

# Islamist Extremists

Proxies Of The West.

by Iain Davis

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## Chapter 1

The impression we are all given by our esteemed leaders and the mainstream media (MSM) that so compliantly serves them, is that the Islamist extremists represent an existential threat to our 'way of life.' The Islamists hate us and, most importantly, 'hate our freedom.' From time to time, depending upon the geopolitical realities of the day, we are reminded that the threat level is severe and asked to be vigilant, prepared to 'run, hide, tell' if ever we witness masked men with guns, though presumably they may well be police officers but it's probably best to be terrified in any event.

The slight problem I have with all this is that the Western military industrial intelligence complex has been working with, arming, equipping, training and deploying Islamist extremist terrorist organisations for at least half a century. So, while their is no doubt that groups like ISIS, al Qaeda and Jaish al Islam (who work for out allies the Saudis) are murderous thugs, it's not entirely clear who they work for or whose purpose they serve at any given moment.



Zbigniew Brzezinski

Prior to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, in 1979, President Carter's National

Security Advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski was the key architect of a plan to arm the Afghan Mujaheddin in what would later be known as 'Operation Cyclone.' Brzezinski aim was to bog the Russian forces down in an energy and resource sapping war in Afghanistan. He believed that arming the Afghan tribesmen presented an opportunity for the U.S to give Russia its own Vietnam. He saw the Islamists of the Mujaheddin as a useful tool to be wielded in support of U.S geopolitical objectives. In 1979 he flew to the Pakistan border with Afghanistan and told the gathered Mujaheddin:

"We know of your [their] deep belief in God and we are confident that your [their] struggle will succeed. That land over there [Afghanistan] is yours. You'll go back to it one day because your fight will prevail and you'll have your homes and your Mosques back again, because your cause is right and God is on your side."

Thus began the modern era of cooperation between the Western powers, predominantly the U.S and the UK, and various Islamist extremist groups that has continued to this day.

While Operation Cyclone is widely acknowledged, any suggestion that Western powers continued their strategic support for Islamists groups, beyond the 1989 withdrawal of the Soviets from Afghanistan, is strictly taboo. We are instead asked to accept the simple narrative that the 'war on terror' is essentially a battle of good vs evil. The goodies are us, along with the factions we arm to the teeth, so they can fight for 'democracy;' the baddies are everyone who opposes them, who are also heavily armed, usually by either Russia or Iran apparently.

There is considerable evidence the Western power's have continued to use Islamist terrorists as proxies in a game of geostrategic manipulation, inspired by globalist thinkers like Brzezinski, financed by the global corporations and the governments they control. Currently, this is most notable in Syria. However, we can trace the post-Cyclone relationship back to the early 1990s. Essentially, following the end of the Mujaheddin's conflict with the Russians, the West's relationship with Islamists never ended.

In 1991 both Croatia and Slovenia seceded from Yugoslavia, shortly followed by a declaration of independence by Bosnia-Herzegovina. Slobadan Milosevic's Serbian government supported the Bosnian Serb's rejection of the declaration and

violence erupted between Bosnian Serbs and Muslims. Sadly, having previously coexisted in relative harmony, this bitter conflict literally pitted neighbours against each other. The violence was appalling and exacerbated when the Croats switched allegiance from the Serbs to the Bosnian Muslims.

Bosnia-Herzegovina devolved into three separate regions. One Muslim Bosniak, another Croat and the other Serbian. During the Bosnian War the Bosnian Muslim were supported by the U.S. and the UK (and earlier Iran and Saudi Arabia), the Croats drew Catholic support from across Europe and the Russians, Israelis, Greeks and Ukrainians supported the Serbs, again drawing fighters from a number of eastern orthodox nations. Effectively, during this period, the Bosnian War, the war in Kosovo, The Albanian civil war and the insurgencies in the Presevo Valley and the Republic of Macedonia were all heavily influenced by more powerful, external 'players'. They all exercised their realpolitik through the sponsorship of various military factions.

In 1996 the Dutch Government commissioned a report from the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD) into the events surrounding the Bosnian War and, in particular, the massacre at Srebrenica. Their published 2002 report was a product of investigators unrestricted access to Dutch intelligence and high level access to other intelligence service's personnel and documentation. Their finding were extensive and unequivocal. It demonstrated the supposed U.N Security Council arms embargo was essentially a publicity stunt designed to give the impression that governments were trying to stop the killing. In reality, they were orchestrating it.

The word 'government' is used advisedly here. There is a difference between what most of us understand 'government' to mean and the nexus of unelected private interests who wield power over and above nation states. This is often collectively referred to as the <a href="New World Order">New World Order</a> (NWO.) This is itself slightly misleading but, suffice to say, 'government' here means those who control it, not those who are elected to represent it.



European children Playing In a European war zone in the 1990's.

The Dutch report clarified that the CIA and MI6 were aware of the Iranian supply of arms and fighters to support the Bosnian Muslim Army. Rather than attempt to stop it, in 1993, they took it over and expanded 'the Croatian Pipeline.' It required the shipment of weapons, fighters and equipment via Turkey and Croatia into the war zone. The <u>Dutch report</u> stated:

"Clinton and State Department officials considered supplies via Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan. This was not new: in the 1980s, Saudi Arabia had already supplied arms worth \$500 million via the CIA to the Mujahedin fighters in Afghanistan. There had also already been a close relationship with Turkey in the area of intelligence for some considerable time. For instance, there were various American monitoring stations in Turkey, and there was close collaboration of the Turkish domestic security service with the CIA and the FBI."

Previously, in 1992, <u>a 14 man CIA backed team</u>, consisting of 'retired' U.S. military personnel, entered Bosnia through Croatia and set up a training camp in Meskovic, a village near the town of Tuzla. CIA support for the Bosnian Islamists came through the 'Croatian pipeline.' Arms bought in Iran and Turkey, with Saudi 'front' money, were dropped by blacked out Hercules C-130s to the waiting forces below. The Dutch governmental report into the breach of the U.N embargo stated that Islamist fighters also entered the conflict through this route.

Building upon their <u>extensive relationships with Islamist extremists</u>, the Western governments saw the Bosnian War as an ideal opportunity, one they had <u>effectively created</u>, to continue the <u>strategy of tension</u> in Europe and move the

most extreme Islamist elements towards a global presence.

Thousands of Arab fighters, including future al Qaeda terrorists, were sent through the Croatian Pipeline into the conflict. Once there, U.S. and British Special forces, such as the SAS and SBS, covertly trained them in advanced combat techniques, the use of explosives, surveillance and so on. The most radical Islamists then acted as Muslim Bosniak special forces or 'shock troops.' They were deployed in extremely high risk operations in no small measure due to their enthusiasm to commit atrocities and die for the cause.

Ayman Al Zawahiri (then second in command of al Qaeda) sent his brother, Muhammed al Zawahiri, into the Bosnian conflict in 1993 as a charity representative for the International Islamic Relief Organisation of Saudi Arabia (IIROSA). Once inserted, he remained in the region and helped to coordinate his end of the Croatian Pipeline and other operations.

The flood of Islamist fighters and arms into the conflict led to the massacre at Srebrenica in 1995. Bosnian Serb forces systematically executed thousands of Muslim males, including children. While there is no possible justification for the appalling slaughter, the context is consistently overlooked. Prior to the Srebrenica massacre thousands of Serbs were tortured and killed by Islamist extremist of the Bosnian Mujahideen in the outlying vicinity. The hatred reached incalculable levels as humankind once again revealed its capacity for insane violence. General Philippe Morillon, commander of the UN troops in Bosnia, testified to the ICTY (International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia) that Muslim forces based in Srebrenica had:

".....engaged in attacks during Orthodox holidays and destroyed villages, massacring all the inhabitants. This created a degree of hatred that was quite extraordinary in the region"



People trying to flee the approaching 'Storm.'

In response, NATO supported <u>Operation Storm</u>. Croatian forces launched a major offensive and NATO provided air support ultimately forcing the Bosnian Serbs out of the war and the signing of the <u>Dayton Accords</u>, negotiated at Dayton Air Force Base, Ohio. Operation Storm was supported by Richard Perle (former Chairman of the Council for Foreign Relations & Trilateral Commission) who bought in the services of private military contractors called 'Military Professional Resources Incorporated' (MPRI – essentially a mercenary corporation) to train and equip the Croat forces for Operation Storm. It became immediately apparent the combination of MPRI's activities and the 'Train and Equip' program, far from stabilising the post-war region, was actually reigniting tensions between the Serbs and the Muslims.

This led to the outbreak of another atrocious conflict in the Serbian province of Kosovo in 1996. Although Kosovo was predominantly ethnically Albanian, the ranks of the main Western backed protagonists were again swelled by the Bosnian Mujaheddin, replete with its fledgling al Qaeda 'brigades.'

The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was effectively a client of MPRI. Its commander was Agim Ceku, a former brigadier general in the Croatian army, who had worked with the MPRI leader, 'retired' U.S. Major General Walter Yates, during Operation Storm. In 1999, millions of dollars worth of arms were transferred from Bosnian weapons dumps to the KLA. This caused a bit of embarrassment on Capitol Hill

as the KLA had been described in 1998, by U.S. Balkan envoy Robert Gelbard, as "without any questions, a terrorist group." However, he soon backtracked and said they weren't. Consequently, the Train and Equip program was suspended, and they weren't able to officially restart it until the heat had died down a bit.

The KLA initially formed as an amalgamation of radicalised students, professionals, members of influential families and the local Mafia. They embarked upon their brutal campaign by bombing Serbian refugee camps and their methods deteriorated from there. They frequently targeted Serb and Albanian civilians who they decided were 'collaborators.' However, their numbers were significantly increased by the influx of mujahideen fighters in 1998.

In 1994 Osama bin Laden began establishing training camps in Albania, probably by using his official issue Bosnian passport. A 1998 joint CIA and Albanian intelligence report stated:[24]

"Mujahideen units from at least half a dozen Middle East countries streaming across the border into Kosovo from safe bases in Albania."

Many of the KLA fighters had also trained in al Qaeda camps in Afghanistan, according to the testimony of senior Interpol official Ralf Mutschke, who gave evidence to the US Congress. Mutschke stated that bin Laden's right-hand man, probably IIROSA representative Muhammed al Zawahiri or (less likely) his brother Zaiman, assisted with the movement of fighters, including veterans of Ayman al Zawahiri's militant group 'Islamic Jihad' (al Qaeda affiliated) from Bosnia, Chechnya and Afghanistan.



#### Ralph Mutschke

The illegal drug trade provided both an additional source of revenue for the KLA, and a reason for U.S. led NATO involvement in Kosovo. The traditional heroin smuggling routes were temporarily disrupted by the exposure of <u>Operation Gladio</u> and the Bosnian War. This presented an opportunity for the Albanian Mafia who quickly established alternatives. In his 2000 testimony Mutschke (the Assistant Director of the Criminal Intelligence Directorate International Criminal Police Organization) stated:

"Structural links between political terrorism and traditional criminal activity, such as drugs trafficking, armed robbery or extortion have come increasingly to the attention of law enforcement authorities, security agencies and political decision makers"

As the carnage worsened in Kosovo our illustrious leaders universally condemned the war with some really strong rhetoric. The Yugoslav Army under Slobodan Milosovic were given all the blame. This is not to say that they didn't play their part in the violence but their worst atrocities were committed after NATO had blown Yugoslavia to smithereens in their 1999 'humanitarian' bombing campaign. In June 1998 Baroness Symons told the British parliament the KLA were a terrorist organisation who had "procured significant quantities of arms in Albania." She was right. By then the KLA was practically al Qaeda in Europe. Two days later Chris Hill, the US special envoy for Kosovo, met KLA officials and the day after that British diplomats also met KLA 'officials' in their headquarters in the central Kosovo village of Klecka.

The West continued to train and support the Islamist forces, as they had during the Afghan and Bosnian war. Special forces operatives from both the U.S. and UK were deployed to instruct the new intake of Islamist fighters. Often working as independent MPRI 'contractors.' Officially the Kosovo training program started after the bombing campaign. However, KLA commanders reported the British and U.S. special forces had fought with them prior to the start of the bombing.[31] Operation Picnic was a joint U.S. Defence Intelligence Agency and MI6 conceived operation which saw both countries special forces engage Serb 'paramilitary

groups' while fighting alongside the KLA Islamist terrorists.

The German secret service Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND) were also involved. A few weeks into the 11-week bombing campaign, they provided the resources for a CIA funded training program for KLA forces in two camps the BND had established close to the Albanian Capital, Tirana. The British SAS provided instruction in guerrilla tactics and weapons handling, demolition and ambush techniques, as well as conducting intelligence-gathering operations on Serbian positions.

Lying, as usual, Tony Blair later told the British parliament and its people:

"Our position on training and arming the KLA remains as it has been – we are not in favour of doing so ... We have no plans to change that."

We all know politicians lie, it's an occupational necessity, but Tony Blair's estrangement from sincerity takes some beating. He had good reason for misleading the public. Aside from the fact the KLA was full of Islamist extremists, Tirana was the centre for al Qaeda operations in Albania. It seems his government were training the al Qaeda terrorists.

In the UK the leader of the terrorist linked organisation al Muhajiroun, Omar Bakri, was also doing his best to help and declared his support for the KLA telling the media he was raising funds in support of their struggle. In an interview with journalist Mahan Abedin in 2004, when asked where al Muhajiroun sent most of their recruits he said:

"We used to help mostly in Bosnia and Kosovo as part of a broader humanitarian effort."

It was evident the main operational aim was to open up the Balkans to <u>corporate</u> <u>exploitation</u>, but there were other reasons why the Western powers were eager to use the KLA extremists. Firstly, in a practical military sense, the KLA were used as NATO's "eyes and ears on the ground" using <u>NATO supplied</u> satellite phones to call in the air strikes on Serbian positions, as instructed by their U.S. and UK special forces trainers. However, James Bissett, former Canadian ambassador to Yugoslavia and Albania, stated that NATO hoped that by stirring up the situation they would have an opportunity to demonstrate their value to the world. He

#### wrote:

"....with Kosovo in flames NATO could intervene and in so doing, not only overthrow Milosevic the Serbian strongman, but, more importantly, provide the aging and increasingly irrelevant military organisation [NATO] with a reason for its continued existence."

It is worth noting the end of the cold war presented the Western 'military industrial intelligence complex' with a problem. Why do you need to spend untold amounts on weapons if there's no enemy to fight? All the bombs and missiles, tanks, ships, planes, drones and soldiers are just expensive white elephants in such circumstances. An enemy is required. If you haven't got one, you need to create one.

A nebulous global terrorist organisation is perfect. You have to spend billions just to find them. They are adaptable and mobile; they can be inserted anywhere you choose, depending upon your geopolitical aims; they are ideal for operating a 'strategy of tension' and can easily be inserted within your own state to bring the population to heel; the potential narratives you can weave around them are endless and can justify anything from shutting down freedom of speech to setting up secret courts; most importantly the potential profit margins are limitless, simply step up the killing and you'll be given plenty of cash by a terrified public.

In 1999 the Kosovo War came to an end with the signing of the 'Kumanovo Agreement.' Part of the deal was that the Yugoslav Army withdraw all its forces, to be replaced by the U.N approved International Security Force (KFOR.) It established a demilitarised zone (DMZ) on the Kosovo boundary with Serbia and required the KLA to disband.

However, in June 1999, elements of the KLA, who forgot to give up (have a guess which ones,) became an <u>insurgency in the Presevo Valley</u> in the heart of the DMZ. Despite the fall of Slobodan Milosovic in 2000 the CIA maintained the insurgency. This was reportedly summed up by a <u>KFOR commander</u> who said:

"The CIA has been allowed to run riot in Kosovo with a private army designed to overthrow Slobodan Milosevic. Now he's gone the US State Department seems incapable of reining in its bastard army."

European officials were quite cross as the 'guerillas' moved weaponry and fighters into the DMZ with impunity. It was then used as a staging post for a wider insurgency in Macedonia which saw the KLA become the NLA (National Liberation Army.) The rhetoric was just as strong as before, with people like NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson referring to the CIA backed, NATO special forces trained Islamist terrorists as 'murderous thugs.' If anyone had any doubts about who was backing the terrorists, these should have been completely dispelled by events which took place in the town of Aracinovo, Macedonia, in 2001.



The NLA

The NLA Islamist extremists had got themselves into a sticky situation after capturing the town. Surrounded by the Macedonian army, their prospects didn't look good. In stepped NATO who promised the Macedonia's government that they would imprison the fighters and return Aracinovo to government control, in exchange for letting the NLA go. So they picked about 500 of them up in coaches, took them back across the border, gave them their weapons back and bid them a fond farewell.

The NATO powers had invested decades and a lot of money building up their proxy army of Islamist terrorists and clearly felt it was worth the price of hiring some buses to protect a few hundred of their 'shock troops.' Three months after

the Aracinovo rescue a small group of their comrades allegedly flew aeroplanes into buildings in America and murdered thousands more. The 'war on terror' began. This provided a global strategy of tension, necessitating a lot more tax payer spending on very expensive military responses and intelligence gathering.

Far from ending after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Wests relationship continued beyond the end of Operation Cyclone as elements within the western military intelligence industrial establishment worked with various Islamist extremist groups in the Balkans. In Part 2 we'll consider the creation of al Qaeda and the West's close relationship with the group in the lead up to 9/11. The UK's role in developing the Islamist extremist terrorist threat, which has influenced the Wests global foreign policy throughout the years of the 'war on terror,' is explored in Part 3.

However hopefully none of us should be under any illusions. The so called Islamist terrorist threat (including ISIS) is inextricably entwined with NATO powers and their long standing foreign policy objectives. Western powers have consistently promoted and facilitated the development of the global terror threat. Once more, when we look at the evidence, it is clear that everything we are told by our lying political class, and the MSM which so dutifully serves it, bares next to no resemblance at all to the reality.

### Chapter 2

Having considered the post war historical context of the Anglo-American military intelligence industrial complex's long standing operational relationship with Islamist extremists in Part 1, we now examine the emergence of al Qaeda in the years before 9/11. Of course al Qaeda are not the evil bogey men they once were. For a while they were eclipsed by ISIS, who the Anglo-American establishment also helped to create, and, despite apparently murdering 3000 innocent people on 9/11, officially became the Wests allies in Syria in the guise of the al Nusra Front (now rebranded as Jabhat Fateh al-Sham) or 'al Qaeda in Syria.'

However despite the West's more formal support for al Qaeda in Syria (and Iraq) there is no doubt that they were blamed for perpetrating the 9/11 attack which created the narrative that underpins the 'war on terror.' In response, the NATO powers created <u>failed states</u> in Europe, Central Asia, North and Central Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere.



Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab

In the 18th century the emir of Najd, <u>Muhammad ibn Saud</u>, head of the al Saud tribal family, formed an alliance with Muhammad ibn Abd al Wahhab, the founder of Wahhabism, and his ferocious fighters. The Wahhabi part of the deal was to fight and pay their taxes to bolster the al Saud coffers. By the 19th century this partnership resulted in the Wahhabi 'Muslim brothers' of the Ikhwan capturing Riyadh to return the house of Saud to power. By 1925, with the fierce Wahhabi troops under his command, Abd Al-Aziz ibn Saud had seized both Mecca and Medina and was well on his way to establishing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, his Wahhabi warriors wanted to create a Wahhabi caliphate across the Middle East. Realising this would jeopardise his personal ambitions, Abd al-Aziz slaughtered the fighters who brought him to power.

In 1931 OBL's father Mohammad bin Laden, emigrated to the fledgling Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from Yemen. An astute business man, he built strong relationships with the future King Abdul al Aziz and King Faisal. In 1933 the young Kingdom granted the Rockefeller owned 'U.S. Standard Oil' exclusive oil exploration rights. Just over a decade later, in 1945, the dying U.S. President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, met with King Abdul al Aziz and they made a deal that would underpin U.S. Saudi relations for the rest of the century. The Saudis agreed to sell their oil to the U.S. and, reciprocally, the U.S. pledged its military might to protect the rule of al Saud.

King Abdul al Aziz stipulated another condition of the deal. In return for oil the U.S. would also protect the Saudi faith, Wahhabism. This is the basis of the Western powers long standing arrangement with Islamist fundamentalism (which accurately describes Wahabism.) First and foremost it was part of a business deal. This developed throughout the second half of the 20th centuary as the CIA and MI6 built a working relation ship with the Islamists. Osama bin Laden was a follower of Wahhabism. The religious fundamentalism so often cited as the basis of the Islamists world view and demonised in the western media as barbaric, is the same religious ideology the Western powers have been supporting the Saudis to export globally.

In the imediate aftermath of 9/11, while the U.S. and world's mainstream media

(MSM) were enthusiastic to report Osama bin Laden 'did it,' scarcely a mention was made of the fact he refuted the allegation. This unusual repudiation of culpability seems odd given that most Islamist terrorist groups are more than happy to claim responsibility for attacks, even when they didn't commit them. According to some, including the 9/11 Commission itself, OBL wasn't the mastermind behind the attacks, just the operational coordinator and financier. Therefore his demonisation as the evil overlord conflicts somewhat with the 9/11 Commissions own opinion that the funding of the attacks was "..of little practical significance." Others claim that Bin Laden was merely a figurehead for a loose coalition of Islamist extremists, we call 'al Qaeda,' who are largely a product of the western military intelligence establishment's influence in Afghanistan during Operation Cyclone.

This chimes with crazy <u>conspiracy theorist</u> views that al Qaeda never existed until Western intelligence agencies helped to create it. The concept of the centrally coordinated, international terrorist cell network was simply a 'bogey man' designed to give children (and their parents) nightmares. It also provided the 'military industrial intelligence complex' an ever elusive, perpetually profitable, enemy which required never ending budget increases to combat. This is not to suggest that al Qaeda don't exist but rather that they probably wouldn't exist without Western support. Their ability to run an apparent global network, absent the complicity of elements within western intelligence, is questionable.

Robin Cook, the British Foreign Secretary at the time of the 9/11 attack, was one of the conspiracy scatterbrains who thought this was the case. He later refused to support his government's subsequent call for war in Iraq in 2003. Citing a lack of legal authority or supporting evidence to justify war, his resignation speech is considered by many to be one of the greatest oratories ever delivered in the post WWII British Parliament. Cook, privy to intelligence assessments at the time of 9/11, remained a critical back bench MP and wrote an article in 2005 which cast doubt upon the official al Qaeda 'mythology.' In the immediate aftermath of the London 7/7 atrocity, He wrote:

"....Bin Laden was, though, a product of a monumental miscalculation by Western security agencies. Throughout the 80s he was armed by the CIA and funded by the

Saudis to wage jihad against the Russian occupation of Afghanistan. Al-Qaida, literally 'the database', was originally the computer file of the thousands of Mujahideen who were recruited and trained with help from the CIA to defeat the Russians."

Four weeks later, aged 59, Cook unexpectedly died while out walking with his wife in the Scottish Highlands. Despite being a physically fit man, he suffered a fatal heart attack and fell down a hillside where he was initially assisted by another hillwalker who made the 999 emergency call. He was flown to hospital 30 minutes after his fall. His wife did not accompany her husband to hospital. The third person, who called the emergency services, present at the scene of his death has never been identified.

There is little doubt that 9/11 and 7/7 were <u>false flag attacks</u>. The evidence which substantiates this is explored in detail in the book <u>A Dangerous Ideology</u> (which is available for free to **In this Together** newsletter subscribers so why not get yourself a copy?) Al Qaeda were linked to both attacks which were seminal in building the narrative, and public support on both sides of the Atlantic, for the so called 'war on terror.'



In 1985, MB operatives Abdullah Azzam (L), bin Laden, and Ayman Zawahiri (R) founded MAK in Pakistan, which evolved into al-Qaeda. The Amman MAK recruited Abu Musab Zarqawi, who founded Jama'at al-Tawhid wa-l-Jihad, which evolved into al-Qaeda in Iraq and eventually into ISIS.

During the 1980s the CIA ran 'Operation Cyclone' to <u>arm, train and equip</u> Afghan Mujahideen fighters in their war against the occupying forces of the USSR. The

CIA superficially made efforts to distance themselves from the most radical Islamist elements and liaised with Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) to funnel funds to the extremists. A significant proportion of the estimated \$5Bn investment was administered by Maktab al Khidamat (MAK.) The CIA had grown tired of the tribal infighting that plagued the Afghan fighters and looked towards foreign extremists as a better option. MAK was run by Osama Bin Laden, among others.

It's purpose was to coordinate the movement of money, arms and fighters from the outside world into the Afghan conflict. OBL supplemented MAK funds through his close association with the Afghan warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his international drugs empire.

Following the 1985 publication of National Security Decision Directive 166 (NSDD 166,) which 'stepped up covert military aid to the Mujahideen,' the U.S. Assistant Undersecretary of Defence, Michael Pillsbury, flew to the Afghan boarder to meet with the drug dealer Hekmatyar and reviewed his military training operations. Pillsbury was the chair of an inter-agency White House policy group tasked with advising Operation Cyclone. At his meeting with Hekmatyar, Pillsbury asked if direct funding of OBL's 'Arab fighters' would be helpful. However, the Afghan drug lord wanted the money to continue flowing into his own operations and warned against it.

Unconvinced, CIA director William Casey made an agreement with the ISI to increase funding to the Arab fighters. Following this agreement, in 1986, Osama bin Laden established his first training camp which he named Maasada (the Lion's Den.) The camp was precariously close to a Soviet military base and was opposed by other Islamists who felt its scale and expense were unnecessary. Nor did they want to divide their forces by nationality. A split emerged which later shaped events in Iraq and elsewhere.

In order to support Maasada and other Islamist projects MAK ran up to 30 fundraising and recruitment offices in the U.S. Though the first office opened in Tucson (Arizona) it was the New York office, the 'Al Kifah Refugee Center,' which became its most significant. It was the place where the so called 'Arab-Afghan foreign legion' (the future al Qaeda), was initially conceived. Based in Brooklyn,

the office served as a hub for Arab immigrant and American born Islamist recruits to be sent to Afghanistan. It was also a rallying point for Afghan fighters flying into the States. Their passage facilitated with <u>CIA supplied passports</u>.

In 1989 <u>Michael Springmann</u> (head US consular official in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia) was fired after repeatedly complaining about being overruled by his superiors every time he refused to issue Islamist extremists with visas to enter the U.S. On one occasion Springmann reported that he declined the applications of two individuals who said they were visiting a trade show in the U.S. but didn't know what it was called or where it was. Having rejected them, Springmann said he received "an almost immediate call from a CIA case officer, hidden in the commercial section [of the consulate], that I should reverse myself and grant these guys a visa."

The original founder of MAK was Sheikh Abdullah Azzam, OBL's mentor. Azzam made numerous visits to the U.S. during the 1980s and, while building financial support for MAK's U.S. based operations, ran into conflict with his pupil Osama. Azzam was against the expansionist ambitions of OBL and his Egyptian comrade (and one time physician) <u>Dr Ayman al Zawahiri</u>. Al Zawahiri eventually cofounded al Qaeda with Osama. He was pivotal, according to official accounts, in convincing OBL to expand the jihad globally. Azzam strongly disagreed with the pair's idea to move operations beyond Afghan borders.

Following The Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989, Osama and al Zawahiri formed a fighting force whose aim was to use terror to take jihad to these foreign 'enemies.' Abdullah Azzam continued his objections, resulting in Ayman al Zawahiri accusing him of spying for the CIA. Fortunately for anyone who may have wanted al Qaeda to expand their operations Azzam died in a car bombing later that same year and an unrestrained Osama and al Zawahiri forged ahead with their plan. Al Qaeda began to form and Osama took leadership of MAK.

Conspiracy theorists say the idea that Western intelligence agencies didn't know what was going on, especially as they were funding most of it, is so silly you'd need the audacity of a paid CIA troll to say otherwise.

Meanwhile, Omar Abdel Rahman (the Blind Sheik) had already built a

considerable following at the MAK funded Al-Kifah Refugee Center and the Al Farooq Mosque in New York. He had wowed his radical Islamist audiences during his frequent trips to the States on CIA sponsored Visas. Despite being on a terrorist black list, he was provided with a U.S. 'green card' in 1991 and worked with Ali Mohamed and others in the Brooklyn based Islamist recruitment and training centre to send fighters to the Balkans.

It is clear that the creation of al Qaeda wasn't merely a result of Osama and al Zawahiri's efforts in Afghanistan and the Middle East, but was rather an international operation which received significant support from the CIA among others. Even if you accept the preposterous notion that al Qaeda were solely responsible for 9/11, the widespread activities of MAK, especially in the U.S, provides solid grounds for questioning the degree of Western establishment involvement in the atrocity.

However it wasn't just the U.S who had a close relationship with the Islamists. In <u>Part 3</u> we look at the UK's incubation of Islamist extremists and ask what role they played in crating the 'war on terror' paradigm.

### Chapter 3

From the mid 1990's onward numerous terrorist organisations and leading terrorists were given a home in the UK. The evidence clearly shows that this was the result of a deliberate policy of the UK government. It has been suggested that this was a form of appeasement aimed at 'reducing' attacks on the the British mainland and an intelligence led operation to keep close tabs on potential threats. However, it is also clear that the policy effectively provided safe harbour from prosecution for known terrorists and a center for the recruitment operations of terrorist organisations. In Part 1 we looked at the historical background of the West's support for Islamist extremists and in Part 2 the significant role the CIA (among others) played in the creation of al Qaeda. We will now explore how the UK became the European center of operations for Islamist extremists.

Al Muhajiroun was instrumental in the <u>radicalisation of young British Muslims</u> and their passage to training camps and conflict in Central Asia, the Middle East and the Balkans. It seems likely that many would have attended the training camps established by known CIA assets like Junaid Barbar, who was an al Muhajiroun member and frequent visitor to their offices in the UK. Both Omar Khyam, the supposed fertiliser bomb plot leader, and Sidique Khan, the 7/7 ringleader, were members, as were most of their <u>fellow plotters</u>.



Omar Bakri Muhammad

In 1983 'Jamaat Al Muhajiroun' was formed by Omar Bakri Muhammad, a Syrian borne exile living in Saudi Arabia. In 1985 Bakri was expelled from the Kingdom and came to the UK, where he was given political asylum. He immediately began promoting the Islamist ideology of Hizb ut-Tahrir. However, unlike that organisation, which was largely an Islamist 'think tank' promoting the creation of an Islamic Caliphate, Bakri's radicalising calls to violence apparently lost him favour, resulting in his expulsion. Consequently, together with British borne Anjim Choudary, in 1996, Bakri started to set up the Al Muhajiroun network in the UK. Which does beg the question, though clearly not for everyone, why known Islamist extremists were able to gain asylum in the UK with the agreement of the British government.

It wasn't just the Fertiliser bomb plotters and the 7/7 bombers who were closely linked to Al Muhajiroun. The killers of off duty soldier Lee Rigby, Michael 'Mujahid' Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale, also had ties. As did failed 'shoe bomber' Richard Reid and London Bridge attacker Khuram Butt. Just like the leaders of both the 9/11 and 7/7 plots, all were well-known to the security services and intelligence agencies, prior to launching their attacks. Though we should also remember how many attacks they do protect us from even if subsequent convictions are a bit thin on the ground.

Bakri was an informant working with MI5. Just before 7/7, Pulitzer prize winning journalist Ron Suskind conducted a series of interviews with Bakri. Suskind claimed that an official source within MI5 had told him that Bakri had helped MI5 on several of its investigations. Reportedly, when Suskind asked Bakri about his links to MI5, and why he had worked with them, he said:

"I'm upset you know this.....I like it here, my family's here. I like the health benefits."

Regardless of Suskind's stature as a journalist, the citing of unnamed sources isn't, in itself, evidence of much. However, Bakri's further comments and both his and Al Muhajiroun's remarkable evasion of British justice, only start to make any sense in light of the 'strategy of tension.'

In 1990 Bakri, while living in the UK, <u>openly called for the assassination</u> of the British Prime Minister John Major. Bakri said:

"[Major is....] a legitimate target; if anyone gets the opportunity to assassinate him, I don't think they should save it. It is our Islamic duty and we will celebrate his death."



Finsbury Park Mosque.

In one of the many incidences of his amazing ability to avoid prosecution Bakri was arrested for 'interview' but wasn't charged. If you or I publicly made such statements we would rightly be prosecuted under legislation such as the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. We would also probably face charges of Sedition and possibly Treason. Yet Bakri, radical Islamist and founder of extremist terrorist organisations linked to al Qaeda, wasn't.

#### In 2004 Bakri stated in an interview:

"I believe Britain is harbouring most of the Islamic opposition leaders of the Muslim world.... Because the <u>British elites</u> are very clever, they are not stupid like the Americans. Remember these people used to rule half of the world.... The British are not like the French and the Germans, they don't slap you in the face, they stab you in the back. They want to buy some of these Islamic groups..... I believe the really clever people are the elites in this country, as they know how to divide Muslims."

Not only was Al Muhajiroun the centre of an Islamist extremist recruitment operation, but it also set up Sharia Courts in the UK (though they lacked any

legal standing). This enabled Bakri to receive a fee and raise funds for Al Muhajiroun in return for voluntary 'arbitration services.' Bakri was also a close associate of al Qaeda facilitator and recruiter Mohammad Quayum Khan (also known as 'Q'). Yet despite all of this, in the knowledge the supposed 7/7 bombers were members of his organisation, following the London Bombings, Bakri was allowed to leave the UK for Lebanon. On the day of his departure the MSM stalwart, the Sunday Times, printed a story quoting Bakri, as he heaped praise upon the alleged London bombers, calling them the "Fantastic Four."

A year later the UK government announced that <u>Bakri would not be allowed to return</u>. This left Bakri free to continue to inspire his Al Muhajiroun followers as he was also seemingly impervious to prosecution by the Lebanese authorities. Like the British they arrested him but then decided to let him go. In 2007 Bakri stated:

"We were able to control the Muslim youth.... The radical preacher that allows a venting of a point of view is preventing violence. Now, many of us are gone or in jail, and we've been replaced by radical jihadis, who take the youth underground. You don't see them until the day they vent with the bombs."

This seemed to corroborate the earlier statement by French Government counterterrorism advisor Roland Jacquard who said:

".....every al Qaeda operative recently arrested or identified in Europe had come into contact with Bakri at some time or other."



Anjem Choudary

Another vocal proponent of Al Muhajiroun's ideology was its co-founder Anjem Choudary. Both Bakri and Choudary achieved notoriety in Britain and were frequently seen and heard in the British media. For example, following the Woolwich attack on Lee Rigby, Choudary was wheeled out on BBC's Newsnight where he absolutely refused to condemn the murder. Thereby stoking resentment to boiling point at a time when a shocked British public were already overwhelmed by the seemingly unbelievable events. This was yet another Choudary performance which was carefully crafted to avoid any direct calls for violence, thus avoiding prosecution. The effect of his numerous media appearances, over a 20-year period, prior to his eventual conviction in 2016, seemed to simultaneously reinforce the 'us vs them' narrative, and promote the concept of 'blowback.'

'Blowback,' latterly a subject for much discussion in the MSM, suggests that domestic terrorism is inspired by a reaction against the perceived persecution and unjustified killing of Muslims abroad. The argument goes that angered by 'fake news,' and invigorated by extremist 'social media' content, young indigenous Western Muslims (predominantly men) are made susceptible to radicalisation by extremists and hate preachers. For most this seems feasible, an unavoidable consequence of the 'war on terror.' It is certainly as far as anyone in the Western

<u>establishment</u> is willing to go when considering our own responsibilities.

Yet it also provides a fall back position of 'plausible deniability' whenever evidence of intelligence and security agency involvement with Islamist extremists emerges. Rather than suggesting the possible, deliberate use of a 'Gladio B' strategy, it can be seen simply as the unforeseeable consequence of efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism. Blowback infers the entire 'war on terror' is escalating, spiralling out of control. It suggests the likelihood of further terror coming to our shores. This therefore means the 'military industrial intelligence complex' needs a lot more money to 'keep us safe.' It adds to the public's sense of fear and pleas for protection from the state. It also weaves its way perfectly into 'radicalisation' narrative, increasing public anxiety about 'social media' inspired terrorists. This then promotes blithe acceptance of the need to further curtail freedom of speech.

In reality, when we look at who the domestic terrorists are, the single common denominator appears to be that they are all well-known to the security and intelligence services, who always need more resources to fight them. The concept of 'blowback' allows the MSM to present simplistic explanations about why we face a terrorist threat, as opposed to offering any genuine, rational exploration of the geopolitical forces at play, or the <u>historical context</u>.

The leaders of Al Muhajiroun's offices in the notorious Brixton and Finsbury Park Mosques in London were also reportedly connected to British intelligence. Abu Hamza worked with 'retired' military personnel, contracted through the <u>Defence Intelligence Agency and MI6</u>, to run terrorist training camps in Wales. The recruits were then apparently dispatched to fight in Kosovo. Abu Qatada, who was a known European al Qaeda facilitator, was also reported to have been <u>an MI5 double agent</u>.

Al Muhajiroun itself was impervious to court decisions for many years. Despite being prescribed as a terrorist organisation under the Terrorism Act 2000, and subsequent banning orders, its leaders just changed the name whenever necessary. A tactic used consistently by terrorist groups fighting in Syria today. The names seemingly mean little, it's the objective that counts. These reincarnations included 'Islam4UK,' 'Need4Khilafah,' the 'Shariah Project,' and 'the Islamic Dawah Association.' This tactic enabled it to continue operations with

relative ease until 2014.

Members of Al Muhajiroun weren't the only radical Islamist to receive asylum in the UK either. Others included members of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG), also known as Al-Muqatila, who set up homes in Britain. Many settled in major UK cities such as Birmingham, Manchester and London. Is it reasonable to ask why these individuals and groups were consistently allowed to do so when their Islamist extremism was well-known? Following 9/11, the LIFG were listed by the U.N Security Council as a prescribed terrorist organisation. Patrick O'Brien, the U.S. Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crime said:

"The Libyan Islamic Fighting Group threatens global safety and stability through the use of violence and its ideological alliance with al Qaeda and other brutal terrorist organisations."

Which is all a very odd because shortly after 9/11 Libyan Head of Intelligence Musa Kusa personally took a list of LIFG terrorists, known to be living in London, and shared it with the British. However, they didn't apprehend or question any of them. Perhaps some explanation can be found in the evidence which supports the allegation that members of the LIFG were employed by MI6 in a failed assassination attempt upon Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 1996. There is no doubt that LIFG members were involved in the attempt. The LIFG used the soon to be familiar al Qaeda tactic of placing a roadside bomb (Improvised Explosive Device – IED) ahead of Gaddafi's motorcade. They targeted the wrong vehicle and Gaddafi escaped, but in the ensuing gun battle known LIFG terrorists were killed.

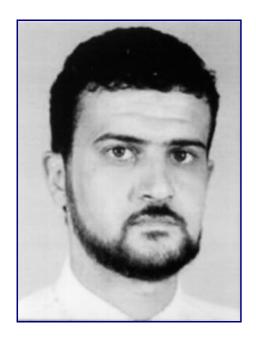
One of those LIFG members was Ramadan Abedi. He fled to the safety of the UK in 1993 remaining until his eventual return to his Libyan homeland in 2008. In 2011 the British and French militaries provided air support for groups, including the LIFG, who <u>violently overthrew</u> and brutally executed the tyrant Gaddafi. Consequently, the country rapidly broke apart, becoming a <u>failed state</u>, and both a centre for the training of Islamist extremists and a main staging post for human trafficking into Western Europe.

Ramadan's son, Salman Abedi, who grew up in the Islamist extremist Al-Muqatila

community in Manchester, was allegedly the suicide bomber who killed 22 people in the Manchester Arena Bombing in 2017. We await the outcome of the inquiry into the atrocity to discover more about how he became 'radicalised' and developed the knowledge and expertise to build the explosive device he allegedly used. Many of the initial MSM reports have suggested he achieved this after watching a few YouTube videos. Again, increasing calls for more government control of the internet. One wonders if the fact that Salman Abedi lived a few minutes walk away from the notorious master bomb maker Abd al Baset Azzouz, who lived in Wilbraham Road in Manchester, was investigated or if it will be explored by the inquiry.

Journalist and author Dan Glazebrook strongly expressed the view that the British government were culpable for creating an environment which effectively facilitated the Manchester bombing. (see video below)

Another prominent member of the tightly-knit Libyan Islamic Fighting Group community was Anas al Liby. According to the U.S. department of Homeland Security, during the 1990s Anas al Liby travelled throughout East Africa in the company of Ali Mohamed. The pair were scouting targets for Mohamed's associate Osama bin Laden. They apparently identified the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, and the former Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam, as targets. This led to their bombings in 1998 under the direction of bin Laden. Two hundred and twenty-four people were murdered and thousands wounded in a series of coordinated attacks. Following the murder of two German intelligence officers (husband and wife Silvan and Vera Becker) by LIFG terrorists in Libya in 1994, the Libyan government became the first to issue and international arrest warrant for Osama bin Laden. However, MI6 protested the Interpol issued warrant.



Anas al Liby. Wanted by the FBI while living in UK.

Anas al Liby lived in the UK and continued to support the LIFG until a raid on his home in 2000. The raid uncovered an 'important' al Qaeda training manual, which came to be known as the 'Manchester Manual.' However, al Liby himself was apparently expecting visitors and evaded capture. Following 9/11 he was immediately placed on the FBI's most wanted list and a \$5M reward was offered for information leading to his capture. It stated that he was wanted in connection with the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings and that he had been living in England. Seeing as he had been wanted by the FBI since at least 1998, it seems unfortunate they didn't know he had settled in Manchester, only finding out after he'd already left the country. What's even more unfortunate is that in 1999 the British arrested him but didn't charge him and, despite the fact he was wanted by the FBI, let him go.

Another prominent Islamist extremist residing in the UK was Abu Qatada who was a member of the al Qaeda ruling council (Fatwa.) He was certainly an informant and a probably an MI5 agent or at least an asset. He had frequent meetings with MI5 officials and openly declared his opposition to Osama bin Laden, telling them he would inform upon anyone 'damaging British interests.' An MI5 agent recorded:

"....surprisingly enough—[Abu Qatada] revealed little love of the methodology and policies pursued by Osama bin Laden. He certainly left me with the impression that he had nothing but contempt for bin Laden's distant financing of the jihad."

Therefore, it isn't entirely surprising that only hours before UK anti terror legislation came into effect, which would have necessitated his arrest, he escaped surveillance. In December 2001, Abu Qatada went into hiding with his pregnant wife and four children. At the time he had been sentenced to death 'in absentia' by the Jordanians and was wanted in connection with al Qaeda terrorist attacks by a number of other countries, including the U.S, Spain and France. The British strongly disavowed any suggestion they had hidden him to avoid any 'awkward' trials, despite the fact that he was supposedly under close monitoring when he escaped. However, some within French intelligence maintained he was and agent for MI5.

He was eventually apprehended by Scotland Yard in October 2002 after coming out of 'hiding' to release a radical justification for the 9/11 attack entitled 'The Legal Vision for the September 11 Events.' This proved to be a highly effective piece of propaganda. Contrary to his previously stated opinion, he praised Osama bin Laden, enhancing the mythology surrounding him, drawing yet more to Islamist extremism.

He was eventually arrested, living with his family in his London home, before being placed in Belmarsh high security prison for more than 10 years without charge. In 2013 <u>Qatada was finally deported</u> from the UK to Jordan <u>who cleared him</u> of all terrorist charges and released him, having reversed the death penalty he received earlier. The then UK home Secretary Theresa May reassured the British public that he would not be allowed to return to the UK. The British government had fought a lengthy legal battle to force his Jordanian trial, effectively avoiding his extradition for trial anywhere else.

As we have discussed here and in <u>Part 1</u> and <u>2</u> of this series the evidence that elements within the Western intelligence, military and political establishment have been intimately involved with Islamist extremists organisations for decades, including ISIS, is overwhelming. However to truly grasp the depth of this involvement we need look no further than the amazing story of Ali Mohamed.

## Chapter 4

Throughout this series we have looked at the <u>historical background</u> of the West's support for and use of Islamist forces as proxy armies and 'shock troops.' We have also considered how they were instrumental in the <u>creation of al Qaeda</u> and how the UK became a <u>center for radicalisation</u> and recruitment in Europe. However, few stories illustrate the West's absolute complicity in the creation of the Islamist extremist threat better than that of Ali Mohamed.



Ali Mohamed

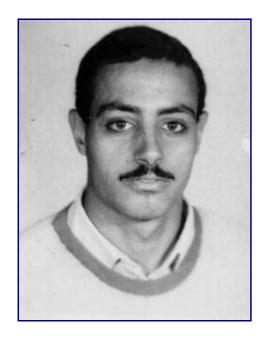
Ali Mohamed was a highly educated, multilingual, Egyptian Army Major who was attached to a Special Forces training program at Fort Bragg in North Carolina in 1981. Members of his Egyptian army unit were involved in the assassination of President Anwar Sadat. Concerns we raised, by his commanding officers, that Mohamed was 'too religious.' He was forced to resign in 1984 and immediately offered his services to the CIA who welcome him into the fold. He then made contact with the German branch of Hezbollah and, according to the CIA, revealed his role with the Americans to the Iranian backed militants. He reportedly offered himself to Hezbollah as their mole inside U.S. intelligence.

In response, the CIA claimed to have severed their relationship with him and

placed Ali Mohamed on a terrorist watch list to prevent his return to the U.S. It isn't really clear how else they thought a former U.S. special forces soldier would sell himself to an international terrorist organisation. In any event, while on the terrorist watch list, Mohamed gained an American visa and flew back into the U.S. in 1985. At the 1995 trial of Sheik Omar Abdul-Rahman, it was revealed that Mohamed had received his visa as part of a clandestine CIA program.

The CIA story, that Mohamed had been kicked out, appears to have been nothing more than a subterfuge to ingratiate him with the German Hezbollah and other terrorist organisations. In 1985 he married in the U.S. and subsequently gained his U.S. citizenship in 1989. He joined the U.S. army and became an instructor at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg in 1986. The unit specialised in preparing soldiers and operatives for operations in the Middle East and elsewhere. He was honourably discharged from the military in 1989 with commendations on his file for 'patriotism, valor, fidelity, and professional excellence.' Mohamed remained a U.S. military reservist until 1994.

However, the simplistic story of the counter-terrorism expert who assisted his adopted nation's fight against the blight of Islamist extremism or even the oft stated counter narrative of the Islamist extremists who infiltrated the military and intelligence services, is very far from the whole story. Ali's activities, throughout the 80s and 90s, appear to place him at the heart of an intricate web of double-cross and deceit which paints a far more complex picture.



Khaled Abu el Dahab

By 1987 Ali had formed a working relationship with Egyptian medical student Khaled Abu el Dahab. He convinced el Dahab to emigrate to the States, where he took up residence close to Ali Mohamed's Californian home. At the same time Mohamed started training recruits at the MAK funded Al-Kifah Refugee Center in Brooklyn, before they were despatched to fight under Osama bin Laden and Ayman al Zawahiri in Afghanistan as part of Operation Cyclone. Meanwhile, back in Santa Clara, Khaled Abu el Dahab, with the support of Mohamed, was busy putting his computing and communications skills to use.

He established a central telecommunications hub to coordinate and facilitate a growing global Islamist network. He created a secure three-way connection system, enabling operatives to communicate internationally, and is known to have received calls from Ayman al Zawahiri, among other notable extremists; he recruited a number of U.S. based extremists and, during a visit to Afghanistan with Ali Mohammad, was personally congratulated by Osama bin Laden (who wanted U.S. passport holders to be al Qaeda fighters); he was trained in the use of weapons and explosives by Mohamed and others and provided a safe house for U.S. based Islamists; while in the U.S. he learned to fly helicopters and gliders and worked with Mohammad to translate U.S. military training manuals, and other documents, into Arabic before distributing them internationally. The

'Manchester Manual' was an example of his and Mohamed's work.

In 1989 <u>Hassan al-Turabi</u> became the President of Sudan. A fervent Islamist, he sent word to Osama bin Laden that he was welcome to set up operations in Sudan. Initially bin Laden was hesitant, wanting to maintain a fuller presence in Afghanistan and Pakistan and particularly to maintain his Afghan training camps. In 1991 Ali Mohammad was instrumental in encouraging bin Laden's relocation to Sudan, following the end of Operation Cyclone.

Having already proved his value as a trainer for bin Laden's forces during the Afghan – Soviet war, once in Sudan, Mohamed became the chief instructor for bin Laden's large scale al Qaeda training operation on the outskirts of Khartoum. He trained more than 2000 Islamists in techniques ranging from kidnapping, bombmaking, covert operations, urban warfare, and more.

During the late 80s and early 90s Ali Mohammad became al Qaeda's most important trainer. He played a significant role in turning young inexperienced, international recruits, including some from Western nations, into hardened, capable fighters. They began to form a formidable, highly mobile, military force under his tutelage. With international coordination, facilitated in part by Khaled Abu el Dahab telecommunications hub in California, which Mohammad had also set up, his value to the growing terrorist network was considerable. He was at the centre of the organisation who would soon draw the U.S. military industrial intelligence complex into the longest foreign war in its history (Afghanistan) and ignite a global 'war on terror.'

Nor were his activities limited just to the U.S., Central Asia, Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. In 1992 he led a <u>covert operations team</u> who trained Mujahideen and al Qaeda combat troops in Bosnia. The 14 man team, consisting of 'retired' U.S. military personnel, entered Bosnia through Croatia and set up a training camp in Meskovic, a village near the town of Tuzla. CIA support for the Bosnian Islamist came through the 'Croatian pipeline.' Arms bought in Iran and Turkey, with Saudi 'front' money, were dropped by blacked out Hercules C-130s to the waiting forces below. A <u>Dutch governmental report</u> into the breach of the U.N embargo stated that Islamist fighters also entered the conflict through this route.



Islamist Fighters in Bosnia.

The early 90s were an extremely busy time for Ali Mohamed, as he travelled to and from the U.S., using a variety of pseudonyms like 'Abu Abdullah', depending upon his required persona. By 1993 he was active in multiple theatres and some of his students at the Al-Kifah Refugee Center had progressed to the <u>World Trade Center bombing</u>.

Leaving Ali Mohamed aside, the WTC bomb plotters were heavily infiltrated and the key witness, Emad Salem, who identified the alleged ringleader, Ramzi Yousef, was an intelligence agent who testified that the FBI were aware of the plot. They had intended to swap the explosive for an inert substitute but the plan went awry and the bomb partially detonated. Many of those involved in the bombing were trained by the CIA to fight in Afghanistan and the CIA later admitted that it was 'partly culpable' for killing six people in the blast.

By 1994 some within al Qaeda, perhaps wary of the former U.S. Green Beret's influence, started to have suspicions about Ali Mohamed. Mohammed Atef, a senior al Qaeda commander, <u>refused to disclose travel details</u> to Abu Mohamed al Amriki ("The American" – Ali Mohamed.) In 2001, al Qaeda operative L'Houssaine Kherchtou testified that Atef suspected him of "working for the Americans."

Throughout 1994 and 1995 Ali Mohamed trained a new intake of bodyguards for Osama bin Laden, after a series of failed assassination attempts upon him.

Although not exactly clear, around the end of 1994, he helped Ayman al Zawahiri

get into the U.S. (not for the first time.) Zawahiri travelled on forged documents supplied by Mohamed and also met with Khaled Abu el Dahab in Santa Clara. Possibly during his trip, in December 1994, the FBI received a tip from 'someone' about the whereabouts of Mohammed Jamal Khalifa, bin Laden's brother-in-law, living just 30 miles from Santa Clara. They arrested him and found a number of valuable intelligence documents but then, for some reason, let him go.

According to the 1999 testimony of Khaled Abu el Dahab, it was around 1996 that Ali Mohamed started to fall out of favour with the al Qaeda leadership. Their military commander Atef was already suspicious and others started to question where al Amriki's loyalties lay. Caving under pressure from the U.S. State Department, the Sudanese government <u>expelled Osama bin Laden</u>. He left in a Hercules C-130 transport and al Qaeda shipped their personnel, equipment and resources back to Afghanistan.

They also withdrew much of their Somali based operations. In 1998, while the world's intelligence agencies frantically searched for the terrorist Osama bin Laden, ABC's John Miller conducted a TV interview with him. During the interview bin Laden told Miller that he had sent a team to train the Somalian military forces commanded by Mohamed Farrah Hassan Aidid. One of those he dispatched on the training missions, between 1992 and 1994, was Ali Mohamed.



Al Qaeda established large scale training camps in Sudan & Somalia.

Mohamed's handling of security for the 1996 moves from Sudan and Somalia appears to be one of the last services he provided for al Qaeda. Despite being fully aware of bin Laden's movements the U.S, who had forces stationed in the region, did nothing to stop or apprehend him. Much to the mystification of Sudan's defence minister Elfatih Erwa who later said:

"We warned [the US]. In Sudan, bin Laden and his money were under our control. But we knew that if he went to Afghanistan no one could control him. The US didn't care; they just didn't want him in Somalia. It's crazy."

The official explanation, in as far as there is one, for Ali Mohamed's activities is of the al Qaeda 'double agent' who infiltrated the Western military and state intelligence services. While it is acknowledged that Western backing for the Mujahideen was a complicated affair, the claim was that he essentially betrayed the West. He was arrested in 1998 shortly after the U.S. embassy bombings in which he played a major organisational role. At his trial in 2000, his lengthy confession appeared to support the allegation that he was first and foremost an al Qaeda operative. However, if we look at his relationship with U.S. intelligence and security service, throughout his active years with al Qaeda, another distinct possibility is evident.

Ali Mohamed's instructor role at the Al-Kifah Refugee Center in Brooklyn started while he was working at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare School in Carolina. Theses trips to New York happened after his known relationship with the CIA began, and are said to have taken place during his 'weekends off.' Which is why no one knew what he was doing, allegedly. In 1986 he was sent to Afghanistan to train the Mujahideen. His attitude and claimed desire to "kill Russians" prompted his Fort Bragg commander Lt. Col. Robert Anderson to raise concerns with military intelligence about his activities, but he reportedly didn't receive a response. Then, in 1988 he took a months leave and went to Afghanistan of his own accord. Freelance combat is strictly forbidden in the U.S. military, so when Ali boasted of his exploits upon his return Col. Anderson wrote another alert and again received no reply.

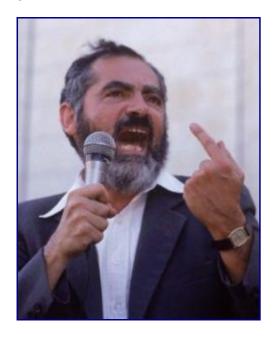
No action was taken to either stop him going or question him upon his return. He simply resumed his job as a special forces instructor. Should he have been killed

or captured while fighting with Islamist forces in Afghanistan, it would have caused a major diplomatic crisis for the U.S, yet nothing was said. During this period Ali was also helping himself to a variety of classified documents, seemingly able to remove them with ease. A highly quizzical <u>Col. Anderson later said</u>:

"I think you or I would have a better chance of winning [the lottery], than an Egyptian major in the unit that assassinated [Egyptian President Anwar] Sadat would have getting a visa, getting to California... getting into the Army and getting assigned to a Special Forces unit. That just doesn't happen."

Ali was openly sharing large volumes of these documents and manuals with recruits at the Al-Kifah Refugee Center (during his weekend excursions.) He organised gun training at various ranges in the area for many, including the future WTC bombers. Despite <u>being monitored by the FBI</u> nothing was done to intervene. Later defence lawyer Roger Stavis stated:

"He came quite often and became a real presence in that [Al-Kifah] office, which later metastasized into al Qaeda.... He would bring with him a satchel full of military manuals and documents. It was Ali Mohamed who taught the men how to engage in guerrilla war. He would give courses in how to make bombs, how to use guns, how to make Molotov cocktails."



Rabbi Meir Kahane: Murdered 5th November 1990

In 1990 Ali Mohammad became an informant for the FBI. He maintained this relationship throughout his time as one of al Qaeda's leading figures. In the same year Egyptian-American El Sayyid Nosair assassinated controversial right-wing Zionist leader Rabbi Meir Kahane. There was a massive amount of evidence linking Nosair to an orchestrated plot, but state prosecutors immediately insisted that he was a 'lone wolf.' During a raid on his home many of the documents Ali Mohammad had taken from Fort Bragg (and elsewhere) were found, including instructional videos of talks given by Mohamed at Fort Bragg. Investigators discover that Ali Mohamed had trained Nosair at the gun ranges monitored by the FBI. They also found two of the future WTC bomb plotters at his home, Mahmud Abouhalima and Mohammad Salameh.[100] On top of that, Nosair was also known to frequent the Al-Kifah Center. Yet despite all this Chief Detective for the New York Police Department Joseph Borelli stated:

"[Nosair was a].....lone deranged gunman.... He didn't seem to be part of a conspiracy or any terrorist organization."

It now seems obvious the investigators were told to protect a number of intelligence assets and limit the scope of the investigation solely to Nosair. Later, an FBI field agent claimed:

"The fact is that in 1990, myself and my detectives, we had in our office in handcuffs, the people who blew up the World Trade Center in '93. We were told to release them."

The 1993 investigation into the WTC bombing revisited the evidence surrounding the Nosair case, again exposing Ali Mohamed and his theft of official secrets. Yet nothing was done, and he remained a U.S. Army 'reservist.' Shortly afterwards Ali was interviewed by U.S. military intelligence at NSA headquarters at Forte Meade but all records of the conversation were 'lost.' Later, in June 1993, Ali was detained in Vancouver by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). They discovered that he was a top al Qaeda operative who had brought bail money from Osama bin Laden for the release of Essam Marzouk, who was being held by the Canadians.

Marzouk was a member of the al Qaeda affiliated group, Ayman al Zawahiri's 'Islamic Jihad,' and had been arrested after being found in possession of

numerous false identification documents. Ali Mohamed told the RCMP to contact his FBI handler John Zent. Zent confirmed he worked for the FBI and Mohamed was released. Marzouk remained in detention for a year but was allowed to stay in Canada following his release, and went on to train the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombers.

In 1994, according to the defence lawyer for Nosair, Roger Stavis, Ali allegedly returned to the U.S. on the orders of the FBI. Stavis was formulating a defence for his client that was based on the fact that Nosair was trained by someone who appeared to be an agent for both the CIA and the FBI (Mohamed), therefore his argument was that the U.S. government were just as culpable as his client, Nosair.

Stavis was aware that Mohamed <u>returned to be interviewed</u> by FBI agent Harlan Bell and Assistant US Attorney Andrew McCarthy, one of the prosecutors for the upcoming Nosair trial. However, when the trial came, despite being subpoenaed, Stavis was informed that Ali's location was unknown. Later Ibrahim El-Gabrowny, Nosair's cousin, alleged that Mohamed supposedly told him that he got the subpoena but McCarthy advised him to ignore it and that he would 'cover for him.'

In 1995 Ali Mohamed was declined U.S. security clearance but still managed to get a job for Burns Security as a security guard protecting a Northrop-Grumman factory in California which made triggers for Trident missiles. In the same year the U.S. government filed a confidential court held list of the 1993 WTC bombing suspects. Ali was named on the list but simply continued to live unmolested in California, keeping his day job guarding a ballistic missile components factory. Remarkably, despite this being a highly sensitive document, when police searched his residence after his eventual arrest in 1998, they found he not only had a copy but had shared it with senior al Qaeda figures.



Fort Bragg Where Ali Mohamed worked for many years.

In late 1995 media reports started to emerge which exposed Ali Mohamed. This seems to have coincided with increased 'interest' in his activities from the FBI. Although seeing as he had been working for them for at least 4 years they presumably already had some idea who he was and what he was doing. As we have discussed, this also coincided with al Qaeda apparently starting to distance themselves from him. It seems likely at this stage that his value as a possible agent, capable of infiltrating and manipulating global terrorist networks, had waned to a degree.

It appears that in October 1997, U.S. Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald and FBI agent Jack Cloonan, who were attached to the I-49 squad tasked with investigating Osama bin Laden, took Ali out for dinner. What apparently followed was a truly amazing conversation. Cloonan later spelt out the purpose of the meeting:

"We wanted to gain his cooperation. We knew of his long history having been connected to al Qaeda, and what we desperately wanted was to convince Ali Mohamed to cooperate with us that night."

Ali Mohamed then proceeded to tell the two men pretty much everything we've outlined here. Cloonan later recalled:

"He said that he was in touch with hundreds of people he could call on in a moment's notice that could be, quote, 'operational,' and wage jihad against the United States. Very brazenly, he said, 'I can get out anytime and you'll never find me. I've got a whole network. You'll never find me."

Following the end of the meal, Cloonan claimed that Fitzgerald turned to him and said:

"This is the most dangerous man I have ever met. We cannot let this man out on the street."

Yet that is precisely what happened. He still wasn't arrested and lived freely for another year. At the <u>9/11 Commission</u> Fitzgerald, speaking about Ali Mohamed's frequent trips to Afghanistan, said:

"Mohamed did not [make a loyalty pledge] to al Qaeda but he trained most of al Qaeda's top leadership—including bin Laden and [Ayman] al-Zawahiri—and most of al Qaeda's top trainers. Mohamed taught surveillance, counter-surveillance, assassinations, kidnapping, codes, ciphers and other intelligence techniques."



9/11 Commission, investigating the crimes of al Qaeda, decided they didn't need to speak to the man who trained them.

Ali was undoubtedly al Qaeda's head trainer and the man largely responsible for transforming them from an affiliate group of the Mujahideen into a vicious terrorist organisation, responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands. Consequently, seeing as he was in custody and cooperating with U.S. authorities, you would think he would have figured significantly in the 9/11 Commission's 'thorough' investigation into the world changing terrorist attack. Surely the close

associate of Osama bin Laden, Ayman al Zawahiri and pretty much every other senior al Qaeda figure, would have been their star witness?

Surprisingly not. Though referenced sparingly and briefly mentioned on a couple of occasions, they didn't apparently need to speak to him. Which seems a shame seeing as he could presumably have given them a genuine understanding of how al Qaeda actually operated instead of the floundering, ad-hoc inaccuracies they regurgitated. His inexplicable absence from their investigation had absolutely nothing at all to do with Michael Hurley, the man tasked with investigating the evidence he could have offered. Michael Hurley was a former CIA officer who had been a director of operations in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bosnia, where Ali Mohamed ran terrorist training camps with a team of 'retired' U.S. special forces 'mercenaries.'

Who Ali Mohamed ultimately worked for remains a matter of conjecture. Some of his statements seem to indicate that he was a genuine supporter of the Islamist cause. Conversely, he was also very useful to Western intelligence agencies and the security services. He certainly appears to have been someone they were unable or unwilling to stop.

As Mario Puzo's 'Michael Corleone' said, "If anything in this life is certain, if history has taught us anything, it is that you can kill anyone." How did Mohammad survive? His role with Western intelligence was exposed in 1995, yet he continued to operate inside al Qaeda for at least another year. He then betrayed the al Qaeda leadership in open court, formally revealing his links to the security services; he was involved in passing state secrets to known terrorists; was directly involved in the killing of Western military personnel and civilians and his activities exposed apparent collusion between the intelligence agencies and listed terrorist organisations, and still he made it to court. How? Was it just luck or was he simply too hard to kill?

The popular image of the super spy, able to outwit everyone, stay one step ahead of the game and fend off any foe, only exists in fiction. Wearing a tuxedo doesn't protect you from car bombs, laser guided missiles or radioactive poisoning. He wasn't exactly cautious. His ego clearly got the better of him at times, and he rarely seemed to miss an opportunity to brag about his nefarious exploits. The

evidence suggests he felt untouchable. It seems inconceivable that he was able to survive for as long as he did without protection from powerful sponsors.

The terms of <u>Mohamed's deal with U.S. prosecutors</u> is a state secret. Though perhaps his defence attorney David Ruhnke statement given before his trial, while also designed to protect his client, suggests a possibility:

"I think the most likely thing that will happen is he'll be released and he'll be given a new name, a new identity, and he'll pick up a life some place."

Speaking in 2006, six years after his trial, his wife Linda Sanchez stated:

"He's still not sentenced yet, and without him being sentenced I really can't say much. He can't talk to anybody. Nobody can get to him.... [the US government has] ....got Ali pretty secretive.... It's like he just kind of vanished [into] thin air"

In 2011 former FBI agent Ali Soufan said that Mohamed was still awaiting sentencing. Mohamed supposedly received a lengthy 25-year sentence at his 2000 trial, having given extensive evidence. However, to date, that sentence doesn't appear to have been carried out. His current whereabouts are unknown.

## Chapter 5

Despite ISIS' apparent <u>defeat in Syria and Iraq</u> it seems likely that the ISIS hydra will raise another head elsewhere in the world. Indeed they seem to be able to cling on in U.S held territory, though not Syrian/Russian held territory. The new ISIS is something the U.S. administration are already warning the world to prepare for. With evidence of <u>war crimes committed by the U.S.</u> led coalition in the Syrian City of Raqqa, Nathan Sales, the State Department's Counter Terrorism Coordinator said on <u>March 2nd 2018</u>:

"As we defeat ISIS on the battlefield, the group is adapting to our success. The fight is by no means over – it's simply moving into a new phase: from military solutions to law enforcement solutions. Increasingly, we're going to need to supplement our military efforts to defeat ISIS with civilian measures that can ensure the group's enduring defeat........We're not just worried about ISIS core, which as we all know has been degraded quite severely in its territorial holdings in Syria and Iraq, but as that territorial core has eroded, we've seen an increase in activity by ISIS elements elsewhere in the world."



## Iraqi Troops Celebrate Defeating ISIS in Mosul.

It is heartening to know that it was actually the U.S. who defeated ISIS on the battlefield. Perhaps some may be surprised by their apparent reticence to make greater political capital out of their victory. The warnings from Washington were far from triumphant. You have to wonder if even they believed in their 'stunning victory.' You also have to question what they meant by 'civilian measures.' Are we to be drafted? Do they want our young, or are they simply talking about censorship and a crack down on freedom of speech?

According to the U.S. State Department, ISIS will re-emerge in Iraq and Syria, in a different form, and is looking to spread its operations to other countries. The U.S. have decided that three new versions already exist in the form of ISIS-West Africa, ISIS-Philippines, and ISIS-Bangladesh. If the State Department are right ISIS' organisational, logistical and central planning capabilities are impressive. Following significant military defeats in the middle east, they can immediately reappear in different locations, thousands of miles apart, simultaneously. Amazing don't you think? How did they do that?

It's almost as if there's an underlying support structure which is able to finance and tactically support ISIS (or whatever they may be called in the future) on an international scale. Given the West's long standing <u>support for Islamist extremist</u> organisations perhaps we don't need to look far to identify who is providing that support. Certainly if we look at the rise of ISIS in Iraq and Syria a distinct prime suspect emerges.

During the U.S led coalition's occupation of Iraq tens of thousands of Islamist extremists were thrown into mass detention centres, along with tens of thousands of other, less extreme, Iraqi's who had been swept up during coalition raids and protest policing operations. Among the detainees was the future Caliph of the Islamic State Abu Bakr al Baghdadi. It was in Camp Bucca, under U.S. and UK guard, where the Islamic State (and ISIS) initially took shape.

Details about Abu Bakr al Baghdadi's time in Camp Bucca are sketchy. Some reports stated he was interned for a relatively brief period in 2004 – 2005 while

others said he was imprisoned for five years between 2004 -2009. What is undeniable is that Camp Bucca was <u>effectively a radicalisation centre</u> for the Islamists. According to Iraqi strategic analyst Hisham al-Hashim 17 of ISIS' top 25 commanders came through the Camp Bucca system.



Camp Bucca. Islamist extremist breeding ground.

The U.S. led coalition's explanation was that their intelligence, regarding 'who was who,' was often lacking and compounded by a lack of interpreters. This meant that relatively innocuous prisoners, snared in by U.S. and Iraqi National Guard 'policing' operations, found themselves thrown in with the more hardcore Islamists and radical preachers. Angered by what many saw as their unjust incarceration by the Americans and their allies, they were open to the radical proselytising of the extremists.

When full, Camp Bucca could hold more than 24,000 inmates, split into groups of 1000 in large wire fenced compounds. Following widespread allegations of the abuse of prisoners, some leeway was granted allowing prisoners to attend prayer meetings with other prisoner groups. For the most extreme, this served as the ideal recruitment ground. Former enemies, such as al Qaeda members and Ba'athist Party, were able to meet and plot, in relative safety, against their common foe.

In 2007 U.S military strategy in Iraq was built around the so called 'surge.' From a starting point of 132,000 U.S. troops in January 2007, peaking at 168,000 in September, the 'surge' saw an increase in U.S. troop deployment and a shift

towards mass incarceration in the hope or reducing combatant numbers. The crack down that accompanied 'the Surge' meant it was difficult for the Islamist extremists to congregate in the cities and towns, but they faced <u>no such problems</u> inside the Camp Bucca, Cropper and Taji detentions centres.

In a <u>2014 briefing paper</u>, the Intelligence Analysis company the Soufan Group stated:

"The reshaping of what is now the Islamic State (IS) began among the detainee populations in military prisons such as Camp Bucca in Iraq, where violent extremists and former regime personalities forged mutual interests over years of confinement. IS is now a chimera of Ba'athist and takfiri ideologies, with the organizational skills of the former helping channel the motivational fervor of the latter. The former regime officers who are now senior leaders in IS appear fully committed to the ideals and goals of the group, a result of a thorough radicalization that has extended from imprisonment......"

Of course, this was all deemed to be a terrible mistake. The result of a combination of short sighted policy decisions and human error by coalition officials struggling to deal with difficult conditions within the camps.

By the time of their closure in 2009, at least 100,000 Islamists had been through the U.S. controlled camp system. As soon as they were released they reestablished the networks they had built in the camps, rejoined the jihad, and set about building their caliphate. To start constructing their army they required, experienced fighters, money and armaments. Luckily for them help was on its way.



## Gen. Michael T. Flynn

There is no doubt at all that collaboration with Islamist groups, linked to al Qaeda, was a key strategy in Iraq and Syria. Speaking in 2015 Lieutenant. General Michael T. Flynn, formerly assigned as the Pentagon's Director of the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA,) stated the plan to arm the Islamists was a "wilful decision". He claimed the DIA warned the Obama administration that the policy of working with al Qaeda affiliated groups risked the creation of an 'ISIS' like entity across the entire region. Therefore, his career was ignominiously destroyed when he committed the heinous crime of talking to Russians, instead of calling them names.

However Flynn's comments were entirely consistent with the available evidence. Following a law suit by <u>Judicial Watch</u>, the DIA released a previously 'classified' <u>2012 report</u> that confirmed the accuracy of Flynn's statement. It revealed the Pentagon were fully aware their support (with the notable assistance of Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar) for AQI (al Qaeda in Iraq) and ISI (Islamic State in Iraq) would be likely to lead to the rise of ISIS. The 2012 DIA Intelligence Information Report stated:

"If the situation unravels there is the possibility of establishing a declared or undeclared Salafist principality in eastern Syria (Hasaka and Der Zor), and this is exactly what the supporting powers to the opposition want, in order to isolate the Syrian regime, which is considered the strategic depth of the Shia expansion (Iraq and Iran)."

It is important to fully understand what this meant. We can paraphrase this statement as follows:

'The continued destabilisation of the region is likely to create the Islamic State. This is precisely what the West, NATO (including Turkey) and its allies in the Persian Gulf want. It will hopefully isolate Syria from its Shi'ah allies and break its strategic alliance with Iran and Iraq and ultimately Russia.'

The predicted emergence of a "Salafist principality" was seen as a strategic opportunity to isolate the Syrian government. The document acknowledged, "the

Salafist [sic], the Muslim Brotherhood, and AQI [al Qaeda in Iraq] are the major forces driving the insurgency in Syria," and that, "the West, Gulf countries, and Turkey support the opposition [the insurgency in Syria]." The creation of ISIS was no accident. It wasn't the result of policy mistakes but, given the evidence, appeared to be the intended consequence of a deliberate strategy. Either that or the Obama administration were intent upon ignoring their own Defense Intelligence Agency report.

The subsequent level of support the U.S led coalition provided for ISIS renders any claim that this was all an 'error' untenable. Flynn was absolutely correct when he said the arming of the Islamists was a "wilful decision." The Obama administration and other western governments were under no illusions. This would inevitably lead to the creation of ISIS.

Under the leadership of Abu Bakr al Baghdadi in 2013 the former camp Bucca detainees allied to AQI and ISI groups, announced a unifying name change to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS.) Fighters and arms started to pour in from the U.S led coalition allies Saudi Arabia, Qatar and notably Libya.

Along with the arms coming from defeated militaries in Libya and Iraq, ISIS received shipments of weaponry manufactured in Eastern Europe. A study from the Conflict Armament Research organisation, commissioned by the EU, traced the route of these weapons which is available to download.] They stated that 'large numbers' of these weapons were bought in Europe by U.S., Saudi and Qatari dealers. The sellers were 'deceived' about the destination, thereby violating the sale and export licenses. The arms were then shipped via the 'rat line' through Turkey into Syria. They would then be distributed by 'moderate' terrorists, such as al Nusra (al Qaeda in Syria), to their comrades in ISIS. This was later confirmed when significant quantities of the traced weapons were found in ISIS controlled territory, such as Tikrit, Ramadi, Falluja and Mosul.

However, these shipments were dwarfed by some very lucky 'coincidences' which turned the terrorist group ISIS into a fully equipped army. Following the withdrawal of the large scale U.S. troop deployment from Iraq in 2011, the Iraqi army were supported by the U.S. led coalition in their fight against the Islamist insurgency. Having destroyed Iraq's army in 2003, the coalition then spent

billions rebuilding it with the profits naturally going to the global arms manufacturing corporations. The U.S. left behind <u>Military Transitions Teams</u> (MiTT's) to oversee the training and deployment of their proxy Iraqi army.



Equipment given....er.....I mean seized by ISIS.

In 2014, a relatively small ISIS force, of no more than a 1000 fighters, took the <u>Iraqi city of Mosul</u>. At the time, the city was defended by two Iraqi Army divisions amounting to 30,000 soldiers. Following sporadic skirmishes, as ISIS approached Mosul, the entire Iraqi force simply abandoned their posts and left.

U.S. supplied, state of the art, military hardware, stored at the al-Qayara base in Mosul, was seemingly just handed to ISIS. Similar mysterious vanishing acts then <u>followed in Ramadi</u>, again with very little military pressure from ISIS, once more giving them access to heavy weapons and equipment.

In the space of a few months, ISIS not only seized hundreds of millions of dollars from various regional banks but had 'captured' six divisions of lethal, U.S. supplied, military hardware. This included more than 2000 U.S. Humvee armoured troop carriers, at least 30 M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks, 50 or so 155mm M198 howitzers (artillery guns,) helicopters, thousands of PKC machine guns, rocket launchers and tons of small arms and ammunition. Recently 'evidence' offered by the British and French governments to 'prove' that Bashar al Assad gassed his own people in Douma stated that only his Arab Syrian Arab Army possessed the helicopters capable of dropping Chlorine barrel bombs. This

was a lie. ISIS also had the required helicopters, 'seized' from Mosul.

The reason given for handing ISIS enough military hardware to form an army capable of fighting nation states, was simply incompetence and crap training. However, even the worst army in the world knows enough not to simply abandon all its weapons to the enemy. If the Iraqi army were in such a terrified rush to run away, why didn't they leave in the protection of their armoured vehicles?

Further questions arise in light of the statements made by the Mosul based head of Iraqi intelligence Ahmed al Zarkani. He said that he had repeatedly warned the U.S. puppet government in Baghdad about the approach of ISIS. According to Zarkani, he informed the government of Nouri al-Maliki on numerous occasions about ISIS training camps being prepared in the Nineveh region; he called for air strikes against their positions; he alerted the local military command and, following prisoner interrogations, he even discovered the time, date and codename of the impending ISIS attack. When he reported the 'Al-Eres' (The Wedding Party) operation was imminent, he was shocked to discover, despite all the intelligence he had provided, the commander of the Mosul divisions had 'gone on holiday.' Nothing was done at any stage to stop ISIS from seizing their own armoured divisions.

With all its newly acquired American hardware, ISIS needed fighters trained to use it. In 2015, a report from the International Center for Counter Terrorism estimated that 30,000 foreign fighters had joined ISIS. This flow had increased with ISIS' expansion into Syria in May 2013. Thousands of seasoned, battle hardened terrorists from the Balkans, including fighters from Kosovo, and the Caucasus, such as the Chechen Islamists, came into Syria via the NATO nation of Turkey. Many of these fighters were familiar with heavy weaponry. By then, ISIS numbers were conservatively estimated at around 70,000.



U.S trained terrorists in Operation Timber Sycamore.

The CIA operation to arm, train and equip Islamist terrorists in Syria was called Timber Sycamore. Beginning in 2012, it was supposedly phased out in 2017 by the Trump administration as a result of ISIS, and other terrorist groups, military losses to Syrian and Russian forces. It was also in 2011 that Western coalition special forces started terrorists training camps in Jordan. This was basically a continuation of the training programs they had run for the KLA, NLA and al Qaeda in the Balkans. With an budget of \$1billion, thousands of fighters came through the program. Many of these fighters ended up fighting for Al Nusra, whose numbers grew to 20,000 by the alleged end of Timber Sycamore in 2017. In addition the Pentagon was funding the shipment of arms through European countries such as Denmark and Bulgaria on diplomatic flights to avoid inspection. This wasn't just a U.S. operation but rather involved a number of European states.

However, despite significant ground forces and plenty of weapons, ISIS lacked air support and were vulnerable to air strikes. In 2014 Barrack Obama announced the U.S. intended to launch air strikes against both Iraq and Syria to 'degrade and destroy' ISIS. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. After more than 800 sorties, ISIS territory had more than doubled in Syria. Far from 'degrading and destroying' ISIS, U.S. air strikes were apparently assisting ISIS in Syria. In fact, they had the effect of pushing ISIS towards Syria, where they seemed to benefit greatly from U.S. bombing. Was this all another monumental mistake?

It is difficult to see how <u>supplying weapons via airdrops</u> to ISIS was degrading them. This happened on numerous occasions. For example, according to Iraqi intelligence, the U.S. had dropped supplies to besieged ISIS fighters in the Yathrib and Balad districts of Iraq. Strangely this 'accident' provided the ISIS fighters exactly what they most needed at the time, <u>food and armour piercing rounds</u>. Then there are the numerous occasions when U.S. air strikes appeared to have directly provided a strategic advantage to ISIS.

The isolated Syrian city of Deir Ezzor had been under siege by ISIS for more than a year. However, the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) were holding it, mainly because they had control of the local airport. This enabled the city to be resupplied by Syrian and Russian airdrops. The airport was well protected by SAA artillery positions in the overlooking Tharda hills, giving the SAA a tactical advantage. ISIS had consistently failed to take these key strategic positions. However, on September 16th/17th 2016 the U.S. launched air strikes against the SAA who were fighting ISIS. As soon as the SAA defences had been destroyed ISIS then launched a large scale attack and seized the positions. It appeared to be a coordinated offensive, timed precisely with the U.S. air strikes. It was no spur of the moment assault by ISIS. Its scale and precision clearly indicated it had been planned well in advance.

Of course the U.S. commanders said this was all an honest mistake. U.S. Brig. Gen. Richard Coe said it was the result of human error. However, forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Jeffrey L Harrigan dispatched a reconnaissance drone to gather intelligence the day before the air strike. They claimed they 'misinterpreted' the intelligence, believing the positions were ISIS rather than SAA controlled, despite the fact the fixed SAA positions were no secret. They then 'accidentally' gave the Russian military the wrong targeting information, rendering them unable to warn the U.S. that they were planning to attack the SAA not ISIS. This contravened a recent ceasefire agreement, which broke down as a result of the air strikes.

As ISIS moved in to take Deir Ezzor the MSM tried to cover up the U.S. support for their assault. The British <u>Daily Telegraph wrote</u>:

"The US-led coalition, as well as the Russians, have been bombing the jihadists in

Deir Ezzor for the last 18 months but have been unable to dislodge them."

This was a false claim, you could call it lie or 'fake news.' The U.S. hadn't launched any major air strikes against ISIS forces surrounding Deir Ezzor. The U.S. attacks had been against the SAA and vital city infrastructure. For example, in January 2016 the U.S. bombed Deir Ezzor's electricity plant.

Again in May 2017 the U.S. <u>hit a convoy of Shi'ah Iraqi militiamen</u>, loyal to Damascus, and a unit of armed Iranians. At the time the Syrian Arab Army, and their Iraqi and Iranian allies, were pushing ISIS back towards Iraq. The northern Syrian city of Raqqa, held by ISIS, was close to being cut off from ISIS supply lines. The convoy was taking heavy weaponry to forward positions in the battle against ISIS. Yet another example of U.S. air strikes benefiting ISIS terrorists.



U.S Air strikes helped ISIS.

There is no doubt at all the U.S. coalition were aware of <u>the funding of ISIS by their Gulf allies</u> Saudi Arabia and Qatar. A State Department memo in 2014 stated:

"We need to use our diplomatic and more traditional intelligence assets to bring pressure on the governments of Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which are providing clandestine financial and logistic support to Isis and other radical groups in the region."

Are we to believe this was all just another string of 'mistakes' which caused

unforeseen 'blowback', accidentally creating, arming, equipping, supplying and tactically supporting ISIS? You can if you like, but if you do you need to account for the evidence which suggests otherwise.

Documentation revealed the U.S. led coalition were anticipating the rise of a "Salafist principality in eastern Syria" and it was central to their strategic thinking; ISIS very easily obtained billions of dollars of U.S. military equipment; ISIS benefited from U.S. bombing campaigns in Syria, and the U.S. appeared to have provided them with tactical air support on a number of occasions; the U.S. led coalition were actively training and arming Islamist extremists who went on to fight for ISIS and the West's Gulf allies were known and accepted to be funding ISIS.

Similarly, the U.S.' European allies had their own justifications for military action with attacks in London, Paris and Munich to mention but a few. This led them to take offensive actions in Libya, based once more upon 'flawed intelligence,' producing the same destabilisation and a perfect environment for the Islamists to gather and spread their form of violent jihad. This, once again, particularly benefited ISIS, who were able to use Libya as staging point for their operations in Iraq and Syria.

Obama's departure changed nothing. Following the <u>alleged chemical weapons</u> attack on Khan Sheikhoun Donald Trump, who had come into office promising to end foreign wars of intervention, authorised a missile strike on Al Shayrat airfield in a supposed attempt to damage the Syrian's ability to launch further chemical weapons attacks. In another remarkable coincidence, the al Shayrat airbase was the centre of Syrian operations against ISIS forces around Homs and Palmyra. Syrian forces had used it to gain a growing military advantage over ISIS. The missile strike greatly reduced the number of air strikes against the terrorists. The missile strike on al Shayrat was yet another example of the U.S. effectively providing tactical air support for ISIS.

Therefore, it is entirely reasonable to conclude that ISIS was created as 'the bastard army' of the Anglo-American 'military industrial intelligence complex' and its vassal, allied states, notably Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Our elected leaders have not led a battle against them because ISIS, knowingly or not, works

for same <u>corporate power elite</u> who control the politicians. All the evidence points to the West's consistent use of ISIS as a <u>destabilising force</u> in an energy rich part of the world whose impact on the global economy shaped the 20th century and remains a key strategic region at the start of the 21st . ISIS' murderous barbarity suits the known geopolitical agenda of the Western powers. Cui bono?

Just like the tale you were spun about weapons of mass destruction, prior to the 2003 invasion of Iraq, practically everything you have been told about ISIS and the conflict in Syria is part of a <u>monstrous deception</u>.

Despite their contrition, following the lies they told about Iraqi WMDs, and promises to the public that they would <u>never let them down again</u>, the entire Western mainstream media has cheered the war machine along every step of the way. The simplistic narratives we have been given about ISIS never spoke of the clear evidence that links the rise of the Caliphate to U.S led coalition objectives. Every single time people noticed the coalitions military actions seemed to benefit ISIS the MSM either covered this up with another 'unfortunate coincidence' story, accused those who raised these issues of being 'conspiracy theorists' or created entirely false story lines to obfuscate the reality.

Once again, it appears most of us fell for it.