

Douglas Block

Solutions to the Terrorism Crisis

None of the solutions, proposed in the 'solutions' section of the "Philosophy in Wartime" website, dealt with the *major* pressing issues that need to be addressed in order to succeed in winning the 'War on Terrorism.' There was no talk of balancing out our support between Israel and Palestine. I didn't hear one mention of combating poverty and oppression, which will help win against terrorism in the long run. Bin Laden expressed that our current occupation in Saudi Arabia was one of the major contributing factors to the terrorist's hatred of the United States. Yet, I didn't read even a sentence that dealt with this issue in the 'solutions' category. Most of the solutions proposed in this category were overly sympathetic to American military objectives, which is maybe the last thing we need to be sympathetic towards at this point. Along with the above mentioned issues that need to be dealt with, establishing universal jurisdiction with UN tribunals, employing intelligence and communication to the highest degrees, and overcoming our ignorance of the Arab world are actions that will truly defeat terrorism. We can add that if our military attacks were more discriminate, they would have helped in defeating terrorism also. Because they were so indiscriminate, we have lost huge amounts of support from countries all around the world, not to mention the hundreds of thousands of innocent people that will die because of the war.

We need to find a creative solution to our current occupation of Saudi Arabia. We are sitting on the holiest of holy Muslim land. The Arab world does not appreciate it, so we need to find a way to protect our interests, without angering the rest of the Arab world. Our 35-year and running tilt toward Israel in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, is a major issue that needs to be addressed, not only for decreasing future terrorist attacks, but also for working towards lasting peace in this region. If we do not start addressing poverty and oppression in the Middle East, we will continue to allow deplorable conditions nurture up and coming future terrorists. With the kind of poverty that exists in these regions, there will always be a select few who turn toward fanatical alternatives. Next, in order for us to receive backing and support from the rest of the world, it would be wise for us to use universal jurisdiction when trying war criminals. This system will bring the terrorists to justice with increased support from the rest of the world; it just may take a little longer. Intelligence and Communication will be the biggest weapons in rounding up the terrorist networks, not conventional military attacks. Our government needs to recognize this and channel more money towards this endeavor rather than conventional weaponry etc. Finally, generally speaking, if we can get our government and citizens to learn more and more about exactly why much of the Arab world is anti-American, then we can start recognizing the causes of terrorism and start to defeat it.