successful attack in US since inception.

g. Solutions: (4) Persuading people in Muslim nations to turn against terrorist groups

1. In Iraq, local pop. turned against al-Qaeda after: 1) US military provided security & safety, 2) use of local contacts and charitable acts to build trust & confidence (according Michael Yon, journalist, former Army Green Beret).
2. A strong US commitment to providing neighborhood security and other peacekeeping efforts is necessary.
3. Christians should realize "Muslim religion of peace" can mean "coexistence" with other religions (less literal interpretation of Quran) OR "domination" of other religions (more conservative Islamic view held by terrorists). "Peace" should be clarified.

h. Solutions: (5) Moral reformation in American culture

1. Moral breakdown in the US gives Islamic radicals "intellectual ammunition."
2. Proclamation of the moral law of God and universal accountability has brought moral transformation in many societies.

i. Solutions: (6) Spiritual revival

1. Genuine moral transformation only comes through proclamation and acceptance of the Gospel.
2. Spiritual revival in the U.S. would take away radical Islamists' ability to claim moral high ground.
3. Such a revival has the potential to reach even hardened Islamic terrorists.

B. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

- a. According to Just War criteria (gone over previously), Iraq and Afghanistan wars were just wars.
- b. Just Cause: to defend the U.S. - 1) US was first attacked and 2) wars launched against hotbeds of Islamic terrorism
 1. Additionally, S. Hussein never complied with terms of surrender in 1st Gulf War. Prevented site visits to verify no nukes.
 2. No WMD's found, but had been used against Kurds in the past, US Intelligence & others believed in the existence of. Also, Israel had previously bombed Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, reason given – ability to build nuclear weapons.
 3. Jan. '04, French News Service report: S. Hussein had transported large quantities of WMDs to Syria prior to U.S. invasion
 4. Then-Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon made the same claim in December 2002
 5. Further justification—free democracy is a long-term antidote to Islamic terrorism & benefits people under oppressive regimes.
 6. Town Square Test (Natan Sharansky, *The Case for Democracy*)
 7. Despite internal conflicts and struggles seen in all fledgling democracies, Afghanistan & Iraq have had successful elections.
 8. Muslim countries can function as democracies (ex. Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia).
- c. Competent Authority: The President with Congress authorizing expenditures
- d. Comparative Justice: on our side, because of the great evil propagated by the Taliban in Afghanistan and Hussein in Iraq
- e. Right intention: To remove threat of terrorism and free countries from oppressive dictatorships.
- f. Last Resort: other negotiations and diplomacy had gone on for years without any significant change in both countries
- g. Probability of Success: U.S. military was/is the most well trained and advanced military in the world
- h. Proportionality of projected results: Massive threat of world terrorism vs. possible great good of gov't change in both countries.
- i. Right spirit: regret that war had to be undertaken, but with determination to bring it to a successful conclusion.
- j. Disagreement with Wallis re. just war and claims of Christian opposition.
- k. Present concern: Afghanistan & Iraq may now be lost by Pres. Obama due to weakness and indecision (military presence decreased, arbitrary timetable for withdrawal – indications of destabilization, Gen. McChrystal's req. for troops not met, etc.).
- l. Destructive terrorist consequences for such a loss would be far beyond anything that has happened to this point.

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