

of International Affairs.

With his deployment to the United States, as a professor of history at Princeton University, and an associate of the Princeton Center for Advanced Studies (an institution founded on the model of Oxford University's All Souls' College), Lewis came out from the shadows and emerged as an adviser to successive U.S. governments. His arrival coincided with the outbreak of civil war in Lebanon, a model that he would later promote for the Arab world as a whole, under the term "Lebanonization." The Lebanese civil war was promoted by U.S. National Security Adviser and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, as part of his geopolitical plans to create permanent instability in the Mideast.

## The Crescent of Crisis

When Jimmy Carter was elected President in November 1976, Carter's controller and National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, brought Lewis in as a behind-the-scenes strategic adviser. Lewis' plans for promoting the British intelligence-created Muslim Brotherhood, in states all along the southern tier of the Soviet Union, came to be widely known as "the crescent of crisis," and the "Bernard Lewis Plan." Lewis' scheme was spelled out in a *Time* magazine cover story on Jan. 15, 1979, under the headline "The Crescent of Crisis: Iran and a Region of Rising Instability." The lead article began with a quote from Brzezinski: "An arc of crisis stretches along the shores of the Indian Ocean, with fragile social and political structures in a region of vital importance to us threatened with fragmentation. The resulting political chaos could well be filled by elements hostile to our values and sympathetic to our adversaries."

However, the *Time* story made it clear that Lewis, Brzezinski, and the other proponents of the "crescent of crisis" intended to use the ensuing chaos for their geopolitical advantage: "In the long run," the *Time* authors wrote, "there may even be targets of opportunity for the West created by ferment within the crescent. Islam is undoubtedly compatible with socialism, but it is inimical to atheistic Communism. The Soviet Union is already the world's fifth largest Muslim nation. By the year 2000, the huge Islamic populations in the border republics may outnumber Russia's now dominant Slavs. From Islamic democracies on Russia's southern tier, a zealous Koranic evangelism might sweep across the border into these politically repressed Soviet states, creating problems for the Kremlin. . . . Whatever the solution, there is a clear need for the U.S. to recapture what Kissinger calls 'the geopolitical momentum.' That more than anything else will help maintain order in the crescent of crisis."

Within months of the publication of the *Time* cover story, and six months before the Soviets invaded Afghanistan, President Carter signed a secret order, drafted by Brzezinski, beginning covert funding of the Afghan mujahideen. Lewis' "Great Game" scheme, aimed at spreading chaos across much of the Islamic world, within and bordering on the Soviet Union, was up and running.

## The Clash of Civilizations

In September 1990, Lewis announced a new Anglo-American geopolitical initiative: the "clash of civilizations." His call for a new era of religious warfare appeared in the pages of *Atlantic Monthly*, under the title "The Roots of Muslim Rage," three years before Huntington's much-publicized *Foreign Affairs* article (Huntington credited Lewis with the origin of the term). Lewis announced that "Islam, like other religions, has . . . known periods when it inspired in some of its followers a mood of hatred and violence. It is our misfortune that part . . . of the Muslim world is now going through such a period and that much . . . of that hatred is directed against us."

Lewis lied that "Christendom" and the "House of Islam" have been in a state of perpetual struggle for 14 centuries, and that, for the past 300 years, Islam has been under siege, "through an invasion of foreign ideas and laws and ways of life." "The outbreak of rage against these alien, infidel, and incomprehensible forces that had subverted his dominance, disrupted his society, and finally violated the sanctuary of his home, was inevitable. It was also natural that this rage should be directed primarily against the millennial enemy and should draw its strength from ancient beliefs and loyalties."

In a section of the article, subtitled "A Clash of Civilizations," Lewis announced that it was now inevitable that an upsurge in Islamic fundamentalism would lead to a great clash, and that the United States would "become the focus for the pent-up hate and anger." "It should be now clear," he concluded, "that we are facing a mood and a movement far transcending the level of issues and policies and the governments that pursue them. This is no less than a clash of civilizations—the perhaps irrational but surely historic reaction of an ancient rival against our Judeo-Christian heritage, our secular present, and the worldwide expansion of both." After pronouncing the clash inevitable, Lewis attempted to cover his enthusiasm, by warning, "in the meantime, we must take great care on all sides to avoid the danger of a new era of religious wars arising from the exacerbation of differences and the revival of ancient prejudices." Lewis neglected to mention that his "crescent of crisis" geopolitical scheme was premised on the activation of what he called "militant Islamic fundamentalism," principally through the deployment of the 1920s British intelligence-sponsored Muslim Brotherhood.

## 'Lebanonization'

In 1992, in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, Lewis celebrated, in the pages of the New York Council on Foreign Relations magazine *Foreign Affairs*, that the era of the nation-state in the Middle East had come to an ignominious end, and the entire region should expect to go through a prolonged period of "Lebanonization"—i.e., degeneration into fratricidal, parochialist violence and chaos.

"The eclipse of pan-Arabism," he wrote, "has left Islamic fundamentalism as the most attractive alternative to all those who feel that there has to be something better, truer, and

more hopeful than the inept tyrannies of their rulers and the bankrupt ideologies foisted on them from outside.” The Islamists represent “a network outside the control of the state. . . . The more oppressive the regime, the greater the help it gives to fundamentalists by eliminating competing oppositionists.”

He concluded by forecasting the “Lebanonization” of the entire region, save Israel: “Most of the states of the Middle East . . . are of recent and artificial construction and are vulnerable to such a process. If the central power is sufficiently weakened, there is no real civil society to hold the polity together, no real sense of common national identity or overriding allegiance to the nation-state. The state then disintegrates—as happened in Lebanon—into a chaos of squabbling, feuding, fighting sects, tribes, regions and parties.”

In 1998, it was Lewis who catapulted Osama bin Laden into prominence with a November/December *Foreign Affairs* article, legitimizing the Saudi black sheep as a serious proponent of militant Islam. Lewis’ piece, “License To Kill: Osama bin Laden’s Declaration of Jihad,” showered praise on bin Laden, hailing his “Declaration of Jihad Versus Jews and Crusaders” as “a magnificent piece of eloquent, at times even poetic Arabic prose . . . which reveals a version of history that most Westerners will find unfamiliar.”

## The Zionist Connection

Osama bin Laden released his jihad call on Feb. 23, 1998, six months before the truck bombing attacks against the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya. The very next day, Bernard Lewis’ signature appeared on a widely circulated “Open Letter To President Bill Clinton,” released by a previously unheard-of entity called the Committee for Peace and Security in the Gulf, demanding that the U.S. government throw its full support behind a military campaign to overthrow Saddam Hussein. The Open Letter called for carpet-bombing Iraq, and for the United States to aggressively give financial and military support to the Iraqi National Congress, yet another corrupt and inept “Contra” pseudo-gang, created by U.S. and British intelligence elements, and based in London.

In addition to Bernard Lewis, the Open Letter was endorsed by former U.S. Rep. Steven Solarz (D-N.Y.); Anglo-Israeli propagandist and spy Richard Perle; convicted Iran-Contra criminal Elliott Abrams; Jonathan Pollard fellow-traveller Steven Bryen; Frank Gaffney; *New Republic* publisher and Al Gore mentor Martin Peretz; Paul Wolfowitz; Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP) research director David Wurmser; and Dov Zakheim.

Lewis’ public alliance at that time with the leading lights of the Zionist billionaires’ “Mega” apparatus is noteworthy, but not surprising. Lewis is lionized inside Israel, and by the Israeli lobby in America, as a geopolitical giant. On Feb. 19, 1996, Lewis was feted in Jerusalem, where he delivered the ninth annual B’nai B’rith World Center “Jerusalem Address”

on “The Middle East Towards the Year 2000.”

His son, Michael Lewis, is the director of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee’s super-secret “Opposition Research Section.” This is one of the most important well-springs of propaganda and disinformation, presently saturating the U.S. Congress and American media with war-cries for precisely the clash of civilizations that Lewis has been promoting for decades.

Since the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Lewis has been a fixture in the national media, appearing daily on CNN, National Public Radio, public television, and before every neo-conservative think-tank inside the Washington Beltway.

On Nov. 19, 2001, Lewis wrote yet another apologia for Osama bin Laden, dredging up his own study of the Assassins cult, to prove that bin Laden represented a legitimate tradition within Islam. Writing in the *New Yorker*, he warned, “For Osama bin Laden, 2001 marks the resumption of the war for the religious dominance of the world, that began in the Seventh Century. . . . If bin Laden can persuade the world of Islam to accept his views and his leadership, then a long and bitter struggle lies ahead, and not only for America. Sooner or later, al-Qaeda and related groups will clash with the other neighbors of Islam—Russia, China, India—who may prove less squeamish than the Americans in using their power against Muslims and their sanctities. If bin Laden is correct in his calculations and succeeds in his war, then a dark future awaits the world, especially the part of it that embraces Islam.”

**Publications:** *The Arabs in History* (London, 1950); *The Emergence of Modern Turkey* (London and New York, 1961); *The Assassins* (London, 1967); *The Muslim Discovery of Europe* (New York, 1982); *The Political Language of Islam* (Chicago, 1988); *Race and Slavery in the Middle East: An Historical Enquiry* (New York, 1990); *Islam and the West* (New York, 1993); *Islam in History*, 2nd edition (Chicago, 1993); *The Shaping of the Modern Middle East* (New York, 1994); *Cultures in Conflict* (New York, 1994); *The Middle East: A Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years* (New York, 1995); *The Future of the Middle East* (London, 1998); *A Middle East Mosaic: Fragments of Life, Letters and History* (New York, 2000).

**Other affiliations:** Director, Foreign Policy Research Institute; Philadelphia Editorial Advisory Board, *Orbis* quarterly; frequent contributor to *New Yorker Atlantic Monthly*, *New York Review of Books*.

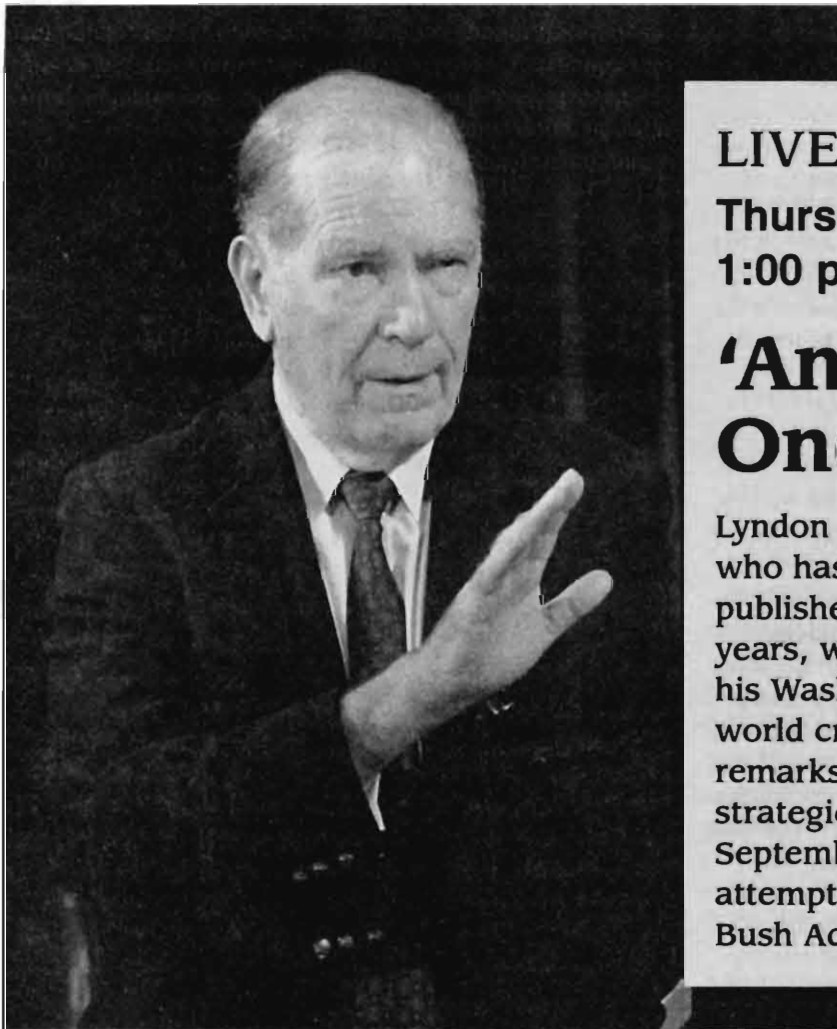
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