

Re: Yet Another Roswell Thread

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2007-07/msg00474.html>

- *From:* Einar <einarbb@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 20 Jul 2007 19:46:47 -0700
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Ian Parker wrote:

On 16 Jul, 23:43, eina...@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:

There are in fact no specifically religious tenets. That is to say mainstream tenets. The reason for the decline of Islamic societies is not religious. It may well be to do with the fact that societies are controlled by one man. China had, of course, no dominant religion. In 1421 a fleet explored the world. Then the Emperor took the decision to abandon all further exploration. Why didn't the Chinese establish a colony in California in (say) 1425? If they had the whole history of America would have been very different. They knew it was there and had the technology. BTW – 1421 has been criticised by scholars on a number of grounds. One of them being that the author cannot read original sources, even though these were destroyed. The Emperor not only put a stop to further exploration, he specifically destroyed all the data that came back. You can't imagine any Western society doing that can you?

Certainly without the need for middlemen Islamic society was in deep trouble. It should have invested in new technology when it did have the wealth. Lepanto was in fact a victory for new naval technology.

There is an additional curiosity. This is something Japan did as well. But that is the country was literally closed for foreigners. It's like they so strongly emphasized stability under the Ming emperors that they sought to eliminate as far as they could potential sources for instability, that appears to have included influences from foreign sources. Foreign traders were no longer allowed to enter China. Trading centers were established on the borders. In addition, Chinese themselves were banned to go abroad on trading expeditions. That means the extensive Chinese diaspora which already existed at that time in SE-Asia was cut off from their original homeland. The extensive trading houses in China no longer could trade outside China using their own people.

It's a curious thing that both China and Japan chose to close their countries literally as far as they could and hence isolate them as far

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as they could from foreign influences. It's perhaps not so strange that both countries fell behind.

Yes, the Lepanto, actually the turkish were one of the first armies to successfully make use of artillery. But, the christian fleet had galiases, some sort of a hybrid between a galley and a large sailing wessel. A ship which could move sluggishly under oars, but had also a row of cannons, light ones on the side abow the oar-holes, heavy ones at the front and at the rear, some sort of an idea for an ocean fairing fortress. They must have been devastating vs. the extremelly lightbuilt gallays.

Ian Parker wrote:

There must be a realization that terrorism can't be ended in a moment. That can only be done gradually by redusing the pool of potential requits for terror, which appear primarilly to be young people with litle hope of jobs. There must be a realization that methods that harm the average well being of the Palestinian people are only likely to increase the influence of radical terrorist organizations. It will have to be accepted that for some time afterwards there will be a degree of terrorism, which hopefully over time will fade away.

It would be a really bad thing if al-Qaeda got a foothold among the Palestinians. So far the different groups, the Hamas and the PLO along with theyr respective umbrella groups, have been able to keep other groups more or less out.

I'm actually in the minority position that think that takeve of Hamas on the Gasa Strip may actually provite some side benefits. During the months of struggle for control between PLO and Hamas there it really looked like both groups were loosing control over that area, i.e. that other perhaps even nastyer groups were gaining a foothold. Now, with a single group in power there, they may be able to keep a lid on things. It will though depend on what the Hamas does think to be in its interest.

I have an opinion which is very much a minority one. One that CERTAINLY will never be endorsed by our military friends. Hamas and Hezbollah are controlled by Iran. So what they do is very much influenced by what happens in Tehran. As I think I said earlier the war in Iraq is certain (pretty well) to have one clear victor. What will Iran do if and when she has effective control over most of the

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Middle East? I personally think it might be a good thing if Israel got one powerful negotiating partner. Would Israel be destroyed? Israel has a very considerable nuclear arsenal and when countries have power they start thinking realpolitikally.

In terms of realpolitik Iran wants to consolidate its hold on Iraq, is actually far more interested in Lebanon and Syria than in Israel. Holocaust denial goes down well in the Arab street, but as soon as you have to take decisions which could possibly lead to nuclear war you play a different tune.

There is yet another question, Central Asia. Iran could play a role in the stabilization of the former Soviet Union. Russia has constructive relations.

There is a considerable irony here. Iran is the baddest of the bad in US demonology. Yet the US military have in fact facilitated the creation of Iranian power. This leads one to have an extreme lack of confidence in anything they tell us.

Iran does not want terrorist groups, particularly Sunni ones. It is far too much at risk itself. Hamas will first concentrate on eliminating all power sources but itself in Gaza. Then it will start on the West Bank. In point of fact the quickest way to stop the insurgency in Iraq is to let the Iranians in. An Iranian victory will mean that Al Qaeda will certainly not be tolerated. In fact Iraq looks like being the biggest single defeat for the Arabs AND Al Qaeda that there has been for some time. The Saudis are extremely alarmed.

Personally I think the Hamas will now concentrate on the West Bank. In the meantime they will prefer the Gaza Strip to be quiet. It will be very interesting to watch what will happen next.

Clearly the government of Israel is worried. President Bush has also been making noises about support to the Palestinian Authority. But, I actually doubt that will really aid the PLO in its struggle against the Hamas. The contrary may actually prove to come true. I wonder what will happen if the Hamas gains control over the West Bank as well. That outcome may not be very unlikely.

Israel and the US will be forced to negotiate with Iran.

– Ian Parker

A likely development in Iraq looks to me that it will develop into some kind of a war in proxy between Iran and the sunny powers. Iran will support the shites and the sunni countries will support the sunnis. That kind of thing could maintain that war for quite a long

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time. Iran might perhaps use the Hesbollah as well, and try to radicalize shite minorities around the Middle East.

What may develop is some sort of a regional Cold War struggle. Most certainly USA has developed the situation into Iranian hands. The sunni Arabs must be seeing the actions of the Bush regime as an absolute catastrophe.

I actually don't agree that Iran controls the Hamas. The Hamas is a sunni movement, not a shite movement. That is an important difference. Hamas like the PLO is a people's movement of the Palestinian people. They are more religious while the PLO has had a more secular nationalistic outlook. They are essentially competing for the hearts and minds of their people, i.e. the Palestinans. In latter times Hama has been gaining while PLO has been loosing ground.

If Hamas has been taking Iranian money, they I have little doubt are doing that for pragmatic reasons. But, I feel certain that Iran has little actual influence on the Hamas.

Cheers, Einar

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