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Atomic Jihad (2009/MVD Visual DVD)

Picture: C Sound: C
Extras: C- Feature: C-

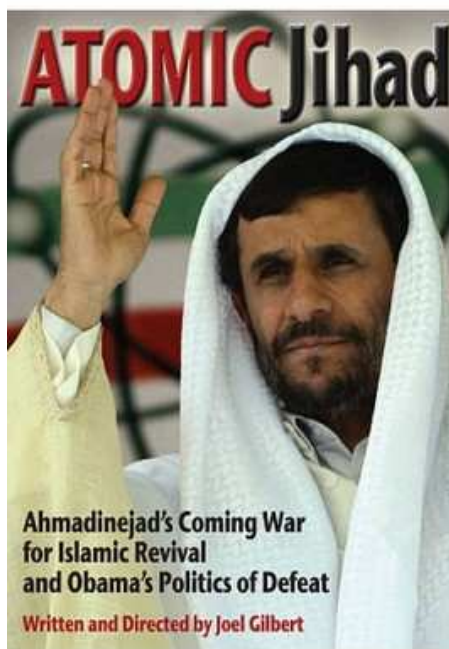
Though I give anyone the benefit of the doubt when they get political, it is hard to take a would-be documentary like Joel Gilbert's **Atomic Jihad** that tries to give us a combination history/world religion/world politics lesson, but is really a silly anti-Obama propoganda film that wants to panic viewers and makes extremely shallow allegations against Obama, weak references to history (obnoxious to a point in the very heavy-handed editing) that Obama is an appeaser and goes into overkill early on.

To prove this, the whole thing is already dated. This was made before Iran's obnoxious Ahmadinejad was voted out of office, only to have the true powers in the country pretend he won. Months later, people are still protesting against the government in what they know is a fraud resulting in daily killings, torture, riots, protests and more that has permanently ruined the regime's unquestionable credibility. In addition, the U.S. has sent plenty of ships to the Gulf Coast in anticipation of the government's collapse and/or a desperate test of their missile technology as they do seem to want to bomb Israel.

The true, shallow message here is to be reactionary and bomb the country of Iran in some Right-wing fantasy and military campaign. With Obama in office, the most popular President among Iranians in eons, plus the decline of the powers that be there, this is the dumbest thing anyone could do. As a result, **Atomic Jihad** is a dud from beginning to end and simply a lame propoganda film.

The 1.33 X 1 image is a mesh (and mess) of low-def video sources that look rough and ragged throughout, making this look as cheap as anything. The Dolby Digital 2.0 sound is on the monophonic side and weak throughout, so be careful of high playback levels or audio switching. Extras include further "explanation" of the content and deleted scenes that are oddly not in the final product.

- Nicholas Sheffo



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