



Muslim Brotherhood, Antifa, and hybrid warfare to destabilize America?

Dr Christina Lin

July 2020

Abstract

The US is currently the target of regime change-hybrid warfare to destabilize the country. Using similar tactics waged in the Syrian war such as media/information warfare, irregular warfare, stoking sectarian and racial division to foment insurgency during an election year, it appears international organizations such as the Muslim Brotherhood and Antifa are attempting to hijack domestic protests to overthrow existing government institutions. If these organizations are successful in weakening the US and stoke a civil war, this risk drawing in foreign sponsors to weaponize the civil unrest to further destabilize and balkanize the country as a new “Syria”.

About ISPSW

The Institute for Strategic, Political, Security and Economic Consultancy (ISPSW) is a private institute for research and consultancy. The ISPSW is an objective, task-oriented and politically non-partisan institute.

In the ever more complex international environment of globalized economic processes and worldwide political, ecological, social and cultural change, which occasions both major opportunities and risks, decision-makers in the economic and political arena depend more than ever before on the advice of highly qualified experts.

ISPSW offers a range of services, including strategic analyses, security consultancy, executive coaching and intercultural competency. ISPSW publications examine a wide range of topics connected with politics, the economy, international relations, and security/ defense. ISPSW network experts have worked – in some cases for decades – in executive positions and have at their disposal a wide range of experience in their respective fields of expertise.



Analysis

After decades of Western-backed regime change operations in Libya, Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Afghanistan, it appears this hybrid warfare has come home to roost in the US.

Hybrid warfare is defined as a military strategy which employs political warfare and blends conventional warfare, irregular warfare, cyberwarfare with other influencing methods such as lawfare, diplomacy, media/information warfare and foreign electoral intervention.

In Syria for example, what began in 2011 as a peaceful protest movement to support democratic reforms was quickly hijacked by Islamic extremists and their foreign patrons via hybrid warfare.

As Hassan Hassan, author of *ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror* discussed in a 2013 *Foreign Policy* article, the Muslim Brotherhood quickly embedded itself in the opposition and eventually hijacked and destroyed the movement against the Assad government.¹ This led to the devastating consequences of a destabilized and weakened country which gave rise to the black-clad ISIS.

Muslim Brotherhood

Hassan described the pattern of how early on, members of the Muslim Brotherhood would attend conferences to organize Syria's political opposition, and eventually formed new groups "to support the Syrian revolution" and bring it under its own influence.

According to members of the Syrian National Coalition who were integral to the early opposition meetings, as well as activists close to the Brotherhood, various groups served as fronts for the Brotherhood. They have misleading names with words such as "civil society", "democratic", "free", "humanitarian" in order to dupe the larger populace to support the Islamist movement.

In the article Hassan named some of those groups: The National Union of Free Syria Students, led by Hassan Darwish; the Levant Ulema League; the Independent Islamic Democratic Current, led by Ghassan Najjar; the Syrian Ulema League, led by Mohammed Farouq Battal; the Civil Society Organizations' Union, a bloc of 40 Brotherhood-affiliated groups; the Syrian Arab Tribal Council, led by Salem Al Moslet and Abdulilah Mulhim; the Revolution Council for Aleppo and Its Countryside, led by Ahmed Ramadan; the Body for Protection of Civilians, led by Natheer Hakim; the National Work Front, led by Ramadan and Obeida Nahas; the Kurdish Work Front, led by Hussain Abdulhadi; the Syrian Revolution Facebook page, which decides the names for Friday's protests; the Hama Revolution Gathering; the National Coalition for Civilian Protection, led by Haitham Rahma; and the Syrian Society for Humanitarian Relief, founded by Hamdi Othman.

The Brotherhood further benefited from the support of foreign sponsors such as Turkey, Qatar, US under the Obama administration, as well as France and Britain². However, Egypt, UAE and Saudi Arabia consider them a terrorist organization, and Egypt had sharply rebuked the US for supporting the Brotherhood.³

¹ Hassan Hasan, "How the Muslim Brotherhood Hijacked Syria's Revolution", *Foreign Policy*, March 13, 2013, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2013/03/13/how-the-muslim-brotherhood-hijacked-syrias-revolution/>

² Spencer Case, "How Obama sided with the Muslim Brotherhood", *National Review*, July 3, 2014, <https://www.nationalreview.com/2014/07/how-obama-sided-muslim-brotherhood-spencer-case/>

³ "Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood declared a 'terrorist group'", *BBC*, December 25, 2013, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-25515932>; "UAE backs Saudis on Brotherhood blacklist", *Al Arabia*, March 9, 2014, <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/03/09/UAE-backs-Saudis-with-Muslim-Brotherhood-blacklist>; John Rossomondo, "Egyptian Magazine: Muslim Brotherhood Infiltrates Obama Administration", *Investigative Project*,



Now, it appears the Muslim Brotherhood has designs on hijacking and undermining the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement.⁴ In a December 2015 speech delivered to the Annual MAS-ICNA (Muslim American Society and Islamic Circle of North America) Convention, Nihad Awad, the Executive Director of the Hamas-linked Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), urged Muslim Americans to take up the cause of BLM because “Black Lives Matter is our matter...Black Lives Matter is our campaign.”⁵

At the same conference activist Khalilah Sabra told the Muslim audience, “Basically you are the new black people of America... We are the “community that staged a revolution across the world. If we could do that, why can’t we have that revolution in America?”, in reference to the Arab Spring revolution that destroyed large swaths of the Middle East and North Africa.⁶

Interestingly observers in UAE and others have already begun to sound the alarm on possible infiltration of current US protests to stoke sectarian/racial division, but it is not clear if the BLM movement is presently aware of the Muslim Brotherhood’s history in the Middle East or actual agenda.⁷ Though, one can see how the Brotherhood’s operating method of conducting “civilization jihad” and “stealth jihad” meshes well with the current “cultural revolution” and “cancel culture”, and could be seductive for numerous unsuspecting protestors just as it was for the Syrian protestors.

Which brings up the second group that is attempting to infiltrate the BLM movement—Antifa.

Antifa

Antifa, an international organization of radical left wing, militant political activists that aim to achieve their political objectives through violent means, is an outgrowth of the Antifaschistische Aktion, an organization affiliated with the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) that existed from 1932 to 1933.

Back in 2017, as California debated listing Antifa as a street gang because of rampant violence and criminal activities, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Homeland Security had already classified them as “domestic terrorists,” according to an internal document.⁸

January 3, 2013, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/3869/egyptian-magazine-muslim-brotherhood-infiltrates>; Ahmed Shawki, “A man and 6 of the Brotherhood in the White House!”, *Rose El-Youssef*, December 22, 2013,

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/3868/a-man-and-6-of-the-brotherhood-in-the-white-house>

⁴ Mike Skruggs, “Muslim Brotherhood and Black Lives Matter”, *The Tribune Papers*, September 28, 2016,

<https://www.tribunepapers.com/2016/09/28/the-muslim-brotherhood-and-black-lives-matter/>; William Kilpatrick, “Islam, Revolution, and Black Lives Matter”, *Crisis Magazine*, July 14, 2016, <https://www.crisismagazine.com/2016/islam-revolution-black-lives-matter>

⁵ Robert Spencer, “Dallas and the Leftist/Islamic Alliance”, *Frontpage Magazine*, July 11, 2016,

<https://archives.frontpagemag.com/fpm/dallas-and-leftist-islamic-alliance-robert-spencer/>

⁶ “Obama blamed for Libyan slave trade as video goes viral”, *Aol news*, December 5, 2017,

<https://www.aol.com/article/news/2017/12/05/obama-blamed-for-libyan-slave-trade-as-shocking-video-goes-viral/23298384/>;

“Why Obama Must Take Some Blame for Slavery in Libya”, *LA Progressive*, December 2, 2017,

<https://www.laprogressive.com/libyan-slavery/>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/chillum/status/1266799984671932417>; Anthony Gockowski, “Miss Iraq Says Ilhan Omar Exporting

‘Muslim Brotherhood Agenda’ to America”, *The Tennessee Star*, August 17, 2019,

<https://tennesseestar.com/2019/08/17/miss-iraq-says-ilhan-omar-exporting-muslim-brotherhood-agenda-to-america/>

⁸ James Queally, Benjamin Oreskes, Richard Winton, “After Bay Area Violence, California debates classifying ‘antifa’ as a

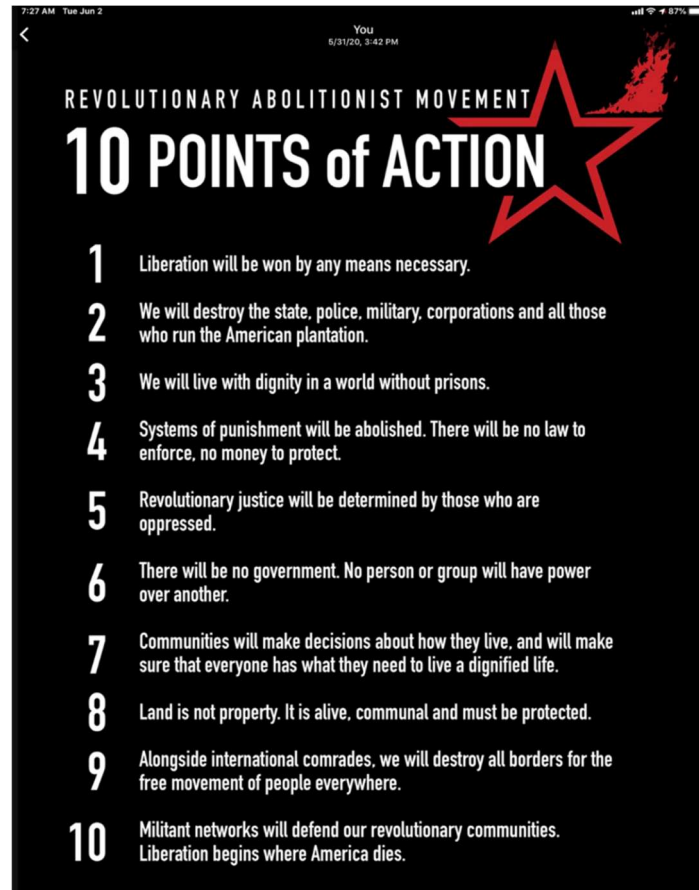
street gang”, *Los Angeles Times*, September 4, 2017, <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-antifa-gang-20170904-story.html>;

Lucy Pasha-Robinson, “Antifa: U.S. security agencies label group ‘domestic terrorists’”, *The Independent*,

September 4, 2017, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/antifa-domestic-terrorists-us-security-agencies->

FBI surveillance also discovered some college students in Antifa had ties with ISIS and al-Qaeda to gain access to bombs and chemical weapons and training in tactics for “possible massive disruptive attacks in the US.”⁹

As journalist Lara Logan reported, Antifa’s manifesto includes abolition of a country’s government institutions, police and military.¹⁰



This is currently being witnessed in riot cities such as Portland, Seattle, and Chicago where swarms of black-clad Antifa militants carrying umbrellas, at times wearing high-grade gas masks, embed themselves with legitimate protestors to burn federal courthouse, federal buildings, and attack police officers—similar to how Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamic extremists embedded themselves with the Syrian protestors—and attempt to provoke domestic security forces to fire at the protestors in order to incite a “civil war.”¹¹

[homeland-security-fbi-a7927881.html](https://www.politico.com/story/2017/09/01/antifa-charlottesville-violence-fbi-242235); Josh Meyer, “Homeland Security warn of more ‘antifa’ attacks”, *Politico*, September 1, 2017, <https://www.politico.com/story/2017/09/01/antifa-charlottesville-violence-fbi-242235>

⁹ Jacob Grandstaff, “FBI surveillance uncovers collusion between college-age Antifa members and ISIS”, *Washington Examiner*, October 31, 2017, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/red-alert-politics/fbi-surveillance-uncovers-collusion-college-age-antifa-members-isis>

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/laralogan/status/1267796342732214277>; <https://news.yahoo.com/antifa-own-words-lara-logan-114643409.html>

¹¹ M. Dowling, “Antifa attacks federal courthouse with mortars”, *Independent Sentinel*, July 3, 2020, <https://www.independentsentinel.com/antifa-attacks-federal-courthouse-with-mortars/>; <https://twitter.com/HomelandKen/status/1285741857583005696> WGN TV News, July 17, 2020,

Nonetheless, some BLM protestors are cognizant of Antifa’s subversive agenda and beginning to call them out, while other observers noted how Antifa co-opting a peaceful movement to commit violence that pins the blame on BLM is actually racist itself.¹²

Destabilize and balkanize

Even China, with its painful history of a similar Cultural Revolution that killed two million people, crippled the economy, and thrust the Chinese into 10 years of turmoil, bloodshed, hunger and stagnation, can see these anarchist militants and radical white left, the “Baizhuo” (白左), could wreak serious havoc in its host countries if left unabated.¹³

And as these increasingly violent and hijacked protests continue to fester and grow while US politicians are bickering amongst themselves, one wonders which foreign sponsors are lying in wait as this hybrid warfare further weakens the US to become a new “Syria” for regime change and balkanization.¹⁴



Source: *The Atlantic*, June 29, 2010

<https://twitter.com/WGNNews/status/1284287185508864006>; WGN TV News, “Chicago police release video footage of protests at Columbus statue”, July 20, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1VdhQbfSTY>

¹² <https://twitter.com/bennyjohnson/status/1267163040233000969>; <https://twitter.com/JaValle/status/1267250753422241792>; “‘Damn Shame’: Pittsburgh Police Chief Says White Males Dressed In Anarchist Attire Hijacked George Floyd Protests Downtown”, *CBS News Pittsburgh*, May 30, 2020, <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/05/30/cheif-schubert-floyd-protests-comments/>

¹³ Tom Phillips, “The Cultural Revolution: all you need to know about China’s political convulsion”, *The Guardian*, May 10, 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/11/the-cultural-revolution-50-years-on-all-you-need-to-know-about-chinas-political-convulsion>; Qu Qiuyan, “Chinese derogatory social media term for ‘white left’ Western elites spread”, *Global Times*, May 21, 2017, <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1047989.shtml> <https://supchina.com/2018/04/23/kuora-the-origin-of-baizuo-chinese-libtard-white-left/>

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/cjtruth/status/1267902003553984512>; Patrick Ottenhoff, “Map of the Day: Ex-KGB Analyst Predicts Balkanization of U.S.”, June 29, 2010, <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/06/map-of-the-day-ex-kgb-analyst-predicts-balkanization-of-us/58945/>



As warned by General James Delk, commander of Operation Garden Plot which is the Pentagon's Civil Disturbance Plan to restore law and order during the 1992 Los Angeles riots, pulling the police out of riot situations only emboldened the rioters and subsequently provoked the deployment of US Marines in California.¹⁵ With history repeating itself in 2020 and current calls to abolish U.S. law enforcement in the face of escalating hybrid warfare, it appears likely Washington would need to deploy Marines again to quell the rising insurgency threat to U.S. national security.

Remarks: Opinions expressed in this contribution are those of the author. This article first appeared in *The Times of Israel* on July 20, 2020.

About the Author of this Issue

Dr. Christina Lin is a California-based foreign policy analyst. She has extensive US government experience working on national security policy planning, including at DoD, State, and NSC, and was a research consultant at Jane's Information Group's Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear Assessments Intelligence Centre.



Christina Lin

¹⁵ James D. Delk, *Fires and Furies—the L.A. Riots, what really happened* (Palm Springs, CA: ETC Publications, 1995); "Garden Plot/CONPLAN 2502 (Civil Disturbance Operations", *Global Security*, https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/garden_plot.htm