

Promoters of Islamophobia

* Khadija Aziz

Abstract

Islamophobia being a wide term has adversely affected the general masses due to false information about Islamic teachings which are promoted and developed by some of the think-tanks, intellectuals and some non-governmental organizations. These intellectuals have developed a negative attitude towards Islam and half spread half-truths or false rumours about Islam. Their sole aim is to either, prevent and stop the rapid spread of Islam or to make the masses abandon their religion and develop a civil lifestyle of living. They may spread Islamophobia for their own benefit in politics or to gain fame, while there are others who have personal religious bigotry against Islam thus encouraging and enriching Islamophobia. This paper presents a brief study of the promoters of Islamophobia in the western world.

Introduction:

Islamophobia is a term, coined by the west against Islam and to represent hatred/prejudice against Muslims. The term “phobia” is derived from Xenophobia which is a neologism of its own kind. Its Arabic meaning is “*al-Rahb*” which signifies “fear from everything”¹ Phobia is a psychological disorder in which the patient fears from everything strange it looks or it feels. Different terminologies came into existence from the term “phobia”. Like Acrophobia: fear of heightened areas, Astraphobia: fear of noisy places. Doxophobia: fear from expressing one’s own opinion and Auto phobia: fright from loneliness.²

The term “phobia” had been used in opposition to Islam for the past forty to fifty years.³

* PhD Research Scholar (Islamiyat), Institute of Islamic and Arabic Studies, University of Peshawar

It is discernible, that most of the western people do not have in-depth knowledge of Islam. Most of the small scale thoughts are getting chucked rather the rapid spread of Islamophobia in the United States is due to the fact that one third of its promoters are actually non-governmental organizations which increase rapidly, day by day and in a well-known terminology they are known as "Think-Tank". These Think-Tank for the next century, have contributed in American's presidential political, and international policy making. They play a pivotal role in the security of the country. In spite being one of the world's developed countries, America, due to this Think-Tank, has a negative attitude towards Islam such as Islamophobia.⁴

Some anti-Islamic groups are working intentionally to spread Islamophobia while others claiming themselves the true believers, have become stunts of enemies of Islam and rather spreading the ideas of Islamophobia unintentionally.

Anti-Islamic Forces in the West may be divided into six groups: Intellectuals/Secular Fundamentalists, Zionist Fundamentalists, Christian Fundamentalists, Hindu Fundamentalists, the Slavs and some among the Muslims. They are discussed with some detail in the following lines:

Intellectuals/Secular Fundamentalists

This group comprises of university professors, famous writers, journalists, congressional staff writers and Think-Tank writers. Generally speaking, this group represents all those people including secular fundamentalists and secular humanists that to eliminate all religions or at the minimum to render religions in to a personal belief system and remove all its traces from family life.⁵ These promoters of anti-Islamic beliefs have extreme enmity against Islam as Islam provides complete guideline principles. All human activities' aspects, except for Islam, secularism have defeated all religions. The main reason that points out the defeat of secularism in provoking anti-Islamic thoughts is that the preservation of Quran and Hadith has made it completely difficult for these secular fundamentalists to cause corruption and alteration in conveying the Islamic principles.⁶

Popular writer of this group include Mervin Hiskett ⁷, Samuel P. Huntington ⁸, Bernard Lewis ⁹, Christopher Coker ¹⁰ and Francis Fukuyama. ¹¹

In reality, these writers do not make up lies but are generally considered in exhibiting half-truths to people that result in misinterpretation of Islamic values. Some samples of their writings are mentioned below as evidence:

1. Mervin Hiskett writes:

“Yet after many years of studying Islam: of living in Muslim society and being exposed to Islamic values, I personally never become persuaded that Islam has anything to offer, outside its own House of Islam that is desirable alternative to the western- European culture and life style wanting as these may be in many respects. I believe this is probably a widely held view among western Europeans Christians and posy Christians secularists.”

He adds further:

“Even so the Islamic way is not our way. Therefore, it does not seem to me that the spread of Islam in the west is to be encouraged, in the interest of ourselves or our children.”¹²

2. Samuel P. Huntington writes:

“ Many, perhaps most Americans, still see their nation as a Europeans settles country, whose laws are an inheritance from England whose language is (and should remain) English, wise institutions and public buildings find inspiration in the western classical norms, whose religions has Judeo Christian roots, and whose greatness initially arose from protestant work ethic” ¹³

“The term *la Guerra Fria* was coined by thirteenth century Spaniards to describe their ‘uneasy coexistence’ with Muslims in the Mediterranean, and in the 1990’s many

saw a ‘civilization cold war’ again developing between Islam and the west”.¹⁴

3. Bernard Lewis writes:

“For almost the thousand years, from the Moorish landing in Spain to the second Turkish siege of Vienna, Europe was under constant threats from Islam”.¹⁵

Samuel P. Huntington presented his view on Bernard Lewis opinion against Islamophobia in the following manner:

“Islam is the only civilization which has put the survival of the west in doubt, and it has done that at least twice”.¹⁶

4. Christopher Coker writes:

“This publication includes a chapter on Islamic terrorism in which Coker tried to convince the youth that all terrorists’ activities in the recent world are to the due to the massive involvement of Muslim communities”.¹⁷

This group enjoys tremendous influence over policy makers in the West as well as they have their hands in administration, law making and the media, and thus enjoying prestigious positions as Think-Tanks, publishers of articles, books and governmental policy papers.

Zionist fundamentalists

In general, this group includes intellectuals who are not necessarily Jews but they have sympathies with the state of Israel as they intend to have stunt enmity against Palestinians. Since most Palestinians are Arabs and Muslims, therefore these groups always intend to defame Muslims by feeding ideas to intellectuals. Their anti-Islamic activities result in sympathy for the Jewish government. This group of fundamentalist are involved in influencing policies governmental issues on one hand, and on the other hand, masses. It is well known that there groups give importance to the voters and in turn these voters prefer “The policy makers”. These groups represent their own needs to higher authorities and, therefore work for their own cause.¹⁸ The Zionist fundamentalists work behind the scenes and include a few names like Steve Emerson who had produced e pseudo-documentary

“*Jihad in America*”. These secular fundamentalists run organizations under their own names like secular nationalist Jewish Defense League (JDL), Pro Israel Christian Church Organization etc.¹⁹

In the elections that took place in 2002 included, mostly professors namely Daniel Pipes.²⁰ Many of them were involved in George W. Bush government like Douglas²¹, Paul Wolfowitz²² and Richard Perle Feith.²³

The above mentioned group belongs to the Neo-Concocal Zionists work under their own well planned ideas that are involved in spreading Islamophobia by publishing articles in magazines, newspapers writing columns, likewise producing books.

The Zionists working in favor of spreading Islamophobia produced by the following pseudo movie and publication:

Hall Lindsey “*The Final Battle*”²⁴

This book has biblical reference in which the writer used to prove that in the near future, there would be a world war in which the Muslim will be tremendously defeated that would consequently end the existence of Islam.

A British documentary “The Sword of Islam” presents the alarming picture and shows how Islamic fundamentalism represents a threat to the west graver than Nazism or communism”.²⁵ Below are the two dialogues of the said documentary:

“.....our friends in the intelligence community tell us that with the failure of soviet communism, the most destabilizing conflict in the world is the one between Islam and the west”.²⁶

“We have nothing to fear but, fear itself and Islamic fundamentalism.”²⁷

Zionist fundamentalists also produced a movie with title of *not without my daughter*.²⁸ This movie is based on Iranian Muslims. It has been observed in this movie that Muslim men go to western countries and marry the Christian women but later on do not acknowledge their feelings.

Christian fundamentalists:

The followers of these beliefs are mean liars and posing extreme hatred towards Islam and Muslims. Their intentions are causing terror and hatred among the masses. These fundamentalists are envious of the rapid preaching of Islam and they consider Islam as a true rival of Christianity. They made their war from the Crusaders, a thousand of years ago and use the same lies and bigotry against Muslim as a weapon to stop the spread of Islam. They have always worked in defaming Islam and Muslims personalities especially the Qur'ān and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). They work collectively to end the rapid spread of Islam in the west. In general, these fundamentalist Christians create miss-apprehension of Islamic values by causing disinformation of the principles of Islam and thus they convey the concept of Islamophobia.²⁹ Some of the opponents include Pat Robertson³⁰, Franklin Graham³¹ and Dr. Robert.³² Samples of Christian fundamentalists are as under:

i. Robert Morey writes:

“Western people have a difficult time comprehending Islam because they fail to understand that it is a form of cultural imperialism in which the religion and culture of seventh century Arabia have been raised to the status of divine law”.³³

Roberts's father was a Jew but he himself is a Christian fundamentalist. He is known to have published three books, three movies and several radio and TV programmes against Islam. In addition, he is also involved in publishing several booklets.

ii. John Gilchrist writes:

“The western world today, however can no longer be defined as realm where Christianity dominates and it is interesting to compare the attitude of modern secularists with conservative evangelicals towards Islam .both seem to have very little sympathy with what appears to be a troublesome people with nothing to offer the modern age but hijacking, hostage crises, terrorism, fanatical fundamentalism and the like”.³⁴

John Gilchrist is a South African Christian fundamentalist leader. He had appeared in several scenes with Ahmed Deedat. John has several book publications one of which has the following passage.

- iii. John Ankerberg and John Weldon, in their collective authored book, write;

“Islamic law teaches that conversion maybe achieved through persuasion or subjugation , but some hold if these fail in ‘fields’ or unbelievers may be eliminated if necessary .according to Islam tradition , the complete military subjugation of the earth is mandated by Allah....”³⁵

- iv. Johan Laffin writes:

“Islam is not only a religion and even to speak of the ‘religious side’ of Islam to perform an impossible amputation. Islam is all round, a whole, a force which moves all its elements at the same time; it is theology as a law. And it is this relentless and remorseless nature which should concern us in the West...To encourage resurgent Islam to assume that it can get away with what amounts to a new style jihad, without its militancy being met by ours, this would be to condemn Christendom to an ignoble fate, as much invited as desired”.³⁶

These pseudo intellectuals have their own way of obstructing the rapid preaching of Islam. They contribute by articles and many of them are writers, columnists, and T.V talk show hosts. They publicize and mislead the people by giving them disinformation about Islam. These tank thinkers also create sites and pages against Islam on the internet.

Hindu fundamentalists:

This category of fundamentalists is self-evident in India but it is evident in the West. Many Indian fundamentalists write columns and these people mislead the people by conveying their ideas against Islam through media. These pseudo-intellectuals are also involved in policy making that has severely affected the Muslims. These groups have

strong influence in the west but these Think-Tanks are not known in India or the west.³⁷

The Slavs :³⁸

These constitute east European Nations of the Russians, Serbians and those who speak Slavic language. They somehow belong to the Orthodox Church. These Slavs have been fighting the Ottoman Empire for the last five centuries. The Crusaders in that period conquered their land and preached Islam on a small scale which ultimately resulted in only a few Slavic individuals entering the fold of Islam. The Crusaders little Dawah work did not give much opportunity for people to convert to Islam. This is a reason that we have Mustuns...in Bosnia, Albania, Chechnya, Kosovo and Macedonia. Besides that, Most of the Slavic nations like Indian fundamentalists, desire to convert these Muslims back to fold of Christianity, exile or eliminate them. In the last few years, it has been observe that active wars have been taking place in Bosnia, Chechnya, Kosovo and Macedonia. The Serbs have entered the west as well as they have created policies against Muslims.

Some among the Muslims:

It is a fact that some Muslims themselves are biggest oppressors of Islam. The West has made a good use of such Muslims who are loyal and spread the idea of Islamophobia. This is one of efficient ways for Muslim enemies to eliminate Islam and they have been succeeding quite well. The contributors of Islamophobia includes mainly Muslims who may unintentionally spread Islamophobia, namely pseudo Islamic cults: Ahmadiya movement in Islam, Moorish science temple , Islamic Nuwabian Hebrews, The Nation of Islam, Five Percenters as well as Muslims at the margin; non practicing Muslims, Muslims with un-Islamic character, slogan of *Wahabism* and defenders of *shirk* and *Bid'ah*.

Conclusion:

To sum up, these contributors and Think-Tanks have a sheer knowledge on the Islamic principles thus promoting false ideas about Islam. These contributors are very few and have their own personal hatred and bigotry against Muslim and Islam. They develop a negative approach in promoting anti-Islamic thoughts by using negative sentences, producing movies, publishing articles and books, thus causing misinterpretation of Islamic teachings. In return, it has affected

the general public, who themselves lack in-depth study of Islam, which has caused misunderstanding eventually leading towards hatred for Islam.

End Notes and References

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³⁸ Orthodox Churches in Slavic language countries (Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Bulgaria, etc.) use a word derived from Old Church Slavonic, to mean orthodoxy. The word derives from the Slavonic roots (slavit, to praise to glorify) in effect meaning “the Right way to praise God”.