

## Egypt and Costello

by Jeff Goode  
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DELTA. Did you hear what's going on in Egypt?  
ALPHA. What's going on in Egypt?  
CHARLIE. Wait, we're going to war with Egypt now?  
DELTA. Hell, no! Why would we do that?  
CHARLIE. Well, they're a Muslim country, aren't they?  
DELTA. Why would you say that?  
CHARLIE. Well, they're an Arab country, aren't they?  
ALPHA. They're an African country is what they are.  
DELTA. What?! No, they're not!  
ALPHA. They're in Africa.  
DELTA. They're in the Middle East.  
ALPHA. They're in the Middle East, in North Africa.  
DELTA. They're Arabs.  
CHARLIE. So that's why we're going to war with them?  
DELTA. Who said anything about war?  
CHARLIE. You said they were Muslims.  
ALPHA. They're secular, actually.  
CHARLIE. And we're at war with Muslims.  
ALPHA. We're at war with terrorism.  
CHARLIE. Would you stop repeating everything I say?  
DELTA. We're not at war with Egyptian terrorism.  
CHARLIE. Then what kind of terrorism are we at war with?  
DELTA. We're not at war with all terrorism, okay? We'd have to invade Ireland, wouldn't we?  
ALPHA. Or Chechnya.  
CHARLIE. What's Chechnya?  
ALPHA. It's in Russia  
DELTA. There! See? We're not at war with Russian terrorism. The Cold War is over.  
ALPHA. Russians are the victims, actually. Of Chechnyan terrorism.  
DELTA. Then how is that terrorism?  
CHARLIE. So why are we at war with Egypt?  
DELTA. Because they're Muslims!  
CHARLIE. *(to Alpha)* You said they're secular.  
DELTA. It's the same thing!  
ALPHA. No, it's not. It's the opposite.  
CHARLIE. Are we at war with secular terrorism?  
ALPHA. We're secular.  
DELTA. The hell we are!  
CHARLIE. So secular terrorism is okay?  
DELTA. *(to Alpha)* You take that back!  
ALPHA. The Egyptians are secular.

DELTA. Make up your damn mind!

CHARLIE. So why are we at war with them?

DELTA. Because they're protesting to overthrow the government that we put in place and restore democracy.

ALPHA. Actually, no.

CHARLIE. But don't we want that? Democracy?

DELTA. They can have democracy when they pry it from my cold dead hands. We gotta think of Israel here.

CHARLIE. What's this got to do with Israel?

DELTA. It's got everything to do with Israel! Do you think we'd give a camel's ass what goes on in Egypt if they weren't at war with Israel?

ALPHA. I don't think they're at war.

DELTA. Or whatever you want to call it. "Police Action."

ALPHA. There's a peace treaty.

CHARLIE. With who?

DELTA. There is not! We don't negotiate with terrorists.

ALPHA. They're not terrorists!

CHARLIE. Then why are they protesting?

ALPHA. Maybe they don't like their government.

DELTA. I don't like my government. Do you think that makes me a terrorist?

ALPHA. Nobody's calling you a terrorist.

DELTA. Are you calling me a Muslim?

ALPHA. (*sarcastic*) No, you're a Buddhist.

DELTA. You take that back!

CHARLIE. Wait, whoa!

DELTA. (*to Alpha*) I will gut you in your sleep!

CHARLIE. Nobody's a Buddhist, okay? We're all Americans.

ALPHA. Buddhists are Americans, too.

DELTA. Where do you come up with this shit?

ALPHA. There's even Egyptian-Americans.

CHARLIE. If there's Buddhists in America, whose in Budapest?

DELTA. Turks.

CHARLIE. Are they terrorists?

ALPHA. No, they're Muslim! And they're not Turks, they're Hungarian! And they're not Muslim, they're Catholic.

CHARLIE. You said they were Muslim.

ALPHA. The Turks are.

CHARLIE. So they're terrorists.

ALPHA. No, they're our allies.

DELTA. We don't negotiate with terrorists!

ALPHA. No, we negotiate with Turks.

DELTA. You take that back!!

CHARLIE. And they're at war with Egypt?

ALPHA. Nobody's at war with Egypt.

CHARLIE. Then why do we keep saying we're at war with Egypt?

ALPHA. I don't know. Why do you keep saying we're at war with Egypt?

DELTA. Because Egypt is at war with Israel. And we're at war with whoever's at war with Israel, including our allies, because any enemy of an enemy is a friend of a friend. And with friends like me, who needs friends like Egypt. Or Israel. Or Turkey.

*(Beat.)*

CHARLIE. Okay... But here's what I don't understand....

*(They wait with bated breath as Charlie considers the options. Finally...)*

CHARLIE. If they're Hungarian, why don't they just eat?

***(BLACKOUT!!)***

ALPHA. Oh, for Christ's—

***(I said, "BLACKOUT"!!)***