

Amazon review is from: Robert Fisk: The Great War for Civilisation: The Conquest of the Middle East (Paperback) 2007

Jealous Gods

How will it ever end, this "Great War for Civilization"? It will end when the peoples of the Middle East stop fighting each other and fight their common enemy. Their common enemy is the Lord of the Limbic System, Ruler of the Reptilian Brain, aka god. Just imagine what would be possible in that beautiful and fertile land were it not for their bronze age religions.

Fisk asks why a Jewish child in the Wall Street Cafe had to have her eyes blown out, or why the citizens of Deir Yassin had to be massacred. After 1368 pages of interviews and reporter's dispatches he still doesn't get it. Funny, I understand it, as does anyone who has read the Bible and the Koran. "Idolatry is worse than carnage" (Koran 2 :193). "Make war upon them until idolatry shall cease and Allah's religion shall reign supreme" (Koran 8:40). ... "When the sacred months are over slay the idolaters wherever you find them. Arrest them, besiege them, and lie in ambush everywhere for them." (Koran 9:4) . "Fight against such of those to whom the Scriptures were given as believe neither in Allah nor in the Last day, who do not forbid what Allah and His apostle have forbidden, and do not embrace the true faith, until they pay tribute out of hand and are utterly subdued" (Koran 9:26). "We renounce you: enmity and hate shall reign between us until you believe in Allah only.(Koran 60:2)" "The only true faith in God's sight is Islam" (Koran 3:19). The god of Moses is no better: [for those who obstruct your passage] ... "kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known a man by lying with him. But all the women children that have not known a man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves" (Moses, Numbers, 31.17/18). ..[in the promised land] .."thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth" (Moses, Deuteronomy 20.16). "...for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous god" (Exodus 34:14). Get it now? Idolatry is worse than carnage. With gods like that who needs devils? At Nuremberg their gods would have been hanged. A Gandhi, a Mandela, a Martin Luther King will not spring from this soil.

Who would undertake to write a book of 1368 pages on the Middle East without reading the Koran? Fisk waxes indignant about Hamas' references to Jews as sons of pigs and monkeys (p579), not knowing that this comes directly from the Limbic Lord Himself (Koran 2:266, 5:261, 7:167). And no, the first words of the Koran are NOT "there is no god but god..." (p758), and Cyrus ended the Babylonian captivity, not Artaxerses. He dates the Armenian genocide from 1915, and he wants the West to share the blame (p.xxiii). Read *The Burning Tigris* (<http://www.amazon.com/The-Burning-Tigris-Armenian-Genocide/dp/0060558709>) to learn that it started in 1894, and was as much jihad as politics. He covers the Iran Iraq war without understanding of the great Shia Sunni schism. Fisk thinks its all about politics and colonialism; his history goes back to the British Mandate. His ear is tilted toward the Muslim narrative, which explains and is explained by his extraordinary access to Muslim leaders.

Fisk is "locally unbiased", he gives equal time to Schwarzkopf's lack respect for his Saudi counterpart and Iraqi murders and torture in Kuwait. However, he swallows the Muslim victim narrative. If you want to count victims, start at the slave markets in Cairo, Bagdad and Damascus fueled by the Islamic expansion into Africa, Europe and the Indian subcontinent. The prophet himself possessed at least fifty nine slaves. Mirkhond, the Prophet's fifteenth century biographer, names them all in his *Rauzat-us-Safa* from K.S., Lal "The origins of Muslim slave system" in *Muslim Slave*

System in India, New Delhi, Aditya Prakasham, 1994, pp. 9 - 16. Or, read Bin Laden's mentor, the strategist of the Muslim Brotherhood: "When we understand the nature of Islam, ...we realize the inevitability of jihad, or striving for God's cause, taking a military form in addition to its advocacy form. We will further recognize that jihad was never defensive, in the narrow sense that the term 'defensive war' generally denotes today. ...As Islam works for peace, it is not satisfied with a cheap peace that applies only to the area where people of the Muslim happen to live. Islam aims to achieve the sort of peace which insures that all submission is made to God alone. This means that all people submit themselves to God, and none of them takes others for their lords. We must form our view on the basis of the ultimate stage of the Jihad movement, not on the early or middle stages of the prophet's mission (The Sayyid Qutb reader, A.J. Bergesen ed, Routeledge 2008 p.49, 50). Or read Shaikh Abdulla Ghoshah, Chief Judge of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at an Islamic conference in 1968 under the aegis of the renowned Al-Azhar academy of Islamic research "Jihad is legislated in order to be one of the means of propagating Islam. ...War is the basis of the relationship between Muslims and their opponents unless there are justifiable reasons for peace, such as adopting Islam The Legacy of Jihad: Islamic holy war and the fate of non-Muslims Andrew G. Bostom (ed) Prometheus Books, 2008, Amherst, New York.

There are faint positive signals, like the new reading of Tayimya's Mardin fatwa (<http://en.islamtoday.net/artshow-416-3601.htm>), which alas is drowned out by "Therefore, since jihad is divinely instituted, and its goal is that religion reverts in its entirety to Allah and to make Allah's word triumph, whoever opposes the realization of this goal will be fought, according to the unanimous opinion of Muslims. ...The wives of infidels must also be reduced to slavery and the possessions of infidels must be confiscated..." (14th century jurist Ibn Tayimya, Cited in Bat Ye'or Islam and Dhimmitude p 44,45). None of this is relevant for Fisk. If you covet your neighbor's land there is one morally acceptable option - buy it in a free market. The early Zionists found that the Sultan wouldn't sell to Jews because they descend from apes and pigs.

UN security council resolution 242 (unanimously adopted in 1967 after the 6 day war) (1) condemns the acquisition of territory by war and calls on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories, and (2) calls on belligerents to recognize each other. Neither side accepts both. Since non-consensual appropriation of other peoples' land is immoral, the only justification is that Lord Limbic, the mother of all ethnic cleansing, demands it. Lord Limbic also prefers carnage to idolatry. Thus, Israelis and Palestinians fiercely contest the moral low ground until god changes his mind, or they find better gods. With the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Fisk loses his balance. He incessantly blasts the western press for branding Palestinian violence as "terrorism" and Israeli violence as "tragedy" with nary a sigh about the "eastern press" calling murderers of innocent children "martyrs".

Fisk wants to speak truth to power and confront the West with their complicity in this interminable mess. If the problem is political, then we can all do something about it, or feel guilty about not doing enough. However, politics is separate from religion in the West, not the Middle East. So long as leveraging minorities worship gods who say carnage is better than idolatry, kill everything that breatheth, Fisk's self-flagellation is just self-indulgence. Speak some real Truth to the real Power, Mr. Fisk.