As American As Apple Pie

Anwar al-Awlaki’s Jihad Against the West
War on Islam: Concerns About Western Culture – Pre-9/11

“There is a global culture that is being forced down the throats of everyone on the face of the earth. This global culture is protected and promoted. Thomas Friedman, he is a famous writer in the US, he writes for the *New York Times*. He says, the hidden hand of the market cannot survive without the hidden fist. McDonald’s will never flourish without McDonnell Douglas- the designer of F15s [fighter jets].

In other words, we are not really dealing with a global culture that is benign or compassionate. This is a culture that gives you no choice. Either accept McDonald’s, otherwise McDonnell Douglas will send their F15s above your head. It is very intolerant culture, that cannot co exist with anything else. It uproots every other culture on the face of the earth. Just cuts the roots of it. And you have a quote here by [Russian historian] Alexander Solzhenitsyn...‘To destroy a people, you must sever their roots.’

So this is not a global culture that will co-exist with others, it will replace others. And the only ideology that is standing up to this global culture is Islam. But still, as Muslims and especially Muslims living in the West, we are suffering from a serious identity crisis.”
Solutions

• **Education**: “By having a strong study of Islamic history. Which is made up of the lives of Prophets of Allah...You develop an identity, by having an attachment with history. Because our history is our umbilical cord. This is our life line. We are an extension of an ummah.”

• **Fostering Global Consciousness**: “By being part of the world wide Muslim ummah. Our local identity should not override our Muslim identity. So my identification with Britain or America or Pakistan or Kuwait or any other country should not over ride my Islamic identity...We have our loyalty to Allah and to our religion. And we are part of a worldwide ummah. Therefore we need to study; we need to learn about our Muslim brothers all over the world. What happens in Palestine should concern every British Muslim...What happens in every part of the Muslim world, should concern me as if it is happening within my own house.”
Qaradawi Influence

• “They [Western Muslims] need to obtain the original Islamic references that explain Islam's creed, worships, morals and legislations in the languages of these minorities, so as to provide them with a proper source of knowledge. They particularly need the interpretation of the Holy Quran and a number of the approved and accepted hadith collections.”

• “If the Muslims living in Muslim countries are suffering persecution, injustice and oppression at the hands of rulers who are supposed to be Muslims, why should we expect no complaints from those Muslims living in non-Muslim countries and ruled by non-Muslims, be they Christians, Communists or Heathens?”
Early Qutbist Influence

“Jahiliyya is the ignorance of the Pre Islamic era. So jahiliyya is a time period but it is also conduct. Whenever you have a time that resembles the pre-Islamic era, it is called jahiliyya. And you will find that Sayyid Qutb uses this word a lot in reference to the times that we are living in. He says that there is a lot of resemblance between it and the early jahiliyya. So jahiliyya comes from the root word jahal, which is ignorance. So it is the time of ignorance. The absence of the message. Even if the message is there and the people are not following it, it is a jahiliyya.”
“We don’t have our priorities straight. We shouldn’t get into pitiful discussions and arguments about minor issues when the ummah is facing some serious problems.

Iraq is being choked to death....what are we doing for them? We should raise up the understanding of the ummah to a higher level, where we are dealing with issues that are facing us, the issues of the ummah. The Palestinian issue should be something that we are concerned about day and night. We should participate in and support this uprising [Second intifada] and let them know the American Muslims are with you.

These are priorities for us that we need to deal with...we need to get our priorities straight”
More Qaradawi Influence

• “By fiqh of priorities, we mean putting everything in true perspective; no prominent issue should be postponed, and no minor issue should be given prominence; no big matter should be underestimated, and no small matter should be exaggerated.”

• “Muslims now are in need of understanding what Muslim scholars call as fiqh al-awlawiyyat or discernment of priorities, which requires Muslims to concern themselves with the fundamental issues and disregard trivialities.”
‘Blood of a Gnat’

• Referring to a story where a delegation of Iraqis from Kufa visit Mecca for the *hajj* and ask Abdallah ibn Umar if their prayers will be spoiled were they to kill a mosquito, Awlaki notes his response: “You kill the grandson of Hussein bin Ali, and now you are asking about killing mosquitoes?”

• Similarly, in his 1990 treatise, *Priorities of the Islamic Movement in the Coming Phase*, Qaradawi writes: “It is a pity that we ask for instance about the blood of a gnat, and do not care about the shedding of al-Hussein's blood.”
Rejection of AQ Violence to Spread Islam - 2002

“The wisdom comes in on how the package is delivered. Rather than using a hammer to knock on the door and then throwing the package into the face of the person who opens the door, the door should be knocked on politely and the package delivered in a polite manner.”
Western War on Islam – 2002

“This is not now a war on terrorism. We need to all be clear about this. This is a war against Muslims. It is a war against Muslims and Islam. Not only is this happening worldwide but it is happening right here, in America, that is claiming to be fighting this war for the sake of freedom, while it is infringing on the freedom of its own citizens, just because they are Muslims.

Maybe the next day the Congress will pass a bill about Islam that it is illegal in America. Don’t think that this is a strange thing to happen; anything is probable in the world of today, because there are no rights unless there’s a struggle for those rights, and the history of America is that sense is very clear. African Americans in this country had to go through a struggle; their rights were not handed to them...that’s how slavery ended, and the struggle has to continue...”

“They [the unbelievers] want to extinguish the light of Allah” Koran 61:8
Solutions and Suggested Action

• “[the Operation Green Quest raid] was an attack on everyone of us, this attack was on the Muslim community and all of us are harmed, we are all part of this, therefore we need to forget about our differences, put them aside, and stand united...if today this happened to these organisations, tomorrow you’re going to be next.”

• “You are all urged to stand together and be tuned to what the Islamic organisations are going to be calling for – the Islamic groups in the area with political orientation...are working on this case. It is time for you to step up and support these organisations.”
Stop Police Terror – 2003

“The three black cows thought that they would be safe if they hand over this white cow, this white cow was outspoken, it was causing a lot of trouble, it was being accused of being a terrorist, so let it go, we don’t want anything to do with him. Let him go to jail. But the thing is they don’t realise that it will come to you next, you will be next in line.

If you are to protect yourselves you need to stop that, you need to stop such things from happening because as soon as you allow one Muslim to be taken, Allah does not help you anymore. You lose the assistance of Allah.”
“We are not talking now about things that are happening in Iraq or Palestine, or somewhere else. In your own city, and in this country, many Muslims have been arrested. You know, when you talk about Guantanamo Bay and all that stuff, there is a Guantanamo Bay in this country. There are 524 Muslims who are arrested under the new laws and only two of them have been charged. You have over 520 Muslims who are locked up in jail and are left to rot in there, and there is no crime, they have not committed anything, there are no charges brought against them. And they are left there for months on end to just rot in those prison cells.”
Solutions

• Loyalty and Love Only for Muslims:

If you have love of the Muslims you will be with the Muslims on the day of judgement. If you have love for the *kuffar* [non-Muslims] you will be with the *kuffar* on the day of judgement, that’s how it works. That’s the justice of Allah; somebody who loved the Muslims will be with the Muslims and will follow them wherever they go.

• Non compliance with CT authorities: ‘You don’t hand over a Muslim to the enemies of Allah.’ Backed up with quotes from Sahih Bukhari Hadith 3.622:

A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim, he does not oppress him, he does not hand him over.
Life of Umar: Creating Distrust and Hatred of Non-Muslims in the West

“Brothers and sisters, there is a very important lesson to learn here...Umar told Ayaash, don’t believe them, they want to deceive you. The important lesson to learn here is never, ever trust the kuffar. Do not trust them.”
Resonance

“Now you might argue and say ‘but my neighbour is such a nice person, my classmates are very nice, my co-workers, they’re just fabulous people, they’re so decent and honest...’

You know, these nice neighbours, wonderful co-workers and friends, all that it needed was for [former Yugoslav President] Milosevic to tell them the Muslims are evil people, all that was needed, and they pounced on the Muslims like wild beasts. This is in 20th century Europe.

So in Bosnia, that’s what happened, they were very nice, I mean a brother was telling me, ‘they used to date our women, they used to be very close to us, neighbour to neighbour, very close.’ But then Milosevic tricked them, bringing up these false legends of history and these nationalistic songs and all that. It inspired the people and they turned against the Muslims. They were so gullible and naïve that all it took were a few nationalistic songs and a few events in history that were fabricated and not true and they just attacked the Muslims, that’s how easy it was to deceive these masses who were otherwise before that very decent and honest and nice people.”
The West’s Urayyree – 2005

“[Urayyree displays] knowledge of the text and also knowledge of present day, and that is what is needed by the Mufti, by the scholar, it’s to be able to use the text and apply it to our present day.”
Violent Jihad as a Pillar of Islam

Allah says, ‘Fighting has been prescribed upon you and you dislike it, but it is possible that you dislike a thing which is good for you and you love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knows and you know not [Koran 2:216]’ This ayah [verse] says that fighting is prescribed upon you, so it is a fard [obligation], it’s an instruction from Allah.

They [jihad and fasting] are both in Surah al Baqarah. Fighting is prescribed upon you and fasting is prescribed upon you; so how come we are treating them differently?
Making the War on Islam a Reality

**Religious:** The West’s actions against jihad (and therefore Islam and Muslims as a whole) are themselves religiously motivated:

you can find that the Christians and the Jews are using religion to justify what they are doing...a lot of the interference that is happening in the Middle East today is done in the name of the second return of Christ...it is interesting to see at a very very high level in American politics...For example, [Palestinian Authority head] Abu Mazen, he said that he had a meeting with [President George W.] Bush and that Bush told him that God has instructed him to invade Afghanistan.

And the Jews are now trying to destroy the Maasjid al-Aqsa [al-Aqsa Mosque].

**Political:** The Americans, NATO, the EU and others are developing and discussing strategies to fight jihad, and therefore they are all “united in fighting Islam’’

Diplomacy around the world now is revolving around a central idea, and that’s fighting Islamic terrorism.

On the political level...every single government in the world is in line to fight Islam.

**Media:** The Western media is part of this conspiracy, and works tirelessly towards defaming and distorting the image of Islam and its Prophet:

We find that the media is doing an excellent job in deceiving the people, the masses, to what Islam really is
Internal Obstacles to Jihad

“A lot of people and a lot of jamā’a [Islamic groups], say that before jihad fi-sabi-lillah, there must be tarbiyah...they say the following: ‘tarbiyah is a prerequisite of jihad. So without tarbiyah you cannot make jihad.’ They don’t say that it is something that is needed, they don’t say that it is something good to have, they say that you cannot fight jihad without tarbiyah.

Is there justification for delaying jihad fi-sabi-lillah? To answer this question, let me ask you another question: If somebody starts practicing Islam or somebody reverts to Islam; would you tell them that you would have to have tarbiyah before you start fasting?...Nobody would say that, it’s a joke. So what’s the difference? Why do we say that about jihad fi-sabi-lillah?...they are both in Sura al-Baqarah: ‘fighting is proscribed upon you and fasting is proscribed upon you’. So how come we are treating them differently?”
Lifting Impediments to Jihad

“when somebody would embrace Islam, would *Rusool* [Mohammed] tell them that ‘you have to go and study under the *Shuyookh* (Sheikhs), and then after that you can fight *fi-sabi-lillah’?”
al-Taifatul Mansura: Defining the ‘Righteous’ Muslims

“In lectures, brothers and sisters will often ask the question...‘oh Sheikh, there are so many Islamic groups today, tell us which one to join.’...It seems to be a very confusing issue on the youth. They don’t know which jama’a [group] to join.

The issue shouldn’t be confusing at all, because this is the religion of Allah, and Allah has made it clear. If we look in the right place, we will find the answer. Rasool Allah [Mohammed] has told us in hadith that there is a taifa [group or sect], there is a victorious group called al-Taifatul Mansura...He told us what the qualities of this victorious group are. If we look at these characteristics it will be as clear as the sun at noon, you will know which jama’a fits these qualities.”
al-Taifatul Mansura: Defining the ‘Righteous’ Muslims

• ‘They are humble towards the believers’:
  ...this means they are concerned with the believers, they love the believers..they follow the news about what is happening to the believers around the world...they feel that a Muslim in the East is my brother...and if that Muslim in the East is killed, it is my responsibility to defend him.

• ‘They are stern towards the disbelievers’:
  ‘who are the ones who are harsh against al-kufaar? Who are the ones who are willing to stand up against the oppression of the kufaar? Who are the ones who are willing to terrorise the kuffar?’

  [Refers to Koran 8:60: ‘Against them [the disbelievers] make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts of) the enemies’]

• ‘They fight in the path of Allah’:
  take your torchlight and look around the world [at]who are the people who are fighting fi-sabi-lillah, is that too difficult to do?..It’s on the news, so how come this issue is so confusing? Who are the people who are fighting jihad fi-sabi-lillah?...So why should it be confusing to you brothers and sisters [to determine] who are the ones who are al-Taifatul Mansura, who are the ones who are the right jama’a to join. It shouldn’t be confusing at all.
Motivation to Join Global Jihad

• Victory Ordained by Allah

• 2003 Leaked Rumsfeld Memo

• Best way to gain the pleasure of Allah:

  “I just wanted to mention one thing regarding what I said about the qualities of the righteous group which you should join: I think after mentioning these qualities, it’s very clear who are the people who carry these qualities. And since they carry these qualities, they would also carry the other two qualities, which is, Allah loves them and they love Allah. Now, a lot of people would want to be loved by Allah, and a lot of Muslims want to develop a love of Allah, and they’re looking for the magic pill that they could swallow, and suddenly they would love Allah....If you want Allah to love you and you want to love Allah, then this [joining al-Taifatul Mansura] is how to do it, this is how Allah will love you.”
Global Jihad a Movement Not an Organisation

- Argument based on Koran 3:144:

  Muhammad is no more than a messenger, messengers (the like of whom) have passed away before him. If he dies or is killed, will you then turn back on your heels as disbelievers? And he who turns back on his heels, not the least harm will he do to Allah.
Borderless Jihad: Justifying Violence in the West

“Jihad is global. Jihad is not a local phenomenon. Jihad is not stopped by borders or barriers... Jihad does not recognize borders that were drawn by some colonial countries in the past, that are drawn by a ruler on a map and then Muslims are supposed to abide by them.

People will say that to fight the Israelis you have to go to Filistine [Palestine] and fight them, but it is not allowed for you to target them anywhere else on the face of the earth. Now this is absolutely false, it doesn’t stand on any Shariah foundation. Who said that if a particular people are in a state of war with you that this war needs to be limited to the piece of land that they occupied? If a particular nation or people are classified as ahlul harb [people of war] in the Sharia, then that applies to them on the whole earth”

• Justification taken from early Islamic History:

“The Muslims started out in Mecca, and they left Mecca [due to the persecution of the Quraish], and they didn’t say that since Mecca is the Holy Land then we have to fight in the Holy Land and we cannot fight except from that place, no, Rasool [Mohammed] left from Mecca and he established a base in Medina and started fighting jihad from Medina.”
Danger of Customising Islam

“Mohammed did not customize Islam based on his location, no, he customized the location based on Islam”

• Solution: Fight Jihad or Flee to Sharia-run state

“This [the example of the Prophet] is contrary to the logic of many [Western] Muslims today. Many Muslims today, they say that, since we are living in the West, we have to customise an Islam that is suitable for the West. No, that’s not how you should practice Islam – if you feel that Islam needs to be customised for a particular area, that means you need to make hijra from it, and go and find a place where...you can live Islam in its entirety.”
RAND Islam - 2008

• Support for Democracy
• Acceptance of non-sectarian law
• Respect for rights of women and religious minorities
• Opposition to terrorism and illegitimate violence

Awlaki’s Response:

“So from what you see, a moderate Muslim to them, is in reality a non-Muslim! Because according to these four definitions, the definitions that they gave, this is *Kufr* this is not Islam! So from now on, I am not going to call it a moderate Muslim but I think a more appropriate term would be a ‘RAND Muslim.’”

The US is trying to change Islam itself! Without any shame, they are openly stating that we have a desire not only to influence the Muslim societies but we want to change the religion itself!”
The Dust will Never Settle Down - 2008

What is the ruling of Shariah on such incidents [insulting the Prophet] and how did the Sahaba deal with such people and what do our scholars say about them?

“let’s go back [to the time of the Prophet and Sahaba] and see how things were then...that is the way we should follow, the way of the Sahaba.”

• Story of Ka’ab ibn al-Ashraaf and Muhammad ibn Maslama, a follower who was sent to kill him:

“How concerned are you? How concerned are we when it comes to the honour of Rasool [Mohammed], when it comes to the honour of Islam, when it comes to the book of Allah? How serious do we take it?...We want the spirit of the Sahaba.”
Blog – 2008-2010

“our [rightly-guided Muslims] position is that we will implement the rule of Allah on earth by the tip of the sword whether the masses like it or not.”

Compare with previous package delivery metaphor from 2002

• Jihad as a Clauswitzian Total War:

  “Jihad here is not just picking up a gun and fighting. Jihad is broader than that. What is meant by jihad in this context is a total effort by the ummah to fight and defeat its enemy. Rasulullah [Mohammed] says: ‘Fight the disbelievers with yourself, your wealth and your tongues.; It is what Clausewitz would refer to as ‘total war’ but with the Islamic rules of engagement. It is a battle in the battlefield and a battle for the hearts and minds of the people.”
A Call to Jihad - 2010

• Hijrah or Jihad:

“To the Muslims in America I have this to say: How can your conscience allow you to live in peaceful co-existence with the nation that is responsible for the tyranny and crimes committed against your own brothers and sisters? How can you have your loyalty to a government that is leading the war against Islam and Muslims”

• History of Minorities in America:

“Muslims of the West, take heed and learn from the lessons of history: There are ominous clouds gathering in your horizon. Yesterday, America was a land of slavery, segregation, lynching, and [the] Ku Klux Klan, and tomorrow it will be a land of religious discrimination and concentration camps ... the war between Muslims and the West is escalating.”
Western Jihad is Here to Stay - 2010

“In such an inhospitable environment, Jihad is flourishing...The Jihad movement has not only survived but is expanding. Isn’t it ironic that the two capitals of the war against Islam, Washington D.C. and London have also become the centres of Western Jihad? Jihad is becoming as American as apple pie and as British as afternoon tea.”

Refers to:

• Coleen LaRose (‘Jihad Jane’)
• Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab
• Mohammed Geele
Faisal Shahzad

“One of the most prominent things in Islam...when I came to it, is jihad. People do prayer, they...give zakat [obligatory charitable donations], they do fasting, they go to Hajj, but they follow part of it [Islam], but they don’t follow the other part of it, which is fighting in the cause of Allah.

I don’t understand why people follow one of the commandments, but they don’t follow the other commandment...they are equally important.”

Refers to Koran 2: 216 and 183 – same used by Awlaki in Constants
Roshonara Choudhry

- Awlaki’s work clarified for her the “obligation to defend the people of Iraq and to fight on their side” and showed how “I should have loyalty to my Muslim brothers and sisters in Palestine.”

- **Inspire:**
  “Through her actions, she proved to the world the power of a borderless loyalty: Islam. The ummah, and specifically its mujahidin, are waiting to see more people of her caliber. We say to the kuffar: the borderless loyalty is a religious sentiment of the people in your midst. As long as the Muslims remain in your focus, you will remain in ours. No matter the security precautions you may take, you cannot kill a borderless idea.”

- Claimed to have been decided to act when she began to “learn more about Islam” – appears to fit mould of ‘religious seeker’, main target for Awlaki
Rajib Karim

• *Hijrah or Jihad:*

“Dear shaykh...I always write to my brother saying how depressed I am living in Britain and how I hate myself for not making *hijrah* and also not being able to do anything here...from the moment I entered this country my *niyah* [intention] was to do something for the *deen* [religion], it was not to make a living here and start enjoying life in this country.

As month after month and then slowly years went by without anything happening and also not being able to have any concrete plans to do anything here, my iman [faith] was getting affected. I started feeling like a real *munafiq* [hypocrite]. It has been three years that I have been living here away from the company of good brothers and spending a good part of my working day with the *kuffar* [infidels].”