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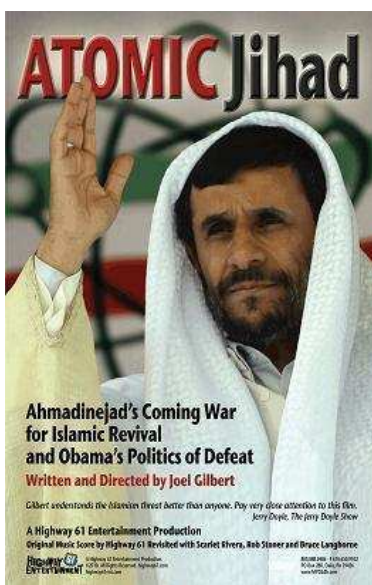
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[REVIEW: 'Atomic Jihad' An Important Look at Iran & Obama](#)

by [John P. Hanlon](#)

Over the past several years, many major movie stars have appeared in films about the war in Iraq. Even though many of those movies, including the recent "Green Zone," failed dismally at the box office, movies like that film arguably received more credibility and publicity because of the well-known stars and directors who worked on them. For the "Green Zone", that included stars Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear and the movie's director Paul Greengrass. One would only wish that these same celebrities would focus less on criticizing U.S. policy in Iraq and focus more of their attention on the stories that are not being told about what is going on today in Iran.



I recently had the opportunity to watch a new movie that focused on Iran entitled "[Atomic Jihad: Ahmadinejad's Coming War for Islamic Revival and](#)

[Obama's Politics of Defeat](#)." "Atomic Jihad" is a new documentary written and directed by Joel Gilbert. Because the movie often focuses on religion and the Middle East, it is bound to be a controversial film. The movie focuses on some extremists in the region including the current leader of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. I am not as familiar with the region as Mr. Gilbert is so I cannot testify to the accuracy of everything in the movie but I can state that this film is worth watching for people who want to learn more about the history of the region.

To me, the strongest part of the film focused on the disparity between the diplomatic rhetoric of President Obama and the harsh and demeaning rhetoric of President Ahmadinejad of Iran.

During the presidential campaign of 2008, President Obama received a lot of criticism for being open to talks with Iran and Mr. Ahmadinejad. According to [a CNN.com article from late in that year](#), it was noted that "[t]he Obama-Biden Web site calls for 'tough, direct presidential diplomacy with Iran without preconditions.'" Since that time and Obama's inauguration, Ahmadinejad has continued his angry rhetoric and made accusations against our nation including, according to [CNN.com](#), his recent statement that the September 11th attacks were "a 'big lie' intended to pave the way for the invasion of a war-torn nation, according to Iranian state media."

Gilbert's film discusses the rhetoric of the two leaders and although Obama has seemingly become more [forceful recently in talking about Iran's leader](#), many would likely still argue that he has not been forceful enough especially after last year's contentious election in Iran. In showing clips of the two leaders, Gilbert raises serious questions about our president's diplomatic rhetoric. Although people on the left and right can disagree about the forcefulness of rhetoric that the president should use, both sides can likely agree that Ahmadinejad's rhetoric throughout the past several years has been bitter and angry towards the United States and he continues to speak out against the U.S. and Israel, regardless of who the president of our nation is. Gilbert's film is a small but important film about the region that raises serious questions about our president's rhetoric concerning Iran.

Gilbert's film and the history depicted in it also raises a broader question about Iran at the movies. One wonders why more mainstream films have not been made about what is going on in that nation. Films about Iraq with major stars hadve received a lot of media attention. However, many of the same mainstream celebrities depicted in movies about Iraq have not brought the same amount of attention to what is going on today in Iran.

Last year, I had the opportunity to [interview Shohreh Aghdashloo](#) for "Big Hollywood" about her movie "The Stoning of Soraya M." Aghdashloo, who I noted in the article was [the first Iranian to be nominated for an Academy Award for acting](#), has used her opportunities as an actress to tell important stories about Iran. Her most recent film doing that was "Soraya M.," a movie that brought publicity to the cruel act of stoning people to death as punishment. Several years before that, she also appeared in the film "House of Sand and Fog," a fictional story about an Iranian couple struggling to make a decent living in the United States.

It is disappointing that more mainstream actors, actresses and writers have not done more work to educate people about issues in Iran but it is great to see people like Mr. Gilbert and Ms. Aghdashloo try to bring attention to political issues surrounding that nation. There are many stories that should be told through films that have not been (including at least dozens of stories about the controversial elections last year and the protests afterwards). One hopes that with the box office failure of "The Green Zone" and other movies like it, celebrities will stop telling conspiracy stories about U.S. foreign policy and they start addressing real foreign policy issues (like the current situation in Iran) that are not getting the publicity they deserve.



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[Jennifer](#) · 4 days ago

-5

The war in Iraq and Afghanistan is really a religious war which will never be won because it is a battle of ideas unless Muslims become more moderate and evolve their religion.

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+6

· 4 days ago [Fugrotemac](#) 90p

Diplomacy, yeah that will work against a TYRANT.....Just like Neville Chamberlain and Hitler during the 30's.....

Reply

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 Randy · 4 days ago

-12

Taking orders from Israel, we have invaded TWO countries DIRECTLY on Iran's borders. Israel continues to make threats to Iran. Listen to Galloway. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPvzmuVlosc>

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 Dhasselhoff 74p · 4 days ago

-9

No, we aren't buying your demonetization of Iran. No, we are not going to attack Iran for your homeland of Israel.

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 Tempus Fugit 77p · 4 days ago

+4

I'm afraid it may take a nuke going off to bring the western world out of its socialist stupor.

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 david999 · 4 days ago

+2

obama has every intention of allowing Iran to get a nuclear weapon. He will also let them use it on Israel.

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 DohXs · 4 days ago

+2

Just thinking of the atrocities of Muslim on Muslim behavior is depressing and revolting. Rape, severing limbs of helpless people, their subjugation of females, bombings and on and on. Tears Of The Sun had some of this but most films would be branded as hate speech or racial and religious stereotyping if they show Muslims in a bad light, not to mention fear of reprisals. Documentary style movies may be less likely to be seen widely, but you are right that they can be very influential and should be able to get financing and support from the otherwise quick to demonize, Hollywood.

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 Cujo47 · 4 days ago

0

Hollywood is a disease to america. A bunch of rich dumbasses that have fallen in love with their own BS that they have fed us for years. These people are not smart or intellegent, they are simply stupid people that believe the praganda that they produce. No wonder they are having trouble selling their movies. People are waking up to their BS.

Reply

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 xrayman · 4 days ago

0

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. Rev. 13, 18.

Reply

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 father_moray 110p · 4 days ago

+1

Listen to it: Chaos, Division, Arguement, Disrespect, hatred, Tyranny...it is all from the dark side...I suggest a MELTING POT again. Give us our healthcare, security, freedom, God, Constitution, and good economy, 5,000,000 jobs lost in a year...yea...give it all back and you smokes pay back China... and then give us a hug...or we will vote you all into Gitmo...then investigate all of you for your darkest treachery...America Again: Freedom Reigns. nov2 is for you. protect your voting places from rats with bats

Reply

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 ngj · 4 days ago

-3

Don't worry neo-cons, Obama is bought and paid for by the Israeli lobby just like the leaders of both political parties. Be patient, you will get your war with Iran. Obama's just waiting until it is politically expedient - like right before the 2012 elections. By the way, Iran doesn't have nuclear capabilities and probably won't for years. Even if they get a nuke, they have no way of delivering it to American shores. In other words, they pose no threat to the American homeland. But, I guess this doesn't matter to people who think that America has a religious duty to sacrifice our soldiers' lives for Israel - a nation that has spied on America, provided us with false intelligence, and made false-flag attacks on our own soldiers - some ally, huh?

Reply [3 replies](#) · active 3 days ago


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 pauls317 27p · 4 days ago

+1

Iran is a nobody who still lives in the past. And their are bigger fish in the Middle East.

Reply [1 reply](#) · active 3 days ago

 winc · 3 days ago

0

Not only does Hollywood not make movies about what's happening in Iran, some of them (Annette Benning, et al) have actually traveled over there and kissed the man's behind! This for a man who claims there are no homosexuals in Iran (of course there aren't -- they're executed). They should be outraged by the social practices of the man, and yet there's only silence. Sad.

Reply

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 Tchristemac 90p · 3 days ago

+1

I am floored by the left's (in this blog) against Israel and towards Iran.... WOW, I am seriously floored by the fact that some DEFEND Ahmadinejad....

Reply

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 Klee · 2 days ago

0

I would like to believe that these movies are losing at the box office because the American public is refusing to support the actors and directors that supported this Administration. I won't see any work done by people like Matt Damon, Sean Penn, Ben Affleck.....no matter how talented (they think) they may be.

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Lenny Bruce: 'We agree to be offended by certain words.'

by [Orson Bean](#)

Lenny Bruce was my idol in those days. He performed at the Village Vanguard, a Greenwich Village jazz joint which also booked comics on occasion. I was an up-and-coming comic and worked the club from time to time myself. But when Lenny was on, I sat in the...

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