



ZIONIST ISLAMOPHOBIC NETWORK

EXPOSED

The truth behind America's "terror experts"

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The truth behind America's 'terror' experts

Long before 9/11, a group of pro-Israel advocates began sounding the alarm about the rise of 'Islamists' in the United States. Perhaps, had the attacks on the World Trade Centers and the Pentagon not occurred on September 11, 2001, this fringe element of the blogosphere would have remained just that – a group of malcontents hovering just outside the realm of public discourse.

The attacks changed all that. They've provided a platform for a small but vociferous group of Muslim-bashers, a handful of people who are making a name for themselves, not to mention a lucrative living, by their racist diatribes against Muslims and Islam. They foist their dire warnings of 'militant Islam, creeping Shari and stealth jihad upon an already wary and weary public, and thereby earn copious amounts of money through consultancy deals, writing contracts, TV appearances – or in the case of at least one individual, Steven Emerson – by steering business toward an 'anti-terrorism security business.'

Steven Emerson, Daniel Pipes and others like them espouse a more fearful and dangerous form of bigotry. They have capitalized on the fear created by 9/11 by insisting that militant Muslims, who are "lurking around every corner," are an "existential threat to the U.S. and its allies," namely Israel.²

In fact, studies show these individuals are so intent on shoring up Israel and its illegal and inhumane occupation of the Palestinian people, they will go to great lengths to smear any individual or organization working for Palestinian rights with the nefarious labels of anti-Semitic terrorism-supporter. One of the ways they do this is by creating false conspiratorial claims that the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamic movement founded in 1928 in Egypt, has "infiltrated" the United States and is planning a "stealth jihad" or takeover of the U.S.³ They use this lie to smear Muslims who are advocating for Palestinian rights or who simply are engaging in the American civic process.

Now Emerson has set his sights on AMP because of its success as the largest national grassroots organization dedicating 100 percent of its time and resources to educating Americans about Palestine. AMP, its staff and board members are coming under attack, not only by Zionist organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League, but also by Emerson and others. The purpose of this booklet is to expose this cadre of Zionist Islamophobes and the tactics they use to stop any discussion of Israeli occupation policies, while they rake in millions of dollars to do so. This report compiles the results of numerous studies and articles to show the agenda of these individuals and their funders because the more the public becomes aware of the political motivation behind attacks on social justice activists, the less influence Emerson and others will have on public opinion and, ultimately, on public policy. (For more information on the ADL, please see AMP's publication, "The ADL, Protector of Civil Rights or Silencer of Free Speech?")

STEVEN EMERSON

Discredited journalist Steven Emerson, who traded in a career with national news outlets for his Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT), is trying to entangle an American non-profit organization in a shroud of secretive conspiracy theories intent on branding it a "supporter of terrorism."

Emerson has crowned himself the "expert" on terrorism through his production of scurrilous blog posts and videos that he tries to pass off as credible reports. Now he's targeting AMP and by extension, Students for Justice in Palestine.

After students convened their national SJP conference in October 2011, Emerson posted an article on his Investigative Project website, calling SJP a "radical student organization." The graphic that accompanies the article shows a large iceberg labeled with SJP at the top connected to AMP, which is shown lurking beneath the surface with the bulk of the iceberg.

"AMP's support for Students for Justice in Palestine is troubling, given AMP's radical rhetoric and its ties to extremist groups," Emerson writes. And after AMP concluded its national convention in November 2011, Emerson posted yet another attack, whose headline borrowed from the convention theme – with a dangerous twist. Emerson changed "A New Era of Activism" to a "New Era of Terror Support."

Emerson attacks SJP and AMP because of their success in raising awareness about Israel's continual violations of international law and abuses of Palestinians' human rights.

Emerson, whose articles are quickly picked up and parroted around the Internet by sycophantic bloggers, cannot argue the facts with AMP and that's why he resorts to inflammatory, deceptive and dangerous rhetoric to smear the organization and its founder.

Meanwhile, he makes millions of dollars falsely branding Muslims and pro-Palestine advocates with the deadly label of "terrorism supporters." Though he calls himself an expert on Arabs and terrorism, Emerson's background is in sociology and he does not know Arabic. He was all but run out of the field of journalism after his "expert analysis" on the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 turned out to be dead wrong, after he told CBS News it had a "Middle Eastern trait" because it "was done with the intent to inflict as many casualties as possible."⁴

"Pervasive bias"

Peer review of Emerson's works would ring the death knell for any self-respecting journalist, whose career is almost solely dependent upon the reliability of his or her reporting.

Adrienne Edgar, reviewing Emerson's book "Terrorist: The Inside Story of the Highest Ranking Iraqi Terrorist Ever to Defect to the West" in May 1991 for The New York Times, was one who questioned Emerson's objectivity. The book offers "a pervasive anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian bias," she writes, adding that "Palestinian violence is invariably portrayed as terrorist, while Israeli violence is always characterized as self-defense."

Journalist Jane Hunter complains of the same pro-Israel bias in Emerson's work in an article published by the media watchdog group Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting in 1992. Emerson's work "is sometimes nimble in its treatment of facts, often credulous of intelligence sources, and almost invariably supportive of the Israeli government," according to Hunter.⁵

Even Ethan Bronner, whose own objectivity is in question today as the New York Times Jerusalem bureau chief because, among other things, his son served in the Israeli Occupation Forces, criticized

Emerson's book, "American Jihad: The Terrorists Living Among Us." In 2002, when Bronner was assistant editorial page editor, he wrote, "In truth, it is hard even now to know exactly what to make of Emerson's contentions." Though he viewed some parts of the book favorably, Bronner wrote, "Emerson may not be a scholar, and he may sometimes connect unrelated dots. He may also occasionally be quite wrong."⁶

It was in "American Jihad" where Emerson first planted a lie about Dr. Hatem Bazian, a cofounder and chairman of AMP, who also co-founded the first SJP chapter at Berkeley. Despite the Berkeley professor's repeated refutation, the lie has survived in several forms and mutations to this day.

Manufacturing anti-Semitism

In Appendix C in "American Jihad," Emerson said Bazian quoted Prophet Muhammad by relaying a hadith, or saying, about an apocryphal battle in the Holy Land at the end of times.

Emerson contends that in May 1999, Dr. Bazian said, "In the hadith, the Day of Judgment will never happen until you fight the Jews. They are on the west side of the river, which is the Jordan River, and you're on the east side until the trees and stones will say, oh Muslim, there is a Jew hiding behind me. Come and kill him! And that's in the Hadith about this, this is a future battle before the Day of Judgment."

"American Jihad" has more than 200 citations throughout the book. Appendix C alone has 79 footnotes. However, there is not one citation for the 1999 event or for the hadith Bazian purportedly quoted. There is no indication that Emerson attended the event and heard the quote himself or that someone else reported it. Ignoring journalistic practice, Emerson does not cite any source for this event. For all we know, this entire episode could be fabricated. In fact, Bazian has repeatedly refuted Emerson's allegation, most prominently on the O'Reilly factor with Bill O'Reilly in 2004.⁷

"It's a fabrication," Bazian told O'Reilly. "I would never use that statement. It's a statement that comes from Islamic historiography. It's a part of hadith collections, references to the end of time. And I in general don't use that in any type of speech or discussion."

"The Detroit News" Nolan Finley, in October 2002, repeated Emerson's lie. From there, the fabrication has taken on a life of its own and is often trotted out in attempts to vilify Bazian and discredit his encompassing body of humanitarian work. But the hadith doesn't just plague the Berkeley professor. It's also a statement that Islamophobes like to attribute to Muslim leaders in general, as a sure-fire way to discredit them.

Fabricated documentation

Emerson has shown that he plays fast and loose with the facts of the story. Sometimes he even fabricates them, as is the case with a purported "FBI dossier" he claimed to have, according to a reporter for the Associated Press. Emerson has been acting as a consultant on an AP series when he gave reporters this 'dossier,' claiming it contained FBI documents about Muslim groups with alleged terrorist sympathies. However, the lead reporter, Richard Cole, said the "dossier was almost identical to one earlier authored by Emerson himself. [It] was really his ... he had edited out all phrases, taken out anything that made it look like his."⁸

"Another AP reporter, Fred Bayles, recalls that Emerson 'could never back up what he said. We couldn't believe that document was from the FBI files.'⁹

Emerson also links to a much-discredited document that's more than 20 years old that purportedly is a 'blueprint' for Muslim Brotherhood plans to build a base of followers in the United States. He's not alone in using this fakery to fool the public. Frank Gaffney of the Center for Security Policy uses this same debunked document as the cornerstone of his Islamophobia campaign. (See Addendum).

"Jihad in America"

One of Emerson's "crowning achievements" was his so-called documentary "Jihad in America," for which he won numerous awards, including one from the prestigious Investigative Reporters and Editors. He gave the film to all 535 members of Congress; it helped win passage of a House anti-terrorism bill, according to an article in the Washington Post.¹⁰

Ibrahim Hooper, the spokesman for the Council on American Islamic Relations, published an op-ed in the Washington Times, in which he fact-checked the video and exposed numerous inaccuracies and fallacies.

One of the movie's claims, which appear frequently in most of Emerson's work, is that almost all Muslim organizations in the United States have been "totally captured or dominated by fundamentalist elements," Hooper writes, citing a March 1995 article in the Jewish Monthly.

"The real purpose of 'Jihad in America' may have been spelled out in a recent article in the Nation. In that article, investigative reporter Robert Friedman wrote, 'Emerson's film not only helped them [the Israelis] press their case with the Administration – that Islam is our common enemy – but it also helped rehabilitate Emerson with the Labor government. Labor was angry with Mr. Emerson for helping Likud undermine the peace process.'¹¹

Allegations that Emerson is funded by the Israeli government, or at least has a relationship with it, arise in many articles critical of the self-described expert. He denied being a "tool," but did admit to a Washington Post reporter that he does "swap data with the Israelis – as well as with intelligence officials from other nations, including Germany, England and Arab countries he declines to name."¹²

The money trail

Emerson never lets the facts get in the way of a good story. The same is true when it comes to his own image. He likes to portray himself as someone who's given up marital bliss and a lucrative career with a cable news network for his vocation of fighting terrorism. He's a man so intent on his mission that "the unused portion of his bed at home is strewn with court documents, telephone records and bio-terror updates," Emerson told the Washington Post in 2001.

At least two profiles by the Jerusalem Post and the Washington Post paint Emerson as a selfless individual who is bent on "saving" journalism from "corruption and incompetence," he told the Jerusalem Post in 1995. He is intent on exposing "Middle East terrorism" out of a sense of duty to the American public, he said.

"Unless you have people willing to define, research and investigate areas not being pursued by 99 percent of the media pack, they will stay under the rock. I feel compelled to lift that rock."

In fact, Emerson said he was so compelled to enlighten the American public, he chose to "remain

independently poor,” instead of accepting a lucrative three-year contract with CNN.

In all this self-serving hyperbole, Emerson fails to mention that his first job after graduate school was serving as a staffer for Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, who was chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee. On that committee, Emerson helped shape the US aid package to Israel after the 1976 Camp David Accords, according to the article.¹³

The JPost reporter, Judith Colp Rubin, failed to explain how a master’s degree in sociology prepared Emerson for a position with Church and one of the country’s most powerful Senate committees.

Six years later, roughly two months after the Sept. 11 attacks, the Washington Post ran a profile that perpetuated the selfless persona Emerson has been crafting for himself by calling “The copper-haired Emerson, 47,...an unpaid consultant-in-chief.”

Emerson may be many things. Unpaid is not one of them.

According to IRS 990 forms, tax forms non-profit organizations must file with the federal Internal Revenue Service, Emerson’s Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT) paid him more than \$5 million through his SAE Productions company in 2008 and 2009.

The tax forms also state IPT receives private donations as the bulk of its funding. A recent report by the Center for American Progress showed seven foundations gave almost \$43 million over 10 years to five major disseminators of Islamophobia. Three of those five – including Emerson and IPT – are staunch supporters of the pro-Israel Zionist agenda. In fact, IPT received about \$560,000 from a small number of Islamophobic and right-wing donors such as the Donors Capital Fund (\$400,000) and the Russell Berrie Foundation (\$100,000) between 2007 and 2009, states the report, “Fear, Inc: The Roots of the Islamophobia Network in America.”

In addition, IPT received large sums of money through the Counterterrorism & Security Education and Research Foundation.

“An examination of CTSERF’s 990 forms showed that, much like the Investigative Project, all grant revenue was transferred to a private, for-profit entity, the International Association of Counterterrorism and Security Professionals,” according to the Center for American Progress.¹⁴

Links to Zionist outfit

The scope of Emerson’s work over the years, as well as the funding trail that emanates from Zionist sources, expose Emerson and the IPT as vociferous advocates for Israel and its racist occupation policies.

Nothing shows this more than a trail of emails between the Israeli consulate in Boston and the pro-Israel David Project, which collaborated in attempts to stop the construction of a mosque in Boston in 2004. The emails were part of the discovery of a lawsuit stemming from the incident.

In May 2004, Anna Kolodner, the executive director of the David Project, wrote she would ask Emerson for information relating to a lawsuit being planned against the Islamic Society of Boston.

On 4 August 2004, Kolodner wrote, “As a result of collaboration with Steve Emerson’s office, we have

a comprehensive document regarding the individuals/organizations/history etc., of the mosque, which will be the backbone of the media campaign. ... Filing the lawsuit would be the initial lead/newsworthy component of the media angles.”

Then in September 2004, Kate Frazer of the Israeli consulate’s political affairs office, sent an email verifying that she had been working on a number of documents, one that was to be a magazine article, and another, the “‘local proof’ document with bullet points and the sections we discussed, (i.e., people and associations, ideology, funding and actions).” This is the list purportedly Emerson supplied.

These emails have not been independently verified, but they were discussed in an article by Andrew Cochran, published by the IPT in 2008¹⁵

The emails came to light because of a press release issued by Paul Kendall from the organization Justice and Liberty for All, also in 2008. Kendall contended the emails show Emerson worked directly with the Israeli consulate to stop the Boston mosque.¹⁶

The emails do not show direct communication between Emerson and the Israeli consulate. They do, however, show that the David Project was at the center of the efforts to stop the mosque. The David Project communicated with the Israeli consulate and with Emerson, but not necessarily at the same time.

Nonetheless, Kolodner’s praise of Emerson for his help seriously calls into question Emerson’s motivations and suggests he is on a personal crusade. Over the years, Emerson’s mission has been to thwart Muslims in general and to defame and discredit anyone working to promote Palestinian human rights, specifically.

DANIEL PIPES

Noted Islamophobe Daniel Pipes founded the Middle East Forum in 1990. It publishes the “Middle East Quarterly,” and sponsors Campus Watch, Islamist Watch, the Legal Project and the Washington Project.¹⁷

Unlike Emerson, Daniel Pipes’ academic background is in religious studies. He received his PhD in medieval Islamic history from Harvard in 1973 and he’s taught at the University of Chicago, Harvard and the US Naval War College. Also unlike Emerson, Pipes reads Arabic, which he learned after a two-year stint in Cairo.¹⁸

There are some connections and similarities between the two, however. Emerson’s Investigative Project on Terrorism is a spin-off of Pipes’ Middle East Forum, a think tank he founded to promote American interests in the Middle East and to gain “Palestinians’ acceptance of Israel” and to “contain Iran,” according to its website. Pipes pulls no punches about the institute’s real agenda:

“Domestically, the Forum combats lawful Islamism ,, [and] protects the freedom of public speech of anti-Islamist authors, activists, and publishers.”¹⁹

Tax records show the Middle East Forum contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to Emerson’s Investigative Project on Terrorism.²⁰

Pipes may have a PhD and may have taught at prestigious universities, but he doesn’t seem to be widely accepted in the academic world. In fact, many have derided his work for a lack of credibility or for being

sometimes inaccurate. The Guardian reporter Suzanne Goldenberg wrote an article in 2003 about Pipes' appointment to the US Institute of Peace:

“Within the community of Middle East scholars, he is regarded as extreme. He opposes the “road map” for the Middle East, as he opposed the Oslo peace accords, and objected to efforts to reform the Palestinian Authority.”²¹

The late Christopher Hitchens, writing for Slate on Aug. 11, 2003, also decries Pipes' appointment to the peace panel because he is a Nakba-denier, having publicly stated that the renowned late scholar Edward Said was not Palestinian and had not been dispossessed of his Jerusalem home in 1948.

“The objection to Pipes is not, in any case, strictly a political one. It is an objection to a person who confuses scholarship with propaganda and who pursues petty vendettas with scant regard for objectivity.”²²

Juan Cole, a history professor at the University of Michigan, who, for three decades has put the relationship of the West and the Muslim world in historical context, blasted Pipes on his blog in 2004:

“Yes, I'm aware that Daniel Pipes of the so-called Middle East Forum sent some puppy out to slime me over at David Horowitz's

Frontpagemag. So this is the way it goes with the Likudniks. First they harass you and try to have you spied on. Then they threaten, bully and try to intimidate you. And if that fails and you show some spine, then they simply lie about you. (In this case the lies are produced by quoting half a passage, or denuding it of its context, or adopting a tone of pained indignation when quoting a perfectly obvious observation). ...

Israel is not being helped by extremists like Pipes and his associates ... It is being harmed, and it's very survival is being placed in doubt by aggressive annexationist policies, and by brutal murders and repression, which Pipes and his associates support to the hilt.”²³

Campus Watch

Probably most troubling for university professors, for whom the free exchange of ideas is tantamount to good scholarship, is Pipes' Campus Watch, an organization that polices dissent on college campuses as well as attitudes toward Israel and Palestinians. Campus Watch, a project of Pipes' Middle East Forum, has created a McCarthy-era type 'blacklist' of professors he deems to be “anti-Israel” or “apologists” for Islam.

Academics, journalists and others have blasted Campus Watch for inciting students to ‘inform’ on professors who deviate from supporting US Middle East foreign policy, who criticize Israel or hold favorable views of Islam.

Pipes characterizes Campus Watch as an almost menacing entity that “hovers over their [professors']

shoulders.” Campus Watch will use instructors' statements against them and “cause them trouble when they try to win tenure or get a new job,” Pipes wrote in a Jerusalem Post op-ed, marking the fifth anniversary of Campus Watch in September 2007.²⁴

Pipes goes on to characterize academics who offer information contrary to state US foreign policy in the Middle East, or who criticize Israeli policies, as “anti-Americans.”²⁵

Harsh criticism of Campus Watch abounds, but detractors noted that Pipes' effort was having a chilling effect on the free marketplace of ideas on college campuses.

Miriam Cooke, a Middle Eastern Studies professor at Duke University, wrote a scholarly paper on the effect of Campus Watch, particularly its impact on House Resolution 3077, the International Studies in Higher Education Act of 2003, which would have created an advisory board of people associated with national security to monitor international studies programs, especially Middle Eastern Studies:

“Due to go to the floor of the Senate this month, HR 3077 is the brainchild of Campus Watch, a group of think tank employees who have assigned themselves the task of keeping an eye on and correcting the production of knowledge about the Middle East... This advisory board would be given virtually unlimited authority ... The announcement of this International Education Advisory Board has caused many in the American Academy to fear that HR 3077 will undercut legislative safeguards to academic freedom,” Cooke wrote in 2003.²⁶

The bill never became law.

Cooke's criticism of Campus Watch was harsh, saying it is less “interested in combating terrorism than it is in reshaping national culture within the University. ... This is the strategy of Campus Watch: attach the label anti-Semitic to undesirables whether the label fits or not. ...

“Campus Watch is the Trojan horse whose warriors are already changing the rules of the game not only in Middle East studies but also in the US University as a whole. They threaten to undermine the very foundations of American education.”²⁷

AMP's Bazian, a professor of Near Eastern and Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, talked about his experience with student informers for Campus Watch on an Al Jazeera program in April 2006.²⁸

Bazian told the show host that students would come to his lectures strictly to write down what he said and report it back to Campus Watch and the likes of Pipes and another Zionist Islamophobe David Horowitz, who wrote a book in 2006 titled, “The Professors: 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America.” Bazian is included in that list.

‘Expertise’ discredited

Pipes also shares a more ignominious trait with Emerson in the number of times his pronouncements have been wrong. Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, a nonpartisan media watchdog group, highlights two major mistakes this so-called expert on Muslims made regarding Iraq and also the Oklahoma City bombing.

Just three years before Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, Pipes co-authored an article for The New

Republic with Laurie Mylroie stating that Iraq would protect the status quo in the Middle East. He also blamed Middle Eastern Muslims for the Oklahoma City attack that was carried out by American Timothy McVeigh, FAIR reports.

“People need to understand this was just the beginning,” FAIR quotes Pipes as telling the USA Today in April 1995. “The fundamentalists are on the upsurge, and they make it clear that they are targeting us. They are absolutely obsessed with us.”²⁹

Christopher Hitchens, the late columnist, wrote that Pipes’ denial of Zionist Jews’ dispossession of the Palestinians surrounding the creation of the state of Israel greatly discredited his ‘expert’ opinions.

“Pipes spits and curses at anything short of his own highly emotional agenda ...It’s one thing to argue ... that not every refugee can expect ‘the right of return.’ It’s quite another to deny history and to assert that there is no refugee problem to begin with.”³⁰

Hitchens goes on to cite “aggrieved scholars, complaining at the way in which Pipes had misrepresented their work.”³¹

Harvard professor William A. Graham, condemned Pipes for his virulent anti-Muslim and pro- Zionist agenda in a letter to the editor published in the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs in December 1999. In it, he states:

“I have been appalled frequently by Daniel Pipes’ political stance on almost everything having to do with Islam, Muslims or the Palestinian/Israel issue. ... The irony in that article is, of course, that Dr. Pipes and other radically and blindly pro-Zionist American Jews are much farther along the chauvinist and ultimately anti-American spectrum than are even radical American Muslims....

“Yet Dr. Pipes, despite his own apparently strong, even blind, support for the Israeli state and its policies--even those policies that are attacked by thoughtful Israelis themselves as racist and oppressive--sees no incongruity in his condemnation of many Muslim Americans as a threat to the American state and democracy.”³²

Pipes’ in his own words

Despite the overriding proof of Pipes’ biased agenda, he nonetheless still has a large platform to spread his pro-Israel, anti-Arab and anti-Muslim bias. And as he continues to spread this misinformation and fear, he also exposes his true agenda. Consider this event in California in 2001. Pipes was a speaker on a panel discussion titled “Healing Words: Crisis in the Holy Land,” along with Sabeel founder Palestinian minister Naim Ateek, and Jon Madaville of Portland State University.

“A panel discussion entitled ‘Healing Words: Crisis in the Holy Land’ turned unexpectedly from a dialogue into a pro-Israel solidarity rally led by American Zionist writer/intellectual Daniel Pipes,” wrote Elaine Kelley in July 2001 in the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

She quote Pipes as attacking Palestinian Christian cleric Naim Ateef, founder of Sabeel and a major proponent of liberation theology, which advocates for peaceful resistance.

“Ateek has a hateful passion,” Kelley quoted Pipes as saying, later adding, “The Palestinians are a miserable people,” he added, “and they deserve to be.”³³

The following is a list of Pipes’ opinions that reflect his bias.

- “Palestine, then a secular way of saying Eretz Yisra’el or Terra Sancta, embodied a purely Jewish and Christian concept, one utterly foreign to Moslems, even repugnant to them.”³⁴
- “Regarding the Israeli Supreme Court’s decision to uphold a law prohibiting Palestinian family unification within 48 Palestine, Pipes wrote, “...it serves as a stealth form of Palestinian “right of return,” thereby undermining the Jewish nature of Israel.”³⁵
- “Jerusalem has mattered to Muslims only intermittently over the past thirteen centuries, and when it has mattered, as it does today, it has been because of politics.”³⁶
- In an op-ed in the Jerusalem Post, writer Martin Sherman said the Palestinians are an invented people and they must be “uninvented.”

“To have any hope of victory Israel must cease its complicity in Arab duplicity. The time has come for a concerted effort to uninvent the Palestinians,” Sherman wrote, before posing the question, ‘Can this be done?’”

He then quotes Pipes, who suggests it is possible: “...the fact that this [Palestinian] identity is of such recent and expedient origins suggests that.... it could eventually come to an end, perhaps as quickly as it got started.”³⁷

Others in the ‘inner circle’

Emerson and Pipes do not operate alone in their quest to advance the Zionist agenda while also attacking anyone working to raise awareness about Palestinians living under occupation. They are part of a well-financed network that exists as a subset of a larger ring of pundits, validators and right-wing media outlets that have advanced anti-Muslim hysteria mainly for financial gain, according to credible reports by the Center for American Progress, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, as well as CAIR and the Center for Race and Gender at the University of California, Berkeley.

Other players include David Horowitz, founder of the Horowitz Freedom Center and Front Page Magazine; Robert Spencer of Jihad Watch; and Frank Gaffney, director of the Center for Security Policy. (Please see addendum at the end of this article).

All of these main players have common financial backers and publish each others’ articles. Thus, an article about AMP’s Bazian titled “Islamic Hate Goes to School,” in which the writer refers to the distinguished professor as “Hatem ‘Hate ‘em’ Bazian,” gets posted on Horowitz’ FrontPageMag.com, reposted on Pipes’ Campus Watch and then reposted on dozens of blogs and websites from there. It gives the impression the articles carry much more weight than they actually do.

More importantly than this ‘in-house’ article sharing, is the Middle East Media and Research Institute, the main source of information for all these pundits.

MEMRI is a Middle Eastern media monitoring company formed by former soldiers in the Israeli

Occupation Forces, according to “Fear, Inc.” It was formed as an independent, nonpartisan 501(c)3 organization to “inform the debate over US policy in the Middle East.”³⁸

The problem is the monitoring service gets roundly criticized for its selective translations, thereby giving the impression the Muslim world’s media is full of anti-American bias and encourages Muslims in the West to commit acts of violence.

“MEMRI is cherry-picking a couple of statements on fringe websites to support its own, highly partisan, interpretation. Actually, to be totally clear, they are relying on ONE radical website, which could have been posted by ANYBODY.”³⁹

“MEMRI was founded by Israeli-born academic Meyrav Wurmser, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, and Col. Yigal Carmon, who spent more than 20 years in

the Israeli intelligence and served as a terrorism adviser to two of Israel’s prime ministers, Yitzhak Shamir and Yitzhak Rabin. Wurmser co-authored the 1996 report, ‘A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm,’ prepared for the then-incoming Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which suggested reshaping Israel’s strategic environment in the Middle East by abandoning the traditional ‘land for peace’ negotiations with Palestinians and proposing the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.”⁴⁰

Conclusion

Understanding how and why people like Emerson and Pipes expend an inordinate amount of time and money to smear Muslims and others who work to raise awareness about Palestinian human rights goes a long way toward deflating the power they wield to stifle the debate about the Middle East. Until now, they and the other Zionist Islamophobes have been able to operate with impunity in the climate of fear that has pervaded American society since the attacks of 9/11.

But none of us should be content with the enlightenment that is coming because of reports like this one and others published in the past few years. It is incumbent upon all of us to share this information to help build a grassroots movement to challenge the narrative that for too long has been forwarded by this network of individuals. These people have enriched themselves at the expense of others, who have been tainted by their charges of anti-Semitism, anti-Americanism and supporters of terrorism.

We must also lean upon our elected officials and the media to demand they stop using as ‘experts’ these demagogues who forward their biased polemics as objective fact, which not only harms the image of the United States abroad but also threatens the values of freedom of speech and free exchange of ideas here at home. A closed society cannot thrive and will not be able to rise to the challenges facing us in the modern world. We must continue to challenge Emerson, et. al, in order to safeguard the freedoms inherent to all of us and so we can continue to work to bring justice to the Palestinians.

ADDENDUM

These are the key figures in the Islamophobia movement who also promote the false claim that politically active Muslims, particularly those who advocate for Palestinian human rights, are associated with “militant Islamist movements.”

The list of donors is not exhaustive by any means. However, it shows the money trail connecting all these individuals and their enterprises which, in effect, has created a network of Zionist Islamophobes. All the donors listed here in some way support Zionism and Israeli occupation policies.

STEVEN EMERSON

Investigative Project on Terrorism - Emerson’s “non-profit” organization that disseminates scurrilous and oftentimes untrue missives against those with whom he does not agree politically. He often labels these individuals and organizations as “terrorism supporters.”

International Association of Counterterrorism and Security Professionals

– A for-profit enterprise, founded by Emerson, that capitalizes on Islamophobia and the war on terrorism to provide security training and consultancy.

Funding sources:

Donors Capital Fund
Middle East Forum (Daniel Pipes)
Fairbrook Foundation (Aubrey Chernick)

DANIEL PIPES

Middle East Forum – A think tank that advocates for hawkish US foreign policy in the Middle East, including trying to persuade Palestinians to accept Israel, and “monitors the advance of Islamism in Turkey.” While at home it “combats lawful Islamism” among other things. The Legal Project - A subsidiary of the Middle East Forum, was founded in response to a lawsuit brought by the Islamic Society of Boston against defendants, including Steven Emerson.

Campus Watch – Monitors university professors and their attitudes toward Israel and Palestine.

Islamist Watch – Monitors American Muslims and their lawful activities.

Funding sources:

Donors Capital Fund
The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
David Horowitz Freedom Center
Fairbrook Foundation (Aubrey Chernick)

DAVID HOROWITZ

Enterprises

David Horowitz Freedom Center – “Combats the efforts of the radical left and its Islamist allies,” according to its website. Projects include the annual “Islamofascism Awareness Week, rolled out on college campuses to counter Israel Apartheid Week, held by Students for Justice in Palestine and other social justice groups. The site also hosts the “Wall of Truth,” which contains propaganda and misinformation about Israel’s occupation of Palestine.

DiscovertheNetworks.com – Inspired by Pipe’s Campus Watch, Horowitz launched this website, which tracks the political left. Shares content with Campus Watch.

FrontPageMag.com – online magazine that routinely runs conservative and Islamophobic articles as well as articles blatantly biased against Palestinians and which support the Zionist state of Israel.

Funding sources

Donors Capital Fund
Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
Aubrey Chernick (Fairbrook Foundation)

ROBERT SPENCER

Enterprises

Jihad Watch – A project of the David Horowitz Freedom Center, Jihad Watch’s purpose is to “track the attempts of radical Islam to subvert Western culture,” according to the report, “Fear, Inc.” by the Center for American Progress. The website has several links to pro-Israel website; and it shares content with Front Page Magazine.

Stop the Islamization of America – An organization started by Spencer in response to the Park 51 mosque – dubbed the Ground Zero mosque – by Spencer and right-wing Islamophobe Pamela Gellar, who its executive director.

Funding sources

David Horowitz Freedom Center
Aubrey Chernick (Fairbrook Foundation)

FRANK GAFFNEY

Enterprises

Center for Security Policy – A non-profit think tank with a virulent anti-Muslim agenda. Gaffney’s ‘smoking gun’ for much of his diatribes is a discredited 20-year-old document titled, “Explanatory Memorandum on the General Strategic Goal for the Group in North America.” Instead of being a blueprint for a Muslim Brotherhood takeover of the United States, the document is a sham, according to Nathan Brown, professor of political science and

international affairs, and director of the Institute for Middle East Studies at George Washington University, the Fear Inc. report states.

This is important because this discredited document also appears on Emerson’s Investigative Project on Terrorism website as well as Horowitz’ FrontPageMag.com, both of which attempt to make it look like a legitimate document .

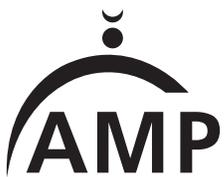
Funding sources

Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
Fairbrook Foundation (Aubrey Chernick)

Sources: “Fear Inc. The Roots of the Islamophobia Network in America,” Center for American Progress, August 2011; SourceWatch.org, a project of the Center for Media and Democracy; “The Great Islamophobia Crusade,” by Max Blumenthal, Dec. 20, 2010.

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AMERICAN MUSLIMS FOR PALESTINE

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