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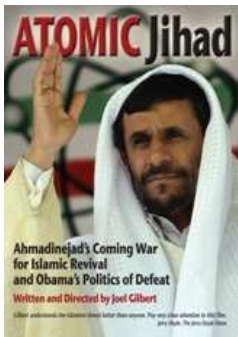
Atomic Jihad': New Film Highlights Grave Concerns About Iran's Nuclear Program

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Joel Gilbert's new political documentary, *Atomic Jihad*, focuses on the Iranian nuclear program and the Obama administration's foreign policy toward Iran and the Muslim world. The official film website with film trailer can be seen [here](http://atomicjihad.com/). On December 12, 2009, Paul Belanger spoke with Gilbert in Los Angeles:

Paul Belanger: Why do you believe Ahmadinejad is preparing a "Coming War for Islamic Revival"?

Joel Gilbert: President Ahmadinejad's speech at the [United Nations](#)

last September was nothing less than a declaration of war against America. In my film, you'll see excerpts from many Ahmadinejad speeches in which he highlights a similar message: Islamic civilization is morally superior and destined to ultimate success, while America is a corrupt, immoral and godless society whose core values of liberalism and capitalism are the source of all oppression, wars, and poverty in the world. Meanwhile, the Islamic world is ordained by God and His messengers to fight for equality, justice and fraternity. Ahmadinejad is very clear that America must be destroyed for humanity to find salvation.

PB: Why don't you believe Iran's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes?

JG: Ahmadinejad has stated that nuclear technology is the key to Iran becoming "an invincible global power." Given Iran's Islamist agenda, this can only mean one thing – Iran will use its nuclear capabilities to shape the world according to the Islamist agenda. In addition, Iran is rich in oil and does not need nuclear energy. Most glaringly, Iran does not have sufficient facilities to convert nuclear fuel into electricity, while the clandestine nature of Iran's underground nuclear facilities at Natanz and Qom speaks volumes.

PB: What is "Islamic Revival" and what is the Islamist agenda?

JG: Since its Islamic revolution of 1979, Iran has been the undisputed leader of Islamism, the worldwide movement striving for revival of Muslim society from 300 years of decline. Islamists believe that by returning to the roots of their success - religion - that Islam can return to past glory. This means Islamic [government](#) over all Muslim lands, destruction of Israel, and eventual defeat of the West. In Islam, worldly events on a political level are an affirmation of faith. Therefore, as a devout Muslim, Ahmadinejad must use all means to reaffirm God's covenant with the Believers. Hence, the name of my film, *Atomic Jihad*.

PB: What do you mean by the Obama administration's "Politics of Defeat"?

JG: Our government is pursuing a "new beginning" in U.S. relations with the Muslim world based on what President Obama has described as the "shared hopes and common dreams" of America and Islam. This reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of both the Muslim world view and Islamist agenda. In addition, the Obama administration is committed to diplomacy with Iran as a means to achieve nuclear compromise – based on the belief is that once people start speaking, their differences disappear as they realize their "common aspirations." However, Islamism and Western secular society have little in common, while Islamic religious values cannot be changed by "talk" nor bought by economic incentives. In modern history, this approach recalls the appeasement policies and naïveté of British [Prime Minister](#) Neville Chamberlain prior to World War II. Chamberlain met with Adolph Hitler several times, believing "talk" would melt away differences. I believe we are living in similar times – an uncompromising force is acquiring the means to change the balance of power to achieve a worldwide reality antithetical to Western democracy while seeking ultimate victory over the West.

PB: Why can't our government understand the Islamic world view?

JG: Unfortunately, it is a natural tendency to dismiss ideas and values that are not understood or shared. Because the West considers its development of concepts of "democracy," "freedom," and "secularism" as the highest advancement of humanity, it has great difficulty accepting that its values don't apply to other cultures or religions.

PB: How has this misunderstanding affected U.S. foreign policy?

JG: There are many examples. In 1979, Jimmy Carter withdrew support from our ally, the Shah of Iran, and more recently the [Bush administration](#) did the same with our ally Pervez Musharraf in Pakistan. Both presidents mistakenly believed the removal of these autocrats would result in the break out of Western secular democracy. The Iraq and Afghanistan [military](#) operations are based on the same misunderstanding, that democracy and secularism will emerge with the removal of "tyranny." However, the reality is that Islamism is the only serious alternative form of government in the Islamic world and meets the aspirations of the vast majority of all Muslims.

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