

# Has the world learned anything since Brussels?

It has become alarmingly clear since the Brussels terror attack that the West either doesn't understand the nature of Islamist terrorism or doesn't want to. President Obama denies that the Islamic State poses an existential threat, belittles those who disagree, and seems more vested in undermining allies and political opponents than fighting terror. Whether acting out of ideology or naiveté, he refuses to admit the role of religious doctrine and instead blames terrorism on generic criminality, violent extremism, gun violence, or global warming. He fails to address the jihad and genocide being waged against non-Muslims in the Mideast and beyond, does not speak honestly about the Islamist threat, and portrays those who do as hatemongers.

Under his administration, the U.S. has abdicated its global leadership role and left a void in which Russia seeks to reconstitute its empire, China threatens American strategic and economic interests, and Iran continues to export terror while violating a feckless nuclear deal under which it derives great benefit but makes no concessions. The president has eschewed sound military and intelligence advice in favor of policies that have destabilized the Mideast, empowered terrorists, and caused a refugee crisis that is tearing Europe apart.

Whether the administration's foreign policy stems from ideology or incompetence, it seems to regard Islamic radicalism as a natural response to western oppression, though European entrée into the Mideast was preceded by centuries of jihad waged in Europe by Arab-Muslim invaders. Its knack for promoting revisionism is facilitated by the public's lack of historical perspective, as reflected by the inability to recognize that ISIS is not historically aberrant, but rather

embodies the same doctrine that mandated forceful spread of the faith starting in the eighth century.

Political correctness inhibits discussion of radical Islam and, thus, stifles the ability to combat the terrorism it spawns...

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