Knowledge Mapping the Structure of Ideologies

If we are involved in a struggle with a militant ideology, we would do well to understand the character of the opposing ideology. This is a preliminary attempt to characterize the contemporary militant jihad ideology.

The creation of modern jihad ideology

How Mawdudi and Qutb reinterpreted the concept of "jihad" and built the rationale in 1960s and early 70s

**Milestones**

- **1954**: Qutb Released from Prison by Nasser
- **1964**: Sayyid A.Qutb Egyptian militant leader, writer
- **1965**: The Times Publishes His Book

**Universal Jihad against the modern jahiliyya (ignorant barbarism) is required**

Jihad is the "revolutionary struggle to seize power for the good of all humanity" and is "in the last resort" "an armed struggle".

* "No other Muslim thinker had ever made this claim before" (Armstrong, 2000)

**Universal Jihad against the modern jahiliyya (ignorant barbarism) is required**

Mawdudi's thought begins with the central idea

God is sovereign over everybody and everything on the earth

God's commandments are the only law as revealed in the Koran and Sunnah (the customs and habits of the Prophet Muhammad)

All Westernized forms of government usurp God's authority

All Western democracies lead inevitably "to chaos, greed, moral rule, capitalism fosters class warfare"

Any ruler "who refused to govern according to God's will should not be obeyed"

Western governments contain the possibility of "evil, oppression, and tyranny"

All Westernized governments must be rebelled against and resisted

No one can make decisions for each human

Humans have "no right to make up their own laws"

Rulers should simply administer the Shariah (Islamic law) and not create their own laws

Muslims are "duty-bound to overthrow every corrupt secular dictator"

"Revolution is a duty against these rulers"

This modern Jahiliyyah (ignorant barbarism) is worse than that at the time of the Prophet because it is a principled rebellion against God

Muslims must revolt against the secular culture

"There can be no coercion in matters of faith" — The Koran

Muslims must revolt against the secular culture

"There can be no coercion in matters of faith" — The Koran

And they knew what God's law was

And therefore

This modern Jahiliyyah (ignorant barbarism) is worse than that at the time of the Prophet because it is a principled rebellion against God

But this is interpreted by Qutb as

Secular so-called Muslim rulers (e.g., Nasser) had departed from God and God's law

"Humanity is living in a large brothel! One has only to glance at its press, films, fashion shows, beauty contests, ballrooms, wine bars, and broadcasting stations! Or observe its lust for naked flesh, provocative postures, and sick suggestive statements in literature, the arts, and mass media! And add to all this, the system of usury which fuels man's voracity for money..." — Sayyid Qutb

Nationalism (which makes the state a supreme value) is Jahiliyya (ignorant barbarism)

Democracy (in which the people usurp God's rule) is Jahiliyya (ignorant barbarism)

Pagans, Jews, Christians, Crusaders, Mongols, Communists, Capitalists, Colonialists, Zionists are all, like Nasser, determined to wipe out Islam

Nasser was determined to wipe out Islam

"No other Muslim thinker had ever made this claim before" (Armstrong, 2000)