

## REASONING WITH ROBOTS

On August 16, New York Times printed a letter from Shelley Leiser of Cupertino, CA. It commented on the cease-fire in Lebanon and probably represented the feelings of millions of Americans. Here it is, somewhat abbreviated:

“I am an American Jew who wants peace and prosperity for both Israel and Lebanon.... My heart bleeds for a devastated Lebanon. ...If Hezbollah truly wants to see a free, powerful and prosperous Lebanon, it will disarm. Hezbollah can be a powerful force for change through a peaceful message.”

I wonder why Ms. Leiser assumes that there is a chance that Hezbollah might want a free, etc. Lebanon? Did Hezbollah ever say so? No? I didn't think so.

So let's take another look, at what Hezbollah really wants, OK?

H.G.Wells' "The War of The Worlds" is a science fiction classic. It has given birth to a whole genre of space invasion films and books. It is about an invasion by mindless mechanical robots bent on slaughter and extermination of humans for incomprehensible reasons. Against all odds, humans win and humanity survives.

Happy ending? Well, yes, for humans but not the aliens, right? Shouldn't we try to see their point of view, put ourselves in their place, negotiate, compromise and attempt to understand one another? But none of the movies showed a car with a bumper sticker, "War Against Aliens Is Not The Answer", or a pro-monster rally with posters that "One Man's Monster Is Another Alien's Freedom Fighter".

Ridiculous? Of course. It is futile to try and understand robots. They do not think like we do. They have been programmed to exterminate us. They will not be stopped by love, sympathy, and a friendly attitude. They don't care what we think about them – we are irrelevant.

It is grotesque that the lessons of 9/11 have not yet been learned. For almost five years we have faced an enemy to whom our feelings and our beliefs are as irrelevant as those of humans are to alien robots, or those of cockroaches to us. Few have remarked on the absence of demands by the 9/11 conspirators – they didn't ask for money, prisoner release, our conversion to Islam or the liberation of occupied territories. They wanted nothing from us – except our deaths.

The situation elsewhere is analogous. Suicide bombers in the Middle East kept on massacring innocents after Israel withdrew from Gaza and was willing to relinquish most of the West Bank. Hezbollah kept attacking after Israel withdrew from all of Lebanon. The bombings in India, Indonesia, Philippines, the genocide of Moslems by Moslems in Darfur, the internecine slaughter in Iraq and the terror attacks throughout Europe have no goals that make sense to us. They do, however, appear to be reasonable to millions who crowd the streets of their miserable impoverished cities to demand “DEATH!”- to America and Israel and Britain and Denmark and whoever else comes to mind - and to proclaim their own willingness to die for reasons that are incomprehensible to us.

I am aware that not all Moslems are radical, fanatical, mindless Islamists. The estimates by Islamic moderates are that no more than 10% are. I think this is a low estimate but even so, this would be at least 160 million murderous robots! This is scary, especially since it shows that about 90% - 1 ¼ billion – are more moderate. Why then aren't their voices ever heard? Why is there no Moslem indignation at the atrocities and murders, perpetrated by the 10%? Why aren't there questions asked about the reasons for the economic and intellectual progress of Israel, a country with no oil, no natural resources and a landscape identical to the struggling and economically and culturally impotent Jordan, Lebanon and the West Bank? Why does the Moslem Middle East struggle against apparently insurmountable internal economic and social problems?

Is it because the entire Islamic world is unable and unwilling to recognize that its problems are internal, not caused by external enemies and world conspiracies? Is it because Islam is ruled by dictators and mullahs who preach that violence against external enemies will solve all problems (and parenthetically, perpetuate the existing power structure)? Is it because death is glorified and seen as more important than life? Probably, all of the above.

It is interesting that Moslems who emigrate to North or South America achieve economic and social success that is greater than the national average of the host countries – proof that there is no intrinsic racial or ethnic disability that accounts for the backwardness of their countries of origin. And why is it that the voices that are heard loudest are those of *Muslims* who protest, take offense and demonstrate at the slightest

criticism of Islamic nations but who are a minority - only about ¼ of American-Arabs are Moslem – about 75% are Christians.

We are in a war whose outcome has as yet not been decided. To win we must be realistic and recognize our enemy's only goal - our death. We must reject the idea that the West in general, and the U.S. and Israel in particular, are somehow responsible for the enemy's misery and hatred. We must stop trying to humanize and "understand" the 21<sup>st</sup> century's Islamo-fascist murderous robots if we and our children are to survive.