

“Few Call It War—Religious Terrorism: Then and Now”

By Robert Michael Hicks (Morgan James Publishing)

Who are we fighting in our 16-year “War on Terror”? People who are not confined to one region of the world; who are not just angry at the USA for our political decisions; and who are not jealous of our affluence. We are fighting militant Muslims whose motivation is religious in nature, yet our government has consistently ignored the religious aspect.

In the 11th century a Shia Muslim sect called the Ismailis established an entire Order of Assassins, active throughout Persia, Syria, and Palestine. They weren't the only religious terrorists: our English word “thug” comes from the thuggee who murdered people as sacrifices to their goddess Kali. The Balkan wars that preceded 9/11 were of a religious nature, yet we ignored that fact. Violence in Indonesia, genocide in Sudan and Rwanda, attacks in modern Israel by Jews and by Muslims, Buddhists vs. Muslims in Myanmar, all have religious motivation. The US State Dept. lists 47 terrorist groups: 34 distinctively religious, and the rest old-style Marxist.

There have been all kinds of terrorists who were motivated by religious beliefs, but none more dangerous than Sunni Muslims, who have committed 70% of all terrorism. Islam is not a “religion of peace”; reading the Quo'ran illustrates that. To pretend that isn't true is to deceive oneself, as many politicians have for 16 years. Dinesh D'Souza observes, “Christianity in all its history has never had suicide bombers and neither has Judaism, Hinduism or Buddhism.” Christian martyrs die for their faith; Islamic martyrs kill others for it.

But that doesn't mean that all Muslims are terrorists or not peaceful. The best way to stop terrorism is to pray that God will convert the Muslims, which He has been doing. In fact, more Muslims have come to Christ in the last 40 years than in the 1400 years that preceded it! We can help by welcoming the immigrants and befriending them, show them the love of God. Tell them we don't want our families corrupted by sinful examples in movies and TV, either.

Due to the secularization of culture, “there is no clear political vision for the world. In the gap, world alliances have tried to fill the vacuum with new economic and military agreements. None of the attempts have provided a comprehensive, sensible ideological vision for the world. Terrorism is a faulty view of the world. The enlightened age of the west world somehow has imparted the view that all religions are equal if not the same”, a reflection of the humanistic view that all people are basically good. This is opposed to the

Bible, which states that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." The Bible teaches we need to be rescued from our own evil impulses and sinful nature, and only Jesus can do that.