



PRESS KIT Q&A

DR. JIM DENISON, AUTHOR OF “RADICAL ISLAM: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW”

Q: 10 years after the attacks, why is a primer on radical Islam still needed?

A: After Pearl Harbor, Americans knew why we were fighting World War II. Ten years after 9/11, most of us don't know why we're fighting radical Islam. Ask most Americans why the terrorists hate us, and they don't know.

Q: What are three things your book unveils that the average American doesn't know about Islam, Osama Bin Laden and the attacks on September 11?

A: First: radical Islam is the greatest threat the West has ever faced. While radical Muslims compose only 7 percent of the Muslim world, that percentage translates to 116 million people out of 1.6 billion Muslims. That's a larger army than we fought in World War II and the Cold War, combined.

Second, radical Muslims are an enemy unlike any we have ever fought. Al-Qaeda is only one part of the problem. Radical Islam is waging war against the West in Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the list continues to grow. They do not follow a single Hitler we can kill or defend a Berlin we can capture.

Third, the attacks on Sept. 11 represent a strategy we have never encountered. To radical Muslims, all Americans are their enemy, not just our soldiers. Our country is their battlefield.

Q: What do Americans need to know about the life of Osama Bin Laden in order to better understand the nature of radical Islam and the spiritual implications of the War on Terror?

A: Bin Laden represents a new kind of enemy. He was a militant fighting for God and Islam, not a soldier enlisted by a government. He believed that dying in his cause was his only guarantee of paradise and eternal reward. Every Muslim who has joined him is motivated by the same convictions.

Q: What distinguishes radical Islam from the rest of the Muslim world?

A: Two beliefs. First, the West has been attacking Islam since the Crusades and especially with our support for Israel. Since the Qur'an requires Muslims to defend Islam, militants believe they are obeying the call of God in attacking us.

Second, since the West is made of democracies where we elect our leaders and support our military, there are no innocent victims among us. Militants view us the way we saw Germans who supported Hitler. Every American is the enemy of Islam.

Seen this way, 9/11 was not an attack on innocent civilians. Rather, it was a defense of Islam which struck at the heart of Western, "Crusader" imperialism. The Twin Towers represented

financial aggression, the Pentagon symbolized the military, and the White House (the presumed target of the fourth plane) represented the political.

Q: Was the death of Osama Bin Laden just?

A: "Just War" theory makes seven requirements of a conflict: it must be fought defensively, to secure justice, as a last resort, and be authorized by proper leadership. The combatant's goals must be achievable and justify the harm done while protecting civilians as far as possible. Evaluated by these criteria, the death of bin Laden was just.

Q: How do you respond to Americans that ask "Where was God on September 11, 2011?"

A: God redeems all he allows. He gives us free will so we can choose to love him and each other. When we misuse that freedom, the consequences are not God's fault but ours. He grieved when the terrorists attacked us and works today to redeem their evil for good.

Q: What impact do you hope to have on culture and society with this book?

A: First, I want Americans to understand the greatest enemy we have ever faced. Second, I hope to help us take practical steps that can end this conflict.

Q: How did your experiences traveling in the Middle East impact your approach to writing the book?

A: I have lived and traveled in the Muslim world for more than three decades and have spent significant time in Israel over the last 15 years. I have met radical Muslims personally and witnessed the pain this conflict is causing so many in the Muslim world. Friendships with Muslims in many countries have helped me understand their faith and its implications for the future.

Q: In your opinion, what role will the topics in your book play in the upcoming election?

A: The United States has been fighting the War on Terror longer than any war in our nation's history. Americans want their leaders to protect our people and end this conflict.

Q: How do we win the War on Terror?

A: By building strategies that answer the real challenges we face. First, we must keep militants from radicalizing more Muslims. We do this by addressing realistically the grievances that Muslims the world over have toward the West. If we stop the flow of new soldiers into jihadist armies, we will end this conflict. Second, we must seek both military and spiritual solutions for combating those who are already radicalized.

Q: How can readers best use this book in order to make an impact?

A: By helping our nation take steps to build bridges with the Muslim world, and by supporting military and spiritual solutions to this conflict.

Q: What can readers of your book series look forward to? What other topics will you be covering in the near future?

A: With the upcoming election cycle, Americans are asking a host of cultural and moral questions: What about homosexuality and gay marriage? Is there a way to end the abortion debate? How do we achieve effective and realistic health care reform? How do we rebuild the moral foundations of our democracy in a pluralistic world? Future books will address these issues from a moral and spiritual perspective.