Inside The Middle East
INTELLIGENCE PERSPECTIVES

ITME FELLOWSHIP | 2025

BY AVI MELAMED

"TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE MIDDLE EAST"

ITME FELLOWSHIP | 2025

SESSION ONE	Historical Framing of the Middle East
SESSION TWO	Nationalism In The Middle East
SESSION THREE	**Islam is the Solution | The Rise of Militant Islam**
SESSION FOUR	Turkey and Neo-Ottomanism | Erdogan and his Quest for Regional Power
SESSION FIVE	The Islamic Republic of Iran and its Pursuit of Hegemony | Where are we now?
SESSION SIX	The Israeli Palestinian Conflict | A view from the Region
SESSION SEVEN	The West Bank and Gaza | An Insider's Perspective
SESSION EIGHT	Israel | Path, Identity, Direction
SESSION NINE	Lebanon, Syria & Iraq | Identity and the struggle for sovereignty**(extended session 1:00 - 3:30 pm EST)
SESSION TEN	Jordan | A Monarchy in Transition
SESSION ELEVEN	The Arab Gulf Monarchies and the Region Middle East Entering a New Era
SESSION TWELVE	Regional Update & Reflections ** (extended session 1:00 - 3:00 pm EST)

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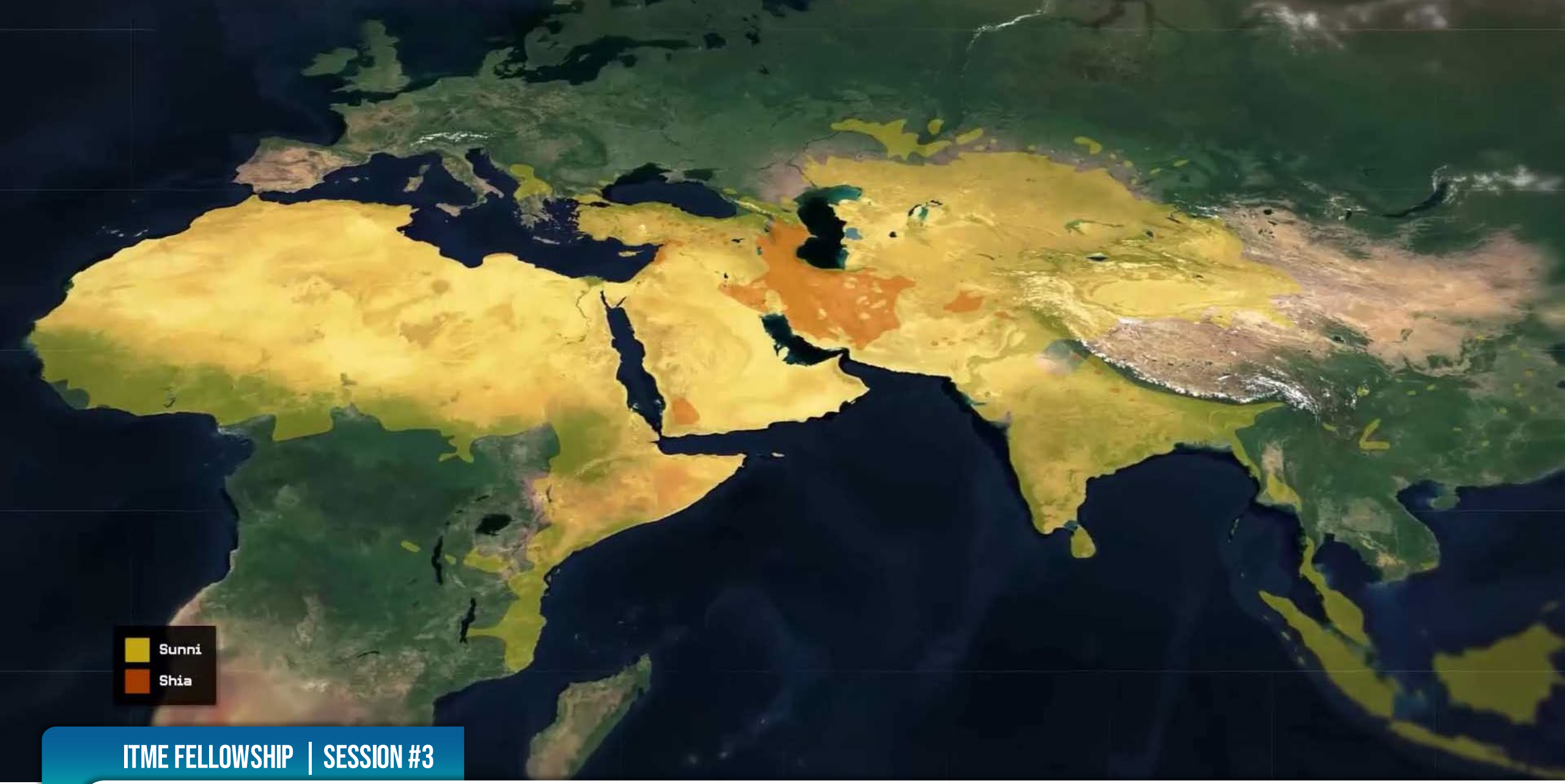
| COURSE OVERVIEW



ITME FELLOWSHIP | SESSION #3

ISLAM IS THE SOLUTION - THE RISE OF MILITANT ISLAM

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SESSION #3 "ISLAM IS THE SOLUTION" | THE RISE OF MILITANT ISLAM

2/9/2025

ITME FELLOWSHIP

GUEST EDUCATOR | JASSIM MOHAMMAD

"TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE MIDDLE EAST"

"ISLAM IS THE SOLUTION" | THE RISE OF MILITANT ISLAM

AVI MELAMED

JASSIM MOHAMMAD

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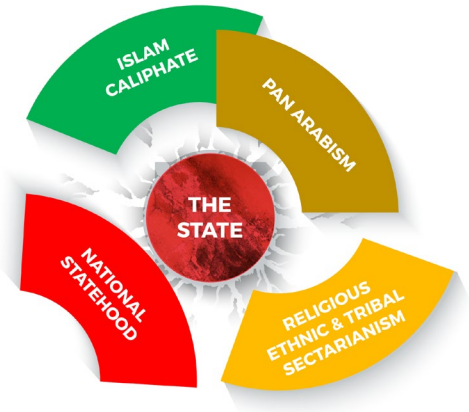
WHERE WE LEFT OFF…



- **The IDEOLOGICAL struggle between**
  - **QAUM (Pan-Arabism)**
  - **WATANIYA (Individual States & Particularistic Nationalism)**
  - **ISLAMIC Camp (Pan-Islamic Caliphate)**
- **FAILURE** of national **STATEHOOD** in the Arab world.
- "**Arab Spring**" – **BURST OF ANGER & FRUSTRATION** across the Arab world

| SUMMARY OF SESSION 2

ISLAM

Islam – the full submission of the individual to the rule of one god – **Allah ('The God')**

Sariah is the Islamic law codex that guide the believer in every aspect of life.

Islam does not separate between religion and state. In Islamic view – **the two are intertwined.**

Muhammad Abduh
(1849–1905)

Jamal Uddin al-Afghan
(1838–1897)

Islamist modernists believed creating a society governed by the ideals and laws of pure **early Islamic *sharīʿah***, which also **embraced modernity**, was the **cure for the challenges of Muslim society.**

Though opposed to the West and its values, the modernists **did not** regard the Muslim society's **encounter with the West** and its culture to only be **a source of threat**; instead, they viewed the meeting of the two as an opportunity for cultural, economic, political, and social growth—**progress for Arab societies and for the world of Islam.**

| ISLAMIC MODERNISTS

POLITICAL ISLAM & ITS LARGEST MOVEMENT- THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

Hassan al-Bana (1906 – 1949)

Islam is **Under Attack**

Establish a *Caliphate* completely governed by *Shari'ah* **in which** no other independent or sovereign state exists.

Completely **rejects political frameworks, ideologies, philosophies, and values that are not Islamic** (communism, democracy, socialism, etc.) because they are man-made and, therefore, imperfect, unjust, & doomed to fail. Acceptance of anything aside from *Shari'ah* **defies** *Allah*.

Completely **oppose** and are in direct **conflict** with Western values, which are an **imminent and existential threat to Islam.**

Violent Secret Branch

Umma VS. Statehood

Uncompromising opposition to the existence of the **State of Israel**

Create support and cultivate power base through *Da'wah* **- education and preaching and** creating economic, educational, social, and welfare programs and creating educational and religious programs and institutions.

Tamkin – Setting the Ground

| POLITICAL ISLAM & THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

SALAFI IDEOLOGY

The word *salaf* means the past of something, **its origin / its roots / its primal source.**

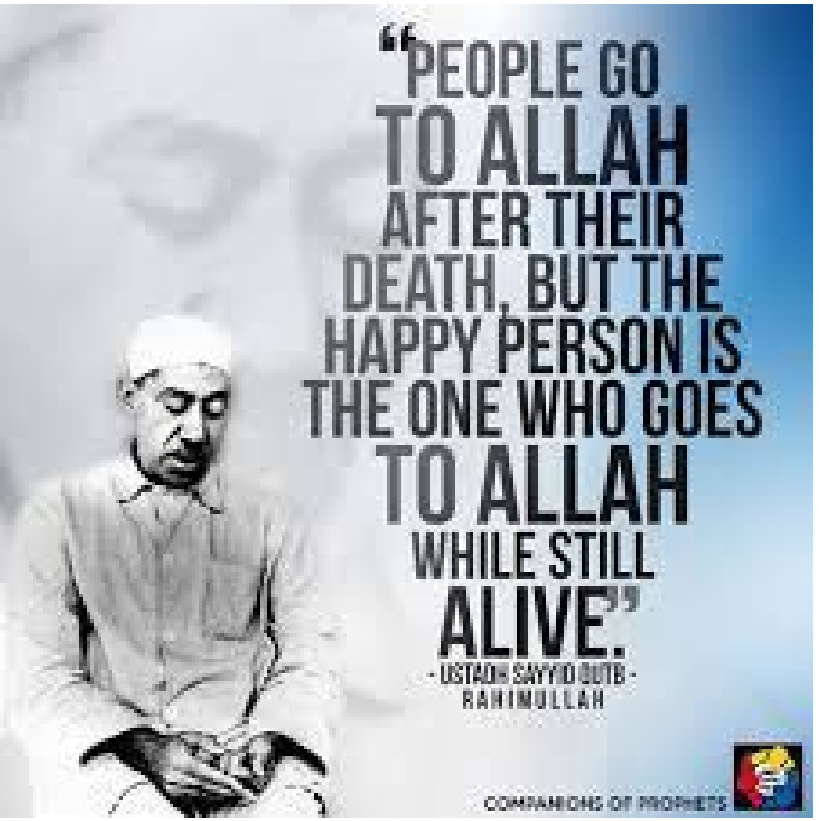
Islam will thrive and flourish again once Islam adopts and applies the **Islamic codes, law, norms and values as they were in the time of the Prophet Muhammad and his first four successors.**

The **combination** of deepening multi-faceted **crises in the Arab world**, together with the **oppression of the Muslim Brotherhood,** resulted in an almost inevitable **ideological radicalization** that then evolved into a process of **militarization** within Islamic circles.

The leading advancer of the **radical and violent militarization of Islam** was a senior member of the Muslim Brotherhood. A man named **Sayyid Qutb.**

| SALAFI IDEOLOGY

SAYYID QUTB |LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR SALAFI-JIHADI MILITANT ISLAM

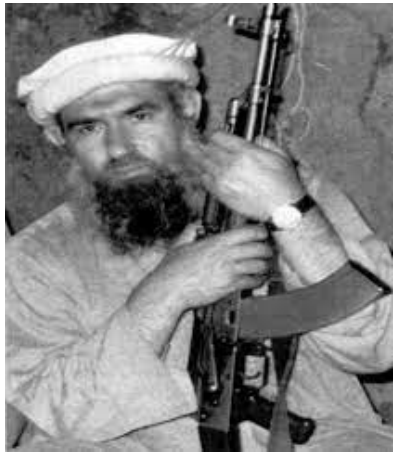


Sayyid Qutb 1906 - 1966

- '*Jahiliya*'
- **Full obedience to *Allah's* law and rule**
- **Total rejection of Western values**
- **Fighting 'fake' Muslim rulers and regimes**
- **Total rejection of Democracy**
- **Strict Implementation of *Shari'ah* law**
- **Non-compromising animosity towards infidels**
- **Anti-Jews and Anti-Israel**
- **Establishing the Caliphate**

| SAYYID QUTB & SALAFI JIHADI MILITANT ISLAM

SALAFI JIHADI MILITANT ISLAM | CORE VALUES & PRINCIPLES



- '*Jihad*'
- **Establishing the *Caliphate***
- **Strict Implementing of *Shari'ah* law**
- **Request of Martyrdom ('*Talab al-Shahadah*')**
- **The West, Shi'ites, infidels and Jews are eternal enemies**
- ***Takfir* - Ousting "fake" Muslim rulers & regimes**

| SALAFI-JIHADI MILITANT ISLAM IDEOLOGY

RADICALIZATION OF SALAFI-JIHADI MILITANT ISLAM | TAKFIR

TAKFIR ideology: Three kinds of people: **Muslims**, **Infidels** *(kuffar)*, and Muslims who "pretend" to be Muslims but are not "real Muslims," they are **"fake Muslims."** Fake Muslims are **WORSE** than *Kuffar* because they are corrupting" and "contaminating" Islam and its values from within. Therefore, Islam must be **"purified" of "Muslim impersonators."** Examples of Militant Islam groups that follow the **Takfir** are Al-Qaeda & ISIS.

ISIS says there are **TWO KINDS** of **fake Muslims.** Muslims who **knowingly and intentionally do not follow the Shari'ah, and worse – they *pretend they do.*** In ISIS' view they are destined to die and **must be executed** because they are **contaminating Islam from within**. Muslims who **out of ignorance do not follow the Shari'ah**. They, should be redirected to see the light – meaning Islam – through education – and if needed, through the use of non-fatal punishments and sanctions **– to become "true" Muslims.**

Militant Islam that appeared in the 20th century is the product of three main factors:

- **Fundamentalist thinking** which existed in Islam throughout history.
- The **direct encounter with the West** that **revealed** the **inferiority of the Islamic world in relationship to the West.**
- The **Socio-political-economic hardships in the Muslim and Arab world; Corrupt & oppressive regimes & rulers; Environment engulfed with violence and aggression.**

NATIONALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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JASSIM MOHAMMAD

Head of the European Centre for Counterterrorism and Intelligence Studies ECCI. Bonn, Germany, and Senior researcher in International Security & Counter Terrorism. Former diplomat and intelligence official Member of the German-Arab Friendship Association DAFG – Berlin.

He published a series of books (17 books) within his field of expertise in international security, terrorism and intelligence in Arabic and English. His publications participate in a number of international book fairs, most notably: Cairo, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Doha, Muscat, Algeria, Morocco, Baghdad and other international fairs, and he writes in a number of study centers and newspapers in Arabic and English.

| GUEST EDUCATOR | JASSIM MOHAMMAD

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