

The U.S. and the Muslim World: Engagements

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This chapter is not only going to explain about the efforts of the U.S. towards Muslim World for resolving economic, political, environmental, and security concerns but also elucidating the response of Muslim World towards America. This research is very much important for the U.S. and the Muslim World because of the ongoing dichotomy between them.

Barack Obama speaks on January 20, 2009 in an inaugural address that “To Muslim World, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect.” One must see this statement very scrupulously for enhancing the trust between two past rivals. It is a fact that any individual, group, family, tribe, village, city-states, states or empires were ever strong enough ideologically or economically it aggrandized itself. The aggrandizement was moral or immoral it was a separate question. This is how explained by Ahmad (2007) in an article, tilted as *War against Terrorism or War for Terrorism*, published in the second volume of the Journal of Political Studies:

Here we have an historical analysis to know about powerful nations’ behaviour when they were stronger than the others were. What America is doing today for ruling over the world was done by Muslims in 640s A.D. Hazrat Umar’s (RA) generals conquered Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Khurasan, Kirman, Palestine, Seistan, and Syria, and included them into the Muslim empire.¹ If you ask any non Muslim about those conquests he may pronounce them a cruel act of history. Since non Muslims have their own perception.

“Empirical analysis discloses that in the third century Alexander the great conquered the world, in the fifth century Roman and Byzantine Empires came into existence, in the sixth century Muslims ruled over the world until the thirteenth century. Changaiz Khan and Mongols emerged in the thirteenth century and ruled for three centuries. In the sixteenth century Spanish rose in the world, the seventeenth century was of Dutch conquerors, the nineteenth century was of British Empire and in the twentieth century Zionism conquered the world through its multinational corporations. Consequently, the twenty first century can be considered a sharing between capitalism and Zionism.

These details give us a valid point that any nation when had power in the form of religion, economy, politics, or culture at any stage of history that did make conquests and made itself prosperous and dominant. Being a Muslim we can say that Muslim ventures were based on morality, while, the contemporary western ventures are based on selective morality. Since, the people of the west are not convinced with the notion of war against terrorism. Midterm elections of Senate held in America at the end of 2006 in which donkey defeated elephant is a categorical proof of peoples’ disliking for war against terrorism.”²

Therefore, it seems that today the U.S. masses are very vigilant and thinking in a prudential way. The U.S. nation is one of the best nations in the world. The writer himself visited the U.S. for three times in a year (2009-10) and found that there was nothing against human beings but ideology. Yes, it is true that the people in the U.S. believe that Muslims are terrorists, this perception increasing the differences between Muslims and the West especially the U.S. as it is leading the West.

¹ Rana Eijaz Ahmad, “War against Terrorism or War for Terrorism,” *The Journal Of Political Studies*, Volume 11, 2007.

² *Ibid.*, 4-5.

First of all, the President of the U.S. needs to eliminate this perception through pragmatism and not by lip service. For the mutual respect and interest what the Report of the Leadership Group on U.S.-Muslim Engagement has suggested for the improvement of relations between the both parties under discussion are the same that has been in the foreign policy agenda of the U.S. towards the Muslim World. The U.S. needs more pragmatism in its approach and Muslims need more tolerance towards other communities of the world. Here are the efforts that Muslims render towards normalization of relations towards the West and the U.S.:

Muslim Efforts for Peace

The Arab-Israel war 1947-1970 was a total aggression towards Muslims and the west and the U.S. had been supporting to the Israel cause under different connotations. The Camp David Accord is the pertinent example in this pretext that a Muslim country Egypt made a peace accord with Israel in the Middle East. Different phases of history tell us a different story about the selective attitude of the U.S. and the West against Muslims of the world. In Palestine, Hamas government was ousted by the U.S. and Israel coalitional struggle in 2007. "Israel concluded peace treaties with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994, but not with Syria and Lebanon."³

Israel unilaterally withdrew from southern Lebanon in 2000. Iran categorically, has explained that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes while the Israel, U.S., and the West are considering it against their national interests. The country like Canada is being considered pro Israel country more than the U.S. "... [U]nder Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government, Canada has become (at least diplomatically) the most pro-Israel country in the world."⁴ these arguments show that the selective attitude of the Europe, U.S., and the West are sowing the seeds of discontent and discrimination among the peoples of the world. We have to be careful for sustaining peace; it is sine qua non that the big powers must be very much efficient in their dealing with the aggrieved party. The Muslims of the world are the aggrieved party after 9/11 incident. How Muslims of the World are disgraced at the international air ports, job places, films, newspapers and at all other communication sources, are absolutely discriminatory and not favouring the peace process. On the other hand Muslims are consistently struggling for peace as it is an integral part of the Islamic civilization. It does not mean that they cannot fight against any terrorist act. It is not like that. This is how Muslims usually behave. They act when somebody hurt them first. Muslims like to forgive but consistent irritation from the enemy may force Muslims to wage war against the enemy. They are not scare of dying. Patience, tolerance, respect for others are pristine canons of Islam. The West may take advantage of the leniency of the Muslim civilization for the time being in the longer run it would be catastrophic for the whole world.

During the Cartoon Controversy in 2005, was another effort of the West to irritate Muslims but the Muslims did not do anything that hurt other religions. This is how Muslims are sustaining peace in the world. Dr. Zakir Naik entry banned in the U.K. in 2010 for considering his speeches against peace. It is awfully shameful for the U.K. government that a person who never talking of differences among religions but similarities, denied to enter in the U.K. These are the tactics of the West for disturbing the peace process in the world.

The U.S. Efforts for Peace

The U.S. president assumed power in 2008 and spoke first to a Muslim news agency Aljazeera and visited Egypt for addressing Muslims of the world. His recent statement regarding building up a masjid at ground zero, and considering it as a 'right' of Muslims living in New York⁵ can be considered a positive gesture in lieu of bridging the gap between humanity and ideology. The U.S. assumes itself a secular state and emphasizes on respecting others' religions should set examples for practicing tolerance towards others' religion. All these examples are very much pertinent in making our belief stronger that the U.S. is also interested in getting closer to the Muslim community in the world. The lacuna lies only in words and practices.

³ Migdalovitz, Carol. (2009) *Israel: Background and Relations with the United States*. Retrieved on 12-08-10 from <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33476.pdf>.

⁴ Engler, Yves. (2009). *Is Canada More pro-Israel than the U.S.?* Retrieved on 12-08-10 from <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=15658>.

⁵ Jelinek, P. and Pace, J. (2010). *Obama supports 'the right' for ground zero mosque*. Retrieved on 15-08-10 from http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_ground_zero_mosque_obama.

Ruling over the world is an unfulfilled dream of America. We know that American perception about ruling over the world has been in doldrums owing to some miscalculations on the part of American policy makers. First, military can never install democracy in the world. It is a wild goose chase to establish democracy through uniformed men and with weapons of mass destruction. This will only earn hatred and enmity from the local people. Second ‘megalothymia’⁶ (to consider itself superior from others) on the part of America has made it mad for ruling over the world without any moral norms. That is a big hurdle, America is facing today. Morality is the only mean to win hearts and to rule over the world. American failures in Granada, Panama, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and now in Iraq are due to its immoral deeds.

If current war stands for ‘wisdom against radicalism,’ it can be predicted that at the end of the twenty-first century American may start thinking rationally and logically as Islam is the fastest growing religion in America after 9/11. Therefore, I hope that this process of Islamization will go on in America that can bring them home to think wisely rather wildly. May be one can believe that it is a height of optimism or living in fool’s paradise. What I believe that it is better to live in fool’s paradise than to live in a world where “war of all against all”⁷ is going on, recalling Thomas Hobbes’ Leviathan, in which he wrote about three hundred years back that “quest for power after power that ceaseth only in death.”⁸

The U.S. 44th president Barak Obama’s efforts to bring Muslims of the world close to other communities of the world is appreciable but the question is how can he stop the incidents of Freedom Flotilla where innocent Turks were killed for humanitarian reasons. Why the U.S. is till supporting the Israel? The answer is very simple that the U.S. economy is under the control of the Israeli business tycoons. The recent peace talks between Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu and Palestinian president Mahmood Abbas may be considered as a breakthrough for Obama administration in September 2010.

Conclusion

It’s the reality that after the end of cold war the U.S became the sole super power of the world. History shows that there has never been a powerful country as the U.S was. New World Order emerged in which no other country was capable to compete or to challenge the U.S power in economic as well as in military fields. Since the mid of twentieth century, the U.S has assumed the hegemonic power role and capitalist ideology ruled the world against communist ideology. Then the U.S started a policy to police the world and had intervened into the internal affairs of many countries in order to protect them against the evils of communism. This policy provided the U.S with more and more influence into world affairs and world became unipolar headed by one power only. No other power was capable enough that it had kept U.S under check in ideological, military and economic spheres. After the terrorist attacks of 9/11 the U.S imposed war against Afghanistan and established a phenomenon go it alone for war or pre-emptive strikes if necessary. At present China is competing U.S economically but militarily far behind America. The U.S successfully utilizing other states resources for its own sake especially of the Muslims states which are having large natural resources and are kept under American control. America’s wars were and are fighting in Muslim states like Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and people of Muslim states do not like these ventures and are against U.S policies. As a result the relations between U.S and Muslims are not so good. Gap between capitalist and Islamic ideologies is widening and situation of conflict and crises in different forms is emerging as the time passes by.

This research has explained different reasons of negative attitude of the U.S against Muslims and vice versa. It is the need of the time to encourage mutual respect, understanding between two different ideologies, social and cultural values of the U.S and Muslims. Their norms/values must be exercised in true spirit. Do not blame each other but should co-operate with each-other to find the way out from their problems and it will help them to bridge the gap between ideology and humanity.

The U.S allegations of lack of democratic values in Muslim world, lack of basic human rights, committing violence and terrorism and anti –Israel views by Muslims must be removed by finding their proper solution. In the same way some allegations are also pointed out by

⁶ Word used repeatedly in Fukuyama, F. (1998). *The End of History and the Last Man*. New York: Avon Books Inc., 182.

⁷ Barber, (1996). *Jihad VS. McWorld*, 32.

⁸ Ibid.

Muslims like U.S hegemony creating problems for Muslims, Muslims are victims of U.S aggression, double standards with respect to democracy and human rights, anti Muslim views and wrong portrayal of Muslims by U.S media must be resolved.

The U.S must play the role of big brother not big boss, in order to resolve the grievances of Muslims world. In return Muslims should co-operate with U.S and find the way out from violence, aggression and wars for the safety of humanity.

Therefore, the U.S. has to decide to save itself from global disgrace or to support the injustice being done against Muslims in the Middle East by Israelis. The U.S. is a big power today; it has to play a vital role in resolving the grievances of the Muslim world. The increased role of Israel aggression in the Middle East may hamper the peace process in the whole world. It is high time and call of the day to stop Jewish and Christian extremism against innocent Muslims to save the world from the Third World War that is imminent in the prevailing circumstances. This research is not against Jews but an admonishing for Americans to preserve their identity as it is in question. Samuel P. Huntington has written *Who Are We? The Challenges to America's National Identity*, pertains to the identity crises in America. He says, "America was created as a Protestant society just as and for some of the same reasons Pakistan and Israel were created as Muslim and Jewish societies in the twentieth century." Traditionally the west is considered more democratic than the rest part of the world. America and the U.K. are comprised of successful democratic systems but their systems are no more credible as both are supporting the terrorists at the instance of Jewish lobby. It is pity to believe that two big powers of the world used to be known as civilized are under severe threat of discontent and disorder at home owing to wagging their tails for winning Jewish favour.

It is very hard to believe that "...Western civilization is composed of communities held together by a political process, and by the rights and duties of citizen as defined that process..." If it is really so why it (the West) blindly supporting the terrorists, yes it is also supporting terrorists if one is creating such situation that do favour the terrorist activities. As we all know that terrorist acts hurt the Muslims in the world over the most rather than any other community of the world. Scruton says that "...the form of multinational corporations, international courts, or transnational legislatures....pose a new kind of threat to the only form of sovereignty that has brought lasting (albeit local) peace to our planet." It has amplified the terrorist activities a hundred-fold. He further explains, that whatever, Osama uses for his assistance to employ destructive activities have been given by the west that suffering the rest for doing nothing.

Osama Bin Laden is an authority that gives a license to any western power to start pre-emptive action against the rival country especially a Muslim country. Osama is a self-created character by the west to trespass the sovereignty of any country. That is all against the democratic norms and values.

Only one allegation upon American government can be considered directly, pertains to an access to hot waters in the Middle East. It is quite bizarre that at the stake of innocent lives American government can think like that. It looks like that she is recalling white man's burden policy of the Britishers. If America is really wish to be a sole super power in the world it has to follow its own policies not of the Jewish lobby.