

E. The Islamist Entanglement

1. Terrorism is only the most obvious feature of a great challenge facing the United States as the self-appointed world police power.
2. Terrorism, as practiced by Muslims inspired by Iran's ability to defy America, is part of a wider problem in the world and in America involving the religion of Islam. That problem is that *religious freedom* is not an accepted part of Islamic culture.
3. In essence, there are two kinds of Islamic culture in conflict with each other. One is a peaceful and private Islam, like modern Christianity. This type of religious belief is practiced by a million Americans, two million Israeli Muslims, and many millions more in many countries of the world. The other, however, is an a modern form of Islam that seeks to use the power of governments to spread Islam by force. This second kind is mainly known as "Islamism."
4. By deciding to police the Middle East, the United States injected itself into the conflict between these two forms of Islam, and by spreading the ideas of religious freedom and democracy has made itself hated by Islamists.
5. The attacks of 9-11 were an expression of that hatred and the desire of Islamists to expel America from the Islamic Middle East.
6. In response, America invaded and conquered two countries in the region, Afghanistan and Iraq. In both countries, America removed anti-American governments and helped the local people to create democracies.
7. In both cases the democracy and religious freedom are very fragile. Today, Iraq is falling apart after the withdrawal of American troops because of a vast terrorist organization called "ISIS." Afghanistan has asked the United States not to withdraw its troops for fear of the same outcome there.
8. The need to constantly police the region since 1947 and into the foreseeable future is what the Founding Fathers called a "foreign entanglement." As George Washington once warned, America's peace and prosperity have become entangled with the way of life of people who do not share American values and who use terrorism against America to try to stop the spread of those values.