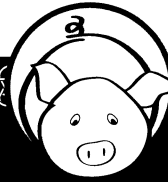


"May Allah rip out his spine from his back and split his brains in two, and then put them both back, and then do it over and over again. Amen."

—"praise" for the author on RevivingIslam.com



New York Times  
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# The Politically Incorrect Guide™ to ISLAM (AND THE CRUSADES)

A part of the bestselling P.I.G. series

***You think you know about Islam.  
But did you know:***

- ❖ Islam teaches that Muslims must wage war to impose Islamic law on non-Muslim states
- ❖ American Muslim groups are engaged in a huge cover-up of Islamic doctrine and history
- ❖ Today's jihad terrorists have the same motives and goals as the Muslims who fought the Crusaders
- ❖ The Crusades were defensive conflicts
- ❖ Muslim persecution of Christians has continued for 13 centuries—and still goes on



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**The Politically Incorrect Guide™ to**

# ISLAM

(AND THE CRUSADES)

ROBERT SPENCER

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## Introduction



# ISLAM AND THE CRUSADES

**T**he Crusades may be causing more devastation today than they ever did in the three centuries when most of them were fought. Not in terms of lives lost and property destroyed—today's is a more subtle destruction. The Crusades have become a cardinal sin not only of the Catholic Church but also of the Western world in general. They are Exhibit A for the case that the current strife between the Muslim world and Western, post-Christian civilization is ultimately the responsibility of the West, which has provoked, exploited, and brutalized Muslims ever since the first Frankish warriors entered Jerusalem and—well, let Bill Clinton tell it:

Indeed, in the first Crusade, when the Christian soldiers took Jerusalem, they first burned a synagogue with three hundred Jews in it, and proceeded to kill every woman and child who was Muslim on the Temple mound. The contemporaneous descriptions of the event describe soldiers walking on the Temple mound, a holy place to Christians, with blood running up to their knees. *I can tell you that that story is still being told today in the Middle East and we are still paying for it.*<sup>1</sup> (Emphasis added)

In this analysis Clinton curiously echoed Osama bin Laden himself, some of whose own communiqués spoke of his organization not as “al Qaeda” but of a “World Islamic Front for Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders,” and called in a fatwa for “jihad against Jews and Crusaders.”<sup>2</sup>

Such usage is quite widespread. Shortly before the beginning of the Iraqi war that toppled Saddam Hussein, on November 8, 2002, Sheikh Bakr Abed Al-Razzaq Al-Samaraai preached in Baghdad’s Mother of All Battles mosque about “this difficult hour in which the Islamic nation [is] experiencing, an hour in which it faces the challenge of [forces] of disbelief of infidels, Jews, crusaders, Americans and Britons.”<sup>3</sup>

Similarly, when Islamic jihadists bombed the U.S. consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in December 2004, they explained that the attack was part of a larger plan to strike back at “Crusaders:” “This operation comes as part of several operations that are organized and planned by al Qaeda as part of the battle against the crusaders and the Jews, as well as part of the plan to force the unbelievers to leave the Arabian Peninsula.” They said that jihad warriors “managed to enter one of the crusaders’ big castles in the Arabian Peninsula and managed to enter the American consulate in Jeddah, in which they control and run the country.”<sup>4</sup>

“One of the crusaders’ big castles in the Arabian Peninsula?” Why would Islamic jihad terrorists have such a fixation with thousand-year-old castles? Could Clinton be right that they see the Crusades as the time that their troubles with the West began, and present-day conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan as a revival of the Crusader ethos?

In a sense, yes. The more one understands the Crusades—why they were fought, and from what forces within Christianity and Islam they sprang—the more one will understand the present conflict. The Crusades, in ways that Bill Clinton and those who bombed the consulate in Jeddah only dimly fathom, hold the keys to understanding the present world situation in numerous ways.

This book explains why, with its first half devoted to Islam and second half to the Crusades. It will, in the process, clear away some of the fog of misinformation that surrounds Islam and the Crusades today. That fog is thicker than ever. One of the people most responsible for it, Western apologist for Islam Karen Armstrong, even blames Westerners' misperceptions of Islam on the Crusades:

Ever since the Crusades, the people of Western Christendom developed a stereotypical and distorted vision of Islam, which they regarded as the enemy of decent civilization. . . . It was, for example, during the Crusades, when it was Christians who had instigated a series of brutal holy wars against the Muslim world, that Islam was described by the learned scholar-monks of Europe as an inherently violent and intolerant faith, which had only been able to establish itself by the sword. The myth of the supposed fanatical intolerance of Islam has become one of the received ideas of the West.<sup>5</sup>

Armstrong is right in a sense (no human being, it seems, can be wrong *all* the time): when it comes to talk of Islam, you can't believe everything you hear—especially after the September 11 attacks. Misinformation and half-truths about what Islam teaches and what Muslims in the United States believe have filled the airwaves and have even influenced public policy.

Much of this misapprehension comes in analyses of the “root causes” of the jihad terrorism that took so many lives on September 11 and has continued to threaten the peace and stability of non-Muslims around the world. It has become fashionable among certain media people and academics to place much, if not all, of the blame for what happened on September 11, 2001, not on Islam and Muslims, but on the United States and other Western countries. A pattern of mistreatment of the Islamic world

by the West, say learned professors and self-important commentators, is continuing. It began centuries ago, they say—at the time of the Crusades.

But in fact, the seeds of today's conflict were planted much earlier than the First Crusade. In order to understand the Crusades properly, and the peculiar resonance they have in today's global conflict with Islamic jihad terrorists, we must begin with a survey of the prophet of Arabia and the religion he founded. For the Crusades, as we shall see, were fundamentally a reaction to events that were set in motion over 450 years before the battles began.

I intend this book to be neither a general introduction to the Islamic religion, nor a comprehensive historical survey of the Crusades. Rather, it is an examination of certain highly tendentious assertions about both Islam and the Crusades that have entered the popular discourse. This book is an attempt to move the public discourse about both subjects a bit closer to the truth.



Part I

# ISLAM



## Chapter 1



# MUHAMMAD: PROPHET OF WAR

**W**hy does the life of Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, matter today? Fourteen centuries have passed since he was born. Millions of Muslims have lived and died since then, and many leaders have risen to lead the faithful, including descendents of the Prophet himself. Surely Islam, like other religions, has changed over 1,400 years.

Here's why the life of Muhammad matters: Contrary to what many secularists would have us believe, religions are *not* entirely determined (or distorted) by the faithful over time. The lives and words of the founders remain central, no matter how long ago they lived. The idea that believers shape religion is derived, instead, from the fashionable 1960s philosophy of deconstructionism, which teaches that written words have no meaning other than that given to them by the reader. Equally important, it follows that if the reader alone finds meaning, there can be no truth (and certainly no religious truth); one person's meaning is equal to another's. Ultimately, according to deconstructionism, we all create our own set of "truths," none better or worse than any other.

Yet for the religious man or woman on the streets of Chicago, Rome, Jerusalem, Damascus, Calcutta, and Bangkok, the words of Jesus, Moses, Muhammad, Krishna, and Buddha mean something far greater than any individual's reading of them. And even to the less-than-devout reader,

### Guess what?

- ◆ Muhammad did not teach "peace and tolerance."
- ◆ Muhammad led armies and ordered assassinations of his enemies.
- ◆ Islamic tradition allows for negotiated settlements only in service of the ultimate goal of Islamic conquest.

## Bet your teacher never told you:

- ❁ Muhammad did not teach “peace and tolerance”—he led armies and ordered the assassination of his enemies
- ❁ The Qur’an commands Muslims to make war on Jews and Christians
- ❁ The much-ballyhooped “Golden Age” of Islamic culture was largely inspired by non-Muslims
- ❁ What is known today as the “Islamic world” was created by a series of brutal conquests of non-Muslim lands
- ❁ The Crusades were not acts of unprovoked aggression by Europe against the Islamic world, but a delayed response to centuries of Muslim aggression
- ❁ The jihad continues today: Europe could be Islamic by the end of the twenty-first century
- ❁ Ex-Muslims must live in fear even in the United States

## Everything (well, almost everything) you know about Islam and the Crusades is wrong

because most textbooks and popular history books are written by left-wing academics and Islamic apologists who justify their contemporary political agendas with contrived historical “facts.” But fear not: Robert Spencer refutes popular myths and reveals facts that you won’t be taught in school and will never hear on the evening news. He supplies a revealing list of “Books You’re Not Supposed to Read” (as far as the PC left is concerned) and takes you on a fast-paced, politically incorrect tour of Islamic teaching and Crusades history that will give you all the information you need to understand the true nature of the global conflict America faces today.

### Praise for **The Politically Incorrect Guide™ to Islam (and the Crusades)**

“To win the War on Terror, we must understand our enemies. The courageous and indefatigable Robert Spencer busts myths and tells truths about jihadists that no one else will tell. *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam (and the Crusades)* is indispensable reading.”

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—Ibn Warraq, author of *Why I Am Not A Muslim* and editor of *Leaving Islam* and *What the Koran Really Says*

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—Dr. Walid Phares, author of *Lebanese Christian Nationalism: The Rise and Fall of an Ethnic Resistance*

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**Robert Spencer** is the director of Jihad Watch and an Adjunct Fellow with the Free Congress Foundation. He is the author of four books on Islam, including *Islam Unveiled: Disturbing Questions About the World’s Fastest Growing Faith* (Encounter) and *Onward Muslim Soldiers: How Jihad Still Threatens America and the West* (Regnery), as well as eight monographs and hundreds of articles. He lives in a Secure, Undisclosed Location.

ISBN 978-0-89526-013-0



Current Events U.S. \$19.95, Can. \$25.95

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**REGNERY PUBLISHING, INC.**  
An Eagle Publishing Company • Washington, DC  
www.regnery.com

 **Politically Incorrect Guide™**

Distributed to the trade by National Book Network, Lanham, Maryland  
Jacket and interior design by Kristina Rutledge Phillips  
Cover photo by AP/Wide World Photos/Khalil Hamra