

The Passy Press[®]

Letters to the Editor

From: John MacMurray <johncurtismacmurray@undisclosed.com>
To: Nick Gardiner <enpg@thepassypress.com>
Sent: January 9, 2017 at 1:12 PM GMT+1
Subject: Robert Hardy Essay, December 2016

Dear Sir,

I liked Robert Hardy's article on radical Islam in good part for the preview information, which was a hard reminder of the Rubic Cube complexity of the matter.

The general attitude of the piece itself in seeing the Middle Eastern players for what they are, and in its recommendations of how our foreign policy should recognize that in our own interest, is excellent.

I also credit some of Hardy's suggestions, especially as they address the heart and mind.

However, I cannot accept as feasible the idea that ISIS can be turned against Iran with effect, and especially if a condition for promoting that would be to go softly on ISIS.

Who would dispute that ISIS is an immediate and serious (if not a mortal) threat to our interests and people, and I would extend that to include the interests and people of Western European countries . Indeed, you can extend that fairly to the Muslim populations under ISIS control, who suffer most.

An immediate threat requires an immediate response. I would deal in the short run with ISIS the same way Alexander the Great dealt with Thebes, while using Sunni/Saudi money and attitude to inhibit Iran's ambitions in the long run----thus adopting a military/diplomatic pincers.

Sincerely,

John MacMurray

John MacMurray is a retired lawyer, and a graduate of Princeton University and Columbia Law School. He has worked as a teacher, served on supervising boards of several schools and is a member of the advisory board of Legal Outreach, New York, NY. He resides in East Chatham, NY.