
Bernard Lewis Plan

Setting the 'Arc of Crisis' aflame

by Joseph Brewda

In 1980, *EIR* warned that the strategy behind then-U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski's "Arc of Crisis" against the Soviet Union was a British plan to destroy the nation-state. The "Bernard Lewis Plan," as it came to be known, remains as the British design to fracture all the countries in the region, from the Middle East to India, along ethnic, sectarian, and linguistic lines. This, we warned, was the strategic gameplan behind the Anglo-American overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1979 and his replacement by Ayatollah Khomeini, and the Oct. 31, 1984 assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) insurrection in southern Sudan, and efforts to plunge Sudan into war with Uganda and Eritrea, are part of the Lewis plan today.

Lewis is a British Islamic specialist who had entered British intelligence and served in the British Foreign Office during World War II, before he returned to his post at the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies. In 1974, Lewis was seconded to Princeton University, where he became an adviser to the U.S. foreign policy establishment. Lewis sold his plan to the Carter administration with the argument that ringing the Soviet Union with Muslim fundamentalist states would break up the Soviet Union's southern tier. The British were bitterly opposed to the Shah's efforts to industrialize Iran, and related policy commitments in Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, and elsewhere in the Muslim world.

In 1992, Lewis published an update on his thesis, in the fall issue of *Foreign Affairs*, the journal of the New York Council on Foreign Relations, the U.S. arm of Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs. Lewis predicted that the entire Middle East would undergo a process of "Lebanonization"—a reference to the civil war unleashed in Lebanon in 1975 by then-U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

"Most of the states of the Middle East," he wrote, "are of recent and artificial construction and are vulnerable to such a process. If the central power is sufficiently weakened, there is no real civil society to hold the polity together, no real sense of common national identity or overriding allegiance to the nation-state. The state then disintegrates—as happened in Lebanon—into a chaos of squabbling, feuding, fighting sects, tribes, regions and parties."

The Lebanon war pitted the country's Catholic, Palestinian, Shiite Muslim, Sunni Muslim, Druze, and Greek Ortho-

dox populations against each other. The war resulted in the de facto partitioning of Lebanon by Israel and Syria. Today, the nation-state of Lebanon, no longer exists.

1. Algeria: Anglo-French-run civil war, pitting the Islamic movement against the government, threatens to spread into Tunisia and Morocco.

2. Egypt: IMF conditionalities fuel potential for Muslim-Coptic Christian civil strife and war with Sudan.

3. Egypt-Sudan: Plans to create an artificial Coptic Christian "Nubia," carved out of the border area, are designed to provoke war between Egypt and Sudan.

4. Southern Sudan: The British-backed SPLA is attempting to make the region into a separate state.

5. Ethiopia: With a new Constitution approving any desired secessions, Ethiopia is set to be divided up along tribal and ethnic lines, as has already been accomplished with the creation of Eritrea.

6. Somalia: Fragmentation into numerous warring clan-regions, with clan wars spreading into the Somali-majority ethnic regions of eastern Ethiopia and northern Kenya.

7. Kenya: British efforts to topple President Daniel arap Moi and destroy his non-tribal ruling coalition, are meant to trigger tribal wars between the Luo and Kikuyu.

8. Rwanda/Burundi: Ugandan-backed Tutsi massacres of Hutus in both states are designed to make both states into satellites of greater Uganda.

9. Israel-Palestine: British and World Bank sabotage of the economy is meant to provoke a Hamas-PLO civil war that would destroy the Israel-PLO agreement, and to create the conditions for a new Arab-Israeli war.

10. Saudi Arabia and Emirates: The politically discredited British-run royal families and sheiks are about to be dumped, replaced by the networks run by Crown Prince Abdullah.

11. Yemen: Continuing efforts to renew civil war and spill it over into Saudi Arabia.

12. Greater Syria, incorporating Lebanon, has been largely consolidated; an Israeli-Syrian war remains on the agenda.

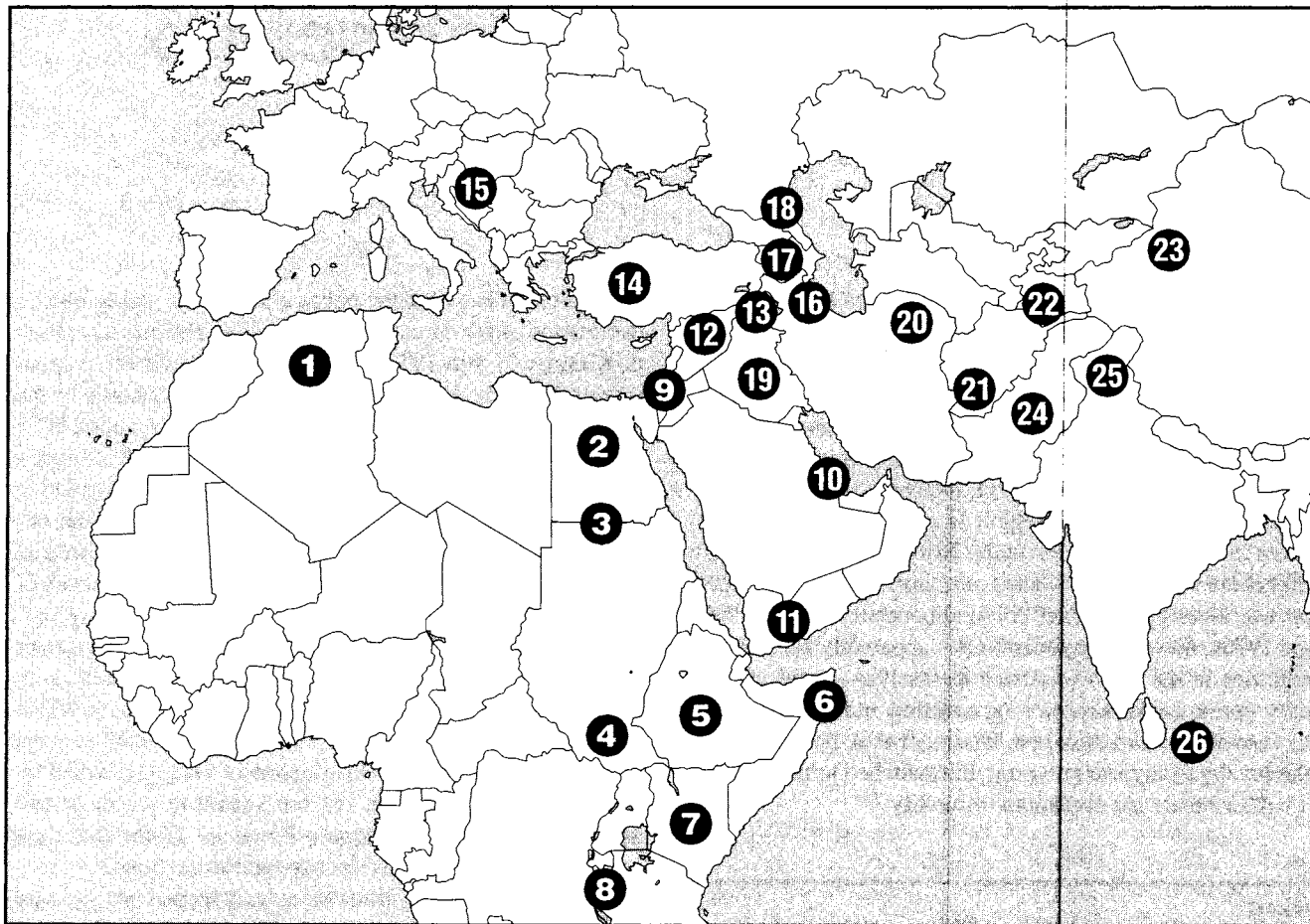
13: Kurdish region, straddling Iraq, Turkey, and Iran, has been blown up by the British, fueling a possible Turkish-Iranian war.

14. Turkey: Ethnic, sectarian, and political strife is meant to create a new "Algeria," destroying the last modern economy in the region.

15. Balkans: Serbia's invasion of Bosnia and designs on Kosova may lead to conflict with Albania and Turkey; Greece would ally with Serbia.

16. Azerbaijan's demands for reunification with

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Iranian Azerbaijan, from which it had been separated in the early 1800s, could spark a Turkish-Iranian war.

17. Armenia-Azerbaijan: Continuing war over Nagorno-Karabakh creates conditions for Caucasus-wide conflict, drawing in Russia and Turkey.

18. Chechnya: The Russian invasion and destruction of the ethnic region has set into motion a guerrilla war of indefinite duration.

19. Iraq is being subjected to continued efforts to divide it into a northern Kurdish area, a southern Shiite area, and a central Baghdad area.

20. Western Iran: Plans are under way to unify the Turkmen ethnic region of northwest Iran with neighboring Turkmenistan.

21. Afghanistan: The civil war will split the country into three parts: a Tajik entity in the north, an Uzbek central entity, and a Pushtun entity in the south, to incorporate part of Pakistan.

22. Tajikistan: Russian-manipulated civil war may aid separate British efforts to organize territorial conflict between the Iranic Tajiks and Turkic Uzbeks.

23. China: Turkish-supported Tur ic-ethnic separatism in Xinjiang province is meant to aid British efforts to split off neighboring Tibet (ethnically non-Chinese), and fragment China generally.

24. Pakistan: Karachi riots are meant to split off the Sind; Pakistan is to be divided into a southern Baluchi state that would also include part of neighboring Iran, a Punjabi state, and the reunification of the Pushtun region into a new Pushtunistan carved out of Afghanistan.

25. Kashmir: Long-standing Indo-Pakistani conflicting claims on Kashmir are being aggravated by a British-supported Kashmir independence movement, and feed plans to foster an Indo-Pakistani nuclear war.

26. Sri Lanka: The Tamil Tigers, supplied through international drug connections with Stinger-type missiles, have renewed war for the secession of northern Sri Lanka.