

Bin Laden's Dream

A Re-examination of the Threat of Al-Qaeda Based on the Words of Osama bin Laden

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Part I

The Salafi Jihad: A 7th Century Reading of the Qur'an

Reading the Qur'an the 7th Century Way

Abrogation:

“Whatever sign We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, We bring one better than that or the like thereof. Dost thou not know that Allah has the power to do all that he wills?” (2:107)

Dissolution of Treaties:

“This is a declaration of complete absolution on the part of Allah and His Messenger from all obligation to the idolaters with whom you had made promises.” (9:1)

Reading the Qur'an the 7th Century Way

The Unending Jihad:

“And when the forbidden months have passed, kill the idolaters wherever you find them and take them prisoners, and beleaguer them and lie in wait for them at every place of ambush. But if they repent and observe Prayer and pay the Zakāt, then leave their way free. Surely, Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.”
(9:5)

“Fight those from among the People of the Book who believe not in Allah, nor in the Last Day, nor hold as unlawful what Allah and his Messenger have declared to be unlawful, nor follow the true religion, until they pay the tax with their own hand and acknowledge their subjection.” (9:29)

Part II

Bin Laden the Philanthropist 1994-1996

The Pretense

“The world tends to prefer to overlook the oppression and persecution in Bosnia and occupied Palestine and then hasten to accuse Muslims of terrorism if they defend themselves.”

“The accusation that we support terrorism is a hostile, imperialist method designed to suppress Muslims’ determination and paralyze their movement toward one another and toward their religion and faith.”

– London Al-Quds Al-‘Arabi, March 9, 1994

The Pretense Slips

“To put it simply, the bin Laden Establishment’s aid covers 13 countries, including Albania, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Netherlands, Britain, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, and some Gulf countries which there is no need to mention.”
‘With a vicious smile on his lips,’ he adds that, “this aid comes in particular from the Human Concern International Society, which was founded in Afghanistan in 1982.”

– Cairo Rose Al-Yusuf, June 17, 1996

Part III

Bin Laden the Ideologue 1996-2000

Changing His Past

“I asked him why he did not use English for communication and needed a translator. He said that although he received his education in the United Kingdom and can easily speak and understand English, he did not like this language and was trying to forget it.”

– Abu Shiraz, Islamabad, Pakistan, February 20, 1999

“...I studied in Hizaj. I studied economy at Jeddah University, or the so-called King ‘Abd-al-‘Aziz University.”

– Doha Qatar Al-Jazirah Space Channel, June 10, 1999

Declaring Jihad

“You are not unaware of the injustice, repression, and aggression that have befallen Muslims through the Alliance of Jews, Christians, and their agents, so much so that Muslims’ blood has become the cheapest blood and their money and wealth are plundered by the enemies.

[A listing of massacres follow]

“...hair raising and revolting massacres were committed before the eyes of the entire world clearly in accordance with a conspiracy of the United States and its allies who banned arms for the oppressed there under the cover of the unfair United Nations.”

– London Al-Islah, September 2, 1996

The Legitimacy of Terror

“Terrorism – if it is against criminals, thieves, and bandits – is a legitimate thing adopted by all states in all ages. The blameworthy terrorism is the kind committed by thieves against nations. What happened in the Riyadh and al-Khubar blasts was praiseworthy terrorism, because it was against thieves, not individuals but major states which went there to plunder the riches of this nation and to encroach on its greatest holy sites.”

– London Al-Quds Al-‘Arabi, November 27, 1996

Claiming Somebody Else's Victory

“We were surprised by the US soldier's psychological level in Somalia. There was nothing for him to fight for...There is no comparison between him and the Russian fighters, against whom we fought in Afghanistan...I took up arms against the Soviets in Afghanistan for 10 years, and we believe that our battle with the United States is easy compared to the battles in which we engaged in Afghanistan.”

– London Al-Quds Al-'Arabi, November 27, 1996

Claiming the Voice of Islam

“...the Islamic world has now come to its senses. Now they realize that they have become the slaves of the United States and are engaged in a struggle to liberate themselves from its clutches...the duty of every Muslim is to take action against the United States because, it is the biggest enemy of the Islamic world...”

– Rawalpindi Nawa-i-Waqt, November 27, 1997

Part IV

Bin Laden the Terrorist 2000-Present

Taking Charge in the Salafi Jihad

“On this blessed night, we pledge to God Almighty to do all we can to support our religion, to expel the Jews and the Christians from the sacred places, and to endeavor to release our ulema from the United States, from Egypt, from Riyadh, and from all Muslim lands.”

– Al-Jazeera, September 21, 2000

World Domination

“Today, every member of the Muslim world agrees that all the Muslim countries of the world having geographical boundaries on the basis of nationality, geography, religious discord, color and race, should be merged into one Muslim state, where men do not rule men. There should be one caliph for the whole state whose capital should be Mecca. There should be one currency and defense for this state and the holy Koran should be its constitution. The name that has been proposed for this vast state is Global Muslim State. I want to congratulate you that by the grace of God, from today, we have begun the task of achieving a highly important and strong target of domination of Islam over all other religions.”

– Rawalpindi Nawa-i-Waqt, January 7, 2001

Eating his cake and having it too...

“Neither I had any knowledge of these attacks nor I consider the killing of innocent women, children, and other humans as an appreciable act.”

– Karachi Ummat, September 28, 2001

“God Almighty hit the United States at its most vulnerable spot...It was filled with terror from its north to its south and from its east to its west. Praise be to God...As for the United States, I tell it and its people these few words: I swear by Almighty God who raised the heavens without pillars that neither the United States nor he who lives in the United States will enjoy security before we can see it as a reality in Palestine and before all the infidel armies leave the land of Mohammed...”

– Doha Al-Jazirah, October 7, 2001

Bin Laden Takes His Rightful Place

“If you launch suicide attacks, I assure you, the US citizens all over the world will be frightened. The United States will retreat in the face of your suicide missions. Those of you who cannot participate in the suicide campaign should offer financial support to the Mujahidin.”

– Islamabad Ausaf, April 9, 2003

“These youths inflicted heavy moral and material losses on the enemy...The confusion caused to the enemy was sufficient to make people wake up from their slumber and rise for jihad for the sake of God.

“I had the honor of knowing these men. One is honored by knowing these men. God has honored them and enabled them to champion the cause of Islam.”

– Doha Al-Jazirah, September 10, 2003

Part V

Bin Laden's Dream: Failing to Matter

The Dream

“There can be no dialogue with occupiers except through arms.”

– Doha Al-Jazirah, January 4, 2004

The Reality

Muslim Majority Secular Democratic Countries

- Indonesia – population 228,582,000, 86.1% Muslim
- Bangladesh – population 162,221,000, 89% Muslim
- Turkey – population 71,517,100, 99.8% Muslim
- Malaysia – population 27,730,000, 60.4% Muslim
- Niger – population 13,272,679, 90% Muslim
- Lebanon – population 4,196,453, 60% Muslim
- Kosovo – population 2,100,000, 90% Muslim

Muslim Majority Islamic Democratic Countries

- Iraq – population 28,221,181, 97% Muslim
- Palestine – population 4,148,000, 95% Muslim

*The ONLY Muslim Majority **Islamist** Democratic Country*

- Afghanistan – population 32,738,376, 99% Muslim