

Summary of the Preface
By Bo Perrin

Covers 5 through 10

The Hizb ut-Tahrir believes that Jihad is an essential part of Islam. Yet, unlike Al Qaeda, Al-Shabaab and others Hizb believes that Jihad is properly a tool only of the Islamic state or Caliphate. Jihad and the Foreign Policy of the Khilafah State written by Zhid-Ivan Salam is an expose detailing how Jihad is to be properly used by the Caliph as a tool of the state.

Salam begins, as do all Hizb writers, depicting the horrible condition of the Ummah today. He bemoans that the Ummah is at the lowest political point it has ever been even among non-Islamic states. The Ummah is not a leader in world politics but rather controlled and influenced by non-Islamic entities like America, Britain and Europe. The reason that the Ummah has no voice in world politics is because not one Islamic country executes its belief (Aqeedah).

The Caliphate was destroyed more than 70 years ago. The time is calculated from the book's publication which was July 4, 2001. Since the Caliphate's destruction Shar' ia has disappeared as a system of practical rules for life. The loss of the Caliphate has contributed to the confused mentality of today's Ummah. The confused mentality of the Ummah today has caused the Ummah to formulate solutions to their problems from reality rather than Shar' ia. Hizb does not believe that reality, what is actually out there, is the source from which Islam must formulate its solutions. Instead, reality is to be bent to Shar' ia because Shar' ia is the only source the Ummah ought to use to formulate solutions.

Salam posits a number of questions which he believes today's confused Ummah cannot properly answer and what concerns him is that the Ummah's inability to answer these questions blur their mission and purpose in life. The Ummah's mission and purpose in life is to convey the Islamic belief. (Da'wah) But such a purpose demands the Ummah have an international presence for if the Ummah is going to fulfill its purpose and mission it must be powerful and dominating. Jihad is the method by which Da'wah is conveyed to the world, will make the Ummah powerful and dominating and is the reason why the Ummah of the past had such a high standing for thirteen centuries.

Nevertheless, Salam states Jihad necessitates the existence of a state which possesses a military. The form of Salam's Jihad needs clarification for those who are not familiar with Hizb's doctrines. Salam is describing offensive Jihad. Hizb believes that what is popularly called defensive jihad is not a true jihad but merely defensive fighting. True Jihad must take the Da'wah to the world and that demands offensive Jihad controlled by the Caliph. Hizb's view of Jihad is much the same as Seyyid Qutb's. Jihad is the tool which will allow the Muslims to become great again, consolidate their position and deal with super states i.e., America. The problem is that the Ummah is confused about the real meaning of Jihad. This clarity leads to ineffectual conveyance of Da'wah which leads to no mission and purpose which leads to no world dominance which leads to an impotent Ummah. Still, none of the above is possible without the Khalifate state. Salam points out three obstacles the Ummah faces.

- 1) Misunderstanding Islamic belief as treating all of life's affairs.
- 2) The Khilafate is the method to apply the Islamic solution.
- 3) The neglect of the proper use of Jihad according to Shar' ia.

For Salam "Islam with Jihad is like a ship with no captain to steer and direct it through the seas." Part of the Ummah's problem is the misunderstanding it has about Jihad itself. He lists the different ways in which people interpret Jihad and he claims the purpose of the misconceptions to make sure the Ummah

does not raise to the mighty position they commanded in the past. Salam believes that Jihad is the link to both purpose and mission and the only method which will lead the Ummah to achieve a “high and dominate position in world affairs as a leading nation.” He reminds the reader about the Ummah’s so-called glorious past when it stormed and conquered the world within less than a hundred years after Mohammad’s death.

What was the secret?

The secret should not be surprising and yet it ought to be. The secret to the Ummah’s rise in world politics at that time was Jihad. This is interesting because there are many Islamic apologists and groups like CAIR that argues that Islam rose to world dominance because of the power of the Islamic message. The Hizb author argues Islam rose to power despite the message. Jihad gave the Ummah of the past a mission, a world view, a conquest and victory enabling the Da’wah to go forth. However, the Ummah in the 21st Century is confused and this confusion has allowed Islam’s enemies to shame and humiliate the best of all peoples. Salam believes that as long as this confusion continues Muslims will remain subjugated, preyed upon, looted and eaten alive everywhere and without exception. Hizb writers have a tendency to create a strawman argument that they use to dissipate the mental fog of the reader. This book is no different although I would add that Salam’s best example of his fears is Islamic controlled states.

But Salam’s worst nightmare is that the West particularly America, Britain and Europe will not fear the Ummah. Nevertheless, if the Ummah will incorporate the secret of Islamic supremacy then the West will fear Islam. Jihad is the Ummah’s true secret, the secret of its might, honour, glory, security, dignity and life. Jihad is life!

PDF: Jihad and The Foreign Policy of the Khilafah State

Next: The Introduction