

## EIR Special Report

# Moscow plays its Muslim card in the Middle East

by Allen and Rachel Douglas

During the Carter administration, National Security Council head Zbigniew Brzezinski proclaimed that the rise of Islamic fundamentalism would serve as a “bulwark” against Communist insurgencies along an “arc of crisis” stretching from the southern borders of the Soviet Union, through the Middle East and into North Africa. In Iran, the keystone of the arc, the Carter administration helped organize the overthrow of the Shah by the mullarchy of the insane Ayatollah Khomeini. This was projected as the first of a wave of Muslim revolutions ultimately sweeping into the Soviet Central Asian Republics, which would rise against their Russian overlords simultaneously with the peoples of Eastern Europe. The U.S.S.R. would crack open like a walnut.

Five years later, the political map of the area has indeed changed, but with results that inspired the same Zbigniew Brzezinski to suggest in a June 1983 speech that the United States might as well write off the Middle East, along with Western Europe, and rely only on the Pacific Basin for allies. What is left of the tortured nation of Lebanon teeters on the brink of becoming an “Islamic state” under the domination of Soviet-armed Syria. Ethnic and religious insurgencies threaten to break Pakistan into pieces, one of them a Soviet-sponsored separate state of Baluchistan on the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. Soviet operatives, Central Asian mullahs among them, are fanning out into the region, cultivating assets and leverage, including in Saudi Arabia. Khomeini sits astride the Persian Gulf oil lifeline of U.S. allies in Europe and the Pacific, scarcely veiling his threats to call in Satan number 2 (the U.S.S.R.) if Satan number 1 interferes with his cutting the oil.

It is an urgent matter of national security for the United States, as for the targeted nations of the Middle East, North Africa, and the Indian Ocean littoral, that the widely-shared fantasies of the Jesuit-trained Brzezinski and ideologues like the Sorbonne’s Alexandre Bennigsen (author of *The Islamic Threat to the Soviet Union*) be put to rest and the truth admitted: It is Moscow that has mastered the Muslim card.

The arc of crisis has turned into a Soviet arc of opportunity.

## Pugwash: the 'Great Game' today

Western strategic analysts underestimate Moscow's capabilities in the Middle East by overlooking one glaring fact: The Soviet Union's assets in the Muslim world have been dramatically augmented by the capabilities of British intelligence and powerful old Nazi networks centered in Switzerland. The clue to this Soviet use of shared assets can be found in the proceedings of the Pugwash conferences, organized by the long-lived senior British intelligence figure and prophet of a new dark age, Bertrand Lord Russell.

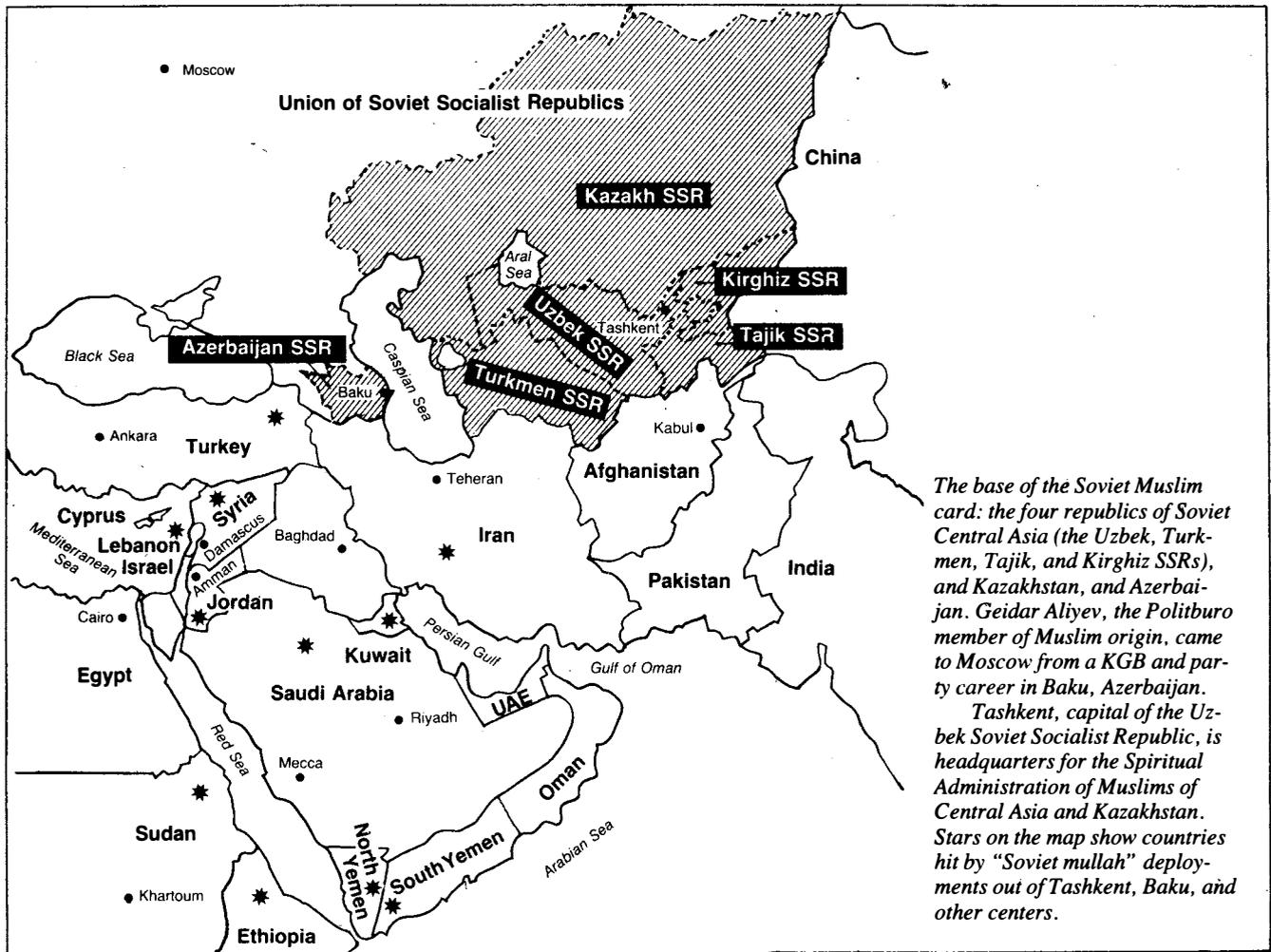
Russell convened the Pugwash conferences with the open goal of establishing a one-world government, with Eastern and Western divisions. Soviet participation was at a high level from the first meeting, in 1957, on.

The Middle East had a central role in the Pugwash scheme of things, as an area of permanent crisis and brinkmanship between the two empires. Dr. Leo Szilard, a Nazi sympathizer during the 1930s and Russell's close collaborator, outlined it in his notorious speech, "How to Live with the Bomb and Survive," delivered at the 2nd Pugwash Conference in Quebec, Canada in 1958:

Let us assume, for the sake of argument, that in the long-range rocket stage [the ICBM was then nearing deployment—ed.] there may occur some major

disturbance which threatens to cut off Western Europe from its Mideastern-oil supply. Let us further assume that America is on the verge of sending troops into Iraq and Saudi Arabia, that Turkish troops are poised to move into Syria, and that Russia is concentrating troops on her Turkish border for the purpose of restraining Turkey. Let us further suppose that at this point America may declare that she is prepared to send troops into Turkey and to use small atomic bombs against Russian troops in combat on Turkish territory and perhaps, in hot pursuit, also beyond the prewar Turkish-Russian boundary.

Russia would then have to decide whether she wants to fight an atomic war on her southern border and take the risk that such a war might not remain limited. . . . She might proceed to name some 20 American cities and make it clear that in case of American troops landing in the Middle East she would single out one of these cities, give it four weeks warning to permit its orderly evacuation, and then demolish that city with a single long-range rocket. In order to make that threat believable, Russia would have to make it clear that she would tolerate—without threatening reprisals—America's demolishing cities having the same aggregate population. If America, being willing to lose



The base of the Soviet Muslim card: the four republics of Soviet Central Asia (the Uzbek, Turkmen, Tajik, and Kirghiz SSRs), and Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan. Geidar Aliyev, the Politburo member of Muslim origin, came to Moscow from a KGB and party career in Baku, Azerbaijan. Tashkent, capital of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, is headquarters for the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. Stars on the map show countries hit by "Soviet mullah" deployments out of Tashkent, Baku, and other centers.

one of her major cities, were to decide in favor of intervention, then both Russia and America would lose the same amount in property destroyed and America would be free to occupy Iraq and Saudi Arabia without having to fear any further reprisals.

With the addition of tactical nuclear proxies such as Syria and Israel, this scenario of petroleum crises, Middle East rapid deployment forces, and the crisis-management operations of frequent Pugwash participant Henry Kissinger and his associates is precisely what we see today.

There is no room for national sovereignty in the Pugwash design. It is therefore no surprise, given that top Soviet Middle East specialists attended one Pugwash session after another, to see the congruence between Western and Eastern designs for the fragmentation and destruction of the region. The patchwork of ethnic entities drawn by British intelligence's Bernard Lewis (Princeton University) as the future map of West Asia and the ever-shifting tapestry of separatist states contemplated by Soviet planners—Kurdistan, Push-tunistan, Baluchistan, or re-united Azerbaijan, depending on the exigencies of the moment—are cut of the same cloth.

The Pugwash perspective for the Middle East was no mere scenario-mongering to help make the strategic doctrine of Mutual Assured Destruction stick. It was a process of cultural warfare, launched by such masters as Russell and Arnold Toynbee. The Soviets were not trifling either—their mode of operation in the Middle East makes clear that Moscow joined the two-empire game with the intent to win.

Already at a 1973 back-channel meeting of the Pugwash type, a joint symposium of the Strategic Studies Center of Stanford Research Institute, the (Soviet) Institute for the World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), and Institute for the U.S.A. and Canada (IUSAC), U.S. participants Richard Pipes, Abraham Becker, and others reported with some amazement that the Soviets were preoccupied with the Middle East as a pivot of their global strategy for at least the next decade.

### **Cultural warfare, East and West**

"Russia is still 'Holy Russia' and Moscow is still the 'Third Rome'," wrote Arnold Toynbee in the 1940s. As the Toynbee and Russell networks offered the Soviets their own half-world empire, they were inviting to the fore the ancient Russian Orthodox doctrine that Moscow will rule as the "Third and Final Rome." The force unleashed by such geopoliticking, which continues today with the endeavors of Kissinger, former British foreign minister Lord Carrington, and their like, is not in the habit of playing by the rules.

Dumping the outmoded baggage of Marxism-Leninism, the Soviets have mustered their own cultural warfare capabilities, those perfected by the Toynbeean oligarchs and those from the thousand-year-old arsenal of the Russian Orthodox Church. The huge foreign policy establishment of IMEMO,

the IUSAC, the Institute of Orientology, and other institutions has delved ever more deeply into the control and utilization of what they call "spiritual factors."

Academician Yulian Bromley, the U.S.S.R.'s chief ethnographer, has drawn attention to the "special place" of "ethnic units: tribe, nationality, nation, ethnic group" above other "historically formed communities such as race, class, family, state, etc." (*Social Sciences*, No. 1, 1983). Soviet asset-building projects in West Asia are Bromley's ethnicity principle in action, backed up by military hardware.

The Soviet string-pullers of fundamentalist and separatist movements are quite transparent about their intention to win at cultural warfare. In the August 1980 issue of *Voprosy Filosofii (Questions of Philosophy)*, Institute of Orientology director Academician Yevgenii Primakov informed its readers (the Soviet elite) that the West was misreading religious factors in the Middle East, mistakenly viewing the politicization of Islam as a short-lived "explosion of fanaticism" while underestimating the "anti-imperialist direction of the growing movement for Islamic solidarity"—that is, the Soviet ability to turn it to advantage.

Since Yuri Andropov took over in the Kremlin, exploitation of the "spiritual factors" profiled during two centuries of the Russian Tsarist empire and 65 years of the U.S.S.R. has been upgraded to an even higher priority, including in policy towards the Muslim world.

Geidar Ali-Reza ogly Aliyev, a career KGB officer of Shi'ite Muslim origin, is first deputy prime minister of the Soviet Union and a full member of the Politburo. The four Spiritual Boards of the Soviet Muslim establishment, revived during World War II on the base of a hierarchy first set up by Catherine the Great in the 18th century, have developed diplomatic prowess paralleling that of the Russian Orthodox Church/Moscow Patriarchate.

By the time Brzezinski came along with his erstwhile Muslim fundamentalist card in 1978, the only explosions it caused in the Soviet Union were outbursts of laughter ringing from the mosques of Tashkent to KGB headquarters at Dzerzhinski Square in Moscow. The following pages profile Soviet capabilities vastly more powerful and dangerous than is generally understood. Yet the evidence is so overwhelming for a presumed specialist like Brzezinski or Bennigsen, that the only question remaining is whether these men are conscious, or unwitting, agents of Soviet influence.

### **EIR Special Report**

*The complete EIR Special Report "How Moscow plays the Muslim Card in the Middle East" is available for \$250. Contact William Engdahl, EIR Special Services, (212) 247-8820 or (800) 223-5594 x818, 304 West 58th Street, New York, New York 10019.*