

Islam Through the Years

How has this teaching of “jihad” been carried out? Following is just a partial historical and archival information on the “fruits of Islam”:

The Reality

Violence among Muslims is nothing new. Beginning with Mohammed, it has been a part of its history up until the present. Just one example of “jihad” from the prophet himself, during an actual battle in which he personally was involved, he believed that the Jewish tribe “Bani Qurayza” had helped his enemies. Although it was never proven, Mohammed refused to forgive them. The Muslims in effect surrounded and besieged them. The Jewish tribe offered to surrender, give them all of their possessions, and leave the area; Mohammed refused. Instead, under Mohammed’s direction the Muslims dug trenches in Medina, beheaded the men (almost 900 of them), buried the bodies, sold the women and children into slavery, and divided their possessions among themselves.¹

This is reflective of what has been Islamic practice ever since and on down to the present. *Behind the Veil* published by the Christian ministry Voice of the Martyrs quoting from *The Book of the Islamic State* by Taqiy al-Din al-Nabbahan states that the Islamic mission is to conduct holy wars to spread their faith.² “The Islamic system is a universal system, thus it was natural that it would spread, and natural that countries would be conquered.” This principle is not repudiated by any Islamic scholar. Then they go on to narrate a history of conquest:³

- The Battle for Ayn al-Tamr in Iraq, Khalid Ibn al-Walid mercilessly killed all of the inhabitants because they refused to embrace Islam.
- Then Khalid attacked the town of Qinnasrin which belonged to the Byzantine empire. The people asked for a treaty; Khalid refused. When the people surrendered, he killed all of them.
- When the Muslims invaded Persia, the Persian general Rustan asked, “When you were poor, we used to provide you with plenty of food. Why do you invade us now?”

History bears out that they have tried faithfully to carry out that mandate.

Milestones in the Spread of Islam

+ Alexandria was known as one of the greatest intellectual and cultural centers of the Roman Empire because of the palaces of the Ptolemies, museum, famed library, and its intellectual population of Greeks, Jews, and Egyptians. In 641 A.D. it was taken by the Arabs, who destroyed the magnificent museum, and burned its library with all of its valuable books, manuscripts, and records.⁴

+ After having conquered the Arabic peninsula after Mohammed’s death, in the name of Islam they killed millions of people and spread their beliefs to: Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Libya, northern Africa, and invaded Spain which they occupied for over a hundred years. In the East they advanced as far as the borders of China. They were invading Europe in a thrust along the Western flanks thru Spain and into France but were stopped at the Battle of Tours by forces led by Charles Martel.⁵

+ On the Eastern flank the seemingly unstoppable Muslim forces made it as far as Vienna, Austria which they surrounded and laid siege to. The combined European forces marched against them and broke the siege through the combined efforts of the German infantry fighting in coordination with the Polish cavalry. If they had not succeeded, the Muslims would have swept into the heart of Europe across the much more negotiable land route (as opposed to the Straights of Gibraltar in the West) and conquered it.

+ Thomas Jefferson and the Muslims. Jefferson believed wisdom could be “gleaned” from the Muslim Quran. At the time he owned the book, he needed to know everything possible about Muslims because he was about to advocate war against the Islamic “Barbary” states of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Tripoli.

Muslim pirate slavers over many centuries had enslaved millions of Africans and tens of thousands of Christian Europeans and Americans in the Islamic “Barbary” states. Over the course of 10 centuries, Muslim pirates had cruised the African and Mediterranean coastline, pillaging villages and seizing slaves. The taking of slaves in pre-dawn raids on unsuspecting coastal villages had a high casualty rate. It was typical of Muslim raiders to kill off as

many of the “non-Muslim” older men and women as possible so the preferred “booty” of only young women and children could be collected.

Young non-Muslim women were targeted because of their value as concubines in Islamic markets. Islamic law provides for the sexual interests of Muslim men by allowing them to take as many as four wives at one time and as many concubines as their fortunes allow.

Boys, as young as 9 or 10 years old, were often mutilated to create eunuchs who would bring higher prices in the slave markets of the Middle East. Muslim slave traders created “eunuch stations” along major African slave routes so the necessary surgery could be performed. It was estimated that only a small number of the boys subjected to the mutilation survived after the surgery.

When American colonists rebelled against British rule in 1776, American merchant ships lost Royal Navy protection. With no American Navy for protection, American ships were attacked and their Christian crews enslaved by Muslim pirates operating under the control of the “Dey of Algiers”--an Islamist warlord ruling Algeria.

Because American commerce in the Mediterranean was being destroyed by the pirates, the Continental Congress agreed in 1784 to negotiate treaties with the four Barbary States. Congress appointed a special commission consisting of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, to oversee the negotiations.

Lacking the ability to protect its merchant ships in the Mediterranean, the new America government tried to appease the Muslim slavers by agreeing to pay tribute and ransoms in order to retrieve seized American ships and buy the freedom of enslaved sailors.

Adams argued in favor of paying tribute as the cheapest way to get American commerce in the Mediterranean moving again. Jefferson was opposed. He believed there would be no end to the demands for tribute and wanted matters settled “through the medium of war.” He proposed a league of trading nations to force an end to Muslim piracy.

In 1786, Jefferson, then the American ambassador to France, and Adams, then the American ambassador to Britain, met in London with Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja, the “Dey of Algiers” ambassador to Britain. The Americans wanted to negotiate a peace treaty based on Congress’ vote to appease. During the meeting Jefferson and Adams asked the Dey’s ambassador why Muslims held so much hostility towards America, a nation with which they had no previous contacts.

In a later meeting with the American Congress, the two future presidents reported that Ambassador Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja had answered that Islam “was founded on the Laws of their Prophet , that it was written in their Quran, that all nations who should not have acknowledged their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as Prisoners, and that every Musselman (Muslim) who should be slain in Battle was sure to go to Paradise.”

For the following 15 years, the American government paid the Muslims millions of dollars for the safe passage of American ships or the return of American hostages. The payments in ransom and tribute amounted to 20 percent of United States government annual revenues in 1800.

Not long after Jefferson’s inauguration as president in 1801, he dispatched a group of frigates to defend American interests in the Mediterranean, and informed Congress. Declaring that America was going to spend “millions for defense but not one cent for tribute,” Jefferson pressed the issue by deploying American Marines and many of America’s best warships to the Muslim Barbary Coast. The USS Constitution, USS Constellation, USS Philadelphia, USS Chesapeake, USS Argus, USS Syren and USS Intrepid all saw action. In 1805, American Marines marched across the desert from Egypt into Tripolitania, forcing the surrender of Tripoli and the freeing of all American slaves.

During the Jefferson administration, the Muslim Barbary States, crumbling as a result of intense American naval bombardment and on shore raids by Marines, finally officially agreed to abandon slavery and piracy. Jefferson’s victory over the Muslims lives on today in the Marine Hymn, with the line, “From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, we will fight our country’s battles on the land as on the sea.”

It wasn’t until 1815 that the problem was fully settled by the total defeat of all the Muslim slave trading pirates. Jefferson had been right. The “medium of war” was the only way to put and end to the Muslim problem.

+ The Muslim pirate slave traders who over many centuries enslaved millions of Africans were a chief source of slaves that were sold in the United States. Dr. David Livingstone operating in Central Africa worked to abolish the slave trade. Fearing his influence, the Arabic slave traders cut off his communication to the outside world for two years. It was then that an American publisher sent one of his men with the instructions to “spare no expense” to find

out what had happened to Livingstone. When the explorer had found him, he remarked, “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?”

+ During the period from 1890-1914 – the atrocities of the Islamic guerrillas in the Philippines against the population were rampant and needed to be stopped. On one occasion, then-Colonel John J. (“Black Jack”) Pershing took six of these Muslim guerrillas that his men had captured and had them each dig a grave. He then had his men tie each of the six to a stake in front of the hole he had just dug. His men then shot five of the men; put a body into each of the graves; butchered a pig and dumped the entrails and remains of the pig over each of the five bodies; and covered them up. He then had his men release the sixth guerrilla, who had witnessed everything that had happened. This lone survivor fled into the jungle and told his fellow guerrillas what had happened. The terrorism in Pershing’s sector virtually disappeared overnight.

+ During the 1800s and early 1900s the persecution of Islamic raiders of “jihad” against Armenians in Europe resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children; many of the few survivors fled to the United States.

+ The 1967 “Six Day War” by Islamic countries to eliminate Israel.

+ 1970s – The incipient Islamization of France. While I worked with the French Army in Europe, I noticed the increasing influence of Islamic culture through the influx of numerous Moroccan immigrants into that country and the French army.

+ The 1973 war started by Islamic countries nearly eliminated Israel.

+ 1970-1985 – The gassing of Kurdish men, women, and children by Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

+ Sudan. 1980s to the present – persecution by the Islamic government in Khartoum of the predominantly black Nuba tribes people in Southern Sudan by the atrocities of beatings, rape, enslavement, and murder – simply for being Christians. Just one example is that of a fifteen-year-old Sudanese boy named Joseph. Enslaved as a child and sold away from his family to a Muslim master, Joseph knew pain and loss from an early age. But he didn’t lose his faith in Christ—and his Muslim master despised him for it. It was Joseph’s “crime” of being a Christian that drove his master into a fit of rage one night. Grabbing his young slave, along with several planks of wood, nails, and a hammer, Joseph’s master strode into the dark Sudanese night. He threw the young boy to the ground, and nailed his hands and feet to the wooden cross. Left alone in the wilderness, Joseph nearly died that night. But his master’s son secretly rescued him from death’s grasp.⁶

+ 1990-1991 Operation Desert Shield/Storm. This was in response to Iraqi forces that had invaded Kuwait, killed innocent men, women and children, and threatened Saudi Arabia. In talking with indigenous Muslims in Saudi Arabia about Israel, I was given to understand that they (the Muslims) would not be satisfied with the existence of Israel – of ceding even one square foot of land for the nation of Israel.

+ 2001 While in England for the World Methodist Conference, I observed the increasing influence of Islamic culture through the influx of immigrants from the Middle East. I had heard an unsubstantiated rumor that an Islamic goal was to have control of that country by the year 2020.

+ The September 11th attack on the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and what would have been the attack on the Capitol Building. These combined, unprovoked attacks killed over 3,000 innocent men, women, and children.

+ The train bombings in Spain influenced that country to remove its troops from Iraq.

+ The bombing in London.

+ The ongoing attacks against Israel.

+ Democrat Keith Ellison is now officially the first Muslim United States congressman. True to his pledge, he placed his hand on the Quran, the Muslim book of jihad and pledged his allegiance to the United States during his ceremonial swearing-in. The Qur’an Ellison used once belonged to Thomas Jefferson. Ellison, who was born in

Detroit and converted to Islam while in college, said he chose to use Jefferson's Quran because it showed that "a visionary like Jefferson" and because he (Ellison) believed that wisdom could be gleaned from many sources.

+ Indonesia. In October 2005, Noviana Malewa and three other teenagers were taking a small footpath (see photo of their path above) on the way to their Christian high school near Poso, Indonesia. Suddenly, from out of the jungle, sprang six masked men in all black, wielding machetes. Noviana fought bravely, but was struck across the side of her face and neck with a machete. She fell to the ground and rolled down into a ravine. Above, she heard her friends screaming. Just

when she was about to lose hope, a van of soldiers appeared and took her to a hospital.

Noviana was the only survivor that day. After the attack, she was hidden in a Christian village and guarded by police because her testimony was needed in court. The radical Muslims who had killed her friends were still looking for her. It was even too dangerous for her to attempt a hospital visit.

After months of negotiation to guarantee her safety, Voice of the Martyrs medical ministry (VOMedical) was finally able to arrange transportation to a hospital in Surabaya, Indonesia. While in hiding VOMedical will continue follow-up treatment. Though Noviana's physical scars are beginning to heal, she still struggles with the emotional and mental scars from witnessing the brutal murder of her three friends. Yet, she remains steadfast in her faith.

From the left side, Noviana Malewa may look like any other 15-year-old girl. In her eyes you see a sadness and a strength much too deep for any girl her age. She has the look of someone who has witnessed more than they want to see and endured more than they think they can survive.⁷

+ A former Methodist chapel in the northern England town of Clitheroe will soon serve the Islamic community, now with planning commission approval. The Methodist Church and other religious groups have supported the Muslim community's attempts to create its own house of worship. In addition to the worship space, the new Community Partnership Center will also provide community and interfaith activities. The former Mt. Zion Methodist Church officially closed in 1940, when the congregation merged with others nearby. It has served numerous other purposes, including as a World War II munitions depot, during the intervening years.⁸

+ 2007 It has been learned from an unconfirmed source that Iran is receiving the help of North Korea, China, and the former Soviet Union in building its nuclear capability.

Could this last be a harbinger for the future?