

## Geopolitics and the Weaponization of Culture: From British-Sponsored Zionism to American-Sponsored Jihadism

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1. This paper examines the strategic deployment of ‘culture’ in the service of ‘geopolitics.’ It compares how British-sponsored Zionism and American-sponsored Jihadism were designed to mobilize, excite, uproot, recruit, radicalize, and deploy alien Jews and Muslims in order to achieve complex geopolitical goals.
2. The conceptual framework of the paper assumes that ‘geopolitics’ seeks to understand and predict the dynamics of inter-state strategic competitions. It also assumes that states can weaponize and deploy ‘culture’ by manipulating centrifugal and centripetal differences within and between states.
3. For example, since the end of the Cold War a number of social science studies began to deemphasize ‘geopolitics’ and emphasize ‘culture’ as the focus of contemporary debates. One example is Samuel Huntington’s “The Clash of Civilizations” in which he tried to reconstruct global geopolitics along cultural lines. He claimed that “Peoples and countries with similar cultures are coming together” whereas “Peoples and countries with different cultures are coming apart.” Another example is Francis Fukuyama’s “The End of History” in which he claimed that culture is “the matrix within which economic behavior is formed.”
4. In 2004, “The National Commission on [the 9/11] Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States” deadlocked over whether to blame culture (i.e., Islam) or geopolitics (i.e., US support for Israel) as the primary motive of the 9/11 hijackers. The 9/11 Commission Report ultimately blamed culture & vindicated geopolitics.
5. Now the Cultural Turn seems to have reached new heights when President Obama and President Trump embraced successively and respectively American ‘exceptionalism’ and American ‘patriotism.’ CNN, 7/21/2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95JiNT74Xtw> ; Politico, 9/25/2018, <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/09/25/trump-un-speech-2018-full-text-transcript-840043>
6. **First**, I outline how the British Empire invented Jewish Zionism ( see “The Non- Jewish Origin of Zionism” at: [https://www.indstate.edu/cas/sites/arts.indstate.edu/files/Faculty/melyassini/The%20Non-Jewish%20Origin%20of%20Zionism\\_1.PDF](https://www.indstate.edu/cas/sites/arts.indstate.edu/files/Faculty/melyassini/The%20Non-Jewish%20Origin%20of%20Zionism_1.PDF) ; [https://www.indstate.edu/cas/sites/arts.indstate.edu/files/Faculty/melyassini/El-Asl%20Ghayr%20El-Yehoody%20Le%20Es-Sahyooniya\\_0.PDF](https://www.indstate.edu/cas/sites/arts.indstate.edu/files/Faculty/melyassini/El-Asl%20Ghayr%20El-Yehoody%20Le%20Es-Sahyooniya_0.PDF) ) as a separatist Jewish movement in order to achieve geopolitical goals involving British rivalries with Russia, France, and Germany over the Eastern Question, Afghanistan, and the Suez Canal as the nearest route to the so-called ‘Jewel of the Crown’, or British India. The British established the Anglican missionary ‘London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews’ in 1809, with a focus on the re-education and indoctrination

of the Jews as a separate people in light of Biblical Numbers 23:9: “*a people who live apart and do not consider themselves one of the nations.*” Its work involves the dissemination of some 20,000 copies of the Old Testament in Hebrew per year for dozens of stations, missionaries, agents, schools, and Jewish converts established by the Society throughout Europe.

7. The British realized the significance of a number of Jewish communities in mercantilism and the absence of Protestants in Palestine along the route to India at a time when French Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches were more connected to Arab Christians in the Middle East. In 1838, the British appointed a vice-consul to Jerusalem who reported back a census of only 9,690 Jews in Palestine. In 1839, Britain encouraged and endorsed the publication and dissemination of an anonymous Memorandum on the ‘Restoration’ of the Jews addressed to European and American Protestant Powers.
8. In 1841 Colonel Churchill, the British consul in Syria, suggested that the Jews should be put at the head of the Zionist movement while European powers should simply aid them, and in 1845 Colonel Gawler upgraded Churchill’s plan and suggested a much more detailed Zionist Scheme for the “Tranquillization of Syria and the East” through the Establishment of Jewish Colonies in Palestine.
9. The British made also significant efforts to ennoble and elevate some Jewish leaders such as the Rothschild family (of German-Jewish mercantile background) and the baptized Disraeli family (of Italian-Jewish mercantile background) who both played a major role in purchasing the Egyptian shares in the Suez Canal Company in 1875, a move that led to Egypt’s indebtedness and British invasion and occupation.
10. In the wake of the assassination of Russian Czar Alexander II in 1881 and the May Laws of 1882 targeting Russian Jews, the British encouraged the establishment of the Society for the Promotion of the Love of Zion and the Lovers of Zion in Eastern Europe and Russia, especially after British Reverend William Hechler met Jewish Leo Pinsker in Odessa, Ukraine, on the eve of Pinsker’s publication of his *Auto-Emancipation* pamphlet in September 1882. Hechler moved to Vienna in 1885 where he apparently recruited Hungarian Jewish journalist Theodor Herzl who published the Jewish State (or State of the Jews) Pamphlet in Vienna, Austria, in 1896, and inaugurated the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897.
11. In 1917 Britain issued the Balfour Declaration (promising Arab Palestine to world Jewry) and began a 30-year military occupation of Palestine to fulfill the promise. The promise was made in a letter from British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to the London-based Jewish banker Lionel Rothschild. In 1919, Arthur Balfour himself suggested additional motives behind the Balfour Declaration of 1917 when he wrote, the Zionist movement would “mitigate the age-long miseries created for Western civilization by the presence in its midst of a Body which it too long regarded as alien and even hostile, but which it was equally unable to expel or to absorb,” Forward, 11/1/2017, <https://forward.com/opinion/386480/its-time-to-admit-that-arthur-balfour-was-a-white-supremacist-and-an-anti-s/>
12. **Second**, I examine how the United States deployed ‘culture’ in the service of geopolitics during the Cold War, according to a declassified Top Secret Annex to National Security Council 129, dated April 7, 1952, <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB78/propaganda%20059.pdf> , which stated that: the three monotheistic religions [Islam, Christianity, and Judaism] in the area have in common a repugnance to the atheism of communist doctrine and this factor could become

an important asset in promoting Western objectives in the area [p.4].

13. For example, on July 3, 1979, President Carter authorized the funding and arming of anti-Soviet Muslim Mujahideen or Jihadists. Carter's National Security Adviser Brzezinski flew to Pakistan to meet the Mujahideen and launch the Jihad near the Khybar Pass. In 1981 the Reagan administration increased the funding for the Jihadists and Saudi Arabia matched US funding (along the line of the Rothschild's with the British). Saudi Prince Salman [Saudi king since 2015] was collecting some \$25 million a month for the Jihadists (Brookings, 1/23/2015), while Saudi leading cleric at the time Sheik Abdelaziz bin Baz issued a fatwa [religious decree] in support of the jihad against the soviets (<http://www.alifta.net/Fatawa/FatawaChapters.aspx?languagename=ar&View=Page&PageID=5266&PageNo=1&BookID=4> ). Current Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman has even acknowledged that Saudi investments in mosques and schools/madrassas overseas were rooted in the Cold War, when allies asked Saudi Arabia to use its resources to prevent inroads in Muslim countries by the Soviet Union (Washington Post 3/22/2018). He also revealed to the Atlantic (4/2/2018) that: "Al-Qaeda leaders, ISIS leaders, they were all Muslim Brotherhood first. Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of ISIS. This is very clear... We used the Muslim Brotherhood in the Cold War—we did, both of us [Saudi Arabia and the United States]... This is what America wanted us to do."

14. The US government spent millions of dollars to supply Afghan schoolchildren with Jihadist textbooks printed at the University of Nebraska in the United States and filled with violent images and militant Islamic teachings (Washington Post, 3/23/2002 and 12/8/2014; Dana Burde, 2002, *Schools for Conflict or for Peace in Afghanistan*, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/insu-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1643186> ), while Saudi Arabia built the Quran Printing Complex in Medina in the 1980s with a capacity of up to 30 million Quran copies per year in 39 languages (<http://www.qurancomplex.gov.sa/> ). Frank Anderson, Former CIA Director, Afghan Taskforce in the 1980s said "We were providing the means to wage this war... and it's entirely true that this was a war that was fought with our goal but with their blood," Frank Anderson, Former CIA Director, Afghan Taskforce, U.S. involvement in Afghanistan during the 1980s, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9DaOgpukbA>

15. The Israeli Liaison Bureau, Nativ Cell, was working on the emigration of Soviet Jews. Secretary of State Shultz wrote that Reagan put "Soviet Jewry at the top of his agenda," a policy proposed by American Norman Podhoretz and his colleagues from the neoconservative branch of the Israel lobby (Douglas J. Feith, "The Cold War, Anti-Communism, and Neoconservatism," In *The Big Tent... Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin gave Zionist Christian pastor and televangelist Jerry Falwell a private jet in 1979, and made him in 1980 the only non-Jew to receive the Jabotinsky Medal for "outstanding achievement" and asked him to "get to work for me" and explain Israel's action to the American people. Mearsheimer and Walt, *The Israel Lobby*, 2007, pp. 135-136. Both Soviet Zionist separatist Anatoly Shcharansky and Saudi Jihadist Osama bin Laden claimed to have destroyed the Soviet Union, Yaacov Ro'i, *The Jewish Movement in the Soviet Union*, and *The Guardian*, 9/27/2011, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/sep/27/10-myths-about-afghanistan>*

16. **Third**, I further examine how the template or blueprint of the US-backed Jihad in Afghanistan was repeated in Syria with a minor difference imposed by geography: while Pakistan hosted the Jihad in Afghanistan, Turkey hosted the Jihad in Syria. The Obama administration said repeatedly that Syrian President Assad “must go” before ending the Syria war which killed some 500,000 Syrians and threw more than 11 million Syrians into refugee camps inside and outside Syria, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSBRk10E5R8> . *Hillary Clinton Email Achieve* informs us that Assad “must go” because that is “the best way to help Israel,” [https://wikileaks.org/clinton-emails/Clinton\\_Email\\_November\\_Release/C05794498.pdf](https://wikileaks.org/clinton-emails/Clinton_Email_November_Release/C05794498.pdf) . When the US-led coalition failed to bring down the Syrian government, they turn on each other in a blame game that vindicates the stronger states and puts most of the burden and shame on the weakest states: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoQO81hKC3A> , <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f33130kQxg> , <https://journal-neo.org/2017/11/18/revelations-of-a-high-profile-qatari-officials-reveal-a-wider-syriaconspiracy/> , [anti-syriaconspiracy/](https://journal-neo.org/2017/11/18/revelations-of-a-high-profile-qatari-officials-reveal-a-wider-syriaconspiracy/)
17. **Fourth**, I conclude that British-sponsored Zionism and American-sponsored Jihadism were rooted more in geopolitics than in Jewish or Islamic teachings. They are at the core of the ongoing Middle East proxy wars pitting US and Israel against Iran and Syria over the Palestine-Israel conflict, which so far killed or displaced millions of innocent Middle Eastern people. According to President Trump, in recent years the US spent over \$6 trillion on Middle East wars (the Bush administration destroyed Afghanistan and Iraq, the Obama administration destroyed Libya, Syria, and Yemen, and the Trump administration is poised to destroy Iran). Since 1979 Iran has overthrown the Shah monarchy, established the Islamic Republic of Iran, ended its alliance with Israel, severed all diplomatic and commercial ties with Israel, expelled the Israelis from Iran, declared that Israel is an illegitimate state, and began its concrete support for the Palestinians by (a) Turning the Israeli embassy in Iran into the Embassy of Palestine in Iran, (b) Designating the annual International Day of Quds/Jerusalem, (c) Founding the Quds/Jerusalem [Special Operations] Force, (d) Promising to pay an amount worth \$7,000 to every Palestinian family of a martyr of the intifada/uprising in Jerusalem, and \$30,000 to every Palestinian family whose home Israel has demolished for the participation of one of its sons in the intifada/uprising, and (e) Enacting a new Iranian constitution which stipulates (in Article 16) that the Arabic Language must be taught "in all classes of secondary school and in all areas of study" and stipulates (in Article 146) that "the establishment of any kind of foreign military base in Iran, even for peaceful purposes, is forbidden." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65xpvmCsm-c>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArW8BGv1RyM>; <https://www.jpost.com/MiddleEast/Iran-News/Rouhani-to-Swiss-president-Israel-is-illegitimate-561443> ; [http://en.mfa.ir/uploads/Constitution\\_8032.pdf](http://en.mfa.ir/uploads/Constitution_8032.pdf) ; <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-israel/palestinians-iran-idUKKCN0VX20H>
18. I assume that a genuine scholarly understanding of the geopolitical genesis of both Zionism and Jihadism could shift the global debate away from cultural assumptions to geopolitical explanations of most post-1914 wars and their most remembered terrorism blowbacks:
- (a) On July 22, 1946, the formerly British-backed Irgun Zionist organization bombed the King David Hotel in Jerusalem which hosts the Headquarters of the British Government of Palestine and the British Armed Forces in Palestine and Transjordan.
  - (b) On September 11, 2001, the formerly American-backed Al-Qaeda Jihadist organization coordinated suicidal attacks against U.S. landmarks, including the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.