## What it Takes for Islamic Intellectuals Today: An Evening with Khaled Abou El Fadl

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The Christian Right conceived of a concept that became very useful for the pro-Zionist movement. And that is the idea that modernity, civilization, everything you see, from cars to planes to electricity to computers, everything ... is a product of **Judeo-Christian values**. In other words, Judaism and Christianity – not secularism, not atheism, but Judaism and Christianity – cumulatively produced the values that allowed for scientific advancement, for industrialization, for human rights, for humanitarianism.

Now, and here is where *we* become relevant, that this Judeo-Christian civilization exists in opposition to civilizations that are not Judeo-Christian. So, what civilization is not Judeo-Christian? The only civilization they found, that they could point to, is **Islam**. This correlated to a time in the 80s and 90s when the number of Muslims in the West is rising sharply, and the proponents of the Judeo-Christian intellectual trajectory looked at this and said this is extremely dangerous. This is very dangerous for the future of our societies in Europe and the United States.

What do we do? Well, we mobilize, and we create an alliance with our natural allies – the **pro-Israeli lobby**, the Daniel Pipes. This is how Robert Spencer, from the Christian Right, became wedded to Daniel Pipes, from the Zionist Right. They met together. They met especially with a well-known and well-documented group of industrialists and financiers, convinced them of the danger that they meet; they convinced them that Western civilization is in danger by the rise of Islam and got them to fund everything. ... The way they work is actually wonderfully synchronistic.

There is about **20 intellectuals** that are very well-funded. Now, I'll tell you, all these intellectuals for the most part are failures in academia. They couldn't get jobs in the academic market. But it didn't matter because with money you can create your own academic forum. Those 20 intellectuals – all of them have doctorates, all of them have some intellectual credentials, Daniel Pipes graduated from Harvard – worked closely with a group of activists, and these activists don't pretend to be intellectuals, in the same way that the intellectuals don't pretend to be activists.

They **coordinate** their movements with well-known media outlets – like Fox, like Sean Hannity and so on – and with certain politicians. So it's four groups – the intellectuals, the activists, the politicians, and the media. And we will try to put on the screen at the end a chart where you'll actually see the connections drawn. What is amazing is that money can engineer a great deal of falsehood.