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CHAPTER ONE



The West Meets ISIL

I say to America the Islamic Caliphate has been established and we will not stop. Don't be cowards and attack us with drones. Instead send your soldiers, the ones we humiliated in Iraq. We will humiliate them everywhere, God willing, and we will raise the flag of Allah [over] the White House.

ABU MOSA, ISIS SPOKESMAN¹²

TODAY, THE UNITED STATES of America needs to have the same resolve in dismantling the terrorists' worldwide network that we did in fighting the Axis powers during World War II. The threat is as great as was that of Hitler's Nazi regime. Too few Americans seemed to realize at the time that the "insurgents" the US was fighting in the streets of Iraq were not simply disgruntled Iraqis caught in a cycle of incomprehensible ethnic intolerance, but the fighting was against a terror network that would be unleashed in its full ferocity once the last US vehicle departed Iraq's border. The vipers that had been multiplying underground were then free to surface and spread their venom unfettered in the form of ISIL and its radically militant form of Islam.

Joining ISIL and al-Nusra, another terrorist group, is Khorasan, an offshoot of al Qaeda. It, too, has also been targeted by US and ally-led bombings in Syria. Khorasan is led by thirty-three-year-old Muhsin al-Fadhli. The US State Department refers to al-Fadhli as a "senior facilitator and financier" for Khorasan. A news report stated:

In 2012, the State Department was offering up to \$7 million for information about [al-Fadhli's] whereabouts. Born in Kuwait, he has operated in Chechnya, fighting Russian soldiers, according to the United Nations, and has been wanted in connection to al Qaeda attacks in Saudi Arabia.

In a conference call with reporters after the air strikes, several senior administration officials ... said that Khorasan had established a safe haven within the chaos of Syria to plot attacks against the United States and other Western nations. One official reported that this planning was "nearing the execution phase." A senior administration official also said that Khorasan ... was recruiting Westerners fighting in Syria for "external operations," and that Khorasan plotting had prompted the United States to beef up aviation security measures a few months ago. One administration official noted that President Obama had been contemplating strikes against Khorasan for months "separate and apart from the growing threat from ISIL." 13

A CBS 60 Minutes segment featuring FBI Director James Comey relayed further information about Khorasan:

"Khorasan was working and may still be working on an effort to attack the United States or our allies, and looking to do it very, very soon," he said...

"I can't sit here and tell you whether their plan is tomorrow or three weeks or three months from now," he said.

"Given our visibility, we know they're serious people, bent on destruction. And so we have to act as if it's coming tomorrow."

He said that terrorist networks in Syria are a product of "the metastasis of al Qaeda" with the two major groups, al-Nusra and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

"They are both vicious, sort of the inheritors of a lot of the mantle of al Qaeda and present different threats in a lot of ways," Comey said.

He described the al-Nusra group as experienced bomb makers, killers, and planners seeking international targets.

"These are people who have thought about bringing terrorism on a global scale," he said.

"ISIL is as sophisticated, maybe more than any of the others in its media presence and its recruiting and training efforts online," he said, using another acronym for ISIS.¹⁴

These are not the only two groups targeting the West, but are currently the most dangerous. When ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was released from Camp Bucca, an Iraqi detention center, he said to his American captors that he would see them in New York. He seems intent on rallying every jihadist globally in order to achieve that goal. In 2014, al-Baghdadi clearly defined the aim of his Islamic State:

The Muslims today have a loud, thundering statement, and possess heavy boots. They have a statement that will cause the world to hear and understand the meaning of terrorism, and boots that will trample the idol of nationalism, destroy the idol of democracy and uncover its deviant nature.¹⁵

In a 9/11 anniversary speech, President George W. Bush predicted the peril of an early withdrawal from Iraq: "Whatever mistakes have been made in Iraq, the worst mistake would be to think that if we pulled out, the terrorists would leave us alone." His warning clearly proved to be prophetic with the rise of ISIL.

We fail to realize that we are fighting the newest world power based not on an ideology such as Communism or Nazism, but on an overzealous, distorted form of Islam whose constituents are willing to both kill and die in the hope of spreading it worldwide. Their goal is to chase democracy and freedom from the Middle East, then from the world at large. This newly formed "Islamic State" and its fanatical members have the mentality of suicide bombers willing to blow themselves up in the hope of wiping Judaism and Christianity off the map. Sadly, its targets are not just Christians and Jews but even other Muslims who refuse to embrace the extremist mentality flaunted by ISIL.

As President Obama's hastily put-together coalition battles ISIL with air strikes and arms support for troops in Iraq, it may be that the al-Baghdadi organization will falter and fall by the wayside. But one thing has become abundantly clear:

Jihadists worldwide have rushed to the aid of a group whose sole aim is to form a global Muslim caliphate. As my good friend and former Mossad head, Isser Harel, said to me, "You kill a fly and you celebrate. We live with flies daily. One dies and 100 flies come to the funeral." A report of al-Baghdadi's having been wounded or killed by a coalition air strike is a case in point. The void left by his absence—whether temporary or permanent—will be rapidly filled by numerous volunteers. While ISIL may fade into the background or even coalesce into something else, the desire of its members will remain the same: world domination.

And one can but wonder how long it would be before Iran embraces ISIL members and takes that poisonous snake to its bosom. Will its displaced denizens be allowed access to its nuclear enrichment program? What horrors would an ISIL-like mentality with nuclear capabilities unleash on an unsuspecting world?

Iran's leadership is maniacally set on obtaining nuclear weapons and advancing their missile technology so that it has the power to destroy Israel and cripple the United States and Europe. Just as Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini joined with and then ruthlessly turned on his allies in the Islamic Revolution in the 1980s, transforming Iran into his own kingdom on earth, so Iran now may be willing to cut any deal to get what it wants. Iran's leaders hope to keep the international community at bay long enough to develop their own small nuclear arsenal—and once that is done, all previous bets will be off. Wiping Israel "off the map" is seen as the first step toward a world without Zionism and the United States.

To avoid such a scenario, we need to take a look back at the plan Mr. Netanyahu offered in his 2013 UN General Assembly speech. The prime minister laid out restraints that it would be wise to follow, a guideline that has been largely ignored by the West:

- 1. Totally halt uranium enrichment in Iran;
- 2. Confiscate Iran's already enriched uranium;
- 3. Disassemble plants at both the Qom and Natanz nuclear facilities;
- 4. Halt the production of plutonium;
- 5. Keep all sanctions in place until Iran has complied.

The key to victory against ISIL and its terrorist offshoots will take a concerted effort by the West, joined by its Muslim allies who are in equal danger. The world stands at a critical crossroads, but unfortunately it does so wearing politically correct blinders. Because of this, we mistakenly see our friends—namely Israel—as the root of the problem; and our enemies—Islamists set to destabilize the democracies and moderate governments of the Middle East—as misunderstood militants fighting for religious and political freedom. If we don't correct our view, we may soon abandon our friends to appease these "militants," only to find a nuclear knife in our back as the reward.

If we don't find a way to turn the right corner against radical, fanatical Islam, the road ahead may never again be as clear or as safe as it is now.

Why We Fight

As a nation, we have been blinded by liberal rhetoric to the purpose of the war against terror. It is time we set our blinders aside and acknowledge the truth.

We have only to look as far back as the presidency of Jimmy Carter to find where Pandora's box was opened, and the Islamic Revolution was unleashed. In an 800-word diatribe against Israel co-written by former president of Ireland Mary Robinson, the two opined regarding the recent Gaza/Israel conflict:

There is no humane or legal justification for the way the Israeli Defense Forces are conducting this war. Israeli bombs, missiles, and artillery have pulverized large parts of Gaza, including thousands of homes, schools, and hospitals.¹⁶

Of course, the former president has shown his disdain for Israel in countless ways and in a myriad of diatribes against the Jewish state. Carter has met several times with Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal in Damascus in an ongoing attempt to push Israel toward a one-sided peace agreement—in favor of Hamas. His personal relationship with Meshaal rivals that of Carter's long-time liaisons with the late Yasser Arafat.

Journalist Dwight L. Schwab, Jr. penned an article entitled "Jimmy Carter doesn't know when to shut up." In it he wrote:

There is little doubt Carter is no fan of Israel. Carter has never met a terrorist leader he didn't have good relations with, including the late Yassir Arafat. In retrospect, he also criticized former President Clinton for offering a two-state solution to the Palestinians and Ehud Barak in 2000–2001. The same Jimmy Carter who thinks the terrorist group Hamas is a legitimate political party. Yet, out of nowhere, Carter now condemns President Obama

for being too soft on ISIS. Not only that, he condemns Obama for employing drone strikes against terrorists in general

Carter supports the terrorists who attack Israel, but ISIS apparently is "different." Why? The flow of money to Hamas and other organizations Carter favors will be cut off by the influence of ISIS, that's why.¹⁷

Carter's same ideology was alive and well during the time of the shah of Iran, and leaves no question in my mind that it was responsible for the destabilization of Iran, a pro-Israel and pro-Western ally. Khomeini could never have succeeded with the birthing of the Islamic Revolution without the assistance and support of President Jimmy Carter. Khomeini's Islamic Revolution, in turn, generated the onslaught of terrorism by which the entire world has been gripped and victimized.

On the occasion of his recent ninetieth birthday, Mr. Carter has again pushed the limits of rhetoric by declaring that he could have defeated Ronald Reagan in the 1980 presidential election by bombing Iran. Said the former president, "I could've been reelected if I'd taken military action against Iran, shown that I was strong and resolute and, um, manly and so forth." He added, "I could have wiped Iran off the map with the weapons that we had, but in the process a lot of innocent people would have been killed, probably including the hostages and so I stood up against all that."

Perhaps few remember that it was 4:31 a.m. on the morning of the Reagan inauguration that Carter wire-transferred \$7.9 billion dollars through a series of banks including the Federal Reserve to the Bank of England. The funds to buy the hostages back were from money that had been controlled by the shah of Iran. At the same time, the president signed the Algerian Accord, committing the United States to respect Iran's territorial integrity and not to attack. That little stroke of the pen still haunts and fetters the US in the Persian Gulf region.

Mr. Carter's most recent comments regarding his role in Iran might well have been challenged by the late French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, leader of France during the time of America's first crisis with Iran. In my interview with him several years ago, I was told that in 1979 he met with Carter in Guadalupe for a summit, as did Helmut Schmidt of Germany and James Callahan of Great Britain and that Carter informed this group of men that the US was going to support Khomeini instead of the shah of Iran. In essence, Mr. d'Estaing said he realized the US was trading its strongest pro-Western Persian Gulf ally in favor of a terrorist Muslim cleric. "I was horrified," said d'Estaing. "The only way I can describe Jimmy Carter is that he was a 'bastard of conscience."

Mr. Carter seems to have conveniently forgotten that he listened to the advice of those who had an agenda regarding the shah and turned a blind eye while the ruler and his family were summarily expelled from Iran. It paved the way for Khomeini and his terrorist element to seize control of the country. Today, the world continues to pay the price for President Carter's actions.

Asadollah Alam, appointed prime minister by the shah in July 1962, was Pahlavi's personal confidant. Alam, in his autobiography, wrote of Pahlavi's concerns over the election of Carter. The shah had asked: "Who knows what sort of calamity he [Carter] may unleash on the world?" Today, we do know, as radical Islam seeks to create a global caliphate that would institute a "bow or die" philosophy.

The US went to Iraq and Afghanistan initially to take the fight to the terrorists. Every terrorist organization in the world is now in the Middle East in some form, and the West and its allies are struggling to hold them at bay. The chaos that has gripped Iraq, Syria, Kurdistan, and threatens to spill over into Turkey, Jordan, and Israel is a palpable sign of ISIL's primitive caliphate and the very difficult war that is being fought. Even with US air strikes ordered by President Obama in September 2014, the battle is far from over, and we must hold to our resolve to see it through to victory.

Could it be that the administration of President Barack Obama has simply taken up where Mr. Carter's presidency ended—with an agenda to discredit Israel and elevate terrorists in the Middle East to sainthood status? Based on past experience with the United States, Iran and other terrorist nations can look at the US under the current leadership of yet another Liberal Left president and ask, "Crime pays; what will be our reward this time?"

Success is dependent on tenacity—especially against the likes of ISIL and its heinous assault on humanity. One example is that of Australian terrorist Khaled Sharrouf, whose Twitter account was suspended after posting a shocking photo of his seven-year-old son holding aloft a severed head in the city of Raqqa, Syria. The caption beneath the photo read, "That's my boy." This is but one illustration of the viciousness and barbarism inflicted by ISIL militants on those who fail to kowtow to their demands.

Another instance was the threat issued to an entire village in Iraq: Become Muslims or we will kill you all. ISIL radicals have already enforced a primitive Islamic caliphate on a portion of that country. The remainder of Iraq as well as Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, and Cypress are in their crosshairs. Their tactics are brutal and

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the corpses left in the wake are reminiscent of the killing fields in Cambodia.

When ISIL troops encircled the walled town of Kosha, inhabited by members of the Yazidi sect with ancient Zoroastrian ties, the ultimatum was delivered to the town mayor who, in turn, made the demands known to the villagers. The village official said money was offered to ISIL, but was refused. It seems only blood and mayhem, death and destruction, will satisfy the fanatics.

One Iraqi government leader reported that some 500 men, women, and children had been slaughtered by the extremists, some buried alive, with more than 300 women reportedly captured and taken away as slaves. That again proves that these bloodthirsty terrorists will stop at nothing in order to achieve their goal of total domination—one region at a time.