



**THE MILITARY CONFLICT INSTITUTE (TMCI)**

*TO FOSTER PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF MILITARY CONFLICT*

# *World War IV: Facing Reality in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

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# Current Situation

- *Nations vs. Islamist extremists (NOT Islam)*  
(Fundamentalist, militant, violent, radical, intolerant, wicked, mean, bad, nasty people)
- *Several campaigns currently*
  - *Afghanistan-Pakistan (ANA, ANP, warlords, Taliban, ISI)*
  - *Iraq-Syria (Daesh, militia, unwilling coalition partners)*
  - *United States (Homeland Security, FBI, local police)*
  - *Israel vs. Hamas and Hizb 'Allah*
  - *Yemen (Iran ally Houthi against weak government)*
  - *Other Nations (e.g., Europe, Philippines, Turkey)*
  - *The rise of Daesh (aka IS/ISIS/ISIL) in the Mid-East, cells spreading to other conflict areas (e.g., Africa, Afghanistan)*

**Long-standing, underlying SUNNI vs. SHIA conflict**

***This is World War IV***

*(Great War = WW I; WW II = Pacific, North Africa, Europe; Cold War = WW III)*

# Clarifications

- *Global War on Terror (The Long War)*
  - *Bumper sticker; good political slogan; bad acronym*
  - *Terror is a tactic*
- *When did WW IV begin?*
  - *Muhammad's First Jihad (623 A.D.)*
  - *Caliphate's expansion and collapse*
  - *Series of anti-US attacks*
  - *Islamist extremist Declaration of War*  
*(joint fatwa distributed on February 23, 1998)*
  - *September 11, 2001, attacks and subsequent invasions (Afghanistan, Iraq), pull-outs, resurgence*

# *Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders*

## *Declaration of War* ***Extremist Views***

- US presence in the sacred area containing the holy sites of Mecca and Medina*
- US unswerving support for Israel*
- US support for other nations fighting extremists*
- US exploitation of Muslim oil*
- US military presence in the traditional Muslim world*
- US support of apostate Arab nations*

*Objective: Re-establish and grow the Caliphate; create an enemy to attract Muslims (honor, shame, revenge)*

# *Understanding the Enemy*



- *Islamist Extremists are not like us*
  - *Millennia of tribal traditions—back to fundamentals*
  - *Severe religious laws and cruel punishments*
  - *Loyalty to the tribe...clan...family...Allah above all*
  - *History of trade, bribery, and corruption*
  - *Conquered but not dominated*
- *The religion of Islam*
  - *Muhammad (610) and the First Jihad (623)*
  - *"Islam is politics." Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini*
  - *"Politics is war without bloodshed; war is politics with bloodshed." Mao Tse-tung*
  - *Splintering, interpretations, and fundamentalism*

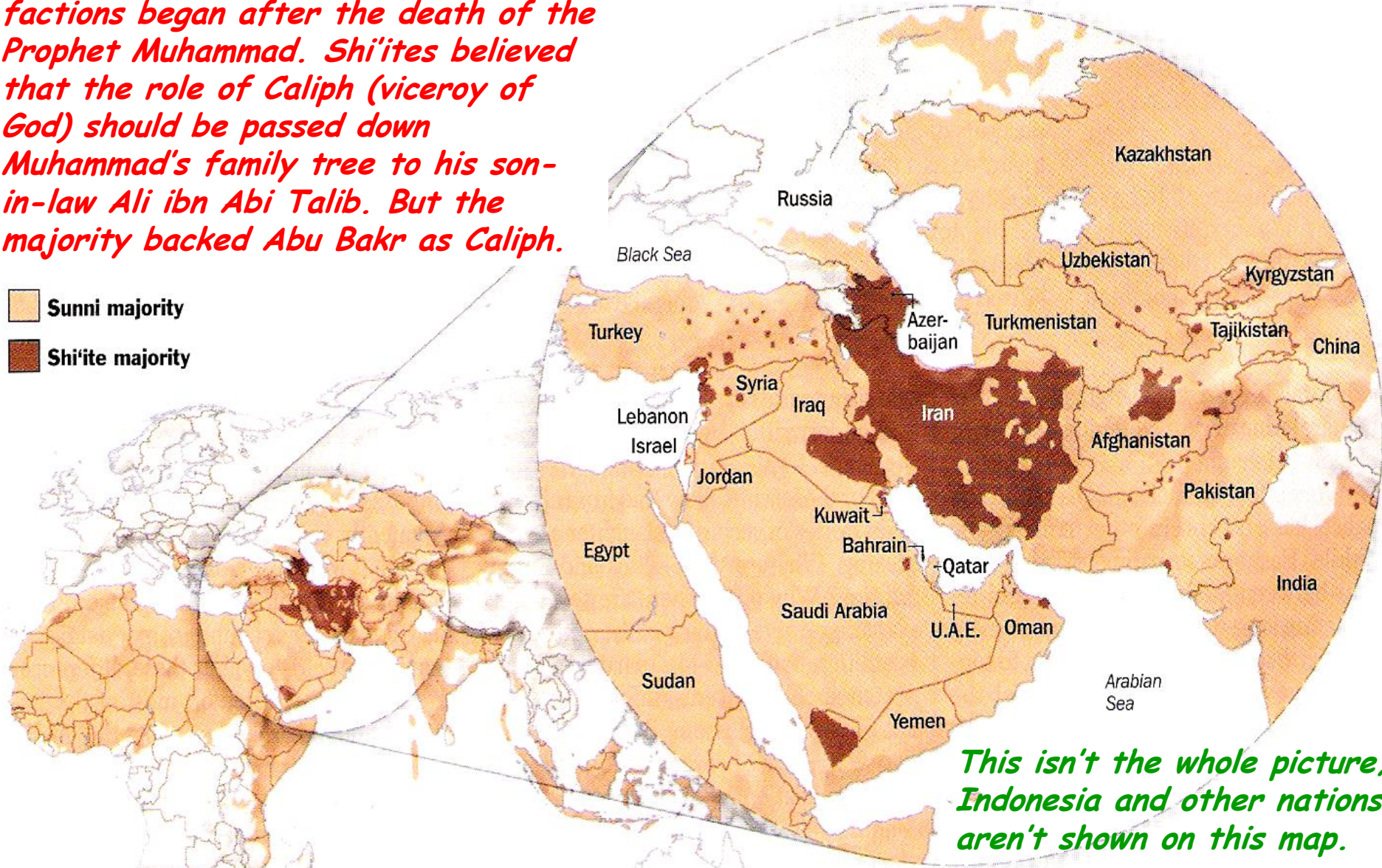
*Shall men be governed by God's law or by man's law?*



# Why Do They Hate Each Other?

*The split between Sunni and Shi'ite factions began after the death of the Prophet Muhammad. Shi'ites believed that the role of Caliph (viceroy of God) should be passed down Muhammad's family tree to his son-in-law Ali ibn Abi Talib. But the majority backed Abu Bakr as Caliph.*

 Sunni majority  
 Shi'ite majority



# *Warlike or Peaceful?*

- *Islamic culture and traditions*
  - *The violent spread of Islam (Jihad)*
  - *Secular rule is subordinated to religion*
  - *Protective and defensive*
  - *Terminology—jihad or hirabah; mujahideen or mufsiddin; infidels or “people of the Book”—we should use the correct terms*
  - *Growth of Islamist extremism; back to fundamentalist beliefs and practices*
  - *“Convert or perish” Islamist mentality*
- *Selective adherence to the Quran*

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Warfare

- *Westerners naively map "nations"*
- *Most of the world adheres to clans and tribes as the bases of governance; democracy is almost unknown*
- *Conquests have limited and temporary effects*
  - *Tribes and clans were in place before nations*
  - *Conquests don't replace tribal cultures*
  - *Ancient and modern empires have conquered the mid-East; most of those didn't last*
- *Tribal allegiances and religious influences*
- *Treaty of Westphalia (1648)*
  - *Monopoly of war between European "nations"*
  - *But feuds, civil wars, insurgencies never went away*
  - *Current irrelevance in a global conflict*
- *Emergence and expansion of Islam ignored in the West; tolerance of Islamist attacks fed growth*

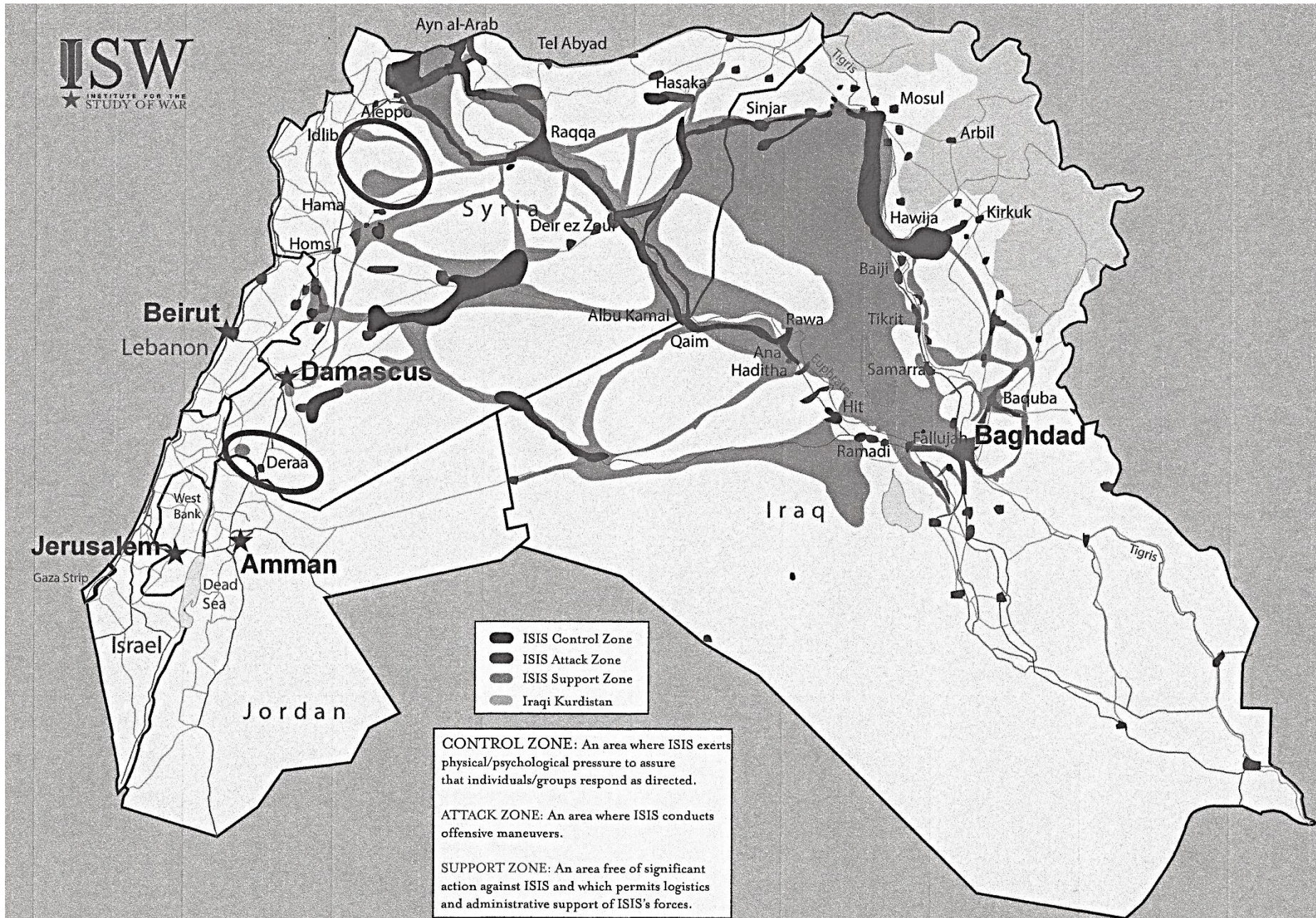


# Current Enemies

- *Al Qaeda—outdated, less effective in general*
- *Taliban—Afghan government in waiting; Pakistan ISI*
- *Yemen—Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula; Houthi*
- *Al Qaeda in the Magreb—converting to Daesh*
- *Muslim Brotherhood—repressed in Egypt*
- *Al Shabab—Somalia, Kenya, and Uganda atrocities*
- *Boko Haram—converts to Daesh in Nigeria and beyond*
- *East Asia—some violence; fewer Islamist extremists*
- *Hamas and other threats to Israel, our ignored Ally*
- *Iran—central control for Shia; supporter of Hizb 'Allah, Hamas, Houthi, and other Shia factions; major nuclear threat; untrustworthy negotiator with P5+1*
- *Daesh (IS, ISIS, ISIL) in Iraq, Syria, and beyond*



# Daesh Controlled Areas





# *Current Allies and Objectives*

- *Mid-East*
  - *Turkey: Dominate the region; aid US; prevent "incursions"*
  - *Syria: Assad regime regain power; insurgents overthrow; Daesh violence to gain territory and adherents*
  - *Iraq: Stability; Kurdish separatists; Sunni-Shia conflict*
  - *Israel: Survival; quell Hamas and Hizb Allah; counter Iran*
  - *Saudi: Presumed ally; Sunni central; maintain royal family*
  - *Egypt: Peace; suppress Muslim Brotherhood*
  - *Russia: Support Assad in Syria; attack US-backed militia*
- *Africa: Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Somalia, Chad, etc. conflicts to convert apostates and others; atrocities persist*
- *Asia*
  - *Afghanistan: Survive; economy in shambles; factions*
  - *Pakistan: Main enemy is India; pacify western border*
- *Europe: NATO slowdown; slow immigration; assimilate before catastrophe; focus on economy*

# *Apparent US Aims*

- *To limit violence, degrade, and ultimately destroy Islamist extremist groups*
- *To stabilize the Mid-East*
- *To (reluctantly) maintain alliances (e.g., Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey)*
- *To compromise with enemies (e.g., Iran, Hamas)*
- *To seek isolationism; focus domestically; distract the public from major national issues*

# *Iranian Nuclear Negotiations*

- *Sec State John Kerry, FM Mohammad Javad Zarif, Britain, China, France, and Russia (IAEA, EU observers) conducted discussions in Switzerland*
- *Closed process; secret details; deadlines postponed*
- *Fact sheets:*
  - *US Parameters for a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action*
  - *Iranian Foreign Ministry tweets and Ayatollah Ali Khomeini statements provided*
- *Major differences:*
  1. *Sanctions: Phased (US) or immediate (GOI)*
  2. *Enrichment: Restricted for 15 (US) or 10 (GOI) years*
  3. *Advanced Fordo centrifuges: Ruled out (US) or allowed (GOI)*
  4. *Inspections: Surprise (US) or temporary consent (GOI)*
  5. *Enriched Uranium stockpiles: Ship out (US) or retain (GOI)*
  6. *Possible Military Dimensions: Issues not resolved*

# US Options

- *Quit—pull out and watch the war escalate on TV*
- *Turn it over to the UN, NATO, regional coalitions*
- *Persevere with limited support (e.g., air strikes, materiel, training teams, some special operations)*
- *Shift gears*
  - *Deemphasize broad (but weak) US military responses*
  - *Apply and coordinate LOCAL economic, cultural, ideological, political, law enforcement, and social instruments of power*
- *Define national security policies and strategy*  
*(e.g., define vital interests, reasonable national security goals and strategies, "real" enemies, broader strategies for exit, Israel policy, solve the energy crisis to make Arab oil less relevant)*
- *Can we help to create a climate for reforming Islam to a more modern, moderate belief system—similar to the Protestant Reformation? [Internal impetus]*



# *Islamic Reformation*

- **Itjihad**—*independent reasoning is how recognized Muslim leaders could lead Islam to change*
- *Seek legitimate pathway for moderate reform*
- *Identify common beliefs in Quran, Haditha, and Surah—contemporary review of Sharia*
- *Evaluate dynamic and evolutionary factors of diverse Shia-Sunni sectarianism*
- *Moderate, modern Islami scholars with world views (Sufi?) could form the core for rethinking*
- *Read the Quran in context of current times*
- *No recognized central authority to undertake such a large-scale effort—who can do this?*

**Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders  
World Islamic Front Statement  
23 February 1998**

***Shaykh Usamah Bin-Muhammad Bin-Ladin  
Ayman al-Zawahiri, amir of the Jihad Group in Egypt  
Abu-Yasir Rifa'i Ahmad Taha, Egyptian Islamic Group  
Shaykh Mir Hamzah, secretary of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Pakistan  
Fazlur Rahman, amir of the Jihad Movement in Bangladesh***

**Praise be to Allah, who revealed the Book, controls the clouds, defeats factionalism, and says in His Book: "But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the pagans wherever ye find them, seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war)"; and peace be upon our Prophet, Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah, who said: I have been sent with the sword between my hands to ensure that no one but Allah is worshipped, Allah who put my livelihood under the shadow of my spear and who inflicts humiliation and scorn on those who disobey my orders.**

**The Arabian Peninsula has never -- since Allah made it flat, created its desert, and encircled it with seas -- been stormed by any forces like the crusader armies spreading in it like locusts, eating its riches and wiping out its plantations. All this is happening at a time in which nations are attacking Muslims like people fighting over a plate of food. In the light of the grave situation and the lack of support, we and you are obliged to discuss current events, and we should all agree on how to settle the matter.**

**No one argues today about three facts that are known to everyone; we will list them, in order to remind everyone: First, for over seven years the United States has been occupying the lands of Islam in the holiest of places, the Arabian Peninsula, plundering its riches, dictating to its rulers, humiliating its people, terrorizing its neighbors, and turning its bases in the Peninsula into a spearhead through which to fight the neighboring Muslim peoples.**

**If some people have in the past argued about the fact of the occupation, all the people of the Peninsula have now acknowledged it. The best proof of this is the Americans' continuing aggression against the Iraqi people using the Peninsula as a staging post, even though all its rulers are against their territories being used to that end, but they are helpless.**

**Second, despite the great devastation inflicted on the Iraqi people by the crusader-Zionist alliance, and despite the huge number of those killed, which has exceeded 1 million... despite all this, the Americans are once again trying to repeat the horrific massacres, as though they are not content with the protracted blockade imposed after the ferocious war or the fragmentation and devastation. So here they come to annihilate what is left of this people and to humiliate their Muslim neighbors.**

**Third, if the Americans' aims behind these wars are religious and economic, the aim is also to serve the Jews' petty state and divert attention from its occupation of Jerusalem and murder of Muslims there. The best proof of this is their eagerness to destroy Iraq, the strongest neighboring Arab state, and their endeavor to fragment all the states of the region such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Sudan into paper statelets and through their disunion and weakness to guarantee Israel's survival and the continuation of the brutal crusade occupation of the Peninsula.**

**All these crimes and sins committed by the Americans are a clear declaration of war on Allah, his messenger, and Muslims. And ulema have throughout Islamic history unanimously agreed that the jihad is an individual duty if the enemy destroys the Muslim countries. This was revealed by Imam Bin-Qadamah in "Al- Mughni," Imam al-Kisa'i in "Al-Bada'i," al-Qurtubi in his interpretation, and the shaykh of al-Islam in his books, where he said: "As for the fighting to repulse [an enemy], it is aimed at defending sanctity and religion, and it is a duty as agreed [by the ulema]. Nothing is more sacred than belief except repulsing an enemy who is attacking religion and life."**

**On that basis, and in compliance with Allah's order, we issue the following fatwa to all Muslims:**

**The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies -- civilians and military -- is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it, in order to liberate the al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy mosque [Mecca] from their grip, and in order for their armies to move out of all the lands of Islam, defeated and unable to threaten any Muslim. This is in accordance with the words of Almighty Allah, "and fight the pagans all together as they fight you all together," and "fight them until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah."**

**This is in addition to the words of Almighty Allah: "And why should ye not fight in the cause of Allah and of those who, being weak, are ill-treated (and oppressed)? -- women and children, whose cry is: 'Our Lord, rescue us from this town, whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from thee one who will help!'"**

**We -- with Allah's help -- call on every Muslim who believes in Allah and wishes to be rewarded to comply with Allah's order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever they find it. We also call on Muslim ulema, leaders, youths, and soldiers to launch the raid on Satan's US troops and the devil's supporters allying with them, and to displace those who are behind them so that they may learn a lesson.**

**Almighty Allah said: "O ye who believe, give your response to Allah and His Apostle, when He calleth you to that which will give you life. And know that Allah cometh between a man and his heart, and that it is He to whom ye shall all be gathered." Almighty Allah also says: "O ye who believe, what is the matter with you, that when ye are asked to go forth in the cause of Allah, ye cling so heavily to the earth! Do ye prefer the life of this world to the hereafter? But little is the comfort of this life, as compared with the hereafter. Unless ye go forth, He will punish you with a grievous penalty, and put others in your place; but Him ye would not harm in the least. For Allah hath power over all things."**

**Almighty Allah also says: "So lose no heart, nor fall into despair. For ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith."**