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ABDAL-HAKIM MURAD  
Pope Benedict XVI and Islam

HASAN LE GAI EATON  
Faith and Justice

YAHYA BIRT  
After 7/7: The  
Challenge Ahead

HAMZA YUSUF  
Just Enough  
Religion to Hate

KELLY CROSBY  
In the path of  
Hurricane Katrina

PLUS  
Robin Soans on  
Talking to Terrorists

IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU  
**SCREAM**



ISN'T IRAQ PART  
OF THE PROBLEM  
TOO ?!?!?

THEY WANT ME  
TO TACKLE  
EXTREMISM?!?!?

MUSLIM  
LEADERSHIP IN  
CRISIS ?!?!?

LONDON  
BOMBINGS...  
MY FAULT ?!?!?

ISLAM MUST  
REFORM OR  
PERISH ?!?!?



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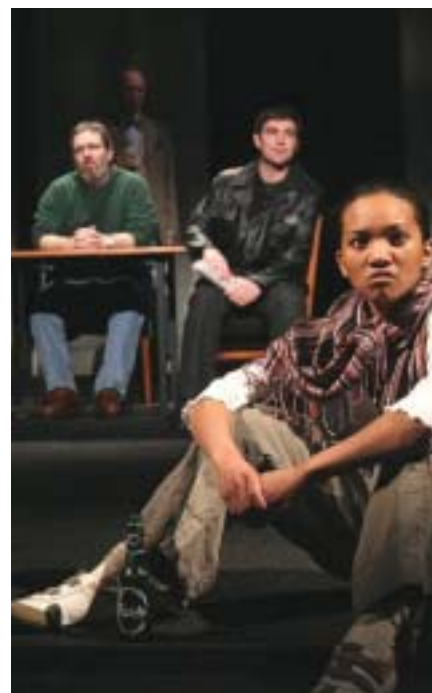
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# The Nightmare after the Nuclear Holocaust: 60<sub>yrs</sub> after Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Witnesses to its devastating power drew parallels to the wrath of God. But 60 years on, the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are poignant reminders of an increasingly dangerous world where the possibility of self-destruction has not dimmed. **Ihsanic Intelligence** looks at the legacy of the world's first and only, nuclear holocaust.

On 6 August 1945, the America warplane *Enola Gay* dropped the first nuclear bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Over 140,000 perished in an instant, but the total victims to date, including those who died from radiation-related illnesses, number 242,437. Three days later, a second nuclear bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. About 70,000 people died in a split second, with the final death toll standing at 148,793. In the aftermath of this nuclear annihilation and the Soviet entry into the Pacific war, Japan presented its proclamation of unconditional surrender to the Allies on August 15.

In 1939, the Manhattan Project - eerily evoking associations with 9/11 referred to as "another Manhattan" by Bin Laden in October 2004 - was convened by the American administration to develop the first nuclear bomb, with its original intended target Nazi Germany. After the first nuclear test in the New Mexico desert on July 16 1945, the project's supervising scientist, Dr Robert Oppenheimer exclaimed - repeated a chilling phrase from the sacred Hindu text, The Bhagavad-Gita - "Now, I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds." The words of the Hindu deity, Shiva, the verse is preceded by the condition that "If the radiance of a thousand suns were to burst at once into the sky that would be like the splendour of the Mighty One." Few knew then that the sun would be unleashed twice in the land of its rising.

Oppenheimer was not the only one to recall divine wrath. When the newly-inaugurated President Harry Truman was informed of the successful test, he immediately took the decision allowing its use, and wrote in his diary: "We have discovered the most terrible bomb in the history of the world. It may be the fire destruction prophesied in the Euphrates Valley Era, after Noah and his fabulous Ark." British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was also Biblical in his reflection, likening the explosions at the time to the "Second Coming in Wrath."

However, by July 1945, the war in Germany had ceased, but continued in the Pacific. Long-range B-29 bombers systematically fire-bombed 66 of Japan's largest cities and killed as many as 900,000 civilians - many times the combined total of both nuclear death tolls. By firebombing cities, Professor David Kennedy of Stanford University argues, "the US had already crossed a terrifying

moral threshold when it accepted the targeting of civilians as a legitimate instrument of warfare", and one with devastating contemporary implications. The US Airforce deliberately excluded firebombing Hiroshima, Kokura and Nagasaki, but still the Japanese military refused to surrender. When considering policy options, it was suggested that an American invasion of Japan would result in a million casualties - a figure later admitted to being plucked out of thin air. One of the factors which contributed to the US decision to drop the bomb was that the Japanese had embraced Shinto-derived kamikaze - "divine wind" - suicide attacks, in their willingness to die for Imperial Japan. The Japanese Navy used both one and two-man piloted torpedoes called kaitens on suicide missions, and found them highly effective. In the Battle of Okinawa, April 1945, some 2,000 kamikaze rammed fully-fuelled fighter planes into more than 300 ships, killing 5,000 Americans in the most costly naval battle in US history. The kamikaze campaign contributed to the US decision.

Despite Japan seeking peace talks on August 3, 1945 and despite being advised by some of his top aides of the void of genuine necessity, President Truman decided that the bomb must be used, in revenge for Pearl Harbour. He in turn succeeded in initiating the Cold War and inauspiciously began "The American Century". Clausewitz's second instrument of international relations was to be deployed: War. The deliberate policy of not firebombing the three cities now began to make sense: American military planners wished to study the effects of the atom bomb in the field. Two would be targeted, and the third be left alone except in the case of a contingency. In August 1945, the American warplane, "Enola Gay", flew westwards to Tinian Island, off the coast of Japan, to be based there to fly to Hiroshima with its load. On 6 August, the weather above Tinian Island was typical for the Pacific: clear skies and the sun shining much in the same way as it does at every other Ground Zero. Before embarking on "Enola Gay", its commander, Paul Tibbets, was given half a dozen cyanide pills so that he and his crew could take their own lives if they fell into Japanese hands, evoking the same spirit of Japanese seppuku, "honourable suicide" which gave birth to kamikazes and their latter-day hellish incarnations.

When the uranium bomb was unleashed on Hiroshima, the fire-

ball at its core was 4000° C. Those who saw the blast from a distance marvelled at its beauty, the scintillating wash of blue, yellow, peach and salmon pink across the sky. It was a momentary distraction before its worldly reality manifested in the infamous mushroom cloud. The heat rays of the blast left the shadows of its victims on concrete and metal. Anyone in the open air was instantly vapourised, turned to carbon - the whippers of thousands of lives being annihilated in a split second. Three days later, Kokura was in sight.

Kokura was the second Japanese city to be targeted by the Americans. The plane was heading in its direction on August 9, but rain, as fate decreed, forced the mission to divert its course to Nagasaki. The plutonium bomb was unleashed. In its aftermath, and with some commanders still refusing to yield, the Japanese Emperor Hirohito abandoned his divine status, and unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. Truman's chief of staff, Admiral William Leahy, said in his memoirs that "the use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender". Oppenheimer concurred. In November 1945, he said that the bomb had been dropped on an "essentially defeated enemy".

On the sixtieth anniversary of both bombings, each city held ceremonies to remember the victims, calling for nuclear disarmament and world peace. Today, the world has seven states with nuclear-power capability: Russia, USA, UK, France, China, India and Pakistan. Israel has not publicly admitted to possessing sophisticated, deliverable nuclear weapons, and North Korea has already says it possesses them. Of those states invited to attend to the memorial services, only China and Russia sent diplomats.

When the BBC television documentary, *Islamic Bomb*, was aired in 1979, based on a book by Herbert Krosney and Steven Weisman, and of another by D.K. Paliy and P.K.S. Namboodiri, few genuinely envisaged the reality of such a weapon, either by state or non-state actors. The rantings of Evangelist Dr Joseph Adam Pearson, oft-quoted in Islamic propagation material, was seen as a sentimental antidote: "People who worry that nuclear weaponry will one day fall in the hands of the Arabs fail to realize that the Islamic bomb has been dropped already: it fell the day Muhammad was born."

Such sentiments did not prevent countries like Pakistan and Libya trying to acquire nuclear capability. It was the eventually non-Arabs who acquired such weapons. In 1998 Pakistan succeeded in matching neighbouring India's first nuclear test, becoming the first Muslim-majority country to publicly demonstrate its nuclear power status. At the time, Shaykh Hamza Yusuf Hanson offered his assessment of a state acquiring nuclear power, stating that nuclear bombs were, de facto, forbidden according to Islam due to their immense capacity for indiscriminate destruction and their hellish

During August 2005, there were increasing and unverified reports that "American Hiroshima", the codename for a nuclear attack mission on US soil, allegedly gleaned from al-Qaeda documents and the interrogations of captured operatives, was scheduled to occur on the sixtieth anniversary of Hiroshima. It did not occur, but the motive and intent remains. Humanity's nightmare continues whilst the present US administration pursues the development of a new type of bomb, the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, designed to blast underground targets, like the alleged clandestine nuclear facilities of Khan's former clients, Iran and Korea.

'fire-power', for as Prophet Muhammad said, "No one should punish with fire, except for the Lord of Fire."

The "Islamic Bomb" remained the myth that it ever was, until it became the "The Lucrative Bomb" when Pakistani nuclear scientist, A.Q. Khan, was placed under house arrest in 2004 for selling Pakistani nuclear technology and designs to a variety of clients including Libya, Iran and North Korea. But the global nuclear souk had other buyers too. Non-state actors, like Islamist terrorist groups, also tried to get, leveraging the dollar and dinar, wishing to acquire nuclear capability for their own ends.

From October 1996, Osama Bin Laden was publicly evoking the memory of the Nuclear Holocaust, in comparison to the suffering Iraq, stating that the Americans deliberately dropped the 1945 bombs "in a premeditated manner". In November 2002, Bin Laden declared, "You who dropped a nuclear bomb on Japan, even though Japan was ready to negotiate an end to the war." As for the acquisition of nuclear weapons, in December 1998, Bin Laden considered it "a religious duty" and by November 2001, he said that "If America used chemical and nuclear weapons against us, then we may retort with chemical and nuclear weapons. We have the weapons as a deterrent." Such

claims cannot be verified. Furthermore, Islamist terrorists' embrace of suicide terrorism means that such weapons would be easier to detonate.

In 1946, Oppenheimer had presciently warned a Senate committee of the coming nightmare. Testifying about the possibility of an atomic suitcase bomb being smuggled into an American city he said, "Of course, it could be done and people could destroy New York." During August 2005, there were increasing and unverified reports that "American Hiroshima", the codename for a nuclear attack mission on US soil, allegedly gleaned from al-Qaeda documents and the interrogations of captured operatives, was scheduled to occur on the sixtieth anniversary of Hiroshima. It did not occur, but the motive and intent remains. Humanity's nightmare continues whilst the present US administration pursues the development of a new type of bomb, the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, designed to blast underground targets, like the alleged clandestine nuclear facilities of Khan's former clients, Iran and Korea.

In his landmark fatwa, *Defending the Transgressed*, the Malaysian jurist Shaykh Muhammad al-Akiti demonstrates that, according to Islamic ethics and jurisprudence of jihad, the deliberate targeting of civilians and suicide attacks - in all contexts - are both forbidden in Islam. In so doing, it recalls the fire-bombings of 66 Japanese cities, the use of kaitens in the Battle of Okinawa, suicide bombers in London, the American Hiroshima, and the anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Man neglects the Divine in perceiving His Wrath, but should at least restrain himself in his nihilism to his fellow man. ■