

# UNDERSTANDING THE GLOBAL JIHAD

*“That it was founded on the Laws of their Prophet, that it was written in their Qur’an, that all nations who should not have acknowledged their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as prisoners, and that every Musselman who should be slain in battle was sure to go to paradise.”*

-Thomas Jefferson’s retelling of Sidi Haji Abdulrahman Adja’s response when questioned about piracy conducted by the Barbary States.

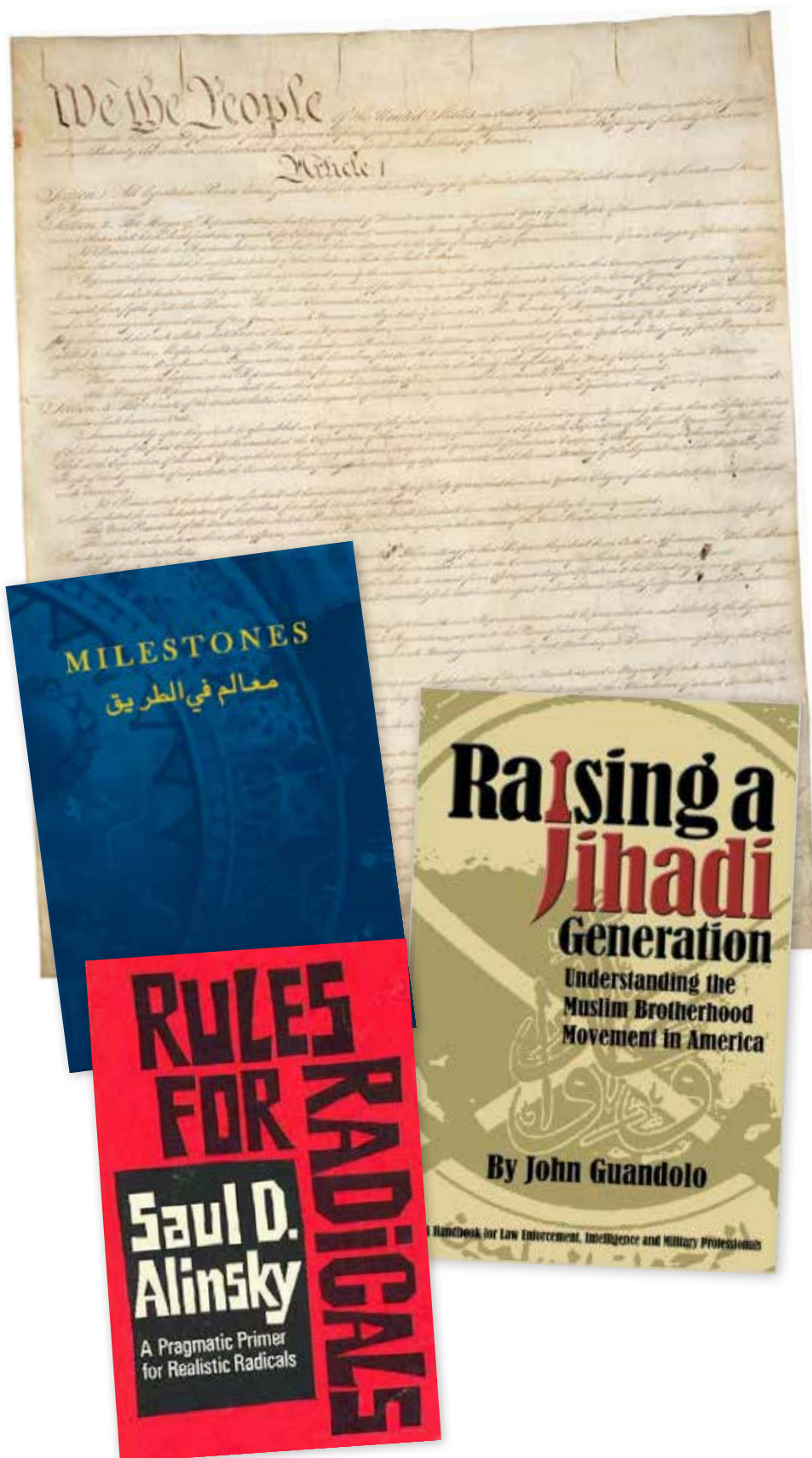
by Ken [REDACTED]

I, like many of my fellow citizens who have witnessed the results of jihadist movements and Islamic extremism overseas, have always held fast to the ideal that those movements could never take root here in the United States. After all, we fought them “over there” so that we didn’t have to fight them here ... but

facts have forced me to reconsider.

I recently had the opportunity to attend former FBI agent John Guandolo’s Understanding the Threat train-the-trainer course ([www.understandingthethreat.com](http://www.understandingthethreat.com)). The training included guest speakers with specialized expertise and was an intense

practical course focused on a small number of students. The course was intended to provide a graduate-level depth of instruction pertaining to the global jihadist and extremist movement along with presentation and instructional methods to assist trainers in relaying the information to their target audience



or community. The course focused on the Muslim Brotherhood and terrorist networks active in the United States, historical review of totalitarian movements and their impact on the U.S., a refresher on American founding principles, Constitutional counters and approaches to combat the threat, and access to resources to aid in researching and identifying indicators of extremist movements in local communities. The class was limited to twelve students. We had a mix of military, former military, law enforcement, college students, and civilians working in various professional fields who were active in their communities. The curriculum consisted of sixty-five hours of instruction, but we got far more than we bargained for. Conversations typically started over breakfast, continued through lunch and dinner, and usually concluded around nine or ten pm. So, it was not your typical government training program.

Reading is required prior to attending; I would recommend that anyone interested in participating read *The Qur'an*, *Milestones* by Sayyid Qutb, *Rules for Radicals* by Saul Alinsky, *Raising a Jihadi Generation* by John Guandolo, and have a working knowledge of U.S. history, the Declaration of Independence, and the U.S. Constitution.

## DAY 1

The first day of the course consisted of travel, introductions, review of the course format, goals, and an inventory exam to gauge students' understanding of the pre-course requirements, threats, and the founding principles of the United States. This was followed by a discussion of the "Cold War" and the unrestricted warfare strategy employed



*Convicted prisoners receiving Quranic education in Central Jail Faisalabad, Pakistan in 2010. Photo by: Tariq Babur*



*Photo by: atphalix*

the “perfect example,” sets the template for emulation by all who subscribe to the Muslim faith. Examining one text without the other gives an incomplete picture when trying to decipher statements, actions, or policies enforced under shariah law. The history lesson started with the birth of “the prophet” Muhammed in Mecca in the year 570 AD and the conditions in Arabia at the time. Tribal warfare was a constant, there was no central government, and neither the Byzantine or Persian empires laid claim to the area. His development and the founding of the Islamic faith occurred during a time when both the Roman and Persian armies were exhausted and depleted from conflicts between the two empires, which allowed an insulated environment for the growth of the movement without persecution from either side. His first revelations occurred in 610 AD and Muhammed began to form a small base of followers from among the population in Mecca, leveraging his influence as a merchant to spread his prophecies. The teachings at this time are the ones most often cited as the basis for the “peaceful and tolerant” view of Islam. However, Muhammed’s views shifted towards a less tolerant and more militant approach as he gained more followers and influence after moving to the city of Medina in 622. This is where the concept of abrogation is introduced in that any prophecy or action of the prophet that occurs later, chronologically, cancels any conflicting view from the past. This is a key military and political strategy being employed by the Muslim Brotherhood, Hezbollah, Hamas, ISIS, or any other guerilla movement that seeks the overthrow of a system of government. Following

by the Reagan administration to bring about the collapse of the Soviet Union. The calculated military build-up, economic strengthening, and support of resistance movements and proxies used to defeat the Soviets are the same techniques adopted by current adversaries and subversive movements to attack the pillars of our society.

## DAY 2

The day was dedicated to an in-depth study of the history of Islam following the Qur’an and Bukhari Hadith, two mutually supporting documents. One is believed to provide the revelations and word of Allah; the other consists of stories from the life of Muhammed, who, as



*Pro-Muslim Brotherhood Rally, Sydney, Australia, 1 September 2013 Photo by: Eye OnRadicals*

Muhammed's example, these groups claim persecution and preach "tolerance" until they have sufficient infrastructure and military strength to ensure a victory. We can see this at work in the Arab Spring movement and the rise of ISIS, for example. Other topics discussed included the development of the Qur'an, how

science is viewed in the Islamic faith, and some of the controversial views toward women under the system of shariah.

### DAY 3

Day three began with short student presentations on a topic of our choice based off of the previous day's instruction.

The purpose was to gauge each student's understanding of the topic, presentation ability, and comfort speaking to a group. Immediately following critiques of the presentations we delved into the main topic of the day, which was an overview of Islamic/shariah law. The most common misunderstanding among the general



*A supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood and Egypt's ousted president Mohamed Morsi fires fireworks towards police during clashes in Cairo on August 14, 2013, as security forces backed by bulldozers moved in on two huge pro-Morsi protest camps, launching a long-threatened crackdown that left dozens dead. The clearance operation began shortly after dawn when security forces surrounded the sprawling Rabaa al-Adawiya camp in east Cairo.*

*Photo by: MOSAAB EL-SHAMY*



*"Arab Spring" in Tahrir Square.  
Photo by: Jonathan Rashad*



*A member of ISIS with the flag of the Islamic State. Photo by: VOA*

public is that the religion of Islam and its practice is separate from the exercise of the shariah legal system, economics, and governance. In reality, per the highest Islamic scholars and authorities, there is no differentiation.

The practice of Islam is all-encompassing and provides a complete way of life for the practitioner. It is impossible to practice true Islam without also abiding by the rules and regulations codified under shariah. In Western society, we have developed under a system that allows the separation of secular law and government from religious practices, which makes it difficult for many to comprehend living under a system as total as Islam. Another interesting factor is the observation of Muslims who practice their faith to varying degrees, or in moderation, and do not espouse the overthrow of our way of life. This gives

us individuals who can be peaceful and moderate Muslims, but full adherence to Islam cannot be moderate and is only peaceful under certain circumstances. Again, the actions of ISIS, when analyzed and compared to shariah, show absolute compliance in their efforts to bring non-compliant governments and apostates back to the "true" path. Our misunderstanding has led to "outreach" programs which have been utilized by operatives from named terrorist organizations to gain access to political, religious, and economic figures in our society. The study included examination of the sources for Islamic Law, which included: The Qur'an, Hadith, and a condensed, or tabletop, reference produced as a guidebook for compliance for the average practitioner titled *Reliance of the Traveler*. The day concluded with a study of the concepts of sacred-space,

The most common misunderstanding among the general public is that the religion of Islam and its practice is separate from the exercise of the shariah legal system, economics, and governance.

slander as defined by the extremists, language and terms, and yet another pen run dry.

## DAY 4

We began the day with a quiz to gauge our retention of the material presented so far and a review. Next was a brief overview of the global Islamic movement, with particular emphasis on the activities occurring in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, and the pendulum-like swings between secular governance

and implementation of shariah in each of these countries throughout history. This led to an examination of key Muslim Brotherhood documents captured in counter terrorism raids conducted against various leaders starting after September 11th, 2001. The captured documents outline the Brotherhood's strategy of "Civilization Jihad" and the methods advocated for use in penetrating educational, legal, and political systems, government offices, intelligence apparatuses, media, and



*The most wanted suspects and terrorists by Egyptian police and national security department as being armed militias of the Muslim Brotherhood in Suez canal. Photo by: Elagamytarek*



*Muslim Brotherhood graphics. Photo by: Elagamytarek*

the military in order to subvert these systems to further the implementation of Islamic law in the United States. These documents were all entered as evidence, and confirmed by the defense, in *The United States vs. The Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development Trial of 2008*. This was the single largest terrorism finance trial in U.S. history. The documents portray a very organized and efficient Muslim Brotherhood movement that has been operating here since 1963. We discussed the past and current structure of the Muslim Brotherhood, its various fronts and organizations, lobbying efforts, and lines of operation. Comparisons were then drawn between subversive or totalitarian movements throughout history, how they were successful in breaking the four pillars of society and rising to power. We finished the day with a philosophical

discussion of Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals* and the downfalls inherent in the corruption of language and its relationship to truth brought to light in Josef Pieper's *Abuse of Language*. We capped another late night off with an exploration of Just War Theory.

## DAY 5

The fifth day started with another quiz, which led to a historical examination of the differences between the Sunni and Shia sects of Islam, where the power centers for both currently reside, and how many Westerners overestimate the significance of the conflict between the two. Special emphasis was placed on the Shiite philosophy prevalent in Iran and the dangers that would result if the Iranian government came to possess weapons of mass destruction. We also discussed a number of subversive,

criminal, smuggling, and funding schemes perpetrated by Iranian agents and proxies in the United States to provide funding for Hezbollah and Hamas. Most of the afternoon consisted of discussions about shariah finance, zakat, and how these various mechanisms are used to provide funding to jihadis worldwide. This includes many major U.S. financial institutions where widespread ignorance of shariah-compliant financial practices has resulted in millions being funneled to adversarial groups and organizations. The remainder of the day consisted of discussions on the founding principles and origins of the United States. Without understanding the unique value of our system, articulating why it should be defended is difficult at best. This included an examination of Natural Law, value systems of the times, and





*President Barack Obama is greeted by U.S. Central Command Commander, Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III. Photo by Sgt. Fredrick J. Coleman*

how the weight of deciding to conduct an armed revolution weighed on the founders. The founders also understood that freedoms could not be extended to those who would seek to destroy it. The night concluded with an enlightening comparison of the U.S. Constitution, the Iranian Constitution, and shariah law.

## DAY 6

Day six began with another round of student presentations on various topics from the preceding week of instruction, followed by discussions and critiques. The remainder of the day consisted of an analysis of the language and symbolism being used by jihadi groups that is

typically missed by the general public. We also looked at examples of how true intentions have been misinterpreted by our media and political leadership. Once there is an understanding of the philosophy, language, methodology, and symbolism jihadists use, the goals and statements made by these individuals are remarkably clear. Unfortunately, many rely on overly generous assumptions of our enemies rather than the words they speak to their own constituents. The day concluded with a short graduation ceremony and parting words.

The global jihad is widely misunderstood by Westerners. Political leaders take advantage of this ignorance to provide unfounded reassurances. Media outlets rarely have deep levels of insight into Islam and naively rely on what they are told that fits their preferred paradigms. If it has occurred to you that the global jihad is more than a disparate mix of unrelated criminal incidents committed by individuals practicing their own religion incorrectly you may wish to study this subject with people who have relevant and uncommon insight. Former FBI agent John Guandolo has assembled such a group. If you want to be part of the solution within your agency rather than part of the problem, I highly recommend Guandolo's training. ●

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mr. [REDACTED] has over 18 years of military and security consulting experience. He served with Marine Reconnaissance and Force Reconnaissance units. He currently serves as the president of Shibumi Tactical LLC ([www.shibumitactical.blogspot.com](http://www.shibumitactical.blogspot.com)).