

NOTES ON ABDULLAH AZZAM

Abdullah Azzam was the founder of al Qaida al Sulbah (The Solid Foundation). He was the mentor of Usamah bin Ladin and a qualified religious jurisprudent who taught at Al Azhar U. He was also a Palestinian. Bin Ladin may have heard of him in Jiddah. They definitively met during the Soviet war in Afghanistan and founded al Qaida. Azzam was mysteriously blown up in Pakistan. Afterwards, the fugitives from Egyptian Jihad, including Ayman al Zawahiri, took over leadership of al Qaida from bin Ladin. Their heterodox theology was expressed in the infamous pamphlet left at the site of their assassination of Anwar Sadat, *The Necessary Duty*. This is the founding theological argument for jihad of the sword. It took on the religious experts at al Azhar and issued a call to jihad to all Muslims to defend the religion against encroachment from secularism and kuffar. The influence of the Egyptian teacher, government official, author, martyr, Said Qutb, upon Salafi jihadism in Egypt is well known, leading orthodox Salafis to discredit jihadism by calling them "Qutbists." Azzam "lives" as a founder/martyr in the al Qaida movement, as evidenced by the taking of his name as a mentor, e.g., Adam Gadahn's nom de guerre is "Azzam al Amriki."

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