

British collusion with Wahabi terrorism at home and abroad

Faringdon Peace Group members and visitors at their February meeting were left stunned by Dan Glazebrook's account of British involvement in terrorism in the Middle East.

This is grounded in the UK's long and dubious relationship with Saudi Arabia which began before the establishment of the Kingdom in 1932. We are now the country's leading weapons supplier. Saudi Arabia is the home of Wahabism, a sectarian branch of Sunni Islam which believes Islam has been weakened and distorted by the infiltration of impure elements. It seeks to exterminate these impurities to get back to the true Islam – an ideology it shares with Al Qaeda and ISIS.

A political writer and journalist, Dan claimed that so-called 'intelligence failures' concerning, for example, Iraq's nuclear weapons programme and British citizens successfully leaving the UK to join the fight in Syria, were in fact deliberate actions. The intelligence services fed the government the information it needed to go to war with Iraq and are well aware of the activities of British jihadis, some of whom are even recruited by MI6, and carry on with terrorist activities in MI6's full knowledge.

Dan suggested that the Arab Spring was predicted years in advance and we planned and succeeded in using it as a cover for regime change. Although Britain knew from the start that Al Qaeda was a key component of rebel groups in Libya and Syria, we still supported and equipped them in order to bring down their heads of state.

Our fear of Iran could explain our collusion in terrorism.

In 2006 George Bush included Iran in his 'axis of evil', but any direct attack on Iran, while it is home to the terrorist group Hezbollah, would likely initiate a Hezbollah attack on Israel, which is too high a price to pay. In that same year an agreement between Saudi Arabia and the US poured huge amounts of money into anti-Shia militias against Hezbollah, but failed to eliminate them. As Syria is the only Arab state ally of Iran, it has to be taken out before they can deal with Iran. When our costly interference in Iraq and Afghanistan failed to produce the client states we had hoped for, rather than risk the same in Iran we have chosen to support proxy forces and not use our own army. Turkey, a NATO member and a once neutral neighbour of Syria, has also facilitated ISIS activity in the region. Dan warned that Iran should not be reassured by recent rapprochement with the west, but instead must learn from Libya's experience, when a handshake between Tony Blair and Colonel Gaddafi was shortly followed by attacks.

When the Middle East borders were set there was a deliberate attempt to hinder the new states' prosperity by leaving them either with large areas and populations or with natural resources such as oil, but not both. Iraq had not discovered oil at the time, but when it did, with its water resources and good arable land it had all the ingredients to become successful and was consequently a threat which had to be dealt with. Strengthening Israel also helps to keep the Arab world divided and weakened.

Dan believes China and Russia, not Al Qaeda and ISIS, are perceived by the west as their real enemies.

In the Cold War, the US could offer protection to other states, but since the west's economic decline and the rise of the east, there is a fear that functional, powerful states would rather ally themselves to China or Russia. It is therefore in our interests to perpetuate the chaos of failing, dysfunctional states rather than allow successful ones to build powerful alliances against the west. As Tony Blair said, if we had wanted Iraqi oil we would have just bought it, not gone to war over it. But the war meant that Russia and particularly China could not get hold of it. It is possible that a proxy war between the west and Russia will be fought on Turkish soil.

It would have been easy to dismiss Dan's talk as conspiracy theory had it not been for his compelling evidence and a convincing but chilling logic to his world view.

All are welcome to Faringdon Peace Group meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30 in the Friends Meeting House, Lechlade Rd. Our March meeting, on the 100th anniversary of conscription, will be about conscientious objectors.

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