

Barack H. Obama's Legacy, Part 10

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Continuing an analysis of Mr. Obama's Middle East policy, it is obvious that he, like his predecessor Mr. Bush, failed to understand the source of "Islamic terrorism". Actually, it is worse than that. At least Mr. Bush was willing to call it what it was: a certain branch of Islam that adheres to the original definition of 'jihad' as handed down by the Prophet Mohammed and his immediate successors. That is, anyone who is not a particular type of devout Moslem has to be killed in the service of Allah. Mr. Obama, sympathetic to Islam, and also convinced that America is first and foremost an oppressor and exploiter nation, declined to admit that the problem was even related to the Islamic religion. Instead, he and the members of his administration referred to the work of al Qaeda and ISIS using euphemisms such as 'workplace violence', 'personal issues', 'hate crimes', or whatever he could get the compliant media to repeat. He went so far at one point to deny that ISIS (which established an Islamic Caliphate) was even Islamic.

The incorrect policy pursued by Mr. Obama, imitating somewhat the policy of Mr. Bush, was to enlist the Arab nations in a coalition against the terrorist group. As expected, none of them did much. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not part of the solution to Islamic based terrorism. Saudi Arabia is the problem with Islamic terrorism. The Saudi royal family maintains its power by allowing the Wahhabi sect of Sunni Islam to control the subjects by a religious secret police that also controls the legal system and the education system. (The Wahhabi's prefer to be called Salafi.) The Saudi royal family supports and defends the Wahhabi sect as the de facto national religion and in return the Wahhabi's educate the subjects that they are obligated to support the House of Saud.

The Wahhabi sect is the one branch of Islamic "theology" that has revived the original definition of 'jihad' as a viable political and religious system, hence the cause by Al Qaeda, ISIS, and many other like groups to enforce their objectives: a) kill as many Jewish people as possible; b) force the U. S. and other Western nations out of Middle Eastern affairs; c) establish a Caliphate to emulate the grand position once held by the early successors of the Prophet Mohammed (they had conquered vast tracts of the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Spain); and d) use the power of the Caliphate to kill anyone who embraced any other system of faith, starting with Christians. To do that, it is necessary for them to gain control of the Middle East using the terror methods to intimidate the Arab dictatorships, whom they accuse of being too closely aligned with the evil West. It is notable that they have never attempted any terrorist activity inside Saudi Arabia: it is too soon to attack their current protectors. The Saudi royal family claimed to be opposed to ISIS, but they never put a division in the field or a squadron in the air against them.

Mr. Obama's policy of tilting toward Iran as an American favorite was poorly received in Saudi Arabia, as Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia regard each other as mortal enemies. But the capitulation to Iran's demands did not deter Mr. Obama from continuing to advocate for weapons sales to Saudi Arabia, as well as confirmations of security agreements made in the past. Why did he do that? Because ISIS had gotten stronger in late 2013 and early 2014, and started making noises that they might like to attack Saudi Arabia and remove the royal family. The House of Saud realized there was no prospect of an alliance with ISIS so they turned to the U. S. for protection, and Mr. Obama came through. He then began to attack ISIS positions and towns controlled by ISIS, and with it the inevitable collateral damage in the form of civilian casualties. Those casualties only served ISIS' propaganda methods, by which they induced more young impressionable idiots to join with them and fight against America, the great Christian evil.

In the end, Mr. Obama affirmed that the Saudi policy of supporting Wahhabism has no opponents in his administration. On the other hand, his support for Iran and his reluctance to attack Syrian President

Assad made the Saudi regime uneasy. In other words, Mr. Obama acted against a traditional ally's interests, while ingratiating himself with Iran, Saudi's greatest enemy. He dug himself deeper into the moral and political cesspool known as the Middle East, reducing the U. S. to a position of being hated as either an infidel or an unreliable enemy. Meanwhile, Wahhabism continues to be endorsed by the Saudi regime.