Trends of Islamophobia in the 21st Century: The Western Media as Pathway

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Abstract

The coexistence between Muslims and non-Muslims in the contemporary world is full of tense grief and sorrow. The deep scar made against Muslim by the Crusaders luciferins and Masonic nations had thrown communities into confusion, chaos and had turned the friendship into an infinite fear and apprehensions. Islam is a friendly and peaceful religion that harbors all people from different background. The universal nature of its cause tends to accept all regardless of their socio economic backgrounds. It is a religion full of systems that cater for the lives of humanities. It left no cause of life but deal with it in totality. This had left other types of government who on the other hand compete with Islam to ignite hatred and attribute false denunciations, acrimonies and rebuke to Islam, thus, allowing other systems to thrive. This paper intends to use theoretical analysis of the causes of Islamophobia and discuss the methods used by the anti-Islam movements in the twenty first century. It also suggests approaches to curtailing that from Islamic perspectives. The main objective of the paper is correcting erroneous perceptions against Islam and promoting interreligious peaceful coexistence throughout the world.

Introduction

The term Islamophobia refers to negative perceptions against Islam by the West. It is among the issues that disturb the interracial setups in the modern society. The purpose of this hatred could be subjected to many reasons such as competition to the dominations of world order, especially after dissolution of Soviet Union; the fingers continue to point to Muslims, perhaps this could be due to the fact that Muslims have once reached the zenith of glory in the control of world order e.g. Abbaside and Ottoman Caliphate. Another reason could be Arab (Muslim) Israel (Zionist) conflicts, where Arabs regardless of their religious inclinations are assumed to be fundamentalists who disturb world peace and create mayhem and killings. This gives ultimate justification to kill and annihilate Muslims by Israelis.

It is apparent that most of the wars now are carefully planned and executed through use of media houses, cable networks, and internet. The media propaganda depicts Muslims in bad light linking them with evil and making Islam synonymous to terrorism. Perhaps, the most common diplomatic expression of Islam is “Islamophobia”, which means social anxiety against Islam, or fearful habits towards Muslims and their religion and or avoiding them, but the truth of the matter is that Islamophobia is nothing but racism against set of people (Muslims) in order to overwhelm the ethics of their belief and replace it with new one.

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A post-colonial theorist, Edward, was the first to use the word Islamophobia in English, when he wrote in 1985 about “the connection … between Islamophobia and anti-Semitism” and criticized writers who do not recognize that ‘hostility to Islam in the modern Christian West has historically gone hand in hand’ with antisemitism and ‘has stemmed from the same source and been nourished at the same
Definition

For a very long time the Christian West perceived Muslims as a lurking danger before they became a problem. This brings out the questions of the nature of this fear. What is Islamophobia? Lots have been written and said about Islamophobia. It was projected as Anti-Islamic sentiment, or is a term for prejudice, hatred towards, or fear of Islam and Muslims, or of ethnic groups perceived to be Muslim. The term entered into common English usage in 1997 with the publication of a report by the Runnymede Trust condemning negative emotions such as fear, hatred, and dread directed at Islam or Muslims. While the term is now widely recognized and used, a French colonial bureaucrat “Alain Quellien” looked at Islamophobia as act of apprehension and hatred of Muslims:

*For some, the Muslim is the natural and irreconcilable enemy of the Christian and the European: Islam is the negation of civilization, and barbarism, bad faith and cruelty are the best one can expect from the Mohammedans.*

Other illustrations that defines an Islamophobic, include

1. Islam is seen as a monolithic bloc, static and unresponsive to change.
2. It is seen as separate and "other." It does not have values in common with other cultures, is not affected by them and does not influence them.
3. It is seen as inferior to the West. It is seen as barbaric, irrational, primitive, and sexist
4. It is seen as violent, aggressive, threatening, supportive of terrorism, and engaged in a clash of civilization
5. It is seen as a political ideology used for political or military advantage.
6. Criticisms made of "the West" by Muslims are rejected out of hand.
7. Hostility towards Islam is used to justify discriminatory practices towards Muslims and exclusion of Muslims from mainstream society.
8. Anti-Muslim hostility is seen as natural and normal.

In the 15th century the Ottomans constituted a danger to the West, but the danger was more temporal than religious or theological. The emphasis was less on the “Muslim threat” than on the “political threat” (geo-political, as we would now call it) constituted by Ottoman power.

The 17th and 18th centuries even saw the emergence of a comparatively brotherly and understanding view of Islam and the Muslim world. The Enlightenment was chiefly obsessed with the fight against Christian mediaeval conservatism and developed a positive image of Islam as a religion characterized by moderation, tolerance and open-mindedness. Islam is regarded as a form of deism, close to the spirit of the Enlightenment and far removed from any spirit of clerical domination. Muslims tended to be perceived as ordinary men.

The hate and fear against Muslim, Arab is contested in on other languages, e.g. in German there is a contest between *Islamophobie*, and *Islamfeindlichkeit*, the latter implying hostility, not fear. In French, the contest is in part between *Islamophobie* on the one hand and *racisme anti-arabe* or *racismeanti-maghrébin* on the other, the latter two phrases indicating that the phenomenon is primarily to be seen as a form of anti-immigrant racism directed towards communities from parts
of the former French Empire, not primarily to do with religion or culture. The Scandinavian term Muslimhat translates literally into English as ‘Muslim hatred’

**Causes of Phobia**

The main cause of phobia against Islam is ignorance. This ignorance is carefully designed, engineered and executed by Western elite, including Jews. Both Jews and West may slightly differ in their motives, e.g. the Jews could have wanted the Islamophobia to achieve its war against Palestine Arab presumably Muslims. They promote phobia through planned bombings, kidnap and orchestrated the 9/11 attacks on USA to justify war against Muslim Arabs of Palestine. Benjamin Netanyahu wrote a book about Muslims terror, a book which has been fully put into practice by President George Bush of USA as the “War on Terror” in 21st century.

Other causes could be the quest to rule the world as pointed in the previous paragraphs. The world atheists with their different names either Mason vii, Luciferian, viii Illuminati ix etc have the attitude of obsession to control the affairs of world under one single form of government. They have many plans to achieving this; this include igniting war between nations, e.g. WWI and WWII, control of economic activities, world energy, sports, music entertainments and any other issues that human beings required. This has made them determined to overthrow any civilization, religion or government that would hinder their progress.

The spike in anti-Muslim sentiment didn't fall from the sky or rise from the ground - it was manufactured by a shadowy network of bloggers, funders, pundits, preachers and politicians. In a tightly-written, fast-paced narrative that feels like a thriller backed by the research of a doctoral thesis.

It is pertinent to highlight the principal phenomena which phobia causes to Muslims these include:

- negativity and hostility in the media and the blogosphere, in the publications of certain think tanks and influence-leaders, and the speeches and policy proposals of certain political leaders, both mainstream and marginal hate crimes on the streets against both persons and property, and desecration of Muslim cemeteries, cultural centers and religious buildings
- harassment, abuse and rudeness (‘the unkindness of strangers’, as the term might be) in public places
- unlawful discrimination in employment practices and the provision of services
- non-recognition of Muslim identities and concerns, and removal of Muslim symbols in public space – ‘the best Muslim for us is the Muslim we cannot see’

**Islam in the Western Media**

The media could cause damage more grievous than that of weapon of mass destruction. The trends of contemporary fight against Islam and any other system in the world produce better result when dragged into media and world wide web. The distortions of media to Islam emerged as early as 1910 when a French colonial Alain Quellien, published book entitled *La politique musulmane dans l’Afrique Occidentale Française*, the word *Islamophobia* appears to have been in use to criticize the ways in which French colonial administrators viewed the cultures of the countries now known as Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal."
Some media houses e.g. Jylland Magazine sees Islam as violent dogma which started from the Prophet Muhammad down to Bin Laden they conclude that Islam has been, from the very beginning, completely irreconcilable with modernity.\textsuperscript{xi}

There have been series of movement of women emancipation, child rights act, gender equality, all of these are at rise just to predisposition and dislodge Islam and Muslims from the Centre of events.

In the Hollywood, the world movie Centre has contributed in escalating the rate of fear against Islam by producing many movies that suggests Muslims as terrorists who wish to annihilate non-Muslims in the name of Allah, these include the following movies : “True Lies” Featuring Arnold Schwarzenegger, “24” Series featuring Kiefer Sutherland, “Rules of Engagement” featuring Samuel L. Jackson, etc. In the Internet there is indeed much anti-Islamic propaganda published on the Internet, and if you believe it, you would hate Islam.

The anti-Islamic propaganda in the USA by some pro-Israel groups for over 50 years is on. And a surge of it after the 1967 war between Arabs and Israel has produced more damages to Islam and Muslims. After the "9/11" it has assumed massive proportions, and has been further increased across this decade. This propaganda campaign has spread to Europe. The purpose of this vilification of Islam is to justify wars of aggression and other criminal acts committed by politicians by presenting them as a "Fight against Fanatics, Extremists, and fundamentalists"\textsuperscript{xii}

The internet sites are full of mischievous sites that tend to represent Islam, whereas the matter of fact they are not. It is created by anti-Islam agents, they depict Muslims as wicked immoral enemies to modernity, thus, need to eliminate them would always arise. An example of an internet reader says:

I never studied Islam and do not know Arabic and here is the problem.\textsuperscript{xiii} I believe Islam is an evil religion from what I see on Internet and will always believe so. You have also vile people among Christians that is no doubt but they are not such to chop off head for a purpose of frightening people in a worst manner possible.\textsuperscript{xiv}

Western media have while using Islamophobia achieved its goal in tarnishing the image of Islam. A survey conducted by Bertelsmann Foundation, Germany, showed that many Europeans view Islam as incompatible with the Western world, including two thirds of respondents in Spain and just half of respondents in France. A more recent survey found that 57% percent of non-Muslims in Germany perceive Islam as a threat, up from 53 percent in 2012\textsuperscript{ xv}

However, some non-Muslims who have carefully read about Islam and its Prophet have different opinions they consider historical success accorded to Islam was owing to its peaceful approaches and self-esteem of its adherents. Mahatma Gandhi’s statement published in 'Young India,'1924, said:

I wanted to know the best of the life of one who holds today an undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind.... I became more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the Prophet the scrupulous regard for pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. These and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every obstacle. When I
closed the second volume (of the Prophet's biography), I was sorry there was not more for me to
read of that great life.\textsuperscript{xvi}

\textbf{Michael Hart says:}

My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world’s most influential persons may surprise
some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was
supremely successful on both the secular and religious level. ...It is probable that the relative
influence of Muhammad on Islam has been larger than the combined influence of Jesus Christ
and St. Paul on Christianity. ...It is this unparalleled combination of secular and religious
influence which I feel entitles Muhammad to be considered the most influential single figure in
human history.\textsuperscript{xvii}

Islam does not accept terrorist’s killings, attacks and murdering innocent lives, nor does it
command its adherents to wage war at individual capacities. The trend of terror and tremor that
quake this world is quite un-Islamic, nor would good mannered Muslim concede to it because it
lacks jurisdictions in all teachings of the books. What they do is a wrong interpretation of
religion.

Muslims do not in a single minute deceive themselves by trying to compromise their religion to
the Western needs, nor are they willing to concede to it that there would be a day when the West
could adopt Islam and leave side by side. They have preparatory mind to deal with hatred
deceptions and injustice of unbelievers. They were told by Quran that

\begin{quote}
Never will the Jews nor the Christians be pleased with you (O Muhammad Peace be upon him)
till you follow their religion. Say: "Verily, the Guidance of Allah (i.e. Islamic Monotheism) that
is the (only) Guidance. And if you (O Muhammad Peace be upon him) were to follow their (Jews
and Christians) desires after what you have received of Knowledge (i.e. the Qur'an), then you
would have against Allah neither any Wali (protector or guardian) nor any helper.
\end{quote}

\textbf{Conspiracies against Islam}

Islam encompasses the needs of humanity. This is because it is not man made religion but it is
Allah, who created man from nothing to being. There is nothing left with regard to human needs
unattended to ranging from the spiritual life, economic, political, and social and all aspects of
life. Islam survived for fifteen centuries unchanged, the growing factors of Islamic developments
and its flexibility to blend in most of world communities may cause conspiracies and negative
incitement from other systems. Similarly, the wrong interpretations and self-acclaimed version of
extremists and fanatics, has made many nations to ally against Islam, thus, instead of making
friends some societies frown at it as phobic, causing lots of confusion and unprecedented self-
defense against it. President Nixon writes

\begin{quote}
The United States should adopt a policy of isolation and containment towards both Iraq and Iran.
The objectives should be giving both countries problems at home so that they cannot cause
problems abroad.\textsuperscript{xviii}
\end{quote}

Previous incitements by President Nixon is a clear indication of how Western leaders consider
Muslim countries. Islam has been wrongly perceived by many secular systems, it is assumed as a
threat. In Europe, were about 20 million Muslims live in the 28 countries of EU, they mostly
have a growing fear of Islam and pushback against new immigrants has led to the formation of
extreme right-wing movements.
The Western media owned by either Jews or Illuminati adherents have managed to make Western people think of Islam as evil based on what they saw in the internet or what the media has politically and mischievously reported. There are many internet sites antagonistic to Islam and which make false accusations and misleading comments on Islam. In some cases, there are internet sites and bloggers which appear to representing Islam and as the matter of fact they do not. They would present extremists and fanatic views that would precipitate hate and anger against Islam.

Why does the West need to use Islamophobia? In response to that one could look at the following causes

- Gain support and legitimizing Western national governments, this gives leverage to control and contain revolutionists of every kind
- Justifications of military interventions in the Middle East and control its oil industries as well as to justify the military invasions of Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan, and to motivate Western troops and security services to mistreat, torture and kill
- To defend sovereignty of the state of Israel and extension of Military and political support to the new born Israel state amidst of Middle Eastern nations.
- The desire to sell newspapers, and therefore to excite and orchestrate frissons of fear, and spread and respond to moral panic, reassuring readers that threats to identity, status and normality are understood and can be dealt with
- Political parties which uses anti-Muslim slogans and messages in their propaganda tend to gain momentum and advantages of having higher scores than those who did not

**Instances of Anti-Islamic riots**

In Europe, there has been some organizations that promote hatred and anger against Islam, they established internet sites on social media, and founded organization called “Stop Islamisation of Europe”. The organization was inspired by a Danish group of the same name who have held protests outside Danish mosques since the sad cartoons of Jyllands-Posten, the group was founded in 2007 by Anders Gravers Pedersen, the leader of a small Danish party called the Stop the Islamisation of Denmark (Danish: Stop Islamiseringen af Danmark) On 11 September 2007, the group staged a demonstration in Brussels, Belgium. The group has 6,600 supporters on its Facebook page.

The group describes itself as an alliance "with the single aim of preventing Islam becoming a dominant political force in Europe. The organization calls for the total boycott of Muslim countries. The group advises boycotts of European companies due to their marketing of products to Muslims.

Some of the incited violence that erupted between Muslim, Islam and other beliefs are caused by the Islamophobia these include:

1. On 11 September 2009, Stop Islamisation of Europe co-sponsored a demonstration with the English Defense League (EDL) in Harrow which generated national and international media attention. The purpose of the demonstration was to campaign against the building of a five story mosque, Harrow Central Mosque, which was under construction the group had pledged to hold a peaceful protest after the EDL cancelled a planned protest on 29 August 2009.
2. In the year 2015 at least 18,000 people in the eastern German city of Dresden have taken part in rallies opposing Islamic influence in Western nations, prompting massive counter-protests in several cities.

It is sad to note that other businesses and some religious outfits assist in the spread of Islamophobia, Aljazeera network reported that: Businesses, churches, Cologne city's power company and others were planning to keep their buildings and other facilities dark in solidarity with the demonstrations against the ongoing protests by PEGIDA.

Although the Europeans would in some cases smartly dispute their hatred against Islam by soliciting other excuses such as "The line is not between Christians and Muslims," he said. "The line is between those who are intolerant … and the others, the majority."

3. In Australia they hide under the guise of loving their country and being patriotic rally organizer when asked about her riot against Sharia and Islam, Catherine Brennan the riot organizer said: “Since when is it being racist to love your country and to love the values and culture that you’ve been brought up with?”

April 4, 2015, one of the Sydney Islamophobic rioter said “We have an extreme ideology called Islam which is starting to gain a foothold in our societies,” one speaker told the event, at which one person held a home-made sign reading “No Islam. No Sharia. No Halal”

The Relations of Muslims and other beliefs

One would ask apart from aforementioned causes of Islamophobia, has Muslim shown enmity or aggressions and phobia against other faiths? Yes, in some instances and NO in most of instances

Islam encodes that Muslims respect other people’s faiths, especially were the religion is Abrahamic, i.e. Judaism and Christianity. Other religions were supposed to be treated with kind of respect in mutual understanding. E.g. we should not insult abuse or downplay any idols

Muslims were commanded to respect the Ahlul-Kitab.-Jews and Christians. The marital ties, business transactions, social life and any other issues that affect not the true religion of Islam are widely encouraged and made lawful based on specified conditions

Made lawful to you this day are At-Tayyibat [all kinds of Halal (lawful) foods, which Allah has made lawful (meat of slaughtered eatable animals, etc., milk products, fats, vegetables and fruits, etc.). The food (slaughtered cattle, eatable animals, etc.) of the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) is lawful to you and yours is lawful to them. (Lawful to you in marriage) are chaste women from the believers and chaste women from those who were given the Scripture (Jews and Christians) before your time, when you have given their due Mahr (bridal money given by the husband to his wife at the time of marriage), desiring chastity (i.e. taking them in legal wedlock) not committing illegal sexual intercourse, nor taking them as girl-friends. And whosoever disbelieves in the Oneness of Allah and in all the other Articles of Faith [i.e. His (Allah's), Angels, His Holy Books, His Messengers, the Day of Resurrection and Al-Qadar (Divine Preordainments)], then fruitless is his work, and in the Hereafter he will be among the losers.

The second Caliph of Islam, Caliph Umar Bin al- Khattab (RA) had interpreted these injunctions into actions at the eve of Muslims conquest of Egypt. He allowed Christians to live freely, practicing their religion, although payment of light taxation was imposed to assist in running the affairs of the government. This is similar to what is practiced today in our secular government system and democratic settings. Once Umar had paid a pension scheme to an old Jew of Madina
who grew very old but opted to live within the Islamic domicile. One day Umar saw him begging, and asked why to which he answered that he was bound to pay annual taxation. Caliph Umar argued that since this man has grown old in Islamic state, behaving as a responsible citizen, he shall be entitled to pensions benefit at his retirement age, he said “we shall support your weakness”. He declared a wage for him to allow him sustain his life and to any other old person. This kindness, had left its mark and symbols across Arab Muslim countries and had culminated in preserving the very old Churches in Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Morocco where Christians and Jews live freely as equal citizens along with their Muslims brethren.

However, from the other perspectives, there has been some self-acclaimed Muslims who tend to hijack Islam by proclaiming self-Jihad, they seemingly appear to bring new version of Islam, which is full of disrespect to humanity, malicious destructions of wealth and lives, public properties. These attitudes have made Islam to correlates with the vicious media attacks which project Muslims as evil and murderers. It had given nations justifications and glorifications to subjectively attack kill and wage wars of aggression against countries of Muslims. Although those incidents of self-acclaimed jihadist are rare but would always rock the media houses and would be harboured and aired all times.

The Peaceful nature of Islam

Islam calls for peace and egalitarianism, and it is for the generality of mankind, not for Arabs, Africans Europeans or any other nations, unlike Christianity which is solely for the lost house of the sheep of Israel. Prophet Muhammad was sent to all as a mercy and blessing to humanity:

The teachings of Islam are devoid of force and cohesion and anchored upon respect of human lives. The sharia law which is the Islamic codified laws, aims at safeguarding life, dignity and property of human beings regardless of their religious inclinations.

The life of Prophet Muhammad SAW is full of examples and instances showing how to leave with larger Muslims and non-Muslim communities.

The social setup of Madina has impeccably interpreted methods of treating non-Muslims, thus, where Muslims are majority they should as a matter of fairness equity and justice give basic freedom and right to others. In other words, it is imperative for Muslims to know that Muslims and non-Muslims may leave in one country. There is no any harm to set an eye on unbeliever he could in some time even be your neighbor. The Prophet SAW used to visit Jewish neighborhood, and could even take some snack drinks from their dishes, he visits their sick ones etc.

The treaty of Hudaybiyya teaches us that Muslims would always dearly need peace not war. The clauses of the treaty are myopic, full of injustice aggressions:

a) The Muslims shall return this time and come back next year, but they shall not stay in Makkah for more than three days.

b) They shall not come back armed but can bring with them swords only sheathed in scabbards and these shall be kept in bags.

c) War activities shall be suspended for ten years, during which both parties will live in full security and neither will raise sword against the other.
d) If anyone from Quraish who goes over to Muhammad (Peace be upon him) without his guardian’s permission, he should be sent back to Quraish, but should any of Muhammad’s followers return to Quraish, he shall not be sent back.

e) Whosoever wishes to join Muhammad (Peace be upon him), or enter into treaty with him, should have the liberty to do so; and likewise whosoever wishes to join Quraish, or enter into treaty with them, should be allowed to do so. xix

This agreement contains injustice and discrepancies that negate freedom of Muslims, but the Prophet SAW conceded to it because of his religion promotes peaceful coexistence even at the expense of certain sacrifices but accepted the terms just to achieve peace.

Conclusion

Islam is very important religion that requires to be studied by the West. It should not be taken for granted, prejudice or apprehensive. Muslims are not evil, nor are they terrorists, they as the matter of fact desist from any misconduct that would endanger lives and properties.

The issues of deviant factions from Muslims could better be addressed if round table work is conducted. The so-called moderate Muslims would be of great assistance to make understand better terms of Muslims. About the control of the world. Islam would not tolerate any aggressions or molestations from any other system. Muslims are taught to live freely in non-Islamic countries, and under any kind of governmental system, be it democracy, socialism or else, so long as the fundamental bases of the religion are observed.

Western nations need to understand Muslims and consider them as friends to uphold the fundamental principles and objectives of harmony. Muslims are not actually enemies to any other system, but would need moderate societies that would mingle with them. Islam commanded its adherents to coexist peacefully with others, and has given high regard about considerations to people of the Book (Jews and Christians) dialogue and intellectual dispositions should reign between the West and Muslims. Wherever there is a conflict in Muslim nation it should not be taken as a private matter but a global issue that needed to be treated with highest order of sensitivity. If we continue to ignore conflicts in which Muslims nations are victims, we will invite a clash between the Western and Muslim world.

Islamophobia is vested interests and highly-organized networks of those who preach the virulent attacks that are not only endangering world peace but also are disintegrating the tolerance and egalitarian attitude that should characterize Western society. Thus, the interest of very few shall not prejudice the world peace.

I pray to Allah that this would assist in drawing understanding close together and make the world a good place to live.

Notes
The Ottoman Turkish Empire is referred to as the Empire of Turkey, an Islamic state founded in 1299 by Turks under Osman I in northwestern Anatolia with conquests in the Balkans by Murad I between 1362 and 1389. The Ottoman sultanate was transformed into a transcontinental empire and caliphate. The Ottomans overthrew the Byzantine Empire with the 1453 conquest of Constantinople (present-day Istanbul) by Sultan Muhammad II.


Freemasonry is one of the world’s oldest and largest non-religious, non-political, fraternal and charitable organizations, founded in London, England in 1717, its current worldwide membership totals 3.6 million members.

Luciferianism is a belief system that includes both theistic and atheistic denominations and is, therefore, heavily influenced by personal perspectives and experiences.

Illuminati (plural of Latin illuminatus, "enlightened") is a name given to several groups, both real and fictitious. Historically, the name refers to the Bavarian Illuminati, an Enlightenment-era secret society founded on May 1, 1776.

Robin Richardson Islamophobia or anti-Muslim racism – or what? – concepts and terms revisited


Ibid Al-Mubarakpouri, P.313