

Paper abstract presented to the *Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers*, San Francisco, CA, April 1, 2016; and to the *Annual Meeting of the Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences*, Westville, IN, October 7, 2016:

Did the “Jewish” state in Palestine beget the “Islamic” state in Iraq and Syria?

The paper compares the geopolitical construction of the “Jewish state” and the “Islamic state” and explains why the former inspires the latter, and why the latter boosts the legitimacy of the former.

First, it outlines how the British invented Jewish Zionism,

<http://faculty.indstate.edu/melyassini/The%20Non-Jewish%20Origin%20of%20Zionism2.pdf> , amidst British-Russian rivalry over the Middle East and Afghanistan from the early 1800s to the 1920s. The British wanted the Jews to fill in the blank for the non-existing native ‘Protestants’ in Palestine “viewed in relation to the nearest route to India” (Thomas Clarke, 1861).

Second, it examines how the United States reinvented “Islamic” jihad amidst US-Soviet rivalry over the Middle East and Afghanistan between 1979 and 1991, <http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/BRZ110A.html> , and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dqn0bm4E9yw> . The US-led Islamic jihad worked in full synergy with the Christian Zionists in the United States, the Jewish Movement in the Soviet Union, and the Israeli Liaison Bureau (code named ‘Nativ’) to help defeat the Soviet Union, which at the time bans the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine.

Third, the paper draws the following conclusions:

1. Both states are rooted more in international relations and geopolitics than in Jewish or Islamic teachings.
2. Both states consider Syria and Iran their main enemies because of their position on the Palestine-Israel conflict, especially when Iran ended its alliance with Israel, severed all diplomatic and commercial ties with Israel, expelled the Israelis from Iran, considered Israel an illegitimate state, and turned over the Israeli embassy in Iran to the Palestine Liberation Organization in February 1979.
3. As the Clinton Email Archive (leaked by WikiLeaks) has clearly suggested, the current Middle East wars in Palestine-Israel, in Syria, in Iraq, and in Yemen are multiple frontlines of a SINGLE war by proxies mainly between FOUR states: the US and Israel against Iran and Syria. The rest (including Russia) are simply local, regional, or international allies of one side or the other. While the Obama administration said repeatedly that Syrian President Assad “*must go!*” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSBRk10E5R8> before ending the Syria war which killed hundreds of thousands of Syrians and threw millions into refugee camps, Hillary Clinton Email Archive revealed once and for all why: “*The best way to help Israel deal with Iran's growing nuclear capability is to help the people of Syria overthrow the regime of Bashar Assad*” https://wikileaks.org/clinton-emails/Clinton_Email_November_Release/C05794498.pdf
4. If these wars could be understood in geopolitical economy terms, it is likely that public debate would shift away from the so-called shia-sunna divide, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, immigration, and other simple-minded cultural perceptions and interpretations amplified by an uneducated and irresponsible social media to a more scholarly explanation grounded in geopolitical economy and focused not just on what actually happened, but more importantly why it happened and who did it.

Key words: Middle East, Palestine, Israel, Jewish state, Islamic state, geopolitics, Political Geography, Military Geography