

We Have a Problem

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We have a problem. It is a *word* problem, but from words come actions, and so this problem demands a solution. America has declared that it is fighting a war on terror. The people whom we call terrorists, however, have declared that they are just plain fighting a war: a war against America.

Understanding this won't necessarily be easy so we need to go slow and bite it off one piece at a time. Let's start with *war*. Typically, war occurs when two nations disagree about something so strongly that they start shooting at each other. One common exception is the civil war or a rebellion. In this case, the outcome is the same, but the two parties involved are normally the people running the nation versus the severely disgruntled citizen. Regional and world wars are pretty much the same but with more participants.

Okay, now consider *terrorism*. In terrorism, a group of people who may or may not be associated with a government, as in a war, do things that are designed to frighten others so deeply that they give up. Pause here for a moment and think about this. Wars are between nations or within a nation and terrorism is imposed on one group by another.

We can agree that one or even both of the groups in a terrorism style of conflict can be nations or governments, but they don't have to be in order for the terrorism to occur. We can also agree that both war and terrorism are designed to make one of the two parties give up, thus ending the engagement or the conflict.

Now we need to add in another concept: *Genocide*. Genocide is different from both war and terrorism because it does not seek simply to cause one participant to give up. The goal in genocide is to eliminate all the members of the other group. One is reminded of an old movie where the general currently winning screams "No Quarter" from atop his horse. What he means is that the men are supposed to kill everyone and take no prisoners.

War, terrorism, and genocide – we can now ask ourselves what is going on and can expect a more definitive answer. Consider the Radical Islamic Jihadist. He is often without a nation and intends to kill everyone who is not a Muslim or who will not convert to Islam. Being without a nation, precludes his actions from being classified as a war. Being committed to killing people instead of just frightening them into submission eliminates his actions from being categorized as acts of terror. The final proof, however, is in the knowledge that these jihadists are also engaged in killing each other if the second guy is not of the same particular variety of Muslim as the first guy.

Restating the word problem with these things in mind we see that the problem is that we Americans are trying to fight a war against radicals from at least three different branches of Islam. Each of the three 'enemies' are engaged in theocratic genocide among themselves and all

are engaged in genocide against America. They are not trying to terrorize us into submission. They are trying to eliminate us. If we continue as we have, our war on terror will be no more successful than our war on drugs or our war on poverty. But our soldiers will still die in a foreign land where we may not even be welcome.

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