

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نباشد تن من مباد بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

By Vladislav B. Sotirovic
02.12.2023

The powder keg of the Middle East



Sources: Rebellion Translated for Rebellion

by Paco Muñoz de Bustillo

The main feature of the history and politics of the Middle East in the Modern and Contemporary Age (over the last 250 years) is constant internal and external conflicts. That is probably why the term "powder keg" is the one that best describes this region (including the Balkans) which, for a long period, has been and is involved in conflicts, struggles and wars major or minor.

However, as in many other cases, the roots of modern and contemporary problems lie largely in the past, and consequently current political developments must be considered within a broader historical background. Indigenous peoples have always been at the

crossroads of different civilizations and political-cultural influences from abroad, which turned their territories into the battlefield of foreign invaders, even from Western Europe in the Middle Ages (the Crusaders).

From the first half of the sixteenth century to the second half of the In the nineteenth century, most of the Near East was under the rule of the Empire Ottoman. Since the second half of the nineteenth century, the states of Western Europe have (France, the United Kingdom and Italy) gradually began to introduce their control political, military and economic-financial on the region. After the First World War II: Western European colonialists were given rights protection in the Middle East in the form of mandates (French and French). with a growing influx of European Jewish settlers into Palestine. From 1918 onwards, new nation states were created and divided up the land without respect for tribal differences or Western promises (British) made to the Arabs for their support in 1916-1918, which eventually led to the It led to unresolved issues to this day.

The proclamation of the Zionist State of Israel on May 14, 2015 1948, only further inflamed the political situation in the Middle East and the Middle East. provoked a harsh Arab reaction, which led to three major wars Arab-Israelis and several minors. This conflict is one of the longest in the history of the modern history, since these two Semitic peoples – the Arabs (Muslims) and the Arabs (Muslims) and the Arabs (Muslims) – are the Semitic peoples. Jews (Zionists) – have been fighting for their peaceful coexistence for more than 60 years. years (or even 100, since the 1920s). After the end of the Cold War 1.0 saw two invasions by the United States and its allies in the United States. inspired by the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, which led to the First Gulf War in 1990-1991, followed by UN sanctions. In In the following century, the United States and its allies (mainly the United States) started the Second Gulf War in 2003 with the aggression against Iraq. supposedly in search of weapons of mass destruction, which, together with the invasion of Afghanistan, posed an additional geopolitical threat in the East Next.

In the region, conflicts between States have occurred, such as the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s (again inspired by the United States) United States), or civil wars within the United States. certain states in which, for example, fundamentalists or Islamic extremists challenged official governments (Egypt, Syria, Algeria, Yemen, Somalia or, foreseeably, Iraq in the near future). Other types of conflicts are those that occur because some organizations or local groups, usually with foreign help, oppose the occupiers, such as in the Occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Kuwait or Afghanistan. In the current phase of regional conflicts in the Middle East, The main hope of the peoples of the region is that

the struggle between the Zionist Israel and Its Muslim Neighbors End Soon Through Negotiations conflict resolution and economic development, such as it finally happened, for example, with the Kingdom of Jordan and Egypt (currently, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates also recognize Israel.)

However, we need to be even more concerned about the clash of civilizations in the region (predicted by S. P. Huntington in 1993) based, in fact, in incompatible cultural differences. Probably, the shock The most serious cultural crisis in the Middle East is that of globalization and the Western-style life, fueled by interaction with external powers (Western) buyers of oil, but who oppose the values and traditional philosophy of life of the Middle East and Islam. To address In these questions, we must highlight several factors as main characteristics of the Arab-Islamic culture of the Middle East:

1. Historically, in this region the Muslim religion was shown, in principle, tolerant of others beliefs.
2. There are many Muslims (Arabs and non-Arabs) who support the democratic reform process in the region and fight against the distribution of democratic reforms in the region. unequal wealth within their states, especially oil states.
3. The majority of the region's inhabitants do not support the violent Islamic radicalism/fundamentalism and especially its call for military jihad in order to change the existing political structure and promote their worldview.
4. Western civilization is indebted to the Arabs for their translations of crucial Hellenistic knowledge and traditions during the the Middle Ages, especially in science and medicine.
5. Islamic intellectuals and academics are not, in any way, principle, against the West, but fear political power and influence in their societies, especially with regard to the materialism and cultural colonialism.
6. Historically, enriching bilateral coexistence between Muslims and Westerners are more the rule than the exception.
7. In fact, more than half of the world's 1.6 billion Muslims The majority of Muslims are not fundamentalists. and the majority of Muslims in the Middle East (including Iran and excluding Turkey) are Arabs.
8. Muslims in the Middle East region are not dogmatically They are divided into two main branches: the Sunni and Shiite communities.
9. Economic Factors Largely Beyond Your Control they are pushing the Middle East towards the globalized market.

10. The contemporary Middle East is a region that crosses a major social, political, cultural and economic transition.

However, the Middle East attracted all the world's attention after 9/11, 2001 due to the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington by the radical Islamic organization Al Qaeda, when its members, led by Saudi billionaire Osama bin Laden, crashed three planes the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon of New York. Washington D.C., killing more than 3,000 people. It is very important to note that 56 Muslim States immediately condemned the terrorist act for to consider it contrary to the values, teachings, way of life and Islamic Qur'an. However, this attack sparked a global war U.S. Counter-Terrorism (Islamic), accompanied by U.S. invasions occupations and mass killings of civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq, what in the eyes of many Muslims is considered a modern crusade against the Islam.

The question we must ask ourselves is: what can lead individuals in the Middle East, especially young people, to commit any kind of terrorist attack? Undoubtedly, behind such an act there is a deeper process of radicalization of Arab Islamic youth by Islamic fundamentalists and extremists but, on the other hand, many members of the younger Arab generation, including those who studied in the West, have the feeling of being oppressed and humiliated by Westerners or simply intentionally provoked by, for example, the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*. Some of these disillusioned young people are recruited by militant networks.

Dr. Vladislav B. Sotirovic is a retired university professor and researcher at the Center for Strategic Studies in Belgrade, Serbia. Contact: sotirovic1967@gamil.com.

This article may be freely reproduced provided that its integrity is respected and that its author, translator and Rebelión are named as the source of the article.

Rebelión has published this article with the author's permission under a [Creative Commons license](#), respecting his freedom to publish it in other sources.

Rebellion 01.12.2023