

Outline d6 for:

**Terrorism, Fear, Evil, and the Challenge to Civilization in the 21st Century:
What does Religion Say about That?**

Created for Rev. Alan James and his Institute of Theological and Interdisciplinary Studies
February 27, 2015, by Michael Andregg, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. mmandregg@stthomas.edu

1. Opening comments for veterans, peace activists & other patriots. My deepest sympathies.

Rethinking National Security in Light of the True* History of America since 1963

2. The murder of President John F. Kennedy, November 22, 1963. NSAM 263, on Oct. 11.
3. The Tonkin Gulf Resolution, and other ‘Deep State’ events, exaggerations & fabrications.
4. The murders of Rev. Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy, 1968.
5. The “October Surprise” that knocked out President Jimmy Carter, 1980.
6. The “Iran-Contra” scandal of 1985-86.
7. The “False-Flag” Operation of September 11, 2001.
8. The Invasion of Iraq Based on Fraudulent “Intelligence” March 19, 2003.
9. How the “Mainstream Media” was neutered to create “Stenographers for Power, Inc.”
10. How to Restore the Country Before it Decays and Breaks, like many Civilizations Before*

* If you lose your way in high mountains, you should go ALL the way back to where you went astray. Shortcuts are seldom really shorter.

That was my outline based on preliminary ideas suggested by Rev. James (transformed by me, of course, who is the only one responsible for every error in this analysis and presentation!).

Today we address “Terrorism, Fear, Evil, etc.” Oy! And the developing global crisis that confronts our entire Civilization. Oy Vey!! Let’s start with “terrorism, fear and evil.”

1. How many people are actually killed by real terrorists in the US and Canada each year?
 - a. Less than the number of veterans who commit suicide each **DAY** (~22).
 - b. Less than the number of citizens killed by bee stings or lightning strikes.
 - c. Less than are killed by falling furniture in their homes, especially TVs.
 - d. Less than are killed by avalanches, average = 28/yr.
 - e. About a thousand times less than are video ‘killed’ on television each year, which our children watch. Those who play video ‘war’ games see many more.

Why are we so terrified by these terrorist morons? Sure, many are nutcases, and yes they are dangerous, but??? One answer is that someone wants us to be terrified, there ... and here.

2. What does the Bible say about fear? A room of retired preachers could fill days with commentary on that. So here is just what I think when walking on possible death ground.

*“Lord, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.”*

This is not an original prayer written by me ;-)! But it’s useful, and if you have concluded there is an actual God behind the scenes with mystic power, what more do you need? Well, OK, real evil can be extra scary. So maybe we need a little more reassurance.

3. What is “Evil” and how can we prevail if it arrives?
- a. Individual evil, like greed, hatred, lust for power and the problem of psychopaths.
 - b. Organizational evil: There are way too many examples to list in a public setting! But this form is among the best understood, as when the Nazi state convinced millions of “Good Germans” to cooperate in destruction of millions of neighbors, and of millions of each other until the decay process (and US, British, Soviet and other allied Armies) broke Germany. Remember, Stalin killed over 20 million of his “own” people too; so did Mao Tse-tung in China a few years later. ISIS or ISIL might also, if it ever became a real state or Caliphate (not Islamic of course).
 - c. The possibility of Supernatural evil (I always frame this hypothesis in speculative terms). Supernatural evil is by far the scariest and hardest to discern. ‘Devils’ are God’s problem. Go back to “I will fear no evil, for thou art with me” & continue.
 - d. I recently wrote an analysis of evil for a comparative civilizations text, so if you want an electronic draft, let me know soon. After it’s published you would have to pay them a couple hundred bucks. But do not be deceived; evil is the most difficult analytic problem I have attempted so that chapter is no “definitive work.”
4. What is the “**Developing Global Crisis**” that threatens survival of civilization itself? An interdisciplinary study group might love that because it is so profoundly interdisciplinary, including the violence around the world, ‘globalization’ of so much economics with vast resulting inequities, the ecological catastrophe that goes far beyond global warming, loss of diversity, desertification, and such, corruption of governance almost everywhere which frustrates obvious solutions like the carbon tax or Tobin tax. We are producing a half-hour video on those linked crises now, but it is so hard to articulate in TV-sized spaces that it will not be done until spring sometime. One small piece with local consequences is the crisis in US finance for college educations today, which renders so many of our best, brightest and most idealistic students incapable of choosing life affirming options like the Peace Corps, say, because they are already in so much debt. Irreducible, non-negotiable, can’t get out by bankruptcy debt, or even by death as some co-signing parents find out, at the same time the job market for college graduates sucks. How did we get there? Go back to corruption in governance in the USA, and focus especially on the actor Ronald Reagan who put such a happy face on this transition as far back as Governor of California. In fact, go back to the October Surprise which included treason to get Reagan the Presidency.
5. My religion has another, rather different and simpler answer to these complex dilemmas.

“It is time for Humankind to grow up.”

NB: The Caterpillar Hypothesis

“What looks like hell to the caterpillar, the master calls a butterfly.” – Richard Bach, 1970 or 1977

6. Actually, my religion has third and fourth answers. Remember the “Golden Rule,” some form of which is found in the sacred texts of so many world religions large and small?

“Try observing the Golden Rule occasionally, and your problems will be smaller.”

7. On a daily basis, I work on three related issues that bear directly on Fear, Evil and Terrorism in the modern world. One is the causes of war which we have discussed in the past. Another is intelligence community reform, worldwide but especially in recovering police-states, since they already understand why unconstrained intelligence services turn on their own citizens, and what a terrible, impoverished condition of life that results in. We need similar reforms in the USA today, but our intelligence community is perfused with **hubris** now, so they truly do not recognize that they have any fundamental problems other than too little money and too much oversight. !!! Really. Many really believe that. Our IC fears the idea of intelligence ethics, but they think nothing’s wrong. Many truly do not even understand why people are upset with issues like torture and assassinations. This is similar to a question we heard very often after 9/11, “Why do they hate us?” The answer to this is obvious to anyone outside the security cleared and mainstream media information cocoons, but insiders often cannot see such answers, because they have been blinded by a process that far too often excludes accurate views on taboo topics like that.

One example: we have been bombing Iraq more or less continuously since 1991. Then we shattered whatever order remained in the invasion in March of 2003 from which Iraq has never recovered, on the basis of not merely misguided but fraudulent intelligence assessments, then we murdered hundreds of thousands of their people who tried to defend their communities. Think that might have something to do with “why they hate us”? We even tortured the very guy who is now leading ISIS in one of our jails in Iraq. Think that might have *radicalized* him a little? Of course, but the force that promotes these foreign wars still does not admit use of the word “torture,” preferring “enhanced interrogation.” The good book says, **speak truth to power, and don’t use euphemisms.**

Finally, the third strategic goal I work on every day is human survival, which is at risk. At least human civilization is at risk. We appear to be in the decay phase of a civilization, a topic often discussed at the ISCSC (International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations) whose next annual meeting is in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 10-13, 2015. Come if you like! Inexpensive sunsets! Info at: <http://www.wmich.edu/iscsc/index.html>

8. Thank you very much for your patience with this long, complicated outline of problems related to terrorism, fear and evil. A final summary of advice I get from my spiritual journey is: **Do good, so you don’t have to fear evil, and stop being such sissies about “terrorism.”** The mainstream media makes billions each year scaring its audiences near to death about little things, while ignoring BIG things that are impoverishing people and threatening ‘Everything under Heaven’ as the Chinese used to say. Stop being stooges for the network owners. The internet makes it easy to find other points of view, and sources outside the US often have much more accurate information. Who gets the most money from the corruption of governance promoted by our Supreme Court, which legalized bribery 5 years ago? The TV companies, of course. They get all that money from toxic, negative, ugly, demoralizing advertising. So mainstreamers seldom do stories on corruption of governance, and denigrate anyone involved in campaign finance reform.