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Letters to the Editor

From: Jean Klaimepenser <jklaimepenser@undisclosed.com>
To: Nick Gardiner <enpg@thepassypress.com>
Sent: December 26, 2016 at 7:28 PM
Subject: Robert Hardy Essay, December 2016

Dear Sir,

I examined Robert Hardy's deliberations with great interest. To me, he seems to be a better analyst of history than a strategist of war policy. Indeed, the proposed plan appears very weak compared to the stated implicit objective of "Wanted: Dead!" even if it refers explicitly to a death warrant for members of al Qaeda by the Islamic State.

Over the last 30 years, Americans and Europeans alike have proved themselves to be remarkably bad in their choices of alliance and support among the Islamic tribes and nations. I doubt this will improve if one keeps on wanting to preach political correctness and democracy... unless President Trump???

In contrast and in fact, positioning ourselves on ideological grounds appears to me to be the only way we could envision victory and peace in a future that may be remote. The best defense often being to attack, we must prepare and launch a full ideological war of "bombarding" Islamist weak links with "ideas and ideals" without worrying about shaking up moderate Islam.

Although Allah is obviously off-limits due to his Godly nature, he could after all coexist with his great counterparts easily. Conversely, the Sunni Koran, which is falsely put forth as divine and sacred text, may in time engender bursts of criticism that will end up weakening the Islamists, especially if moderate Islam pays attention to the criticisms raised.

The Sunni Koran is merely a man's work dictated by a military chief wanting to empower himself with a godlike essence and thereby facilitate recruiting those who would strengthen and increase his power by means of jihad. That work is heavily influenced by its period, and certain chapters are unreadable and incompatible with today's perceived human rights (slavery, male-female equality, jihad...). There is no doubt that, if Allah were stripped of his seventh century costume, he would gain much in credibility and appeal.

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It's interesting to note that the position of certain religious Shiites is as ambiguous as that of the Sunni Wahhabis who claim they are not subsidizing the extremist Koranic schools. For the Shiites, since God's Word will only be known at the end of time, the Koran is not the sacred word. Therefore, it is just an interpretation all the faithful can adopt partially alongside the (unwritten?) Shiite laws. Consequently, some Shiite imams relied on the "Sharia" to overthrow the Shah of Iran and replace him with a religious power already in place.

Sincerely,

Jean Klaimepenser

Jean Klaimepenser is a French executive who has lived in Paris, New York and Argentina. He is married with one son and two granddaughters.