



**Apocalyptic Thinking in Political Islam**

**Early Period**

**themes**

- quietism towards rulers
- sinning believers
- punishment of ahl al-kitab foreshadowing DoJ
- Madelung: "writing the future on one's own terms"

**apocalyptic literature occasioned by contemp. events**

- fitna of early Muslims
- aftermath early Islamic conquests
- war btwn Byzantines & Sasanians (early 7th C)

Morony, M. "Apocalyptic Expressions in the Early Islamic World" in Medieval Encounters, 4.3(1993), 175-177

**Israeli-Palestinian conflict**

**cosmic warfare**

- Grenz: eschatology = God's goal or purpose for his activity in our lives
- await return `Isa ibn Maryam & coming Mahdi, defeat anti-Christ
- period of just rule of Islam across globe
- Real-world disagreements married with religious theological models
- Midlarsky: threat and vulnerability are the "two necessary conditions for the occurrence of genocide."
- end-time full violence & persecution of believers
- violent expectation
- Robbins: apocalyptic expectations – visions of imminent total transformation of the world
- dualist fundamentalism enhanced in vision apocalypse
- holiness of Masjid al-Aqsa; Dome of the Rock
- mandate for land of Palestine
- Jews in league with ad-Dajjal

Moret, R. "Potential for Apocalypse: Violence and Eschatology in the Israel-Palestine Conflict" in Journal of Religion & Society 10 (2008):1-14

Hellig, J. "Anti-Semitism: Judaism, Christianity and Islam", Human Rights and Religion: A Reader, ed. Geason, L.

**anti-Semitism**

- spectrum of dislike-hatred of Jews
- Jews in Israel not acting as dhimmi
- Anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism conflated
- dangerous, shadowy, international conspiracy with Jews controlling world

**Themes**

- adopt paranoid conspiracy theories
  - Holocaust denial
  - Protocols of Elders of Zion
- recategorisation of non-combatants
  - permit suicide (bombings)
  - All Israelis = soldiers, potential future soldiers

**HAMAS charter**

- enemy is mirror to themselves
- takfir, tafsiq on other Muslims
- paranoid conspiracies
- use of religion for political ends
- deep roots in historical-mythological memory
- perpetual warfare until DoJ
- jihad first resort instead of last
- makes military jihad = fard `ayn
- jihad w/o precondition caliphal state
- alignment with cause of social justice
- glorification of martyrdom
- eschatological vision
- dualism of good and evil
- utopian dream of Islamic state
- Palestine = entire territory of Holy Land
- fundamentalist
  - project connection with early Islam. history
  - Islamist = Islam is political ideology
  - pan-Arab; pan-Islamic
- collapse categories:
  - Zionists
  - Jews
- Islam will eventually be victorious
- Ahl al-Kitab owe jizyah as dhimmis
- good Ahl al-Kitab = pre-Muhammad & converts
- territory conquered by Muslims stays dar al-Islam