

E. The Islamist Entanglement

1. Terrorism is only part of the challenge facing the United States as the police power of the Middle East.
2. The bigger problem is that *religious freedom* is not accepted by all people who follow the religion of Islam.
3. Many Muslims, including many in America, do accept the American idea of religious freedom. However, many others believe in using the power of governments to spread Islam by force. This second kind is known as “*Islamism*.”
4. By deciding to police the Middle East, the United States 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. If it does not continue to help those countries, however, democracy will not survive.
8. This 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.