

WHY THEY HATE US

RICK SHENKMAN

An Iraqi student on NBC News, April 2002, says he “loves American culture and would like to study in the US, but if I have to choose between Harvard and Jihad, I'll choose Jihad.” What could be scarier?

Since 9-11 we have been filled with questions, one above all others: Why do they hate us? Why did people dance in the streets of Palestine when they heard that the Twin Towers had fallen? Are they insane? Evil?

Some on the Left say it's the price of our arrogance, the way we throw our weight around in the world. President Bush says it's because they don't understand us. Others say it's because they're envious of our wealth and power. Still others suggest that Arab regimes, in particular, are using us as scapegoats to obscure their own failures.

In an exciting lecture rooted in history, Shenkman shows that people hate us—but that we don't know how to deal with hatred. People have hated us and loved us for hundreds of years. Love we understand, but hatred? Hatred is outside the American tradition. And because it is, we are intellectually and emotionally unprepared to deal with the threat we are facing.

We don't hate others, how can they hate us? And how can they hate our values? Don't they want what we want? Shenkman explains that they don't ... and that it's dangerous to think that they do.

Shenkman helps us move beyond the daily headlines to explain why so many people hate us today and what can be done about it.

Rick Shenkman is the New York Times best-selling author of PRESIDENTIAL AMBITION: How the Presidents Gained Power, Kept Power & Got Things Done (HarperCollins, 1999) and Legends, Lies, & Cherished Myths of American History. Legends... was the NY Times best seller which spawned The Learning Channel's prime-time history series “Myth America.”

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