

The ancient order of the historical Assassins, currently known as the *Nizari, Ismaili Sect*, was an esoteric, breakaway branch of Shia Islam, that has greatly changed the history of the entire Middle East and beyond.

Their current leader is known as the *Aga Khan*, meaning *Lord*, or *master*, and serves as spiritual guide to the millions of followers worldwide. The title was first bestowed on the Imam of the Nizari Ismailis in 1818 by the Persian Shah.

The Aga Khan is believed to be a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad through his daughter Fatima and son-in-law Ali. Contrary to popular opinion, the group never ceased to exist as a political and military force after the Mongol invasion.

Currently, the role of the Aga Khan also centres on overseeing the Aga Khan Development Network, a global humanitarian and philanthropic organization focused on education, healthcare, and economic development, particularly prominent in Asia, Africa and India.

The forty-eight Imam of the Ismaili branch of Shia Islam, Sir Sultan Muhammad Shah, or Aga Khan III, is considered one of the founding fathers of Pakistan. He also served as the first president of the All-India Muslim League and as president of the League of Nations.

The Muslim Brotherhood, on the other hand, is a Sunni Islam organization, founded in Ismailia, Egypt in 1928 by Hassan al-Banna. It is considered the world's most influential contemporary Islamist movement, spreading rapidly in many western cultures, especially since the 1950s, and particularly in Austria.

The Muslim Brotherhood was founded on the belief that Islam is a complete system for both public and private life, and, therefore, advocates for a total Islamization of politics and society, to reflect its morals and laws.

In each country, the movement has taken on different forms to adapt to the local conditions. It operates mainly through charities, education and hospitals in order to build grassroots support. However, despite the group's engagement in social services, it has been banned in Egypt and labelled a terrorist organization by several countries.

In fact, many historians have pointed out that right from the very beginning the Muslim Brotherhood was inspired by fascism and that even today its guiding principles, social and economic policies, and organizational structure are fascist in some way or form.

Nowhere is this more evident than in both group's intense hatred for Jews. For example, Sayyid Qutb, the Muslim Brotherhood's ideological father, showed antisemitism in many of his major works. In his work entitled *Milestones*, he writes that the Jews are behind materialism, animal sexuality, the destruction of the family and the dissolution of society.

In addition, historians report that just a few years before the State of Israel was established, the Muslim Brotherhood organized the Parliamentary Conference for the Arab and Muslim Countries in Cairo, October seven to eleven 1938, where they distributed Arabic translations of *Mein Kampf*.

Other writers explore the Nazi Party's unrelenting efforts to gain support from Muslims in the Middle East through the prominent role played by Haj Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, who later collaborated with the Germans to recruit Bosnian Muslims for the Waffen-SS.

Finally, most reliable accounts indicate that Yasser Arafat was more than just a sympathizer or informal associate with the Muslim Brotherhood. He fought alongside them during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and was imprisoned in Egypt in 1954 for his ties to the group.

To conclude, these historical facts surrounding radical Sunni and Shia Islam serve not only as a reminder of the realities surrounding the Bible's description of end-time, counterfeit Christianity, but also to her ties and dependence on them both.