ISLAMOPHOBIA: THE NEW DIMENSIONS IN 21ST CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

Anti-Muslim emotions are not new for the world. It was present since the rise of Islam. West was furious after facing Muslims in battle ground and constantly defeated by those who were less equipped but obtained high morals. Initially they were frightened due to the novelty and unique approach of faith and its execution, therefore, they try to fabricate the original manuscripts, making false stories and molesting the last prophet's life history. Islamophobia transformed after 9/11 and become more intensified and dangerous. It effected the common men worldwide without any boundaries. The respective research is based on the fact that hatred is the negative notion whether it related with nobility or wicked perception. It creates harmful effects on human psychology which subsequently created abusive mindset and actions. When any form of ideology identified as phobia means uncontrolled envy combine with the concept and turn it into a form of frenzied connotation. The fight between East and West was ancient which now convert among religions particularly Islam and others. The research is intend to provide the journey of anti-Islamism from past to present as well its significant elements and its present state. It also discusses the future prospects of clash of religions.

KEYWORDS

Hatred, Xenophobia, Anti-Islamism, Orientalism, Veil, Ethno-Nationalism, Anti-Feminism

INTRODUCTION

Islamophobia has emerged as a global issue in 21st century. Some of the scholars believed that this phenomenon has ingrained from racism and described it as a kind of xenophobia that targets anti-Islamic emotions in West. They also claimed that essential features of hatred against Islam or its followers does not have a modern connotation but it has its roots in past centuries and now it appears in new shape of violence. While other scholars believed that Islamophobia is a modern concept which arises after the events of 9/11. The attacks of so called Muslim terrorist organization created animosity in Western nations against Muslims, which resulted in a series of ferocious attacks on Mosques, Islamic Centers, common Muslims who lived in Europe, North America, Oceania and some Asian countries like India, Myanmar etc. The attacks against Islamic centers and Mosques in 2019 horrified both Muslims and non-Muslims because of the way of conducting such attacks and the response of leading countries. Many scholars believed that the declaration of Islam as a threat after 2001 massacre by US is a reason to ascend non-Muslims emotions against the followers of Islam. They argue that the US policy created a mind set in the West which now exhibits ferocity in other parts of the world as well.

RESEARCH PROBLEM OF THE STUDY

The core reason behind the study is to examine the real reasons of new wave of aggressive anti-Islamism in the world. Precisely, the research circles around the perception that Islam is the extremist religion and Muslims are intolerant due to their beliefs. Secondly to find out the real understanding of Islamophobia and how it uses in 21st century by the west and others. The research also focuses to identify the difference of using the term in the past and in a modern times. Apart from the above research problem, the main objectives of this study are stated as following:

• To provide inclusive causes of the anti-Islamism in the world in 21st century.
• To examine the shifts in understanding of specific term.

•   To highlighting the dynamics of global transformation of morality, ideologies and their effects.

•   To find out future impact of Islamophobia and hate politics on nations.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research is planned on a qualitative and analytical methodology and based on available literature review on the research problem. In accordance to the nature of research objectives, extensive efforts have been made to gather factual data from different sources. Hence it is an amalgamation of primary and secondary sources. All the Information has been collected from authentic sources and original documents, books, journals, statements and official declarations and communications. Apart of literary research communication with other scholars through international seminars, conferences and workshops, has been very beneficial in mounting precision in discerning about various features of the topic.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The respective essay is organized in three sections. The initial part of the research, deals with the objectives and methodology of research. Whereas the next portion focuses on the identification of the specific term for using hatred against Islam and brief discussion of the real causes of its emergence and shifting its meaning over the period of time. A rise of new wave, active assaults due to abhorrence, shifting of grounds, summary of findings, recommendations and some predictions for the research problems would be discusses in the last section of the study. It is expected that the outcomes of the work would not only empower the scholars and experts of world politics but it would provide an in depth knowledge to the students, global activist and policymakers of egalitarian development.

DEFINING ISLAMOPHOBIA

Islamophobia has no clear definition because of its wide range of application. It is used as an ideology, verbal hatred, and individual physical attacks as well as group mob and on certain extent regimes sponsored attacks. Therefore one definition cannot explain all its factions. Moreover the acceptance of one definition by all sectors is not possible because of religious differences. Generally Islamophobia means an unnecessary and groundless culture of fear against Muslims and Islam. British think tank Runnymede Trust, in 1997 defines it as;

> "Dread or hatred of Islam" and as "unfounded hostility towards Islam" (Runnymede Trust, 1997: 04)

This is term also defined sociologically as,

> "The fear that the Western society has against Muslims" (Gul, 2011).

Dr. Abduljalil Sajid, a chairman of the Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony UK, defined Islamophobia as;

> "The fear and/or hatred of Islam, Muslims or Islamic culture and history. Islamophobia can be characterized by the belief that all or most Muslims are religious fanatics, have violent tendencies towards non-Muslims, and reject as directly opposed to Islam such concepts as equality, tolerance, and democracy" (RISC 2011).

These definitions were shaped after 9/11 because of constant hatred outbreaks against Muslim community who were born and raised in Western countries. Before US terrorist attacks, this term was defined in different conditions. According to Oxford English Dictionary the term was first used in print in 1991 in an American periodical "Insight," whereas other sources suggests that it was first used in France by Etienne Dinet and Sliman Ben Ibrahim, in 1925 where they used 'accès de délire islamophobe' in their work (Dinet & Ibrahim, 1925). While Caroline Fourest and Fiammetta Venner claimed that the term was used during the

Iranian Revolution by the 'Mullahs' to describe Iranian women who refused to wear the hijab and less so (Fourest & Venner, 2003: 27). The usage of the term before 9/11 was entirely different, Fourest and Venner used it as a means of describing Muslims scared of Islam and later it was re-contextualized by the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) as fear of non-Muslims towards Islam and Muslims (Ibid, 28). Both scholars explained the term as non-Muslim used it for Muslims which made it more ambiguous. On the other hand Fuad Nahdi, the editor of Q News claimed that he was the one who used this term and after a while his co-opted member of Commission on British Muslims and Islamophobia, Dr. Zaki Badawi also claimed the ownership of the term stating, "I am guilty because I am the one who coined the phrase" (Allen, 2010: 06). The Commission compiled a report and implies the term as a collective Muslim experience rather than any one individual which illustrates that the commission has not accepted the claim of Nahdi and Badawi. Islamophobia elevated with the religious confrontation in British Society which were already defying every kind of racism. Such situation was exploited by opportunist political groups after the attacks of 9/11 and used it against Muslim communities who lived in Western Countries from ages and creates the clear demarcation between Muslims and non-Muslims on the basis of religion. The events of 9/11 only elucidated the hidden sentiments in front of the world, however the clash between Muslims and non-Muslims on the basis of religion has its own history.

HISTORY OF ANTI-ISLAMISM OR ISLAMOPHOBIA

History of Islamophobia started with the beginning of crusades between Muslims and Holy Roman Empire way back in the 12th century. The church began to publicize distorted translations of Quran and revealed deceptive life stories of Prophet Muhammad SAW. It was a deliberate effort to distort Muslim history and malign Muslim society. It resulted in the shape of blood thirsty image of Arabs all over the west in the medieval era. Particularly Byzantine Empire and Roman Church used religious sentiments against the development of Ottomans for taking holy places and the land of Palestine. Romans killed thousands of innocent Muslims at that time and gave birth to the concept of anti-Islamism. It has been

recorded by the historians that 70 thousand Muslims and Jews had been slain just in Quds during these campaigns (Kumar, 2012: 16).

It can be witnessed in the writings of poets like Dante to Shelly and play writers like Shakespeare to Byron. It was a time when Europeans used terms like 'Moor' and 'Saracens' for Quran, Muhammad SAW and for Muslims (Green, 2015: 55). European writers were encouraged constantly by church to prejudiced the real wisdom of last Prophet and tell outrageous, foolish and fabricated stories related with him to humiliate Muslims and creates animosity in Christians. Such actions resulted in degradation of Islam and the religion become a dangerous enemy in the eyes of the West. Islam became more dangerous during 7th to 11th century, when Muslim armies attacked on their land and faith because they did not only advance on European Lands but many local non-Muslims (Christian and Jews) converted into Islam. Most of them accepted Islam due to the affronted actions of Greek Orthodox Church with non-Orthodox Christians, who welcomed by Muslims. Islam, (Tyrer, 2013: 34) therefore, was presented as a serious threat because only then they could mobilize an army to recapture their Holy Land, Spain and reestablish Church's supremacy.

Creation of hate against Islam in West was a deliberate action of the Roman Church and the Western Rulers because of their inferiority complex against extraordinary Muslim developments in all walks of life, particularly in Andalusia (Muslim name of Spain) during Umayyad. To mollify the Christians Church and European rulers, they presented false brutal picture of Muslims and for achieving this goal they nullified all major successes of Muslims in the field of all Social and Natural Sciences, such as, Sociology, Psychology, Ethics, Biology, Medicine, Surgery, Astronomy, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and others. It was aided by the stagnation and downfall of Andalusian Muslims. The Oriental era did not only introduced colonial rule of Europe to the continents of Asia, America and Africa but also increased the hatred of Islam in West.

ISLAMOPHOBIA IN ORIENTALISM

Islamophobia is best defined in the "Orientalism" which is a perspective that visualizes, stresses, amplifies and misleads the differences between Arabs and West in terms of people and cultures. This ideology presents Arab culture as scarce, backward, intolerant, and hazardous. Edward W. Said mentioned in his book, ***Orientalism explained*** the phenomenon which began in the era of European Enlightenment and colonization of Arabs. Said believed that it provides a justification of European colonialism and manipulates the history in which "the West" constructed "the East" as extremely different and inferior, and therefore in need of Western intervention or "rescue"   (Said, 4th Ed 2011: 05). Said was a Christian himself but he crafted the foundational theory and framework that not only disclosed the roots of modern Islamophobia, but provided the intellectual language and tools to combat it (Beydoun, 2018: 51). He explained the superiority of whiteness or white men in Oriental era explicitly that provides clear understanding of Western Pride which was initially based on color, particularly in America where blackness existed in the form of Africans and later on religion and color, both especially against Arabs who were Muslims and Brown. They used the term "White Man's Burden" from the Poetry of Rudyard Kipling to impose Western civilization as the best and only rightful advancement (Helbling, 2012: 21). Industrialization and Capitalism played its role to increase colonization and hegemonic white man's rule to control and emasculate the Eastern and Muslim culture and people. American continent got populated by the settlement of Europeans in search of opportunities of good life and fortune, therefore new land became an extension of white men's rule. When United States of America was formed in the former 13 colonies of Britain, it was not distinguished from the Western philosophy and followed the footsteps of Europe and established the same resentment towards the Muslim world.

THE RISE OF ISLAMOPHOBIA AFTER DECOLONIZATION

 The 1st half of the 20th century overturned the hegemonic control of Muslims in almost every part of the world and now they were not only in control of Europeans but they had to face the intolerant racism and

xenophobia in the shape of Islamophobia (Massoumi, et al, 2017: 43). After the 1st World War the whole Arab world went in control of Britain and France, which gradually attained autocratic independence but the other parts of Muslim majority regions were still struggling for their freedom. Till the end of World War II colonial powers were getting weak enough to lose control on their colonial territories and started the process of decolonization in their colonies. The decolonized states of Asia and Africa had achieved independence but financially they were very feeble and did not have enough resources to provide good and stable life to their people. Those newly independent states were soon called Third World States or Poor South because of their fragile economic conditions. Colonial powers brought the concept of neo-Colonialism to control their former colonies by economic means in the shape of multinational corporations (MNCs). These financial hubs used third world nation's man power, raw material and control their fiscal policies to keep them in the state of third world. During the process of decolonization many people of those colonies got immigration in their colonial powers and resided there for rest of their lives. Whereas many others went afterwards to get education or to embrace the western lifestyle. In spite of their Muslim names these immigrants were very westernized, however they were not accepted, as liberal western civilization use to proclaim. Particularly those who emigrated from East and the Islamic World. Muslims not only immigrated to Europe but also to United States in a huge number, which began a new phase of Anti-Islamism. Most of them were belonged to Arab States who were already promulgated in West as chauvinist, ruthless and anti-feminist. Europe was not only racist against Muslims but generally against the Asian, however in USA, the racism was initially against Blacks and after Arab-Israel conflict it turned toward Arabs. Anti-Islamism increased after Iranian Revolution in 1979 and the anti-feminist conduct was highlighted because of attacks on females who did not practice hijab during the revolution. Since then the West used multiple ideas and concepts to humiliate Muslims and propagated in such a way that everyone fell for it.

IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

Western Scholars explains multiple features of Islamophobia in non-Muslim society, which discusses the reasons and consequences of hatred towards Islam in those who dominate the world but are occupied with acrimony and animosity.

- **MOLESTING UNIFORM NATURE OF ISLAM**

The first feature of anti-Islamism is the misinterpretation of uniform nature of Islam by non-Muslim religious scholars and priests of West. Basically, they used the persistent ideologies and uniformity of Islam against its followers such as, it provides an equal status to all its followers on the faith of oneness of Allah (God). Therefore, if a small group of Muslims commit any violent act such as terrorism against a faction of the followers of other religions, they assumes that all Muslims are violent intolerant and ruthless on the basis of uniform ideologies of Islam (Green, 2015: 12). Another example can be related with Muslim women, as in some countries like Saudi Arabia driving restrictions are imposed on women thus west assumed that all women face such restraints in all Muslim states. On the other hand they also use some beliefs of Muslims to humiliate them such as their love for their last Prophet Muhammad SAW as it is an essential element of their faith to love their Prophet SAW unconditionally and far above than any other relation. Therefore if anyone tries to disrespect the Prophet SAW in any way, it is taken as disgrace to all Muslims and anguishes them against its perpetrators. They also target some Islamic principles which are particularly related to women such as Islam bounds women to use veil in front of non-blood related males, which is projected as stagnated behavior of religion against females in the West.

It was initially started in 11th century by the Roman Church because religious elites of Christianity lost their powerful image in the eyes of their people due to consistent defeats of European Empires by Muslims. They established a scholar's commission to understand the various branches of Islam and their actual practice around the world, so they could understand the real reasons of their persistent success and their weaknesses. After

through research they found out the central role of Prophet SAW in Islam and for Muslims, so they intentionally started a campaign to expose Muhammad SAW as an impostor and Islam as a false religion (Kumar, 2012: 42). Apart from spending their time to understand the homogeneity and incorporated aspects with other cultures of Islam, they spent their time in molesting its image and put their efforts in destroying the delineation of Muslim civilization.

A modern example of this approach is from United States, where in 2008 during the presidential campaign some of Obama's opponents frequently suggested that he was a Muslim and emphasized on the time he had spent as a child in Indonesia, his Muslim stepfather, and his Muslim-sounding middle name, Hussein, the motivation to brand Obama as a Muslim rested in the assumption that Islam is monolithic (Green, 2015: 13).

From the medieval time to the orientalist transient to the modern time Islam was dealt by non-Muslims with same monolithic approach with different modes but the misinterpretation stayed similar in all ages.

• ISLAM AS EXCLUSIVELY CHAUVINIST RELIGION

Non-Muslim society believed that Islam gives superiority to Muslim men over Muslim women. Since the medieval times, Europe payed more attention on the status of Muslim women in their life than any other issue. Even till the 19th century European scholars were so obsessed of Muslim women that no other Islamic subject caught their attention. They believed that Muslim women were submissive, saddled and their value was not more than a slave in Islam. Their intellectuals also professed that wives and daughters were treated in a subjugated way by Muslim men. All those researchers who stated these kind of testimonials had very little access to Muslim women which meant that all those statements were mostly based on assumptions rather than real consequences and needed verification. Nonetheless, at the beginning of 20th century colonial Europe conveyed this narrative all over the world without knowing of actual status of in Islam. Thus the dishonored Muslim women became the highlight of Islam in the West and all social efforts of enlightened sector of West were forced

to impose the western civilization on Islamic sector to free their women just like the Europe. It was a time when British men themselves opposing the right of women suffrage in their own country, which women in Islam got 1400 year before. Such kind of contradictions can be found in other issues as well. During the entire colonial period Europe was socially conservative at home and enlightened colonizer abroad (Kumar, 2012: 44). Surprisingly same policy is pursued by non-Muslim factions in 21ˢᵗ century which is more related to appearance rather than ideology. After 9/11 the focus of Bush regime in Afghanistan shifted to rescue the Afghan women from their oppressed male customs rather than elimination of terrorism in the region. People even believed that the fight against terrorism has also turned into a fight for the rights and dignity of women (Ibid, 45). The Islamic veil is another issue of disagreement and it became a symbol of repression of Muslim women. Western authorities have banned, despised and used the issue of Islamic veil to humiliate Muslim communities. French Government banned their Muslim citizens to wear veil publicly in April 2011 and threw all its claims of religious freedom in the trash. Muslim women have their own take on this issue and majority of them accept veiling by their own will as a compulsory obligation of their religion just like the Christian nan have devoted themselves to the church by their own will and live a very restricted life as prescribed by Christianity.

• ISLAM AS DISCRETE FROM OTHER

The other element of Islamophobia is related with the distinct core values of Islam particularly with Christianity and Judaism or with Western civilization such as freedom of diverse opinion in religion. Many non-Muslims claim that Islam does not provide acceptance of religious differences and in terms of proofs they give the examples of some particular Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, where even non-Muslims have to follow the Islamic prohibitions particularly women, who have to cover themselves like Muslim women otherwise they cannot move freely. Whereas in western countries everyone is free to follow their religious rituals because of acceptance of religious diversity. They also claimed some of the terrorist attacks on non-Muslims in Muslim countries

as an example of this bigoted attitude of Islam. However, it is a wrong interpretation of intolerance towards other religions because the terrorist attacks on Muslims in those countries were far more than against non-Muslims.

• ISLAM TREATED AS LOW-GRADE RELIGION

West treated Islam as inferior than other religions because they were defeated consistently only by Muslims. They also captured the subcontinent from Muslim rulers therefore, they made every effort to disgrace Islam, its beliefs, principles, values, lifestyle, its victories and even its heritage. Islamophobic intellectuals presented Islam as vicious, absurd, erotic and male dominated religion in comparison of Western enlightened civilization. The Hate Islam ideology prevails in the West and became a permanent element of anti-Islamism and is used to target Muslim immigrants in Europe, USA, Australia and elsewhere.

• ISLAM AS ADVERSARY

Islamophobic cognoscente presented Islam as rival of other religions and the western civilization views it as inimical, fierce and belligerent. Historically Islam was spread to the land by invasion and by preaching to the people but West only stressed its incursion aspect. Thus when 9/11 incident occurred and some of the Muslim groups were accused of those attacks all West considered that all Muslims are their enemy and against their civilization and attributes of freedom and gender equality. Such mentality increased the animosity between Muslims and non-Muslims in the world. West treated Muslims as second grade hostile nation and on the other hand Muslims also considered them as the enemy of their faith and heritage.

• ISLAM AS FRAUDULENT RELIGION

The followers of Islam are treated as treacherous by anti-Islamist, they view them as deceitful nation because according to them, Muslims used their religion to gain political and military benefits. This element is based on complete misconception and lack of awareness of Islam. The religion

provides the code of life by the title of 'sharia' which offers principles for every walk of life, not only for people but also for rulers and governments. This aspect is not present in other religions, therefore non-Muslims assume that Muslims use their religion as a shelter to fulfilling their own desires, deceive non-Muslims and take advantages. In other words, they assumed Islam as a fraud religion and its followers as traitors. This element got some evidences of those Muslims who sometime misused religion for their personal desires. However these were individual practices which are found in the followers of other religion as well. Hence, wrong doings of some individuals cannot be projected on a whole faction deeming it as fraudulent or deceitful religion.

> **Sharia:** Islamic law based on the Qur'an and the Sunna (the example of Muhammad) that provides a blueprint for proper conduct in accordance with God's revelations.

• ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MUSLIMS

West accepted racial defamation against Muslims particularly after 9/11 because the world annexed terrorism with Islam which gave a right to every non-Muslim to target Muslims only on the basis of their religion. The Muslims who had been living their entire life in West suddenly became dangerous for the community. West made no difference between criminal and innocent Muslims and marched them in a same list of Muslim extremists without any investigation only because they follow the same religion which was followed by Usama bin Laden or Al-Qaida. Such kind of a discrimination was ingrained by anti-Islamist propaganda by all kind of global media. On Airports especially in Europe and North America, Muslim passenger are checked by dogs and lined separately from others. This behavior is practiced by those people who are champions of equality and anti-racism but for the Muslims they accept such discriminant actions although their constitutions prohibited all kind of racism however, it is socially allowed against Muslims.

• ZERO TOLERANCE AGAINST CRITICISM ON WEST

Western Society has zero patience against any kind of criticism on their

liberal values or their uncontrolled and un-apologetic youth, but all western intellectuals including politicians, religious leaders, journalists or academic scholars freely criticize Islam, its followers, believes, practices, Prophet's SAW life and even their glorious history. West questions Islam but does not allow Muslim scholars to counter question or debate on any allegations made by them. They allow people to make absurd cartoons to humiliate the status of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) but do not permit Muslims to counter such insults. This deceitful attitude was noticed globally and when Muslim blocs tried to debate their queries largely discarded by some public figures and they called it freedom of expression. However these same sectors were not allowed to comment on Holocaust which illustrated that problem is not related with issues but the un-accepted notion for Muslims.

Above mentioned elements of anti-Islamism is usually found in daily life of the West. People from Muslim origin face such kind of hatred commonly. These features are infiltrated in them so deeply that now it has become natural for them to hate or fear Muslims. A well reputed journalist Juan Williams confessed that the sight of Muslim on an airplane made him nervous (NPR, Oct 2010). It happened because a specific nation is constantly targeted by all factions of intellectuals with equal amount of hatred by using all mediums which resulted not only in verbal hatred and humiliating gestures but this phobia now shows in form of fierce attacks on Muslim mosques, Islamic centers and other holy places.

INCREASE IN ISLAMOPHOBIA AFTER 9/11

American identity during the Cold War (1947–1991) rested heavily on detesting the Soviet Union and the ideas, images, and icons that represented it (Beydoun, 2018: 76). The dissolution of USSR in 1991 suddenly eradicated the enemy of USA. During the entire Cold War, Americans rested largely on hating the Soviet Union and communism, and performing that hate through political rhetoric, associations, and opposition to anything affiliated with the Soviet Union (Ibid, 76). Their identity, as Americans, was defined by who and what they hated therefore after the immediate absence of their enemy they needed another rival.

American policy makers needed a new adversary to facilitate its foreign policy objectives and forwarded its political interests on the home front (Ibid, 77). US wanted to pursue the same policy 'we are what we hate' again and this time they decided this time to use anti-Islam emotions of their people as strategy. Islamic extremism needed some actions to become a threat for the world which started just after US proclamation with the incident of Oklahoma City bombing. The bombing was admitted by Al-Qaida because of US support of Israel against Palestinians. Some other such kind of attacks strengthened the anti-Islam sentiments in Western society. The terrorist attack of 9/11 became the icing on the cake and blasted out the hate against Muslims all over the world. The hatred attacks against common Muslims particularly in US and Europe increased and outnumbered. Most of the victims of such attacks lived in those countries from decades and no one had any complain against them because they were as westernized as any other. They were victimized only because they had a Muslim identity. In 2016, there were 127 reported victims of aggravated or simple assault, compared with 91 the year before and 93 in 2001 (Pew Research Centre). These fact illustrated the sentiments of people in West against Muslims. US renowned Political Scientist Samuel P. Huntington after four years of 2001 terrorist attacks publicly affirmed Islam, and its followers, would be threat to the American harmony and hegemony. He wrote in 1993 in foreign Affairs;

> "The fundamental problem for the West is not Islamic fundamentalism. It is Islam, a different civilization whose people are convinced of the superiority of their culture and are obsessed with the inferiority of their power" (Huntington, 1993: 47).

The Huntington observation clearly explained the future proposition of clash between Islam and others and today's situation witnessed that he was absolutely right. Particularly the attacks on two Mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand in which 51 Muslims were hunted down by 29 years old Australian Brenton Tarrant in early 2019, horrified the world (NBC, NEWS, 15th March, 2019). Particularly the way that massacre was conducted by Tarrant was alarming because it looked like he played the

video game PUBG or Counter Strike and telecasted his hunting live on internet. The brutality showed the mindset of Tarrant as well as his fearless attitude towards arresting or imprisonment because he didn't hide his face, identity or weapons. On the other hand India became another hub of anti-Islamism as a regime.

INDIA: A NEW HUB OF ANTI-ISLAMISM IN 21st CENURY

On 5th August 2019 Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the abolition of special status of occupied Kashmir by eliminating the article 370 from Indian constitution, which allowed government to directly control the state and imposed their laws in the valley. This action was the clear violation of not only the Indian constitution but also the UN Security Council resolutions on the dispute of Kashmir. Modi regime imposed complete lockdown in the valley which is continued till date. It was the beginning of Modi's anti-Muslim actions to exhibit his hatred of Islam. The citizenship Act was next in line, which is known as Anti-Muslim Act now a days. India is the largest democracy in the world but the rise of right-wing ethno-nationalism under Modi is slowly unraveling the secular democratic fabric of Mahatma Gandhi. India's Parliament passed the Citizenship Amendment Bill in December 2019 to allow any Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Christian or Parsi immigrant who came to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh or Afghanistan before 2015 to legally become a citizen (Iftikhar, Jan 13, 2020). This act only left out Muslims in the region who are second largest population of India whereas Modi justified his action in lame excuses like there are majority Muslim States like Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh and they have not in need of leaving their majority states or they will not exodus any refugee from their country but everyone knows that the target of this act is their Muslim population, whom by this law need to show original certification in National Register of Citizens. During the partition of 1947 most of the Muslim lost their citizenship in India and they were adjusted by 1951 act of citizen which provided them legal status of Indian Muslim. The new act upsurge protest in all over India, which was very violently dealt by ethno-nationalists and

regime. Modi's right wing Hindutva supporters attacked on Muslim population in Delhi, tortured people and burned their homes and shops, surprisingly Federal capital was burning and the government failed to control extremists which also shows the intentions of the government. The respective bill was similar of Myanmar's 1982 anti-Muslim citizenship law which omitted the 1 million Rohingyians Muslims from legal citizenship of Myanmar. Therefore, Indian Muslims believed that they are next in line who will be illegal soon in their own country. Muslim hatred took a leap in India and soon it will become the front line hub of Islamophobia.

CONCLUSION

Hatred against Islam exists with its spread beyond the Arabian Peninsula because of two major reasons, one was its distinguished principles and swift acceptance from wherever it reached. Whereas second reason was related with the promoters of other religions which included clerics and religious beneficiaries such as rulers, ministers and military commanders. Many scholars believed that anti-Islamism and antagonism was developed due to the humiliating defeat of Christians in the 16th century and continued possession of Holy places by Ottomans till 20th century which intensified European resentment towards Islam and its followers. Whereas some of the scholars criticize the harsh role of Muslim rulers against Christians and Jews in the lands they had invaded, but such kind of criticism is not acceptable because in a kingship, the ruler's behavior was not in control of any religion and it was evident that European rulers were far more brutal, antagonist and wicked for those communities where they invade.

The debate on Islamophobia heightened after 9/11 because of the manifestation of the West after the terrorist attacks in USA, that Islam teaches extremism and terrorism or on a certain extend Islam produced terrorism. This ideology introduced the new rage of anti-Islamism around the world. Innocent Muslims were targeted in general for those actions which were committed by a small group of people. They faced not only verbal hatred but physical abuse as well. Friends became foes and

neighbors became strangers. Attacks on Muslims women who wore hijab became common, Islamic centers and mosques were attacked by different groups of anti-Muslims. Millions of Muslims were forced to leave the Western countries after spending half of their life, only because all of a sudden they were now perceived as enemies of the West. Their only crime was that they were born as Muslims, because by the lifestyle they were as Western as any white person. West did not want to listen to any justification or counter evidences against their claims. Anyone who wanted to rectify their claims suddenly became extremist or fundamentalist, because of the unaccepting and intolerant attitude of Western leaders. Islamophobia was intensified as political means by which Islam got treated as hostile religion and Muslim regions were declared as breeding grounds of hostility for the world. Many scholars believed that the way Islam, as a religion, was politicized with extremism was not an abrupt policy, however, it was a pre-planned strategy of the West against the followers of Islam because of the magnanimity of their actions. On one hand US led forces began War against terrorism and attacked Afghanistan and Iraq to crush Al-Qaida's leadership and safe havens of terrorists, while on the other hand they used media to penetrate enmity in their fellow beings against Islam and its followers in such a way that it increased with every passing day. Policy makers did not realize that their wrath against Islam overturned and hatred of their own people crossed limits. Common men's abhorrence leaped and converted into violent attacks on innocent Muslims and their religious places like Christchurch mosque attack of 2019. It was not the only attack of its kind, but in Europe and United States mosques and Islamic centers are constantly threatened by religious extremists till date.

The Islamophobia in the West was transformed from religious antagonism to political xenophobia, but in India religious hatred amalgamated with political outrage and burst on local Indian Muslims who have no place to escape because they are born Indians and that is the only citizenship they own. They are poor and deprived portion of their own homeland which is now shrinking for them day by day, because of utmost odium of Narendra Modi and his RSS & BJP supporters. The world has already seen the

disgusting evacuation of Rohingyians from Myanmar only as a result of Muslim hatred.

RECOMANDATIONS

It is about time that the world realizes now that hate is not a remedy for anything, and wrong conceptualization of Islam in their people is not an answer of any past defeat or a clue to future victory. It destroys the psychology of people and they face anger management issues in their usual life. Besides the world, the political attitude of India towards its Muslims and other non-Hindu population also needs to be checked, because if such hatred continues than it will not only be restricted against non-Hindus but the polarized Hindu religion will also be in great danger by its own followers. West is constantly trying to hide their hate actions under cover of freedom of expressions and democratic principles. It clearly exhibits that Islamophobia has created psychotic and anger issues in common men because drawing humiliating cartoons of most respectful personality of Islam or burning the holy book of Muslims are not the actions of civilized people, but it shows the anger and antagonism of a disturbed society which expresses their anxiety by such actions only boosts hate among each other.

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