

Islam sects fuel Mideast chaos

An in-depth report on London's Muslim Brotherhood

The same London policymakers who were responsible for the programming of religious cults in the Middle East in the 19th century are now seizing upon the Ayatollah Khomeini destabilization in Iran to mass-program new fundamentalist cult operations throughout that strife-torn area.

Personified by such fundamentalist programmers as Princeton University's Bernard Lewis and his co-thinkers at Oxford and London Universities, this British school has moved to ideologically capture the Mideast policymaking apparatus in the U.S. government — through the agency of National Security Council head Zbigniew Brzezinski.

· Reacting with characteristic freneticism to the Khomeini events, Brzezinski has ordered Washington, D.C. thinktankers and Middle East hands to prepare a major study on Islamic fundamentalism.

This push behind fundamentalism has already had severe destabilizing effects on the Middle East, exactly as per Lewis's design to have the Middle East states "balkanized" into mini-principalities of feuding tribal sects and clans.

Aside from the well-publicized Iran events themselves, the past days have seen the following:

—a reported growth of Khomeini-linked "Shi'ite armed cells" throughout the Arabian Gulf area, likely tied to the British intelligence group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf.

—an outbreak of rumors of antiregime discontent in Saudi Arabia, emanating from London-allied circles in the National Guard and from minor Saudi princes in touch with both British intelligence and Israel's Mossad foreign intelligence service. This discontent is reportedly converging around and being funded by the head of the National Guard, Prince Abdullah.

—recent reports of Muslim Brotherhood attacks on Christian citizens in Iraq.

—an upsurge of Muslim Brotherhood-fomented tribal destabilizations against the new government of Afghanistan. This action is being aided and abetted by Anglophile networks within the Central Intelligence Agency.

Zionist fundamentalism

The fundamentalist activities of Khomeini and the Muslim Brotherhood are producing as their obvious consequence a Zionist-fundamentalist "backlash" around Israel, a factor which could push the Middle East toward general war in the short term.

While it is well known that the Mossad has played an increasing role in helping exacerbate the Muslim fundamentalist operations, Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan this week took the significant public step of warning Israel's Arab neighbors that if they

aimed their "Islamic wave" against Israel, they would "pay the price." Coupled with a plethora of Israeli press editorials and politicians' statements deploring the "Islamic wave," Dayan's words can only have the effect of unsettling whatever international and regional moves are being made — by the French, Soviets, honest CIA networks, several Arab governments, and others — to neutralize the effects of Khomeini.

The potentials of Dayan's threats were dramatized in a chilling way in the Jan. 21 assassination, reputedly by Mossad and/or British agents, of Palestine Liberation Organization security chief Abu Hassan Salameh.

At this point, certain influential Middle East policy circles, representing long-time professionals in various government agencies, are not ready to endorse Brzezinski's project.

One highly-placed source stated this week, "This Islamic fundamentalist idea is nonsense, and whatever Brzezinski thinks, it's not going to be easy to get people to underwrite any attempts to legitimize it. As for the British, they're a joke.... The wave of the future in the Middle East lies elsewhere, in developing industries in the area and in understanding that groups like the Palestinians are the core intelligentsia of the area. If that is not understood, nothing can work in the Middle East."

What is the Muslim Brotherhood?

Triggered by the Islamic fundamentalist destabilization in Iran, the Muslim Brotherhood is now on a rampage in various nations of the Islamic world, an expression of the Royal Institute of International Affairs' commitment to rely on mass-oriented-cults to keep the Middle East and other developing sectors out of the development configuration centered around the European Monetary Fund.

A fanatical and puritanical secret society, the Brotherhood — or "Ikhwan" — is organized into special cells and so-called "temples," from which it spawns local and regional branches of its cult operations. Strongest in Egypt, where it dominates the religious establishment, the Brotherhood is also extremely powerful in Pakistan, where its Jamaat e-Islam branch literally runs the government. It is also well organized in Nigeria and Senegal, and is

especially strong in North Africa, while Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Turkey have been seriously infected (see box).

In Iran, the Ikhwan controls a significant faction of the Shi'ite leadership.

So widespread and active are the Ikhwan networks that they have penetrated and reached dominant positions among Islamic groups in North America, such as the Muslim Students Association and the Muslim World League (the "Rabitat") in the U.S.

Hassan el-Banna and London's primitivism

The Ikhwan profile centers around opposition to "Westernization." Its founders originally derived their political ideas — destroying all secular authority and forcing the establishment of an Islamic state — from the late 19th century advocates of pan-Islamic doctrine, Sufism, and mysticism: all combined from the start to create a xenophobic, anti-intellectual, "fundamentalist" counter-operation to growing anti-British nationalism during that period.

These savage qualities are all personified by Hassan el-Banna, the "Supreme Guide" and founder of the Ikhwan in 1929, who hammered the organization into a large and well-disciplined cult with a paramilitary branch and elite assassination squads.

Hassan el-Banna emerged from the higher levels of the Sufi orders in the 1920s, after embracing the mystical notions of the 10th and 11th centuries' Al-Ghazzali combined with a passionate hatred for "secularization" and for the republican political tendencies associated with Turkey's Kemal Ataturk.

By the mid-1930s, Hassan was receiving cash allotments from the London-based Suez Canal Authority and from ministers of the royal court of London puppet, Egyptian King Farouk, who saw in the Ikhwan and the fascist "Young Egypt" militias an effective counterweight to nationalist anti-British sentiment in Egypt. By the 1940-1941 period, the Ikhwan was powerful enough to have direct ties to the Egyptian military, mediated in part by current Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and was in touch with several pro-Nazi fundamentalist groupings in Iraq and elsewhere.

During the same period, rumors were widespread in the Arab world that the Muslim Brotherhood was receiving funds straight from the British embassy in Cairo.

The Ikhwan served British purposes well. Their extreme anti-Jewish (rather than anti-Zionist) fulminations built up considerable credibility for Zionist claims that the Arabs are "anti-Semitic"(!), and aided Zionist recruitment and support work.

Disgusted with the whole Ikhwan operation, Egypt's President Nasser crushed their organization in a no-holds-barred showdown soon after he seized power in 1952.

Following Nasser's crackdown against the Ikhwan in Egypt,

A profile of Ikhwan operations

A London source with extensive connections into both "radical left" and "religious right" groups in the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent provided the following profile of the structure and strength of Ikhwan, or Muslim Brotherhood, and their international networks.

Egypt, Pakistan, Morocco, and Turkey are the countries which have the most extensive Ikhwan operations at this point. In Egypt, the Ikhwan has major support among petit-bourgeois merchants, discontented students, and so on, and have grown remarkably under Sadat's regime. In Pakistan, the Ikhwan is called the Jamaat e-Islam, and it runs Pakistan's leader Zia; pure and simple.

An interesting area of Ikhwan growth is Morocco. Notonly have they grown there as a group, but in Morocco there has been the crucial new addition of a merger of Ikhwan networks with so-called Tijani groups, i.e., the Sufi-mystic-whirling dervish groups. These Tijani are otherwise well-known for activity in Turkey; this is one overlapping group working in both Morocco and Turkey.

Other Ikhwan activity should be noted: in Tunisia, a well-known Sheikh, Sheikh Mourou, has congregated an Ikhwan following around him; this has gained strength among students. In Syria, the Ikhwan has an extensive underground operation. In Iraq, they have been crushed.

In Saudi Arabia, outside the circles around Prince Abdullah (Saudi National Guard head — ed.), the Ikhwan is surprisingly highly unpopular. Why? Because it opposes monarchies, and the Saudis are a monarchy, so the King and Crown Prince treat the Ikhwan with disfavor.

Note in conclusion that the Ikhwan has a following of some substance in the U.S. This exists among Pakistani students who are pro-Zia. It also exists in certain areas of Arab student strength in the U.S., in particular at the University of Texas at Austin and at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

their strongest base, the Muslim Brotherhood fled and regrouped — in Geneva, Switzerland! There, under the cover of a foundation called the Institute for Islamic Studies headed by Said Ramadan, they set up secret headquarters.

According to reliable sources, the Geneva network is linked directly to

Foundation of Europe, whose leader is the brother of Abdul-Rahman Azzam, the British agent who headed the Arab League after World War II. Also deeply involved in the Muslim Brotherhood organizing is the fascist Hans Seidel Foundation of Munich, West Germany, closely linked to Franz Josef Strauss, whose executive director is Otto von Hapsburg. The Hans Seidel Foundation has a representative in Cairo who, according to sources in Munich, maintains liaison with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Both the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Cambridge University and the Institute of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London serve as "think tanks" for the Muslim

Brotherhood controllers in London, Munich, Geneva, and South Africa.

The funding for the organizations linked to the Muslim Brotherhood comes largely, according to many sources, from the faction in Saudi Arabia associated with Prince Abdallah, the commander of the National Guard there, and from the Kuwaitis.

In diplomatic and intelligence circles, it is widely known that Prince Abdallah is extremely close to London — as opposed to the majority of the Saudi royal family, which is “pro-American.” Both Abdallah and the new ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah, were trained at the same London police school, Hendon Police College — and both are pro-Muslim Brotherhood.

Following the assassination of King Faisal in 1975, when Abdallah’s power was somewhat increased, the growth of the influence of the Brotherhood in Saudi Arabia was speeded up, and throughout the Islamic world Abdallah’s faction was increasingly able to push fundamentalist Islam and the Ikhwan.

In Iran, for instance, the *Fidaiyani Islam* (“The Devotees of Islam”) are closely linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, and in the 1950s they carried out jointly a series of assassinations and terrorism in both Egypt and Iran.

In the current Iran crisis, the Devotees have suddenly resurfaced to carry out assassinations for the ultrareactionary cause of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Washington Post waves Islam flag

“Resurgence of Islam” was featured in the Sunday, Jan. 21 Washington Post, excerpted here:

On Islamic holy days, thousands of worshippers turn out at prayer services organized by the once-outlawed Moslem Brotherhood, now so visible and well-organized that its posters appear in the windows of Cairo buses and its thick glossy magazine is on every newsstand.

These are the visible signs of a resurgence of Islamic orthodoxy and puritanism that is one of the strongest trends in Egyptian society today. It has been under way for about three years, and appears to be gaining strength — particularly in the universities.

“We are puritans, but we are not fanatics,” said Omar Telmassani, editor of *The Call*, the monthly magazine of the Moslem brotherhood. He spent 17 years in prison during the presidency of Gamal Abdel Nasser because of his membership in the brotherhood, which had a reputation as an organization of terrorists who made two attempts on Nasser’s life. . . .

Sadat is reliably reported to have struck a bargain with the leaders of the Moslem establishment, such as the sheikhs of Al Azhar, by which he tolerates their criticism on issues such as family planning provided they refrain from undermining him politically as the Iranian mullahs have done to the shah.

Saudi Arabia: the next Iran?

Saudi Arabia, a leading force for peace in Middle East politics, has emerged as the number one target of a British-backed operation to destabilize the Middle East via the deliberate activation of reactionary Islamic sects.

Saudi Arabia’s refusal to back an Egypt-Israel separate peace, combined with its increasing desire to open relations with the Soviet Union, and growing willingness to cooperate with the European Monetary System all pose a formidable obstacle to the continued manipulation of the Middle East by Britain and her political and intelligence networks in the United States. The fact that Saudi oil wealth is key to the successful implementation of the EMS and would virtually guarantee the triumph of the new, high-technology-oriented EMS over the British-controlled International Monetary Fund has, of course, not been lost on the desperate British oligarchy.

Iran treatment for Saudi Arabia

Numerous signs surfaced last week that Saudi Arabia is next in line for the Iran treatment.

“Six months after I return to Teheran, the future of those who presently rule Saudi Arabia will be known,” said fanatic religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini, speaking through his chief aide Ibrahim Yazdi in Paris.

Khomeini’s threat was picked up by the Jan. 22 *Christian Science Monitor*, which reported that Shi’ite mosques in Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman have become centers of Khomeini-style “revolutionary activity,” and that Prince Fahd is urgently seeking cooperation with the other Arab states to put an end to the threat. However, according to Thomas Ricks of Georgetown University and British agent Joseph Malone formerly of the National War College, both quoted by the *Monitor*, mosques in Saudi Arabia have begun to “stockpile arms” for a rebellion.

Covertly backing those factions tending toward religious reaction in Saudi Arabia is Prince Abdullah, chief of Saudi security. According to a high-level Washington source, Abdullah is pushing to sever ties with the West. Prince Fahd, in contrast, is committed to modernizing Saudi Arabia and looks with favor on cooperating with the West to achieve this.

Abdullah has often been cited as the likely ringleader of a palace coup by dissident, anti-American young Saudis who are being personally cultivated by Malone and his ilk.

“If I were the Saudi leadership,” stated UCLA’s Malcolm Kerr, a close associate of Malone, “I’d be worried about what is going on in Iran and what the ramifications are for Saudi Arabia. Too much development too fast brought about a backlash of reaction in Iran. The same thing could happen in Saudi Arabia. If I were the Saudis, I’d start cutting back on oil production, the rate of modernization, and other such things just to keep things under control there.”

In an attempt to force Saudi support for the Camp David ac-