

G. The Rise of a New Enemy

1. In 1991, Russia abandoned communism. It was the end of the Cold War. Soon, however, a new enemy arose to force America continue to make the world “safe for democracy.” The new enemy was Islamic terrorism.
2. Modern Islamic terrorism started in Iran.
 - a) During the Cold War, the United States had supported the ruler of Iran (the “Shah”) because of his anti-communism.
 - b) The people of Iran, however, believed that the Shah’s prime minister, named Mohamed Mossadegh, was the real hero of their country, because he wanted to take control of Iran’s oil away from European companies and give it to the Iranian government.
 - c) America’s leaders were worried that this would lead to communism, so America helped the Shah to arrest Mossadegh and put him in prison.
 - d) The Iranian people then decided the only leader who could help them was Ayatollah Khomeini, a religious teacher. In **1979** they held protests against the Shah and he decided to flee the country and leave Khomeini in charge.
 - e) As part of this **Iranian Revolution**, terrorists stormed the American embassy and took it staff hostage, because America had helped the Shah.
 - f) The United States was humiliated by this act of terrorism, but the president, Jimmy Carter, refused to take action against Iran.
 - g) The result was the birth of the modern trend of Islamic terrorism.
5. The United States also made the mistake of being temporary allies with terrorists while fighting the spread of communism in Iran’s neighbor Afghanistan.
 - a) Russia invaded Afghanistan to spread communism. The United States did not want to fight Russia directly, so it sent money and weapons to Afghanistan instead.
 - b) Terrorists from around the Islamic world went to Afghanistan and received money and military training thanks to the United States, which believed they mainly wanted to fight communism.
 - c) One of these terrorists was Osama Bin Laden who organized the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001.
6. By focusing so much on anti-communism, the United States helped create its own next enemy: Islamic terrorism.
7. In response to the 9-11 Attacks, the United States launched the “War on Terror.” It invaded and occupied Afghanistan starting in 2001. It then invaded Iraq in 2003. The goal of these invasions was to force those countries to become democracies.
8. It did not work. After twenty years of trying to fight a “war” against terrorism, the United States has decided it cannot win. In 2021, president Biden ordered the withdrawal of all American troops from Afghanistan, allowing the return of the same government that was in charge before 2001, called the Taliban, which supports Islamic terrorism.

H. The Return of an Old Enemy (The Russia-Ukraine War Revisited)

1. When the *War on Terror* (2001-21) ended, it was not obvious what the next chapter of the world police period, but we don't have to guess now...
2. When America said it wanted Ukraine to join NATO, Vladimir Putin decided that he would not let America control the future of Ukraine.
3. Then the United States started sending weapons to Ukraine in 2021. Putin decided to invade Ukraine, and Russia has succeeded in controlling a big chunk of the country, but it is unclear what will happen next.
4. Because of the war, Finland has joined NATO, and Sweden wants to join as well. Russia has gone back to being the villain that America protects Europe from, just like in the Cold War.