

ISIS is not the true path of the prophet.

Peter Adamis 16 June 2014



Will the real ISIS stand up.

When the acronym ISIS first flashed across my screen I immediately thought of that ancient Egyptian Goddess and could not fathom why the name could be synonymous with Islam. However upon further investigation the modern acronym of ISIS was tied in with terror and destruction. A destruction that is current causing great alarm in all of the Islamic nations.

This article touches briefly on the subject of ISIS but its main content may be found in the subsequent articles that follow describing the recent carnage and mass slaughter of a people by those who follow the teachings of the Prophet. Yet those responsible for the slaughter are not doing it for the Prophet and their actions will certainly bring about a retribution that will go down in the annals of history. The Prophet did not advocate killing of innocents on such a scale but it is my understanding as a layman and ordinary bloke that the Prophet teachings are far different version than that being demonstrated by the ISIS organisation. I am not expert on the teachings of the Prophet and nor do I make out that I have an understanding other than to believe that there are many paths to God. A God that three mono faiths share.

Some of the images bring back memories of Srebrenica and the killings perpetrated on innocent civilians by those dedicated to bring about terror to incite further violence and cover a people who are sick of death and destruction. Many of us will wake this morning wondering what other destruction have these Islamic fringe organisations have committed and how far will they go to achieve their goals and ambitions. This latest act by ISIS cannot be condoned and nor can the world remain transfixed to their television sets doing nothing not voicing an opinion on what action needs to be taken.

Apart from their militant leaders who seek the unwarranted glory as a means of increasing their recruitment base, what is of interest is the measures taken by ISIS takes to conceal their identity from the world. They know full well that once their identity has been revealed that they are targets for the remainder of their lives.

Take for example the young lads that took part in the murder and execution of Muammar Gaddafi during the Libyan uprising. Despite all of the covering up of the gruesome murder, those same young lads who committed these acts in a passionate mood of revenge now lie beneath the ground, killed by the families and supporters of Muammar Gaddafi . Fear of retribution is but one of numerous reason why ISIS hides behind masks.



The outcome of those who oppose ISIS

The world is waiting for the USA as the world's policeman to act in a time honoured manner similar to past acts as the world's policeman and yet other countries almost as equally powerful stand by and doing nothing as if to wait for the USA to deplete its manpower and resources by being involved. Methinks it's about time that India, China, Russia and yes Iran take an active interest in the region and bring about a lasting peace. It matters little whose region of influence it is supposed to be as world peace is a shared responsibility.



ISIS handiwork in Syria. In Syria for example, one can be forgiven for believing that the USA has miscalculated its support to the Islamic rebels fighting against the Syrian Government at a time when history has indicated the USA support to the Taliban during the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

As an observer of the global geopolitical situation, hopes of a lasting peace amongst nations is fast disappearing and I can foresee an isolationist attitude being taken by the worlds powerful nations, especially that of the USA. the reason being is that its people are sick and tired of war and yet history again has demonstrated that sit by and see havoc and destruction occur on our doorstep will not immune us from not being affected in one or another.

It is time for all nations to take a responsible attitude towards such conflicts and remove the recalcitrant elements within their midst and region of influence. Lasting peace can occur if all powerful nations use whatever means they have at their disposal to bring about that long sought after lasting dream of peace amongst mankind. If not then we are setting a precedent that will long after our generation and I fear for our children of the future wherever they may reside in this world we call the Earth.



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THE MAD DREAM OF A DEAD EMPIRE THAT UNITES ISLAMIC REBELS.

Amir Taheri June 14, 2014 New York Post



They call themselves the Army of God (Jund Allah) and claim to be fighting to unite mankind under the banner of Islam as "the only true faith."

To achieve that goal, they believe they should revive the Islamic Caliphate, the theocratic empire developed after the death of Prophet Mohammed in 632 AD. Adepts of the caliphate movement are present throughout the world, including the United States, under different labels. In many places, from the Philippines to Nigeria, passing by Thailand, India, Afghanistan and Syria, they have taken up arms to capture a chunk of territory as the embryo of their dream empire. In recent months, a branch of the movement, known as Da'esh or the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria has been capturing territory in Syria.



An image from a propaganda video, uploaded on June 8th shows ISIL militants firing near the Iraqi city of Tikrit. Photo: Getty Images. Last week, it used its Syrian base as a springboard for conquest in Iraq, ending up in control of the western parts of Mosul, the country's third-largest city, as well as parts of Saddam Hussein's native town of Tikrit.

The group's Syrian possessions include the city of al-Raqqah. That is of some symbolic importance, because for more than 100 years al-Raqqah was capital of one of the greatest caliphates. If Da'esh manages to hang on to its Syrian and Iraqi possessions, it could expand its conquests by annexing parts of Jordan and Lebanon.

When Muslims ruled.

Theoretically, all practicing Muslims must work to unite mankind under the banner of Islam, as the Koran regards the two previous Abrahamic religions, Judaism and Christianity, as "corrupted and cancelled." Others, such as Hindus and Buddhists, not to mention atheists, who do not subscribe to any of the Abrahamic faiths, are regarded as "deviants" to be goaded into the Right Path.

In Islamic history the caliphate has come in different versions, starting with the four immediate successors to the prophet, covering almost three decades. These four Rashidun, or "rightly guided," caliphs, expanded the gospel of Islam in all directions, ruling vast lands under Sharia law. That was followed by the Umayyad caliphate that, in terms of territory, remains the largest Islam has created (661-750) — stretching from Spain to Pakistan. The Umayyad were replaced by the Abbasid, who set up the longest-lasting caliphate (750-1258).

The last major caliphate was that of the Ottomans and lasted from 1301 to 1922. In between a number of mini-caliphates have mushroomed in various parts of the world, including the Sokoto caliphate in West Africa (1812). To many Muslims, the abolition of the Ottoman Caliphate by Ataturk in 1924 is a deep historic wound that shall heal only when a new caliphate is set up to resume the ghazavat (wars of conquest) against the Infidel.

The aim of the ghazis (Muslim conquerors) has never been to convert anyone to Islam by force. In fact, through the Umayyad period less than 1% of the population under the caliphate were Muslims. Jews and Christians could keep their faith by paying a poll tax (jiziyah).



An image from a propaganda video shows ISIL militants. Photo: Getty Images. The Ottomans even allowed non-Muslim minorities, classified as “mellats,” freedom in matters of personal life. What matters is that non-Muslims should live under Islamic rule, while for Muslims to live under non-Islamic rule is, in the word of the Indo-Pakistani Islamist Abu al-Ala Maududi, “an unbearable pain.”

Islam as politics. In fact, the dream of reviving the caliphate is one of the key unifying themes between radical Islamists and ordinary Muslims. The reason is that, over the past century or so, Islam has been gradually reinterpreted as a political ideology rather than a religion. Just as Communism was a religion expressed through a secular vocabulary, Islam has become a political ideology using a religious vocabulary. It might come as a surprise to many, but the truth is that Islam today no longer has a living and evolving theology. In fact, with few exceptions, Islam’s last genuine theologians belong to the early part of the 19th century.



An image from jihadist group ISIL showing militants gathered near Iraq's Nineveh province. Photo: Getty Images

Go to any mosque anywhere, whether it is in New York or Mecca, and you are more likely to hear a political sermon rather than a theological reflection.

In the highly politicized version of Islam promoted by Da'esh, al Qaeda, the Khomeinists in Iran, the Taliban in Afghanistan and Boko Haram in Nigeria, God plays a cameo role at best. Deprived of its theological moorings, today's Islam is a wayward vessel under the captaincy of ambitious adventurers leading it into sectarian feuds, wars and terrorism. Many, especially Muslims in Europe and North America, use it as a shibboleth defining identity and even ethnicity. A glance at Islam's history in the past 200 years highlights the rapid fading of theologians.



Jihadist website, Welayat Salahuddin posted this photo of ISIL militants posing with the trademark Jihadist flag. Photo: Getty Images. Today, Western scholars speak of Wahhabism as if that meant a theological school. In truth, Muhammad Abdul-Wahhabi was a political figure. His supposedly theological writings consist of nine pages denouncing worship at shrines of saints.

Nineteenth century “reformers” such as Jamaledin Assadabadi and Rashid Rada were also more interested in politics than theology. The late Ayatollah Khomeini, sometimes regarded as a theologian, was in fact a politician wearing clerical costume. His grandson has collected more than 100,000 pages of his writings and speeches and poetry. Of these only 11 pages, commenting on the first and shortest verse of the Koran could be regarded as dabbling at theology, albeit not with great success.



TV preacher Yussef Qaradawi, left, and the Chief Mufti of Syria Ahmad Hassoun. Photo: Getty Images; Getty Images. In the 1970s I held a number of conversations with Maududi, finding him closer to Lenin than to Muhammad. The Muslim Brotherhood (Ikhwan al-Moslemeen) now a global organization, has not produced a single theologian because it was more interested in political power than scholarship.

Today, its chief theologian is the TV preacher Yussef Qaradawi, who heads a Fatwa Council financed by the European Union. The Chief Mufti of Syria Ahmad Hassoun is a state employee. In Egypt, government controls Al-Azhar, the principal “theological academy” of Sunni Islam. In the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent as well as in Indonesia the most prominent figures of Islam have been politicians rather than theologians.



Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Omar. Photo: EPA. Even the best of them, like Mujibur Rahman in Bangladesh, and Abdul-Rahman Wahid and Nurcholis Madjid in Indonesia, pursued a political rather than theological career.

In Shi’ite Iran, genuine theological work ended with people like Kazem Assar and Allameh Tabataba’i. Mullah Omar, the Taliban leader who declared himself Commander of the Faithful (Emir al-Momeneen), has not produced a single page of theology.

That an overpoliticized Islam should nurture a political program of global dimensions is no surprise. A survey of the literature produced by the caliphate revivalists, including the Tanzim Islami (Islamic Organization), the Muslim Brotherhood, the Iranian-led Hezbollah and the Islamic Liberation Party (Hizb al-Tahrir al-Islami) highlights their vision of the world. According to that vision, mankind has been pushed on “the path of doom” by deviant Judaism and Christianity, followed by the Enlightenment and democracy.

Iran’s former President Mohammed Khatami claims that the Enlightenment is responsible for wars, colonialism, and a collapse of moral standards. Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad believes that Jews invented democracy so that “it does not matter what religion the ruler has.”

Muslims are advised to start by protecting themselves against Western political and cultural influences. In Iran, the “Supreme Guide” Ali Khamenei orders periodical raids against shops selling Western pop music and movies. In Nigeria, Boko Haram (the name means Education is Forbidden) focuses on attacking Western-style schools especially for girls. As in Iran during the Khomeinist revolution, Da’esh gangs have torched schools, bookshops and cinemas in Syrian cities they have captured.



From left, Former Iranian President Mohammed Khatami, Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad, and Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Photo: Reuters; Reuters; Getty Images.

How they see the world. The revivalists divide the world into three sections. The first consists of the 57 Muslim-majority countries that form the Islamic Conference Organizations. They would form the core of the dream caliphate. The next section covers countries and regions that were once, even if briefly, ruled by Muslims. These include Russia from Siberia to the Black Sea, including Crimea, Bulgaria, Romania, parts of Poland and Hungary, the Balkans, Greece and all the Mediterranean islands, parts of Italy, almost the whole of the Iberian Peninsula, and parts of south western France.

To those must be added northern India and China east of Lanzhou. This second segment would have to be recaptured for the caliphate as soon as possible. The third section consists of regions and countries that were never under Muslim rule. These include Japan, much of Indochina, and, more importantly, the whole of the American continent. The latter group of nations would be invited to pay a tribute to the revived Islamic caliphate in exchange for maintaining their independence pending the next round of ghazavat.



Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau in a video uploaded in May. Photo: Getty Images.

In fact, some Islamists claim that the United States admitted to become a tributary of Islam by paying an annual sum to Muslim pirates on the Barbary Coast, a scheme later cancelled by President Thomas Jefferson. One question remains: Who is to be the caliph? In the 1930s, the kings of Saudi Arabia and Egypt briefly tried to capture the caliphate for themselves.

Da'esh leader Abubakr al-Baghdadi has already claimed the title as has Mullah Omar in Afghanistan. In Iran, Khamenei has similar pretensions. Nigerian Abu-Bakr Shekau is regarded as caliph by Boko Haram and its sister group Ansar ul-Islam (Victors of Islam) in the name of pan-African Islam. One man who might have had a credible claim to the title was Ertugul Osman, the last descendant of the last Ottoman caliph. But he died in Manhattan in 2009, leaving no male heirs. To many outsiders the caliphate project might sound like a pipe dream. In the long run it certainly is. However, in the short and medium run it is a recipe for conflict, war and terrorism that is designed to spare no one, starting with Muslims who are dying by the thousands.



ISIL militants wave the Jihadist flag. Photo: Getty Images.

What could the outside world, notably the United States, do to tame and defeat this monster? As always, the answer is to help Muslim nations build democracies in which Islam could re-become a religion rather than a political ideology.

That is a long-term project that requires genuine commitment and patience. More immediately, the US should do all it could to stop Da'esh and its Saddamite allies from destabilizing Iraq. That could mean drone attacks against Da'esh positions, logistical facilities for bringing elite Iraqi units to the battleground and energetic political action to persuade Iraqi parties to form a government of national unity.

<http://nypost.com/2014/06/14/the-mad-dream-of-a-dead-empire-that-unites-islamic-rebels/>

STRING OF BOMBINGS HIT BAGHDAD IRAQ

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This image posted on a militant website appears to show militants from ISIS with captured Iraqi soldiers wearing plain clothes after taking over a base in Tikrit. Photo / AP

Iraqi police and hospital officials say a string of explosions in Baghdad has killed at least 15 people and wounded more than 30. In the city center, a car bomb killed 10 and wounded 21. After nightfall, another explosion hit the area, killing two and wounding five. The third went off near a falafel shop in the city's sprawling Sadr City district, killing three and wounding seven. Baghdad has seen an escalation in suicide and car bombings in recent months, mostly targeting Shiite neighborhoods or security forces. The police and hospital officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

Iraq govt: We're "regaining the initiative". Meanwhile Iraq said it had "regained the initiative" against militants who seized vast swathes of territory, as former UN mediator Lakhdar Brahimi blamed the crisis on global neglect of Syria's civil war. Washington responded to the sweeping unrest by deploying an aircraft carrier group to the Gulf, but Iran has warned against foreign military intervention in its Shiite neighbour, voicing confidence that Baghdad can repel the onslaught.

The militants, spearheaded by the powerful Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) jihadist group, have overrun all of one province and chunks of three more since launching their offensive last week. Security forces performed poorly at the outset, with some abandoning vehicles and positions and discarding their uniforms, though they seem to be recovering and have started to regain ground.

Officers said their forces were now starting to repel the militants, and that soldiers had recaptured two towns north of Baghdad. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's security spokesman, Lieutenant General Qassem Atta, said Sunday that Baghdad's forces have "regained the initiative" and killed 279 "terrorists" in the past 24 hours. Iraqi officials often announce large militant tolls, with no way of independent verification, and downplay their own casualties.

Officials added that security forces and tribal fighters repelled a militant assault in the strategic town of Tal Afar near the Syrian border. It provides a critical corridor for militants to access conflict-hit Syria. Ten people were killed in militant shelling of the town, and 18 anti-government fighters also died in ensuing clashes. And militants took control of the Al-Adhim area in Diyala province, north of Baghdad, officers said.

Volunteer forces. Baghdad's embattled forces will be joined by a flood of volunteers after a call to arms from top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, but a recruitment centre for volunteers came under attack on Sunday, killing six people. US President Barack Obama said he was "looking at all the options" to halt the offensive that has brought militants within 80 kilometres (50 miles) of Baghdad's city limits, but ruled out any return of American troops to combat in Iraq. Washington has, however, ordered an aircraft carrier group into the Gulf in response. Obama has been under mounting fire from his Republican opponents over the swift collapse of Iraq's security forces, which Washington spent billions of dollars training and equipping before withdrawing its own troops in late 2011.

Tehran warned Sunday that "any foreign military intervention in Iraq" would only complicate the crisis, voicing confidence that Baghdad "has the capacity and necessary preparations for the fight against terrorism". Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Saturday Iraq had not asked for its help. But in surprise comments he added that Iran may "think about" cooperating with its arch-foe the United States to fight the militants in Iraq, despite the lack of diplomatic relations between Tehran and Washington for more than three decades. Senator Lindsay Graham, a Republican critic of the American president, also called for direct engagement with Tehran, warning the unrest in Iraq would give extremists a staging area for "the next 9/11".

'Syria conflict to blame'. Brahimi, the former UN and Arab League envoy to Syria, told AFP the international community's neglect of the conflict in Syria had precipitated the Iraq crisis. "It is a well-known rule: a conflict of this kind (in Syria) cannot stay confined within the borders of one country," said Brahimi, who resigned as UN-Arab League representative to Syria in May. As Iraqi troops began to drive back the militants, they found grisly scenes, amid reports of summary executions of Iraqi security forces members the militants captured. Troops found the burned bodies of 12 policemen as they recaptured the town of Ishaqi in Salaheddin province, a police colonel and a doctor said.

Photos posted online were also said to show militants summarily executing dozens of captured members of the security forces in the province. The situation on the ground has been further complicated as forces from the autonomous Kurdish region have made territorial advances. A senior official said Sunday that Kurdish peshmerga forces had taken control of one of two official border crossings with Syria earlier in the week. Kurdish forces have also seized the disputed ethnically mixed northern city of Kirkuk and surrounding areas, as well as other territory.

Amid the confusion, Iraq launched an air strike on a convoy of Kurdish forces Saturday night near Khanaqin, one area of eastern Iraq where Kurds have moved in, killing six people. It was not immediately clear if the Kurdish troops were targeted specifically, or it was mistaken identity. Although violence has eased in Baghdad, apparently as militants concentrate their efforts elsewhere, the capital has not been spared, with a Sunday afternoon bombing killing nine people.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=11274736

IRAQ INSURGENCY LEADER I'LL SEE YOU IN NEW YORK

Bill Sanderson June 14, 2014



In an undated image, Shakir Waheib, left, a senior member Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's insurgency group, stands next to a burning police vehicle in Iraq's Anbar Province. Al-Baghdadi, inset, issued an ominous warning in 2009: "I'll see you in New York." Photo: EPA (inset); AP

First Baghdad — and then the Big Apple. The al Qaeda-affiliated insurgent leader threatening to topple Iraq's government offered an ominous warning when he parted ways with the US soldiers who once held him prisoner: "I'll see you in New York." Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who now leads the Sunni ultra-extremist group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, was held at Camp Bucca in southern Iraq for four years before he was handed over to the Iraqi government in 2009.

Many of the troops running the prison were reservists who were members of the NYPD or FDNY. Camp Bucca itself was named for Ronald Bucca, a military police officer and FDNY fire marshal killed in the 9/11 attacks. "He knew we were from New York, and he knew he was going to get out," said Col. Kenneth King, who oversaw the former detention facility near the Kuwaiti border. King told Fox News Channel that he escorted al-Baghdadi on a flight to Baghdad, where the handover took place. Al-Baghdadi was ultimately released by Iraqi government officials. "Their decision to let him go was personally disappointing," King said. "But I have to respect the decisions of a sovereign government."

In another interview with The Daily Beast, King said he took al-Baghdadi's words as something of a joke — "like, 'This is no big thing. I'll see you on the block.'" But al-Baghdadi didn't seem like the type who'd end up leading an insurgency that threatens to topple Iraq's government. "I'm not surprised that it was someone who spent time in Bucca, but I'm a little surprised it was him," King said. "He was a bad dude, but he wasn't the worst of the worst."

On Saturday, Iraqi government forces battled back against the insurgency, retaking Ishaqi, a town about 70 miles northwest of Baghdad. Troops backed by a pro-government Shiite militia helped retake Miqdadiyah, a town about 70 miles northeast of Baghdad. Thousands of Shiites from Baghdad and across southern Iraq answered prominent cleric Ali al-Sistani's urgent call to arms by joining government security forces in the fight. Another cleric, Ammar al-Hakim, showed up on TV wearing military fatigues.

Meanwhile, an Iranian general has taken command of Iraq's defense of Baghdad, the Sunday Times of London reported. Maj. Gen. Qassem Suleimani, the leader of Iran's elite Quds Force, traveled to Baghdad last week with 67 top advisers. He's taken charge of "arming deploying forces, weaponry and planning the battles," a source told the newspaper. "He also brought light and medium weapons, rockets, heavy machine guns and lots of ammunition." Soldiers dug in 15 miles north of Baghdad.

"Our forces are ready for any emergency," said Iraqi army Col. Abduljabbar al-Assadi — who suffered a broken arm when insurgents attacked a checkpoint. "Despite that, I refused to leave the checkpoint, and I will not abandon it," he said. During a televised news conference, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was asked if the Tehran government would work with the US to battle the Iraqi insurgency. "We can think about it if we see America starts confronting the terrorist groups in Iraq or elsewhere," Rouhani said. US officials ordered the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush into the Persian Gulf in case President Obama decides to launch an aerial assault on the insurgents.

Ordering the USS Bush to the Persian Gulf "will provide the commander-in-chief additional flexibility should military options be required," the Pentagon said in a statement. The giant carrier is accompanied by a guided missile cruiser and a guided missile destroyer. Obama said Friday he needed several days to determine how the US would deal with the militants' advance.

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