



Jihadism

Seminar – Discourses about Religion and Secularism
in the Arab World

Week 9, 30.05.2017

Muhammad A. Faraj

(1954-1982)

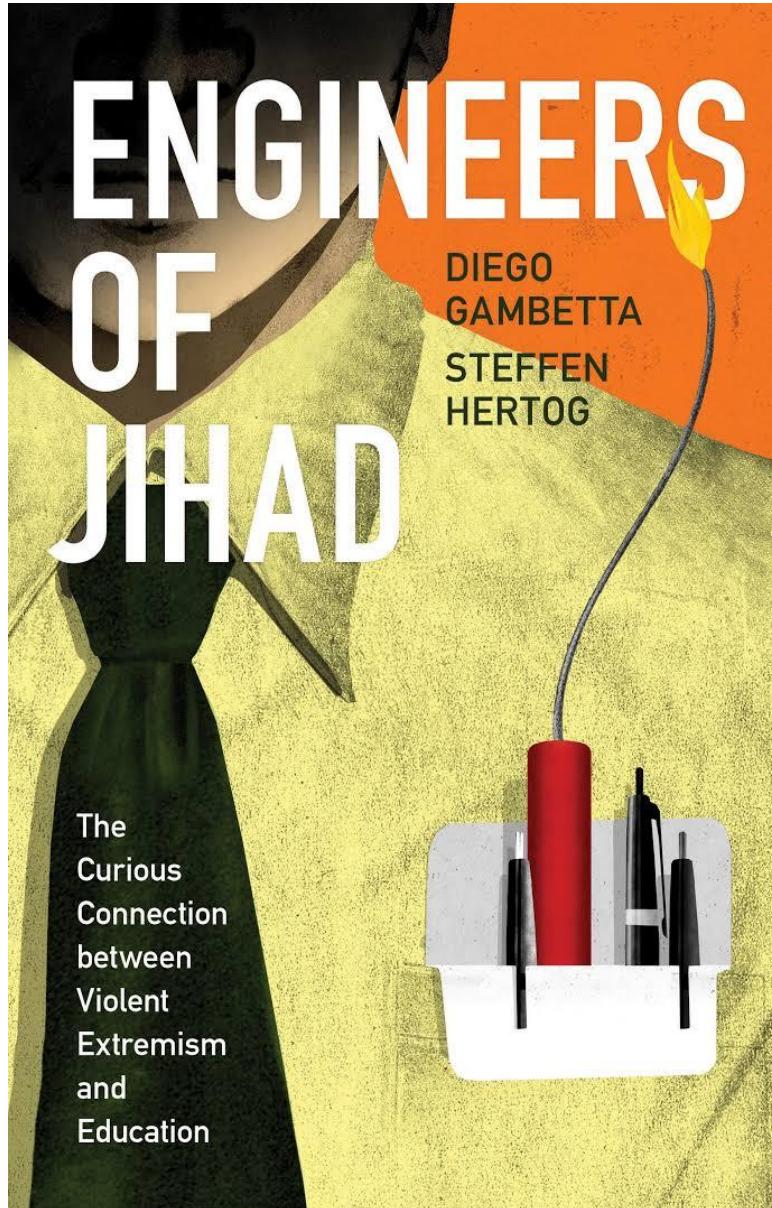
The Absent Duty



- A synthesis of a selection of textual fragments from traditional Islamic literature into a revolutionary manual
- A radical re-working of the doctrine of Jihad that omits „textual ambiguities and interpretive complexities“ and captures a set of collective sentiments
- Giving weight to historical precedence over traditional methods of reasoning in Islamic jurisprudence.

- He takes 7 different approaches to the establishment of an Islamic state, refuting them one by one.
- He insists there is only one „religiously allowed road“ to its establishment: waging a war against the „infidel“ state by a „believing minority.“
- There is no need to:
 - convince the majority of this political project;
 - take the approval of the ‘ulama;
 - delve deep into Islamic knowledge.
- The „near enemy“ vs. the „far enemy“:
 - It is better for Muslim lands to be under foreign occupation than liberated under an „infidel banner“

- Engineers are 17 times, doctors 10 times, over-represented
- Cognitive and emotional affinity between radical Islamism and technical sciences:
 - closed view of knowledge
 - intolerant of ambiguity
 - mechanistic view of social order
 - well-regulated daily routines



Hizbullah (Lebanon)

- Combining Jihadism with grassroots social and political activism
- Its appeal comes from:
 - marginalization of a specific group by the state
 - internal strife (civil war, sectarianism, weak state)
 - Parallel state structures
 - a popular cause to rally the masses (Israeli occupation)
 - Extensive external support (Iran, Syria)



Bernard Lewis

(1916 –)

The Roots of Muslim Rage



- Muslims hate the USA without a good reason (no legacy of colonialism; not atheist like the USSR; did good things to Muslims)
- A grand narrative of a primordial rivalry between an Islamic and a Christian civilization
 - Religious-historical rivalry (Islam vs. Judeo-Christianity)
 - Islamic fundamentalism vs. Western secularism and modernism
 - Feelings of humiliation and envy

الجihad

وقاتلوا

از تصر و الله ينصركم

اقوا الله و كونوا من الصادقين

برلين يوم الجمعة 5 مارس 1915

عدد ١ -

EL DSCHIHAD

Berlin
den 5. März 1915

Zeitung für die muhammedanischen Kriegsgefangenen

Nr. 1
Arabische Ausgabe

مقصد جريدة

سلام عليكم من الذين جعلكم الله سعادته
و عالى فايدتهم

انتم اكرسم اعداء لاذ اعداءكم و اعداءكم
و هم الاخيلز والفرسون والروس ساقوك الى

للامم التي يعيش على الحباد حفاظ هذه الحرب
يختافون عن ظهور الحق فانه مر عليهم وكيف
لا يحسون اظهار الحقيقة وقد اشاروا في العالم اجمع
لتكون حكماء بين المانيا و خصومها
والنكم سترون ان شاء الله فـ في هذه الجريدة
الاکاذيب التي تقصى على شرف للذين امرجعهم
و سلب حرية الامم الاسلامية و التمكّن من الامم
والنتائج التي تجتى عنها حتى يظهر لكم علاما
كذب لجعلها و فرنسا و الروس الذين
كانوا امة اكثروا

Operation Cyclone (1979-1989)



Charlie Wilson, US House of Representative (1973-1997)

Zbigniew Brzezinski

National Security Advisor
under J. Carter (1977-1981)



- Q: And neither do you regret having supported the Islamic [integrisme], having given arms and advice to future terrorists?
- Brzezinski: What is most important to the history of the world? The Taliban or the collapse of the Soviet empire? Some stirred-up Moslems or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the cold war?

Source: David N. Gibbs (2000) "Afghanistan: The Soviet Invasion in Retrospect,"
International Politics 37, no. 2, pp. 241-242

Israel's support to Hamas

- "When I look back at the chain of events I think we made a mistake," one Israeli official who had worked in Gaza in the 1980s said in [a 2009 interview](#) with the Wall Street Journal's Andrew Higgins. "But at the time nobody thought about the possible results."

Source: Ishaan Tharoor (2014) „How Israel helped create Hamas“, *The Washington Post*, 30 July

Syria...

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zj--wiYkTw0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ByJ9XKoLQ0>