



Defeating Jihad: The Winnable War. By Dr. Sebastian Gorka. Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing, 2016.

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***Defeating Jihad: The Winnable War.* By Dr. Sebastian Gorka. Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing, 2016. ISBN 978-1-62157-457-6. Index. Appendices. Notes. Pp. 244. \$27.99.**

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, many authors have written many books on combating terror. In his book *Defeating Jihad*, Dr. Sebastian Gorka takes a politically incorrect approach to the topic. Dr. Gorka is a faculty member of Marine Corps University. He has lectured widely throughout the U.S. Government's counterterror community and is a frequent guest on various television networks. Rather than terror, Gorka posits that the real enemy is a global jihadi movement, which he likens throughout the book to a totalitarian ideology such as Communism.

In the Prologue, Dr. Gorka discusses his family's odyssey under Hungarian Communism and how he was able to grow up free in the democratic West. Declaring himself a child of the Cold War, he posits that America's freedom is not a given and warns that America is in danger of falling under totalitarian rule. Providing examples of life in Hitler's Third Reich and Soviet Russia, he warns that a new totalitarianism threatens the United States: global jihadism. He cites al-Qa'ida, Hizballah, and the Islamic State as the organs in this body whose aim is world domination. He posits that the United States must have a strategy to defeat global jihadism, which he then attempts to describe in the book.

Dr. Gorka draws a parallel throughout the book between Communism and global jihadism. He outlines how George Kennan wrote "the Long Telegram" from Moscow, which eventually led to NSC-68 – the U.S. strategy of Containment. He states that just as the U.S. strategic plan as described in NSC-68 later brought about the downfall of Communism, the U.S. must devise a strategic plan to thwart the jihadists.

Fifteen years after the 2001 terrorist attacks, Gorka states the U.S. is at war and is still far from safe. Citing various terrorist attacks at home and abroad, Gorka declares that the Islamic State poses an existential threat to the United States due to its patience, its resilience, and its unwillingness to negotiate. Gorka proclaims the U.S. is losing the struggle against jihad because it will not devise and implement a strategy and due to political correctness.

Gorka also states that when the U.S. went after the Taliban in Afghanistan, it did not finish off the enemy before invading Iraq. Becoming embroiled in two wars, the U.S. lost focus and struggled to help Iraq and Afghanistan attain

democratic forms of government. Due to the power vacuum in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein, the Islamic State came into being and morphed into a group that challenged al-Qa'ida for supremacy in the jihadist arena. In this midst of this evolving situation, Gorka asserts that the U.S. will not confront the reality that global jihadists pose an existential threat.

Gorka gives an historical overview of how Islam came about, the evolution of Islamic thought (Wahhabism, Ibn Taymiyyah, Mawdudi, Sayyid Qutb, Abdullah Azzam), and how these factors led to the formation of al-Qa'ida after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. The Soviet invasion and the Iranian Revolution set the stage for competing Sunni (al-Qa'ida, Islamic State) and Shi'a (Hizballah) groups to operate in given spheres of influence. Al-Qa'ida took credit for the dissolution of the Soviet empire, while Hizballah and Iran boasted that they had bloodied America's nose and gotten away with it.

After the post-911 wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Islamic State and Al-Qa'ida's Arabian Peninsula branch came to prominence. Today, they pose the most immediate threats to the United States. Gorka posits that they embody a global jihadi movement and existential threat. Both groups actively use social media and on line magazines to spread their propaganda, recruit new converts, and disseminate tradecraft tips.

Gorka posits that these "new totalitarians" will continue unless destroyed by the United States. He states that the United States must devise a strategy to combat global jihadism in the same manner that it did Communism. From then on he describes the Cold War and substitutes "Communism" with "global jihadism" and calls for a new NSC-68 to replace its Cold War predecessor. He offers a series of suggestions on how the next U.S. President and cabinet should confront jihadism. He does emphasize that Islam is not the enemy, but global jihadism is.

Gorka offers suggested readings for the average citizen to become better informed and advocates that readers educate themselves on topics related to Islam. He also offers links to his web site, which has a great deal of relevant information. He also suggests books on the topic that are readily available. He closes the book with a copy of George Kennan's "Long Telegram" and NSC-68.

Overall, Gorka's book is a solid, comprehensive treatment of the material, but will have little to offer for the reader already steeped in the topic. For the novice, it is a great primer to get a quick grasp of the history and development

of radical Islam. The Cold War paradigm runs its course early on, but does provide a useful parallel frame of reference. The book is easy to read and Gorka's fluid writing style makes it both enjoyable and useful.

Mark J. Roberts, Subject Matter Expert