

## ***Islamophobia: Radical Western Thoughts and it's Encounter in the Light of Islam***

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### **Abstract**

*Islamophobia is an imposed term of the West broadly defined as a fear or hatred of Islam and its followers. Prejudice is considered an unjustifiable and harmful incident of discrimination that is related to the rise of Islamophobia. In western opinion, Muslims are warmongers who have extremist approaches towards life, and Islam is a backward religion. This radical mindset has relegated Muslims to an unimportant and powerless position within society and groups, which has triggered anti-Muslim sentiments among non-Muslims. Bullying, surveillance, fear, prejudgments against Muslims have been increased by schools, districts, landlords, and employees on the globe, especially in the western world. Mosque controversies in the United States, anti-veiling legislation in France, the 'minaret' row in Switzerland, the killing of Turkish immigrants in Germany, and hateful statements of Dutch politicians against Muslims are well-known examples of Islamophobia. The paper's primary purpose is to highlight the radical approach and anti-Muslim sentiments of the world in the name of Islamophobia. It will show Muslims are brutally targeted on every forum due to misperceptions regarding Islam and its teachings. Furthermore, the true spirit of Islam and its teachings are highlighted in this paper that Muslims are the ambassadors of peace, and Islam is the only religion of moderation that negates fanaticism and terrorist acts. In contrast, the rebellious acts of a few radical groups do not allow anyone to adopt hateful and intolerant attributes towards the whole nation.*

**Keywords:** islamophobia, religious persecution, terrorism, globalization, radicalization.

## **Introduction**

Islamophobia is a subject of deep concern because of misperceptions and misinterpretations by different diehard thinkers about Muslims that they are reactionary, extremist, and radical-minded people. Fear, ignorance, and hatred foment Islamophobia and Islamophobic statements across the globe. Some chauvinist thinkers propagate misconceptions regarding Islam and paint the entire Muslim community with the same brush of bigotry by saying that all Muslims are extremists and have fanatical approaches to life. Islamophobia and its resurgence were triggered after several international issues such as the Iran revolution (1978-1979), the fall of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, the Gulf war and after all incident of 9/11, terrorist attacks in Europe made a bridge towards Islamophobia due to which the West started encountering and defaming Islam and Muslims on the international level.

## **Runnymede trust report<sup>1</sup>**

They described Islamophobia as "unfounded hostility towards Islam." This report describes anti-Asian racism in general and anti-Muslim racism in particular. Four interrelated dimensions of Islamophobia have been pointed out in this report which affects the values and practices against Muslims. These dimensions are exclusion, discrimination, prejudice, and violence against Islam and Muslim communities. Islam and its popularity among non-Muslims, especially in western countries, infused triple threats to the West such as political, demographical, and clash of civilizations. In 1993, Samuel P. Huntington wrote a book, "Clash of civilization," in which he directly targeted Islam, talked about the clash of western and Islamic civilizations, and warned them that non-western civilizations are returning to grass-root values to protect them themselves from western culture and its invasion. Pim Fortuyn, a Dutch politician<sup>2</sup> inspired by Samuel Huntington's *The Clash of Civilization*, published "Against Islamicisation of our culture." In this book, he not only described the differences between Muslim and western culture but he declared that Islam is the most significant danger for 'Western civilization and in 2001, he stated that:

*"I am in favor of a cold war with Islam because I see Islam as an extraordinary threat, as a hostile society ... If I can legally manage it, I would say: no Muslim come into this country anymore".*

There are multiple theories to understand the complex construction of irrational roots of prejudice and fear of the West against Islam. Millions of Muslims live and contribute at all levels in western countries, but this Islamophobia while traveling abroad is getting worse day by day. The respective western countries implied the concept of marginalization and its implications through Western scholars, and still, this malpractice is in progress against Islam and Muslims. This prejudiced and radical behaviorism tends

towards extremism, and a marginalized community with extreme views becomes violent. Muslim women wearing hijab in the West is becoming an issue in some countries because of Islamophobia. Terrorism has nothing to do with any religion, either it's Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism or Buddhism, etc. All religions preach harmony, compassion, justice and oppose radicalism and violence. All human communities have both liberals and moderates. It is not justifiable to blame the whole Muslim community just because of a few radical mind-militant actions.

## **Islamophobia**

First, we discuss the literal and technical meaning of Islamophobia, and then we will precede our discussion towards different concepts. Islamophobia is the combination of two words, "Islam" and "Phobia."

"Islam" is the religion whose basic concept is the oneness of God and Hazrat Muhammad (SAAS), the last messenger of Allah.

"Phobia: Extreme or irrational fear or aversion to something."<sup>3</sup>

Islamophobia is anti-Muslim racism and radical terminology that advocates political and religious radicalization. Term islamophobia can be new, but fear of Islam and Muslims has been old since the crusade wars. In some studies, the term Islamophobia is applied to describe biased views, irrational prejudice, prejudgments, and biased behaviorism towards Islam. Most of the studies about Islamophobia convey abhorrence and provocative sentiments against Muslims based on irrational fears and discriminatory views. Especially after the 9/11 incidents, Islamophobia is considered a bigoted and false perception of Islam and Muslims. Taking a philosophical approach in the context of multiculturalism, pluralism, and Islamophobia, Kalin<sup>4</sup> argues that Islamophobia is a Western Invention of confined Liberal mindsets that cannot accommodate another religion like Islam. He argues that anti-Muslim sentiments are related to the limits of pluralism and multiculturalism in the West.

## **Radical Western thoughts against Islam and Muslims**

Islamophobia is not new that has been practiced for two decades. Orientalists widely used this term against Islam with negative images, stereotypes, prejudice, and blasphemy through media, international organizations, public commentators, non-government organizations (NGOs) soon after 9/11. Due to this phobia, abomination, terror, agitation, and hatred were created against Islam that gripped the minds of non-Muslims and western societies. The report presented by the European Center for Monitoring of Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) in Europe<sup>5</sup> and by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)<sup>6</sup> in the United States also mentioned the rise of Islamophobia.

*"There have also been instances in which expressions of Islamophobia have been quite selectively targeted at visibly perceived manifestations of Islam. Indeed, there have been cases where anti-Muslim Alliances have been formed, at least locally, between right-wing groups and immigrant and ethnic minority groups".*

Furthermore, multiple surveys<sup>7</sup> point out that Western citizens have strong negative feelings about Islam and Muslims. Different People in the American society themselves published a report regarding Islamophobia in 2011. they exposed it by saying that there is a particular network of experts in America who are actively participating in the proliferation of hate, prejudice, and negative image of Muslims in American society due to which discriminant behavior, negative judgment, and false opinion has been raised among the mass against Muslims and Islam. This network is funded through many resources that want to exploit the image of Islam and Muslims, especially Pakistan. The Roots of the Islamophobia Network in America defines it as:

*"Islamophobia is an exaggerated fear, hatred, and hostility toward Islam and Muslims that is perpetuated by negative stereotypes resulting in bias, discrimination, and the marginalization and exclusion of Muslims from social, political, and civic life."*

After 9/11, due to the terrorist attacks, new theories were coined that Muslims are involved in suicide attacks, but on the other side of the coin, no one could explain that suicide attacks do not reflect the reality of Islam and its teaching. Islam and its teachings. No one researched that before 9/11, most suicide attacks in the world were made by Tamil Tigers, who were Hindus. The world did not blame Hinduism and remained quiet over its terrorist activities. No one said that Hindus are extremists who are living in Sri Lanka. IRA<sup>8</sup> (Irish republican army) was a militant nationalist organization that was organized to resist against British administration, which was divided into two wings "Official wing" and "Provisional wings" in 1969. Provisionals, or "Provos," were of radical extremist thoughts who believed that violence, particularly terrorism—was a necessary part of the struggle to rid Ireland of the British. They used war tactics during Anglo-Irish and provoked terrorism. After 9/11, western countries started calling Muslims violent and extremist and misinterpreted the term jihad. They raised questions on Islam without having an accurate understanding of the teachings of the Quran and jihad. In 1988, Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses" was published, maligning and ridiculing the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet (SAAS). There was a reaction against it among the Muslim world, and the West was not able to understand the problem is because, in the West, religion is perceived; differently, they do not adopt religion as Muslims do, and so Islam was imposed to be an intolerant and extremist religion in the eyes of the West. The western world has done every after three to four years controversies by drawing the Holy Prophet

(SAAS) cartoons that cause a reaction among Muslims against it because Muslims have a staunch belief in the prophethood of the Prophet Muhammad (SAAS), and they cannot compromise on their faith. Due to this reason, they could not tolerate the blasphemous book of Rushdie. When the West saw that Muslims were burning their properties in the processions, they called them radicalized or something else. But they could not comprehend the extent of the emotional attachment of Muslims to their Prophet (SAAS).

The more sorrowful thing is that any Muslim leader did not address this issue even after 9/11, when this war started against Islam and Muslims. None of the Muslim countries took a stand against it, and not even a single Muslim leader could explain on the international forum that there is no radical Islam. There is no connection between radicalism and Islam, nor is extremism a religion of peace, harmony, and moderation. Unfortunately, Muslim leadership was so scared of being radical Muslims, and all of them became moderns and liberals due to which they could not even speak about Islamophobia on any platform due to which Islam was exposed to be violent and belligerent religion. Media portrayed blasphemous images in Denmark and the reaction of the Muslim world as a violent fanatic act to show that Muslims are prone to violence

### **Islamophobia and Reactionary approach of World against Muslims**

Muslims ruled for 800 years worldwide with a glorious and golden era; however, this had a terrible impact on non-Muslims and all secular communists and nationalists who propagate against Islam. Muslims have faced religious persecution in different regions of the world. Muslim minorities are facing oppression and hatred because of Islamophobia in many countries. On September 11, 2001, when two planes targeted the world trade center of New York, the third plane hit the Pentagon, and a fourth crashed in Shanks Ville. Almost 3000 people died, which was called a terrorist act by Muslims that prevailed negativity, stereotype, hate, and prejudice against Islam and Pakistan. Trump<sup>9</sup> administration filed its merits brief in the Supreme Court case over his executive order suspending all travel and immigration from six African and Middle Eastern countries. Hashtags like #MuslimBan<sup>10</sup> have been used in the days. He presented the horrified and false image of Muslims in front of media and the term "islamophobia" that was openly used throughout the world afterward. A right-wing pundit Brigitte Gabriel founded ACT! For America in 2007 as a citizen action network to "inform, educate, and mobilize Americans regarding the multiple threats of radical Islam." She uses the term "Radical Islamophobia"<sup>11</sup> to galvanize the people of America against Islam and Muslims.

Human rights are inherited from all humans during birth beyond race, religion, culture, sex, color, language, or status. Religious persecution is a human right violation. In the past two decades, Muslims have been directly hit

by western societies that consider them terrorists and extremists, and they especially name Pakistan as the epicenter of radicalization and Pakistanis a violent nation. Such biased behavior has grown at a pace among Muslim and western communities, which is alarming. Human societies have to live together; they cannot live aloof on international platforms, but Islamophobia drew a marginalized line among them. Universal Declaration of Human Rights describes, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."<sup>12</sup>

Recent examples of Islamophobia can be found in many countries. On November 29, 2009, the largest party in the SWISS parliament held a referendum in the Swiss parliament to ban minarets constructions in the country. Nearly 56% of Swiss voters voted in favor of the ban to stop Islamicisation in their country. The president of the People's Party, Toni Brunner, said that voters had rejected the idea of parallel societies and the further expansion of Islam – including radical, political Islam – in Switzerland. Brunner noted that people who settled here had to realize that they could not turn up to work in a headscarf or get special dispensation from swimming lessons.<sup>13</sup>

In many regions across the world today, conflicts against Muslims and their religion and beliefs have arisen. Commentators argue that the term "Jihad" is a terrorist movement, and terrorism is built-in Islam because jihad is taken as a priority. In most of the existing western literature, they are continuously defaming Islam and Pakistan by calling them radicalized minds with extremist approaches.<sup>14</sup> That raises numerous voices and slogans against Muslims and Pakistan that Islam is a danger for other religions, especially the West, and does not teach peace and harmony. To increase understanding of Islamophobia, report of the Runnymede Trust, which studied prejudice against Muslims and Islam in the United Kingdom<sup>15</sup> "Islamophobia is the view that Islam is monolithic and static, inferior, hostile, and manipulative, and from these perceptions flow the attitudes that racial discrimination against Muslims is justified."

Todd H. Green, an international speaker, and writer wrote about Islamophobia in his book "Fear of Islam"<sup>16</sup> In fall 2010, he was invited by the Muslims Student Association at the University of the United States to give a public lecture related to the controversy of Islam which got by media and government. He said, I was mentally prepared by authorities for some extreme reactions and agitation against Islam by non-Muslims, but nothing terrible happened, and on the way back, he thought that the West has over anxieties towards Islam.

In the West and Asian countries, hundreds of thousands of Muslims

face hatred and prejudice in the name of Islamophobia. Rohingya Muslims<sup>17</sup> have been facing a crisis due to Islamophobia and ethnicity since 2012. The second wave of violence in 2015, thousands of Muslims were endangered to a terrifying wave of anti-Muslim violence across Burma, in Meiktila, Yamethin, in the Pegu townships of Zigon, and Natalie and in the eastern Shan State town of Lashio. Thousands of Muslims died and were misplaced, mosques and homes burnt under this horrifying attack just because of Islamophobia.<sup>18</sup>

Since 1947, Muslims of Kashmir have been facing massacres, oppression, and violation of rules because of Islamophobia under the Hindu community. More than one year has passed, they are facing lockdown, and no media coverage is there. Malignance of humans leads towards radicalization that spreads anarchy in bordering countries. On August 5, 2019, India took a radical move based on Islamophobia and ethnic cleansing. India revoked articles 370 and 35a, which itself is the permanent part of the Indian constitution. Article 35A was acquainted with article 370,<sup>19</sup> introduced in 1954 in the Indian constitution through a presidential order. It was the continuity of article 370 with the old provisions of the territory conventions under Article 370 of the Indian constitution. Article 35A mentioned the Permanent Residents Law, a public house for female citizens of Jammu and Kashmir according to property rights when married to a person from outside the state. The facility also encompasses such women's children. By retracting these articles, India announced to settle Hindu citizens in Jammu and Kashmir against law and order. Indian government opposed articles 370 and 35A, due to which Muslims are brutally targeted in Kashmir. It is socio-political polarization as well as racist behaviorism against Muslims. India announced the deployment of Hindus, which prevailed distress among Kashmiris that such moves of the Indian government would marginalize the region, leading to a demographic transformation of the area from majority-Muslim to majority-Hindu.

Anti -Muslim discrimination has affected the social, political, and economic outcomes overall the globe, which inserted several mechanisms like Racism, Ethnicity, Internationalizing of Negative Impacts against Islam, violence, and depression, and all these potent elements lead towards radicalization that creates chaos in targeted society. The term islamophobia is misused on personal, professional, and political levels globally and should be condemned now. This Radical western approach portrayed a negative image of Pakistan and Islam on the globe.

### **Globalization and Global Evaluation of Humans based on Islamophobia**

In the 21st century, globalization and neo-liberal international disorder twisted the situation that stimuli Western society's irrational beliefs about Islam and Muslims. The only option for the Western liberal state and democracy model was the implication of new world order. Western ethnocentric biased

behaviorism towards Islam increased the political and military interventions to achieve socio-political changes in Muslim countries in the post-Cold War era. Islamophobia is just a repugnance and prejudiced approach of the western world against Islam and Muslims. In contemporary politics, most Western media and right-wing populist narratives are based on Islamophobia by having biased views regarding Islam. They consider Islam a violent and extremist religion, and stereotypical Muslims near them are crazy, belligerent, extremist, and warmongering human beings. These narratives<sup>20</sup> contribute towards the self-fulfilling prophecy of Islamist terrorism on two grounds. On one side, the western world considers itself rational, non-violent, and pacifist beings who believe in harmony and love. On the other side, they call Muslims violent, terrorist, and irrational beings, resulting in marginalized and dissident voices. I wonder why the increasing literature on religious terrorism contains virtually nothing on 'Christian terrorism' on black people due to which a movement "black lives matter" has been originated, 'Jewish terrorism in Palestine and Gaza, or 'Hindu terrorism in Kashmir by violating the basic human right terrorism based on racism. Violent practices of Christians, Jews, and Hindus rarely receive a similar critique of why only Islam and Muslims are being targeted. whereas Muslims themselves are the victims in all these cases, another prejudiced and biased attitude of the western world against Muslims. On the other side, globalization became the reason for social and political polarization as every country wants to have control over the economy and to excel along modern lines, which created the polarization trend in international politics. The particular effect of globalization is just power play where every community wants power dominance to threaten and fear others. Cultural, religious, economic, and social cards exist in political structures that are polarized because they are used to promote and develop the period of their power. In this era, the power of the West has strong control over the global agenda. The group of eight (G8)<sup>21</sup> controls the global agenda regarding political trade with the spread of freedom, economic growth, and liberalization. Various aspects of globalization are increasing political polarization for the diffusion of power and power leads. The behavior of every country with others is biased instead of being friendly and cooperative, which results from inter-state wars, violence, and radicalization in terrible ways. Global evaluation of humans based on Islamophobia is a kind of discrimination based on the false association of external physical or religious systems. It is based on hatred, superiority, and prejudiced stereotypes against Muslims that pave the paths to radicalization and violence among nations lessen the space for humanity. Islamophobia is the potent factor behind radical behaviorism that marginalized the states because Islamophobia is a self-created version of the West against Islam, and they are targeting Muslims for achieving their political goals. Due to this political scoring, Muslims living worldwide are facing discriminatory behavior and prejudiced judgments against Islam. World War I and World War II are results



of nationalism and racism, which promoted a non-peaceful atmosphere across the globe and the whole world bearded its consequences. Communism, nationalism, colonialism, and racism are by-products of radical thoughts whose repercussions appear in front of all. Islamophobia has accelerated the conflicts among multiple communities that wreak great destruction across the globe and cause killings that are not limited to national borders but transcend worldwide. The concept of Islamophobia is nothing but hateful and intolerant behaviorism against Islam, where the only target is the Muslim community. In Myanmar, the ethnic Barman's have had political, economic, and social dominance for decades, and Rohingya Muslims are facing oppression due to Islamophobia which is the crucial element behind terrorism. Secondly, Conflicts between Hindus and Muslims are also a contextual factor that is the predictor of Islamophobia, and the attitude of the Indian government is a clear radical extremist against Muslims. Thirdly, Misrepresentation of media and the mainstream perception of Islamophobia has affected Muslims across the globe because it leads to stereotyping, biased attitudes, hostility, and Misrepresentation. Discriminatory behavior based on caste, color, ethnic cleansing is the broad spectrum of racial discrimination. Especially Pakistanis, based on the Islamic concept of jihad, are considered terrorists and face difficulties in western countries. Fifteen years information warfare agenda of India-to isolate Pakistan- has been debunked across the globe, and the real face of anarchists in India has been unveiled in front of all. Sparking intensities and violent acts can prompt escalation to the next step of crisis, and the next crisis could result in inadvertent escalation. Serious table-talks for the de-escalation process must be the first peace initiative from both countries, as Pakistan has offered many times. Even in the crucial times of pandemic of covid 19, Pakistan offered help to India on humanitarian grounds. The Prime minister of Pakistan raised the Kashmir issue in UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) in 2019. He stressed that Pakistan wants peace and gave a message of peace to the world by returning Indian pilot Abhinandan as a peaceful gesture which is clear proof that Pakistan and its mass want peace because nine-fifth percent (95%) population of Pakistan is Muslim. Islam teaches us moderation and tolerance instead of being violent, and the act of few radical groups cannot define the whole nation as radial or he people with the extremist approach as such groups are present everywhere, not only in Pakistan but across the world under such radical behaviors that have already been discussed above. Polarized societies raise public controversies because of which facts and moral truths lose their weightage and potential. Social and political entities such as journalists, academics, bureaucrats, and politicians either become engaged in partisanships or manipulate social, political, and economic issues, resulting in the decline of democracy and basic norms. It becomes difficult for people to follow the rules and regulations based on realities, but morally they feel conflicts because Politics is often seen as a self-referential power game that has nothing to do

with people. Fourthly, The particular effect of globalization is a power play, where every community wants power dominance to threaten and fear others. Cultural, religious, economic, and social cards exist in political structures that are polarized because they are used to promote and develop the period of their power.

### **An Encounter in the light of Islamic teachings against local and Global Dimensions of Islamophobia**

The essence of Islam is monotheism under which Islamic civilization flourishes. Tolerance is the nucleus of Islamic civilization that can easily be monitored by ancient times that how Islamic civilization had established the harmony between all religious identities and entities. Islamic civilization is the example of acceptance of all hyphenated Islamic identities, and just because of tolerance shown by Islamic civilization, Muslims preserved all ancient heritage of Greeks and Romans. Cultural diversity, the novelty in thoughts, civilization, living trends, and tastes are the root realities of human life that vary from region to region. It is mandatory to accept these realities for the development of human society to increase its capacity to interact with different views. All religions provide teachings on peace and tolerance, but Islam is the only religion that focuses on two aspects.

- i. Spiritual life
- ii. Worldly life

From the historical perspective, we can examine that Muslims were the inventors of science and remained the major contributor to science and technology. Islamic worldview concentrates on both; this world as well as the hereafter. Islam is the most moderate religion<sup>22</sup> which emphasizes thinking and researching methodologies. Even non-Muslim scientists have admired that the Quran is the book that concluded the scientific laws 1400 years back. The western world is hesitant to recognize the contribution of Muslims towards the establishment of religious and cultural tolerance.

Dissimilarities between Western and Islamic worlds have developed a realm of social and political differences due to which the western world is hesitant to admire the contribution of Muslims towards peace and tolerance, especially after the 9/11 incident. One of the repercussions of September 11 is U.S. counterterrorism operations across the Muslim world. They imposed the term Islamophobia on Muslims, mainly targeted Pakistanis and called them terrorists. It opened the gate of the global war on terrorism, accused Muslims of religious extremists, and primarily targeted Pakistanis worldwide under the pretext of terrorism. Inflexible and radical interpretations of Islam stagnated Pakistani society because its consequences showed U.S. interests in the region that spun the situation across Pakistan. After all, the United States developed

an extensive working network in Pakistan. After the 9/11, USA decided to attack Afghanistan. At that time, most of the Madrassas in tribal areas of Pakistan became the source of recruitment of jihadists for Afghanistan. The international community, especially America, took a keen interest in the Madrassa curriculum.<sup>23</sup> With the mutual decision of the Pakistan government and international community, the Madrassa Curriculum was redesigned, which was a multi-million rupees project for reforming 8,000 Madrassas within five years.<sup>24</sup> It caused radicalization and extremism.

Secondly, the political goals created disproportional factors within the state that caused catalyst events. After a few years, the Western world took advantage of it to promote Islamophobia and targeted the Muslim world, especially Pakistanis, under the pretext of terrorism that Muslims are religious extremists. They defamed the term jihad without knowing the dynamics of jihad, and the madrassa curriculum set by their mutual interest became the issue of conflict. Social and cultural diversities between the western and Islamic worlds are essential to understanding and acknowledging their differences. Western civilization favors individual freedom without any limits and bounds, and secularism is also their preference as they consider that religion is the matter of the individual. They do not believe in life hereafter as they think in materialistic life only that focuses on acquisitiveness and earthly desires through tolerance. They do not believe in the family system and independently curse each other without being in a relationship, while Islamic civilization is the opposite of it because it talks about collective rights, follows the message prescribed by Islam, and does not follow the means without the concept of rights and wrongs. Muslims believe in the oneness of God, and their holy book is the Quran, whose teachings are obligatory for them to follow, and no one could dare to change even a single word of it even after centuries. The western world is associating Muslims with intolerance, radicalization, despotism, religious extremists, and narrow-mindedness by saying that Islam does not protect the rights of individuals, is rigid towards the family system, and shows religious extremism.

Impact of the idea such as "Clash of Civilizations"<sup>25</sup> by Samuel Huntington (1996) did not believe in alliance, similarities, and association between the East and the West. He denies the importance of multiculturalism and inter-connectedness and rejects the idea of cultural convergence as he says it is not the victory of culture but the borrowing tradition. Islamophobia is an irrational choice of media stereotyping and racist attitude of the West, which flared up with the concept of "Clash of civilization," where Samuel Huntington bashed Muslims by saying they are a danger for the West. Clash of civilization is the one-dimensional view and an irrational analysis that caused conflicts in the world against eastern and western culture, depicting the intolerant behaviorism and radical attribute towards Muslims. Islamophobia,

demonization of Islam and Muslims shows the evil face of democracy and the foils of dirty politics who fear slithering their way into power seats with venomous rhetoric against Islam and Muslims.

Wallerstein<sup>26</sup> negates the concept of civilization, and he presents the world system theory,<sup>27</sup> which rejects the idea of civilization as a unity. All religions, excluding Islam, focus on the needs of the physical world that must be completed by hook or crook. They ignore the spiritual aspect without bothering the life hereafter. Islamic civilization is more than a world system, and Muslims believe they are answerable for all their deeds and doings in life. Islam flourished because its teachings are tolerant in nature instead of coercion. It is mandatory to determine the role of Islamic spirituality in modeling behaviorism towards tolerance and moderation because the concept of "clash of civilizations" and "world system" has added a new dimension to the predominant dichotomy between the two supposedly opposite poles. As mentioned above, when Muslims were in power and wherever they went, Islam remained the persistent and the primary instigator of religious, cultural, and political inclusion into society.

### **Islamic Perspective Countering Islamophobia and Radicalization**

In the review of all Islamic teachings, it can easily be determined that Islam never supports radical and diehard views. It constantly emphasizes fair dealings, egalitarianism, and moderation. Jihad has been taken in broad meanings in Islam; it talks about fighting against the enemy by the sword, but there are multiple branches of jihad in Islam. Islamophobia is an extremist vision presented by certain diehard scholars and orientalist that do not match the originality and basis of Islamic teachings. Every life is sacred in the eye of the Quran, which provides security to all living beings. The Quran mentions:

*"And do not kill anyone whose killing Allah has forbidden, except for a just cause. And whoever is killed wrongfully, we have given his heir the authority (to demand Qisas) but let him not exceed limits in the matter of taking life. (Al-Quran, 17:33)*

Verily, he is helped (by the Islamic law)" Holy Prophet (SAAS) was the first man in the history who laid the base of a moderate welfare state where all the rights of minorities were equally considerable according to their own believes, and they were having the freedom of speech. Holy Prophet (SAAS) introduced a slavery-free system and announced that it is the sacred duty of all to respect one another beyond color, cast, and religion. Holy Prophet's (SAAS) last sermon is the absolute message of deradicalization that presents the map of a pluralistic society and do not condone violence through any mean because "live and let live" is the ethical spirit of Islam. The Quran says:

*"Say, O disbelievers, I do not worship what you worship. Nor are you*

*worshippers of what I worship. Nor will I be a worshipper of what you worship. Nor will you be worshippers of what I worship. For you is your religion, and for me is my religion". (Al-Quran, 109:1-6)*

Islam negates any extremism and equally focus on Allah's rights as well as human rights, and this is the duty of Islamic scholars and experts to promote Islamic teachings to combat Islamophobia because the negation of any religious aspiration give rise to religious militancy and violence because it causes segregation and polarization within diverse natured societies.

### **Counter-Narratives of Pakistan against Islamophobia and Radicalization**

West accuses Pakistan of being an epicenter of radicalization and terrorism. While studying the historical perspectives and studies, we know that Pakistan regularly struggles against radicalization and extremist thoughts. In 2009, the official counterterrorism policy in Pakistan underwent a dramatic shift. The heavy focus on counter-insurgency in FATA left the system imbalanced, with little training or resources allocated to sectors outside the military. The government of Pakistan created a centralized National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) that could facilitate cooperation across all relevant sectors. National Counter Terrorism Authority was initially established in 2009, but due to lack of resources and unclear political mandate, it remained inoperative for the next few years. It was revived in 2013 when the senate passed act no XIX, giving the agency-specific legal responsibilities such as gathering intelligence, conducting researches, and developing counterterrorism policies. Agency was given Under the supervision of Prime minister and interior minister of Pakistan, to eliminate terrorism and extremism government of Pakistan implemented "exhaustive strategic planning and necessary ancillary mechanism where "Authority" means: National counterterrorism authority Pakistan, established under section 3" (gazette of Pakistan March 26, 2013)."<sup>28</sup> . In 2013 military conducted an operation "Zarb e Azb" in tribal areas of Pakistan that were a war against terrorism and radicalization, which ended in 2017 finally and the result is a peaceful society. In 2019-2020 Prime minister of Pakistan "Imran Khan" raised the issue of Islamophobia at the international platform of the United Nations General Assembly<sup>29</sup> (UNGA), where he cleared that there is no concept of radical Islam and Pakistan wants to promote peace and harmony that is the essential subject of Islam. He clearly explained that Quran is the code of conduct of the lives of Muslims that encourages balance and moderation among people within and without Pakistan, and it's totally against religious fanaticism and extremism. He gave a clear perspective of the peaceful relations of Pakistan on international levels. Religious communities have been marginalized by western philosophies that labeled them uncivilized. Mainly Islam is being targeted by the world of the West; however, the Islamic concept is different from this radical view

because it demands excellence in this world and hereafter. Pakistan's prime minister wrote a letter to Facebook's chief executive officer (CEO) to ban posting hatred material against Islam and Muslims because such content is becoming the reason for promoting Islamophobia. He mentioned in his letter that India and France are the promoters of Islamophobia who are using social media platforms that are the clear reflection of biased and prejudiced behaviorism to promote radicalization.

Further, he criticized that blasphemous cartoons directly target Islam and our Holy Prophet that must be banned on Facebook.<sup>30</sup> Islamophobia is a psychological phenomenon that further leads towards economic, social, and political bigotry because this hatred phenomenon poisons the minds first then leads towards xenophobic attitudes of intolerance, and the mixture of these prejudiced elements results in fanatic acts like burning mosques, damaging Muslims properties, hatred towards wearing a scarf, or insulting by making a blasphemous cartoon of notables of Islam. Islam has been portrayed as the stigma of bloodshed that triggers intolerance and radicalization; this negative prejudice, hatred, and dread caused discriminant behaviorism against Muslims around the globe. At the 20th Shanghai Cooperation Organization – Council of Heads of State (SCO-CHS), Pakistan spoke against the rise of Islamophobia. It gave the perspective of mutual respect for all religions and beliefs by removing the discriminatory policies and allegations against Muslims for regional peace and security.<sup>31</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Chauvinist and Conservative mind people within or without Muslim community have their elucidation against Islam. These are their religious self-serving justifications and interpretations that lead to violence and terrorism. Violence results from the frustration interlinked to the social isolation of marginalized sub-groups within society that repeatedly activates the feeling of persecution in all discourses from radicalized people. Secondly, it has been analyzed that neither Islam nor Islamic civilization justifies violence and nullifies human rights, as discussed by the horizontal secularist theories. Islamophobia spread due to misinterpretations of Islam and jihad, misrepresenting radical media outlets about Muslims' lifestyle (veil, beard, family system represented as barbaric culture), and clash of western-eastern civilizations. Islam strictly negates extremism and promotes multi-faith discussions in a healthy environment. Thirdly, above mentioned discussion shows that the Western world has declared Islam and Muslims are threatening and dangerous for their physical well-being and cultural values. Situation exploited due to negative Mediatization, irresponsible reporting of media houses, and irrational beliefs of right-wing leaders, which fertilized the land of hatred by feeding Islamophobia, xenophobia, and racism. It showed that Islam

is incompatible with western culture because Muslims have orthodox views. In this paper, I tried to highlight the west fears of the West against Islam that Islam may become a recognized and meaningful part of Europe due to which they perceive it to be threatening for their physical well-being and cultural values. One policy solution is to expand the Islamic teachings to change the misperceptions related to Islam and Muslims because a majority of western citizens are not aware of the actual teachings of Islam. Media and right-wing leaders exploited the situation on a broad scale due to which Islamophobia has reached unprecedented levels in the West, and they are inclined to identify Muslims as a threat to all.



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