

**THE
WAR
ON
ISLAM**



ENVER MASUD

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MADRASAH BOOKS
An Imprint of The Wisdom Fund

THE WAR ON ISLAM

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First edition ISBN: 0–9700011–0–X
Second edition ISBN: 0–9700011–1–8
South Africa edition—7000 copies
Internet edition—21,000 downloads

Published by:
The Wisdom Fund
Madrasah Books Division*
P. O. Box 2723
Arlington, VA 22202 USA
E-mail—wisdom@twf.org
Web site—www.twf.org

Publisher's Cataloging-in-Publication

Masud, Enver.

The War on Islam / Enver Masud—3rd ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references

ISBN: 0–9700011–2–6

Library of Congress Card Number: 2002116432

1. Islam in mass media. 2. Mass media—
Objectivity—United States. 3. Mass media
criticism. 4. Islam—Public opinion. 5. Mass
media and public opinion—United States.

I. Title

P96.I84M37 2000

302.23/088/2971

Cover photo courtesy of Air Force Link

Printed in the United States of America

*The Muslim madrasahs provided the model for the European university.—*The Concise Encyclopedia of Islam*

To my mother and father
who by example taught me the
values for which I strive,
but often fail, to live by.

And to many others
from whom I have learned, or
by whom I have been inspired.

“Newsrooms that do not reflect America’s diversity
do their readers an injustice.
They fail to tell the stories of its citizens,
they give readers a distorted image of themselves and
they grossly twist the reality of minority groups.”
—Dorothy Gilliam, *The Washington Post*
December 20, 1997

“Science flourishes on criticism.
Dangerous propaganda crumbles before it.”
—Alfred McLung Lee & Elizabeth Bryant Lee
The Fine Art of Propaganda
1939

“All truth passes through three stages.
First, it is ridiculed.
Second, it is violently opposed.
Third, it is accepted as self-evident.”
—Arthur Schopenhauer
1788–1860

Preface

It started with the Gulf War.

As an immigrant whose first formal education was at an American school in India, an engineering graduate of the University of Oklahoma who had witnessed the Watergate hearings, and an engineering management consultant who then had little interest in history or politics, it had never occurred to me to question the credibility of major U.S. media.

But media coverage of the 1991 Gulf War left me with a host of unanswered questions. Were Iraq and “Islamic terrorism” the threat they were made out to be? Why were the “rogue states” so described? What was this New World Order?

The more I read the more questions I had, and over the next few years I began to realize that the media were presenting half truths and distortions designed to support official U.S. positions. The media seemed to be acting as public relations firms for the U.S. Department of State, rather than as neutral reporters or analysts.

I felt an overwhelming urge to present an alternative view, and began contributing to a Washington area newspaper—*Eastern Times*.

Eventually, the desire to reach a broader audience led to the founding in 1995 of The Wisdom Fund, and the setting-up of its web site at www.twf.org.

The War on Islam is based upon the articles I wrote for The Wisdom Fund. As such, while some repetition is inevitable, the individual chapters—which serve as an antidote to the less than objective and/or balanced media coverage of events which helped shape American perspectives of Islam and Muslims, and Muslims’ perspectives of America—may be read in any order, and are written to appeal to a wider audience than the typical book on the subjects covered herein.

Hopefully, these glimpses of the war on Islam (and for the non-Muslim, a glimpse of Islam)—which offer perspectives generally missing from major U.S. media—will awaken concerned Americans and Muslims to the tactics used to divide us. Such understanding may move us closer to our goal of justice and peace for all.

For the reader who seldom ventures beyond major media, this book promises a journey through new, and often disturbing, terrain.

Enver Masud
April 2003

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“Excellent book. Dispels the myths and commonly held misconceptions about Islam.”—**Human Rights Foundation, South Africa**

“A masterpiece of information of present day happenings in the world.”—**Tasmia Educational and Social Welfare Society, India**

“The contents of the book are an eye opener.”—**All India Conference of Intellectuals, India**

“Of historical significance, . . . A book like this is desperately needed in the warmongering climate of today.”—**Muslims, New York**

“Enver Masud gives example after example of disinformation and lies, cover-ups and double standards.”—**Impact International, England**

The Book

The devastating September 11, 2001 attack on America’s military and financial centers shocked and horrified the world, and came as a surprise to most Americans. “Why do they hate us?” asked President Bush.

That Americans were surprised is evidence of the failure of major news media to communicate to Americans the reality of the world in which we live. America wasn’t attacked because “they hate us” or because “they want to destroy our freedom.”

Only a few in the major news media dared to tell the truth. For millions around the world the World Trade Center and the Pentagon symbolized the source of much that was wrong with their world.

The War on Islam provides perspectives generally missing from major news media—from the Gulf War of 1991 to the “shock and awe” of 2003.

The Author

Mr. Enver Masud is founder of The Wisdom Fund—www.twf.org—which hosts visitors from more than 90 countries. His articles on national and world affairs have been published in newspapers and magazines in the U.S. and overseas.

An engineering management consultant, Mr. Masud has worked for the World Bank, EBRD, and USAID in Albania, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Latvia, Pakistan, Russia, Tanzania. He was at the forefront of innovation in the electric power industry, managed the *National Power Grid Study* for the U.S. Department of Energy, and received wide recognition for his efforts to expose waste in the electricity sector.

His father, M. N. Masud, was ambassador to Saudi Arabia, UNESCO Mission Chief in Indonesia, and worked with the leaders of India’s independence movement—Maulana Azad, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Mahatma Gandhi. His mother, Atiya Fatima, an educator, is descended from Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, and worked as a volunteer with Mother Teresa.

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\$17.50 U.S.

ISBN 0-9700011-2-6

