
EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by jwroblewski - 2008/07/03 17:04

This thread discusses the Content article: EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

It's funny how the best laid plans of mice and superpowers can go awry. The Western powers thought they could lay out the future of the Middle East post WWI in finest detail, with the Hashemites as their instrument, and then bang along comes...

Well, most of you have likely read the wonderful Sci-Fi opus the Foundation Trilogy by Issac Asimov, about a group of scientists called the Psycho-Historians, out to restore the Galactic civilization through a political master blueprint called the Sheldon Plan. At one point in the tale the Plan is almost totally broadsided and derailed by something they did not foresee, the arrival of a power mutant know as The Mule. Science fiction and Reality sometimes can mirror each other.

... along comes Arabian counterpart of Asimov's Mule, a hayseed desert monarch named Ibn Saud who boots out the Hashemites and creates what we know know and love as Saudi Arabia and creates a Middle East much different than the mandarins of London or Paris could have imagined. Oh, those damned "unknown unknowns"! :huh:

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Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by eddd7 - 2008/07/03 19:47

HAAAY! Wait a minute! Psycho-Historians, political master blueprint, and mules (also known as jackasses)?? You're not laying out the early formation of the Democrat party here....are you?

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Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by jwroblewski - 2008/07/03 19:53

First and foremost, I am using a wonderful Science Fiction novel as a point of take off for a discussion about how any government's policies can be foiled by the Unforeseen. But that is, as you rightly suggest, a great way to knee the pretensions of any form of Statist master planner straight in the nuts!

I think we are Vulcan mind melded on this point, no?

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Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by chay - 2008/07/03 20:19

Dr. Jack, I really love and appreciate the pictures of Petra, but if Jordanian women are so gorgeous, where are THOSE pictures? Maybe I should ask Jackson.

The Foundation Trilogy has always been one of my favorite reads. I'm glad other TTPers enjoyed it as well. One point made about the Mule at the end of book three is that he was called the Mule partly because, likes Mules, he was sterile. That pretty much describes the entire democratic party. They are mentally and morally sterile.

Dr. Jack, thanks again for sharing your historical knowledge and your summer adventures with those of us that are somewhat financially challenged.

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Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by jwroblewski - 2008/07/04 09:53

First, thanks to Chay and eddd7 for their great comedic takes on the Mule story. Hey, was Asimov a Democrat or Republican, anyway? But now on to sterner things.

Dr. Jack is right I'm sure to point out the degree of development and sophistication in Jordan, and how the Middle East

would be better off if Arab states at least rose to its level. But not all is well in King Abdullah's paradise.:(I refer you to some material in the July 4th posting of David Horowitz's Front Page Mag site at:

<http://www.frontpagemag.com>

First study the article by Stephen Brown. In it he details the outlandish actions of a Jordanian court that subpoenaed Geert Wilders (the driving force behind the Fitna film) and several Danes to come and answer to charges of blasphemy against Islam. Since when does the writ of a Jordanian court extend to non-Moslem Europe? But what if it's backed up with a free lance campaign of terrorism (not impossible)? How deep does modernity really run in Jordan?

Next, check out the piece by Janet Levy, who has uncovered a clutch of putrid gems about brazen Fundamentalist Muslim arrogance and pushiness. For starters, it described a communication from Pakistani official demanding that the EU rewrite it's laws to include bans on any attacks against Islam, with the veiled threat of increasing terrorist attacks against Europeans on their turf if this is not done (which they will move Heaven and Earth to prevent, no doubt). And there's even worse. Apparently the United Nations Human Rights Council was cowed by the Organization of Islamic Conference to accept a change in a resolution on freedom of expression that would make ANY criticism of Islam a hate crime. Allah only knows what the UN bureaucracy will do with this. And there are many more such outrages documented in Ms. Levy's article.

Don't you just get the chill of a feeling that the extremist wackos of all types might just win by stealth?

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Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by ella - 2008/07/04 12:28

Petra a wonder! :)

After the terrorist attack in Jordan didn't the Jordanian Special Forces go into Iraq to kill that Jordanian terrorist? I understand that group of special forces are one of the best in the world. Between them and American Special Forces we got him. :laugh: :woohoo:

Now what was his name...see how quickly we forget the name of the bad guys. :S :S

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Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by ehoppe - 2008/07/04 17:07

Petra has long been on my list of places to see. Haven't seen it yet though.

Never knew much of the history of Jordan. Interesting story Dr J. I wonder if any Foggy Bottom pinstripes know about this! I doubt it. I can only wonder what their reaction would be on reading this. I suspect it would be something along the lines of: "D'oh"

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Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by 97rdad - 2008/07/04 17:15

jack - There is the hint of it in this nutshell but what prompted the brits to go to bat for the Jews in establishing Israel and how far back in history does that aspiration go and what is the history surrounding it? There is a lot on youtube and the web regarding the movement to establish Israel and all the allegations made about influential jewish leaders in Europe pressuring influential jewish leaders in america to pressure/entice the US into WWI in favor of Britain, etc. Apparently, America entering WWI changed the outcome to Germany being crushed (it seems that Germany was about to win due to the u-boats just prior to America coming in) which lead to a lot of anger in Germany which may have led to the rise of Hitler and also massive anti-jewish sentiment. What is your take on all that?

Also, I read once about a vote in congress just before WWI as to whether to make German the official language of the US. Is that true? and why was there ever a question about English v. German?

Thanks

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Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by Leifwiz - 2008/07/04 19:10

As to the wackos winning by stealth. They're winning by in your face intimidation due to our foolishness about multiculturalism and PC. I am sure the pols would consider it stealth as they have their heads up their rectums or under the bedclothes of their latest harlot.

Don't malign mules! They sterile hybrid offspring of a male donkey and a female horse. Unfortunately for the democrats they didn't inherit horse sense which the mule did. I wish the Republican Party would elect the mule forr its party symbol. The elephant has grown senile and forgetful, whereas we need the mule for his horse sense and stubbornness!:laugh:

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Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by eddd7 - 2008/07/05 07:55

Here ya go. This may help, as it predates youtube by a little.

<http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/276/>

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Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by jsnape - 2008/07/05 10:28

Odd that it quotes Isaiah 11:11. That number haunting me daily also predates the Internet, going back to the late 70's. I'm not big into stuff like that, but I do know it's a lot more than a coincidence.

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Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by Rockymount - 2008/07/05 14:48

On the Palestinian and Jordanian History it is interesting to note that even today every "Palestinian" Who lives within Israel or the Palestinian territories and even the so called refugee camps is entitled to a Jordanian passport or already carries one. It is only PLO internal terrorism along with Hamas and Hezbollah bullying that keeps them where they are.

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Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by mazzman - 2008/07/08 12:47

Jack: Great article. I spent 3 weeks in Jordan in 1981 as a guest of King Hussein. I was working on a film about Jordan for the US television market and we filmed all over the country, from the ruins of Jerash down to Aqaba. We spent 3 days filming in Petra, going back to Aqaba each night.

The King's compound in Aqaba is a few hundred yards from Elat on the Israeli side, and on his birthday the Israelis serenaded him with a chorus of "Happy Birthday". I was also told that Petra was a destination for some adventurous young Israeli boys, who would sneak over the border and into the "Red City" as an extremely dangerous rite of passage.

The King was an accomplished pilot, and flew us in his Sikorsky S-76 helicopter up to a mountaintop near the Saudi border in Wadi Rum, which he described as the highest point in the Kingdom, where we did a walk & talk interview with

him. The rocks up there were quite unusual, with many being perfectly round and smooth with a very deep black color. There were also Ibex (Nubiani), and one of the Bedu spotted an Oryx in the distance. The flight back up the gulf to Aqaba was at wave height, weaving through the cargo ships anchored in the ways, (filled with supplies for Iraq which was then at war with Iran). The man was a very good pilot.

The Beduin were/are very loyal to the King, and at the time comprised the King's personal guard. I had a chance to get to know several of the senior officers and visit their family campsites outside Wadi Rum. Very friendly and very serious people. Great coffee!

By contrast, many (but not all) of the Palestinians I met were quite hostile, not only to me but to the young, very attractive, Jordanian and Palestinian women from the Tourism Ministry who I had the pleasure of being escorted around the country by. These young, western educated women could fiercely shout & argue down any government official (like the customs officers who had decided to seize the VCRs I had brought as "bakshish" for the Minister and his friends), but came running to me in real fear when the pool attendant at the hotel in Aqaba started threatening them for wearing bikinis at the pool. (I chased him away but he was not reprimanded by management, since they saw him as doing his duty as a Muslim!).

A very interesting place.

Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by jwroblewski - 2008/07/08 17:35

Sounds you like one of the many TTPN folks with rich bios and CV's. Your experience in Jordan sounds cool, but you did point out the conflicting forces in that country. If you already haven't, check out the references I gave in my second post on this thread.

Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by mazzman - 2008/07/08 18:47

Do you mean the ref. to frontpagemag.com? A very useful and informative site. David Horowitz is on the money.

As far as the ridiculous things that various imams (and Democrat politicians) demand of western civilization, well, the imams are operating from a 7th century perspective but using 21st century technology. As with socialism, the inherent logical inconsistencies in their "religion" require believers, not thinkers.

However, that does not mean we cannot understand the social/tribal order of Arab and muslim societies. The problem is, most westerners don't get it, or get it wrong. Gen. David Petraeus is someone who does get it, and the results of his leadership speak for themselves.

Two journalists who get it are Michael Yon - "Moment of Truth in Iraq" and Mark Steyn - "America Alone".

But, there is nothing like being there on the ground, and just talking with people. One of my favorite discoveries was the universally low esteem that Jordanians, Lebanese and many Palestinians have for the Egyptians (stupid) and Saudis (pigs). I cannot reproduce here their opinions of the Syrians and the Iraqis, but Persians were also held in contempt. That was before many of the moderate muslims (yes, there actually once were moderate muslims in the Middle East who regularly spoke out in the media!) were systematically silenced by the islamists through intimidation and murder throughout the 80' & 90's.

Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by jwroblewski - 2008/07/08 22:08

Hey, what can I say but thanks for the reply, and welcome to the TTPN site.

Re:EAST OF THE DEAD SEA

Posted by jack - 2008/07/10 16:48

Mazzman --

Many thanks for this contribution -- what a fascinating experience. I hope we'll be hearing much more from you. Welcome to the TTP Forum!

JW

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