

Should Britain Bomb Islamic State?

By **Alexander Baron** - Nov 30, 2015



9
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Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn has come under intense pressure to vote for the bombing of Islamic State; the Shadow Cabinet has lined up with the Government, while Corbyn opposes such bombing along with most of the general public. Before the Labour leadership race, Corbyn was not only a rank outsider but was regarded as a joke figure. Be that as it may, and whatever his views on either Leon Trotsky or the Queen, he is right about this, and hopefully he and sanity will prevail.

To begin with, while it is true that Britannia once ruled the waves and English is the *lingua franca of the Universe*, Britain is now no longer even a fifth rate power. The Sun has long since set on the mightiest empire that ever existed, and now that we have literally civilised the world, there is no need for it to exist anymore. Unfortunately, one part of that civilised world has now receded to a new dark age, but is it our responsibility to tackle it?

The population of the UK is now around 65 million, a fifth of the US population, and let us not forget India, which like the new rising power China, has a population well in excess of one billion. What has been called the death cult of Islamic State is as much a threat to China in the long run as it is to the UK. Then there is the much vaunted United Nations. All these and more – Russia for example – are better placed to tackle the problem than the UK. Whether or not they decide to bomb it, we should not.

On November 16, Corbyn made **a cogent statement** to the BBC, and it sounds as reasonable today as it did then. Why should we not bomb Islamic State? There are many reasons. As Corbyn says, ultimately there has to be a political solution, however unpalatable that may appear to us now. If we do bomb it, we will have blood on our hands, because innocent people will die. Even the drones which have been used in so-called targeted strikes for the past decade and more have killed countless innocents from the elderly to babes in arms.

Mass bombing – and that is what we are talking about – will increase the flood of refugees which the UK and the rest of Europe do not have the will to stop, even though there is a **very easy way** to stop it.

Bombing Islamic State will not make us anymore secure, and indeed may well lead to further attacks on our streets, not necessarily as terrible as Paris, but bad enough.

All that is fine, but what should we do? The very first thing we must do is tighten our borders. Last week a man **was convicted** of smuggling massive quantities of drugs into the UK in a fleet of fake ambulances. This had been going on for some time. What if these vehicles had been transporting bombs or guns instead? The other thing we should do is strike at the funding of this perfidious entity. Something of that size cannot exist without resources, and to get these it needs to trade or buy.

Writing in *City A.M.* on Friday, Tom Keatinge **pointed out** that:

“All too often, lofty commitments to tackle terrorist financing are made without the necessary strategy and resources in place.”

We, Europe, the world, must quarantine this death cult, this is the only way it can be stopped without further perpetuating a cycle of no-win wars, one our recent ancestors thought would end in 1918.

9
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