

However, from the Arab perspective, the Crusades that occurred during the 11th and 12th Centuries were ♦ Holy Wars ♦ and an invasion of the Mid-Eastern people that lasted approximately 200 years . I remember visiting Cairo back in 1989 when I looked up at the tremendous fortress there and asked my guide why the wall was over 100 feet high, and he said ♦ to keep the Christians from killing our people during the Crusades. ♦♦ I realized then there had been a lack of depth and objectivity in my high school world history classes concerning this era in this part of the world! ♦

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦ Even though George Bush, in his undiplomatic utterance, set off alarm bells in the Islamic world, the question of who is to blame in the centuries of bitterly destructive ♦ crusader wars ♦ is almost moot today. As for the contemporary forces of Islam and their passionate declaration to their faithful that the infidels must be repulsed and destroyed, there are also underlying factors of their own expansionism and forcing the obedience of their people to their cause. But on an emotional basis, what is remembered today is the uniform ruthlessness toward not only warriors but also civilians ♦ moreover, neither side could claim victory when the war came to an end. In short, ♦ if the tactics of terror employed in the Crusades taught one lesson overall, it is that institutionalized religion offered the average citizen, of either Europe or the Mid-East, no hope whatsoever of escape from the agonies of destructive war. All the terrorizing tactics that had been practiced before the crusades were intensified in these ♦ Holy Wars, ♦ but with a terrible twist: there was an unnerving new shamelessness among the combatants, who had come to understand that depredations against civilians were now central to all military campaigns ♦ (Carr, *The Lessons of Terror*, 2002).

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦ The average American today thinks only dimly of the Crusades, if at all; but, this is not the same for the Arabs today. For them, as one historian commented, ♦ Events like the Crusades, a thousand years ago, are as immediate as yesterday. And they are very, very powerful events in the Arab mind. A lot of Islamic rhetoric even today revolves around the Crusades. ♦ President Bush attempted later to undo the harm of his use of the word ♦ crusade ♦ by saying he meant it within the contemporary Western usage of the word ♦ ♦ any vigorous action on behalf of a cause. ♦ The word ♦ crusade ♦ is actually from Spanish ♦ cruzada ♦ which means ♦ marked with the cross ♦ (Durant, *The Age of Faith*). But to Muslims today, the word ♦ crusade ♦ is equivalent to a racial epithet backed by reinforced memories of brutality and blood shed on their lands. To Muslims, the word ♦ crusade ♦ is a profoundly loaded term, and evokes not only war against their people, who were hacked apart, man and child, a thousand years ago by Christians, but also evokes a war against religion and their way of life. To them, this ♦ war ♦ by the West continues today and is seen to be ♦ causing steady corrosion of the Islamic values by a globalizing Western culture they believe undermines their families and trivializes their god (Washington Post, November, 2001 ♦ A Thousand Years of Bad Memories ♦).

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦ The West ♦s insensitivity to that word can even be found recently in the Congressional discussion over the army budget for next year, in which a sum of half a billion dollars was appropriated for a howitzer that is called ♦ The Crusader. ♦ This weapon consists of two vehicles ♦ a self-propelled 155 mm cannon and a supply vehicle that carries ammunition. Army officials say that when the howitzer is fielded in 2008, it will be the most sophisticated and accurate in the world, capable of firing 12 rounds of 100-pound projectiles per minute, with a range of up to 25 miles. The Pentagon plans to buy 480 ♦ Crusaders ♦. Each ♦ Crusader ♦ vehicle will weigh 80 tons (Hearst News Service, 3/10/2002). Obviously, the Arabs have already paid heed to this new lethal weapon and have sensed its design is for land warfare, rather than mountain warfare; hence, the Arabian Peninsula appears to be the deployable area.

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦ A brief overview of the Crusades of a thousand years ago can be found in a new book by James Reston, Jr. (*Warriors of God*, 2001) in which he says, ♦ The crusader movement unleashed a frenzy of hate and violence unprecedented before the advent of the technological age and the scourge of Hitler. The madness was initiated in the name of religion by a pope of the Christian Church, Urban II, in 1095, as a measure to redirect the energies of warring European barons from their local disputes and reclaim the Holy Land from the ♦ infidel ♦. Once unleashed, the passion could not be controlled. The violence began with the massacre of the Jews,

Muslim world, and there were seven major terrorist attacks and numerous minor ones. Now called ♦ The Crusades ♦ they are somewhat of an only romantic memory to Westerners. To Arabs, there are only memories of terrorism and massacre.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ Contemporary historians will tell anyone today that these terrorist attacks or Crusades were ♦ shocking - not only to modern sensibilities but equally to contemporaries. The Crusades ravished the countries they marched through, killed over 8,000 Jews in the Rhine river area before they ever killed a Muslim ♦ The cost in wasted lives and effort was incalculable ♦ murder and massacre in service of the Latin gospel were commonplace. 70,000 Muslim civilians were said to have been butchered in cold blood in the first sack of Jerusalem in the first crusade. The horrors along the crusader ♦ s road were caused by a mixture of religious fervor and the resentment of poverty back home ♦ and became more of a ♦ armed pilgrimage and a mass sacrifice ♦ (Davies, [A History of Europe](#)).

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

By diverse routes, the Crusaders made their way to Constantinople and of course later to the Mid-East itself. The Pope had preached the importance of the Crusades for more than one year before they departed and it took approximately three years before the Crusaders stood before the walls of Jerusalem. Reports from that battle were fairly sickening. In the streets were seen piles of heads, hands, and feet, and one rode about everywhere amid the corpses of men and horses. According to Durant, surviving Jews were herded into a synagogue and burned alive. The Crusaders flocked to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and embraced one another and wept with joy and relief and thanked God for their victory. St. Bernard back in Europe said that the Christian who slays the unbeliever in the Holy War ♦ is sure of his reward ♦ more sure if he himself is slain - the Christian glories and the death of the pagan because Christ is therefore glorified. Men must learn to kill with a good conscience if they are to fight successful wars. ♦ (Davies). ♦ Bin Laden of today could not have said it any better.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ Even though today we find disputes about the Koran and what it tells Muslims to do against infidels, it might be instructive to take a look at Christianity ♦ s own ♦ Holy Bible ♦ and see that it also enjoins violence. ♦ For example, in Matthew 10:42, Jesus says, ♦ Don ♦ t imagine that I came to bring peace to the Earth! ♦ No, rather a sword. ♦ I have come to set a man against his father and a daughter against her mother. If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. ♦ In Luke 22:36, Jesus reportedly says, ♦ When I send you out to preach the good news, take a duffle bag if you have one and your money. And if you don ♦ t have a sword, better sell you clothes and buy one!...Master, they replied, we have two swords among us ♦ ♦ Jesus said, ♦ Enough! ♦ And in the Old Testament, in Joshua 10:34, the Bible exalts that the Israelites had ♦ killed everyone in the city ♦ and captured it and all its surrounding, slaughtering the entire population. No one person was left alive ♦ so Joshua and his army conquered the whole country ♦ they destroyed everyone in the land, just as the Lord God of Israel had commanded, slaughtering them from Goshen to Gideon ♦. These are but a few examples exposing the fact that the Old and New Testaments had many violent aspects to it. (See also, [Washington Post](#), ♦ We ♦ re Not So Secular Ourselves, ♦ November 2001). ♦ It should also be recalled that early Christian fanatics burned the Library at Alexandria, defaced many Greek and Egyptian Monuments and Murals, and even sacked and pillaged in 1204 Constantinople, the Eastern center of Christianity!

Curiously, it might be also remembered recently that Pat Robertson, head of the Christian Broadcasting Network, said Muslims are basically apologists for terrorism and said that he took issue with President Bush in regard to the religion of Islam as a peaceful religion. Robertson said, ♦ It is just not, and the Koran makes it very clear if you see the infidel you are to kill them. That ♦s what it says. Now that doesn ♦t sound very peaceful to me. ♦ (Clarence Page, ♦ Hey Pat, Jihads Aren ♦t Just for Muslims, ♦ Houston Chronicle, February 2002). ♦ In essence, Robertson was calling the kettle black. The only difference today is Christianity has gladly forgotten about their brutality of the Crusades while the Arabs have not. We had our ♦ Knights ♦ and they have their ♦ Al Qaida. ♦ The West butchered thousands of civilians in Jerusalem and elsewhere, Bin Laden killed thousands of civilians in New York and Washington, D.C. It is indeed a thousand years ago ♦ today. ♦ Let ♦s turn now to a deeper reality of today ♦s situation.

PART III:

THE NEW DIVIDE

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ In 1996, Bin Laden, (who laughed at his terrorists who did not know they were on a suicide mission toward the World Trade Center on September 11th, 2001), said that he was issuing a ♦ call for a new *jihad* against America ♦ and stating ♦ the Crusaders forces ♦ ♦ have become the main cause of the of Islam ♦s disastrous situation. (i.e.; the Israeli State) In a video tape released January of 2001, Bin Laden said ♦ I envision Saladin coming out of the clouds ♦ we will see again Saladin carrying a sword with the blood of unbelievers dripping from it. ♦ ♦ (Washington Post ♦ November 2001). ♦ This seems to indicate that there has been so much warfare over so many hundreds of years that both Arab and Christian leaders glorify in cataloging number of bodies that could be had in a new holy war! ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ Let us not forget that there was a feeling among Arabs about a thousand years ago that Westerners were inferior ♦ unclean, fanatical and trying to invade their land. In one Arab view it was chronicled in an autobiography in (1188), that the ♦ Franks were more inhuman than any predecessor that had been established among us and become familiarized with the Mohammedans ♦ the proof of the harshness of the Franks (a scourge of Allah upon them!) is to be seen what happened to me when I visited Jerusalem. ♦ I went into a Mosque and was engrossed in praying when one of the Franks rushed at me, seized me and turned my face to the east saying ♦ that is how to pray! ♦ ♦ (Western Societies, A Documentary History, P. 255) ♦ The Arab mind today does not understand how their superiority over the Christian ♦ world declined so in subsequent centuries. Moreover, the golden age of Islam had some of the most important scholars of the world and made original contributions in mathematics, astronomy, medicine and literature ♦ advanced agriculture and engineering and had poets ♦ singing in the streets ♦ ♦

In effect Arabs scholars have attempted to show that the Crusades in the 11th and 12th century were a ♦ holocaust ♦ that has never been recognized by the West and that they have failed to recover from it (this is generally considered a perversion of history by most scholars). ♦ Pope Paul recently apologized for the Crusades, but this has not alleviated the sting of antagonism that has lasted for over a thousand years. ♦

It must never be forgotten that Europe and the Islamic world have had an attack ♦ counterattack existence that is underneath all the current diplomacy and world order. The Crusades were to Europeans ♦ religious wars ♦ while to Arabs they were simply ♦ barbaric invasions. ♦ ♦ Later, the tables were turned, as Europe itself was under constant threat from ♦ barbaric ♦ Islam, right up to the siege of Vienna by the Ottoman Turks in 1683! ♦ Moreover, to both it was a fearful double threat ♦ not only of invasion and conquest but also of conversion and assimilation. ♦ The ♦ great debate ♦ between philosophical Christendom and philosophical Islam as ♦ sister religions ♦ is

mostly an illusion; it is really about geography, culture, respect, and superiority. ♦ (Lewis, Islam and the West) ♦ The Arabs did not respect the Europeans during the 11th through 17th Centuries; the West has not respected the Arab world since then, a 300 year period of time.

♦ Secondly economic globalization today as seen by the Arab mind is being engineered by the West and this will further decimate Islamic Culture and keep them, in their words, like a feudal state (i.e., ♦ serfs ♦ to westernization rather than modernization). ♦ The Arab mind today in its most radical creation believes that there has been a military invasion (via Israel), and an economic invasion (via the WTO) causing them to justify how they retaliate in a vengeful way (no different than Pope Urban II?). ♦ This ♦ resurgence ♦ and its relationship to terrorism has been known to western scholars, but terrorism was never considered a top priority by the Clinton administration (1992 - 2000). There were many intellectuals warning of this change in Islamic behavior. ♦ (♦ Clinton ♦'s Effort to Stop a Rising Threat Was Wracked by Internal Struggles, ♦ Washington Post, January 2002). ♦ For example in 1998, Fregosi warned in his book that ♦ Islam is growing in violence ♦. ♦ With the attempted first bombing (of the basement) of the World Trade Center on February 26th 1993, that should have been a sign that a confrontation in the West with militant Islam was assured. ♦ Yet America continued ♦ to tiptoe ♦ under the direction of the Clinton Presidency.

♦ Despite some of these warnings, the United States does have a number of cultural handicaps that may indicate that we can receive the warnings, but are unable to do anything about; for example; there is no doubting that the need to (1) protect Israel and to (2) guarantee access to the world oil supplies has caused America to ♦ tiptoe ♦ around the issue of Radical Muslim Religious opposition. According to the Washington Post, a declassified study for the State Department that asked the Clinton Administration to ♦ initiate a dialogue with the Saudi religious establishment ♦ went unheeded by the Clinton Administration. ♦ The United States has also down-played the military success of the Gulf War once Clinton came to power. Additionally, our intelligence was not able to pick up the fact that the terrorists and extremists were now using a new strategy with the new slogan: ♦ Christian America is Crusading against Islam ♦. ♦ (There is that ♦ word ♦ again.)

♦ The history of the intellectual battle surrounding American foreign policy since the Cold War concerning the Arab world can, to an impressive degree, be seen through Samuel Huntington ♦'s books and scores of articles. Although Kissinger and others have also distinguished themselves in this area, it is Huntington who has been the most direct. ♦ As early as 1993, Huntington published his now-famous article entitled ♦ The Clash of Civilizations ♦ in Foreign Affairs. There was an angry response by U.S. intellectuals who disagreed with Huntington and said that catastrophe did not loom ahead as much as Huntington seemed to indicate (see, by this same author, ♦ The Current Debate Over the Future of International Order ♦, February 27th, 1997 presented to The Raleigh Tavern Philosophical Society). ♦ ♦ Huntington has not gloated but said ♦ after the attack of September 11th: ♦ The world in which we live is a dangerous place in which large numbers of people resent our wealth, power, and culture, and vigorously oppose our efforts to persuade or coerce them to accept our values of human rights, democracy, and capitalism ♦ In this world America must learn to distinguish among (1) our true friends who will be with us through thick and thin ♦ (2) antagonists who are rivals but with whom negotiation is possible and most importantly the (3) unrelenting enemies who will try to destroy us unless we destroy them first ♦ (Kaplan, Robert. ♦ Looking the World in the Eye. ♦ The Atlantic Monthly. December, 2001).

This last group that Hunington identifies can be symbolized by what the Taliban and Al Qaida remnants were trying to do in Afghanistan as late as March. ♦ They called upon all Afghans (even in their retreat) to join in a new *jihad*, or holy war, against Americans and their allies. Anti-Taliban Afghans were quoted as saying, ♦ Our society is illiterate and most people don't understand; ♦ the Al-Qaida are telling our people that first Russia attacked Islam, and once again Western countries are attacking Islam and Islam is at risk ♦ (Washington Post, March 2, 2002). ♦ Additionally, it was reported as late as March 17, 2002, that the Al-Qaida worldwide network had



Unfavorable...42%

Iran Favorable...14%



Unfavorable...63%

Another interesting finding had to do with how much Americans knew about Islam in general: How much would say you know about the opinions and beliefs of people who live in Muslim countries a great deal (5%), moderate amount (41%), not much (42%), or not at all (12%)? (USA SAMPLE).

Let's now take a look at how the Islamic world sees the West in general (Islamic World Sample):

Does the West care about poor nations? 80% NO

Does the West take fair positions on the conflict in Palestine? .95% NO

Does the West respect Arab Islamic values? .85% NO

When the USA Sample was asked: Do you associate with Muslim countries the following statement: They are eager to have better relationships with the Western World; about 70% of Americans do not believe Muslims want a better relationship. Muslims, on the other hand, do not believe the U.S. is trustworthy (90% Not), friendly (90% Not), arrogant (60% Yes), provoked easily (60% Yes).

The next question that received the most press attention worldwide was Gallup's question #19 in the USA Sample which asked: According to news reports, groups of Arabs carried out the attacks against the U.S. on September 11th. Do you believe this to be true? (USA Sample: True 90%). When that same question was asked of the Islamic World Sample, 60% in Lebanon did not believe this was a true statement, 90% in Kuwait, 85% in Pakistan, and 60% in Iran all not true. How can that be so misperceived, you surely ask? One must not forget that the Egyptian government and their press dispute the cause of Egypt Air Flight 990 crash which killed 217 people who boarded in New York. Even though the Egyptian pilot repeated eleven times Tawakalt (I rely on God) as he deliberately drove the plane downward after switching off the autopilot, people in Egypt have rejected totally the NTSB conclusions.

In the USA Sample, the following responses by Americans also received much publicity: Do you think the U.S. is at war with the Muslim world? Yes, at war (34%); No (64%); Do you think the Muslim world considers itself at war with us (USA)? (71% Yes, 26% No).

The realities of the above data do not portend easy solutions over the next generation of time. About one-third of America are now ready to march to war against radical Islam and more than three-fourths of America believe the U.S. is spending about the right amount to fight terrorism (65%) or is spending too little (13%). Almost 70% of Americans also reported that they displayed an American Flag within the past weeks (68%; March 8-9, 2002). Eighty percent of Americans also believe that the terrorist attacks on 9/11 is the most tragic news event in (their) lifetime (ibid).

This contradistinctive set of data between the Western World and the Islamic World does not lend itself to peaceful negotiations. A point in fact would be the recent Federal investigation in Northern Virginia of suspicious Islamic companies and foundations with possible terrorist links. One Islamic official there said: The message we are getting (in these searches) is, this war, even though they claim it is against terrorism, is against all Muslims. (Washington Post, March 25, 2002)

With such a growing divide between the secular culture of the West and religious culture of the Arab world, what drives the extremist form of Islam and creates such new fanaticism? For that we turn next to those scholars who think they have the answer.

PART IV:

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF DECLINE and DISCONTENT

The faith that drives Bin Laden and his followers is a particular austere brand of Islam known as Wahhabism which also happens to underlay the Saudi monarchy. (New York Times, "The Theology Behind the Attacks", October 20, 2001).

Throughout history this severe, conservative form of Islam has fiercely opposed anything that they viewed as modern change that would make them deviate from the fundamentals of the Koran. For example, there are no movie theaters in Saudi Arabia and women are banned from driving automobiles. Also, the Wahhabis do not believe they should ever give ground in any place they have already spread Islam to (i.e., conquered or settled). Bin Laden is the poster boy today for Wahhabism and the Saudi government is tied financially and politically into this conservative brand of Islam more than the U.S. government cares to publicly admit.

Trying to understand all this to the U.S. citizen is at best confusing, especially when one considers how little information about Islam is known by the average citizen (54% have no knowledge of Islam whatsoever). And this lack of knowledge goes to the U.S. Government as well: even though Arabic is the fifth most widely spoken language in the world, the U.S. Government placed help wanted ads in newspapers for Arabic translators after September 11th.

Eric Hoffer is a layman's scholar who is among the few who has attempted to understand this type of fanatical behavior worldwide. He wrote the definitive text back in 1951, entitled The True Believer, and although he had set his sights on totalitarianism, nationalism, revolutions, communism and the like, his observations are just as true today in regards to either religious or narco terrorism. His research attempted to establish a theory that embodied the common traits of those who would follow an extreme cause into a mass movement and sacrifice their life for it.

His theory centered on the following findings:

- (1) There is a frustrated state of mind and discontent would be the main driving force.
- (2) There is a psychological need for sudden change on a vast scale to make things different within the True Believer's lifetime.
- (3) There is an inherent need to blame somebody else in the world for their own failures.
- (4) True Believers achieve a new sense of power and reckless daring with new, more assertive leadership or doctrine that gives them irresistible strength of mind. (Bin Laden claimed to have nuclear and chemical weapons, 11/10/2001).

Hoffer believes all these extreme movements are actually interchangeable since the all derive their energy from common psychological traits of the True Believer. In summary, the frustrated mind set, oppressed by their own or their society's failures or shortcomings, want to blame their failure on existing restraints and create a completely new ambition to substitute for the discontent they currently hold. In doing that, True Believers feel a new sense of belonging and a new identity. The fanatic can not easily be weaned away from his cause by any appeal to reason or moral sensibilities, (this may explain why the million dollar bounties on al Qaida leaders never were rewarded as Western leaders had expected).

It must also be pointed out that the sine quo non for a mass movement must involve hatred. This devil identification whether focused on the Jews, the Crusades, or focused on the Americans, etc. has to exist to motivate and recruit True Believers. These True Believers also are apt to psychologically act out that they are chosen people who are going to inherit the earth and any other person who does not recognize this must be in fact evil and perish. Thus, violence breeds

fanaticism which begets more violence and negotiation is usually not an option when dealing with the True Believers (full of this decline discontent and strawman hatred).

This psychology of decline and discontent can easily be applied to today's Arab world. The Islam civilization has indeed declined by almost any modern measure be that by industrial output, artistic achievement or political freedom. The Western civilization and culture dominates the planet today and the lesser Islamic civilization is indeed frustrated.

The foremost scholar in the U.S. on Islam is Bernard Lewis who recently published What Went Wrong? (Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response), which is about why Islam went into decline. His point is that for many centuries the world of Islam was at the world's forefront of achievement---and Europe was at one time a dependency. So, Lewis inquires, what did go wrong in their culture? He cites one astounding fact that seems to get at the question: according to World Bank estimates, the total exports of the Arab world (other than oil) amounts to less than those of Finland with only 5 million in population!

The blame for this lack of economic well-being is suggested by Lewis with the following psychological observations:

- (1) Arab intellectuals dismissed the West and failed to learn from their scientific discoveries over the last 500 years. (Which was similar to the outlook of the Ming Dynasty in China). This left them on the short-end of the knowledge exchange for modernization.
- (2) Islam declined to disentangle religion from the state whereas Christendom separated and distinguished between God and Caesar. The Western world compartmentalized religion to one day a week in their culture while the Arab world maintains a 24/7 culture of religion.
- (3) Islam also relegated women to an inferior position in society which deprived them of the talents and energies of half of its people.

President Bush might add a fourth reason: there are no democracies in the Arab world and they fear freedom of the individual. However, it is much more than that if that is indeed his singular view.

Lewis leaves his readers and our Raleigh Tavern Society with this chilling conclusion: If Islam continues on its present path, the suicide bomber may become a metaphor for the whole region and there will be no escape from a downward spiral of hate and spite, rage and self-pity, poverty and oppression, culminating later in another alien domination perhaps from a new Europe or perhaps from a resurgent Russia, or perhaps a new power in the East.

But one thing is indeed certain True Believers do not listen to appeals of reason. Unless the state of Israel is removed (unlikely as long as the U.S. Military is dominate) or a neighboring Palestinian state is created, there will be even more suicide bloodshed not just in the Mid-East but worldwide (against Americans in particular). Moreover, the Bush Administration is right about facing the fact that they must root out all the terrorists and exterminate them as Huntington prescribes. There is no other third way today a thousand years of history is too much of an unmistakable pattern in history to tiptoe around any longer and both Christian and Muslim fanatics are to blame equally. Force rather than reason will apparently be the only option in the nearterm. Saladin and the West are still combatants in a grand holy tournament and all the World is watching

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♦ A Thousand Years Ago ♦ ♦ ..Today ♦

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