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We are now within the month of Jumada al-Ula. In the seventh year of the Hijrah this month was the time when the famous battle of Mu'tah took place. The Prophet (saw) gathered an elite force of three thousand warriors and appointed Zayd ibn Harithah as their commander. He (saw) said to them, "If Zayd gets hurt, Ja'far should take charge and if Ja'far gets hurt, 'Abdullah ibn Ruwahah should take charge". Khalid bin al-Walid, the famous warrior who had embraced Islam after the treaty of Hudaibiyah was also with them. This battle was between three thousand Muslims who had come out in search of martyrdom, and two hundred thousand disbelievers.

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"Gandhi devoted his life for non violence and peace, and from these ideas of peace and non violence we can reduce the tension between India and Pakistan. May Allah rest his soul"
President Musharraf.

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From the 14th till the 16th of July, President Musharraf will be attending the Agra summit with Indian Prime Minister Atul Behari Vajpayee. The aim of the summit is to further normalise relations between the two countries by putting in motion a plan for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. Regarding the visit, President Musharraf has stated on numerous occasions that he intends to show "flexibility" in his approach. He has also expressed his desire to be remembered as the Pakistani leader who "makes history" by solving the longstanding Kashmir issue. These comments underscore the widely held perception that General Musharraf will be no different from his predecessors who chose to make history by being flexible to the interests of the Kuffar and stubborn towards the interests of the Muslims.



10 G8: Institutionalised Hegemony

One of the most contentious issues to be discussed is that of the third world debt, particularly in what have been defined as highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) whose economies and societies have been crippled by un-payable interest and perpetually ineffective and damaging "structural adjustments." The Jubilee 2000 petition, which spanned 160 countries, attained the signatures of over 24,000,000 people who were in favour of cancelling the debt to the poorest countries. Although the G8 agreed to cancel the debt owed to them by the 41 poorest countries, these countries would still be left with large sums owed to the IMF, the World Bank and others.

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Despite the Muslim's dreams, aspirations and sacrifices of life, family, and property, the reality of Pakistan, now 54 years after its existence, is a country that is not independent. It has remained in the hands of its colonialist masters, dictating to it virtually every law.

14 A Judge without Authority

The case brought against Ariel Sharon "the butcher of Sabra and Shatila" has caught the attention of many Muslims. Sharon, the current Prime Minister of Israel was the Israeli Defence Minister who oversaw the invasion of Lebanon and has been implicated for the cold-blooded murder of hundreds of women, children and old folk in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila. The international attention given to this crime committed long ago has aroused some Muslim judges in Egypt to initiate their own war crimes tribunal to try Sharon.

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Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatahu,

We are now within the month of Jumada al-Ula. In the seventh year of the Hijrah this month was the time when the famous battle of Mu'tah took place. The Prophet (saw) gathered an elite force of three thousand warriors and appointed Zayd ibn Harithah as their commander. He (saw) said to them, "If Zayd gets hurt, Ja'far should take charge and if Ja'far gets hurt, 'Abdullah ibn Ruwahah should take charge". Khalid bin al-Walid, the famous warrior who had embraced Islam after the treaty of Hudaibiyah was also with them. This battle was between three thousand Muslims who had come out in search of martyrdom, and two hundred thousand disbelievers. 'Abdullah ibn Ruwahah encouraged the men saying, "O men! By Allah what you dislike is that which you have come out for; viz. martyrdom. We are not fighting the enemy with numbers or strength or multitude, but we are fighting them with this Deen with which Allah (swt) has honoured us. So come on! Both prospects are fine; victory or martyrdom."

It is ironic that within this same month we have been told by the Pakistani regime that we must have peace with India because they outnumber us and due to the economic benefits it will bring. Although the Pakistani regime recently presented the Al-Khalid tank it clearly lacks the vision and bravery of Khalid bin Walid (ra). Allah (swt) says,

إِنَّ اللَّهَ اشْتَرَى مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ بِأَنْ
لَهُمْ الْجَنَّةَ يُفَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَيَقْتُلُونَ وَيُقْتَلُونَ
وَعَدَا عَلَيْهِ حَقًّا فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ وَالْقُرْآنِ وَمَنْ
أَوْفَى بِعَهْدِهِ مِنَ اللَّهِ فَاسْتَبْشِرُوا بِيَعْيِكُمُ الَّذِي بَايَعْتُمْ بِهِ
وَذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ (سورة: 111)

"Allah has purchased of the Believers their persons and their goods; for theirs (in return) is the Garden (of Paradise): They fight in His cause, and slay and are slain: A promise binding on Him in Truth, through the Torah, the Gospel, and the Qur'an: And who is more faithful to His covenant than Allah?" [TMQ At-Taubah: 111]

In contrast Musharraf said referring to Kashmir, "I believe that there can be no military solution of this dispute. It can and must be resolved peacefully" and has formally invited the butcher of India, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to visit Pakistan. Despite his open treachery there are still some who believe that he is a better leader than Nawaz Sharif and the previous rulers of Pakistan. What they fail to realise is that the faces may change but the corruption and treachery remains, as the root problem is

not the particular individual at the top but rather the Capitalist system that is implemented upon the people to benefit the Kuffar. It is the system that needs to be uprooted and replaced by the Khilafah; the Prophet (saw) did not only change the leadership of Madina, he (saw) removed the system of shirk and implemented the system of Allah (swt).

This lesson should also be applied across the continent in Indonesia where Megawati Sukarnoputri has become the first female President of Indonesia after the removal of Abdurrahman Wahid and his subsequent departure to the United States. Her ascension to power will not change the dire situation in Indonesia where the majority of people live in poverty and children are forced to work in the sweatshops of the Capitalist multi-national companies. The former 'spice islands' which were colonised by the Dutch now have a new colonial master; America - which has wrecked the economy and continues to plunder the vast natural resources that it possesses. Indonesia is often sited as an example of the rotten fruits of 'Globalisation' even by some of the Kuffar. The rampage which took place on the streets of Genoa outside the G8 summit bears witness to the fact that even people in the heart of the West are beginning to see through the glossy image of Capitalism.

It was not the physical battles alone that led to the downfall of the Persian and Roman Empires in the past. It was also due to the inevitable comparisons that people made when they looked at their own affairs in contrast to the justice of the Khilafah. In fact Indonesia was a land that willingly annexed itself to the Khilafah and was not conquered via Jihad. What the Muslim world and the Western world need more than ever today is the return of the Khilafah, the ray of light which will once again enlighten the earth, burn the crumbling building of Capitalism and enable people to enter into Islam in droves and droves.

إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ * وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ
يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا * فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ
وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا (النصر: 3-1)

"When comes the Help of Allah and the Conquest. And you see that the people enter Allah's deen in crowds. So glorify the praises of your Lord, and ask for His Forgiveness. Verily, He is the One who accepts the repentance and the forgiveness." [TMQ An-Nasr]

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It should be perfectly clear that the Qur'an is only authentic in its original language, Arabic. Since perfect translation of the Qur'an is impossible, the term 'Translation of the Meaning of the Qur'an (TMQ)' has been used, as the result is only a crude meaning of the Arabic text.

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The Pakistani newspaper 'The Daily Jang' reported that the self appointed President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf after laying a floral wreath on the grave of Gandhi in India said, "Gandhi devoted his life for non violence and peace, and from these ideas of peace and non violence we can reduce the tension between India and Pakistan. May Allah rest his soul." Following this he made Tawaf around the grave of Gandhi in accordance with the Hindu tradition.

General Musharraf's invocation upon Allah (swt) to rest the soul of the idol worshipper (Mushrik) Gandhi shows the extent to which the Pakistani regime is fulfilling the American plan of re-igniting the Deen e Ilahi of Akbar. During the Mogul period Akbar became Murtad by calling for a Deen in which there was no difference between Hindus, Christians and Muslims. Decades later the leader of Pakistan wants us to forget what Allah Azza wa jal told us about the Mushrikeen. He (swt) said,

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أُولَئِكَ هُمْ شَرُّ الْبَرِيَّةِ البقرة 28

"In Truth, those who make kufr amongst the Ahlil Kitab and Musbrikeen (idolaters), will abide in the Fire of Hell. They are the Worst of Creatures." [TMQ Al Bayannah: 6]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْمُشْرِكُونَ نَجَسٌ البقرة 28

"Oh you who believe, verily the Musbrikeen (idolaters) are unclean (Najasan)" [TMQ At-Taubah: 28]

The Pakistani regime has been attempting to prepare the ground for achieving a 'peaceful' resolution to the problem of Kashmir. One of the many tools in this campaign is similar to what occurred in Egypt; the propagation of a civilisation that existed before Islam. In the case of Egypt this was the ancient civilisation of the Pharaohs and in the case of the Indian subcontinent, the Indus Valley civilisation. The idea is to create a feeling of commonality between the Muslims and Hindus of the subcontinent. The Imam of Badshahi mosque in Lahore also participated in this attempt to create a feeling of brotherhood between Hindus and the Muslims when he said on Eid al Adha, "we should not look at the Hindus as

Hindus but as fellow human beings". In line with this the term 'Insaaniyat' has been coined and was used by both Musharraf and Vajpayee during the summit. Together with this is the increase in the dissemination of Indian Bollywood culture to the people of Pakistan. The famous Indian singer Lata Mangeshkar who is known to have donated to the construction of the Ram temple over the site of the destroyed Babri Masjid has recently been invited to hold concerts in the major cities of Pakistan.

Although the summit did not lead to a conclusive agreement, the warm handshake between the two leaders and the invitation to visit Islamabad given to Vajpayee signifies that both sides are willing to come to a settlement over Kashmir, although this may take some time to come into fruition. This newfound friendship is condemned by Allah (swt):

إِنَّمَا يَنْهَاكُمْ اللَّهُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ قَاتَلُوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَأَخْرَجُوكُمْ مِنْ دِيَارِكُمْ وَظَاهَرُوا عَلَىٰ إِخْرَاجِكُمْ أَنْ تَوَلَّوهُمْ وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّهُمْ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ الممتعة 9

"Allah forbids you friendship with those who fight you because of your Deen, drive you from your homes, and aid others to do so; and for those who turn to them in friendship, they are truly the Zalimun (oppressors)" [TMQ Al-Mumtahinah: 9]

Musharraf's visit to India, to the city of his birth should have reminded him that he was visiting Islamic land which has been irrigated with Muslim blood since the times of Muhammad bin Qasim, Mahmood Ghaznawi and Tipu Sultan. Although he made reference to this history during his speech on the 14th of July in New Delhi, his conclusions were a betrayal to this very history, the Muslims and Islam. He said in the introduction to his speech,

"It is a privilege and a pleasure for my delegation, my wife and me to visit India and its historic capital. We are also looking forward to visiting Agra and Ajmer Sharif in the next two days. To us in Pakistan, these are familiar names that evoke glorious memories of powerful empires of a flourishing culture and of saintly figures that stirred the souls of countless millions. On our return to Pakistan, we will carry with us indelible images of the richness of this historical legacy."

As he stated, the history of Islam in India is only an image in his mind and not something that drives him to liberate the Islamic land and re-establish the flourishing civilisation of the Khilafah. In fact he explicitly men-

tioned in his speech,

"The Jammu and Kashmir dispute continues to block progress towards normalization of our relations. I believe that there can be no military solution of this dispute. It can and must be resolved peacefully."

It seems that the Pakistani government pays more attention to the words of America and Vajpayee than the words of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw). Vajpayee is quoted to have said, "It is not possible for a civilised nation to have Jibad as part of its foreign policy". It has come to light that following this train of thought attempts have been made by the Education Ministry to change the Islamiyat curriculum in Pakistan by removing the translations of ayat about Jihad and removing Surah At-Taubah from the syllabus. Musharraf's right hand man, Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider echoed Vajpayee's words on February 12 of this year when he announced, "There is no Jibad existing in Kashmir or Pakistan".

On the contrary the Prophet (saw) said, "Jihad will continue until the Day of Judgement"

And Allah (swt) says,

وَقَاتِلُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ كَافَّةً كَمَا يُقَاتِلُونَكُمْ كَافَّةً البقرة 36

"And fight against the Musbrikin (idol worshippers) collectively, as they fight you collectively". [TMQ At-Taubah: 36]

Abdul-Hamid Jassat

Aftermath of Agra



Ever since coming to power, Musharraf had announced the American intention, by stating that he was prepared to meet with India at "any time, any place and at any level" in order to end over fifty years of conflict over the disputed territory of Kashmir. Furthermore he has sought to prepare the Ummah in Pakistan for this great betrayal.

At Musharraf's behest the Islamiyat curriculum has been overhauled to remove the study of the ayahs of Jihad and Surah Taubah which contains the position of the Muslims vis-à-vis Jihad; he has been involved in actively disarming the Jihadi organisations in Kashmir; the establishment of the Indo-Pak Peace Forum which organises cross border activities for students; the weakening of the Pakistani military by removing skilled officers (at this time 7 Brigadiers, 6 Colonels, 300 intelligence officers, and 700 other military personnel of assorted ranks are busy reading electricity meters or overseeing the Pakistan Cricket team); not to mention the cuts in the military budget. All of these serve the purpose of normalising relations with India.

And so the Agra summit, which began on July 14th, was not a failure, but rather it was an announcement of a plan already agreed between Pakistan, India and the US. In fact Musharraf was so desperate for an agreement, one of the members of his delegation reported "I went up to Jaswant Singh and told him write whatever you want, we will accept it."

Well he may accept it, but let the message from this Ummah be clear, that we will never accept it! We will never accept to betray the blood of all those who died to protect Muslim land and we will never accept to forget the cause of those who sought to liberate it.

إِنَّمَا يَنْهَىٰكُمْ اللَّهُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ قَاتَلُوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَأَخْرَجُوكُم مِّن دِيَارِكُمْ وَظَاهَرُوا عَلَىٰ إِخْرَاجِكُمْ أَن تَوَلَّوْهُمْ وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّهُمْ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ ^٩

"Allah only forbids you, with regard to those who fight you for your faith and drive you out of your homes, and support others in driving you out, from turning to them for

friendship and protection, and he who turn to them they are the wrongdoers" [TMQ Mumtahirah: 9].

Despite it having been hailed a failure by most commentators, certainly the Agra summit did not come as any surprise. Rather it was the announcement of a plan that would lead to the betrayal of Kashmir [see related article entitled The Betrayal of Kashmir].

Haroon Ejaz

Women protest in Uzbekistan

The year 2001 has been declared as the year of "The Mother and Child" by the authorities of Uzbekistan. Is it intended by this, that in 2001 the Uzbek regime will improve the bad condition of women and children? Or, does it mean that they will deprive them of their men-folk and protection?

Since March, this year, protests have been held by female relatives of those imprisoned by the government for being members of Hizb ut-Tahrir. They demanded the release of their brothers, sons, fathers and husbands, and an end to the grotesque treatment meted out to them. In the protest that was held on July 2nd, a letter was given to the authorities demanding the release of their loved ones. But the authorities reacted in their usual violent and brutal manner. Hundreds of women were beaten, punched and kicked. They shouted; "Have our sons suffered simply because they were true Muslims and observed the cycle of prayer and wore beards?" They were dragged by their hair, their heads and their hands into waiting buses, their crying children still with them. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

If this is the year of the mother and child, is this the way to honour those that stand firmly for the truth and in the face of the tyrant ruler? May this Ummah be blessed with many brave women like these.

"The Master of martyrs is Hamza and the one, killed for uttering the word of truth before a tyrant ruler". [Abu Dawud]

Samina Asgbar

China takes the Olympic Bait

On Friday 13th July the International



Olympic Committee accepted China's bid to host the 2008 Olympics over other bids from nations such as France and Canada. This led to a mixed reaction from the world media with some welcoming the decision as an opportunity to improve relations between China and the Western world whilst others disputed the decision in light of China's poor human rights record. One such criticism came from an editorial in The Taipei Times (Taiwan), which categorically stated, "China has been awarded the games though it clearly doesn't deserve them."

The controversial decision can be viewed as a step towards normalising relations with China. Sporting events are regularly used as diplomatic 'ice breakers' between countries as a prelude to building relationships. Examples of this include the historic wrestling bout between the USA and Iran, which initiated political dialogue between the two and the constant debate over cricket matches between Pakistan and India which are played and then abandoned when a clear political point needs to be made.

Normalisation of relations allows a capitalist nation to use its most potent tool in allaying the threat of another nation, which are its multinational companies and global corporations. America has attempted to infiltrate the Chinese market but has not been as successful as it would have liked due to stringent restrictions imposed by the Chinese government. The Olympics represent a perfect opportunity for Western multinationals to gain a foothold in the unrealised potential of the Chinese market.

The enormity of the deals on offer cannot be underestimated. Canadian Company Bombardier and SNC-Lavalin backed Beijing's bid over Toronto and have won a \$1.5bn contract to dig tunnels for five new subway lines. Proctor & Gamble, which sells luxurious soap and shampoos in China has donated \$362,000 to the Beijing bid committee.

One can only wait and see whether China learns the lessons from the capitulation of the Russian economy whose guardians were sold the phoney ideas of Capitalism. As a

result they suffered a dramatic collapse in its status as a world leader, due to its inability to discover the hidden agenda prevalent in these ideas.

Faisal Raja

Gay and Muslim?

A Muslim homosexual and lesbian group calling themselves after the noble Surah in the Qur'an, Al-Fatiha state in an article entitled "Being gay and Muslim is not a mistake from God" that can be found on their heinous website:

"Allah says in the Qur'an: "If you find them (two men) engaging in unnatural acts, punish them both." What unnatural acts is Allah (swt) talking about though? The specific acts are never mentioned, thus the act itself that is forbidden, if any, becomes questionable. But another ayat in the Qur'an contradicts the first in stating, "...leave them alone, if they repent..." For Allah is Oft-Merciful and Every-Forgiving."

Does not Allah (swt) say in the Qur'an:

وَلَوْ طَآ إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ أَتَأْتُونَ الْفَاحِشَةَ مَا سَبَقَكُمْ بِهَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ مِّنَ الْعَالَمِينَ ^{٨٠} [Al-A'raf: 80]

"And (remember) Lut, when he said to his people :'Do you commit the worst sin such as none preceding you has committed in the 'Alamin (man and jinn)?" [TMQ Al-A'raf: 80]

إِنَّكُمْ تَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ شَهْوَةً مِّن دُونِ النِّسَاءِ بَلْ أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ مُّسْرِفُونَ ^{٨١}

"Verily, you practice your lusts on men instead of women. Nay, but you are a people transgressing beyond the bounds" [TMQ Al-A'raf: 81]

Despite the fact that they commit such a crime, this affront to Allah (swt), and His Messenger (saw) is symptomatic of the behaviour of the ignorant and the musrifoon (transgressors). The creed of secularism allows such disgusting behaviour, whereby humans can do as they please. This is one aspect amongst many which arises from the Kuffar affecting the minds of the Muslims, so much so, that the transgressors march publicly, with the Kuffar proclaiming their disobedience.

Dawud Abdur Rahman

Milosevic on Trial



The trial of Slobodan Milosevic has been met with mixed reactions from Muslims, and begs the question - should we feel happy with this trial and thank the West for their efforts in bringing Milosevic to justice?

In answer to this question, it is sad to see some Muslims rejoicing at this trial. Indeed, it is a sad day in our history to see the Ummah rejoice at this cheap, politically motivated victory. In fact we should know that the reason for the capture of Milosevic is not his policy of ethnic cleansing nor the mass raping of Muslim women. The reason for his capture is the "crime" of opposing Western policy, particularly the expansion of NATO.

It is even sadder to see the vision of the Muslims reduced to a feeling of contentment at the capture of one of our enemies by the hands of an even bigger enemy. We should feel angry at the hypocrisy of the West, who armed the Serbs and deliberately disarmed the Muslims thereby setting them up for a massacre. Surely Bill Clinton and John Major should also be on trial for aiding and abetting, at the very least?

The Ummah must deal with its own affairs and its own enemies, just as the Prophet (saw) dealt with his enemies. Bukhari narrates that the Prophet (saw) once asked the Sahabah who will kill Ka'ab ibn Ashraf for him. Mohammad Ibnu Maslama volunteered and assassinated Ka'ab ibn Ashraf in such a manner that it sent shockwaves around the Arabian Peninsula, and created a feeling of respect and fear for the Muslims due to their audacity and their vision.

The day when the enemies of Islam will receive real justice is indeed close [see related article entitled War Crimes Tribunal].

Jilani Gulam

Integration the solution for Bradford riots?

Recent riots in Bradford have left 160 police officers injured and 21 people charged with public order offences. Bradford has been described as a city in "a grip of fear" and the solutions

being proposed are "greater integration" and "representation".

British society is puzzled to see second and third generation Muslims still live within tight knit communities and who do not frequent the pub for a pint on Friday nights. For them this is the cause of tension as illustrated in Lord Ouseley's report into race relations:

"There is a fear of confronting all-white and all-Muslims schools about their contribution, or rather the lack of contribution, to social and racial integration and segregation in schools ... one sign that the communities are fragmenting along racial, cultural and faith lines," the report states.

Hindu, Sikh and Afro-Caribbean communities have been able to integrate into the capitalist system as they had nothing to compromise while Islam is a complete deen with its own social, economic, and political order. The fact the Muslims were "integrated" into the capitalist society did not stop them from being raped and massacred in Bosnia.

Indeed the Khilafah provided the only system in the history of mankind where people of all races and religions lived in harmony. This is because the Khilafah is the system revealed by Allah (swt) who knows man better than he knows himself, whereas the capitalist system was designed by man who by his nature is limited and biased.

وَلَنْ تَرْضَىٰ عَنْكَ الْيَهُودُ وَلَا النَّصَارَىٰ حَتَّىٰ تَبِيعَ
مِلَّتَهُمْ ۗ الْفُرْقَةُ ۗ ۱۲۰

"And never shall the Jews nor shall the Christians be pleased with you until you follow their way" [TMQ Al-Baqarah: 120].

Shahjahan Malik

Sport - A matter of life and death?

The world football transfer fee record has been smashed following Zinedine Zidane's £45.8 million move from Juventus to Real Madrid. This news comes in the same week that Juan Sebastian Veron moved to Manchester United for around £25 million and the Croat Goran Ivanisevic triumphed in the Wimbledon tennis championship, with the latter instigating the biggest

celebrations Croatia has witnessed in its short life. Ivanisevic said about the victory "This was my dream and now whatever happens in my life, I am going to take it with less pressure and stress."

These events and events similar to it clearly underline the excessive importance that sport has been given in societies throughout the world today. They distract people from the real affairs of life and engross their minds in trivial sports and pastimes. They give these sports disproportionate significance that deludes the players and fans that success lies at the end of a racket, cricket bat or a football. A quote from the former Liverpool manager Bill Shankly is proof of this mentality: "Some people think football is a matter of life and death...I can assure them it is much more serious than that."

Muslims should view life in the same way that our beloved Messenger (saw) viewed it. He (saw) said, "The example of this life in comparison to the Hereafter is like one of you who dips his finger in the sea; so let him see how much (water) he gets on it (finger)." So, would you sacrifice the water in the sea for a drop on your finger?

وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَعِبٌ وَلَهْوٌ وَلَلْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لِلَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ ۝۳۲

"Nothing is the life of this world but play and amusement. But best is the Home in the Hereafter, for those who are righteous. Will you not then understand?" [TMQ Al-An'am: 32]

Omer Hussein

Palestine: False Hope and the true Reality



There has been a build up of Israeli troops in the West Bank, mounting an offensive against the Muslims of Palestine. This has lead to on

going fighting in various areas including the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem.

The President of Egypt Hosni Mubarak has accused the Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of being an oppressor and mass murderer, and resorting to heavy-handed measures

when he is in a spot of bother. He also went on to say that Palestine and Israel would not see any peace for as long as Ariel Sharon is in charge of the affairs of the people.

The Prime Minister of Palestine Yasser Arafat in his usual manner has feigned concern for the people, and has held a summit with the ministers of the Arab nations. The Arab League ministers have condemned the actions of Ariel Sharon and have publicly dabbed their handkerchiefs to their eyes whilst seemingly digging deep in their pockets by pledging the Palestinians \$50 million a month.

The President of Egypt Hosni Mubarak is yet another traitor under the influence of the West. He is the same person who stated:

"The concept of war is an ancient one. Issues are only resolved through negotiations and international pressure"

This is the situation in the Islamic lands. The trust in Allah (swt) has been placed into the hands of the Kuffar by these traitors, and in return Muslims are faced with humiliation, oppression and anguish. Even though we are faced with tyranny we should not give up hope but instead we should work harder to establish the deen of Allah (swt). Imam Ahmad narrated Ma'qal Ibn Yasar as saying the Prophet (saw) has stated:

"Tyranny will not be long in appearing after I am gone. Whatever tyranny appears, a like amount of justice will go, until people are born under tyrannies that have never known anything else. Then Allah (swt) will bring justice, and whatever justice comes, a like amount of tyranny will go, until people are born under justice who have never known anything else."

Usman Shafee

The Betrayal of Kashmir



From the 14th till the 16th of July, President Musharraf will be attending the Agra summit with Indian Prime Minister Atul Behari Vajpayee. The aim of the summit is to further normalise relations between the two countries by putting in motion a plan for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. Regarding the visit, President Musharraf has stated on numerous occasions that he intends to show "flexibility" in his approach. He has also expressed his desire to be remembered as the Pakistani leader who "makes history" by solving the long-standing Kashmir issue. These comments underscore the widely held perception that General Musharraf will be no different from his predecessors who chose to make history by being flexible to the interests of the Kuffar and stubborn towards the interests of the Muslims. Previous Pakistani leaders have consistently betrayed Muslims by ceding land to the Kuffar. General Ayub surrendered the three rivers to India. General Yahya and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto lost East Pakistan in 1971 and it was during General Zia's rule that the Indians occupied the Siachin peaks.

It was only a couple of years ago that the military leadership together with the mujahideen were waging jihad against the Kafir Hindus at Kargil and refusing to surrender Kashmir. At the brink of victory America instructed her agent Nawaz Sharif to order the withdrawal of the army, thereby delivering the military a humiliating blow at the hands of her own government. The military leadership later displaced Nawaz Sharif from government but did not change the underlying system of government, through which America is able to have full control over Pakistani policy-making. Instead of raising the banner of jihad to liberate Kashmir, the military regime has continued to embrace the US policy for the region, the same policy that called for Nawaz Sharif to betray the sincere mujahideen, terminating their jihad just as they were about to overcome the Kafir Hindus.

The American policy for the region is much wider than the issue of Kashmir alone; it is to use both Pakistan and India as regional counterweights to contain China's emerging influence in Asia. To help achieve this,

America is cajoling both countries to resolve their bilateral differences by engaging in a multi-faceted process of normalisation of relations between the two countries. Under directives from the US, the Pakistani government has attempted to disarm jihadi groups, marginalize the public mood for jihad in favour of peace, promote Indian culture and encourage economic cooperation between the two countries. But the greatest obstacle to normalisation remains the Kashmir issue, which can no longer be ignored if further progress towards normalisation is to take place. The government has worked tirelessly to implement the American policy thus far and will not abandon America as she embarks on the most important element in fulfilling her ambitions in this region.

The American plan for Kashmir is now becoming obvious to those who follow such events closely. This will be based on some kind of formula for the partitioning of Jammu and Kashmir that would give greater independence or greater autonomy to the valley, at the expense of Pakistan waiving its rights to the Jammu and Ladakh regions. There are also strong indications that America is seeking the establishment of military bases in South Asia for the containment of China and the strategically placed Kashmir seems to be a probable contender. This plan provides the fastest route to a settlement of the Kashmir issue, but it is nothing short of a complete betrayal of the tens of thousands of Muslims of Kashmir, who lost their lives under the brutal occupation of Kafir Hindu forces, and a complete betrayal of the thousands of mujahideen, who sacrificed their blood in 1948, 1965, and in the decade long Kashmiri uprising that culminated in Kargil in 1999, which was to rid Kashmir of its oppressive Kafir rulers.

How can the Musharraf Government possibly hope to win support amongst the Muslims of Pakistan for this treachery? The government will do this by highlighting the economic and political benefits it will allegedly gain from the division of Kashmir. On the economic front the government will argue that the likely benefits are to be more loans from donor countries and international financial institutions such as IMF and WB, increase in bilateral trade with India, improvement in foreign investor confidence, and the construction of a lucrative gas pipeline with Iran to supply gas to Indian industries. On the political front the government will argue that Pakistan will be in a unique position to shed its image as a supporter of terrorism and will be well received by the international community. In short, the Muslims of Pakistan are expected to sell their brothers and sisters in Kashmir

in exchange for worldly economic and political benefits. What is more, such promises are a flagrant lie. These same promises were made to the Muslims of Bosnia and the Muslims of Palestine when their lands were divided. These same promises were made to Muslims throughout the previous two centuries of Western exploitation of the Muslim Ummah. How is it claimed that Muslims will acquire greater economic and political strength when they are divided from each other? How is it said that the Muslim Ummah will be stronger when she is fragmented than when she is unified?

America well knows that such arguments are not sufficient to convince the noble Muslims of Pakistan to abandon their Kashmiri brothers and sisters. This is why President Musharraf embarked upon an elaborate plan to meet with all the leading opinion makers in the country: most importantly the political leaders, but also the media and the ulema, in order to procure their support for his intended treachery. These intensive meetings culminated in the meeting of 27th June, in which almost all of the Pakistani political leadership currently present in the country met with the President in order to repose full confidence in him for his forthcoming summit with Vajpayee. Included in this meeting were leaders of the dominant Islamic parties as well as the leaders of secular parties. Thus Musharraf leaves for Agra with the overwhelming backing of the entire Pakistani political medium.

O Muslims of Pakistan!

Your leaders have gathered together to conclude a great plan to betray your Kashmiri brothers and sisters, and to betray your interests as an Islamic Ummah. Do you choose to stand aside and accept their actions in a mood of defeatism and depression? You know that Allah (swt) has made it Haram on you to abandon Muslim land to the Kuffar, or to let Kuffar rule Muslims, Allah (swt) says:

وَلَنْ يَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ سَبِيلًا

النساء 141

"And never will Allah grant to the disbelievers a way (sabeel) over the believers" [TMQ An-Nisa: 141]

The correct solution to the Kashmir problem is not to give a part of Kashmir to India, but to liberate all of it from the rule of the Hindu Kafir; instead of aiding the 'divide and rule policy' of the Kuffar, Muslims should work towards re-unifying all Muslim lands under a single leadership.

Allah orders us to fight those disbelievers

who fight us;

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قَاتِلُوا الَّذِينَ يَلُونَكُمْ مِنَ الْكُفَّارِ
وَلْيَجِدُوا فِيكُمْ غِلْظَةً وَعَلِمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الْمُتَّقِينَ

التوبة 123

"O you who believe! Fight the Unbelievers who gird you about, and let them find firmness in you: and know that Allah is with those who fear Him." [TMQ At-Taubah: 123]

Do you think that you are too weak to fight the cowardly Hindus, who were present in their hundreds of thousands in the Kashmir valley, but were unable to dispose of a few thousand mujahideen? Or are you afraid of the superpower America, whose counterpart the Soviet Union you already defeated in Afghanistan? Or are you afraid of the Jews, whose army hides behind its tanks when the Muslim youth come out with nothing but stones? You are the lion who has been told that it cannot confront even the smallest of creatures. Just one strike of your limb will make clear to you the strength of the Muslim Ummah over all the other nations of the world.

O Muslims of Pakistan!

Pakistan has a strong and effective military machine; it has nuclear weapons, and has been blessed with vast natural resources in terms of fertile agricultural land, coal and gas; it also has a large and resourceful population. But the most valuable asset possessed by the Muslims of Pakistan is the Islamic Aqeedah, which in the past has demolished superpowers like the Romans and Persians. Allah (swt) says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَنْصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتْ
أَقْدَامَكُمْ مُحَمَّدٌ 7

"O you who believe! If you help (in the cause of) Allah, He will help you and consolidate your foothold" [TMQ Muhammad: 7]

The problem of Kashmir is only one consequence of the problems that have plagued the Ummah since the end of Islamic rule, at the hands of the Western imperialist Kuffar. They replaced Islamic rule in all our lands with systems modelled on Western concepts - systems that created generations of leaders with loyalties to Western ideas and Western interests. So it should not be surprising that all the present leaders have sided with the American plan against the interests of the Ummah. Muslims must look beyond simply replacing one Westernised leader with another Westernised leader. What is needed

is a return to the Islamic system by re-establishing Khilafah, which will create generations of leaders whose sincerity lies only with Islam and the Muslim Ummah.

O Muslims of Pakistan!

We call on you to abandon your defeatism and to rise and re-establish the Islamic Khilafah. And then bear witness to the prophecy of the Messenger of Allah (saw), reported by Abu Hurairah:

"The Messenger (saw) promised us the conquest of India. If I was to come across that, I will spend my soul and my wealth. If I am killed then I am among the best of martyrs, and if I return then I am Abu Hurairah the freed" [Ahmad, An-Nisa'i, Al-Hakim].

And reported by Thawban:

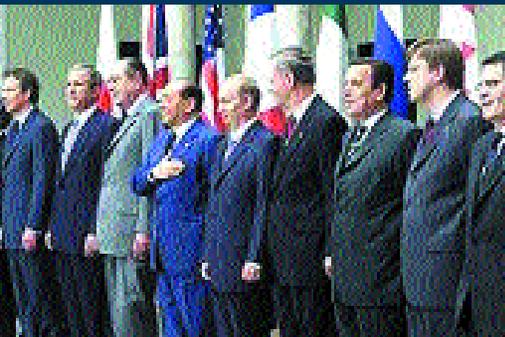
"Two groups of my Ummah Allah has protected from the Hellfire: a group that will conquer India and a group that will be with 'Isa ibn Maryam" [Ahmad and An-Nisa'i].

Hizb ut-Tabrir

Pakistan

13th July 2001

G8: Institutionalised Hegemony



The July 20th annual G8 summit sees the leaders of the most powerful and influential nations of our times converge on the city of Genoa in Italy. Although the city has been confirmed, there has been controversy over the exact venue. Some suggested army bases or an offshore aircraft carrier rather than the inner venue due to concerns over security. However, the summit will proceed as planned in the Ducal Palace in the city centre flanked by some of the most extensive security measures to date.

There is to be a red zone comprising of the city centre and Old Port, which will be cordoned off by the army and police, litter bins removed, markets closed, manhole covers welded and sewers searched. Coast guard divers will search underwater caves while satellite data will help intercept any unwelcome vessels. The rest of the city will be called the 'yellow zone' and will be patrolled by armed Italian Police.

Twenty five thousand anti-capitalist protesters were at the Gothenberg European Summit where three of them were shot and at least 100 arrested. The influx into Genoa is likely to be even greater, and the security measures are designed to protect against the 'small percentage' that are intending to cause trouble.

Adding fuel to the flames, the head of the Russian Federal Bodyguard service, Yevgeny Murov, has claimed that he has received information that Osama bin Laden is planning to assassinate George Bush at the summit. Whether or not his information is correct (bizarre as it sounds), it fits nicely into American interests, highlighting in the

international arena the need for a crack down on 'Islamic fundamentalism' in central Asia and giving the authorities in Genoa support in their plans to enforce extremely tight security measures. Currently, Bush junior is planning to spend his time on an American military ship floating in the Mediterranean. This seems a strange choice considering that he also accuses Osama bin Laden of blowing up the USS Cole in Yemen.

A wolf in wolf's clothing

The public image desired by the group of industrialised nations is one of compassionate world powers, seeking to bridge the divide between the developing and developed world. The history and the reality of the G8 supports this image, although unfortunately for the developing world, the bridge is primarily used to extract their resources and wealth more rapidly.

The members of the G8, the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Great Britain and Canada, together with their participating partners, the European Union and Russia, command a majority of the world's capabilities in such fields as GNP, trade, finance and direct foreign investment.

One of the most contentious issues to be discussed is that of the third world debt, particularly in what have been defined as highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) whose economies and societies have been crippled by un-payable interest and perpetually ineffective and damaging "structural adjustments." The Jubilee 2000 petition, which spanned 160 countries, attained the signatures of over 24,000,000 people who were

in favour of cancelling the debt to the poorest countries. Although the G8 agreed to cancel the debt owed to them by the 41 poorest countries, these countries would still be left with large sums owed to the IMF, the World Bank and the Paris Club of investors, amongst others.

The IMF and the World Bank have refused to cancel the debt due to the effect it would have on their interest rates and capabilities for future investment. Superficially, it may appear that the IMF and the World Bank are the true culprits in the oppression and subjugation of the poorest nations. On closer inspection of these institutions however, it is found that the G8 nations control almost 50% of the votes in both the IMF and World Bank, effectively allowing the G8 to manage these institutions as they please. So in reality, the G8 nations control the debt via two routes, one is direct and one indirect.

When the population in the developed nations began to see babies starving to death in Africa on their television sets, some became upset at the notion that it might be their governments causing these problems. As such, they began to put pressure on their respective governments to "drop the debt" which seemed to be causing so much suffering. The UN estimates that 19,000 children die due to the debt in Africa each day. The G8 nations were faced with a conflict of interests. On the one hand, the debt allowed them to maintain absolute hegemony over the developing nations, allowing them to exploit their markets and resources and to dominate the politics there; on the other hand the government was becoming unpopular with the people. The obvious solution was to "promise" to cancel the direct debt and to conceal the fact that they were still collecting debt repayments and maintaining their hegemony indirectly via the IMF and World Bank.

Another of the prominent topics to be discussed at the summit is that of infectious diseases, particularly the AIDS epidemic in Africa. In Zimbabwe, 1 in 4 people have contracted HIV and in other sub-Saharan countries the proportion is even higher. Again, the group of 8 would like to portray themselves as global Samaritans, caring for the sick and needy without hesitation or personal interest. A point of question would therefore be why the problem is only becoming prominent now, when the epidemic had been predicted more than 10 years ago.

The answer is again based on economics and the maintenance of global domination. The HIV epidemic has reached such proportions that it threatens the economic stability of sub-Saharan Africa, and this could have a negative impact on global markets. In sub-Saharan Africa, AIDS has already orphaned 13 million children, and this figure is predicted to rise to around 40 million. In addition to this, those dying of the disease are mainly those aged between 20 and 50, which constitute the main pool of labour in the work force. As such, families are deprived of vital incomes and may be unable to cope, causing the collapse of not only families but also whole communities. This places

great strains on already fragile economies, which are already ravaged by debt repayments. David Bloom, a professor of economics and demographics at the Harvard School of Public Health comments on this warning that "The whole economy [in Africa] could unravel."

Thus, the HIV crisis in Africa has become a point of discussion for the Capitalist powers that want to avoid the endangerment of their interests in Africa. They have begun to put forward some money for sex education, contraception and birth control in these nations, as the problem grudgingly needs to be dealt with.

Among other topics to be discussed is the progress of Japan's proposal in Okinawa last year to bridge the digital divide, enabling them to sell their PCs and software to struggling third world nations, currently without decent health care, education, clean water or food. European nations are likely to push discussions on the environment and Global Warming, following America's abandonment of the Kyoto treaty, and there is likely to be a tense, unproductive debate on the US plans for a missile defence shield.

The G8 [then the G7] was established in the 1970's following the oil crisis when the world was facing the most severe depression since the Great Depression of the 1930s. As an entity comprising ideological capitalist powers with the lion's share of world influence, their original existence was to formalise the relationship between them in such a way as would permit them to cooperate to maintain the liberal world-economic order that had been constructed. The G8 nations combined, have the ability to deal with world economic crises that may affect them relatively quickly.

Although the day-to-day, routine domination and hegemony of the developing world is run via institutions such as the IMF, such institutions proceed via policies which sometimes take years to take effect. Specific issues and unique crises must be dealt with by the major powers due to the fact that the world economic institutions are not flexible enough to act rapidly. In effect, the G8 represents the institutionalisation of this concept.

Any averagely perceptive individual can see that the association of those powers historically involved in colonialism; propagators of IMF and World Bank interventions; advocates of globalisation and global Capitalism whose immense power and economies have been built on the resources captured from the developing world, is unlikely to benefit the third world that has for so long suffered in their hands. As such, it is easy to understand why the summit has become a focus for all those organisations opposed to the exploitation that the developing world is currently suffering from.

To the disappointment of the G8 nations, Capitalism has become a dirty word amongst many, and anti-capitalist demonstrations have increased in vigour and intensity in the last few

years. The G8 are seen to be the embodiment of capitalist hegemony and as such, the authorities in Italy fear protests of the kind recently witnessed in Gothenberg. Officials have described Genoa as a 'security nightmare,' its winding narrow streets ideal for 'hit and run' attacks and guerrilla city warfare. Shopkeepers, small businesses and cafés have taken the initiative of boarding up their windows and doors in preparation summit. May Allah (swt) protect us from those who, when entrusted with authority from their people, use it only to cause mischief in the land. May Allah (swt) support and give victory to those who strive with His book to do justice and implement his deen.

وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاءَ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا بَاطِلًا ذَلِكَ ظَنُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَوَيْلٌ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنَ النَّارِ أَمْ نَجْعَلُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَالْمُفْسِدِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَمْ نَجْعَلُ الْمُتَّقِينَ كَالْفُجَّارِ كَذَّبُوا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكًا لِيَذَّبَرُوا آيَاتِهِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ ص 29-27

"Not without purpose did We create heaven and earth and all between! That was the thought of Unbelievers! But woe to the Unbelievers because of the Fire (of Hell)! Shall we treat those who believe and work deeds of righteousness the same as those who do mischief on earth? Shall We treat those who guard against evil the same as those who turn aside from the right? (Here is) a Book which We have sent down unto thee full of blessings that they may meditate on its Signs and that men of understanding may receive admonition" [TMQ Sad: 27-29].

The D8

As is becoming a tradition in the Islamic world post-Khilafah, the Muslim politicians and rulers have decided to imitate the Kuffar in their politics, seemingly without fully understanding the nature of the thing they imitate. The D8 is an organisation of eight Islamic countries that meet to discuss the problems facing the developing world. Headed by Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, the D8 nations include Egypt, Bangladesh, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

The annual D8 summit does not attract the media frenzy and world focus that graces the G8, nor does it draw the protesters and the violence that haunts the G8 assembly. In fact, the D8 summit tends to pass by, year by year, without really being noticed by anyone. This is because the D8 summit does not have the power to affect anyone, or to make any real changes whatsoever.

The population of the eight countries is 800 million, about one fifth of the world's population, yet their share in world trade is only four per cent. The position of these countries in the world order is that of the commanded rather than the commander, and so they are able to do little more than

complain. The scene conjures images of Oliver Twist standing up before the master of the house stating, "Please Sir, can we have some more." The latest summit held in February of this year was opened by a speech given by Mubarak in which he accurately observed that "Open markets in today's world are basically accessible for the products of advanced countries, while our exports ... are faced every day with new protectionist procedures, overt or covert, that impede their access to the advanced countries' markets." Allah (swt) has described such policies in the Qur'an:

وَيْلٌ لِّلْمُطَفِّفِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَكْتَالُوا عَلَى النَّاسِ يَسْتَوْفُونَ وَإِذَا كَالُوهُمْ أَوْ وُزِنُوهُمْ يُخْسِرُونَ
المطففين 3-1

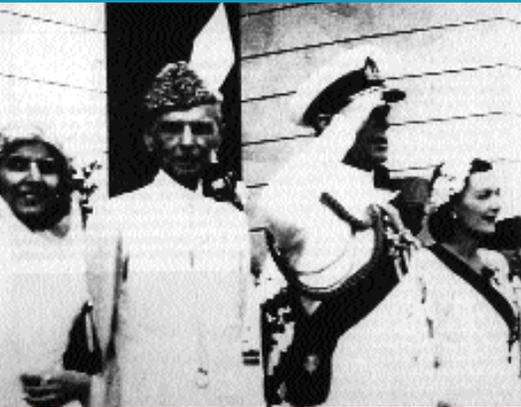
"Woe to those that deal in fraud. Those who when they have to receive by measure from men exact full measure. But when they have to give by measure or weight to men give less than due" [TMQ Al-Mutaffifin: 1-3].

It is astonishing that the rulers of the D8 fail to recognise that as a unified ideological Islamic state, they would command an enormous proportion of the world's resources, industry and military capabilities and would quickly become a dominant world power with the ability to rival the G8 nations independently, and collectively to set up a new agenda for world politics. In their hands is the ability to implement the ahkam of Islam and break free from the shackles of subjugation and exploitation imposed upon the Ummah by the G8 powers. In their hands is the ability to dismantle the debt that cripples the developing world; to make real progress towards tackling diseases such as AIDS in Africa; to become the state that produces the latest technology rather than the one that buys it; to protect the environment of the planet which Allah (swt) has entrusted to us; to show all individuals from all parts of the world that there is a system that truly cares for the affairs of the people, rather than profit margins; that system is the Islamic Khilafah. The rulers should be the guardians of the Ummah as narrated in Bukhari by Abdullah bin Umar 'Allah's Apostle (saw) said, "Surely! Everyone of you is a guardian and is responsible for his charges: The Imam (ruler) of the people is a guardian and is responsible for his subjects; a man is the guardian of his family (household) and is responsible for his subjects; a woman is the guardian of her husband's home and of his children and is responsible for them; and the slave of a man is a guardian of his master's property and is responsible for it. Surely, every one of you is a guardian and responsible for his charges"

Hani Jamal-udin

Front Cover shows riot police storming past a protestor who was shot and killed during anti-capitalist rioting in Genoa on July 20th 2001. Police fired live rounds, tear gas and used water cannon in an attempt to disperse thousands of protestors who were demonstrating against the G8 summit.

Commemorating the Independence of Pakistan



Final salute from Mounbatten as Pakistan receives independence

The past one hundred years or so have been a bleak history for the Ummah. The Muslims have lost their place on the world stage as global leaders, when the rest of the world once quaked in their shoes when they heard the call of the Khalifah. This was exemplified by what has been narrated in the History of Khalifahs by Imaam Jalaluddin as-Suyuti that when Nicephorus broke a treaty with the Muslims, Khalifah Harun ar-Rashid issued the following letter to him, "In the name of Allah, ar Rahman ar Rahim, From Harun, the Amir al Mumineen, to Nicephorus, the Roman dog, I have read your letter, son of a Kafir mother, and the answer you shall behold, and not hear." There upon, he sent the army of Jihad to conquer the land. From a lofty position such as this the Ummah has since been subjected to defeat, loss, humiliation, shame, occupation and dishonour. By the beginning of the twentieth century, much of the Islamic lands were occupied by the colonialists, and by the end of the First World War, almost all of the Islamic lands were occupied by the colonialists. The Uthmani Khalifah itself was occupied. On the third of March 1924, the Khalifah was abolished, by the enemy of Allah (swt), the agent of the Kuffar, Mustafa Kemal. This article does not address the reasons for this position; but the dire position of the Ummah, was painful for anybody who adheres to the Islamic creed and system.

The dire state of the Ummah was a problem that

the Muslims of India felt too. Groups arose calling for the restoration of the Khilafah, like the Khilafat Movement that arose in 1918, by the Ali brothers (may Allah be pleased with them). This was not the first time that the Muslims of India turned to the Khilafah for the solution to its problems. A major example of this was in 1789 when Tipu Sultan gave the bayah (pledge of allegiance) to the Uthmani Khalifah, who in return, sent Tipu a sanad (charter of office) and khil'at (robes of investiture) as ruler of Mysore. Tipu is a legendary figure in Indian history as a fighter against expanding British colonial rule.

The struggle of the Khilafah movement for the Muslims was to attain freedom from the occupation of the colonialists, and to bring dignity back to the Muslims.

The West, however, would not give up the prizes it gained from its colonisation of the Islamic lands. Having destroyed the Khilafah, it was amidst a highly nationalistic and patriotic feeling, which had gathered momentum within society. The disbelievers dismembered the Islamic State, parcelling it up into little statelets, and they encouraged the local communities to strengthen these divisions. The Uthmani State was divided into several states: Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, East Jordan, Hijaz, Najd and Yemen. Politicians in these statelets, both the collaborators and those with good intentions, began

to hold conferences in every country, demanding their independence, i.e. independence for the country that the disbelievers had founded to the exclusion of the other statelets. On this basis, the states of Turkey, Iraq, Egypt and Syria were founded. Then, a national homeland for the Jews was founded in Palestine, which was then subsequently turned into an independent entity. The disbelievers used it as a scapegoat to draw the attention of the Muslims away from the colonial disbelievers, i.e. the Western countries such as Britain, the United States and France, and to form an obstacle that stands in the way of the return of the Islamic State.

This geographical situation and the general scene were both designed to make sure that the Muslims would never be able to liberate themselves. The disbelievers set about implementing the capitalist system in economics and the democratic system in the government. They also introduced Western laws in their administrative and judicial systems. They spread their culture and their concepts about life, and they earnestly attempted to establish their viewpoint about life, so that their ways became the ones that the Muslims adopted and followed. They have, in fact, succeeded in this quest. They turned Egypt into a Sultanate, and then a parliamentary monarchy was established. In Iraq a parliamentary monarchy system was established. Syria and Lebanon became republics, and in East Jordan an emirate was established. Palestine was put under mandatory rule, which ended in the establishment of a parliamentary democratic system for the Jews. The remainder of Palestine was joined to East Jordan and turned into a parliamentary monarchy. In Hijaz and in Yemen, dictatorial monarchies were established, and in Turkey a presidential republic was formed. In Afghanistan a hereditary monarchy was established, and the colonial disbelievers encouraged Iran to maintain the imperial system. India remained a colony, until eventually it was divided into two states. Pakistan was to satisfy the sentiments of the Muslims of India for an Islamic State.

The colonial disbelievers therefore managed to impose their system on Muslim land, and by doing so; the concept of re-establishing the Islamic rule gradually waned in people's minds. Furthermore, each local community was encouraged to hold on to the system that the disbelievers had established for it, and they worked towards achieving total independence from all the other countries of the Muslim world; thus, an Iraqi became a foreigner in Egypt. The rulers of each statelet became keener to safeguard the capitalist democratic system than the founders of the system itself. They became surrogates, watching over and guarding the system and constitution that the colonial powers had set up for them.

The reality of 'Independence'

Despite the Muslim's dreams, aspirations and sacrifices of life, family, and property, the reality of Pakistan, now 54 years after its existence, is a

country that is not independent. It has remained in the hands of its colonialist masters, dictating to it virtually every law.

This is true, not just for Pakistan, but for all the Muslim countries. The society in the Islamic world is politically deteriorated, as most of it was occupied by the Western states. It is still dominated by them, despite the pseudo-independence. They are completely subjected to the democratic capitalist ideological leadership. This article will demonstrate how Pakistan, which has great potential as the starting point of the Khilafah, has been under the control of the Western powers, especially the USA, since its inception.

A) In government and politics it is ruled by a pseudo-democracy.

Since its creation over fifty years ago, Pakistan has been ruled by a series of military dictators (from Ayyub Khan, Yahya Khan, Zia al Haq, to the current military ruler Pervez Musharraf) and civilian rulers who have all been tainted with corruption and nepotism. All these rulers of Pakistan share another characteristic - they have all been under the influence of the Western powers.

A class with vested interests has existed that has dominated all centres of powers from local bodies up to the highest level of government. This is the class which was brought to the office of leadership during the British imperialist era, and which was rendering the service of enslaving its own nation as a lackey of foreign imperialism. Most of the landlords and feudal elites belong to this class. The new capitalist class, which emerged as a result of economic development and foreign aid, also joined this band. The Western nations made this class their instrument for penetration, and having enriched its posterity with education, training and other means, arranged to impose the progeny of such leadership on the nation. This special class was educated by the West, and was active in accomplishing its own material interests and ensuring the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Western powers. This class has no allegiance to any of the rulers of Pakistan, constantly giving allegiance and praising the incumbent ruler whether he or she is the Prime Minister, President, or Army Chief of Staff. When one ruler was deposed, the allegiance shifted to the new ruler, along with the flattery. Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto are testament to this fact, with a line of would-be "Prime Ministers" cajoling President Musharraf.

B) The internal politics has been dictated by the Western states.

Pakistan has remained a subordinate state of the Kafir colonialist powers, first Britain and then America. Both these countries have in fact competed with one another to control the destiny of the country through various means: cultural, economic, military and political. But despite the clash

in their interests, both Britain and the US are equally concerned with ensuring the continued implementation of the Western capitalist system and keeping Pakistan from turning to Islam. In the early years, it was easy for Britain to maintain control of Pakistan's affairs by exploiting the political, bureaucratic and military apparatus that it had painstakingly constructed during its lengthy colonial presence in combined India. However, British influence declined as America supplanted it in world affairs and succeeded in drawing Pakistan within its sphere of influence. Pakistan became a subordinate state to the US and has remained so for over four decades, thereby rendering great service to American regional and global interests. Nevertheless, US hold over Pakistan has remained uneasy, and America has been repeatedly obliged to deviate from the capitalist democratic model by inviting military rule in order to retain control of Pakistan's affairs. The reason for this unending turmoil in Pakistan's internal affairs is the original plan adopted by America to seize control of Pakistan's affairs. Instead of converting the old British elements to its cause, America ignored them and created new elements loyal to it, thereby opening the way for conflict between these new elements and the old elements that had been patronised by the British. Pakistan's institutions and political medium remain in eternal conflict as differing factions fight for control. Therefore, the government's current initiatives of devolution, accountability, and depoliticisation of state institutions, first announced by General Pervez Musharraf in his televised address of 17 October 1999, are in reality a continuation of the struggle of these differing factions and an attempt by America to pave the way for stable civilian government. Sometimes the US arranges for replacing one of her agents by another when the first has been exhausted. The struggle in Pakistani politics over the decades has not been a struggle between Islam and Kufr, but between various agents of the Kuffar, competing to achieve total control over the implementation of Kufr in the country.

C) Economics is ruled by capitalism and controlled by the Western powers.

The whole process of policy-making by the administrative institutions and individuals, are subjected to the foreign influences that have lost the political freedom of the country. Economic policies have been pawned to the foreign money-lenders, and now the encroachment of the World Bank and the IMF has extended so far that the government does not make the budget of the country, but shapes it according to the dictates of these agencies. For example, the budget for the fiscal year 2001/2002 had been designed to achieve the fulfilment of IMF conditions stipulated in the Letter Of Intent (LOI) signed between the IMF, Shaukat Aziz, the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and Ishrat Hussain [Governor of the State Bank] on behalf of the Pakistani government on the fourth of November 2000. The agreement is for a period of ten months and entails the securing of Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) loan

worth US \$596 million to be disbursed in tranches. To qualify for the SBA program, the government has developed a Memorandum on Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) and is forced to review them quarterly in conjunction with the IMF. Any shortcomings in the targets are met with additional IMF conditions, which the government has to commit to by being a signatory on further LOIs; otherwise, the government will forfeit the right to receive tranches. The second LOI was signed on 18th of March and the third is due to be signed in July 2001. On the 4th of June, the Minister of Finance, Shaukat Aziz, said that the government instituted structural changes in the economy, with the underlying aim of achieving self-reliance, by reducing dependence on foreign assistance and enhancing reliance on domestic resources. This claim is false and misleading, because the real driving force behind the economic changes of Pakistan is the IMF. The objective of the IMF conditions is to liberalise Pakistan's economy through the implementation of capitalist economic solutions and by its integration to the global financial system.

D) In the military field, it is shackled by the foreigners' weapons, training and expertise.

The Western states that sell their weapons to other states do not usually sell every weapon, particularly the most developed weapons. They sell weapons with certain conditions that include how they are utilised. They will not sell them except in certain quantities that they, rather than the purchasing countries, decide. This gives the Western countries, which sell arms, authority and influence over Pakistan. This has achieved enforcement of their own will upon the purchasing state, particularly if it was involved in a war. The fiasco of Pakistan purchasing F16 fighter aircrafts from the US, and not getting delivery, is testament to this fact. The reliance of the Pakistani government, which would need more arms, spare parts and ammunition, has led to an increase in its dependence on the Western states. This allows the Western state that exports arms to control it and its will, especially in times of war and times of great need for arms and spare parts. Pakistan trying to purchase the military hardware from China, means that the dependence of arms is still based upon another power.

On the 27th of April 2001, the US government decided to provide Pakistan a one-time waiver for the supply of arms and military spare parts. The official reason given by the State Department was that the fresh supply of military hardware was necessary to help Pakistan send its troops to Sierra Leone as part of a 17, 500 strong UN force. The Security Council mandate required regaining control of Sierra Leone's territories lost to rebels. Unofficially, it is well known that the rebels are sponsored by Liberia, a client state of the US.

The current conflict in Sierra Leone is not about

restoring peace; instead it is a vicious struggle amongst Western powers, especially, Britain and the US for the control of diamonds. Once again we find the military leadership of the country eager to commit its troops to protect American interests. Over the last decade, the Pakistani army has been safeguarding US interests in the Gulf, Balkans, Somalia and Indonesia. In all of the above cases, the Pakistani army did nothing to defend the honour of Muslims, but rather, she participated willingly with the US in killing Muslims in Iraq and Somalia and dividing Muslim land in the Balkans and Indonesia. Islam forbids the Kuffar from having authority over Muslims. These examples are sufficient to illustrate the influence of the colonialists in the military sphere.

E) In the foreign policy, the Muslim world follows the West who dominates it. US dictates Pakistan's foreign policy.

The Kargil incident is a clear example of how foreign policy is determined in Washington, rather than Islamabad. Even Pakistan's relationship with foreign countries has been dictated by the US. In 1999, when the Pakistani army launched itself into the strategic Kargil heights victory was assured for the Pakistani army in Kargil if the period of skirmishes had gone on for a longer time and turned into clashes between the two armies. Nawaz Sharif's disgraceful backing down from helping the Muslims of Kashmir, however, when he submitted to the American demand, vividly shows us how our foreign policy is subjected to Western colonial control.

Even Musharraf's visit last month to India was an attempt by the US to prepare ground for the normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan. This normalisation is an important step in the present US strategy to use both India and Pakistan as front-line states against China, which currently represents the foremost threat to American domination in the Far East at this time

Conclusion

We see that not only Pakistan, but also all the Muslim countries, are still colonised. Colonialism is still deep-rooted in them, because colonialism is the imposition of military, political, economical, and cultural will on the people to exploit them.

This is the poor state in which Pakistan and the Pakistanis are finding themselves in after more than fifty years of so-called 'independence.' This was the outcome of the military rule and the so-called democratic governance. The country, which had emerged on the political horizon with a message of new hopes and a bright future for the whole of the Islamic Ummah, has been pushed into the abyss of darkness.

The denial of the deterioration of the situation and of the intensity of darkness is synonymous with the denial of the reality and disregard of its

consequences. But there is no reason for despondency, because Allah (swt) has said:

وَلَا تَهِنُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَنْتُمْ الْأَعْلَوْنَ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ

مُؤْمِنِينَ آل عمران 139

"So lose not heart nor fall into despair, for you must gain mastery if you are truly believers" [TMQ Ale-Imran: 139].

It is our firm belief that Allah (swt), the Almighty, will never waste the sacrifices of those sincere human beings through whose sacrifices of blood and honour this country has come to exist. The good and righteous are ultimately victorious. Just as the declines and falls are a reality of our history, so too is revitalization and revival a rejoicing certainty.

The Messenger of Allah (saw) motivated us with the prophecy of our fate: "A group of you will conquer India, Allah will open for them [India] until they come with its kings chained - Allah having forgiven their sins - when they return back [from India], they will find Ibn Maryam in Syria" [Na'im b. Hammad in al-Fitan reports from Abu Hurairah].

He (saw) foretold of people from amongst this Ummah that will conquer India, chaining its kings like the Musharraf, the Vajpayees, and the Zameendars (feudal landlords) who are acting as kings, and then meet 'Isa b. Maryam (as) in Bilad ash-Sham.

Allah (swt) has promised:

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا 55 النور

"Allah has promised those who have believed and performed the good deeds, that He will of a surety grant them authority on Earth, as He granted it to those before them. And that He will establish in authority their Deen which He had chosen for them and that He will change their state of fear into one of peace and security" [TMQ An-Nur: 55].

Asif Khan

A Judge without Authority is no use to the Victims of Aggression



Fleeing at Sabra & Shatila

The case brought against Ariel Sharon "the butcher of Sabra and Shatila" has caught the attention of many Muslims. Sharon, the current Prime Minister of Israel was the Israeli Defence Minister who oversaw the invasion of Lebanon and has been implicated for the cold-blooded murder of hundreds of women, children and old folk in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila. The international attention given to this crime committed long ago has aroused some Muslim judges in Egypt to initiate their own war crimes tribunal to try Sharon.

Many will rejoice that an enemy of the Muslims is being put under pressure for the crimes he committed; but those with a more alert mind will have many questions. What or who decided that now is the time to try him for these old crimes? Why should he be on trial and not Putin or Yeltsin for their killings in Chechnya? Why is Shimon Peres, the current Foreign Minister and twice former Prime Minister of Israel, not on trial for his broken bones policy against Palestinian children in the first intifada? How did Bush, Clinton, Blair, Reagan, Thatcher and the like escape without trial for supplying arms, logistics and political support for many regimes of terror around the world? After

all, nobody is saying that Sharon killed the refugees in Sabra and Shatila by his own hands. As a politician he stood back like his friends in the West, and watched from a safe distance as others did his work.

Let us turn our attention now to two questions:

Firstly, how can a court in Egypt put Sharon on trial when he is a loyal servant of the Israeli people that he represents? Surely the State of Israel is the one to be called to account and not just one amongst the many faces of terror, which Israel has put forward to manage her affairs in the years since her creation. If Sharon is singled out as a criminal, are we viewing the State of Israel (on whose behalf he acted), as free of crime?

Secondly, how can a court in Egypt try an Israeli politician for conspiring with the killers of Muslims in refugee camps when successive Egyptian presidents have made pacts of peace and brotherhood with those same Israelis? President Hosni Mubarak is a criminal who has furthered peace between Egypt and the State of Israel. Shouldn't he be the first to stand trial for crimes against the Muslims? How should we view his oppression of the Muslims living in Egypt? Shouldn't he be tried for this even sooner? Who will bring the real criminals to trial and who will deal with the enemy state as an enemy state rather than isolate only some of its politicians as criminals?

An enemy state should be met with the army of jihad not lawyers and judges. Lawyers and judges should have nothing to do with Israel and her politicians. Rather the commanders and soldiers are the ones who should correct the injustice of Israel's existence by the use of arms. The use of the Egyptian judiciary is designed to provide short-term local pacification of the anger of sincere Muslims. It is one of many diversions to distract the Muslims from the duty of jihad and the accounting of the rulers of our lands who protect Israel from facing the wrath of a well-equipped army of jihad. Our response to Israel should be to prepare an army equipped with tanks, missiles and planes and not to mock ourselves by establishing a judicial court. Such a court is ineffectual and contradicts with the divine reality of the judiciary.

The judiciary is concerned with "giving information about the rule by way of compulsion" and not just the pronouncement of a fatwa. Imam Bukhari narrates the incident of a dispute over the right of custody over the child of Zuma'a, the Prophet (saw) heard the case and then pronounced, "The child is for the bed and for the fornicator is ston-

ing." The Prophet (saw) informed the people of Allah's (swt) rule so that it is implemented. This was a judicial function. The Seerah narrates many incidents where people raised disputes to the Prophet (saw), and the Prophet (saw) judged and gave the hukm, which was then enacted. He (saw) appointed judges such as Ali ibn Abi Talib (ra) as judge over Yemen advising; "O Ali, if two disputing parties sat before you, do not judge in favour of either of them until you hear what the other party has to say as you heard the first one." Such examples highlight the practical application of the Islamic judicial system.

The trial of Sharon in his absence by a court in Egypt is a stage show that cannot produce any tangible result. Even though they have set up a judge, a prosecution, a defence lawyer and a jury, none of this actually has anything to do with judiciary. They are actors producing an entertainment show for the people. We will not elaborate here that trial by jury is in fact contrary to the Shari'ah, for Allah's (swt) rule is one rule and one judge alone will pronounce that rule. Truth does not come from a majority show of hands!

Where is the judge who will stand up and declare Hosni Mubarak guilty of ruling by other than what Allah (swt) has revealed? Where is the judge who will stand up and declare him guilty of selling the Ummah's wealth into the hands of Israeli and American businessmen? Where is the judge who will stand up and order the army to remove Mubarak for laughing at those who called for jihad against Israel?

It takes the bravery of a woman to show us the way. She stood up to a great ruler when he addressed the people and dared to say; "you are wrong." The Khalifah was Umar al Farooq, who immediately reversed his limitation on the value of the Maher (marriage gift) for marriage following her accounting.

Under the shade of the Khilafah ruling system the judiciary flourished and a special court was established just to deal with complaints against the rulers known as the Mahkamat ul Madhalim. The Prophet (saw) used to look into these complaints himself, though he appointed Rashid ibnu Abdullah as Amir of judiciary over one Wilayah (province) of the State and responsible over the Madhalim within that Wilayah. The Khulafah Rashida also looked into such complaints during their rule. Midway through the Abbasid era, the Khulafah used to delegate the cases of Madhalim to a special judge and since then this type of judge, which has the power to compel the Khalifah's removal, became a permanent office. During the times of the Sultans of Egypt and Ash-Sham a

"house of justice" existed which was for the regular investigation of complaints against the rulers.

The judiciary had distinguished the Khilafah ruling system as a uniquely just system when the rest of the world knew nothing but the arbitrary rule of kings and queens. With the destruction of the Khilafah in 1924 the judiciary became either a fanciful philosophy or a tool for implementing non-Islam upon people. This is not surprising as our lands are full of scholars who inform the people of the rules of Salat without explaining the role of the state in establishing the Salat. They explain the rulings related to male / female relationships and the drinking of alcohol when many rulers have licensed pubs and brothels for trade near mosques. It has become normal for people to think of Islam in an individual and impractical way. This is to be expected in the absence of the Khilafah that Allah's Messenger (saw) established as an authority to implement Islam's rules, defend the Aqeedah and convey the Deen to the rest of the world.

Alhamdulillah many Muslims are starting to ask the right questions because they connect their feelings of pain when sensing the terrible situation of the Muslim Ummah with a clear understanding of how Islam addresses these problems through the Khilafah. Though our sisters and children spend the night sheltered in darkness under a table as Israeli tank shells explode around them, it is not a reason for the Ummah to engage in cheap struggle and put her hopes in any cheap and easy gimmick, which our rulers offer us. If we are to have judges they must judge by Islam and there must be an authority to compel implementation of their verdict. We will surely have such judges when the Khilafah is re-established and then and only then will we, and the rest of the victims on this planet, see justice.

Dr Abdullah Robin

The Bulger Incident: A Crime Against Humanity



Background

Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, two young adults, were only ten when they notoriously abducted, tortured and murdered the toddler, James Bulger, in 1993. The Judge (Mr Justice Morland) at the time ordered them to be detained for "very, very many years" and made the following statement: "This child of two was taken from his mother on a journey of over two miles and then on the railway line was battered to death without mercy. Then his body was placed across the railway line so it would be run over by a train in an attempt to conceal his murder. In my judgment your conduct was both cunning and very wicked."

Furore surrounding the release

The decision by the Parole Board to release the killers, now 18, on what they call 'life licenses' has caused tremendous furore across Britain. Politicians, intellectuals, journalists and the general public at large have expressed their opinions about this whole affair. Some were outraged by their release, like the former Conservative Home Secretary, Michael Howard who said: "I very much regret this decision. It may well be that the Parole Board had no alternative, but I think Lord Woolf was wrong to decide that eight years was suffi-

cient time..." Lyn Costello from Mothers Against Murder and Aggression also expressed similar sentiments: "We don't believe eight years is punishment. We actually campaign for life to mean life, especially in the case of child murder."

On the other hand, the Liberal Democrat Home Affairs spokesman, Simon Hughes, argued that the pair should be allowed to start their lives afresh. He said, "It seems to me that the assessment is that they are safe to be released." Likewise, Mark Leech from the ex-offenders charity, Unlock, said: "The time has come for these two young men to be released. They have complied with everything the authorities have asked of them."

Similarly, many journalists across Britain had expressed their shock and horror of this particular crime and their views on whether they thought the Parole Board was right in releasing them so early. The killers have been granted High Court injunctions protecting their anonymity with new identities amid fears of revenge attacks. A secrecy order prohibits the publication of any details likely to lead to their identification. There was also a controversy over a local newspaper that had allegedly revealed the killers' whereabouts, resulting in panic amongst some quarters.

The quest for justice

Clearly, British public opinion was divided on their release. It was not certain whether justice had been achieved. However, the public opinion appeared to be unified in its condemning of such a premeditated and foully sadistic crime. But annoyingly the whole incident was made out to be something very strange or extra-ordinary. The fact of the matter is that these types of sadistic and horrific crimes have become very common in Britain and the Western societies at large. It has become a norm to hear of such crimes every other week. Was not Damilola Taylor, a ten-year-old killed by his peers just the other week? Was not Sarah Payne, a five-year-old girl, recently raped and brutally murdered by a so-called paedophile. What about the gang rapes, street muggings, thefts, robberies, stabbing and many other heinous crimes that are perpetrated by children and young adults all across Britain and the US on a daily basis. If one were to study the statistics, they would realise that these vicious crimes are not just isolated incidents that take place now and then; they have become an epidemic in the 'civilised' nations of the West. Surely, this pattern of behaviour is unacceptable to any sensible human being, and it begs the question: what is the driving force behind these inhuman crimes?

Capitalist thought and the role of government

The reality is that Britain, just like the US, is based upon the capitalist thought (Aqeedah), i.e. the separation of the laws of the Creator (Allah) from life's affairs. This leads to the sanctification and

adoption of concepts like freedom of the individual (do as you please) and freedom of belief (no such thing as absolute truth), amongst others. Consequently, this is manifested by way of the masses having no sense of justice, responsibility or accountability whatsoever, since the idea is that they are all 'free' to do what they like! The government's role is to propagate, promote and protect these values in society. Therefore, it is of no surprise to find, in these types of societies, mothers who hold night-clubbing with their friends, or pursuing careers, to be more valuable than attending the needs of their children. This as a result of a culture saturated with slogans like 'just do it', 'be free', 'have lots of fun', and promiscuous culture via children's television shows (state television). Neither is it a surprise to find that ex-criminals are becoming household celebrities like the Kray brothers or the great train robber, Ronnie Biggs. Indeed, many without any shame openly idolise these criminals. Naturally, these contemptuous values permeate down to the children unabated. Thus, it is very ironic to find the British public outraged by the Bulger incident since clearly this is only a natural manifestation of upholding these erroneous concepts.

"Corrosive atmosphere"

When Lord Woolf, the Lord Chief Justice, decided to end the killers tariff, the minimum period they must spend in custody, he ruled that it would not be beneficial for the killers to spend time in the "corrosive atmosphere" of an adult prison. What Lord Woolf, and other Western thinkers, politicians and statesmen, need to recognise is that the whole British society is corrosive and decadent and not just the prisons. Was it not the case that while James Bulger was being dragged away by his killers the public simply watched without inquiring what was going on? Is it not also true that when people are mugged or raped in this society in broad daylight the people just watch and don't intervene at all? Is this not a direct result of adopting the capitalist thought as the basis for life? Does it not bring out in people the lowliest of character and behaviour? How else can you explain the rampant crime? The prevalence of extreme greed, selfishness, juvenile delinquency and so forth is due to ideas like individualism that emanate directly from the capitalist doctrine.

Lord Woolf can be forgiven for making such a remark since his basis for judgment on anything would be the corrupt and erroneous secular doctrine. Thus, it would be impossible for him to realise this himself without extraneous assistance, i.e. by the Da'wa process from either an ideological Muslim or the future Islamic state.

The Islamic Society

Indeed the Bulger incident, to say the least, was shocking, but it is not surprising at all since the aware Muslim knows that such outcomes are inevitable when a society adopts any man-made

ideology as its basis. In fact, it is more of an astonishment that such incidents are not more widespread than they already are!

The Islamic society is based on "Laa ilaha illa Allah Muhammadan Rasul Allah." The State is an integral element of the doctrine with justice, responsibility and accountability as some of its intrinsic qualities. Thus, the Islamic society will be built on taqwa and accountability. Naturally, it will promote a strong detest for injustice, crime and irresponsible behaviour, since it will be obliged to uphold the Quranic values like:

وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا ۗ التَّائِبَةُ 32

"...and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people..." [TMQAI-Ma'idah: 32].

The State will enforce and promote a culture of responsibility and accountability amongst its citizens, since the Messenger of Allah (saw) said, "Everyone of you is a guardian and responsible for his charges. The ruler who has authority over people, is a guardian and responsible for them, a man is a guardian of his family and is responsible for them; a woman is a guardian of her husband's house and children and is responsible for them; a slave is a guardian of his master's property and is responsible for it; so all of you are guardians and are responsible for your charges."

Furthermore, the State will be obliged to inform and educate the masses to be cognisant of all their actions since Allah (swt) has said:

فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ ۗ الزُّمُرَةُ 8-7

"Then shall anyone who has an atom's weight of good, see it. And anyone who has done an atom's weight of evil, shall see it" [TMQ Al-Zalzalah: 7-8].

Inshallah this type of atmosphere will minimise crime, if not eradicate it substantially. Hence, it will ensure that children are educated to be responsible upright people and not just seek trivial pursuits. This would lead us to a society where such crimes will not even be a figment of any child's imagination.

Saleh Ahmed

Letters

Dear Sir,

The current efforts to remove interest from the Pakistani banking system is a facade which hides the real motive of the exercise, as well as deceiving the common people about what Islamic economics is. The current exercise is nothing short of Islamising Capitalism.

There are a number of points that need to be brought to the fore. Firstly, Islamic banking cannot be discussed in isolation since it is part of the Islamic economic system and tightly bound to the other Islamic systems. For example, one source of revenue of the Bait-ul-Maal (the main lender within the Islamic State) is the Ghanima (war booty), which relates to the State's foreign policy. Other sources of revenue to the Bait-ul-Maal include kharaj and ushur (land taxes), which relates to the wider economic system.

Disputes of repayment of non-interest bearing loans cannot be dealt with by the current judicial system, since it would cost the claimant much time and money due to the bureaucratic nature of the current judiciary. For small to medium loans, it would be impractical to refer a dispute to the judiciary; thus encouraging debtors to default on payment. In short an 'Islamic' banking system cannot work within a 'non-Islamic' judicial system.

Granting of loans cannot be discussed without taking into consideration the types of company structures in existence. The Shari'ah does not permit certain types of companies. Capitalist share companies, as they stand, contradict the basic rule of offer and acceptance, which underpin all contracts in Islam. Currently, a person can buy and sell shares in a company as he pleases without the knowledge of the other partners. This was one of the factors, which led to the South East Asian Stock crisis in late 1997. Thus, merely removing interest from the economy is not enough. Companies must be restructured to be in accordance with the Shari'ah. This cannot be done without changing the company laws and the way laws are made in general. Otherwise it would be like playing cricket according to the rules of soccer.

Islam is a homogenous system made up of inter-related systems. The current hybrid system, which prevails in Pakistan, cannot successfully incorporate an Islamic economic system. A whole cannot be divided and expect to work correctly. A part Islam can-

not work on its own without its counterparts.

Another more sinister aspect of this current debate is the motive behind the whole non-interest banking debate. This discussion started many years ago, not in Pakistan but in the banks of the West. Being capitalist, they realised that a huge market was closed to them. Billions of dollars in Muslim countries were not accessible to them, since many Muslims did not put money in interest bearing accounts, nor did they take loans from usurious banks. Thus in order to tap into this lucrative market, Islamic scholars like Taqi Usmani were taken on board to advise them on how to Islamise some of the transactions. Hence, the Islamisation debate does not extend to foreign loans, nor does the debate extend to the other aspects of the Islamic economic system like taxation or company structure. Thus the debate is not one of Islamising the banking system, but Islamising Capitalism to make it palatable to the Muslims. This is the latest stance in deceiving the Muslims and giving a longer lease of life to the failed system that exists in Pakistan.

This is not to say that Islamic economics cannot be applied in the modern world. Many scholars, who understand the current day realities as well as having the necessary Islamic legal knowledge, have written books on this issue. One such example is 'The Islamic Economic System' written by the former judge of the Shari'ah courts in Al-Quds, Sheikh Taqiuddin an-Nabhani.

Muslim citizens as well as those of other faiths enjoyed the benefits of Islamic banking for many centuries under the Khilafah. Islam is a practical system, neither theoretical nor imaginary. Historical legal documents bare testimony to the practical implementation of all aspects of the Islamic systems including the Islamic economic system. To expect Capitalism to implement Islamic rules is as ludicrous as to imagine an Islamic state applying capitalist rules.

Yours faithfully,

Mazbar Khan, Pakistan

The Western Work Ethic



Rasoolallah (saw) recommended for us many special du'a (supplications), one of which is:

"O Allah, we seek refuge in You from anxiety and sorrow, and seek refuge in You from weakness and laziness, and seek refuge in You from cowardice and miserliness, and seek refuge in You from the dominance of debt, and from being overpowered by men."

This du'a may have a particular significance for those who live and work in the West. This du'a is one of the sources of solace for one who is caught up in the cycle of work. The capitalist system is designed to instil the maximum amount of anxiety in the individual and at the same time induce laziness and miserliness. This life style also ensures that there is a spectre of debt looming over everyone. Allah (swt) recommends this du'a through Rasoolallah (saw), for all Muslims and for all times. However, it seems such an appropriate shield for us; from the internal turmoil that we may go through as a result of living in such a chaotic world, as it stands at the moment.

Work to live or live to work?

There is a phrase that the average worker in Western Europe and America, would not dare to utter in polite society. It says; 'I work harder

than I would really like, in order to buy things that I don't really need, in order to impress people that I don't really care for.' Regardless of whether people utter this phrase out loud or not, it is still something they feel in their heart. It highlights the emotion that people who subject themselves to the treadmill of working life in the West, really feel. Employees have to put up with long working hours and the performing of exhausting and stressful tasks. Outside the workplace, people's leisure is taken up by modes of relaxation that merely prolong and build upon the stress that is induced by work. Leisure is based on false needs, which are imposed by the mass media. People will happily work until they are lethargic, for the pursuit of money. Their pursuit of pleasure is in owning cars with unblemished bodywork, DVD players, wide screen TVs and other non-essential items. Their viewing regime consists of a diet of home and garden makeover programmes, cooking programmes and mind numbing soap operas. After consuming a belly-full of consumerism through the TV, they then feel the need to possess. They may have a sudden urge to acquire a fitted kitchen, Japanese style bathroom or a Scandinavian style living room.

Stress

Difficult working environments are often exacerbated by creating further stress through backbiting, conniving and undermining. This is best summed up by a quote by Lily Tomlin:

"The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win you are still a rat."

Stress has become the buzzword of the 21st century in relation to the working life style in the West. In the 1980s stress was trivialised and even ridiculed by the movers and shakers of the "lunch is for wimps" Thatcherite society. The rampant greed that metamorphosed into Tony Blair's caring sharing 90s, brought about a gradual change in attitudes to work related stress. Much of this, being prompted by several high profile cases of individuals needing to get out of the rat race. By the late 90s, even the tabloid

headlines that lampooned, the then Aston Villa striker, Stan Collymore, for complaining that he was unhappy with his job, were met with a chorus of disapproval. The tabloids themselves were however criticised for trivialising a very real and established medical condition called depression. A large bank account, adoring fans, and a celebrity girlfriend did not predicate happiness. Depression, due to work related stress is a mounting concern for many in the West. In the year 2000, the TUC surveyed 6,000 UK organisations and found stress at work to be a severe problem. The TUC now considers stress to be the UK's top workplace hazard. The latest British Crime Survey reported 1.2 million incidences of work-related violence.

The issue of work ethics and ethos is one that impinges on the life styles of Muslims in the West. Living in the West, we are all directly or indirectly affected by Western attitudes to work. Moreover, through the process of globalisation and the manipulation of the workforce of the third world, the Islamic lands are also subjected to this form of enslavement.

Mass-consumption needs mass-production

We have comprehensively discussed consumerism in *Khilafah Magazine* recently, (Issue 4, Volume 12, April 2001), using the fashion industry as one example of how people living in the East and West are exploited. Western communities are continually exposed to a culture of wanton greed and a desire to buy more. The desire amongst the populace for new and improved consumer goods is one idea that many in the West carry. However a mass-consumption society must have its counterpart; a mass-production society. In order to meet the demands of this consumerist nation, the people are kept content by the blood, sweat and tears of the work force. So, manual labourers must be sacrificed to the beast; consumerism. Armies of ad-men, artisans, media manipulates and corporate middle managers, must spend their hours servicing the every want, whim and fancy of the

beast. Consumerism has to be kept in the public's mind every second of the day. Therefore advertising and the so-called creative media professions and PR companies have become an industry in their own right. A Faustian pact is signed by anyone who decides to work for consumerism. The workers time, energy, physical and mental well-being, family life and dignity are handed over in exchange for a meagre monthly salary, medical insurance and free membership of a gymnasium with a sauna. The Western way of life breeds content but mindless robots who compulsively chase false needs.

The West is run by corporate power

The Capitalist economy is supposedly based on competition. In reality competition is an oversimplification of how things work. Competition exists to some extent but the best way to beat competitors is not to let the produce speak for itself, but to use other means. Advertising is used to portray exaggerated or false claims or merely to discredit the competition. However a more effective manner of gaining dominance is to form alliances with others of like mind or related industries, to influence government through lobbying or from the emergence of the super corporations that expand in business by exploiting the world. For example the recent merger of Time-Warner with America-on-line demonstrates how a few diverse but linked sectors of the media business managed to combine in order to create a force far more profitable. The separate entities of Time-Life publications and Warner Brothers entertainment overcame their competitors in magazines, films and music sale not in the "market" but in the boardroom. Very few companies can compete with the profile and self-advertising that CNN and Time magazine could generate for selling Warner Brother's cartoons, films and CDs with accompanied merchandising and paraphernalia. The new emerging media of the Internet AOL has secured all the frontiers of the Time-Warner Empire. CNN are able to do a feature on a new CD release, or create news about the hype surrounding a film premier. Simultaneously Time magazine are able to write an article on the film and/or the CD. Warner Brother's produce all this advertising without a dollar being spent on advertising in the conventional way.

Time-Warner has not only created an economic monopoly, but has ensured that only their pop culture alone is dominant. Even if the consumer chose to watch a film not produced by Warner Brother's, they will not be able to. Thus it is a complete myth that there is such a thing as "consumer sovereignty" - there is merely "producer sovereignty". This is the way of doing business in the West. This is the way of Capitalism.

The other tool of the Capitalists is that of government. The relationship between industry and government is often a very close one. Governments often use taxpayers' money to subsidise industries. In the US, the aircraft and

computer industries Boeing and Cray were founded on government subsidies collected from taxes. Since the 1940s high tech industries have been funded through the Pentagon's Welfare System. Agriculture is also protected and subsidised. The various Federal Highway Acts of 1944, 1956 and 1968 have channelled billions of dollars into the highway system that was conceived by Alfred Sloan, chairman of General Motors. It made America dependent on gasoline-powered transportation and gave the oil industry a de facto monopoly. Other industries such as the tyre manufacturers, the road builders and repairers, and even the health-insurance industry all benefited from this. More hospitals had to be built to cope with all the accidents on the road and diseases like asthma as a result of pollution. The owners of industries not only over work their staff but are also obliged to tax their employees' pay packet. The industrialists later get that money from the government as subsidies.

We may not all work within these corporations but we are continually exposed to their news, views and opinions. Slavery in the workplace is the main issue addressed here. However, it is only one element of the evils of corporate business.

How all this came about

Work did not always occupy such a position in the West. The ancient Greeks regarded work as ignoble, it was from "the sphere of necessity" to be performed only by slaves and the lower classes. It seems that many from the upper echelons of Western society have adopted this traditional Greek ethos. The Judaeo-Christian tradition saw manual labour as a punishment from God. Up until a few centuries ago in the West, work was not seen as a necessity. It was rather seen as something that was to be avoided or minimised. In pre-industrialised Britain work was in or close to the home. Agriculture and craft production were the main types of work for the lower classes. Many academics suggested workers only did as much work as they felt they had to. They were not governed by the clock or piecework assessment.

It wasn't until the rise of the Calvinists, who saw work as a calling from God that the Protestant work ethic was born. This was reiterated by the Victorians in the saying; "heaven helps those that help themselves." Attitudes changed with the Victorians, but working practices were forced upon the British people much earlier. The main turning point occurred with the industrial revolution. Industrialisation required new attitudes and new work patterns. Pre-industrialisation was characterised by "task-orientated" work. People did the task that was at hand in whatever time was necessary. Industrialisation required large financial layouts by the employers to buy the expensive machinery. Therefore machines had to be kept in constant use to repay the capital costs. This work pattern was later driven by sheer greed. So the new work

patterns were based around time and not task. This is the work ethic that the West inherited for today.

Marxism

The inhumane practices of the European industrialists of the 19th century did not go without criticism. Marx's observations of the abuse of the labour force lead to the development of the most significant philosophies of the 20th century. Although as a system, attempts to implement Marx's idea failed, Marx nevertheless made some astute comments on how Europe was developing in the later part of the eighteen hundreds. Although we do not want to give any credibility to Marx himself or to any of the corrupt thoughts he came up with, it is of interest to chart how attitudes to work changed during his life.

Marx believed that work gave the most basic means of freedom and liberation from necessity. He proposed that work provides people with food, shelter and clothing, thus allowing freedom from the challenges and pressures of nature. Furthermore, progress in labour sets humans free from necessity for labour itself by giving humans time and resources to do other things. Following on from this was one of Marx's well-known theories; the division of labour. The theory states, if labour is the essence of humanity, as he thought, then division of labour is paramount. The division of labour had both positive and negative aspects. On one hand it could maximise the potential for human labour and on the other, it could perpetuate the domination of certain sectors over others. Marx made an observation of the reality, but offered up a theoretical solution completely divorced from the actuality. The idealism of Marx is in stark contrast to the reality of pragmatic Capitalism.

The worth of an individual is defined only by the type of work (s)he does

Capitalism views the degree of self-worth that an individual has is related to his/her occupation. Thus assembly-line workers and street cleaners are seen in lower standing than doctors and lawyers. Training and expertise becomes the real significant issue rather than the actual input of the individual. Thus in a law firm the actual bulk of the work is commonly performed by the clerical staff, who are without training in law or supervision in the practice of law. Whilst the lawyer, who heads the firm, and does the least work, gets the most credit, most cash and most credibility. Parallels can be seen in the nursing profession in relation to other health care professionals such as physicians. The worth of the individual can also be seen with parenting. A mother who gets no wage for her full-time job of hard labour, with no cash bonuses or productivity incentives is seen as being lower than the care-worker in a playgroup or nursery who get

a wage for changing the nappies of other people's babies.

Men and women are seen merely as entities that contribute to the economy. Therefore women as mothers are not valued. Homemaking is an unpaid, labour intensive, strain on the economy. It has no direct bearing on the GDP. Today the only socially recognised work is that which is paid with tax contributions in big businesses, on full time "permanent" contracts. Those included in this narrow description are dignified and honoured. Thus those working in non-conventional jobs or without a wage are considered inferior. So collecting firewood and selling it on a street corner without a peddler's licence and P45 tax certificate would be considered wrong and undignified. The view of the stereotypical "working man" only serves to demean motherhood and homemaking. Many factors lead to the current Western attitude to motherhood, which is at odds with human nature. Children are brought up by strangers. A mother would work full time, and parent part time and give up three-quarters of her salary, for childcare. The social problems that these situations produce are immense. Even within the West many acknowledge that this is a problem that has to be addressed. The spate of school shootings in Kentucky, Oregon, Arkansas and Mississippi prompted academics, criminologists, law enforcers and parents, in July 1998, to cite the lack of adult supervision in children's lives as a factor contributing to this problem. In the UK, the Social Exclusion Unit was set up in December 1997 to advise the government on such issues as lawlessness, drugs and the like. The experts have been brought in to find answers to questions that to most rational people are very obvious.

So what of the future

The political system that prevails in the world today has the above-described Capitalist model at its heart. The working practices of the West, which are now exported to the rest of the world, are the result of the Capitalist system that dominates all aspects of life's affairs. The only way to reverse these cruel and de-humanising practices is to radically uproot corporate power from their fortified positions. These corporations have only been allowed to become so powerful because the system allows it. In fact the system encourages it. This is the true nature of Capitalism. Until the world sees a more just political system, manifested by the Khilafah State, with its accompanying just economic and ruling systems, the citizens of the globe will not be released from this enslavement by man and man-made laws.

Salim Fredericks

The Race Riots in the North



Multi-Ethnic Riots

The Northern part of England has been set alight with riots from Oldham, to Bradford to Stoke and Burnley. In Bradford 200 policemen were injured as they battled with approximately one thousand Muslim youths, originally from Bangladesh and Pakistan, rioting after members of the white-supremacist National Front arrived for a banned parade.

News reports stated that some had blamed the violence on the far right trying to stir up racial hatred in an attempt to gain power on local councils. Meanwhile the Prime Minister Tony Blair has condemned the disorder as "simple thuggery".

A False Multi-Ethnic society

Two decades after the Brixton riots, where the Black community was involved in race riots, the Stephen Lawrence case came to the fore indicating that racism is still a big problem in Britain. A report commissioned by Bradford city council and other groups before the rioting blamed racial tension on a host of problems.

Ethnic minorities make up about five per cent of Britain's 57 million people; the minority populations tend to be concentrated in certain areas almost segregated from communities of different origins. Furthermore refugees fleeing tragic situations abroad are still seen as predators in capitalist society and therefore have to

distance themselves from the rest of society hence adding to the segregation.

Integrating Secularism

Secularism pushes the people to cast their religious and race differences aside and get on in society using laws that have originated from man's mind with no interference from religion. This in theory should allow people of different communities to live together in peace. Secularism doesn't say whether one religious belief is above another but only insists that the communities keep their religion to themselves and that way there can be harmony.

In practice this can never occur as peoples' beliefs naturally manifest in society in the form of places of worship and schools for different faiths. When funding is needed politics inevitably becomes involved and the questions of who gets how much and when need to be answered. In capitalist countries, the majority decide and award the funding to themselves, the minorities as their title suggests get their dues later and have little influence. Years of campaigning gets little money for their schools and places of worship from the government - only recently have some Muslim schools been given any funding at all.

The system pushes for segregation where the needs of a community are only properly met by getting one of their own MPs or councillors in government. He or she then prioritises his community's needs over others - they after all

gave him the votes to work in the position hence he must take care of their needs first. Some Muslims in Britain talk of gaining influence in society this way by taking part in this system. Where they have been 'successful' such as in Bradford and other parts of the North, other communities felt left behind feeling that the ethnic community that dominated the locality was stealing their dues hence a backlash occurred and the "white minorities" in these areas turned to the National Front in response to the ethnic domination of the area. Unsurprisingly this ended in the riots that have been witnessed.

There seems to be no real equal citizenship in the Western society, rather the different communities that make up the pot of Western societies must strive to cement their own influence.

Integration in the Islamic state

Like the Western States of today the Islamic State in the past also catered for multiple communities, Arab, Persian, Asian and African. From the beginning the Muslims who established and nurtured the Islamic state with the Prophet (saw) were of different tribes and backgrounds. The Sahabah included Salman al Farsi of Persia, Bilal of Ethiopia, Suhaib al Rumi from the Byzantine Empire. Furthermore Jewish, Christian and other communities were incorporated in the Islamic State's society. Islam allowed these people to live and practice their religions.

Islam has determined the method by which its rules are to be implemented on the people who submit to its authority, whether Muslims or otherwise. The Islamic State implemented the rules of Islam following this method, the method being the hukm Shar'i itself, and this led to the solving of any issue that arose, by Allah's (swt) hukm, with harmony for all. Islam came to address all people, for Allah (swt) addressed all mankind with Islam as human beings and nothing else. Allah (swt) says,

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ
مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ البقرة 21

"O you people! Adore your Guardian - Lord, who created you and those who came before you, that you may have taqwa (piety)" [TMQ Al-Baqarah: 21].

He (swt) also says,

يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنْسَانُ مَا غَرَّبَكَ رَبِّكَ الْأَكْرَبِ الإنطار 6

"O mankind! What has seduced you from your Lord?" [TMQ Infitaar: 6]

The scholars of Usul al-Fiqh (foundation of jurisprudence) considered the Divine Laws as being addressed to every human mind capable of understanding, be it Muslim or not. Imam al-

Ghazali said in his book Al-Mustafa fi al-Usul,

"Verily the governed must be a responsible person, the condition being that he is sane and able to understand speech; what qualifies the person to be liable to observe the rules is his human nature which enables him to accommodate the mental capability by which he receives and understands the commandments of Allah."

The non-Muslims in the Islamic state will be left alone and not interfered with, neither their beliefs nor their worship. They will be allowed to follow their own laws in matters of marriage and divorce according to their religion. The State will appoint a judge from their own people to settle their disputes in courts belonging to the State. As for their diets and clothing, they will be treated according to their own rules within the general and common order. People other than the People of the Book will be treated in the same way. The Messenger of Allah (saw) said concerning the Majus, "Treat them in the same way you treat the People of the Book."

As for transactions and penalties, these are implemented on Muslims and non-Muslims alike. They all have to abide by the Shari'ah; however, their adherence to the laws would be legislative and legal rather than religious or spiritual. They would therefore not be obliged to believe in them because that would constitute them being forced to embrace Islam; Allah (swt) says,

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ البقرة 256

"No compulsion in the deen" [TMQ Al-Baqarah: 256].

The Messenger of Allah (saw) has forbidden Muslims from interfering with or persecuting the People of the Book about their belief, but they would be obliged to comply with the Islamic laws from a legislative and legal point of view.

The teachings of Islam necessitate that the ruled people should be looked upon from a human point of view and not a racial, tribal or religious one. Allah (swt) says in Surah al-Ma'idah,

وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَا نُ قَوْمٍ عَلَىٰ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا اعْدِلُوا هُوَ
أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ المائدة 8

"And let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just, that is next to piety; and fear Allah, for Allah is acquainted with all you do" [TMQ Al-Ma'idah: 8].

In Islam all people are equal in the eyes of the law and judiciary. The ruler looks after people's affairs and rules over them. The judge settles

people's disputes without any prejudice; he looks upon them from a human point of view with the aim of solving their problems and settling their disputes.

The mixing of the Muslim conquerors with the indigenous peoples was one of the major factors that led to those people entering Islam and integrating with other Muslims. After conquering a country, the Muslims would take up residence there and begin teaching the people Islam and Islamic culture. They lived in neighbouring houses; they shared in all the life's affairs and became subjects of one state, being ruled by the same laws. They never were two different communities divided into conquerors and conquered, winners and the defeated. They were all citizens of the State who helped each other in their day-to-day life's affairs. The conquered people looked upon the rulers as being a different type of people whom they had never encountered before. They witnessed the equality with which they were treated by placing themselves on the same level and serving them and managing their affairs.

This integration process of the Islamic State helped the Muslims spread Islam across the world. The people in the lands of Persia, Iraq, the domain of al-Sham (Syria, Lebanon and Palestine), Egypt and North Africa, which were liberated by Islam, had their own religions, nationalities, languages, customs and traditions. All were different from one another. The Persians differed from the Romans of Sham, from the Copts of Egypt and from the Berbers of North Africa. However, they lived under the rule of Islam, understood it, embraced it and became one nation, the Islamic Ummah. The success of the Islamic ideology in melting these nationalities and people into one nation was therefore unparalleled.

Allah (swt) says in Surah Al-Baqarah:

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى
النَّاسِ البقرة 143

"Thus We have made you (the Muslims), a Wasat (just) (and the best) nation, that you be witnesses over mankind" [TMQ Al-Baqarah: 143].

Asim Khan

News from Central Asia

ALMATY. A leaflet of Hizb Tahrir (as it was named in it) was rather impressive. Its appearance in mailboxes of dwelling houses of northern part of Almaty can hardly be called accidental. July 6, 2001, is the birthday of Presidents Nursultan Nazarbaev and George Bush. In other words, this action of advocates of religious extremism has clearly expressed demonstrative aspect.

The leaflet dated May 21, 2001, describes events up to May 18, 2001. One can notice certain operational efficiency in the ideological front. THE GLOBE first received the leaflet by fax on June 13, 2001. One of THE GLOBE's journalists saw another leaflet on July 6 in Ainabulak district. The leaflets were in all mailboxes of the 5-story house where he lives.

Rumours that this Islamic reformation movement entirely consists of illiterate villagers should be discarded. Hizb-ut-Tahrir has real professionals, at least in its ideological apparatus.

The leaflet quotes the Koran, a sacred for all Muslims book, in Arabic and provides translations into Russian. Most of the quotations can be regarded as instigation of religious and other kinds of hostilities.

The text concludes with an appeal. It is not primitive like "We have Allah and three machine-guns" but represents a very professional piece of writing based on the authority of the Koran. We cannot publish it not only because it is rather long

but we have a number of ethical and legal reasons not to do it. Believe us, it is impressive.

One of the axioms in sociology reads: if workers have been granted certain rights and privileges, their elimination may be fraught with animosity and social tensions. Throughout the post-Soviet period of reformation, mostly working people suffered. Troubles in social welfare, education, health care and employment affect this particular category of Kazakhstani people most of all.

Active withdrawal of the state from the social sphere has not resulted in its self-organization and harmonization. Extreme income differentiation within the society aggravates the problem.

So, Hizb-ut-Tahrir comes timely. This reformation movement is often confused with fundamentalism but it is far from being the same. Analyst Sabit Zhusupov thinks the common point in both movements is heavy emphasis on social justice. Of world religions, Islam is the only to have appeared in the region with scarce resources (deserted Arabian peninsula can hardly be called a land of affluence). It is clear therefore why Islamic movements are gaining force especially in Central Asia.

Deficit of water and general deficient regulation of water and land relations under conditions of demographic growth and break-up of social infrastructure in most states of the region also increases the number of supporters of unofficial Islamic organizations.

Kazakhstan is different from the rest of Central Asia. It does not have powerful demographic pressure. The country's population is multi-ethnic and multi-religious. The economy is fed with petrodollars. Kazakhstan has a high level of urbanization and education of population. It is able to manipulate the future.

The fact that such leaflets appeared signifies that many of "painful points" in Central Asia are valid for all the countries of the region and none of them should neglect the importance of taking

efforts to eliminate the roots, not consequences.

It is a well-known fact that when Kazakh President attended festivities on the 1,500-anniversary of Turkestan, ancient capital of the Kazakh khanate, 3,000 additional policemen were deployed. However, this measure did not prevent Hizb-ut-Tahrir from distributing their leaflets in Turkistan. Some observers said there was nothing to fear, as the city is far in the south whereas everything is under control in the rest of the regions.

Now the power received a challenge in the southern capital too. Will it be able to realize this challenge?

We showed the leaflet to philologists and linguists. They unanimously confirmed that, if disregard the ideological component, the language of the leaflet is excellent. The text has a purposeful composition, good style, almost does not have spelling and punctuation mistakes, employs vivid and clearly structured expressions, and has clear theses and conclusions.

The leaflet focuses on a tale about "treason" of Arab and Muslim rulers of Palestinian people, who (Palestinians) struggle against "blood-thirsty Jews" and U.S. - "irreconcilable enemy of Islam".

The following ideas can also be found: "The unfaithful created artificial borders between Muslims to separate one community"; "Islamic nations are one Community"; "Ummat has enough strength to destroy artificial borders and crush the traitors and renegades" and so on and so forth.

Source: *Times of Central Asia*



Modernists

(Changing Islam to fit the reality, rather than changing the reality to fit Islam)

"In every Muslim country from Saudi Arabia to Mauritania and from Indonesia to Pakistan, the Muslim people are today struggling for a bare existence. The Mullas will blame Western influence for this decadence. They forget that in those places where Western influence has yet not penetrated, one sees the very worst picture of Islam. Would they deny me the fact that the worst and the most backward places are not those where the Western winds of progress have swept through, but those where for centuries the abuses of religious authority have been perpetuated by the Mullas? It is because of this class which will not permit Islam to adjust freely to the changing times, that Islam is in a state of stagnation.... To get rid of all the curses afflicting the Muslim world, we will have to forget all interpretations of the Quran given to us by dogmatic learned men.... The day we try to understand the Quran by ourselves, we will be able to save Islam; to save our women from the indignity of over 1,400 years; we will be able to bring them under the light of freedom and equality. Religion will be practised by love and not compulsion. Life will be play as well as prayer and we will see the beautiful meaning of Islam as a clear-cut diamond.

'The Need for a Re-evaluation of Islam in Pakistan', Fareed S. Jafri, The Pakistan Times 11/08/67

Please address your letters and questions to the Editorial Team, at the address given on page 4 of the magazine.

Events Diary

LONDON

Saturdays after dhuhr

(Brothers in main hall)

(Sisters upstairs)

(Sundays after dhuhr in Arabic)

Central Regents Park Masjid

146 Park Road, London

There are many other events taking place around UK, Europe, Australia and America. Please contact circles@khilafah.com for details.