



CLASHING CIVILIZATIONS

America & Islam

By: Darrell Sutton

PART 2

For the earnest student of extremist Islam, here is a quote that should help him understand some of the ideological & perspectival differences within radicalism and Western civilization. (see my comments directly following the paragraph below.) Bin Laden issued this statement immediately after President Bush's speech in October 2001.

“The values of this Western civilization under the leadership of America have been destroyed. Those awesome symbolic {twin} towers that spoke of liberty, human rights, and humanity have been destroyed. They have gone up in smoke. The proof came when the US government pressured the media not to run our statements that are not longer than a few minutes...They forgot all about fair and objective reporting and reporting the other side of the issue. I tell you freedom and human rights in America are doomed.” [1]

The above words provide a brief commentary on how American polity, culture & journalism are perceived by those outside of the mainstream of the West. The view from the fence allows them ample opportunity to pot-shot at the supposed hypocrisies of the US. I see in this terse and concise statement a fair amount of Islamic reasoning that is difficult to understand without possessing knowledge

of the religion, culture and hermeneutical tools utilized in forming these opinions. With that having been said, let's dissect a portion of this ideology:

The religion of Islam, in its various forms, is an amalgamation of varying beliefs. Familiar to most readers are terrorists who espouse violence in the name of God. What is often misunderstood, are the theological frames in which they couch their views and the reasons delineated for embracing these views. First of all, Historic Islam is opposed to any and all separation of religion and State. So the Muslim can't understand why other Muslims would attempt to circumvent a law commanded of God in the Quran; namely, the imposition of Islamic jurisprudence. The sharia law consists of juridical decrees, both civil & criminal, which assist in the governing of a society. Apart from these divinely inspired rules any civilization will at best be sub-par and at worst, found standing in opposition to Allah, which is an intolerable thought considering all that Allah performed in bringing Muhammad's truth to the nations.

Returning to the idea of separation of religion and state this is a sore point of contention because this civil arrangement is viewed as 'evil' by Muslims. How can a system opposed to religion in general, and Islam in particular, expect to help in the establishment of their faith? **“Let not the believers take the disbelievers as {awliyya} supporters and helpers instead of the believers, and whoever does that, will never be helped by Allah in any way, except if you indeed fear a danger from them...”** Surah 3:28 This may seem like a moot point but this verse is the ground for some major theological departures. In the verse is the idea that a Muslim (believer) should never ally himself with those who are not believers in Islam. From this vantage point how could bin Laden ever endorse any international agreements between so-called Muslim countries and any nation of Western background? Western civilization is an affront to Islam because (in their opinion) the values encouraged are not items of liberty, freedom and truth at all. They are noted to be aberrant behaviors not permitted under the Islamic rule. **{In the words of bin Laden “practically everything valued by the immoral West is condemned under sharia law.”}** These theories that are kept in print throughout the Middle East do much to stir up antipathy and strife among the masses. This is the reason there is *no shortage at all of Jihadist recruits* who desire to strike the dreaded Christian empire known as America. This supposed great satan is vulnerable only because it cannot receive help from Allah (see above verse).

As a citizen, if we have any sensibilities at all there must be a return to some very old and basic questions. Why is

America great, and wherein does her greatness lie? (If, in fact, you believe that she is great!) I believe that our own principles initiated by our founders, if deviated from, will work to destroy us. How then can we defend our 'AMERICAN' mindset and at the same time defend the differences that exist among us? I don't want to spend a lot of time waxing nostalgic about our past, after all, there are many reasons to be found in our history, which are enough to move any freethinking individual to tears for a long time to come but if you believe that it is the Lord that raises up kings & nations (as I do believe) then each country is 'a work' of the Lord. In that sense, we as a nation, are to be grateful to the hand of God for providentially creating (through fallible humans) a nation for these last days.

Prophecy, historically, has been a useful tool of inspiration for the masses for generations. From the Greek oracle of Delphi to the Native American medicine man, people have sought inspiration from above. Remembering that our founders had the vision to see what the nation could become is as vital to our historical interpretations as is the work they involved themselves in forming a *more perfect union, thereby establishing justice peace and tranquility*. Far too often, though, elaborate amounts of time are spent teaching on Islamic eschatological beliefs and the basic facts surrounding the coming of the Lord are being lost in the euphoric hysteria of the *coming Mahdi* of the Shiites. *Our concerns should be rooted in the core ideals that made Western civilization the envy of the nations. The lines form around American embassies daily, as thousands seek, by any means necessary, to enter the United States.* Few there are who desire to immigrate to a 'sharia law state.' Even Muslims in America who use loudspeakers to condemn the Islam of the East tightly grip their green cards while enjoying the ideals of the west.

To recall the origins of our beloved constitution, we need only look back 225 years or so. Men from near and afar traveled afoot & on horseback for the great debates on the wording of the constitution. I believe its appraisal in the 21st century is still one of high value. America, though a youth amid the stream of nations abroad is still the oldest democracy in the world and at the center of this achievement is the success of our constitution. This document is a far cry from the constitution inaugurated in Medina by Muhammad, where rights were denied to many if any real rights were extended at all. I introduced this 'Islamic constitution' to the Islamic invasion conference in 2007. It had never been brought to the attention of the general body of Christ until then (at least not to my knowledge). By contrasting the two, individuals could analyze, critique & compare them against one another.

Thereby, arriving at right conclusions as to whether the interests of America are best served when spreading the so-called 'multicultural ideas' of Muslim philosophy.

When the "time of the end" comes and Jesus appears will 'faith' be found in the earth? The question is not generic. In the Greek it is speaking about a specific & special faith. Jesus' concern is not about belief in general, but of a true faith in particular. There were many philosophies and beliefs held in Greco-Roman times. Some of them developed to a certain degree. Yet, in describing what it meant to have faith (Mark 11:22), Jesus speaks of a trust that is centered in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; He who gave His Son as His all atoning redemption. We dare not turn from the truths upon which we were founded and established to the beggarly elements of the world that have not saved those who yet subscribe unto them. Let's remain committed to ideals that have stood the test of time.

I conclude with the final words from Sheikh Omar Abdur Rahman. Who is Osama bin Laden's spiritual guide, the master mind of the world trade center bombings and is presently serving time in a North Carolina jail. These words are taken from his final will and testament. *He called on his (Islamic) brothers to continue the struggle and jihad. Saying that should he die in jail, they are to "exact a most violent revenge" upon America.*

We need to reassert ourselves again in society and vote in Godly leaders who will work to preserve our Christian heritage. There has never been a greater time than now for the Church of Jesus to emphasize evangelism and outreach. Muslims are in need of a savior and Jesus is the only one. There is a reason to rejoice in the midst of this Islamic invasion; With all of the Muslims coming here to the breadbasket of America they can be reached locally without having to travel to the other side of the earth. In doing missions at home, they (the Muslim converts to Jesus) can return to family abroad and reveal their new faith in Christ. God alone knows the impact that can be made here on the soil of the USA. *Let us join together to pray not only for the peace of Jerusalem but also for Israel's helper, the United States of America. As I conclude this article let me remind you of the Apostle Paul's admonition to the Church at Rome to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ "to the Jew first and also to the (Greek) gentile." Rom 1:16*

Footnotes

[1] The Quran is described as having been 'sent down' from heaven. The underlying arabic word is used no less than 200 times in the text of the Quran.

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