

# Fitzgerald: A Brief Taxonomy Of MESA Nostra [re-posting]

*“The vast majority of people in the Arab world sympathize with al Qaeda only because it champions their issues and speaks their language and it’s seemingly effective against their enemies.” – Shibley Telhami of the Brookings Institution and the University of Maryland*

*A nice example of deception and even possibly self-deception. It is not because it [Al Qaeda] “champions their issues.” It is because Al Qaeda speaks the language of Islam, is deeply rooted in the canonical texts of Islam, and cannot be successfully refuted within Islam. Why not? Because it is true to the letter and the spirit of Islam – to the Qur’an and Sunna, to the example of Muhammad, uswa hasana (Qur’an 33:21). The origins of Islam to justify and promote the Arab conquest of more advanced, richer, more populous tribes and groups of Christians and Jews, the role of Jihad-conquest in spreading Islam, the long record, over 1350 years, of the subjugation of non-Muslims of every kind, always and everywhere forced to endure the status of dhimmi (although sometimes the rigor of this was modified by the gentleness of an individual ruler, such as syncretistic Akbar in India), if permitted to live at all and to avoid forcible conversion – all of this may have been forgotten in the Western world.*

*As*