

True Perspectives Seminar: Georgia Legislative Issues

On July 12, Dr. Robert R. Friedmann, shared his views on the Middle East to a full house of members and guests at the Plantation Ballroom. His theme was “Connecting the Dots” and the “Zebra Syndrome.” He is a director of the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange and Professor Emeritus of Criminal Justice at Georgia State University.

Connecting the Dots

As early as September 2000, it was evident from the “spontaneous” riots over Ariel Sharon’s visit to the Temple Mount controlled by Islamists that trouble was brewing in the Middle East portended by growing danger to the existence of the State of Israel.

Part of the problem was the now evident media bias favoring Palestinians and against Israelis. For example, there was a subsequent debate held in Oxford University entitled: “Zionism is Damaging Israel”. Instead of listing it as a question, the promoters insisted on using the declarative form to hype attendance, as if giving credence to the assertion.

It is now clear Hezbollah was planning and actively beginning to tunnel into northern Israel, for what purpose one can only guess.

News stories were also planted by the Palestinian Authority that Israeli Zionists are using drug wars to undermine Arab populations. Another absurd story had a shark attack on a Gaza beach in the eastern Mediterranean as engineered by Israel’s CIA counterpart – the Mossad.

Yasser Arafat’s wife Suha now accuses the Israelis of poisoning her late husband using a nuclear residue called polonium whose reactive shelf life is only a few months.

Even Thomas Friedman now calls on Israel to endorse the Muslim Brotherhood in Turkey characterizing it as a movement towards peace.

Another Middle East “expert” also calls upon Israel and the U.S. to accept Iranian nuclear ambitions as a force for stability in the region. This expert equates Iranian ambitions with Russian deterrence which was never used while failing to recognize Russian leaders knew when to stop because they had no intention of self destruction.

The “Zebra Syndrome”

Is a zebra black with white stripes or white with black stripes? The analogy is: Does peace exist as an interlude between wars, or is war the norm, with outbreaks of peace in between, for the world and for the Middle East in particular?

Is Iran for real when it says it plans to restore Islam to its rightful place as the only religion allowed in the region? What about its desire to take over the entire world, and patiently waiting years and even millennia until it achieves this one-world religion?

Middle East expert Bernard Lewis assigns the U.S. strategy of democracy in the Middle East as an artificial solution. In the Q&A session, Lewis’s pessimism was brought up, as the Imams can’t seem to accept Western progress versus former Islamic dominance a thousand years ago. Hence their theocratic view of the world is that God would not

double cross Islam by allowing Western success. Therefore it must be the devil that has taken hold of the West, epitomized now by the Islamic view of the U.S. as the “Great Satan”.

This view explains most of the strife as religious not political, and so the solutions cannot be viewed from a Western prism. Robbie Friedmann’s view, therefore, that simplistic attempts at educating young Islamists in western ideas of freedom and democracy won’t readily work. Furthermore, Obama’s policies of apologizing for perceived past U.S. examples of domination and aggression is exactly the wrong medicine. This portrays the U.S. as weak, and emboldens Islamic zealots to further step up the attacks to obtain total Western surrender. Feed a bully and increase his appetite.

Instead, the West should establish rules that cannot be broken, and do not make idle threats that are empty. An example is Hillary Clinton’s recent demand that Russia and China “behave or else.” No one believes the current U.S. administration has any plans to use strong force to back up any demands. And another weak back down only reinforces the notion of a feckless U.S. with no overall plan it is willing to sustain.

Friedmann clearly believes Iran means what it says and says what it means vis a vis destroying Israel, and dominating the rest of West, even if it takes a thousand years. This is hard to deal with, even if there is a threat of nuclear retaliation after a nuclear strike on Israel. After 50 years or so, with Israel gone, and the dead of Iran buried, there will be many more Muslims to move into the devastated territory in both countries.

The fatal and wrong assumption of Western nation states is that Iran and similar intense Islamic cultures care about nation states. They don’t. Islam is a tribal culture, not a national culture. What is important is the Islamic takeover of the world and the destruction of Western culture and thought – even if it takes a millennium.

Of significance was the attempt to build a mosque on or near the site of the World Trade Center destruction – with the code name, the Cordoba Project. Cordoba was the site of a large mosque constructed on the site of a church overrun in the Middle Ages by conquering Muslims in Spain. Symbolic was the mosque being built on the very site of a church. The recent Ground Zero mosque, if built, would have signified an Islamic “victory” over the West by destroying the West’s symbol of success – the NYC World Trade Towers.

And once Islam conquers a country it is now considered Islamic. So Islamists won’t rest until Spain again falls into Islamic domination. Where does that put New York City?