

TERRORISM, FACT, FICTION OR FIGMENT?

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Birf—Al ways a Step Ahead

A burning question is before every sensible brain on the dawn of 2009, why terrorism? The interpretations given by the advocates of the global war against this so-called 'curse' are, indeed, mind-boggling—since media hegemony has transformed lie into truth, fantasy into reality. But, however impressive and heart-touching, we are under the obligation of researching an issue before approaching it traditionally. Our religion also enjoins that one must not believe in the appearance of a matter unless deeply investigated. The approach otherwise is quite akin to hail the mainstream slogan with no use of reason.

The world today, let us suppose for a moment, is free of terrorism and we are living in a peaceful international atmosphere. That is, of course, incredibly appealing. However, who will guaranty this peace being everlasting? Will nothing in the future of mankind plague global peace? Will the superpower guard everyone's rights equally? Will there be a universal justice with no disparity of race, color, language and religion? Conflicts and coercions are an integral part of the nature of human species, for the gift of free will brings us the desire to acquire an unlimited freedom. Of course, such a freedom is harmful not only to the fellowmen, but to the very being of ours. "Liberty must be limited in order to be possessed", as stated one of the British statesman, is a good example to delineate the rights and the responsibilities for the enactment of true independence. Responsibilities define what rights we own, and this definition of dues and duties is identically applicable to regional, national, and international levels.

Let us see the problem in the light of this above brief discussion to understand what elements have given root to the problem of terrorism in an age of developed human rights. A logical question is whether the world of today is completely independent and we are living in a new era of human freedom. If no absolute yes, is this granted freedom only an illusion with no real future? What are the nations or people that do not bother to honor the liberty of other, namely weaker, nations or groups? Why suppression is viewed by the Western hemisphere as their birthright and a repulse to their suppression an act of 'accurst' terrorism? Is this conception of 'true independence' merely bookish? Is the West still not feeding upon the circular thinking of "Whiteman's Burden"? Observably, it is not only a law of nature, but a social law as well, that all disorders bear certain fallacious origins wherefrom the problems come forth. A disorder cannot get birth on its own, and a human fallacy or fraud necessarily lies at the core of the problem. The case of terrorism is no exception either. It is an outcome of some human fallacy or fraud that, mistakenly or deliberately, took place sometimes ago in the recorded history. This is to suggest that the origins of terrorism are not in the skies but on earth with predominant possibilities that its engineers are its immediate targets.

Today's terrorism, in my opinion, is neither fact nor fiction, but a figment. There is no single terrorist on the face of earth, according to the Western definition of the word in question. The word 'terrorism', having French root, was used for the first time during French Revolution in an entirely different context. Similarly, the other related term, 'fundamentalism', was introduced by a Christian denomination in USA (American Bible League) in 1902 in its 12 tracts, which claimed fundamentalism to be the beauty of Christianity. Neither of these 'taboos' have to do with the Muslims either in origin or implementation. Then, is it not surprising to observe that they bear an exclusive "Islamist" insignia? I personally divide the alleged terrorism of modern definition in two categories, whereof only one qualifies to be rendered as terrorism in a real sense. These two categories are (a) state-backed terrorism, and (b) individual groups fighting for a given cause. State-backed terrorism, cultivating the seeds of disorder in a neighboring or distant country for the sake of a state's *absolute* interests, is, by all definitions, an unscrupulous act of 'terror'. Ethically and legally speaking, no independent state, be this state the only superpower of the world, has the right to disturb or desecrate another state's sovereignty and integrity. The second form of present-day terrorism is simply an effect of a cause, a reaction to an action. As of the former, we are sure that it is evident terrorism, while, to comment on the latter, we need a survey of the history. Such militant movements as those fighting for freedom or against inflicted aggression were in existence throughout the

history of civilized mankind. These movements became very forceful after the Western colonization of the East, especially of Muslim territories. A repulsive reaction was indeed inevitable, for the Muslim Ummah was never before enslaved in its history and it was literally the enslavement of a master. The fall of Muslim Spain can be declared the initial point of this enslavement process. Europe that had recently drawn out of the millennial Dark Ages sniffed the wealth of East with the discovery of India, and thus all Western powers rushed to occupy the riches of the East. We term this leap of West as 'colonialism' in political history. In the post-World War II era, the colonization of 18th and 19th centuries breathed its last quickly and a new, entirely different world came into being. This was the world of Cold War, a world of two political, economic and military blocs namely, the US and the USSR, the Capitalist and the Communist. Soon there were over fifty Muslim states, but to say with regret that they could not cash their numerical strength at any platform. Since victory justifies the claims and the ends, the capitalist United States led bloc knocked out the giant of Soviet communism in Afghanistan and rendered the world as 'unipolar' for the ages to come. Many termed it the 'end of history'. Nevertheless, it was not the end of history, for the history was soon to take another twist. A power-embracing Islamist movement grew from the remains of Soviet-Afghan War that had left a chaotic Afghanistan. The capitalists' concerns immediately finished up with the collapse of communism; hence, US did no longer care for the inferno of Afghanistan. Taliban Movement was the eventual product of this inferno that claimed the right to rule and serve under an Islamic regime. Al-Qaeda has a rather old history, but the essentials of this movement, too, link the US-USSR battlefield, Afghanistan. Thus, it can be suggested with certainty that the edifice of modern, post 9/11 history was originally built on the debris of Soviet-Afghan War. The first Gulf War added fuel to this hazardous fire of hatred and the Arab world, which hitherto was a spectator, directly got involved in this geopolitical combat. It was, thus, the watering of the future enmity between the decadent West and the resuscitating Muslim world. In my opinion, this post-Cold War history is a history of "Ideological Conflicts". 'Clash of Civilizations' is rather too sophisticated to be adopted for this particular age.

9/11 was an intensifier of this history of ideological conflicts. It was with little doubt a logical aftermath of the post-Cold War suppression of Christian West over Muslim East. Now, the stage was ready for the West to take on Muslim East in a literal battlefield. Again a process of colonization began in 2002, but this time its end was manifestly twofold. Again one facet of West's 2nd colonial campaign was the acquisition of geographical advantages and occupation of natural resources, while the other glimpsed the Western fear of Islam; hence subduing the Muslim world. To these ends, two mass battles were engineered in the heart of the world namely, the lands that were the key routes of international sea and land trade. The neglected Afghanistan once again pulled US attention on the account of its regional importance linking Central Asia, the future prospect of the world. Iraq was obviously an oil-hunt, for her oil reserves are second largest in the world. In precision, this was the whole game plan and of course it was successfully meted out in its first phase.

The second phase of the game plan, unanticipated by the West when launching this campaign, has commenced with the retaliation of the 'suppressed weak'. Muslim masses are now on fire, although the rulers of the Muslim states have lined up in West's favor. Indubitably, so far as the ideology goes, Muslims devoutly believe in the absolute existence of peace, while their religion itself means 'peace'. Terrorism has been strongly condemned in Islam, as Quran emphatically asserts, "Terrorism is worse than murder (Quran 2:191)." Nevertheless, the post-Cold War history is in its 2nd phase and it is the juncture of a decisive combat between two diametrically opposed ideologies, between Muslim East and Judo-Christian West. Muslims are bound to respond to the call of the time. What is believed by the 90% world population as terrorism is only a figment of their minds that has cast a great deal of 'unreal' fear on them. It is merely the effects of an all-powerful media controlled by West that has the potential to spread lies so effectively as to make people believe in them as truth. World of today witnesses the existence of countless freedom/separative movements, and it is injustice that only Muslim movements or individuals are held as

terrorists. When the survivors of carpeted bombardment carry guns and sacrifice their lives to shake and awake Western conscience, they are dumped. US invasion on Iraq will naturally bring US public the gift of their sons' coffins. Israel's aggression in Gaza and rocket-rain on civilian population will put Hamas under the obligatory sense of bumping off Israeli soldiers and civilians with no distinction.

I am afraid that a global combat of these two hostile ideological forces is at hand. Only West holds the key to this deadlock, but this key will be useful only and only if the Judo-Christian Europe and US give up their adhesion to so-called 'War on Terror' and reconsider the whole situation with a promise to bring justice in the world.