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Period C
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Article Evaluation Worksheet

Title: What is “Islamofascism”?

Author: Stephen Schwartz

News Source (Page): The Weekly Standard

Date: August 17, 2006

What is the general subject of the article?

The author, who coined the word Islamofascism, justifies his use of the term and how it accurately describes Islamic terrorist groups.

What is its main idea and overall purpose?

The main idea of the article is that Islamic terrorism is similar to fascism in many respects. The purpose of the article is support the author’s thesis about this, and why the term “Islamofascism” is correct and justified, and not libelous towards Islamic groups as it has often been interpreted to be.

What topic in the course does it relate to?

The article relates to our study of fascism and totalitarian regimes prior to WWII.

Five details supporting the main idea:

- a) Both ideologies willingly defy public civility and openly violate the law
- b) Both ideologies rely on the anxieties and frustrations of the middle class
- c) Both ideologies are imperialistic, totalitarian, and paramilitary
- d) Despite his use of Islamofascism, the author believes it doesn’t relate to Islam
- e) We must treat this in the same way we did past fascist regimes, to preserve democracy

Is this article a fair treatment of the topic?

The article fairly points out the comparisons on which the author based his thesis on, drawing parallels between Islamic terrorism and the fascist states of the mid-20th century. He does so unbiasedly, stating only factual comparisons, and specifically states that he doesn’t intend to offend Islamic groups by this. He believes this is necessary in order to preserve democracy.

State and explain your point of view and how this article deals with it. (Critique the article.)

As I have never heard the term before, this article is the first time I have considered the parallels between Islamic terrorism and the fascist states of the mid-20th century. This is something I hadn’t considered simply because their structure was different. While fascist states existed as governments and regimes, Islamic terrorism only exists as a movement (for the most part). Thus, I hadn’t seen before where the two ideologies overlap. I believe the author succeeds in justifying his comparison, but his half-hearted pitch for democracy at the end of the article leaves something to be desired. How should we treat these groups, then, if they are fascist? Similar to earlier fascist regimes? Should we learn from our past and apply these lessons to Islamofascism, or are they different subjects altogether? I am not certain, and the article does not clearly express, where the *importance* in making this comparison is. It is certainly able to make a minimal distinction between some Islamic terrorist groups, but I wonder if it does much good beyond giving evil a name.