

Middle East Report by Robert Dreyfuss

Sadat the cultist

The Islamic revival threatening the Middle East has its roots not in Islam but in barbaric pre-Islamic cults of yore, French author Larteguy proves.

What do Anwar Sadat and Ayatollah Khomeini have in common?

The answer is not to be found in Islamic religion, but in their perversion thereof. That is, they are both cultists—worshippers of the ancient, irrational cults of human sacrifice and antiscience superstition that dominated the pre-Islamic world, and whose revival today in the guise of revolutionary Islam threatens the livelihood and very survival of the people of the Middle East.

Bizarre? Hardly. Sadat has admitted as much himself.

Take, for example, Walter Cronkite's interview with Sadat, televised by CBS on June 28. Entitled "Sadat's Eternal Egypt," the interview was a revealing hour-long portrait of Sadat that proved the Egyptian president to be a worshipper of the ancient cult of Isis. During the interview, as Sadat and Cronkite slowly made their way up the steps of the Temple of Isis in Philae, Egypt, the headquarters of the Isis cult during the period of Ptolemaic Egypt and the Roman Empire, Sadat proclaimed his intention to force Egyptians "back to the land" and launched a diatribe against Lenin for proclaiming the virtue of "steel and electricity."

Sadat then declared that history operates in thousand-year-long "cycles" in which empires rise and fall, to be replaced by successor empires destined to live out the

same fate. But, said Sadat, Egypt is eternal, and its mission in the world is not to contribute technology or new knowledge but a "moral awakening" and a cultural lesson to the world drawn from Egypt's cult-ridden, Pharaonic heritage.

Pointing to a pair of Egyptian laborers performing irrigation work with technology identical to that used well before the birth of Christ, Sadat commented that such ritual labor has taken place in Egypt for thousands of years and would continue in the future for thousands of years to come.

At the end of the interview, Cronkite asked Sadat in all seriousness if he intends to build a pyramid for his tomb in order to "continue the succession of the pharaohs."

Sadats. The reestablishment of the barbaric Isis cult in Egypt as well as of related cults throughout the Middle East is at the core of a centuries-old project to destroy once and for all the notions of progress and development in the Islamic world, along with the concept of the viability of independent, sovereign nation states.

In a recently published book entitled *God, Gold and Blood*, French author Jean Larteguy documents in great detail the reemergence of the ancient cults in modern guise. In particular, he rips the curtain off the so-called Islamic revival sweeping the Middle East and exposes it

for what it is: a revival of the corrupt priesthoods of the pre-Islamic cults.

Country by country, Larteguy describes how the mysticism and irrationalism of the ancient cults are being reconstituted to conquer a region that once was the world's center of scientific discovery. He describes the emergence of a modern-day Islamic version of the Isis cult in modern Egypt and documents Sadat's faith in the ancient gods. The Falangists are discussed as modern-day cultists committed to reviving the glories of Phoenicia, in alliance with the Zionist cultists of Israel whose antecedents are to be found in the pre-Solomon god Yahweh and the age-old drive to establish a greater-Hebrew kingdom reaching to the Sinai and the Euphrates.

In particular, Larteguy focuses on Iran, where Islamic fundamentalists such as Khomeini are using the name of Allah to plunge the country and the entire region into a pre-Islamic Dark Age in which a corrupt and powerful priesthood, as in ancient times, controls backward peasant populations.

The continuity between the ancient gods of pre-Islamic Iran and today's Khomeini-ism lies in the fact that Islam never fully succeeded in wiping out the corrupt priesthood—the mobeds—of the ancient days. The mobeds never really disappeared, but evolved into today's reactionary mullahs, with the pre-Islamic god Zarathustra becoming amalgamated into Islam's Allah.

Khomeini, concludes Larteguy, is applying the identical program of the ancient priests to restore Iran "as in ancient times to an agricultural life that stops practicing the sciences and the arts."