

RESURGENCE OF ISLAM

Fierce anti-western sentiments fuel the rise of Islamic Fundamentalism in the Arab states. The USA is portrayed as 'The Western Devil'.

Poverty and poor living conditions are prime breeding ground for fundamentalist ideologies.

A new form of Islam grows based on the literal interpretation of the KORAN (Islam's holy book). The teaching of the Koran is twisted to fit the fundamentalist agenda.



1) Libya:

- Moamar Gaddafi
- Supports Islamic fundamentalists and PLO terrorists
- USA periodically bomb terrorist camps in Libya

2) Iran:

- Ayatollah Khomeini
- Overthrows the US supported Shah of Iran
- Fundamentalist students seize the US embassy in Tehran and hold the people within hostage



These actions cost President Jimmy Carter the next election (Ronald Reagan wins), and cause embarrassment for the USA (especially after a failed rescue attempt)



3) Iran-Iraq War 1980-88

Iran's Islamic government begins a war against the secular, and the US backed Iran, led by Saddam Hussein

By 1988 both sides were spent and called a truce

The war was vicious human waves and gas attacks were common

4) USSR in Afghanistan 1980-1989

This was is often referred to as the Soviet's Vietnam

Russia was looking to expand its southern border by invading the disorganized Afghans
The USSR quickly took control of all major urban centers, but are unable to control the countryside

Mujaheddin (soldiers of God), supplied by the USA fight a guerilla war against the Soviets.

Like Vietnam, the USSR won all major battles, but lost numerous soldiers to the Mujaheddin. In 1989 the USSR pulls out of Afghanistan.

KEY: In the disorganization that followed the Soviet withdrawal, Islamic Fundamentalism grew. The new government, Taliban, took control and began a hard-line Islamic state that actively supported Islamic Fundamentalism (i.e. Al Qaeda)

5) The Persian Gulf I:1990-91

- Iraq, led by Saddam Hussein, invades Kuwait, claiming historical territorial rights and accuses Kuwait of drilling for oil under Iraq
- The west, led by George Bush, builds up a massive coalition and forces Iraq out of Kuwait
- Although the bulk of Iraqi forces are destroyed, the coalition does not bush Baghdad and leaves Saddam Hussein in power.
- The US however, imposes economic sanctions in Iraq. This has one major effect: the people of Iraq begin to starve. Fundamentalism grows

NOTE: At this point in global affairs, the USSR is now broken-up. Although they protest the western actions, they no longer have international teeth.

The west continues to harass and bomb. Iraq supports the international inspection of looking for weapons of mass destruction. The Iraqis failure to produce the weapons that the west claim they have leads to...

6) Afghanistan

Coalitions of western countries invade and destroy the Taliban government in an effort to capture Osama Bin Laden (a Saudi Nationalist)

To date, a strong resistance has continued to fight in the name of Islam.

7) Gulf War II, George Bush's war 2003-???

In retaliation to 9/11 and in the face of weapons of mass destruction, the US, with a coalition of the will crush Iraq and dispose Saddam Hussein

No weapons of mass destruction have been found to date.



WHAT IS ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM

- 1) Koran's teachings were being manipulated to fit the fundamentalist agenda. The word of God spoke against the West and Israel
 - 2) Arab mistrust the west from 1916 on
 - Balfour accords
 - US support for Israel
 - 3) The creation of Israel:
 - This is seen as an affront to Islam, and thus God
 - 4) Western exploitation of the oil rich Arab states. 95% of oil workers are western. Little or no money generates from the oil industry to the average Arab. Poverty breeds...
- The erosion of the Arab/Islamic life creates a backlash against all symbols that fell outside the teachings of the Koran
 - Fundamentalism, like Communism, breeds in poverty, hopelessness and despair

Jihad-Holy War

Fundamentalists see themselves as serving God. To die for Islam is the greatest feat a person can accomplish

KEY: Islam does not equal terrorism. It's when its teachings are manipulated to fit an agenda (think capitalism, communism) that it falls into a tool for terrorists.

Islam is the fastest growing religion on Earth.

