

Light Brings Salt

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Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God



A Post-9/11 Vocabulary Test

By Michelle Malkin

What have you learned since the Sept. 11 attacks five years ago? The mass murder of 2,996 innocent people on American soil forced open my eyes to the Islamic holy war against the West, freedom and modernity. The battle has raged not for years or decades, but for centuries -- well before the Crusades began.

The indelible sight of workers plunging from the Twin Towers -- head first, feet first, solo, hand-in-hand -- roused me from slumber. The photos of children who were incinerated on United Airlines Flight 175 and American Airlines Flight 77 compelled me to start paying attention to the beliefs, goals, language and lies of those who would gladly kill my children the same way. The United Airlines Flight 93 hijackers' final exclamation as they drove the plane into the ground is a Muslim warrior leitmotif I will never again ignore: "Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar!"

So, how much do you know? Take a post-9/11 pop quiz. It's never too late to start pulling your head from the sand:

Jihadis. These are our enemies -- from Mohammed Atta and company to the Butchers of Beslan, to the throat-slitters in Karachi and Baghdad and Mindanao, to the bombers of Bali, Madrid and London, to their funders and imams and enablers worldwide. They are not "freedom fighters" or "militants" or "rebels" or "evildoers" of unknown geographic and religious affiliation.

Apologists claim "jihad" means a peaceful Muslim striving for spiritual perfection. But the late Ayatollah Khomeini rebuked Religion of Peace propagandists back in 1942: "Those who know nothing of Islam pretend that Islam counsels against war. Those (who say this) are witless."

Egyptian-born Nonie Darwish, an ex-Muslim whose father founded the terrorist Fedayeen in Gaza and killed 400 Israelis, had her own recent rejoinder for the p.c. whitewashers who have redefined jihad as a kinder, gentler struggle: "In the Arab world we were only taught one meaning for Jihad, and that is: A religious holy war against infidels and armed struggle against anyone who is not a Moslem."

Infidels/Kafirs . Anyone who is not a Muslim.

Sharia . This is the set of Islamic legal principles and traditions that our enemies seek to impose on us. It's a path that leads inexorably to the subjugation of women, stoning of adulterers, "honor killings" of rape victims, bans on beauty pageants, cinema and the viewing of soccer matches, death threats against authors, filmmakers, cartoonists and apostates who renounce Islam, and calls for beheadings of all who insult their faith.

Caliphate . A Muslim world government ruled according to sharia. It is what American al Qaeda Adam Gadahn envisions in his latest "Convert or die" propaganda video when he asserts, "Islam is the only religion acceptable to God," and "God recognizes no separation between religion

and state." It is the dream not just of Osama bin Laden, but of Islamic imperialists throughout history.

Taqiyya . Religious deception. Jihadists are taught in al Qaeda training manuals to lie. To fabricate tales about how their captors treat them (see Gitmo). To lie in claiming "There is no compulsion in religion" while forcing conversions at gunpoint (see the "Holy Jihad Brigades" conversion video starring Fox News journalists Steve Centanni and Olaf Wiig). To conceal their true mission (see hijackers' visa applications). Dissimulation for the sake of Islam is sanctioned by the Koran.

Dhimmitude . The official state of inferiority of non-Muslims under Islam; the bowing and scraping of vanquished infidels to their intellectual and military conquerors. You saw it in the immediate post-9/11 appeasement of Muslims angered by the name "Operation Infinite Justice" (it was an insult to Mohammed). You saw it in the cowards of the mainstream media unwilling to defend free speech during the Mohammed cartoon rage. You saw it in the mau-mauing over the faked Koran-flushings at Camp Delta. You see it in our government's persistent pandering to grievance-mongering groups yelling "Islamophobia" and filing lawsuits at every turn.

You see it in the refusal to profile at the airport, limit immigration from terrorist-enabling countries and shut down Saudi pilot training programs -- even to this day - - for fear of hurting feelings. You will see it throughout the week-long commemoration of 9/11 as pundits and scholars de-emphasize the jihadi roots of the terrorist attacks in favor of "dialogue" and "tolerance" and self-flagellation.

Submitting to ignorance is submitting to defeat. Honor the victims of 9/11 by making a pledge: "I will not submit."

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How Muslims think [Excerpts]

A just-published opinion survey of ten Muslim communities is revealing. The world should pay close attention.

To find out, the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press carried out a large-scale attitudinal survey this spring. It interviewed Muslims in two batches of countries: six of them with long-standing, majority-Muslim populations (Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkey) and four of them in Western Europe with new, minority Muslim populations (France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain).

The survey, which also looks at Western views of Muslims, yielded some dismaying but not altogether surprising results. Its themes can be grouped under three rubrics.

A proclivity to conspiracy theories: In not one Muslim population polled does a majority believe that Arabs carried out the 9/11 attacks on the United States. The proportions range from a mere 15 percent in Pakistan holding Arabs responsible, to 48 percent among French Muslims. Confirming recent negative trends in Turkey, the number of Turks who point the finger at Arabs has declined from 46 percent in 2002 to 16 percent today. In other words, in every one of these ten Muslim communities, a majority views 9/11 as a hoax perpetrated by the U.S. government, Israel, or some other agency.

Likewise, Muslims are widely prejudiced against Jews, ranging from 28 percent unfavorable ratings among French Muslims to 98 percent in Jordan (which, despite the monarchy's moderation, has a majority Palestinian population). Further, Muslims in certain countries (especially Egypt and Jordan) see Jews conspiratorially, as being responsible for bad relations between Muslims and Westerners.

Conspiracy theories also pertain to larger topics. Asked, "What is most responsible for Muslim nations' lack of prosperity?" between 14 percent (in Pakistan) and 43 percent (in Jordan) blame the policies of the U.S. and other Western states, as opposed to indigenous problems, such as a lack of democracy or education, or the presence of corruption or radical Islam.

This conspiracism points to a widespread unwillingness in the umma to deal with realities, preferring the safer bromides of plots, schemes, and intrigues. It also reveals major problems adjusting to modernity.

Support for terrorism: All the Muslim populations polled display a solid majority of support for Osama bin Laden. Asked whether they have confidence in him, Muslims replied positively, ranging between 8 percent (in Turkey) to 72 percent (in Nigeria). Likewise, suicide bombing is popular. Muslims who call it justified range from 13 percent (in Germany) to 69 percent (in Nigeria). These appalling numbers suggest that terrorism by Muslims has deep roots and will remain a danger for years to come.

British Muslims [have] the most malign anti-Western attitudes found in Europe. Many more of them regard Westerners as violent, greedy, immoral, and arrogant than do their counterparts in France, Germany, and Spain. In addition, whether asked about their attitudes toward Jews, responsibility for 9/11, or the place of women in Western societies, their views are notably more extreme.

The situation in Britain reflects the "Londonistan" phenomenon, whereby Britons preemptively cringe and Muslims respond to this weakness with aggression.

Nigerian Muslims have generally the most belligerent views on such issues as the state of Western-Muslim relations, the supposed immorality and arrogance of

Westerners, and support for bin Laden and suicide terrorism. This extremism results, no doubt, from the violent state of Christian-Muslim relations in Nigeria.

Ironically, most Muslim alienation is found in those countries where Muslims are either the most or the least accommodated, suggesting that a middle path is best -- where Muslims do not win special privileges, as in the U.K., nor are they in an advanced state of hostility, as in Nigeria.

9/11 IN RETROSPECT

Dr. Charles Wood
Retired Pastor - Educator

Five years ago today my older son was moving into a new home, and we had agreed to provide whatever help in the process we could. As we were getting ready to leave home, our younger son's wife called to ask if we were aware of what was going on in New York City. We switched on network "news" long enough to see what was taking place and then hurried to Rick's new home to join other family and friends who were helping with the move.

Suburban New York City was where I grew up, and the New York skyline was part of the view from almost every home in which I lived as a child. The World Trade Center was built after I "left the nest," but it was always part of the skyline when I went back to visit. Thus, it was with a sense of horror intensified by personal familiarity that I watched the unfolding events of that day. It was a most difficult day to say the least. Today, even the agenda-driven media are replaying vast segments of their coverage of that day, and the memories are painful.

On September 12, 2001 I was asked to speak to the student body of our Christian school. I can remember distinctly telling the young people that the attack of the day before was part of a much larger war - a war of extremist Islam against the West and our Christian-based values. Five years later, I am more convinced than ever that

those words were both true and prophetic. I am now convinced that the war began long before 9/11, that it is far more serious than I ever dreamed back then, and that there is a significant segment of our society that does not even yet realize that there is any war of any kind being waged.

To say that I am more troubled by the events of that day at present than I was then would be an understatement. The threat of some similar - or far worse - attack is greater today than it ever has been, and one of our major political parties has given clear evidence over and over again that its leaders have absolutely no clue as to the realities of the world in which we live. A spate of "conspiracy" theories has turned into a disturbing flow. The line between sanity and insanity is very fine for some people, and there are those who are drifting into the never-never land of mental illness on an almost daily basis. It is worrisome that there are those who believe (or profess to do so) that 9/11 was arranged and staged by the Bush administration in order to vindicate the war in Iraq. What is even more disturbing is that so many of these conspiracy theorists are involved in the academic world. That young people would be subject to the ranting machinations of such is almost unthinkable. What a strange world in which people who should be in *mental* institutions are actually employed and empowered by *educational* institutions.

On-the-other-hand, it is somewhat encouraging to see that the agenda-driven media is willing to carry the visual images of that horrible day just two months short of a national election. This is an election in which the party that employs (either literally or figuratively) that media as its public relations arm is desperately trying to regain control of congress, running on a platform, seemingly with only two planks: hatred for George Bush and a determination to "cut and run" in Iraq. Surely the images being beamed over the airwaves today do nothing to raise the confidence of the American people in a party that has hatred and retreat as its primary talking points. Hopefully, the

reminders of today will expose further those who seek power but who seem utterly unaware of the war in which we are engaged or of the dangers to Western civilization which that war portends.

Although it is not without its flaws and failures, we are personally grateful for Fox Cable News where one has at least a chance of seeing and hearing what is actually going on in our world rather than being fed what the radical left wants us to see and hear. This was brought home to us this morning in a very clear way. Fox was carrying a picture of "ground zero" and broadcasting the reading of Scripture at the site in the background. One of the other networks had the exact same picture, but the Scripture was replaced by commentary. We have also waited in vain (and will doubtlessly wait forever in vain) for someone speaking for the Islamic community to stand up and speak out against what happened that fateful day. Surely, there must be those in that community who find what was done on 9/11 as abhorrent as we, but the fact that Muslims appear to have no qualms about killing other Muslims seems to have brought an almost universal, nervous silence.

As I watched snatches of the presentations this morning, the words of Abraham Lincoln echoed in my mind: "that these dead shall not have died in vain." It is my prayer for our country that those words may still ring true. I pray that those whose only platform is hatred and retreat and who fail to understand the threat we face will be denied places of leadership and that the resolve, courage and dedication of our President to face down the forces of Islamo-fascism will be even further strengthened in days ahead.