

Warning: Duplicating Cities Is Strictly Forbidden!

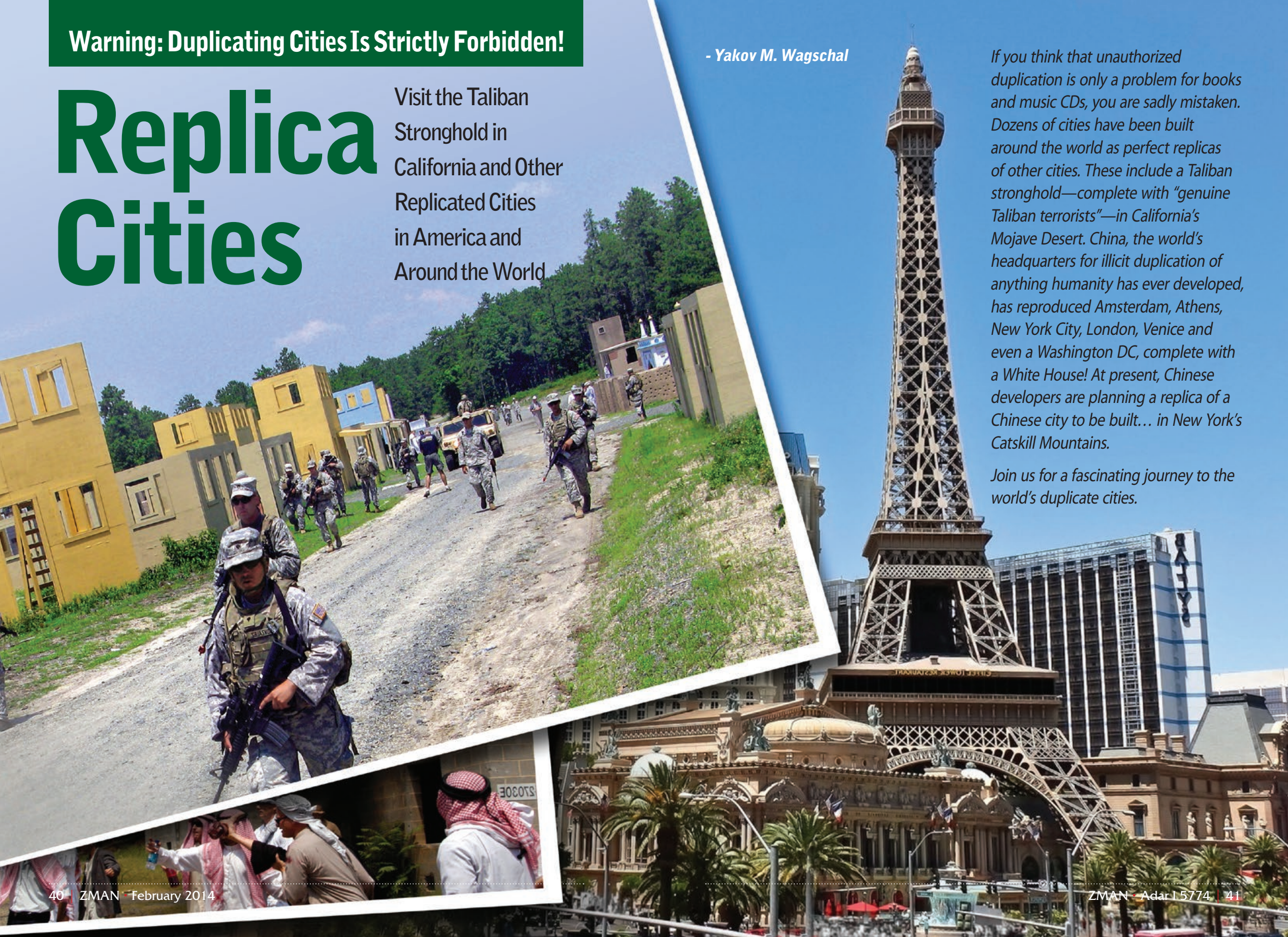
Replica Cities

Visit the Taliban Stronghold in California and Other Replicated Cities in America and Around the World

- Yakov M. Wagschal

If you think that unauthorized duplication is only a problem for books and music CDs, you are sadly mistaken. Dozens of cities have been built around the world as perfect replicas of other cities. These include a Taliban stronghold—complete with “genuine Taliban terrorists”—in California’s Mojave Desert. China, the world’s headquarters for illicit duplication of anything humanity has ever developed, has reproduced Amsterdam, Athens, New York City, London, Venice and even a Washington DC, complete with a White House! At present, Chinese developers are planning a replica of a Chinese city to be built... in New York’s Catskill Mountains.

Join us for a fascinating journey to the world’s duplicate cities.



It is early morning. The sun is already baking down with its full ferocity and residents are scurrying about their daily activities. Children head off to school while men go to work and women go about their daily chores. The marketplace at the center of town is crowded with rows of peddlers and merchants hawking their wares: fruits and vegetables, eating and cooking utensils, carpets and more—you name it.

In short, it's a day like any other.

Suddenly, there is a loud boom and the entire area shakes. A powerful bomb has exploded in the middle of the marketplace. People scream hysterically. A stampede erupts. Tables loaded with produce are overturned. Fruits and vegetables roll in every direction.

Security forces arrive within minutes, their sirens blaring as they converge on the marketplace from all directions. Soon a convoy of army trucks and Humvees appears as well.

Then a second explosion rocks the area. One of the Humvees has just driven over an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) that was planted beneath the road surface by a terrorist.

And the chaos is not over.

Security personnel responding to the attack are suddenly assaulted by the sound of gunfire. Snipers waiting on the rooftops around the market target the policemen and soldiers. Everyone dives for cover and flees as fast as he can.

Reinforcements quickly arrive to surround the area. But the incoming soldiers find a situation so chaotic that they are stymied before they begin. Bullets whizz by in all directions and new explosions shake the ground.

What began as a typical terror attack has metamorphosed into a battle for control of the town. The Al Qaeda jihadists—or maybe they belong to the Taliban, or some other Islamic terror group—race through the streets fearlessly, completely unfazed by the flying bullets from the beleaguered US servicemen and security forces.



Butcher sells meat in the town marketplace.



Fresh-baked Afghan bread is sold here on the streets of America.



Produce is peddled in the town square.

For every terrorist the soldiers neutralize, another five pop up in his place.

The US forces suffer heavy casualties. They cannot decide whether to concentrate

first on evacuating their wounded or targeting the terrorists. To rub salt in their wounds, the loudspeakers of the nearby mosque begin to broadcast the wail of the muezzin. A local imam known for his radical beliefs now begins to recite Muslim hymns, cursing the Americans and encouraging his followers to keep up the fight.

All around stand men and women wearing traditional Muslim dress mocking the Americans as though they are gathered for a wedding, not standing on a battlefield. Some are clearly assisting the rebels by passing on information. And since—officially—they are innocent bystanders, the American forces can do nothing to stop them.

Sounds like something right out of Afghanistan or some other radical Islamist stronghold in the Middle East?

No, all this happened in America.

The Taliban Stronghold in California

This town is located on the grounds of Fort Irwin National Training Center, an army base that is nearly as large as the state of Rhode Island. It is situated in southeast California, deep in the Mojave Desert. Here, American servicemen from all segments of the US Armed Forces are trained before being deployed abroad.

It is a town replete with streets, houses, marketplace, mosques and public buildings identical to those of a typical town in Afghanistan. The mock battles that occur almost every day in this mock city include paid actors playing the role of terrorists. The only thing that really gives it away is that the military permits civilians to visit this base twice a month (and all who enter must first sign that they do so at their own risk).

There are, in fact, 15 different mock towns within Fort Irwin, dispersed across the sprawling base. The largest is the mock Afghan town called Ertebat Shar. (It used to be known as Medina Wasl when it was used to mimic an Iraqi town.) The other towns serve as live depictions of other towns from other cultures around the world.



America's Taliban stronghold.



A Humvee on its way to the incident in the town square was blown up by a hidden IED.



The long desolate road in the Mojave Desert leading to Fort Irwin.

The towns in Fort Irwin are accurate replicas. They were designed with an eye to the minutest detail. For example, before constructing the Iraqi town Medina Wasl,