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## General 'Mad Dog' Mattis – Secretary of Defense



President-Elect Donald Trump announced the appointment of 'Mad Dog' Mattis as the Secretary of Defense in his new Administration. A highly unusual appointment as the General is only three years retired, and the Congressional rules require that an Armed Forces Officer be retired for at least 7 years prior to being appointed to public office. But, apparently this is not an insurmountable obstacle as the Republican controlled Congress can get him past that rule, if they really want to, and apparently, they really want to. Retd. General James N. Mattis is highly regarded by almost all, and loved, respected, downright venerated by the men that served under his command.

If the appointment is cleared by the Congress, no previous United States Secretary of Defense, to our knowledge, would have come to the office with more monikers than General Mattis: 'Mad Dog'; 'Chaos'; 'Warrior Monk'. He is also known as an intellectual, scholarly, urbane, polished commanding officer, who throughout his active duty carried his own personal copy of 'Meditations', by the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius.

According to accounts about him, before leaving on a mission, General Mattis makes an effort to become familiar with the customs and culture of the people, and makes sure that the soldiers under his command are also made familiar with the culture of the local people, so that they would show sensitivity towards the civilian population. It seems a bit hypocritical to be concerned about sensitivity towards the culture and customs of a people whose lives you are going to shatter and whose country you are going to destroy, nevertheless, it is the quintessential dilemma of the soldier being given orders to go to war, and there are enough commanders who could not be bothered being sensitive to civilians, let alone go to the length in

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educating their soldiers about the people, their culture and customs; so, that initiative certainly goes in favour of General Mattis.

In spite of the stamp of 'intellectual' on his personality, General Mattis comes to his other rougher monikers, 'Mad Dog', 'Chaos', 'Warrior Monk', honestly, by leading his men in battle personally and aggressively on the frontlines, "I like to brawl", and thereby being a fighting General, a soldier's General.

Overall General Mattis is an intelligent thinking man that is sensitive to a broad array of current and historic contexts in which he finds himself, and has obviously impressed President-Elect, Donald Trump, enough for him to be named as the next potential Secretary of Defense.

Yet, when one gives a cursory glance at General Mattis's current positions and statements regarding the geo-political role of the United States in the World, the ongoing, and going forward relationships with friends and allies, and his take on America's most dangerous enemies, there are certain positions and statements that are cause for concern, especially from the perspective of him being so well informed, thus raising expectations.

Firstly, being as well read and thoughtful as General Mattis is supposed to be, it's a bit baffling that he would make blanket statements about "Political Islam" and Iran that smack more of the usual propaganda than facts.

In asking the question below, "Is political Islam in the best interest of the United States?" General Mattis shows a lack of basic fairness, and frankly common bias, in framing that question, even from a Western perspective. In fairness, the question should first be, is any religion 'non-political'? And, what is the criterion of a religion being a 'political religion'?

We presume, the question coming from the General, who commanded troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, frames the criterion as being a religion that fosters violence and wages war.



*"Is political Islam in the best interest of the United States?" Mattis said at the Heritage Foundation in 2015, speaking about the separate challenges of the Islamic State and Iranian-backed terrorism. "I suggest the answer is no, but we need to have the discussion. If we won't even ask the question, how do we even recognize which is our side in a fight?"*

Firstly, politicized Islam is no one's best interest, not even of Islam's. But 'politicized Islam' is no worse as a religion than politicized Christianity, politicized Buddhism, politicized Hinduism, politicized Sikhism, or any other religion people follow and use to propagate violence against their own and others. Some may argue that Islam and politics go together considering how

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many Islamic States are governed by the practice and principals of Islam, but we would like to point out that for centuries, Christian countries were governed by 'Christian' principles of the Church and the rulers had to be subordinate to the Church. Even today, in the land of General Mattis, the United States, Christian beliefs are prominent on every dollar note, "In God We Trust", and the de rigueur ending to most political and non-political speeches, "God Bless America!". In fact, the politics of the United States most times rival the illogic fervor of any religion dominated country, so much so, even the most irreverent Donald Trump had to try to prove his 'practicing Christian' bona-fides to 'Christian America'; fortunately so incompetently that it was downright hilarious.

And if wars are the criterion, then, the recent history of the modern World would indicate that, without question, Christianity is by far the most 'political religion', as its practicing countries and people, have been to greater wars, in far greater numbers, than Islam, Islamic countries, or Muslim people.

A simple way to test the veracity of our statement would be to ask an average citizen in any part of the World to name as many wars as they could think of - in the past 100 years, and most would name wars that the 'Christian' West initiated and conducted, and was involved in, and in most of these 'namable' wars 'Christian America' was the initiator and had the leading role, including the ones the General himself was most prominently involved in, Iraq and Afghanistan.

It would be rare to come across anyone that could name any wars of note that 'political Islam' or Islamic countries actually started, except, some may remember the 'Israel - Arab War' in the early-to-late 1940s, that were years of mostly skirmishes between Arabs and Jews living in Palestine under the British. The British eventually vacated Palestine, a large part of which was immediately claimed by the Jewish people as the 'State of Israel', much to the chagrin of the Palestinian Arabs that had lived there for centuries and had been booted off their land (*a practice that is still underway, and most unfortunately is still supported rather mindlessly by the Christian supporters of Israel in 'Christian' America*). That 'War', the 'Arab vs. Israel War', is still on in a 'Cold War' sort of way, though one could argue that as a real war it really has been over for decades, with Israel winning indisputably, with the considerable help of Christian America. So labeling a religion as 'political' just shows common bias.

The other fact that the learned General Mattis seems to want to ignore and deny, by his stated public position, is the consistent reports, over two decades in black and white, by the Israeli Intelligence Agency 'Mossad' and by the American CIA, that refute the accusations, categorically, that Iran was trying to make an 'Atomic Bomb'. And believing that Iran is always looking to make the 'Bomb' (*like Netanyahu*) General Mattis has been against the American-Iran Nuclear Deal, even though it is clearly better than not having any agreement at all (*and, Britain, France, Russia and China, who were active Parties to the negotiation of the deal, think so, even now*). In denying the facts stated by Mossad and the CIA, and insisting on the exaggerated threat of Iran itself when



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both Intelligence Agencies have downplayed it, General Mattis is pressing propaganda, which may be in America's interest, but is not in the World's, or the millions of innocent Iranians who would be victims of another trumped up war against another major Middle Eastern country. And by pressing the propaganda, General Mattis also, like future boss President-Elect Donald Trump, denigrates all the good work done by President Obama and his Administration in toning down the decades of American war mongering.



*'Mattis said the next president "is going to inherit a mess" and argued that the nuclear deal signed by the Obama Administration last year may slow Iran's ambitions to get a nuclear weapon but will not stop them. But he added that "absent a clear and present violation", he did not see a way that Washington could go back on it, because any unilateral sanctions issued by the United States would not be as valuable if allies were not on board.'*

We forget that for a General, who self-admittedly 'likes to brawl', long stretches of peace in the World may not be the most exciting of prospects.

The following excerpt is from an article in the UK newspaper 'the Guardian', 23 February 2015, which corroborates our contention:

***Leaked cables show Netanyahu's Iran bomb claim contradicted by Mossad.***

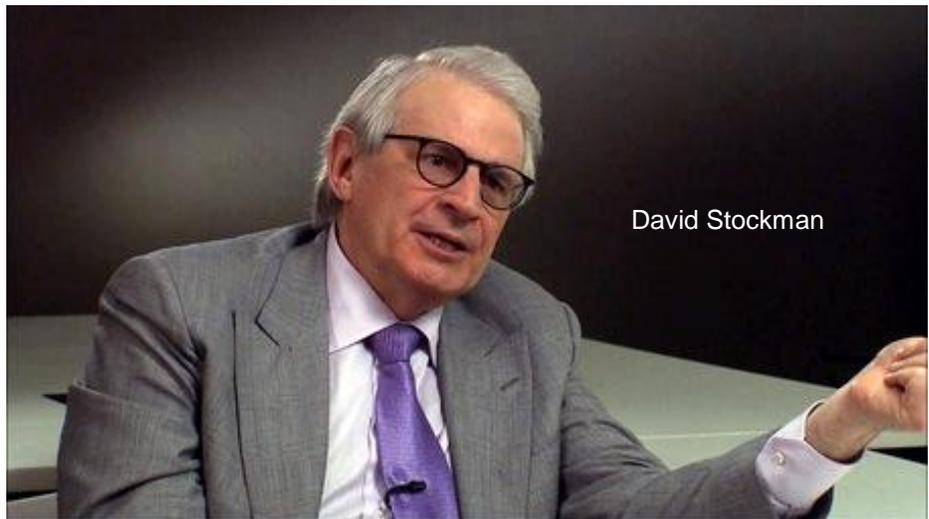
*... However, Mossad had been at odds with Netanyahu on Iran before. The former Mossad chief Meir Dagan, who left office in December 2010, let it be known that he had opposed an order from Netanyahu to prepare a military attack on Iran.*

*Other members of Israel's security establishment were riled by*

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*Netanyahu's rhetoric on the Iranian nuclear threat and his advocacy of military confrontation. In April 2012, a former head of Shin Bet, Israel's internal security agency, accused Netanyahu of "messianic" political leadership for pressing for military action, saying he and the then defence minister, Ehud Barak, were misleading the public on the Iran issue. Benny Gantz, the Israeli military chief of staff, said decisions on tackling Iran "must be made carefully, out of historic responsibility but without hysteria"...*



Additionally, David Stockman, a high ranking official in the Ronald Reagan Administration, the golden era in the collective Republican mind (*we like Reagan too, as a person particularly*), has written extensively on his excellent website 'Contra Corner', about the fallacy of the propaganda consistently put out by Israel and Washington that Iran has been developing, or has the intention of, developing any nuclear weapons. Stockman additionally goes on to elaborate in exquisite detail how the neo-con war mongering individuals in the Reagan/Bush eras were pressing for the destruction of Iran at all costs (*to the point of actively assisting and arming Saddam Hussein & Iraq in their mutually destructive 7 year war with Iran*), and were intensely unhappy upon being thwarted in their ambitions.

And that is why, considering the documented evidence that Iran was never close to completing an 'Atomic Bomb', nor, according to leaked top secret documents, did it really have any serious intention of developing one, we are perplexed by the continuing vilification of Iran even by a scholarly soldier such as General Mattis. (By the way, we are not Irani but we are fair minded)

In the meantime, of course, Israel is estimated to have approximately '200 Atomic Bombs', which fact is widely acknowledged and reported by the major Western media. So, it brings up the question as to why Israel, America and General Mattis are so adamant in denying the facts disclosed by their own Intelligence Agencies that Iran doesn't pose a Nuclear threat, and that the Agreement signed by Iran not to develop any Nuclear weapons, with the USA

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(*Obama Administration*), Britain, France, Russia and China, is not better than there not being any Agreement at all? It is a mystery - until one recognizes the fact that America sides with Sunni Saudi Arabia (*Shia Iran's main religious rival*), and other Sunni majority ruled countries/States in the Middle East that are obviously preferred to the Shia minority ruled countries, such as the now destroyed Iraq, destroyed Syria, Yemen - and to be destroyed Iran?

Saudi Arabia is the evergreen friend of the USA, even when the majority of attackers of 9/11 (*17 out of the 19*) that started the whole USA 'War on Terror' were mainly Saudi (*the other 2 were Yemeni*) as was Osama Bin Laden, yet it was the people of Iraq, Afghanistan that paid the incredibly heavy price. And now Iran is constantly mislabelled and targeted as America's greatest threat.

In our opinion, America's ability to distort global reality, for itself, is its biggest threat. Because, the distortion of reality has resulted in, what the World has seen in recent history, as very destructive USA decisions and policies that devastated entire countries under complete falsehoods, and wrought destruction of the financial World in 2008, all under the two terms of a gung-ho Republican Regime (*the era of Bush II*), as is coming in now.



An appointment of a gung-ho Ex-General, such as 'Mad Dog' Mattis, as Secretary of Defense, who espouses similar distortions of truth, under a dangerously impulsive & gung-ho Commander-in Chief (*Donald J. Trump*) who thinks he knows everything better than everybody, with an equally destructive Republican Party in control of the Congress and the Senate, whose policies in the past have neither produced Economic Prosperity nor National Security, but in fact exacerbated all threats economic, military and terrorist, are now once again distorting truth and showing the same lack of sound judgement. That is of concern, not only to us but to World leaders who have been calling and are anxious to get reassurances from President-Elect Donald Trump, and his team, that America will not once again launch into a destructive foreign policy trajectory, as in the past with the infamous last Republican Administration, whose severe damage it took Obama & Co. two full terms (*with constant obstructions from the same Republicans*) to only partially repair.

Apart from the distortion of the factual aspects of the threat to America, there is the following statement made by General Mattis that shows a disappointing lack of judgement and fairness in labeling the cultural behaviour of your 'enemy':



*"You go into Afghanistan, you got guys who slap women around for five years because they didn't wear a veil. You know, guys like that ain't got no manhood left anyway. So it's a hell of a lot of fun to shoot them. Actually, it's a lot of fun to fight. You know, it's a hell of a hoot. It's fun to shoot some people. I'll be right upfront with you, I like brawling."*

Now, one can put part of this kind of talk down to the military version of Donald Trump's 'Locker-room boy's talk'. But, just as in Donald Trump's case, as most boys and men don't talk about women in the way that he did, so Trump had to apologise, similarly, the General was reprimanded by his superiors for making the above statements publicly, and he had to apologize. Everyone is allowed some stupid utterances, and we are all willing to give the General the benefit of the doubt on some careless remarks.

But, the disturbing part of his talk that resulted in the above statements was the attitude towards the Afghan men and their behaviour. The fact that a lot of Afghani men are violent towards their women is not only a well known fact, and therefore condemned by every civilized people and society, as we thoroughly condemn it, but it ignores the other disturbing fact - that violence against women is endemic to all societies, even to the American society. And although it is not as widely accepted as in Afghanistan, it is common enough to be a problem, and deadly enough at times to make the General's statement about Afghani men a tad hypocritical and plenty nonsensical. In no society, men's behaviour towards women, and the subjugation of them, is considered deserving enough to make it "a hell of a lot of fun to shoot them". Again, this only merits a comment because General Mattis is not some ignorant person one can dismiss as, well, 'ignorant'. General Mattis is considered an intellectual and a scholar, a thinking and sensitive man. Such statements can only be made if the person making them considers men in Afghanistan far inferior and less as men than the General and his own men. To consider men as "ain't got no manhood left anyway" because of their culture specific behaviour is not to be too enlightened about the history of cultures anyway, as the General forgets it was not too many decades ago in the West, that we were not much different than those cultures that we now consider backward and primitive to ours. We changed in the West, our attitudes changed, our laws and religious mores changed, as will theirs in time.

If one is to confine the General's remarks to the 'theater of operation', and compare 'apples to apples', so to speak, violence against women is endemic to other parts of the Middle East, such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, two

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countries that General Mattis does not seem to have a problem with in this context, or in the export of terrorism.

It can be argued that Saudi Arabia may have been the most active in exporting and funding the most virulent and extreme form of 'political Islam' – Wahhabism – that the General considers America's primary threat. The European Parliament in Strasbourg named 'Wahhabism' as the main source of global terrorism.

As these are known facts, it is disturbing to hear the General still name Iran as the *primary* exporter and supporter of Islamic terrorism. This is not to argue that Iran is totally innocent, by no means, but it is also not what it is repeatedly accused as, the very worst. In singling out Iran as the worst enemy, over countries such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan that have indulged in serious indiscretions in the recent past, General Mattis is showing a distressing long-term American and Israeli bias against Iran, and a total blind eye towards Saudi, Pakistan and others, which is not very original or truthful.



And that really is the concerning part, that the most 'intellectual, scholarly, straight-shooting' General coming in as the next possible Secretary of Defense has some common built-in biases that are not rooted in truth but are long discredited biases and downright manufactured lies, which are conducive to propagating distrust, division, and the waging of war with countries with long painted targets, such as Iran and Muslims. Remember the past threats and enemies the 'Communists', that led to the 'Cold War' with Russia, the 'Nuclear Arms Race', the 'Korean War', the 'Cuban Missile Crisis', and the 'Vietnam War', which resulted in death and destruction, and not much else. And more recently, with similar fear mongering it was 'Iraq', 'Afghanistan', 'Libya', and 'Syria'. None of it made America or the World any safer or in any other way better.