

# The Anatomy of Muslim Radicalism

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Political Islam: The New Cold War*

# Introduction

Growing up in India; **getting exposed to Islam**; coming to America in 1984

Obtaining doctorate in nuclear physics in 1992; in the mid-1990s, realizing the **lack of knowhow** of the Islamist threat India faces

Publishing of the book *Defeating Political Islam* in 2009

Developing a **theory of Muslim radicalism** in 2010

# What is so Different About Islam?

Preponderance of terrorism conducted in the name of Islam – **including the 9/11 attacks**

Fort Hood massacre in the name of Islam

Hatred of Israel and Jews among non-Arabic-speaking Muslim nations

Insurgencies mounted by Muslim minorities in India, Russia, Philippines, Thailand, etc.

# My Experience – in South Asia

From *Every* Muslim-Majority Region:

Pakistan  
Bangladesh  
Kashmir



**Non-Muslims**

India



My book gives a fascinating account of *modern* Muslim conquest in South Asia

# Modern Muslim Conquest of South Asia

## Non-Muslim – Muslim population percentages

Region	Pre-1947	Post-1947
Pakistan	> 20%	< 2%
Bangladesh	> 30%	< 10%
Kashmir	> 15%	< 1%
India (Muslim)	> 10%	> 15%

Over 800 externally-supported terror cells operating within India (**presumably in Muslim communities**) – according to India's *National Security Advisor*, 2007

# Any Pattern?

Muslim radicalism appears to be a standout phenomenon

Yet, “A decade after September 11<sup>th</sup>, America *still* does not fully understand the nature of the enemy”

– Sebastian Gorka of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, at a House Hearing in June 2011

Lots and lots of opinions on the causes of Islam-inspired terrorism. But...

Where is the *science* of Muslim radicalism?

# The *Need* for developing the Science of Muslim Radicalism

Robust policies are driven by science

Policies driven by opinions lead to quagmires

(Examples: American troop deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan; America's policies toward the Muslim world)

Science is the most credible and widely embraced platform for describing nature's phenomena

# New Scholarship

What is missing or deficient in the present scholarship?

A study of the contrasting evolution of Pakistan and India  
(In 1947, when British-ruled India was partitioned into two nations — Pakistan and India)

— where culture, history, cuisine, language, geography and ethnicity are **shared**, but not the **majority religions**



# Pakistan Vs. India

Pakistan	India
Radicalized	Moderate
Economy in trouble	Growing economy
432 PhDs in 2007	14,000 PhDs in 2007
1,072 book titles in 2004	82,537 book titles in 2004

Until the year 2000 — 53 years after its birth — Pakistan produced about **10** times more doctorates in **Islamic studies** for *every* doctorate in the fields of **engineering and technology combined**

# What are *Sharia* and *Jihad*

*Sharia* – a “law,” or more broadly, a code-of-conduct based upon an interpretation of Islam

*Sharia* is very subjective and varies widely in scope

*Sharia* represents the customs and traditions of medieval Arab tribes

*Sharia* and *jihad* constitute the backbone of political Islam; their legitimacy is derived from Islam’s holy book, the Koran

Inner *Jihad* – improving oneself/community/spirituality

External *Jihad* (religious/holy war) – armed jihad directed at non-Muslims (offensive/defensive)

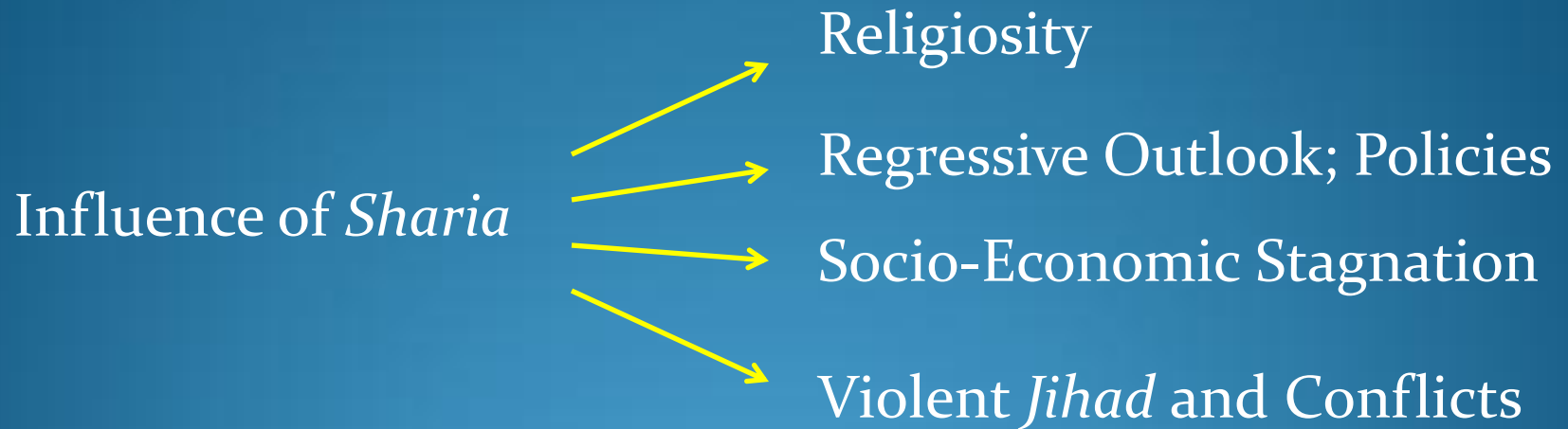
# How *Sharia* has Influenced Pakistan

*Sharia* is codified mostly in the arena of civil law

Injunctions are delivered by clerics based upon *sharia* telling Muslims how to live their lives (code-of-conduct) – as a result, clerics have become influential and powerful

*Sharia*'s platform has empowered a subset of radical clerics who favor armed *jihad* or holy war

# *Sharia's* Long-Term Influence on Pakistan



**Clueless on *Sharia*:** *Sharia* courts in Britain; *sharia*-compliant financial schemes in America; enabling the election of *sharia*-favoring regimes in North Africa

# *Sharia's* Popularity in Pakistan

2010 *Pew Global Attitudes* poll in Pakistan: 82% of those surveyed were in favor of *sharia*-driven penalties such as stoning those who had committed adultery

(This poll also showed that 82% of those surveyed said the same in Egypt)

# How Armed *Jihad* has Influenced Pakistan

Pakistan sponsors armed *jihad* against India

Pakistan sponsors armed *jihad* against Afghanistan

Pakistan **at the very least**, tolerates Al Qaeda – a *jihadist* group

As a result:

Pakistan has focused less on development

# *Sharia-Jihad's* Influence on Pakistan

Conventional wisdom: “There is an ongoing debate about whether extremism in Pakistan is a product of years of **state-sponsored militancy** or whether it is a contemporary response to flawed **Pakistani** and **American policies**”

But, why did Pakistan do the above, unlike India?

In fact, Pakistan's descent into radicalism can *only* be explained on the basis of **religion** – in terms of the overarching role played by **sharia** and **armed jihad**

# Influence of *Sharia* and *Jihad* on Muslims in Britain

In Britain, only Islam-based root causes — **the influence of *sharia* and *jihad*** — can explain the radicalization of Muslims of Pakistani origin compared to Hindus of Indian origin

British prisons contain approximately 20 times more Muslims than Hindus (in 2002, 5,379 Muslim men versus 256 Hindu men were incarcerated throughout Britain)



# How were the British Muslims Influenced

Since late 1970s, Saudi Arabia has spent billions to finance some 1,350 new mosques, 210 Islamic centers, and hundreds of universities in Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Africa in order to spread *Wahhabism* — a version of Islam that emphasizes *sharia* and armed *jihad*

A survey found that 40 percent of British Muslims between the ages of 16 and 24 would prefer to be governed by *sharia* laws, compared to only 17 percent of the Muslims aged 55 years and above

# Theory of Muslim Radicalism

**A New Theory of Muslim Radicalism:** Popularization or propagation of *sharia* and *jihad* in Muslim communities leads to backwardness and violent extremism in those communities – **not taking the entire religion to task!**

**Prime Minister Netanyahu:** The *Arab Spring* is turning into an “Islamic, anti-Western, anti-liberal, anti-Israeli, undemocratic wave” – **he is right!**

Netanyahu should know *sharia's* influence on Pakistan; so should President Obama and our Congress, and you

# The Need to Think Differently

Reality: Development or democratization opportunities didn't help Pakistan or Muslims of Pakistani origin in Britain

Therefore, move away from “(economic) development first” or “democracy first” policies to those seeking to “undercut the influence of *sharia* and *jihad* first”

However, the Western establishments are doing **exactly the opposite** until now in **Pakistan, Egypt, Tunisia, etc**

# Influencing Educated Muslims

Radicalism and violence in Muslim communities are due to the clerical propagation of *sharia* and *jihad*

(Some) Educated Muslims are the enablers of radicalism and terrorism

But, they are also susceptible to **science-based**, “commonsense” arguments

# Yemeni Koran (Sana'a Fragments)

As noted before, the legitimacy of both *sharia* and *jihad* are derived from the notion of the Koran as the **literal Word of God, unaltered at all times**

However, there are subtle differences between the Sana'a fragments' version and the modern Koran

Scientific evidence points to an **evolutionary history** of the Koran

Therefore, **scientific evidence** strongly suggests that the Koran can't be taken literally

# Defeating Political Islam: The New Cold War

Due to religious censorship in Muslim nations, Western nations should act as a catalyst to weaken the influence of *sharia* and *jihad*

That is, we, the non-Muslims, have to mount a war of ideas, much like the old **Cold War** with the former *Soviet Union*

# Countering *Sharia* in America

*Anti-sharia* legislations in Tennessee and Oklahoma

Community mobilizing by organizations such as *ACT! for America*

# Conclusion

Muslim radicalism is due to the propagation of *sharia* and *jihad* and not due to Israel, America, poverty, history, geography or **lack of democracy**. Period!

Muslim radicalism, is, instead, mostly due to Saudi Arabia's propagation of *sharia-jihad-intensive* **Wahhabism**

**A positive implication:** the above theory can form the basis for comprehensively neutralizing Islamic radicalism

Understand that developing the **science of Muslim radicalism** is a must, if we are to survive and win this war



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