

FAREED'S BRIEFING BOOK

02-07-2010

KING ABDULLAH II



King Abdullah II

King Abdullah II is the current King of Jordan. He is a member of the Hashemite family and is reportedly a 43rd-generation direct descendant of Muhammad. He is the eldest son of the late King Hussein who ruled for forty-six years.

Abdullah spent his early years in Amman then England and finally the United States where he attended Deerfield Academy and the Eaglebrook School.

He entered the British Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1980 and left as lieutenant Colonel in 1993 when he returned to Jordan to serve in the Jordanian Special Forces. He retired at the rank of Major General following the death of his father, His Majesty King Hussein in February 1999.

Since his ascension to the throne, King Abdullah II has contributed to Jordan's economic growth and social development. Under King Abdullah's reign, Jordan was admitted to the World Trade Organization, and ratified agreements for the establishment of a Free Trade Area with the United States of America, the European Union, the European Free Trade Association countries, and sixteen Arab countries. Jordan's economic growth was rapidly increasing over the last five years until the global economic recession. Abdullah has also worked towards the establishment of a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Abdullah holds a number of decorations from various countries. He is a qualified frogman, pilot and a free-fall parachutist. His other interests include automobile racing, water sports, scuba diving and collecting ancient weapons and armaments.

Click [HERE](#) for his official website

JORDAN UNDER ABDULLAH

["Jordan's King Remakes His Government"](#) *New York Times*

["King meets world leaders at Davos forum"](#) *Jordan Times*

Read more about Jordan [HERE](#) (CIA Factbook)

[Times Topics: Jordan](#) *The New York Times*

["Loss of Palestinians' Citizenship is Assailed"](#) *The New York Times*

A human rights group criticized Jordan on Monday for stripping the citizenship of nearly 3000 Jordanians of Palestinian origin in recent years. Concerned about increasing numbers of Palestinians, who make up nearly half the population, Jordan began in 2004 revoking the citizenship from Palestinians who do not have Israeli permits to reside in the West Bank. Human Rights Watch said Jordan stripped about 2,700 Jordanians of Palestinian origin of their citizenship between 2004 and 2008, rendering them stateless.

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Abdullah told Fareed that this "is probably the first time where I'm somewhat pessimistic [regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process]. We are waiting for the United States to hopefully give us their undivided attention on this issue. So if we don't get a clear mandate over the next month or so, then I'm not convinced that we're going to move the process forward."

LATEST NEWS:

[" Hamas Insists Rockets Were Not Aimed at Civilians "](#) *New York Times*

["The Jewish dilemma of accepting Evangelical support"](#) *Ha'aretz*

["Uncertainty looms over Gaza war crimes allegations"](#) *CNN*

[" Hamas "regrets" civilian deaths, Israel unmoved "](#) *Reuters*

["Fatah official back from Gaza: We paved way to new ties"](#) *Ynetnews*

["Netanyahu: Peace talks with Palestinians 'within weeks'"](#) *Ha'aretz*

["The land between the sea and the river is Palestine"](#) *Al-Arabiya*

AFGHANISTAN BOMBING

Recently, a Jordanian man blew himself up in Afghanistan, killing CIA officers, and it led to a great deal of speculation about Jordan's role in trying to take on al-Qaeda. Fareed asked Abdullah if he has an active role in combating in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

["Islamists Press Jordan to Stop Aiding U.S. Forces in Afghanistan"](#) *New York Times*

["Jordan opposition demands end to cooperation with CIA"](#) *AFP*

["Obama Pays Tribute to Fallen CIA Officers"](#) *New York Times (blog)*

["Attacker in Afghanistan Was a Double Agent"](#) *New York Times*

HOTEL BOMBINGS IN AMMAN

King Abdullah II speaks about Jordan's "own 9/11 - the ninth of November, 2005 where 3 bombs were set off in hotels, we lost 60 people and over 100 wounded. If you compare that to the figures of America's 9/11, it was almost double the casualties for our country for our size. And it, you know, I made my mind up then that, you know, were not going to be defensive. If we felt that people were going to target Jordan, we would target them"

Summary of events: [2005 Amman bombings: Facts, Discussion Forum, and Encyclopedia Article](#)

["The Effects of the Amman Bombings on U.S.-Jordanian Relations" CFR](#)

JOHN YOO

John Yoo

John Yoo is a professor of law at the University of California at Berkeley known for being the Justice Department lawyer who wrote the so-called "torture memos" during the Bush administration

Yoo graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University with a bachelor's degree in American history. After college he worked as a newspaper reporter in Washington, D.C. and then went on to obtain his J.D. from Yale. While there, he was an articles editor for the Yale Law Journal.



Yoo joined the UC Berkeley law faculty in 1993, and then clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court. Later he taught at the University of Chicago Law School and at the Free University of Amsterdam.

From 2001-2003, Yoo served in the Office of Legal Counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he worked on issues involving foreign affairs, national security, and the separation of powers. Though he only served for two years and never rose higher than the rank of assistant attorney general, his bold assertion of executive power and rejection of international law helped shaped some of the administration's most controversial policies.

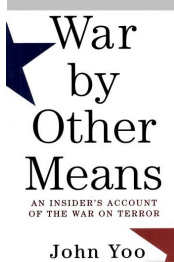
Yoo was a primary author of a series of legal opinions dubbed the "terror memos," legal justifications for the use of torture and highly coercive interrogation tactics, which argued that prisoner of war status under the Geneva Conventions did not apply to enemy combatants captured during the War in Afghanistan. He also wrote a 2002 memorandum that gave legal backing to warrantless wiretapping.

Yoo left government in 2003 to return to teaching law at UC Berkeley. When he left the Bush administration, an opinion he wrote on interrogations with the head of the legal counsel office, Jay S. Bybee, was leaked to the press and publicly disavowed by the White House, and later investigated. He was cleared of professional-misconduct allegations connected to his 2002 memo last week.

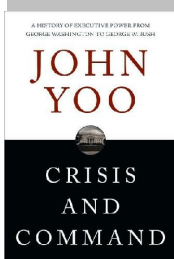
In 2006, Professor Yoo held the Distinguished Fulbright Chair in Law at the University of Trento, Italy. He has received fellowships from the Olin Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation. He has also received the Bator Award for excellence in legal scholarship and teaching from the Federalist Society.

Yoo continues to publish books and articles on foreign affairs, national security, and constitutional law.

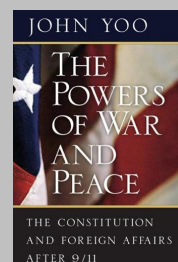
BOOKS:



[War by Other Means: An Insider's Account of the War on Terror](#)



[Crisis and Command: A History of Executive Power from George Washington to George W. Bush](#)



[The Powers of War and Peace: The Constitution and Foreign Affairs after 9/11](#)

TERROR MEMOS:

Here are a few examples of the "terror memos" signed by John Yoo:

- [September 25, 2001 Memorandum](#) for David S. Kris, Associate Deputy Attorney General, "Re: Constitutionality of Amending Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to Change 'Purpose' Standard for Searches" (signed by John C. Yoo).
 - Claims the US Federal Government's "right to self defense" authorized warrantless searches under the Fourth Amendment. Repudiated.
- [October 23, 2001 Memorandum](#) for Alberto Gonzales and William J. Haynes, II, "Re: Authority for Use of Military Force to Combat Terrorist Activities *Within the United States*" (signed by John C. Yoo and Robert J. Delahunty).
 - Claims the U.S. military can ignore several Constitutional provisions: the Fourth Amendment, the Takings Clause, and the First Amendment. Repudiated.
- [December 28, 2001 Memorandum](#) for William J. Haynes II, "Re: Possible Habeas Jurisdiction Over Aliens Held in Guantánamo Bay" (signed by John C. Yoo and Patrick F. Philbin).

- Claimed that US district courts have no jurisdiction to help US prisoners held in Guantánamo. Contrary to the opinions in this memo, the Supreme Court found habeas corpus jurisdiction over foreigners imprisoned in Guantánamo by the United States Government, in *Rasul v. Bush*.
- [January 9, 2002 draft Memorandum](#) for William J. Haynes II, "Application of Treaties and Laws to al Qaeda and Taliban Detainees", by John Yoo and Robert J. Delahunty.
 - Claims that al Qaeda and Taliban members are "not governed by the bulk of the Geneva Conventions, specifically those provisions concerning POWs." This memo promptly led on January 19, 2002 to a secret order from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to his combat commanders, repeating its conclusions, and specifically ordering that the order be transmitted to "Joint Task Force 160", which at the time was setting up the new detainee prison at Guantánamo. The Supreme Court rejected this legal reasoning on June 29, 2006 in *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, which stated, "The conflict with al Qaeda is not, according to the Government, a conflict to which the full protections afforded detainees under the 1949 Geneva Conventions apply [...]. [T]here is at least one provision of the Geneva Conventions that applies here [...]. Common Article 3 [...] is applicable here and [...] requires that Hamdan be tried by a 'regularly constituted court affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.'" On July 7, 2006, Gordon England of the Defense Department ordered that Common article 3 of the Geneva Convention – which prohibits inhumane treatment of prisoners and requires certain basic legal rights at trial – would apply to all detainees held in US military custody.
- [June 27, 2002 Memorandum](#) for Daniel J. Bryant, "Re: Applicability of 18 U.S.C. 4001(a) to Military Detention of United States Citizen" (signed by John C. Yoo).
 - Claims that statute flatly saying "No citizen shall be imprisoned or otherwise detained by the United States except pursuant to an Act of Congress" does not, and constitutionally could not, interfere with Bush's claimed authority to detain José Padilla as 'Commander in Chief'. Repudiated.

John Yoo's American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research working papers series

[Introduction](#)

[Conclusion](#)

[more](#)

ARTICLES BY JOHN YOO:

["Obama Made a Rash Decision on Gitmo"](#) *Wall Street Journal*

["Obama's Defensive Security Won't Work"](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*

["Platitudes Won't Guarantee World Peace"](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*

["The Khalid Sheikh Mohammed Trial Will Be an Intelligence Bonanza for al Qaeda"](#) *Wall Street Journal*

["Closing Arguments: History Shows Targeting the CIA Is a Perilous Move"](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*

["Why We Endorsed Warrantless Wiretaps"](#) *Wall Street Journal*

["Obama White House: Under Its Confused Policy, Terrorism \(and Piracy\) Is Really a Crime and Not an Act of War"](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*

["Yes, We Did Plan for Mumbai-Style Attacks in the U.S."](#) *Wall Street Journal*

["Obama Made a Rash Decision on Gitmo"](#) *Wall Street Journal*

ARTICLES ABOUT JOHN YOO:

["Why The Obama Administration Defends John Yoo"](#) *The Atlantic Monthly*

["DOJ to Clear Torture-Memo Authors Yoo, Bybee of Wrongdoing"](#) *Wall Street Journal*

["Deconstructing John Yoo"](#) *Harper's Magazine*

["No sanctions for Bush lawyers who approved waterboarding, report will say"](#) *Washington Post*

["The Power To Protect"](#) *Wall Street Journal*

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