

## **Good Terrorists v. Bad Terrorists**

Well, the President of the United States finally yielded to political pressure, the public relations war and entreaties from his own party to take to the podium and speak to the American people during prime time. The President said that ISIL had to be defeated and hinted, if he did not say it directly, that we were at war with the extremist group. The President's look was hollow, but I am not an expert on facial expressions. Maybe he was upset. Maybe he did not play well in his last round of golf. I know how upset golfers can be when they have a bad outing.

All sarcasm aside, it is clear the President is troubled and is trying to put together a George Bush, I, style coalition to drive ISIL out of existence. The President recognizes that this transnational group presents a threat ultimately to the United States. No matter that we helped create this terrorist organization by our blunders in Iraq; now we have ISIL on our plate and we need to cut them up and get rid of them.

One component of the President's talk is what he did not say. There is no such thing as good terrorists and bad terrorists. The whole concept of terror is to destroy diverse democratic civilizations and bring the world back to the Middle Ages. Terrorist groups seek a day and age when women are chattel; children are instruments of war; one religion controls; and democracy becomes a dirty word relegated to ancient Greek times. Make no mistake about it, fundamentalist Arab terror is about the modern age versus The Middle Ages.

The President never mentioned other terrorist groups that may be even more dangerous than ISIL. The President did not mention Hamas, Hezbollah, Al Qaida, or many other despicable groups fighting in Syria. In fact, terrorist organizations are not relegated to the Muslim Arab world alone, although today they probably are the most dangerous. Anything less than a global war against terrorism in general will not be successful. ISIL may be crushed militarily, but like a multi-headed hydra they will arise in other places if the root cause of terrorism is not stamped out.

There is a certain comic relief to seeing the President gather around him the heads of 10 Arab countries, all of whom fund terrorism and pay for terror attacks

against their various enemies. Every one of the members of the Arab coalition are totalitarian rulers who run police states and do their best to destabilize the Western world. Every one of the Arab potentates who are part of the war against ISIL have done their best to strangle America through control over petroleum supplies. My father used to say, "Don't lay down with dogs or you'll wake up with fleas." Our coalition with the Arabs, while temporarily necessary, is dangerous. Each of these countries in a 10-nation coalition will expect something in return. They drive hard bargains. They will expect the United States to give up its credentials, its diversity, its democracy, and of course to hand over the Jews to the death squads created by Arab despots in the Middle East.

The real issue is whether the Western democracy should go it alone against ISIL or other terrorist groups, or whether they must form a coalition with Arab nations who basically hate us and our way of life. There are those who will say that we formed a coalition with Stalin, a monster in his own right, in order to defeat Hitler. That is quite true, and undoubtedly there are ways that we must work with the Arabs who seek our destruction in the Middle East. Our enemy in the terrorist ISIL and other terrorist groups is no doubt worse than the monarchs and dictators who rule our Middle Eastern allies, aside from Israel, of course. The President will need to be very careful about his coalition. He will need to be honest and clear that nothing should be expected in return, except the destruction of all terrorism. The price of the United States in essence leading the coalition, and thereby protecting the totalitarian Arab rulers, should be that they will not finance terrorism themselves. We must demand something in return if we are going to help the Arab rulers stay in power and fight off the terrorists rather than the other way around. It is the United States that must be getting something in return for taxpayer money, our high technology, drones, and airstrikes. If we do not get promises that countries like Saudi Arabia will stop funding terrorist schools, then we might as well not fight ISIL at all.

There is respectable opinion in the Middle East that we should do nothing, but rather let ISIL and the other terrorist groups fight each other and weaken the kingdoms in the Middle East that they seek to swallow up. Cynical, but some very wise souls, suggest that what is best for the West is for the Arabs to keep killing each other. It is a horrible thought to believe that such thinking should become national

policy. But, we have to ask ourselves: what is the alternative? If we strengthen 10, 15 or 20 Arab regimes, they will only make demands upon the United States and spend their money destabilizing the rest of the world as they have done in the past. The fact that we enlist 10 Arab countries to help us fight ISIL, will not change their philosophy or their ultimate goal, which is the defeat of the Judeo-Christian civilization.

If we are going to help the Arabs fight off their terrorist enemies, there must be something in it for America. These nations who have lately become our allies, must stop supporting terrorism themselves. Nothing less will do. Not one penny of taxpayer money should go to help dictators in Arab regimes stay in power unless their policy is going to be beneficial to the United States. We are not going to turn them into democracies, not now and not ever. What we can do, is to develop a network of intelligence and organizational structure that is no benefit to terrorists at all, whether that benefit comes from states that finance the terrorist organizations or any other source.

The United States has a historic opportunity, but it will be squandered if we simply decide to lay down with dogs, hoping not to get up with fleas.

There are no good terrorists versus bad terrorists. All terrorists are bad, and all financing of terrorists, whether by our allies or our enemies, is also bad.

The end is not in sight, and the end has not even begun; but the end is something we can achieve if we have clear goals and an understanding of what it is going to take to eliminate the terrorist threat to the Western world.

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