

THE WILL OF GOD –as policy

Abraham Lincoln citing the influence of God both good and bad in 1962 said, “The will of God prevails. In great contests each party claims to act in accordance with the will of God . Both may be, but one must be wrong. God cannot be for and against the same thing at the same time.” Judaism, Christianity and Islam –as one-God religions pose answers and problems. They all trace their origins to the self-revelation of the one, true God to Abraham.

“A Jew(Kertzer: What is a Jew?)is one who accepts the faith of Judaism, as religion, without formal affiliation (ethics, folkways, literature)-a cultural definition. One regarded by his community, a practical definition and others call Judaism a civilization. Jews are not a race, but a way of life.” Moses, the symbol of a good Jew was a prophet, led the Jews from Egypt to the land of Canaan.

Christianity, born a Jewish religion, drew impetus from Jesus whose coming, ministry, conflict, crucifixion and resurrection, brief return and ascension to heaven provided the ‘way’ for Christianity to all via the ministry of St. Paul. Trinity(God, the Son, Holy Spirit)provided the rationale and doctrine of belief which St Paul used in his trek for the message of Christianity. Gabriel, said to be a messenger from God and link to Jesus was also there for Mohammed during his revelation.

Islam can be said to be a religion, an ideology and a nation, though beginnings seem to augur for a religious foundation. Sustained by the Pillars of Islam(No God, but Allah; that Mohammed is the prophet of God; prayer conducted five times daily, kneeling, worshipful; providing a portion of income to charity, and fasting during the month of Ramadan; as well as the Hajj-a trip to Mecca in belief, renewal, and festivity).

So how does one define this ‘war’ undeclared, yet ongoing in Afghanistan, and peripheral to Pakistan. Is it a religious war and if the participants believe in one God, why and what for? Most wars before had symmetry but this war seems asymmetrical having sides or parts that

do not correspond to usual strategic rationale. Some would call them Ghost wars with a guerrilla motif. The cave-dweller and symbol of a Islamic resurrection, (bin-Laden)declared war against the infidels, America, and Israel back in 1996 based on success against the Soviet Union over whom they declared victory in the Afghan war in the late eighties and early nineties-said to be sparked by presence of American forces in Saudi-Arabia during the first Gulf War. Attacks of United States embassies in Africa and the USS Cole in the Bay of Aden followed. Renewed threats against Israel and victory of Hamas in Gaza foretold new problems in the trek for peace between the Jew and the Arab there, despite new offers by Netanyahu for peace settlements since.

Today the mosaic of war suggests success in Iraq with United States and coalition forces turning over security and military operations to the Iraqis with plans for withdrawal in the next year. Afghanistan simmers under the renewed rise of the Taliban and a somewhat dormant al-Qaeda. A major offensive of US Marines and Afghan forces has entered Helmand province, aimed at Marjah to eliminate Taliban presence, fueled by funds from opium fields in the area. Along the periphery of the Afghan-Pakistan border, Taliban forces are under siege by Pakistan military with some success. The shadow of increased threat of a nuclear-armed Iran hovers.

In a war desired by bin-Laden(al-Qaeda)thrilled by the 9/11 attack's success, aimed at United States revenge and the unleashing of Islamic anger towards a new Western crusade, their mission is sacrosanct. Will Netanyahu (of Israel)wait the Iranian completion of their nuclear plans or attack; doubtful, and what of America?

Already taking credit for Iraq(perhaps with tongue in cheek)our President has seemingly ignored the threat of continuing Islamic militancy –Islam is not our enemy- though receiving some higher marks for his commitment of troop increase in Afghanistan. Fort Hood and the Christmas bomber have placed him in

the usual dilemma of his remarks about 'man-made disasters and isolated incidents' almost like Jefferson who was more comfortable in quietude contemplation rather than a 'take charge persona'. What are his beliefs: a problem of ideology, of religion(is he Christian or Muslim, both or neither)?
Islam is the problem, Mr. President and requires new thinking, analysis, and strategic foresight!