

ideology and you will readily understand the ferocity of Islamic resistance to American efforts to promote democracy in the Middle East—not merely jihadist resistance but broad Islamic resistance.

Yet, in a propaganda campaign reminiscent of those waged by the Nazis and the Soviets, Islamists and their fellow travelers (Brennan-types who might be thought of as “ant-anti-Islamists”) purport to be champions of human rights. When it suits them, they even feign reverence for individual liberties (particularly when it comes to the rights of Muslim in America . . . but don’t you dare ask them how non-Muslims fare in, say, Saudi Arabia).

The counter to such a propaganda campaign is a job for intelligence agencies. The point of having a sprawling intelligence community on which American taxpayers annually lavish \$55 billion—far more than the vast majority of countries spend on national defense—is precisely to see through the deceptions of those who mean us harm, to perceive the threats against us for what they are. That the competent performance of this essential function may be fraught with political complications is supposed to be a challenge for our politicians, not our intelligence agents. The latter’s mission of unearthing hidden and often excruciating truths is hard enough.

Brennan’s agenda is the antithesis of the intelligence mission. His goal has been to portray our enemies as a small, unthreatening fringe of charlatan “violent extremists,” who kill wantonly and are unconnected to any “legitimate” Islam. Thus, he maintains for example that the only “legitimate” interpretation of the “tenet of Islam” known as jihad is: a “holy struggle . . . to purify oneself or one’s community.”

Even taken at face value, Brennan’s assertion is absurd. There is between Islam and the West no common understanding of the good, and thus no consensus about “purity.” In Islam, to “purify” something means to make it more compliant with sharia, Islam’s legal code and societal framework. Sharia is anti-freedom and anti-equality, so to purify oneself in an Islamic sense would necessarily mean something very different from what we in the West would think of as struggling to become a better person.

But there is an even more fundamental reason not to take Brennan’s remarks at face value: they run afoul of what mainstream Islam itself says about jihad. Have a look at *Reliance of the Traveller*, the popular sharia manual (it is available on Amazon). It is quite straightforward on the matter: “Jihad means to war against non-Muslims.” Reliance, you should know, has been expressly endorsed by al-Azhar University in Egypt (Islam’s center of learning since the tenth century) and the International Institute of Islamic Thought (the Brotherhood’s America-based Islamist think-tank). It is a lot more authoritative than John Brennan’s wishful meanderings. Maybe the president actually thinks Brennan knows more about Islam than do these scholars who have spent their lives steeped in Islamic doctrine and jurisprudence. I have my doubts . . . and, judging from the profound influence of these scholars, so do many millions of Muslims.

In Brennan’s world we’re to believe that holy war is not much different from the struggle to remember to brush after every meal. In Brennan’s world, there is also no need to fret over * * *

Mr. Speaker, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to section 643(c) of The American Taxpayer Relief Act (P.L. 112-240), I am pleased to appoint the following individuals to the Commission on Long-Term Care.

Bruce Allen Chernof, Los Angeles, CA
Judith Stein, Storrs, CT
George Vradenburg, Washington, DC
Thank you for your attention to these appointments.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
House Democratic Leader.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. CRAWFORD (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a family emergency.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o’clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, February 8, 2013, at 11 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

‘I, AB, do solemnly swear (or Affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.’

Has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Members of the 113th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

ALABAMA

1 Jo Bonner

2 Martha Roby
3 Mike Rogers
4 Robert B. Aderholt
5 Mo Brooks
6 Spencer Bachus
7 Terri A. Sewell

ALASKA

At Large, Don Young

ARIZONA

1 Ann Kirkpatrick
2 Ron Barber
3 Raúl M. Grijalva
4 Paul A. Gosar
5 Matt Salmon
6 David Schweikert
7 Ed Pastor
8 Trent Franks
9 Kyrsten Sinema

ARKANSAS

1 Eric A. “Rick” Crawford
2 Tim Griffin
3 Steve Womack
4 Tom Cotton

CALIFORNIA

1 Doug LaMalfa
2 Jared Huffman
3 John Garamendi
4 Tom McClintock
5 Mike Thompson
6 Doris O. Matsui
7 Ami Bera
8 Paul Cook
9 Jerry McNerney
10 Jeff Denham
11 George Miller
12 Nancy Pelosi
13 Barbara Lee
14 Jackie Speier
15 Eric Swalwell
16 Jim Costa
17 Michael M. Honda
18 Anna G. Eshoo
19 Zoe Lofgren
20 Sam Farr
21 David G. Valadao
22 Devin Nunes
23 Kevin McCarthy
24 Lois Capps
25 Howard P. “Buck” McKeon
26 Julia Brownley
27 Judy Chu
28 Adam B. Schiff
29 Tony Cárdenas
30 Brad Sherman
31 Gary G. Miller
32 Grace F. Napolitano
33 Henry A. Waxman
34 Xavier Becerra
35 Gloria Negrete McLeod
36 Raul Ruiz
37 Karen Bass
38 Linda T. Sánchez
39 Edward R. Royce
40 Lucille Roybal-Allard
41 Mark Takano
42 Ken Calvert
43 Maxine Waters
44 Janice Hahn
45 John Campbell
46 Loretta Sanchez
47 Alan S. Lowenthal
48 Dana Rohrabacher
49 Darrell E. Issa
50 Duncan Hunter
51 Juan Vargas
52 Scott H. Peters
53 Susan A. Davis

COLORADO

1 Diana DeGette
2 Jared Polis
3 Scott R. Tipton
4 Cory Gardner
5 Doug Lamborn
6 Mike Coffman
7 Ed Perlmutter