

But Wh...Wh..What about...!?: Islam and Finding Something Else to Worry About

by **Thomas Samm** (March 2015)

Whataboutery is a slim quiver in the bows of adolescent debaters. High on the rush of self-importance granted by the lectern, they revert to the lexicon of debate itself in order to accuse and discredit their opponent. The young discover meta as an enthralling meter in which to argue matter. *Tu quoque*, *ad hominen*, and *ad verecundiam* are other supposedly fallacious objections they raise to argument, and they are preferred; the arrows of criticism threaten a deeper incision when riding on the pseudo-linguistic winds of Latinate terminology. Whataboutery, however, is their most utilized allegation. And they are often right. It doesn't require a modern day Cicero, after all, to retort "conditions in Gaza" to "rocket attacks in southern Israel"; or vice versa. As a debating tactic, whataboutery takes you into a cul-de-sac of accusation and counter-accusation so single dimensional, that, perforce, discussion dissolves into yelling, or ends only when either debater has run out of historical exempla to launch at their opponent. [more>>>](#)