

Additional Points about Jihad

From the Qur'an

- Surah 2:256
- Surah 10:99-100
- Surah 86:17
- Surah 13:40
- Surah 49:9
- Surah 2:190
- Surah 2:216
- Surah 48:1-20

Historical roots

- **Muhammad's struggle to establish the *ummah* – the community**
- **The community is the place in which salvation is carried out and lived out**
- **escape to Medina happened in order to establish the Islamic community (622 AD)**
- **Establishing of rule over Mecca in 629 was the ideal *jihad***

Historical developments
...that have influenced
understanding of jihad

- Tensions between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims between 750 and 1050 AD
- The advent of the Crusades 1095 – 1250
- Call for Israeli homeland by Zionist Jews, beginning in the mid-1800s

Historical developments
...that have influenced
understanding of jihad

- Establishment of the nation of Israel in 1948
- Increased tensions between Jews and Palestinians over land control and human rights
- Western modernization

Jihad and fundamentalism

Fundamentalism

- **Basics...**
- **First takes issue with fellow believers who have made too many concessions to modernity and are in collaboration with the enemy ...**
- **Then withdraws from the mainstream to create a place of pure faith free from influences of the godless world**

Why fundamentalism?

- **Disenchantment with modernism and globalization**
- **Rooted in profound fear of annihilation**
 - **Modern, secular, liberal establishment wants to wipe out religion**
- **People demonstrate they want more religion in public life**

Why violent fundamentalism?

- **Violence often comes with belief there is a battle between good and evil, light and darkness**
- **Violence is the extreme expression of fundamentalism that senses itself attacked by godless forces**

Rise of Fundamentalism

- Equal to the rise of secularism and humanism (society without God)
- Even in its non-religious forms, it seeks to maintain the culture and values of a society

Beginnings of Islamic fundamentalism

- Abdul Ali Mawdudi (1903-1973)
- Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966)
 - Began as a moderate
 - Imprisoned by Nasser for his calls for reform and stance against Westernization of Egypt
 - Tortures, killings, etc. pushed him to become a revolutionary
 - Redefined *jihad* as universal

Religious warfare becomes hard to address

...

...when enemies become demons and negotiation and compromise seem to give into what is fundamentally wrong.

Islam in America

- When Islam is taken out of its theocratic context (where Islam IS the government), something changes
- In many places and among many people the word "cousins" appears in references to non-Muslims

Women in Islam – America

- Under the teaching of the Qur'an, women better treatment than culturally prevalent in Muhammad's time
- Religiously and legally they are equal
- Have different spheres of responsibility
- "Careers" are normalized

Women in Islam – America

- dress is to be modest – hair covering is the debate
- Child and family care present problems in the US
- How much to mix with the ways of the culture is a problem also
- Worship service arrangements are problematic
- Religious leadership is closed to women

Islam and Black Americans

- **History of Islam is more racially equal**
- **Christianity in America has been identified with oppression and slavery**
 - Islam was not because it was an “import” also
- **Nation of Islam emerged with struggle for civil rights, emphasizing separation from whites and white culture**

Islam and Black Americans

- **Split in N of I over how separated black Muslims should be**
- **Malcolm X wanted N of I to move toward traditional Islam and inclusion**
- **Louis Farrakhan has taken the lead now of the N of I and continues the move for radical separation**

Future concerns

- **Balance between tradition and modernization**
- **Authority to “speak” for Muslims world wide comes from ...?**
- **Relatedly, how can the radical *jihadi* fundamentalists be addressed?**
