

How Goes Terrorism Around the World?
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Every year, I revisit such issues as \223How Goes Democracy Around the World,\224 \223Status of Women,\224 and \223Terrorism Inc.\224 This column surveys the condition of Militant Islam (Islamism) for the past year.

The term \223Islamist\224 does not refer to ordinary Muslims. It has a specific definition.

Islamism is a political ideology that uses a particular interpretation of Islam as its theology\227with lessons from Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia as its political methodology. This is \223Islamo-fascism.\224

Islamists aspire to world rule in which the constitution will be the Koran and the ruler will be the Caliph\227a revival of what they imagine the earliest years of Islam. I see no reason not to believe what they say they want.

Among their frequent intentions is to convert everyone in the world to Islam\227or make them dhimmi (subject class). Another is to exterminate Jews and Hindus (pigs and idolators) wherever they can. A third is to maintain women as property. These values are at serious odds with the modern world in which religion and state are separated, women equal under the law, and freedom of speech and expression protected by law. The Islamists condemn these modern values and put their views into action.

\225 Pakistan. The governor of the Punjab province was assassinated by one of his bodyguards who said the governor \223insulted Islam.\224 His insult: the governor criticized the \223blasphemy law\224 that mandates death by stoning for anyone who \223insults\224 Islam. A second murder followed: that of the only Christian member of parliament who also condemned the blasphemy law. Pakistan\222s cowardly government is afraid of changing this law because of violent street mobs.

\225 Sweden and Denmark. This same blasphemy nonsense has motivated Islamists to try to murder two cartoonists who \223insulted Islam\224 by depicting Muhammad in less than admiring terms. The Islamists want to murder them for calling Islam \223murderous.\224 Imagining that!

\225 Egypt. Egypt, once a Christian country, now has only 10 percent (maybe) of the population left as Christian. It used to have a Jewish population too\227but not since 1954. Before the recent demonstrations, Christians were under attack, churches burned, people murdered, and the Christian community started to fight back. The Mubarak government that was supposed to protect them was sometimes complicit in the attacks. In a new democratic Egypt, what will be the position of the Muslim Brotherhood, as a minority party, on how minorities, women, and the treaty with Israel are treated? How will Egyptians vote?

\225 Turkey. The Economist, which I otherwise admire, insists that Turkey is \223mildly Islamist.\224 A Turkish reformer in this \223mildly Islamist\224 country has suggested that Islam can be modernized by eliminating the outdated materials in the Koran, Hadith, and Shariah\227such as the subjection of women, cutting off hands of thieves, and other such practices. He has been threatened with death by mobs of Islamists who think that any changes are \223insulting\224 to Islam.

\225 Jordan. There was once a TV women\222s program that brought up the rampant wife abuse and the horror of honor killings\227only to be met by furious attacks by Islamists who found these issues \223insulting to Islam.\224 Her program was taken off the air.

\225 Europe and the United States. Militants continue to try for another big attack somewhere (and everywhere) in the western world to show that they can. Since 9/11 there have been 43 homegrown violent jihadist plots or attacks in the United States. Between May, 2009 and November 2010, arrests were made for 22 homegrown jihadists inspired terrorist plots by American citizens or legal permanent residents. (Jerome Bjelopera and Mark Randol, "American Jihadist Terrorism" Combatting a Complex Threat." Congressional Research Service, 12/7/2010)

So far, intelligence authorities have stopped most of them from carrying out their plans\227and, fortunately for us, some of these wanabe killers have been turned in by other Muslims who are embarrassed by these attempts. That is the good news! Secular Muslims do not want these thugs to prevail because they know that they themselves would be at the receiving end of Islamo-fascism.

670 words

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