

Background to the News: Cheney and the Saudis

The following is excerpted from Hussein Askary, “British/Saudi Terror Fuels Bloody Sectarian War in Iraq and Syria,” [EIR](#), Jan. 17, 2014.

In 2013, more than 9,000 Iraqis were killed in terror attacks, a horrific figure not seen since 2008, when terror attacks intended to inflame sectarian tensions were launched in Iraq. It was foreign fighters of the al-Qaeda brand who pulled the triggers, not Iraqi Shi’as or Sunnis. However, the net result of the continued targeting of Shi’a and Sunni mosques and religious activities divided the country along sectarian lines.

This new phenomenon in Iraq was fed by the U.S.-Saudi agreement in November 2006, following a visit by U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney to Saudi Arabia, to establish a “Sunni Alliance” led by Saudi Arabia, and consisting of the Persian Gulf countries (United

Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait), Jordan, and Egypt (in addition to the Sunnis in Lebanon and Iraq) to counter what became popularized as the “Shi’a Crescent” of Iran, Syria, and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Iran and Syria had long been on the “regime-change list” of the Bush Administration and the British government, following the invasion of Iraq in 2003....

After the Cheney-Saudi agreement in 2006, Saudi money and Wahhabi extremist preachers had started pouring into western Iraq, refocusing the attention of the previously anti-Western patriotic Sunni resistance groups on the new danger, “Iran and its puppet” Shi’a government in Baghdad, which were described as greater dangers to Sunni Arabs than the United States, or even Israel. With the gradual withdrawal of the U.S. forces from Iraq in 2009-11, this “new target” became more and more visible. With the advance of the NATO regime-change crusade from Libya to Syria in 2011, western Iraq became an important supply route for weapons, money, and terrorists from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf (in addition to the “ratline” from Libya to Syria via Turkey). Western Iraq and Syria became one operational theater for the Saudi-backed terrorist groups.