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In the 8th year of Hijrah, Rasulallah (saw) sent out invitation letters to all the rulers of the powerful disbelieving states and the arrogant superpowers calling them to Islam. He (saw) sent al-Harith bin 'Umair al Azdi, with a letter to the ruler of Busra inviting him to Islam. It was intercepted by Sharhabeel bin Amr al Ghasani, the governor of al-Balqa and a close ally to Heraclius, the Roman emperor...

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# THE KHILAFAH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED

(IT NOW NEEDS TO BE ANNOUNCED)

They promised shock and awe. They promised psychological warfare. They promised liberation. They delivered bloodshed. The crusading forces are now fighting their way to Baghdad, no flowers to greet them on streets but plenty of bullets. The brave Muslims of Iraq, with their simple weaponry resist the western crusaders in a way that brings hope for all Muslims around the world.

It is now clear for all to see, especially the Muslims who work to restore the rule of Islam and bring life to their ideology, that Western 'Civilisation' is dead. Dead and buried. The West has failed to convince the Muslims of their ideology, Capitalism. They have failed to convince us of Secularism. The hypocrisy of democracy has become transparent. The charade of International law and the U.N. has been exposed. The entire Muslim World today calls for a change, and this change is no longer inspired by the western people or the western ideology, but in spite of it. We have seen from Amman to Rawalpindi, Mombasa to Damascus, huge demonstrations against the war. Unlike the demonstrations in the West (which have largely retained the status quo by calling for the Western ideological solutions) these demonstrations are against the rulers of the Muslim world, calling for the 55 odd 'cartoonic' states to stop their acquiescence with the Crusaders and send their armies to intervene. Many of these demonstrations have been suppressed by the governments. Indeed these states are on their last legs. Even America has given up on them, choosing instead to directly colonise the Muslim World as Britain did before it. The new American Viceroy will be an American diplomat; at least this is what they hope.

The time has come for a change. The time has come to remove the rulers plaguing the Muslim world, either directly through the masses or through the strongest elements. And it is to these strongest elements that the Muslims in the West must direct their attention to. In reality, Khilafah has been established - it now needs to be announced. The people are ready, the rulers have failed, what is left is for a general in Syria or Egypt, Pakistan or Turkey to feel sufficiently agitated that he picks up the phone. The Muslims in the West need to call louder for Khilafah, louder than they ever have - to send that final message that the Ummah is ready. Any work that detracts us from Khilafah detracts us from saving the Muslims of Iraq.

We believe, by the will of Allah (swt), change is not far away. Then let the believers rejoice.

*Jalaluddin Patel*

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We write to inform, inspire and create a movement for true intellectual revival.

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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 (TMO)' has been used, as the result is only a crude meaning of the Arabic text.

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# Reference

Gallery



## ISRAEL AND ITS MYTH OF INVINCIBILITY

The Israeli economy has been continuing to slow down and is currently in its third year of a recession that is believed to be the worst in its 54-year long history. Israel's economy contracted by 1% in 2002 after a 0.9% fall in 2001 and the budget deficit is running at 6%, twice the forecast for 2003. This has led Israeli officials to run to their usual 'ally', the US, to beg for an estimated aid package of \$10 billion. Other reports clearly show that the standard of living in Israel has considerably declined recently.

"It is the deepest recession that we have ever experienced in this country," said Uriel Lynn, chairman of the Israeli Chamber of Commerce. "We have lost about \$2.5 billion in terms of business product". Financial observers are blaming the 30-month-long Palestinian intifada against Israeli occupation and the global economic slowdown to have plunged Israel into its third year of recession.

US State Department official Richard Boucher confirmed: "The request has been made by the Israelis ... we are looking at it. We are considering it". The Israeli appeal comes despite being the largest recipient of US military aid annually totalling \$3 billion. Last year Israel spent more than 10% of government spending on its military expenditure, compared with an average of about 2-3% in the UK and 5% in the US.

This scenario begs the question as to why Israel- the so-called regional 'superpower'- is suffering from such acute economic downturn? Is it the case that Israel is fighting a fully-fledged nation with its state of the art military that led to this dire situation?

Nevertheless, if one examines the reality of Israel's opponents it illustrates that the Zionist entity is fighting a force that composes of a few stone throwers and untrained individuals determined to liberate their land from an occupying force. The fight against a few civilians is causing Israel's economic, military, political and psychological ruins. Indeed, had there been an independent ideological Khilafah State with its modern military then Israel by now would have been in dire straits.

The myth that Israel controls America and thus it is an invincible entity is nothing but pure illusion. The US is a capitalist nation and thus does not bear a divine burden of maintaining Israel. Rather the US considers her interests before the interests of others. The 'unity'

between capitalist nations is purely based upon self-interest. Therefore, even with this current geographically disunited Ummah, had there been the political will on the corrupt rulers of the Muslims to liberate the Muslims of Palestine from this rogue state with pre-emptive strikes, it is indeed far less than impossible.

*Wakil Ahmed*



## PROTESTS IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES - SHOW DIVIDE BETWEEN RULERS AND THE RULED

Scores of demonstrations have taken place against the US led war on Iraq in the Muslim world. Many Muslims have vented their anger at their own governments' lack of action to stop the war and also to stop assisting in the war by providing military bases.

This discontent has led to mass demonstrations in many Muslim countries including Egypt, Syria, Qatar, Kuwait and many more countries including Indonesia, where protesters in Jakarta, shouted anti-US slogans. "We condemn the evil aggression against Iraq. Hizb ut Tahrir, the group which organised the rally, said in a statement.

The Muslims of India were also enraged at the unjust war with over 15,000 Muslims marching in Calcutta chanting "This war is anti Islamic," Reuters news agency reported.

In Pakistan, demonstrations took place almost every day, the largest of which was attended by up to 500,000 people. These protesters' view is the same as that of the rest of the Ummah as they chanted, "this is a war against Islam."

The feelings of protesters throughout the Muslim world were reflected in some of Pakistan's most prominent newspapers.

"America has sown the seed of discord among the Islamic Ummah," said an editorial in Nawa-i-Waqt, one of the largest Urdu-language newspapers.

The Nation, a Pakistani English-language newspaper fronted the editorial headlined "The dogs of war," which said, "...the Muslim states must decide whether they will combine for their common defence, or be picked off one-by-one, at the aggressor's choice". As for the Muslim states it seems they have already opted for the latter. Many other papers around the Muslim world had similar reports.

Whilst many Muslims all over the world are taking part in mass demonstrations demanding that their governments assist the Muslims of Iraq, the rulers are doing quite the opposite by aiding and assisting in the murder of their brothers and sisters by allowing the use of military bases, remaining silent over this unjust invasion and secretly funding the war, in exchange for personal benefits.

As the pictures of mutilated Muslim children are shown the resentment of the Muslims grows towards their rulers who idly sit back and watch the massacre of Muslims yet again.

*Kosser Mohammed*



## FRANCE READY TO OPPOSE AMERICAN AND BRITISH POST-WAR PLANS FOR IRAQ

The clash between America and France over Iraq continues even after America attacked Iraq. French President Jacques Chirac said on 21st March that France would oppose a new United Nations resolution that would allow the United States and Britain to administer post-war Iraq.

At a European Union Summit, Chirac said he would "not accept" a resolution that "would legitimize the military intervention (and) would give the belligerents the powers to administer Iraq." Chirac said, "That would justify the war after the event."

British Premier Tony Blair had urged his 14 colleagues at the Summit to support a new UN resolution to authorize a post-Saddam Hussein "civil authority in Iraq."

So far America and Britain have not stated publicly that they are planning to seek Security Council authorization to administer post-war Iraq. But Chirac's comments warn Washington and London that France would oppose and perhaps veto any such resolution.

Chirac said he had blocked any discussion with the British on the costs of Iraqi reconstruction, saying it was premature at this point. Blair suggested reconstruction funds could come from the sale of Iraqi oil. "We are at the moment destroying. Let us wait to see what has happened before we start reconstruction," Chirac said.

This pre-emptive manoeuvre by France is nothing but a warning that it will not allow America and Britain to share the booty between themselves. France too is a colonial power, and it has a long history of occupation of Muslim countries. France had earmarked contracts in Iraq worth billions of dollars before America decided to invade Iraq, and it is this that France is desperately trying to secure. This same problem also faces Germany and Russia and is clearly the motive in opposing the war.

It must be remembered that Capitalist nations do not have permanent allies or permanent enemies. Only their interests are permanent, and it is these interests that shape their foreign policies. So, provided that the precious Iraqi oil and contracts are shared between the colonial powers, France will be the first in the queue to secure its interests.

*Shabir Ahmed*

## CORPORATE AMERICA MAKES A KILLING

As western governments scramble to collect the war booty in Iraq, their relationship with their corporate masters becomes increasingly evident. Whilst US defence contractors are once again using the conflict to exhibit their weapon systems to buyers around the world, other corporations with close links to the US administration are already making money providing 'logistical support' during the war.

The Iraq reconstruction plan is billed as the biggest reconstruction project since the Second World War, with the preliminary work alone estimated to be worth up to \$900million according to the Wall Street Journal. US Agency for

International Development has already invited bids for contracts from five large US corporations: Halliburton, Bechtel Group, Fluor Corp, Parsons Corp, and the Louis Berger Group.

UK PLC fears of US companies getting the most lucrative contracts led Patricia Hewitt, the Trade and Industry secretary, to seek assurances from the US government that British companies (including Amec, Balfour Beatty, Costain and Thames Water) will be offered a role in the reconstruction of Iraq. The Financial Times said "Some British executives believe Britain should be rewarded for the supportive stance it has taken on Iraq and UK companies given a substantial role. They fear that British aid will be channelled through international agencies and the European Union, where French and German companies will benefit" (24/03/03). The UK's P&O is bidding for sub-contracts to rebuild Umm Qasr even before coalition forces have finished destroying it!

Corporations like Halliburton are already profiting from war time contracts. Thousands of Halliburton employees are working alongside US troops in Kuwait and Turkey under a package deal worth close to a billion dollars. Not surprisingly, Vice President Dick Cheney, former chief executive of Halliburton, still draws "deferred compensation" of up to a million dollars a year from the company. "The Bush-Cheney team have turned the United States into a family business," says Harvey Wasserman, author of *The Last Energy War*. "That's why we haven't seen Cheney - he's cutting deals with his old buddies who gave him a multimillion-dollar golden handshake. Have they no grace, no shame, no common sense? Why don't they just have Enron run America? Or have Zapata Petroleum (George W. Bush's failed oil-exploration venture) build a pipeline across Afghanistan?"

In fact it is Capitalism in general and not just this US Administration that represents rule by and for the corporate interest. It is the false rules and principles underlying Capitalism that inevitably lead to a concentration of power and a policy of colonisation.

*Abid Javaid*

#### FOR QUEEN AND COUNTRY

Over the past few months, we witnessed the British government struggling to convince a sceptical public that war with Iraq was necessary. Despite building justification for aggression against the Iraqi people on a number of different

platforms - ranging from Iraqi possession of weapons of mass destruction to the immoral and oppressive nature of Saddam's regime - opinion remained deeply divided.

However, as widely predicted, with the onset of armed conflict the mood of the public has shifted enormously, such that the people are now firmly behind their government's decision to go to war. Various opinion polls and surveys have confirmed that an increasing section of the British public is indeed supportive of the action being undertaken.

There are those who have given priority to their sense of patriotism, their love for the nation, over and above misgivings about the rights and wrongs of the conflict and have decided to weigh in with the general patriotic mood of the nation and support the government's stance and back their troops operating in Iraq.

Others, sensing the difficulty of going against the prevalent public feeling and not wanting to be labelled as unpatriotic, have attempted to reconcile their opposition to the war with loyalty to the country.

For example, it is this that has led to the Liberal Democrats adopting the rather paradoxical position of remaining staunchly opposed to the war (given that it was not sanctioned by the UN) but at the same time supporting the British troops stationed in the Gulf.

And Dr. Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, representative of that long time bastion of compromise, the Church of England, reaffirmed that the conflict is wrong and immoral, but also publicly blessed the armed forces of the nation!

Many Muslims living in Britain have found themselves in this same apparent dilemma. There is a sense of expectation from the public, that being resident here, Muslims should demonstrate their loyalty first and foremost to Queen and country. In the current situation, it would seem that 'unpatriotic' Muslims run the risk of a potential backlash from both the people and the media.

However, in Islam, there is no concept of patriotism, of blindly supporting and identifying with others, regardless of the legitimacy of their actions, simply because they occupy the same land and nation. The Prophet of Allah (saw) showed us that in the Islamic society, allegiance is not given to family, tribe or nation. Indeed, the loyalty is solely to the Book of Allah (swt) and the Sunnah of His Rasul (saw).

Islam demands that all actions be just, justice and injustice being defined by Allah (swt). And Islam clearly forbids aiding and supporting those who do wrong, even if they are family members. That is why the actions and policies of the Islamic State are subject to scrutiny from the Ummah, and deserve her support only when they are in conformity with the commands of Allah (swt).

*Ghayyas Hussein*



**OIL FUNDS TO RECONSTRUCT NOTHING OTHER THAN IRAQ'S DEPENDENCE.**

Whilst the war against Iraq and its people is concluding, American policy thinkers and officials are focusing their thoughts to post war Iraq. What is envisaged is an 'American friendly' regime or even regimes that would pay for the American and British destruction, and further for the war that caused it.

This post war thinking is being portrayed to the world as a humanitarian concern for the people of Iraq but in reality this could not be further from the truth. Actually, suggestions have been made to say that profit made by selling Iraqi oil resources would cover the cost of reconstruction and may even go to fund the costs of the war.

Given current oil prices, which are constantly manipulated by America and others, Iraq would only pull in roughly \$14 billion a year, whereas the actual cost for re-building Iraq calculated by American policy makers is nearer to \$25 billion a year. This figure can then also be projected against the knowledge that Americans would further push down oil prices after the war is concluded. Also Iraq's foreign loans and debt which some estimate is running over \$200 billion, would ensure that most of the post war oil revenue would go towards servicing these loans and debts. The figures just don't balance. But this is not a concern for the American administration, which has already granted contracts for oil rich ports like Umm Qasr to the likes of America's own Halliburton (headed at one time by Dick Cheney).

To conclude, the people of Iraq will be further subjugated to oppression and tyranny under criminals whose track records make Saddam appear merciful.

*Adil Jan*

#### SAUDI'S GRAND MUFTI CALLS FOR PATIENCE AND OBEDIENCE

Sheikh Abdulaziz al-Sheikh told press agencies on Sunday March 23, that in light of the current US led war on Iraq the believers should remain patient and calm "obeying the leadership under all circumstances." His remarks which were almost as treacherous as the Al Saud family itself are reflective of the extent to which public disenchantment in the kingdom has reached.

Scores of previously passive Muslim youth have been agitated into thinking about the affairs of the Ummah in light of America's blatant war against Islam and the Muslims. Their choice is clear; Islam. Not only have they made their choice, but they have also identified that the cause of the Muslims' humiliation is due to the complicity of our rulers.

All this makes uneasy going for Saudi's ruling family who know no shame. These traitors to Islam and the Muslims are now hiding, attempting to legitimise their position of cowardice and subservience by issuing fatawa. They're fooling no one. The 'sheikh' was also quick to advise the Muslims "don't rush for Jihad." Since 9/11 and the subsequent backlash against the flailing kingdom in America, Saudi is now trying desperately to portray herself as a moderate state. She is caught in a triadic struggle. On the one hand she is trying to strengthen her ties with the Bush administration, whilst guarding against bitter internal rivalries which are accentuated further by the rising tide of Islam on the streets of Riyadh and Jeddah.

Sheikh Abdulaziz would also do well to remember his obligations as a scholar. He should look to the example of Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal (ra) who spoke the truth, even though it cost him dearly. If this is beyond him, then he should move out and make way for the sincere Ulema who will not tremble before tin pot tyrants and who will not attempt to conceal their treachery.

*Shiraz Maher*



# IRAQ UPDATE

## **BUSH: "THE DAY OF YOUR LIBERATION IS COMING SOON"**

In his address on 17 March, George Bush promised the Iraqi people that: "The day of your liberation is coming soon". Clearly seeking to convince the Muslims to believe that this American led crusade's purpose is to liberate the Iraqi people from the tyranny of Saddam. The same drivel was espoused by Washington before the war against the Muslims of Afghanistan was waged. We were told that the people of Afghanistan needed liberation from a tyrannical and brutal regime. Yet 18 months on, exactly what liberty and freedom do the people of Afghanistan now enjoy, and has the Bush administration honoured the many promises she made prior to the conflict? Thus far only 16% of the money promised to rebuild Afghanistan after its liberation has arrived. US troops still guard Karzai a former Unicol advisor who America hand picked, and the 'liberation' killed tens of thousands of innocent people.

Beyond the promise of creating strong democratic institutions, America was also keen to draw attention to the issue of our sisters in Afghanistan. Referring to them as mistreated and oppressed the White house promised they would elevate the status of women. Despite the western definition of this being dubious enough, Bush personally went on to block \$134 million of aid earmarked for Afghani women citing domestic issues as a reason. It was then decided that \$2.5 million would be donated of which only \$120,000 has been delivered to date. In similar fashion, at the Tokyo conference, America promised to rebuild Afghanistan and not to neglect her like they did in the past. The Bush administration boldly pledged \$4.5 billion towards the rebuilding of Afghani infrastructure although less than \$300 million has ever been delivered.

In the last 18 months, America still struggles to dismantle that single so-called terrorist organization. Few of its supposed leadership have been captured and none have ever been charged, let alone tried. Scores of militia and tribal warlords continue to roam Afghanistan without any sense of law whilst assassination attempts on Loya Jirga members are a regular occurrence. The peace and security promised by Washington shows little sign of materialising.

Whilst US intervention in Afghanistan has brought nothing but the colonisation of yet another Muslim land we must ask, what else can we expect from these 21st century crusaders? In the past it is clear that the

West has promised much and delivered little. Iraq may well be liberated from the tyranny of Saddam, but she will only go on to be enslaved by the shackles of the colonialists. Liberation can never be the replacement of one secular state with another. And how does the imposition of sanctions that have killed tens of thousands of people and their daily bombardment in two wars amount to their liberation?

*Shiraz Maher*

## **POWELL ADMITS USING FALSE EVIDENCE**

Although the war is well under way and the world's eyes are focused on the crusader attack on Iraq it must always be remembered that this war is founded upon lies and manipulation of the facts.

The documents Colin Powell used when he stood in front of the UN Security Council to present the 'evidence' the US had gathered against Iraq was pronounced counterfeit by International Atomic Energy Director, General Mohamed El-Baradei. When Colin Powell was asked about this he said, "It was provided in good faith to the inspectors and our agency received it in good faith, not participating ... in any way in any falsification activities." He further said, "It was the information that we had. We provided it. If that information is inaccurate, fine." Unable to convince the UN or obtain a war-permitting resolution, Powell's absence during the war speaks volumes coming from an administration that has washed its hands now of the shackles of the now dead International law. Rumours of his upcoming retirement abound, Powell perhaps numbers amongst the wars casualties.

The evidence Tony Blair used in front of his nation was plagiarised from a document written by a university student in years gone by. The only thing that is evident from this evidence, is that the desperate measures employed by the US and Britain for instigating the war are clearly government spin and the real underlying reasons for the campaign are therefore something else.

The US and Britain claim to be acting for their 'national' interests which can be translated into the 'corporate' or 'economic' interests because it is US and British construction and petroleum firms that will benefit from this war. It is not surprising therefore that a subsidiary of Halliburton, has won a multi-million dollar contract to oversee any fire fighting operations

in Iraqi oil fields after the American invasion, or that American construction firms Bechtel, the Fluor Corporation, and the Louis Berger Group have also been given construction contracts to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure after the war. One wonders if the chairmen and shareholders in such companies loose sleep over the devastation being wrought and a cynic may suggest they are licking their lips in anticipation.

Their lies have even widened to include the 'liberation' of Iraqi people. Now Rumsfeld is talking about the "open hostility" of the Syrian regime in it's aiding of Iraq. The Muslims would wish this were true but coming from the mouth of Rumsfeld one can only wonder where will their lies take the colonialists next?

*Asad Ali*

## **CRUISE MISSILE ATTACKS BAGHDAD MARKET**

The irony of this fake war has become evident not too long into its advent, as the people for whom the invading allied forces have come to 'liberate' are the ones who are suffering the most at the hands of the attacks. The 'shock[ing] and awe[full]' tactics have come in two main forms, direct missile attacks on residential areas and siege tactics designed to make those encircled tend towards acts of desperation. There have been two major missile attacks in Baghdad directly aimed at residential areas. These both hit market areas and at times when they were at their busiest. The first attack was reported to have killed around 30 people and second killed over 50. Scenes of severed hands, headless corpses and the skeletal remains of an Iraqi mother and her three small children in their burnt out car were displayed in Abu Taleb Street after the first attack. The US army gave the feeble excuse that Iraqi missile launchers were placed amongst residential areas and that Saddam was responsible for this atrocity. The second attack took place in the Shawala market, which is at the head of a residential area in an impoverished part of Baghdad. Disturbing scenes at the Noor hospital showed that many of the dead were children, the latest casualties to be 'liberated' from the US. Either the precision weapons of the Kuffar are not so precise or their 'Shock and Awe' involves the killing of innocents.

Sickening siege tactics employed by the British army around the Southern Iraqi town of Basra have destroyed water and power supplies whilst also cutting off food supply routes around the town.

Initially Basra was not listed as a military target but after stiff resistance from the Iraqi forces this decision has been reversed and the population of over 1 million are being attacked from the air and the ground. Pictures showing civilians escaping the town and scavenging for food and water supplies from the British Army attempted to illustrate the helpful nature of the invading forces whilst omitting to demonstrate why they had to flee and beg for sustenance from the hands of their slayers in the first place. The question that lingers is what other atrocities are being inflicted upon innocent civilians that are going unreported in Baghdad, Basra, Nasiriyah, Umm Qasr and Kerbala?

*Faisal Raja*

### **US HAS TOTALLY LOST THE PROPAGANDA WAR**

The axiom; 'the first casualty of war is the truth' has never been more apparent than during this conflict. Twenty four hour satellite news coverage of the war has been continuous and for the first time the US led invading forces have included embedded media teams among the forces. This has led to highly sensationalised reporting with pictures of live combat a regular and popular feature. The question that arises is that why has this occurred? The plain and simple reality is that if you have the media embedded within the force the main point of information for the journalists will always be the commander in the field and hence the best way of controlling the information flow. The media is a very powerful tool in transferring information to opposing forces and hence has the ability of influencing morale, a key factor of any army. The other key area that needs influencing is public opinion that can swing wildly either way depending on images transmitted or reports in the press. Hence we have seen an absolute host of lies fed to the media. However, in actual fact, this time this has backfired in the face of the Allied forces. General people have lost trust for the Western news sources. The following are examples of blunders that helped bring about this remarkable outcome:

1 The 'taking' of Umm Qasr - After the first night of fighting a report was fed from the Royal marines that the port of Umm Qasr had been secured by Allied forces. Days later reports surfaced that fierce fighting was still taking place for control of the port.

2 The Chemical Weapons Factory - The news the politicians had been waiting for broke when a Jerusalem Post correspondent travelling with the US 3rd Infantry reported that a plant near Najaf had been discovered. US television network Fox immediately ran the story along with the London Evening Standard but later these reports were deemed as speculative at best by General Tommy Franks himself and also by former weapons UN inspectors.

3 The Basra Uprising - With allied forces having difficulties breaking into the town of Basra a report on BBC News 24 broke that an uprising against the Iraqi forces had begun. The story was broken by Richard Gaisford, a GMTV correspondent embedded with the British who cited "military intelligence" as

the source. At present we are still waiting for this uprising to occur.

4 The Executions - After the Al-Jazeera news channel broadcast pictures of the bodies of two British soldiers the 'Sun' claimed that the two men had been executed. This was reiterated by Tony Blair at the Camp David press conference but had to be quickly retracted by an official to the prime minister when the families of the dead soldiers denied they had been executed but instead said had died in the line of duty.

Often what is not seen or spoken itself speaks volumes. Though there are cameras with the troops and often shots of firing not one casualty (Iraqi or otherwise) is shown. In fact Rumsfeld and the American regime have directly attacked the Al-Jazeera news channel for showing their fight in a bad light and stirring the emotions of the Arabs. The truth is Muslims rejoice when the enemy is repelled, and their hatred and defiance would be heightened at seeing the death of their brothers and sisters. In contrast Regimes in the West realise the frail public opinion of their people would turn against them totally on witnessing the deaths of the innocent people of Iraq and the deaths of their own soldiers, killed in a war that the people themselves did not want. This perhaps explains why an English version of the al-Jazeera website launched in late March was taken down by unknown hackers after only two days. The Western News controls the public opinion and all Western News channels are in the control of the states who have an obvious vested interest in doctoring what is shown. That is why farcical situations occur where Rumsfeld denies the loss and capture of a US Helicopter and its two pilots whilst simultaneously al-Jazeera is showing their capture!

5 The Basra tank 'column' - A report from correspondents with the British army surfaced that 120 Iraqi armoured vehicles had been spotted breaking out of Basra in broad daylight towards the British forces in the Faw peninsula. The next day the media was filled with reports of gripping encounters between British tanks & jets and Iraqi armour until it was discovered that rather than the 120 Iraqi vehicles, there had only been three!

*Dr Baber Qureshi*

### **RUMSFELD WANTS US POW'S TO BE TREATED AS VIP'S**

The Geneva Convention resurfaced conveniently again after it had been ignored during the conflict that took place in Afghanistan. America claimed that Iraq had contravened the Geneva Convention when it televised pictures of five captured US soldiers on Iraqi TV which were later shown on Al-Jazeera. Donald Rumsfeld stated that "the Geneva Convention make it illegal for prisoners of war to be shown pictured, and humiliated. This is something the US does not do." Strangely this came a day after a viewing of a Ministry of Defence video of Iraqi soldiers being frog marched with their hands on their heads in single file. Of course when Rumsfeld mentioned that this is not "what the

US do" he had forgotten about the imprisonment without trial of Muslims held in Camp X-Ray, Guantanamo Bay. When he said it was "illegal for prisoners of war to be shown pictured, and humiliated" it had temporarily escaped him that they were shown on film to the world blindfolded and kneeling in the dirt. Americas own clear contravention of the Geneva Convention and the inhumane conditions these people have been detained in without trial or charge further exemplifies the US tendency to use international law for serving its own purposes. These incidents should help the Muslims to demonstrate to the world that these texts that they hold to be sacred, such as the Geneva Conventions and the UN Charter, are not worth the paper that they are written on.

*Ahmad Jassat*

### **JORDAN OPENS UP IRAQ'S WESTERN FRONT**

The extent of the treachery of the rulers of the Muslims in the region was highlighted further when reports were leaked of a surprise attack being planned by the US in conjunction with the government of Jordan. The report which quoted a top Jordanian source, stated that the US were planning to launch an attack on Iraq's Western front from Eastern Jordan with the use of 400 American tanks and 7,000 troops from the Safawi military base, half way between Amman and the Iraqi border. Tanks and heavy military equipment have arrived by ship in the Jordanian port of Aqaba and have been deployed in the east in attempted secrecy. Marwan Muasher, Jordan's Foreign Minister, still insists that no more than 2,000 American and British troops are in the country and then only for defensive purposes despite the reports and in spite of allied special forces commandos have been using Jordan to infiltrate into the western Iraqi desert for days now on reconnaissance missions. The political diplomacy King Abdullah is playing is fine balanced as Jordan depends on Iraq for 100% of its oil, half of which comes free and the other half bought at the discount price of \$19 a barrel. On the other hand it depends on the US for \$500 million in civilian aid and \$200 million in military aid.

Intriguingly the welfare of the Muslims of Iraq does not feature in any of the calculations which King Abdullah and his accountants have made. They would do well to heed the will of their people who poured onto the streets in support of the Muslims of Iraq. Mass demonstrations took place in the major cities of Cairo, Damascus, Amman, Tehran and Lahore where people vented their anger at the US & British whilst also pointing the finger at their own regimes for their inaction in failing to come to the aid of their fellow Muslims.

*Asif Khan*



# US VISION FOR POST SADDAM IRAQ

"Our armies do not come to your cities and lands as conquerors or enemies, but as liberators" the British announced. Lt. Gen. Stanley Maude's army routed the Iraqi's, having entered the country through Basra, before moving swiftly north. Maude's Anglo-Indian army had invaded Iraq wanting to 'free' its people from their dictators. That was on March 8th 1917. The tragic irony is all too apparent now that Bush is mirroring these duplicitous sentiments. Mimicking Maude's lies on March 18th as Bush delivered his ultimatum to Saddam, he had a notable message for the Iraqi people. He assured them "The tyrant will soon be gone...The day of your liberation is near...It is too late for Saddam Hussein to remain in power." He follows in the footsteps of General Sir Edward Allenby who 'liberated' Palestine, shortly after Maude had 'liberated' Iraq. Keen not to be left out, the French arrived to 'emancipate' Lebanon and Syria a few years later. It would seem then that the West has been 'liberating' the Middle East for years, and this time should be no different. Their far from illustrious history is littered with broken promises, fake smiles and cloaked intentions. Beneath the veneer of Bush's fanciful rhetoric it is important to establish exactly how the future map of Iraq might look, and why its eventual design is so important to policy makers in the Whitehouse.

## A REASON FOR WAR?

Whilst trying to build public opinion for a war on Iraq the Bush administration attempted to use a range of reasons to lend legitimacy to its plans, initially building the case for regime change, by pointing to Saddam's brutal past. Later the real issue was, we are told, about Iraqi's weapons of mass destruction. Failing that, the CIA tried in vain to draw tenuous links between Iraq and Al-Qaeda making it a legitimate target in the 'war on terror.' Whatever the reason, many have incorrectly drawn the conclusion that the current trend of militarism, belligerence and gun boat diplomacy so widely employed by Washington should be seen as a product of September 11th. An examination of those in Bush's cabinet before they came to office reveals a quite different story.

Six years ago a new-conservative think tank, the

'Project for the New American Century' (PNAC) was established. What distinguishes PNAC from other think tanks is the nature of its founding members who include America's vice-president Dick Cheney, Lewis Libby, his chief of staff, Donald Rumsfeld, the defence secretary, Paul Wolfowitz, deputy defence secretary and Zalmay Khalilzad, Bush's special envoy to Afghanistan.

In 1998 PNAC pleaded with Bill Clinton to use military force against Iraq and remove Saddam from power. They wrote, "We urge you to seize the opportunity, and to enunciate a new strategy that would secure the interests of the U.S. and our friends and allies around the world. That strategy should aim, above all, at the removal of Saddam Hussein's regime from power. We urge you to turn your administrations attention to implementing a strategy for removing Saddam's regime from power...we believe the US has the authority under the existing UN resolutions to take the necessary steps, including military steps, to protect our vital interests in the Gulf. In any case, American policy cannot continue to be crippled by a misguided insistence on unanimity in the UN Security Council." The letter was signed by Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz and Perle amongst others.

Following Clinton's refusal to accept their advice they persisted in writing to the former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich and Senate Republican leader Trent Lott. Unashamedly they advocated that America "establish and maintain a strong US military presence in the region and be prepared to use that force to protect our vital interests in the Gulf - and, if necessary, to help remove Saddam from power...only the US can lead the way in demonstrating that his rule is not legitimate and that time is not on the side of his regime." They go on to observe the perils of leaving Saddam unchallenged, noting that "the safety of American troops in the region, of our friends and allies like Israel and the moderate Arab states, and a significant portion of the worlds supply of oil will all be put at hazard...the only acceptable strategy is one that eliminates the possibility that Iraq will be able to use or threaten to use weapons of mass destruction. In the near term, this means a willingness to undertake military action...in the long term, it means removing Saddam

and his regime from power."

Hence, it becomes clear that invading Iraq and removing Saddam from power was a long standing objective of the current Bush administration. September 11th was not a defining moment for US policy makers, nor does it represent a turning point in Washington's attitude. The Project for the New American Century set up by the men who now surround Bush said that what America needed was "some kind of catastrophic and catalysing event - like a new Pearl Harbour." September 11th, provided them with that catastrophic and catalysing event, and a pretext for carrying out their plans.

Given that Iraq has dominated the thinking of policy makers in Washington for so long, it is important to evaluate exactly why she remains such a lucrative target.

## AFTER SADDAM

For weeks the Pentagon was in close liaison with Whitehall over the framework for how Iraq should be governed after Saddam. They opted for a military administration to run Iraq, much as the allied governments did in Germany and Japan after the Second World War. The ambitious plan proposes a vast civil administration which will administer Iraq's affairs from healthcare to education to security.

The plan is in three stages. The first phase is called 'stabilisation'. This would see US military rule with key administration posts being occupied by American generals, diplomats and aid workers who will report directly to the Pentagon. Commentators suggest that around 200,000 US and allied troops will be stationed throughout Iraq during this phase, which will reportedly last up to eighteen months. The overall head of this de facto Iraqi government is most likely to be General Jay Garner, who conducted the American campaign in Afghanistan.

The second phase is that of 'transition'. An American military governor will rule alongside a civilian leader palatable to the international community. At the moment Washington's plan here is hazy. It is not known who could fill such a role with the UN already withdrawing her services. America favours

Norman Schwarzkopf, who led the Anglo-US coalition forces in the first Gulf War. Now a civilian, he is a vigorous campaigner and supporter of the Bush family. Cynically the EU opposes this, favouring a European candidate to counter American influence.

The third phase of the scheme is the most controversial and least planned. It is the period of 'transformation'. Clearly, by this point Washington is hoping for the creation of a pro-American regime that eschews the nation's recent history and embraces pro-western concepts. What makes this part of the plan so vague is that there is no consensus over who could meet such requirements. Cheney and the Pentagon have favoured the Iraqi National Congress (INC) for some time and have advocated a leading role for Ahmed Chalabi. It is a non starter. The CIA and State Department distrust the INC and envisage a future vision for Iraq that doesn't feature them.

The gaping holes in Washington's plan may at first seem careless. There is no clear strategy delineating how transition from one stage to the next should take place. It is still unknown, and subject to intense debate, exactly who should occupy the roles for stages two and three. The most notable omission in the plan is the absence of any firm timeline. Despite the occasional passing reference to an estimated timeframe, America's plan for a post-Saddam Iraq fails to specify a clear time period after which an exit strategy will be implemented. That is assuming, of course, that she has an exit strategy. The ambiguity and secrecy surrounding America's plan serves a very important purpose. It will allow her military apparatus unrestricted and unbridled access across Iraq whilst she secures her strategic objectives.

#### **CAN WASHINGTON'S PLAN SOLVE IRAQ'S PROBLEMS?**

Reconciling Iraq's powerful Sunni Muslims with the poor Shi'a majority and the semi-autonomous Kurds will not be easy. Their separatist desires will only be further agitated by the imposition of a nationalist and centralised bureaucracy in Baghdad. In anticipation the US State Department has already expressed concern that there may be a lot of 'score settling' taking place between Iraq's many factions. The INC and other Iraqi dissident groups have already illustrated that their burning ambition to gain power overrides any concerns about elevating the condition of their people. Serving slavishly to western demands, it is unlikely that they will have much time to devote to their people. There is also the sticky question over what will happen to the billions Iraq owes in external debts, most notably to Russia and France.

Washington's proposition makes no attempt to address these potential hurdles making her chances of success in post-war Iraq unlikely. The Bush administration professed the same lofty ideals before attacking Afghanistan. Yet since the establishment of the Afghan Transitional Administration (ATA), led by Hamid Karzai there have been notable problems. A rise in insecurity has been marked by a number of high profile attacks and assassination attempts against the central government. These audacious moves have been coupled with renewed interethnic

fighting. The lawlessness and fragmentation that have undermined previous Afghan regimes appears to be rampant once again. The US pledged itself to taking a lead role in the creation of the Afghan National Army (ANA) under the auspices of the Geneva process. Having pledged an initial sum of \$50 million towards the programme, she set out to equip and train 18,000 troops. The Pentagon will now only commit itself to developing 3000 troops. In the end it is a pitiful force, hardly able to meet the daunting security challenges that confront the ATA. Other problems have also precipitated the desertion of one third of the initial recruits which include a lack of ethnic balance, a shortage in resources and unenthusiastic support from US administrators.

Despite officially pledging her support for the central government of Hamid Karzai, US forces are known to be frequently allying themselves with regional warlords in the hunt for Al-Qaeda and Taliban remnants. This duality is serving to cause greater fragmentation and inflames internal rivalries in the Afghan political sphere. Additionally, the staggering sums of money pledged by America at the Tokyo conference have not yet materialised. To date less than 16% of what was promised has been dispensed, depriving Afghanistan of the vital cash injections she requires to rebuild her shattered and neglected infrastructure.

Washington's plan for Iraq seems to mirror the bold promises and brazen commitments that were made to Afghanistan. Yet it would appear that after securing her strategic objectives, American forces were quick to make a hasty retreat and disregard their responsibilities. It is likely that the problems faced by Karzai's interim government will be similarly experienced by any Iraqi transitional administration.

#### **AMERICA'S OBJECTIVES IN IRAQ**

It would be foolish to neglect the most obvious US objective in Iraq, which is to secure access to her oil reserves. This is clearly a vital issue for the Bush administration as sanctions had dramatically restricted her supply of oil onto the world markets. Despite the Saudi regime showing no sign of reversing its current trend of slavish subservience to the West, why is Washington suddenly so keen to diversify her choice of suppliers? Having secured highly lucrative rights to Saudi oil after the first Gulf War, the Clinton administration contented itself with building and developing this relationship. However, the irrepressible rise of political Islam around the world, and in the Middle East in particular is causing great concern in the Washington, prompting her to become increasingly paranoid about the potential of her political vulnerability given her current dependence on Saudi oil. To reduce her vulnerability, she must make her pool of resources as diverse as possible.

In a recent article published in the Washington Post they found that "Arabs are increasingly funnelling their frustrations through the politics of Islamic parties...the shift away from secular nationalism has accelerated in recent years and is evident in the streets of Baqaa and Jordan's other refugee camps where symbols of piety have accompanied the

growing prominence of Islamic activists in the teachers union and political organising." Later, they note that, "sentiments heard more and more often across the Middle East, express thinly veiled disgust at what [Arabs] see as the impotence among the Arab world's own rulers in the face of US and Israeli actions...[they consider that] the leaders have weakened them."

It is precisely these kinds of sentiments which cause great concern amongst policy makers in the Whitehouse. The once politically inert and powerless streets of the Middle East are now beginning to show signs of life. Cairo, Sanaa in Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan and Lebanon have all witnessed large scale and vociferous protests by Muslims enraged at America's bellicose foreign policy. This revival has in part been attributed by some commentators to the creation of new forums for debate. Much of the Arab press had previously been subject to heavy censorship. The advent of organisations such as al-Jazeera and al-Arabia satellite news coupled with internet access means that the Muslims are now able to access continuous and unrestricted information about the state of the global Islamic Ummah. This break from state controlled news services has served to elevate the political consciousness amongst the masses and has focused their discontent on the real problem - the rulers.

The results are clear. In the first Gulf War, America experienced minimal opposition as she set up camp in Riyadh and bombarded Iraqi forces. This time, her plans have met with widespread and unusually vocal opposition from a broad cross-section of the Muslim community. The growing sounds of discontent on the Arab street have reached such a level that both Washington and the Arab regimes are finding it hard to turn a deaf ear to them.

Consequently, to maintain her sphere of influence in the region American policy is in need of a re-think. Her plan to station up to 200,000 troops in Iraq under the auspices of American generals will place her at the heart of the Middle East. Iraq borders six countries. Its strategic position is unparalleled and serves as an invaluable watchtower over the entire region. US control over her territory will allow American troops to react quickly and decisively to any dynamic threat which challenges her interests. Washington will clearly be planning to scale down the size of her bases in volatile countries such as Saudi, whilst offsetting this against an increased force in the region housed in Iraq.

The complicity of the repulsive Muslim rulers is once again patently obvious. Their spineless regimes have allowed the crusaders free reign over the waterways, airspace and land of the Muslims. Only the Islamic Khilafah will build a strong ideological state that will reverse the current trend of slavish subservience to the West. Only its sincere leadership will reunify the Islamic lands, protect the Muslims and manage the affairs of the people effectively to alleviate their suffering. z

*Shiraz Maher*



## THE TREACHERY OF THE RULERS OF MUSLIMS IN THE 4TH CRUSADE

**T**oday Muslims are witnessing crusader forces waging war once more against Islam and the Muslim people. The US together with Britain, have unleashed their armada of forces to ransack the Muslim land of Iraq, so as to fulfil their colonialist aspirations.

Public opinion, particularly amongst Muslims is reaching boiling point at these outrageous developments. Muslims worldwide from all stratospheres of society are increasingly becoming aware of the real motivations of the United States: its capitalist aspirations, of enslaving the Muslims, and usurping their resources.

In the Middle East, the once secular Muslim intellectuals, professionals and journalists are also now speaking vociferously against the United States and British hegemony over the Muslims.

On 19 March 2003 Egypt's largest daily, al-Ahram editor-in-chief Galal Dewidar wrote "There is an inevitable result for this war... "It is the increase of hatred towards anything American because of the US rush into war".

On 21 March 2003 the Asia Times reported Hussein Abdel Razeq, a columnist with al-Ahali newspaper in Cairo, saying in a telephone interview "while some Iraqis may indeed welcome US troops as liberators from a tyrant and that Arabs would greet more freedoms, they clearly reject a change by force and perceive the US aggression as the start of an occupation."

The Los Angeles Times reported Hassanein Keshk, a sociologist at Egypt's National Research Center, a government-funded think tank saying, "With the occupation of Iraq, the streets will explode."

Demonstrations have raged to unprecedented degrees in Muslim countries, from Tens of Thousands in Cairo and over 30,000 in Yemen on 20

March 2003, to demonstrations across Pakistan on 23 March 2003 amounting to three and a half million Muslims, speaking out against the crusaders invasion!

But what of the response of the rulers of Muslim countries who have tremendous resources, to stop the invading Crusaders. The rulers, rather than defending Iraq, through their vast array of armed forces, or through economic sanctions against US and Britain, by imposing oil embargoes to the invaders, have shown betrayal and treachery to the Muslim Ummah, by aligning with their true masters: the Crusaders, in their war and invasion of Iraq.

The rulers of the Muslim countries alone have provided the decisive support to the Crusaders for them to wage this war on the Muslims of Iraq. They have provided access to their land, airspace, waterways, and military bases, enabling the Crusaders to deploy their forces into strategic locations to launch and manage their invasion of Iraq.

Whilst UAE, Kuwait, Turkey and Qatar have openly provided their land, military bases, airspace and waterways to facilitate the Crusaders invasion of Iraq, others like Saudi Arabia and Jordan have provided equal support to this treachery, but officially deny their participation, due to increasing Muslim public outcry against the crusading invaders.

Washington Post reported on 20 March 2003, the Saudi ambassador, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, saying "Arabs would blunder by actively backing French and German efforts to forestall a war against Iraq", further stating "Once we join the club, then we can negotiate what Iraq will be like after the war... But without being part of the club, then we have no role in the day after." A view, which the Washington Post said "Egypt, Jordan and other Arab states friendly to the United States have begun to privately endorse".

The Saudis not content with words of support to the Crusading invaders, continue to provide the Crusaders usage of the 10,000 strong Prince Sultan Air Command and Intelligence Center, together with access to Saudi airspace. A move, which CSM reported "has made the war much easier for the American military".

In Jordan, Reuters reported Prime Minister Ali Abu Al-Ragheb saying about Jordan granting the US access to its border with Iraq: We are talking about a few hundred on the American side, but there will not be any large U.S. force in Jordan and it has no relation to any military campaign against Iraq". However British ITV News Channel reported on Friday 21 March 2003, over 1,500 US Special Ops Forces together with a number of Israeli Soldiers had begun moving into Iraq from its border with Jordan.

Turkey not content with US refusal to guarantee payment for Turkey granting access to deploy 70,000 Crusader forces on its border with Iraq, finally settled for selling the Muslims of Iraq by providing over flight access to the Crusaders.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan the Head of Turkey's ruling party was reported in the Turkish press to have said the permission for land forces would not be granted "without a written signature" on the financial package Turkey would be provided.

Other Muslim Rulers claim neutrality whilst the Crusaders rampage the blood and tears of our mothers, daughters, brothers and sons of Iraq.

The Muslim Rulers realising their treachery and the mounting opposition in the Muslim countries against the Crusader invasion of Iraq, have not altered their position of support to the crusading forces, but have rather began a campaign of deceit, treachery and suppression against their own populaces, whilst continuing to support the Crusader invasion of Iraq.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in an attempt to dishearten Muslims was reported in the Washington Post on 22 March 2003 saying: "To say that we can put off the war would be fooling ourselves". Whilst continuing to grant US forces flyover rights over Egypt to facilitate their crusade.

King Abdullah of Jordan not to be surpassed by President Mubarak summed up the mood of the rulers when he said that "a miracle was needed to avert the war on Iraq".

Simultaneous to the launch of 'Shock and Awe' bombing, King Abdullah went onto Jordanian Television, as marches arose in Jordan in opposition to the war, and urged Jordanians to put the interests of Jordanian stability (the Kings hegemony) above their concerns for Iraq. He stated "I am one of you, I share feelings of every one of you." Such sound bites, do not fail to highlight his treachery in facilitating the Crusader forces in launching their attacks upon Iraq from Jordan's borders!

Through the Organisation of Islamic Conferences (OIC) and the Arab League, the Muslim Rulers have shown their discord even whilst attempting to cajole the Muslims into thinking they are attempting to protect the interests of the Ummah.

Recent OIC and Arab League meetings on 23rd February, 26th February, 1st March and 25th March 2003, have been riddled with slurs and attacks on each other and exposing one another as agents of the colonialist.

On 26th February 2003, at the OIC Summit, Kuwait's minister of state for foreign affairs, Muhammad al Sabah interrupted a speech by Iraq's Vice-President, Izat Ibrahim and exemplified his great statesmanship with the words "shut up you dog". Not to be outdone in his diplomatic qualifications, the Iraqi representative responded: "Shut up you minion, you agent, you monkey".

At the Arab League meeting on 1st March 2003, at Sharm el-Sheik, Libyan Dictator Colonel Gaddafi accused Saudi Arabia to have made a pact with the devil, and stated, whilst addressing Saudi Crown Prince Abdallah "America is used to protect this region because the latter is a very important source of energy".

Crown Prince Abdallah retorted with "Who brought you to power? Who brought people like yourselves to power? Tell us the truth, who brought you to power", and according to the Washington Post on 8th March 2003, had accused Colonel Gaddafi to be an "Agent for Colonizers".

After un-surmounted public outcry in the Muslim lands, the Arab League Foreign Ministers latest position on the Iraqi Crisis, set in a seven point agenda, called to the United Nations Security Council, to stop the United States and British attack on Iraq. This attempt to deceive the Muslims through such rhetoric neglects to point out the equal rights of the US and Britain, as permanent members of the

United Nations Security Council, to Veto any such Security Council Resolution.

The Arab League further stressed once again, "the commitment of Arab Countries abstaining to participate in any military act that jeopardizes the sovereignty of Iraq, its security and International Legality". Whilst failing to address, the clear treachery of facilitating the Crusaders in their invasion of Iraq through providing the Crusaders with the usage of their land, military bases, airspace, and waterways.

The Muslim Rulers had further begun to rally Government funded scholars to oppose the war, and to try and silence growing resentment against the regimes in Muslims lands for their treachery and complacency against the Crusader forces.

Reuters reported on 19th March 2003, Egypt's State-appointed Head of Cairo's al-Azhar Al-Sharif Islamic Research Academy, Mohamed Sayed Tantawi saying "a war on Iraq would not be a war on Islam, and that calls for 'jihad' (holy struggle) were not a call to arms".

On Monday, March 24, 2003 AFP reported Saudi Arabia's grand mufti Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Sheikh appealing for calm, patience and "obeying the leadership under all circumstances". He further advised young Saudis not to rush to heed calls for jihad, against the aggressors. Saying: "Jihad is declared by the imam of the ummah (a Muslim community) and its leader ... we should not drag ourselves into matters whose goals we are unaware of."

The Muslim Rulers further began and increased the operation they had been planning to the same calculated accuracy as the Crusaders preparations for the invasion of Iraq, by beginning suppression and repression of their own populations, who rise up in opposition to the invasion of Iraq and the complacency and compliance of the Muslim Rulers. The Rulers fearing that their own regimes maybe at risk, as public opinion in the Muslims lands is reaching the point where the very foundations of their power bases are beginning to shudder. Now are engaged in policies of severe persecution and repression of their own populations, who oppose the colonialist and rally the masses against the regimes in Muslims lands, facilitating the Crusaders.

As riots and protests erupted throughout the Muslims Lands, Hanny Megally, executive director of Human Rights Watch's (HRW) Middle East and North Africa division stated "The crackdown many feared has come."

In Yemen as over 30,000 Muslims marched on 20th March 2003, police began using live ammunition upon the demonstrators, resulting in three Muslim being killed and many others injured. Further in Jordan HRW reported thousands of people fought against Riot Police.

The greatest suppression arose in Egypt, which

ironically houses one of the greatest military machines in the Muslims lands. Rather than utilising the armed forces of the Muslims in defence of the Muslims of Iraq from the Crusaders and/or the liberation of Palestine from the clutches of the Jews, the Egyptian regime has unleashed its resources to arrest, imprison and torture Muslim men and women who oppose the western crusade in Iraq.

Suppression has reached such degrees that even HRW, began to lambaste the Egyptians for their persecution of their populace. HRW highlighted how the 21-year regime of Hosni Mubarak had been shaken by recent protests in Egypt. The security forces have used water cannons, clubs, dogs, and even stones against thousands of demonstrators at Tahrir Square, Al-Azhar Mosque, Talaat Harb Square, Ramses Street, and the State Broadcasting Corporation. HRW said "Among those beaten or arrested are university professors, students, journalists..." It further reported one pregnant female activist who was on her way to the protests at the American University in Cairo, "was beaten, bound and blindfolded, and her whereabouts have still not been established".

Through these facts we see the real strength of the US ability in invading Iraq. It is not the USA claim to its vast military armada, but the treachery of the rulers of Muslim countries, who through their treachery, humiliation and complacency, have enabled the colonialists to engage in their slaughter, massacre and rampage over the Muslims of Iraq.

In these dire times Muslims must remove the real weapons facilitating the Crusader invasion of the Muslim lands, the despicable regimes that haunt the Muslims lands, and impose the dictates of their colonial masters upon the Muslims, causing the misery and humiliation of this noble ummah.

Today Muslims must work vociferously to remove these treacherous regimes, and re-establish the noble Islamic khilafah state, an Islamic obligation, where the Muslims once more would be unified under a sincere leadership founded and embedded with the Islamic ideology, to liberate our lands, lives and hearts from the clutches of the Crusader imperialists, and to protect us, under the banner of a sincere leader, a Khaleefah, defending the believers.

Rasullallah (saw) said:

إِنَّمَا الْإِمَامُ جُنَّةٌ يُقَاتِلُ مِنْ وِرَائِهِ وَيَتَّقِي بِهِ

**"The Imam is a shield, you fight from behind him and are protected by him."** z

*Ahmer Sajid*



# REPORTING THE WAR - THE NEWS INDUSTRY EXPOSED

**A** picture paints a thousand words. But what if the picture has been doctored by the American armed forces prior to media release, how many of these words do you now believe?

During the Iraq conflict we want to know how the fight is progressing and we'll turn to the media to keep abreast of the ever-changing news. But unless we know what to believe and what not to read too much into, there is a real danger that we become misinformed and ignorant about the truth and look to the world's problems without clarity. Allah (swt) has commanded us

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن جَاءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌ بِنَبَأٍ فَتَبَيَّنُوا

*"O you who believe ! If a fasiq (rebellious person) comes to you with a news, verify it" [TMQ Al-Hujurat 49:6]*

Thus, by greater reason when a disbeliever let alone a belligerent brings the news we must verify it.

In any war, the most intense battles take place on the media front line. Winning the public mood and support for military action 'back home' are as essential to the battle command as is securing Baghdad.

Millions of pounds have been poured into feeding (and using) the media frenzy in this war, for the media's need for a new story, a different angle, and the all too elusive exclusive.

There are two approaches to understanding the media during such times. On one side, there are the conspiratorialists; ideas such as 'the Jews control the media'. Some think that a billionaire baron, sat in his soft leather chair - with fluffy white cat in hand - pushes the buttons of the press. Everything is designed to produce a piece of disinformation which will procure both your attention and make you believe that which is not

true.

On the other side, there are those who believe everything the BBC and CNN say is gospel. The serious monotone voice of John Simpson or the interrogating Paxman will unearth the truth.

Of course the truth can not be attained by such simplistic perspectives. Rather we need to understand the reality of the media within the context of the ideology upon which it is built.

## NEWS - IN A RICH MAN'S WORLD

In the capitalist, democratic society, the news like just about any other service is an industry; its purpose is making money. Similar to the entertainment industry which is built on the proviso of entertainment in exchange for money, a newspaper is established to exchange news for money.

So when an editor employs a journalist, he does so because s/he thinks the journalist can write stories people will want to read, not what they should read in terms of the truth. This is why news agencies are not charity organisations, but businesses. This explains the phenomenon of the 'tabloid' press which by far is the largest sector of the news industry. The 'tabloid' newspapers are more concerned with entertainment than with telling the news. Thus we have seen how what is branded as freedom of speech or expression in the West, translates in reality to the freedom to lie and dishonour. All Muslims in the West have experienced first hand how the news industry has been used to vilify the image of Islam and Muslims. Ironically this has not only been experienced first hand by Muslims but is a common problem for Western politicians and celebrities.

Rupert Murdoch's The News Corporation owns 132 newspapers, 22 US television stations and the Harper Collins publishing company, so that it can

make lots of money. This is why it owns media companies in six continents.

In Britain, News Corporation has 31.7% share of the print media, the Mirror group has 27.1%, United News has 16.2% and Associated News has 12.7%. The point to note is that only four companies own 87.7% of the whole print industry in Britain. The broadcast industry is much the same. It does not take a great leap of faith to therefore foresee how the media can be affected by the government who has the capability of giving such companies legislation to either let them expand or put them out of business; like Blair recently changing the law to allow Murdoch to buy channel 5.

The way the media functions can also often leave the process of news gathering and distribution vulnerable to abuse. Immense amounts of money are spent on Public Relations so that companies can use the media industry to its own advantage.

Governments are no different. Alistair Campbell, the king of New Labour's spin doctors, was part of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's entourage when they first came into power. His sole duty was to promote positive news to journalists and implement damage control if a minister embroiled in scandal.

In the Kosovar crises, Campbell was sent to Brussels to make sure that all the news stories were effectively controlled by the government. At this time NATO's headquarters were used as a media centre. Javier Solana, the NATO Secretary General, told them: 'You can have anything you want.' The old maternity hospital of Brussels was converted into a news room by knocking two rooms into one. Dozens of news 'spinners' were flown in from America and Britain, civil servants were drafted in from No 10, the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence.

Campbell wrote a six page guide to information

warfare which detailed deployment of 'talking heads', the spinning of 'lines' and the techniques of aggressive rebuttal. There was a chain of propaganda command; all news stories from the battle field came through Campbell and the NATO Secretary General.

So how does the media work and how can you control it?

### **EDITORIAL COMMAND**

When a journalist comes into the news office he is given his days work by the news editor. He may be told to go to a local church and report the Vicar's death or he may be told to go to Iraq and report the war. If you influence editorial decisions than you can, to a certain degree, control which stories the journalist will have an opportunity to report.

The BBC is a classic example of this. Established as a public service, it is monitored by 12 men and women called the Board of Governors who are appointed by non other than the Prime Minister. The government finances these Governors and the Corporation through the licence. In times of crises the BBC is expected to tow the government line.

It was reported that an internal memo, written by Director of News Richard Sambrook and circulated throughout the BBC, was putting the staff under pressure to keep dissent over Iraq off the air. The memo advised staff to 'be careful' and that it was 'important' to have voices 'to articulate the Bush/Blair line'. The memo indicated a growing nervousness in the Corporation.

'Can I share a growing concern', wrote Sambrook in the email sent on 6 of February, nine days before the Stop the War march. 'Listening to phone-ins and emails it seems to me we are attracting some of the more extreme anti-war views.' While acknowledging that the public is against 'unilateral US action', Sambrook went on to complain that those 'motivated to call in or email are, to my ear, frequently from the more extreme end. The "lets have regime change in Washington London and Israel" variety. We may sometimes unwittingly be nobbled by anti war campaigners (I heard exactly the same question phrased the same way on 5 programmes in one day)'.

In a study on the media reporting during the Falklands crises it was found that of the 390 bulletins recorded over the period of 1 May to 14

June 1982, 141 of them were about the families of the soldiers in Britain. 71 dealt with families waiting at home, 51 with partings and reunions and 18 with memorial services. 'but during the whole period of the fighting we found only one case of a bereaved relative's doubts over the campaign being quoted.' Later in the day, those negative remarks were edited out and replaced with interviews of soldiers' wives being asked 'how do you pass your time?'

### **GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT**

Despite the fanatical belief in the freedom of speech in the West, there is no question but that the government influences the way in which the media reports events.

In 1985 Home Secretary Leon Brittan put pressure on the BBC Board of Governors to withdraw from transmission an upcoming edition in the television documentary series Real Lives that portrayed two Northern Irish politicians, Loyalist Gregory Campbell and Republic Martin McGuinness, on the grounds that McGuinness was an apologist for terrorism. The Governors did as they were told, precipitating a storm of protest and a one-day strike by BBC journalists.

Under the Official Secrets Act of 1911 and 1989, the government has the power to dictate what can and cannot be published. Using these laws the courts are empowered to send you to jail for 14 years if you, 'obtain, collect, record or communicate to any person any information that might be or is intended to be useful to an enemy'. To do so for 'any purpose prejudicial to the safety or interest of the state' is illegal.

The act is powerful because it is general in its wording, leaving it solely to the government to dictate what the State considers to be worthy of keeping secret. Every broadcast and article you will read during this war will have to be in line with this law. Effectively meaning everything you see will have been vetted.

The Press is free to print whatever it wants as long as it is OK with the;

**Administration of Justice Act 1960**  
**Adoption Act 1976**  
**Air Force Act 1955**  
**Aliens Restrictions (Amendment) Act 1919**

**Army Act 1955**  
**Broadcasting Act 1990**  
**Children Act 1989**  
**Children and Young Person Acts 1933, 1963 and 1969**  
**Civil Service Reform Act 1978**  
**Contempt of Court Act 1981**  
**Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988**  
**Criminal Justice Acts 1925, 1987 and 1988**  
**Customs Consolidations Act 1876**  
**Data Protection Act 1984**  
**Defamation Act 1952**  
**Domestic and Appellate Proceedings (Restriction of Publicity) Act 1968**  
**Family Law Act 1986**  
**Financial Services Act 1986**  
**Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981**  
**Incitement to Disaffection Act 1934**  
**Indecent Displays (Controls) Act 1981**  
**Interception of Communications Act 1985**  
**Judicial Proceedings (Regulations of Reports) Act 1926**  
**Magistrates Courts Act 1980**  
**Magistrates Courts (NI) Order 1981**  
**Matrimonial Causes Act 1973**  
**Naval Discipline Act 1957**  
**Northern Ireland (Emergency Powers) Act 1975**  
**Obscene Publications Act 1959**  
**Official Secrets Act 1911 to 1989**  
**Police Act 1964**  
**Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984**  
**Prevention of Corruption Act 1906**  
**Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989**  
**Public Order Act 1986**  
**Race Relations Act 1976**  
**Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974**  
**Representations of the People Act 1983**  
**Sexual Offences Act 1956**  
**Sexual Offences (Amendment) Acts 1976 and 1992**  
**Telecommunications Act 1984**  
**Theft Act 1968**  
**Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993**  
**Tribunal of Enquiry (Evidence) Act 1921**  
**Unsolicited Goods and Services Act 1971**  
**Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949**

Source: Stephenson, H. Media Freedom and Media Regulation.

On the 10th of March, Kate Adie, veteran BBC war correspondent, told Irish national broadcaster, Tom McGurk on the RTE1 Radio Sunday Show that the Pentagon attitude is: 'entirely hostile to the

free spread of information.'

'I am enormously pessimistic of the chance of decent on-the-spot reporting, as the war occurs,' she said.

### DEFENCE ADVISORY [DA] NOTICES

There is another layer of media filtering which takes place before publication and these are called D notices. D notices are issued by a man employed by the Ministry of Defence, whose job is to look at any potential news stories which would be considered unsuitable for publication by the Ministry of Defence,

Although the code is voluntary, all mainstream press will abide by the code as a matter of practice because the reasons of accepting the D notices are to protect themselves from legal action from the government.

Thus if the article a journalist files to his editor is not in accordance with a D notice issued by the Ministry of Defence it will not be published.

The 5 DA Notices in force since 1993 cover the following subjects;

1. Operations, plans and capabilities.
2. Nuclear and non-nuclear weapons and operational equipment
3. Cyphers and secure communications
4. Identification of specific installations
5. United Kingdom security and intelligence services and special forces

[www.dnotice.org.uk](http://www.dnotice.org.uk)

### LAZY JOURNALISTS

Often journalists are looking for a story, a picture, a good introduction and an interesting set of quotes. For this they need to get a camera, find someone to interview and ask the pertinent questions.

PR companies realise this, so what they offer to the journalist are a set of good and news-worthy quotes, a photo opportunity and a nice angle for the journalist to go to the news room and type up a story which requires little effort. The best PR company is the government itself.

The mainstay of all journalism is regular and reliable sources of news. Court cases, local council meetings, central government press briefings and the Houses of Parliament. All of these are influenced, if not directly controlled, by the government. If you can dictate what information is fed to the media via these avenues you have a good control of the media. The idea is to drown the media with all the stories you wish

for them to report. The result will be journalism based upon government sources and quotes. This is why the government releases 10,000 press releases every year.

Another form of this same philosophy are lobby journalists. These are senior journalists who have exclusive contact with senior politicians and are treated to private chats and bites of news yet to be published. Such news is often printed under the terms like: 'according to senior figures in the government', and, 'my sources tell me'. This is another system by which the government passes information to the public and influences what is broadcast and published.

In the current Iraqi crises, the American government built a state-of-the-art news centre in Qatar. Seven hundred journalists were gathered from across the globe, working for a plethora of news agencies, and it is these 700 hundred journalists that are broadcasting news you watch on television.

The BBC alone has 35 reporters in the Middle East, 17 of them 'embedded' - along with hundreds of reporters from the American networks and other channels - in military units. Now the invasion has begun, they will lose their freedom to write what they want.

The BBC reports which are not from such units are preceded by the phrase 'The Iraqi government has monitored this report'. What they do not say is that the other reports from the Allied forces are controlled by the American and British Army. Affecting your perception of the truth.

Robert Fisk predicted the situation on 16 March before the war began. 'I'll hazard a guess right now, we shall see many of the British and American journalists back to their old trick of playing toy soldiers, dressing themselves up in military costumes for their nightly theatrical performances on television.' He was right.

So the next time you see a convoy of tanks trundle across the desert on the BBC, and the same row of tanks on Sky TV, it is no coincidence but just two journalists - standing side by side with the Allied forces, being housed together, fed together and catered for by the British and American armed forces - sending their reports back to the news room.

### PHOTO POOLS

So we're back to the picture painting a thousand words. But where do you get the picture from, or more to the point, how do you get to the centre of the action to take a picture in the first place? Either you spend hours trying to get the perfect shot or you join the photo pool. This is where journalists will all agree to share photographs, and

these are often provided - very graciously so - by the army themselves.

On the 15 March, most of the British newspapers had the same front page of massed British troops in Kuwait, complete with arranged tanks and perfectly formatted helicopters. This was a faultlessly planned photo-op organised by the army for those same 700 journalists they gathered before the war. The orchestration is everything, the pictures posed, the angles chosen by 'minders', much as the Iraqis are attempting in Baghdad.

There are few freelance journalists who take the time and effort to go and take pictures themselves. In the last Gulf War, the allied forces bombarded a convoy of civilian cars trying to escape using the main road to Baghdad. Very few pictures were ever published of the carnage, which became known as the 'mile of death'.

### PICTURES NEVER MEANT FOR PUBLICATION.



These pictures were taken by a freelance journalist who took the risk of going to the scene himself but was never published.

### NEWS SOURCES NO ONE QUESTIONS

Towards the end of February Colin Powell presented America's proof that Saddam Hussain had weapons of mass destruction to the UN. On the whole the main stream media reported what was said because the source was so authoritative. The New York Times and The Washington Post said, without a smidgen of scepticism, it was a 'masterful indictment' (James Hoagland) 'that would convince any jury' (William Safire)."

A more damning illustration is the statement Powell made about Saddam's 'use of mustard and nerve gas against the Kurds in 1988' that killed 'Five thousand men, women and children.' This is true, but he did so with the blessings of the many

# CRISIS OF GLOBALISATION KEY TO WESTERN CRUSADE IN IRAQ!

Reaganites who now serve Bush - including Powell.

'The Kurds have not forgotten that Secretary of State Colin Powell was then the national security adviser who orchestrated Ronald Reagan's decision to give Hussein a pass for gassing the Kurds,' said former U.S. Ambassador to Croatia, Peter Galbraith. [now professor of national-security studies at the National War College in Washington, D.C.].

And finally...

The media industry is complex, there are no simple command obedience relationships where one force controls and dictates everything the media says. But in times of war, the government wields considerable control, via editors and the Official Secrets Act on much of the media.

It is imperative that we keep ourselves informed and this is easier if we keep the following points in mind.

Everything broadcast and published in the newspapers will contain fact as well as comment. 'The Allied forces pounded Baghdad with hundreds of missiles creating a sense of real terror amongst the populace', is such an example. From this sentence all you really know is that Baghdad has been bombed. Whether this bombing was a 'pounding' and what emotions were raised amongst the people is opinion. You take the first and make you own mind up about the second.

But more essential is to realise that we only hear one side of the story. Where are the press briefings from Iraq? Where are the journalists reporting from where the Iraqi army is fighting? What is reported is based firmly on a Western vantage point.

What you read and watch in the news is not all false. But there are filtering processes, which when taken into account, mean the news is not so black and white. But the lies are, more often than not, not in what you do read and watch, but what never reaches your screen in the first place. z

*Dilpazier Aslam*

The American imperial crusade against Iraq is evident for all to see. The bombs have been raining down on Baghdad to a level never witnessed in any military expedition in the past and aptly referred to as 'shock and awe' by the Americans. The use of the term 'war with Iraq' obscures the true hegemonic ideals of the Bush administration. The Bush administration is intent on integrating Iraq into a global economy and imposing a political system designed in Washington as it did in Afghanistan. This will ensure economic and political survival for the West due to the uninterrupted access to Iraqi oil and an abundant supply of cheap labour of over 20 million workers, not to mention access to the Iraqi consumer market. A question on the lips of the public despite numerous attempts by Bush and Blair to convince them of the arguments in favour of war is why the Bush administration after September 11th has actually embarked on military aggression against Iraq, a country which it has successfully contained through the United Nations for the last 12 years and is of no imminent threat to the West? The answer lies not with the desire to liberate Iraq from a dictator but with the crisis in corporate America and capitalist globalisation. Globalisation, as a term has been manufactured in American research units and has come to prominence in the last 20 years. It has captured the imagination of political elites, whom have jumped on the globalisation bandwagon promoted by US triumphantists, business theorists and free market economists. Broadly speaking globalisation refers to the intensification of economic activities across boundaries, leading to the integration of production, capital and financial markets. Policies, such as liberalisation and deregulation adopted by countries either willingly or through international pressure have increased the access to foreign markets. Access to markets is being pursued and pushed under the rubric of globalisation. This has facilitated the expansion of global capital and created a 'global casino' with over \$1.3 trillion dollars being transacted everyday as result of a press of a button in New York, London or Tokyo. In the last 20 years, this process has embraced south East Asia, China, South America and even the Middle East. A world economy has emerged in which Trans-national corporations (TNCs) are more powerful than most national economies. Sovereign states are now subordinate to international economic and financial forces, while supra-national bodies like the World Trade Organisation (WTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) set the economic agenda for countries to follow. The rosy picture of an ever-expanding global economy depicted by the likes of the IMF and WB has come to a crashing halt. The Peso crisis in Mexico in 1995, the Russian Rouble crisis in 1998, the 1997 financial collapse in Asia, the bursting of the dot.com bubble and the slow subdued economic recovery after September the 11th have created a global economic crisis. This is particularly evident in the United States itself, where unemployment is soaring, the dollar is losing its value and major corporations like Enron and WorldCom have gone under as a result of fraudulent operations. Millions of Americans have lost savings and pension plans through the sharp fall in the stock market. A similar story of economic shock is taking place in Britain, where a panic-stricken Bank of England has cut interest rates to their lowest level for 50 years.

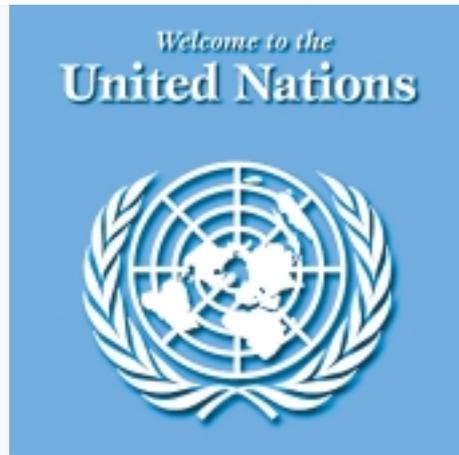
In conditions of economic meltdown as described above,

the impetus for market expansion and domination takes a more pressing desire. Today in the 21st century, politics is all about facilitating the work of the market and the forces of the global economy above all other considerations. Bush and Blair are the chief advocates of a new world order based on intensive globalisation. The US and British economies are among the most exposed to this process, far more than Germany and France. However, pockets of resistance to this new monolithic power have emerged, such as Iraq and North Korea. They stand outside the vision of the global capitalist economy championed by the likes of Bush and Blair. Bush and Blair have a uniform view of a "civilised world" based on the "values" of freedom and democracy. This provides the ideological drive for both the "war on terror" and the invasion of Iraq. This is the same "democracy" that has allowed abandoning its own concept of human rights in the name of the "war on terror". In the United States, at least 1,000 people are held in detention without trial, while prisoners are tortured in Guantanamo Bay's camp X-ray. This is carried out by a president who blatantly stole the 2000 election and represents only corporate interests. In Britain, a state of emergency officially exists to justify opting out of the European Human Rights Act while asylum seekers are targeted by New Labour.

We are entering a new period where force and might alone decides how the world is to be ordered and directed. It is, in many respects, a return to the colonialist mentality of the past. The United States in particular will take no interference with this militarist project. This is clearly apparent as it freely abandons treaties on the environment, chemical weapons, nuclear weapons and flouts international law when it suits her interests. Going to war without UN backing clearly highlights this point. The only thing growing in the US is the defence budget. It will rise a further 15% in the coming year, with special attention to developing new types of nuclear weapons. The US government is moving to a permanent war footing in order to impose its civilisation on the rest of the planet.

There is clearly an element of insanity in the whole business. The idea that two Western powers can impose a totally alien culture and economy on a whole world through what is being called "domino democracy" is desperate in the extreme but in fact highlights their innate capitalist nature and intent. To oppose the attack on Iraq is to reject the destructiveness of the capitalist system and the governments that promote corporate greed, exploitation and corruption. Therefore, it is the objective of all Muslims to expose the true motives behind this bombardment of our brothers and sisters in Iraq. Innocent Muslims are being killed in the pursuit of economic gains by the capitalist nations, whom are ready to see the spilling of blood as long as their economies and bank balances are booming. Not only must we highlight the true intent but we must put forward the true solution that will lead mankind from the shackles of enslavement under capitalism to liberation under the Islamic Khilafah state.

*Mohammed Zahid*



# THE FALLACY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Until recently, the notion of one or two nations attacking a sovereign state without the support of the United Nations would have been inconceivable. International politics used to revolve around multilateralism and international law. Today, America has fashioned for itself a new political climate; unilateralism and national interest.

America has effectively sidelined the UN and as a result politicians and commentators have questioned the role of the UN as the bastion of international law. The new strand of American thinking is that the UN should deal with minor issues such as the violation of human rights and become the arbiter in minor disputes, but those issues concerning American national interests will be dealt with by America unilaterally. This has obviously highlighted the fallacy of the United Nations and its *raison d'être*; international law.

Muslims should think politically with regards these issues and ask some fundamental questions; is there such a thing as international law, and does the United Nations exist for moral and altruistic objectives? What is the Islamic alternative to the UN and international law?

## **DOES INTERNATIONAL LAW ACTUALLY EXIST IN REALITY?**

The concept of international law does not actually have any real meaning. It is like the notion of 'peaceful war'; theoretically wonderful, but practically unattainable. This concept is flawed from its basis, and it is no surprise that we have witnessed the effective sidelining of the United Nations by America.

This is because the international law that Westerners and Easterners alike religiously espouse to is not really a law for the world at all. For it to be an international law, it must be universal, applicable to all nations and ideologies. However, the reality of international law is that it is only a law that suits the strong nations who view life from the capitalist viewpoint. It does not take into account the viewpoints of any other way of life. For example, the United Nations human rights convention holds that people have the basic right to freedom of speech which fundamentally disagrees with the Islamic 'aqeedah since anybody who attacks the prophet (saw), the Shari'ah or the deen is liable to punishment. The same can be said about the Chinese government's reaction to the Tiananmen Square demonstrations in 1989 which violated many human rights accords and conventions, but did not contradict the Communist ideology since criticism of the state in Communism is a punishable offence.

So how is it possible to apply these conventions on those nations which do not hold the Capitalist viewpoint in life? This by definition means that international law is not a universal law applicable for all nations irrespective of customs, norms and ideologies but it is actually a law only for the capitalist community, since it is based on the capitalist ideology. Therefore, we can see that resolution 1441 which the UN passed and which gave the basis to attack Iraq should not be called an international law, but rather it is an American inspired capitalist law aimed at colonising Iraq which contradicts Islam and should be rejected by Muslims.

Furthermore, the concept of international law and

International Community fundamentally contradicts the sovereignty of nations. Any strong nation will look to implement policies and solutions which are in its interests, and will not cede its sovereignty to another nation, institution or super-state. This is a basic fact and explains the number of Security Council decisions that have been flouted by Israel, America, France, Britain, Russia, China and other nations.

So does America refer to the Geneva Convention when it comes to holding captives at Guantanamo Bay who to date have not been formally charged with any crime? In fact America does not even refer their cases to the jurisdiction of international law. Does Britain refer to the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] when it comes to the influx of refugees to this country, or does it make changes to its national law to allow it to better serve its interests? Did France refer to international convention when it imposed its hegemony over Algeria after the Muslims of Algeria voted to live by Islam by a sweeping majority?

All these examples highlight this very basic point; that strong nations do not cede their sovereignty to any other nation or institution. However, some people point to the European Union as an example of a super-state that supersedes the sovereignty of its member countries; the European Central Bank sets its own interest rates, the EU has its own foreign policy and so on. But these points do not really establish any real credibility for international law, but rather establishes credibility for EU law. Therefore, EU law is sovereign for the member countries in the European Union and not international law. Therefore, the European Union

will not cede its sovereignty to international law; otherwise it will lose its independence.

A secondary difference between the EU law and international law is that EU law is only applicable to member countries, since they have willingly made the European law sovereign over their lands, since they share a common ideology, a common objective and common interests. Hence their sovereignty has been transferred to the EU, and effectively the EU can be viewed as another state like Britain or America. However, international law is applicable whether a nation accepts it or not; it is applied irrespective of the ideology of the nation, its customs or interests. This definitely contravenes sovereignty and if this is enforced it is really a form of colonialism. This is exactly what was meted out to the Palestinians by international law when the UN authorised the colonisation of Al-Quds to the Zionist Jews in 1948.

A final point to consider is that for every nation the law must be accompanied by an authority which orders it. Without this authority the law is meaningless. For example, if suddenly in Britain the authorities stopped implementing the law people in this country would seize their opportunity and violate the rights of others, commit injustices and so on. This would effectively make the law meaningless. The United Nations does not have any real authority on its own to implement its laws. Hence we find that in reality, international law is actually meaningless since it is not ordered by any real authority.

When the United Nations sends its troops under the banner of the UN, this should not be confused with authority. This is because these troops were gathered by an alliance of nations and not by the international authority itself. This means that it is not the United Nations that ordered the authority, but actually the alliance of nations that ordered it. So, when the UN troops went into to Bosnia and so pathetically capitulated to Slovdan Milosovic and Ratko Mladic, the UN law was not ordered by the United Nations itself but by the Dutch, Canadian, British et al troops.

This distinction is very important because when there is no alliance of nations to implement a particular law or resolution then the United Nations is powerless and its law is meaningless. When Ariel Sharon committed his genocide in Sabra and Shatila, international law was violated but there was no alliance of nations willing to bring Ariel Sharon and the Israeli government to justice. Therefore, we can see that the United Nations does not have any real authority of its own and hence international law is meaningless on its own.

Another facet to this is that if the United Nations is relying on international alliances to implement its resolutions then this is really an aggression and not an implementation of law. This is because if

America and Britain decided to disobey the law, as has been the case a number of times in the past, who is it that can enforce it upon them? Furthermore if these powers whilst implementing the international law flouted it at the same time, again no country could take them to task. The American invasion of Afghanistan based on the most spurious of evidences is a classic example of this point; not only was this a violation of international law, but most of the nations of the world did not willingly support this war, yet no country could take America to task over it. Therefore, the enforcement of the international law by the strong countries on the weak is nothing but aggression and a form of colonialism. Therefore, it is very clear that it is impossible to implement the general international law on all countries.

### **INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONS DO EXIST IN REALITY**

What may be confusing is the distinction between international law and international traditions. International traditions have existed for centuries and are implemented by a moral obligation. They exist because nations need some general conventions in order to communicate and form alliances and so forth. For example, it is an international tradition that messengers and diplomats should not be killed when they are conveying a message. This is a deep rooted tradition and is implemented by the force of public opinion, since any nation which kills a foreign diplomat will be seen as an aggressor nation and will enrage people around the world. However, these traditions are not and cannot be implemented by an international body.

### **HOW TO BRING ABOUT PEACE, JUSTICE AND PROGRESS FOR HUMANITY**

It is clear that international law does not and cannot actually exist. What we have actually witnessed is in fact the manipulation of the idea of international law by the powerful states to give the fake legality to their colonialist agenda. For example, Iraq was attacked during the first gulf war by an American led coalition because it was deemed to have invaded Kuwait. Yet only a few months prior to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, America invaded Panama without a UN mandate or resolution. This is one of the many examples of the manipulation of international law by the powerful nations to suit their political ends.

Muslims should be under no illusions that the only way to bring about peace, justice and progress for humanity is by adopting an ideology that is based on the truth. This will manifest in Muslims uniting under the Islamic ideology which is practically implemented by the Khilafah state. Allah (swt) has revealed:

وَمَنْ لَّمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ

*"And whosoever does not rule by what Allah has revealed, such are oppressors"* [TMQ Al-Ma'idah: 45].

Thus Muslims should not loose sleep over the fact that international law has been undermined since it is one of the most dangerous and oppressive concepts to have ever gained popularity. It is ironic that the new political climate of unilateralism on the basis of 'liberation' without regards for international law may well be a conducive climate for the coming Khilafah state. This is because once established, the Khilafah state can then undertake its own actions internally free from the constraints of UN international laws, for example implementation of Hudud law. It will also be free to exercise its will in its foreign policy, unilaterally and in contravention of the UN by engaging in Jihad due to the very precedent the US has established.

Today, Muslims must understand that on a practical level they must reject international law as a basis for their solutions since it contradicts Shari'ah and heaps misery on the world. Secondly Muslims must challenge the rulers of the Muslim countries who slavishly obey international law when the same international law is used as the stick to beat their people with. These rulers must be challenged and removed; pressure must be put on them so that those people who are able to bring about change will find it easier to do so if the masses are with them. Thirdly Muslims should join with those who are seriously working for Khilafah upon the method of the Prophet (saw) and aid them in every way they are able. Insha'allah these practical actions will help us to re-establish the Khilafah so that we can truly liberate the people of Iraq, America and the whole world. z

*Jilani Gulam*



# IRAQ

## -THE CRADLE OF CIVILISATION

The eyes of the world are fixed upon the land of Iraq, the plight of its people and the evolution of the ongoing war. However the land known in recent years as Iraq is possessed of an incredible tapestry of history which has seen the rise and fall of entire civilisations, and heard for millennia past, the clamour of battle upon its soil. It is a land where the footsteps of the previous Messengers and Prophets walked. It is a land which contains the two rivers Dilja and Furat (the river Tigris and Euphrates).

### THE COMING OF ISLAM

It was the Khalifah Umar ibn al Khitaab (ra), the Amir al Mumineen, who sent forth the Mujahideen to open the land of the Persians, who ruled over Iraq, to Islam. In 634 CE, 18,000 Muslim soldiers under the leadership of Khalid ibn Waleed (ra) arrived at the perimeter of the Euphrates. Freeing and liberating Iraq from the oppression of man made systems. The Persians vastly outnumbered the army of the righteous, but Khalid (ra) had only these words for them:

"Accept the faith and you are safe, otherwise pay tribute. If you refuse to do either you have only yourself to blame. A people are already upon you, loving death as you love life."

The Persians did not accept either, instead they

chained their soldiers together so they could not break and flee despite dwarfing the Muslim army. They fought one another at Dhat al-Salasil - the Battle of the Chains. But they faced a man who had been given the mighty title of Sayfullah - the Sword of Allah, by the Prophet (saw) himself. The Muslim army was victorious and inflicted a series of defeats against the Persians. The Persians rallied briefly under the general Rustum, but in 636 CE at Al-Qadisiyah, a village south of Baghdad, Rustums army fought a Muslim contingent who found themselves outnumbered six to one, yet were crushed and Rustum slain. Thus ended Persian resistance and Mesopotamia became one with the Islamic state.

Arabic replaced Persian as the States adopted language and eventually became the language of the people, the people embraced Islam in thousands and the Muslims married from their converted women, and their converted men from Muslim women. Umar (ra) ordered the building of two garrisoned cities to protect the Khilafah's new land: Kufah the main city and later capital of Imam Ali (ra) and the founding of Basrah which was also to become a port.

### THE IDEOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE

The Khilafah flourished including Mesopotamia and its people. This is a natural consequence of a

society adopting an ideology to live by. An ideology is a comprehensive idea discovered through studying man, his life and the universe he inhabits. Being a comprehensive idea it can provide answers to any problems man faces and organise the systems of society without need of looking elsewhere.

### THE GOLDEN ERA

In 750CE the Abassid Khilafah began, in 762CE Baghdad was founded and shortly afterwards made the Capital of the Khilafah. Under Islam, Baghdad became not only the centre of power in the world, but a world famous centre of learning, commerce, and culture producing a blaze of scientific and literary glory in each and every field. It was the intellectual peak of the World and many consider this the time when Islam reached its zenith, the Golden Era of the Abassids.

Again the Tigris and Euphrates were essential in the production of agriculture, more than enough to feed the second largest city in the World behind Constantinople. Harun ar Rashid, the shade of Allah on the Earth was Khalifah from 786-806AD. The Khilafah has been called one of the righteously guided Khulafah, and his shining example blazes like a beacon for each and every subsequent ruler.

The land of Iraq, has brought forth thinkers, the like of which the world had never seen. It was a land which was the centre for thought, only when the Khalifah State implemented the ideology of Islam. One Muhammad ibn Idris al Shafi'i the Mujtahid of his time arrived in Baghdad in the eighth century and debated with Imam Muhammad ibn Hasan Shaybani, the great student of Imam Abu Hanifah. Here Shafi'i founded his School of Jurisprudence, codified Usool for the first time in his Risalah and taught his illustrious student Imam Ahmed ibn Hanbal. Imam Ahmed was born in Baghdad and passed away there also. Clearly Usool and Fiqh thrived in this period. So did all other sciences. A number of hospitals including teaching hospitals were opened. Abu Jafar Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khawarizmi discovered algebra and has been credited with inventing the number zero. His Kitab al-jabr w'al muqabalah taught the Europeans algebra upon translation and the erroneous translation of his name during the European renaissance immortalised his name in the term Algorithm as well!

## THE WORLD CONQUEROR

A Mongol tribal leader, Temujin united the fragmented Mongol tribes and with them, at the turn of the 13th Century, conquered Siberia and Northern China, overrunning Beijing. Turning his 700,000 strong horde west toward the Khilafah. He destroyed Samarkand in Uzbekistan, Balkh in Afghanistan, Merv in Turkmenistan and Neyshabur in Iran. All the people of these cities were put to the sword. Temujin changed his name to Genghis Khan -which meant Universal Ruler or World Conqueror. This is reminiscent of the American Capitalist horde led by the new tyrant George Bush.

Genghis Khan believed his gods were superior to the one God of the Muslims and sought to prove exactly this by conquering the entire Islamic State.

"I am the punishment of God. If you had not committed great sins, God would not have sent punishment like me upon you" (Genghis Khan).

When he died in 1227 fighting the Tangut of North East China in terms of square miles conquered, he had become the greatest conqueror of all time.

In 1258 Temujin's grandson Hulagu Khan attacked Baghdad. They were an unstoppable force of destruction that day, the Khalifah Al-Musta'sim Billah was killed, trampled underfoot along with hundreds of thousands of believers put to death in the streets of Baghdad which piled high with corpses and rivers of blood. The Mongols entered on the day of Ashura and The Abbasid Empire came to an abrupt and bloody end. It was said that that the rivers turned blue from the books of the

Khilafah which were destroyed, and the streets were red with the blood of the Muslims.

Turning North the army then devastated the lands of As-Sham taking Damascus in 1259. The Capital of the Khilafah was destroyed, the armies defeated one after the other by the fast cavalry and military capability of the Mongols. The World conquerors seemed invincible to some Muslims who despaired. The terror of the slaughter the Mongols inflicted wherever they went had dismayed the Muslims and broken their morale. Despite this in 1260CE the Mongols were not only defeated but banished from the Muslim lands at the legendary Battle of Ain Jaloot. We will see how defeat turned into victory and this amazing feat was achieved.

After this Iraq suffered for the first time from economic depression and lost its former glory. The Mongols had deliberately destroyed the irrigation systems creating swamps and marshland instead. A tribal system emerged which would persist into modern day Iraq.

As is so often the case, many of those who witness the system of Islam embrace it as did many of the invading Mongols, the destroyers began to build Mosques and Schools as Ghazan Khan officially adopted Islam as the religion of his state in the beginning of the 14th Century!

From the 16th Century the Uthmani Khilafah used Baghdad primarily as a military outpost. The Uthmanis were more interested in further military conquest in Europe than the restoration of the State's ex-Capitol to its former glory. For a short time the Shi'a Safavids state (who first declared Shi'a doctrines the official religion of Iran) fought the Khilafah and gained control of Baghdad twice, in the 16th and 17th Century respectively. Both times the Uthmani Khilafah regained control. The glory days had passed for the moment, but Iraq remained under the shade of the Khilafah until the beginning of the 20th Century.

## ON THE FOUNDING OF IRAQ AND ITS TIME WITHOUT KHILAFAH

The British landed at Shatt al-Arab and took Basra from the Uthmani Khilafah in 1914. Besieged on many fronts and influenced by the British agent Mustafa Kemal who argued there were more pressing targets to defend, Baghdad fell after a series of bloody battles in 1917.

Of course under the Uthmanis there had been no Iraq. Rather there were three provinces under the shade of the State. Mosul in the North, Baghdad in the centre and Basra in the south. Under Sykes-Picot, Mosul was to go to the French, Baghdad and Basra to the British but the French gave up their claim to Mosul in 1920. There were several

revolts that year against British rule, and the British felt that without Mosul the other two could not function as an independent colony. More importantly there were known to be vast reserves of oil in Mosul. The same year Emir Faisal who had seen his government in Damascus crushed by the French was placed under British tutelage as the King of Iraq. Now Iraq existed in its first guise as a Kingdom. As there is no concept of National Anthem in Islam, the British elected to play 'God save the King' at his coronation.

High Commissioner Sir Percy Cox resided over Iraq, guarding its oil reserves. The British owned Iraq Petroleum Company was founded. Military garrisons guarded the passage to India. The infrastructure was a semi-feudal mix of a Shi'a dominated South, Kurds in the North who desired and still desire their own nation state, and the mix of tribal Arabs that had arisen and remained since the devastation inflicted by the all conquering Mongols.

Iraq achieved independence in 1932 and was admitted into the League of Nations in the same year with Britain assuming a neo-colonialist role, leaving behind Arab agents like Nuri Said. What followed were years of coup and counter coup including one by Rashad Ali against the royal family and Said had to flee Iraq. After the revolt was crushed Ali had to flee to Saudi facing the death penalty. Meanwhile in Damascus the Baath Party had been established by Michael Aflaq, a Greek Orthodox Christian by birth. The Baath party doctrines included socialist, anti colonialist and romantic views of the great Arabic tradition giving rise to a pan-Arabism philosophy. The Parties slogan was 'Unity, Freedom, Socialism' all aimed at the Arabs. Envisioning an Arab culture renaissance, they only came to power in Syria and Iraq. The Baathists aided Rashad Ali in his short lived revolt. One of the recruits was Saddam Hussein.

In 1958 two Iraqi officers, Brigadier Qassem and Colonel Abdel Salam Aref brought a bloody end to the monarchy. The King and Prince of the time Abdul Illah were shot dead when they came out of the surrounded Royal Palace to surrender. Nur Said fled and but was found and cornered, but before he could be caught he shot himself dead. July the 14th marked the foundation of the Republic of Iraq which exists until present day.

## SADDAM TAKES CHARGE

Saddam Hussein had no hand in the 1958 coup, but he came to power later in a Baathist coup against Qassem and Salam Aref, in 1968. Saddam, patronised by the British, envisioned himself as a great Arab leader though he clearly was a servant for his masters in the West. He ruled as a tyrant despot and used to rule with brutality and cruelty.

As most brutal dictators, he tried to create a personality cult, by means of the media and was enforced by his secret police. Examples of megalomania can be seen in the huge pictures of Saddam which adorn every large building.

In 1980 Saddam at the behest of the West, took Iraq to a tragic war with his neighbours in Iran. It was in this period much of his weapons of mass destruction were brought at this time from Western governments. The war ended eight years later after over a million people were killed or wounded.

During this war the Kurds had further tried to find their nation by mounting a guerrilla war against the Iraqi regime. Due to the war of attrition with Iran, Saddam was unable to deal with this but once free of the burden of fighting Iran he turned his attention to the Kurds and wrecked a terrible revenge. Several attacks were made on the Kurds including the use of chemical and nerve agents most infamously at Halabja where 5000 civilians were killed in gruesome fashion. The West is quick to show these examples in their spin that the war on Iraq is to remove weapons of mass destruction, even though they sold these very weapons to him. Do Western governments trade in arms and expect not to share the blame when they are used to kill? Muslims should not be intimidated by the spin of such governments, who themselves possess and use such weapons on a much wider scale. The US still remains the only state to have exercised nuclear capability killing hundreds of thousands in a few seconds on two occasions in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

#### **ON HOW TO DESTROY THE ENEMY**

Part of the reason that Hulagu Khan was able to take Baghdad is that one of Khalifah Al-Mu'tasim Billah's ministers betrayed him to Hulagu. Al-Alkami promised the Mongols in secret to end any resistance in return for becoming the next Muslim ruler. Convincing Al-Mu'tasim Billah to meet with them, the Khalifah and his entourage were killed. Yet after Baghdad was taken, Hulagu knew that if Al-Alkami could betray his people then he could betray them too, and he was amongst those to be put to the sword.

After similar treatment of As-Sham and Damascus the World Conquerors turned their attention to the last stronghold of the Muslims in Egypt. Their hatred for the Muslims and their one God was known and they had these words for Egypt's Amir Mahmoud Saifudeen Qutuz:

"We have demolished the land, orphaned the children, tortured the people and slain them, made their honoured despised and their leader a captive. Do you think that you can escape from us? After a while you will know what's coming to you..."

Faced with a seemingly invincible army, which had occupied three quarters of the Muslim lands and now assailed his own, Qutuz did the only thing he could do... and killed the Mongol delegation leaving their corpses hanging in the streets.

Secondly he sent delegations of his own to surrounding Muslims from amongst the Mamluks and rallied them to his cause which was to crush the foreign aggressor.

Thirdly Qutuz utilised the Ulema for his cause, to remind the people of the obligation of Jihad and united through them the masses. Qutuz sought a Fatwa from the 'Sultan of Scholars' Al-'Izz ad Din Abdus-Salam to impose taxes upon the people to equip the armies. But the noble scholar refused until the governors own money and that of all leaders was spent first, thus the Muslim army was equipped.

Qutuz ordered his army forward and under the leadership of the Beebers won several skirmishes before reaching Gaza, Palestine. Here Qutuz warned the Crusaders to remain neutral in this battle or be crushed. The Crusaders wisely accepted Qutuz's proposition. Finally in Ramadhan the two Armies collided at Ain Jaloot in a massive battle. At the height of the fighting the Muslims found the tide of battle turning against them, it was at this point that Qutuz climbed high upon a rock and cast his helmet aside so all could see his face and cried "Wa Islamah! Wa Islamah!" After capturing everyone's attention he plunged into the Mongols sword first leaving a trail of corpses behind. Inspired by their leaders call, reminded of the honour they fought for and fuelled by his examples the Muslim army cut a swathe of destruction through the Mongols. The tide had decidedly turn and shortly all the enemy were slain or taken and those that escaped were killed in retribution by the people of Sham who Qutuz liberated completely in the next two weeks. When even the news of this victory reached Damascus the Muslims rose up and expelled the Mongols, all around them Mujahideen devastated their ranks and they fled back to the lands from whence they came.

This is exactly what Qutuz did, gathering to him all those capable of fighting and equipping them to do so. Today in the Muslim lands surrounding Iraq the Kuffar have entered a potential slaughterhouse of their own making. Surrounding them already are the armies of Syria, Saudi, Iran, Kuwait and Turkey. Around them are the rest of the Muslim lands.

Instead of sincere ruler like Qutuz who understood and cared for his people and his duties to them and Allah (swt), we have as rulers a gathering of

cowards and betrayers like Al-Alkami. They will never release the armies and so it is they who must be removed as a matter of necessity. Just as making Wudu before Salat is an obligation, because Salat itself is an obligation, removing the rulers has become an obligation because sending the armies is an obligation, according to the well known Shara principle: Whatever leads to a Wajib (obligation) is in itself a Wajib. A sincere men like Qutuz must rise up who will unleash the power of the Ummah, the power the colonialists dread.

Their treachery runs deeper still. For if they denied the use of Muslim land then the war upon Iraq, like both this one and the last would not take place. It is no more possible for America to launch sorties on Iraq from Washington than it is for Britain to do so from London. Their fighters and troops are garrisoned in bases in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and air bases in Turkey whose Parliament voted to allow the US use of their airspace so continuing the legacy of Mustafah Kemal. The land offensive began from Kuwait. These rulers are holding with Bush and Blair the dagger that is being used to kill the believers. A leader must be established who will send forth the armies of liberation, turn off the supply of oil to the west and close each and every base to the Kuffar.

The unification of the countries under a Khailfah once more is paramount. The Mamluks aided Qutuz because they were both of the same Ummah, from the same Khilafah. Qutuz liberated as-Sham because he and its people were from the same Ummah. He did not say I am Egyptian and you are Palestinian so I will not aid you. It was the British and the French in the Sykes-Picot agreement in 1917 who gave us these divides so is it not time that these false shackles are removed?

Under the Khilafah this is what occurred to the Mongols. The Khilafah was ransacked but the Islamic ideology was till within leaders like Qutuz, Scholars like Al-'Izz ad Din Abdus-Salam, and its soldiers and people. Today we are divided and without a leader like Qutuz. But the same Aqeedah, the same ideology is in the minds of the Muslims today. By referring to Islam and implementing its solution there will come another Ain Jaloot, another Battle of Chains, and other leaders like Harun ar Rashid or another Amir Mahmoud Saifudeen Qutuz.z

*Dr Babar Qureshi*

# THE BATTLE OF MUTA'

In the 8th year of Hijrah, Rasulallah (saw) sent out invitation letters to all the rulers of the powerful disbelieving states and the arrogant superpowers calling them to Islam. He (saw) sent al-Harith bin 'Umar al Azdi, with a letter to the ruler of Busra inviting him to Islam. It was intercepted by Sharhabeel bin Amr al Ghasani, the governor of al-Balqa and a close ally to Heraclius, the Roman emperor. Al-Harith was beheaded. This was a declaration of war on Rasulallah (saw) who mobilised 3000 men to go and discipline the transgressors. At the time it was the largest Muslim army ever assembled except for the battle of Ahzab.

The events and the battle that followed are known as the battle of Muta' which was the fiercest battle during the lifetime of Rasulallah (saw). Ali the son of Imam Hussain (ra) said: "We used to teach the battles of the prophet (saw) equally as we used to teach the Surah of the Quran al-Karim". Imam az-Zuhri of the generation that met the companions and reportedly the first to record hadith in writing likewise said, "In studying the battles (of Rasulallah) lies the knowledge of this world as well as the akhirah." This is the value of studying these battles.

The army of 3000 men made preparations to leave. Al-Nu'man bin Fanhas, a Jewish citizen of the Islamic State, came and stood with the men as Rasulallah (saw) was giving them their orders. He (saw) said, "Zayd bin Haritha will be commander and if Zayd should be killed, then it will be Ja'far bin Abu Talib. If Jafar is killed, then Abdullah bin Rawahah will be commander. If he should be killed, then the Muslims should choose one from among themselves to appoint over them."

Al-Nu'man then said, "Abu al-Qasim, if you were a prophet and were to name them in such a way, whether few of many in number, they would all be killed. When the prophets of Bani Israil named a commander and then went on to name his successors if he should be killed, then they would all be killed, even if they named a hundred." He told Zayd bin Haritha, "Attend to your affairs. For you will never return, if Muhammad is a Prophet." Zayd replied, "I do testify that he is a prophet, a man of truth and piety; may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him."

May Allah (swt) be pleased with Zayd, for Abu Hurayrah (ra) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said:

((من مات ولم يغزو ولم يحدث نفسه بغزو مات على شعبة من نفاق))

**"One who died but did not fight in the way of Allah nor did he express any desire (or determination) for Jihad died the death of a hypocrite"** [Muslim, 4696]

As the men were bidding farewell to the Muslims, Abdullah bin Rawahah (ra) started to weep. When people asked him why, he replied, "By Allah! It is not for my love for this life or my affection for you; I heard Rasulallah (saw) reciting the ayah in Allah's Kitab which mentions the hellfire and says:

وَإِنْ مِنْكُمْ إِلَّا وَارِدُهَا كَانَ عَلَى رَبِّكَ حَتْمًا مَقْضِيًّا

**"And there is not one of you but shall come to it; this is an unavoidable decree of your Lord which must be accomplished."** [TMQ: Maryam: 71]

Abdullah b Rawahah, explained; "I do not know how I will be able to escape from it once I've gone into it." The Muslims then said to him, "May Allah accompany you and protect you and return you all to us in safety." Abdullah b Rawahah replied to this in poetry: "But I ask ar-Rahman for forgiveness, and a large wound that bleeds profusely. Or a spear from a warrior armed with one that goes through my intestines and my liver, So that it will be said when people pass by my grave, 'Allah gave him guidance as a warrior, and he behaved well'"

The army left before the time of Salat-ul-Jumma. Abdullah bin Rawahah stayed behind and went to the Masjid. Rasulallah (saw) asked him,

((فخلف ابن رواحة يجمع مع النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم فرآه النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم فقال ما خلفك قال أجمع معك قال لعدوة أو روضة في سبيل الله خير من الدنيا وما فيها))

**"What keeps you back?"** He answered "I wanted to attend the Jumma Salah with you." He (saw) replied **"To go forth (to battle) in the morning or the evening is better than the world and all inside it"** or in another narration, **"Were you to spend all there is on the earth you would not attain their departure."**

The 3000 strong army of Zayd proceeded and camped at Ma'an in Syria. There news reached

them that the Roman Emperor, Heraclius, had encamped nearby with a force of 100,000 Romans and with them was a 'coalition of the willing' of another 100,000 from other countries. The Muslims camped at Ma'an for two days to discuss the matter. Some of them said "We should send a message to Rasulallah (saw) and tell him of the size of our enemy force. He will then either reinforce us or give us some order we can carry out."

Abdullah bin Rawahah, did not accept that, he encouraged his brothers by saying - "Men, what you dislike is what you have come forth to seek - shuhadah (martyrdom)!. We are not fighting by means of our numbers or strength; we are combating them only with our Deen by which Allah has honoured us. Go forth, it will only result in one of two good outcomes - victory or martyrdom!" By this the army was encouraged and they went forward to the battle.

Clearly Abdullah bin Rawahah was enthused and determined to fight in the cause of Allah - On the way to battle, Abdullah bin Rawahah spoke out in a poem which included the following verse, "Many a contented woman our spears rendered divorced, Women who can remarry or stay widowed!"

Abdullah bin Rawahah, had taken with him, on this journey, Zayd bin Arqam, an orphan who was living in his care. Zayd bin Arqam, who had been riding in Abdullah's saddlebag, narrated that at night he heard Abdullah bin Rawahah recite the following lines of verse; "... The Muslims having come will leave me in Syria where I long to stay ... There I will not worry about plants sprouting, nor about palm trees whose roots need water."

Zayd bin Arqam (ra) said "When I heard these words from him I began to cry and he tapped me and said, 'Why be sad, silly boy, why be sad if Allah (swt) grants me martyrdom and you ride home on your own saddle?'" [i.e. you will not have to share]

The eagerness Abdullah bin Rawahah and his companions had for martyrdom and the mentality with which they marched forth to the battle in Syria. Allah (swt) the Highest Majesty put them to test as he surely will put us to test. Allah (swt) tested Abdullah bin Rawahah to see if he would back up his words and enthusiasm with action,

patience and perseverance.

The army advanced to the outskirts of al-Balqa. There they were met by the Roman and coalition troops of Heraclius, at one of the villages of al-Balqa called Mushaarif. The enemy advanced and the Muslims arranged their forces to meet the enemy in two flanks.

The noble companion Abu Hurrayrah (ra) narrated; "I was present at the battle of Muta' when the kuffar approached, we saw such equipment, weapons, horses, brocade, silk and gold as no one ever before witnessed! I was dazzled. Thabit b Arqam said to me, 'Abu Hurayrah, don't you think that's a huge force?' 'Yes' I replied, 'But you were not present at Badr with us, superiority in numbers would not defeat us'"

The forces then engaged and the battle commenced. Zayd bin Haritha took the banner. Rasulallah (saw) told us that Satan came to him making life seem good to him and death hateful, making life on earth attractive to him. He said "Now that Iman is firmly planted in the hearts of the believers, would you make life on earth seem good to me?" He then fought with phenomenal courage and heroism unmatched, bearing the banner of Rasulallah (saw), until he perished amidst the enemy spears that ripped his body when he assaulted the enemy. In this way he set a blazing example for those who followed, May Allah be pleased with Zayd bin Haritha and let him be a real role model for the Muslim soldiers fighting in the battlefields.

Ja'far (ra) then picked up the banner and fought with bravery. We learn from this that the Muslims commanders fight from the front rather than the back of the army. Ja'far held the banner in his right hand which was cut off. Even then he took it in his left hand and continued battle until that too and was cut off.

Then with incredible courage and unflinching faith, he hugged the banner to himself with his bleeding upper arms. Facing death and in defiance of his enemies he then hamstringed his horse, launching himself into the enemy until his body was cut in two by the Romans, while he was reciting the lines,

"Hail to paradise approaching, its waters fine and cool. The punishment of the Romans is near, unbelievers of doubtful decent. It is up to me to strike them when we clash"

It is said that Allah (swt) has rewarded Ja'far for his valour by giving him two wings in Jannah with which he could fly wherever he wished. Ibn Umar (ra) said that on that day he stood over the body of Ja'far and he had 50 wounds made by spears or swords and none of them were in his back. This Warrior of Allah only advanced and did not retreat. May Allah be pleased with Ja'far, the one who has two wings, and make our courage and bravery like his.

When Ja'far was killed, Abdullah bin Rawahah took up the banner and advanced with it, on his horse. Then he began to waver and to hesitate and so he spoke the following verses to himself;

"I swear, my soul, that you will indeed do battle or be forced to do battle. Even though the men are shouting and screaming, why is it I see you hating paradise? For long you have been at ease; are you anything but a drop of liquid inside a skin bag?" My soul, even if you are not killed you'll die anyway; This is the fate of death you are exposed to. What you hoped for has been given to you; if you do what they both did, you will have been well directed" [referring to his two companions Zayd and Ja'far].

Then he dismounted and his cousin came up carrying a meat bone saying "Take strength from this, you have suffered much recently". He took it and took a bite out of it. Then he heard a great commotion among the fighting men. He asked himself "are you still alive?", then he threw away the bone, took up his sword and advanced, fighting until he was killed. May Allah (swt) be pleased with Abdullah bin Rawahah. From this we learn a very great lesson indeed. A lesson which is even more pertinent today as we live in times when the Islamic culture is not dominant in the society in which we live. Let us reflect upon the actions of Abdullah bin Rawahah one of the greatest companions of Rasulallah (saw). Let us ask Allah (swt) that He grant us the amazing ability to reconcile all our fears and hesitation with the Islamic culture regarding every action that we set out to perform.

Back in Madina it has been narrated that Rasulallah (saw) could see the events taking place and was on the mimbar (pulpit of the masjid) narrating the story to the Ansar. He said,

((أخذ الراية زيد بن حارثة فقاتل بها حتى قتل شهيدا ، ثم أخذها جعفر فقاتل بها حتى قتل شهيدا ، قال ثم صمت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم حتى تغيرت وجوه الأنصار ، وطنوا أنه قد كان في عبد الله بن رواحة بعض ما يكرهون ثم قال ثم أخذها عبد الله بن رواحة فقاتل بها حتى قتل شهيدا ، ثم قال لقد رفعوا إلي في الجنة ، فيما يرى النائم على سرر من ذهب فرأيت في سرير عبد الله بن رواحة أزوارا عن سريري صاحبيه فقلت : عم هذا ؟ فقيل لي : مضيا وتردد عبد الله بعض التردد ثم مضى))

**"Zayd bin Haritha took the banner and fought with it until he was martyred. Ja'far then took it and fought, bearing it until he was martyred,"** after that Rasulallah (saw) became silent and the faces of the Ansar changed as they wondered whether there was anything terrible about Abdullah bin Rawahah. Then he said, **"Abdullah bin Rawahah has taken it now and fought until**

**martyrdom. They have been raised up to heaven - I saw in a vision - upon couches of gold. I noticed that the couch of Abdullah bin Rawahah was slanting away from those of his companions and I asked 'Why is this?' I was told, 'They went straight ahead, whereas Abdullah bin Rawahah hesitated somewhat before proceeding'."**

His (saw) eyes then brimmed with tears and went on to say

وعيناه تذرغان حتى أخذ الراية سيف من  
سيف الله حتى فتح الله عليهم

**"one of the Swords of Allah took it (the banner) until Allah gave them victory."** He was referring to the noble companion and military genius, Khalid bin Walid (ra). This was the first time that Khalid (ra), who had recently converted to Islam, was called the Sword of Allah (Sayfullah). Khalid bin Walid said, "At the battle of Muta', nine swords were broken in my hand, I finally held only a Yemeni broad-sword."

When the banner fell from Abdullah bin Rawahah, Thabit ibn Arqam picked it up and cried, "O Muslims, do rally around one man," remembering Rasulallah's (saw) command to elect another and the importance of being united under a General. That General was Khalid bin Walid who rallied his fighters around him.

When Khalid (ra) took the banner he did not engage the enemy again that night. During the night, Khalid ibn al-Walid (ra) drew up a shrewd withdrawal plan having realised the magnitude of the enemy's army compared to the meagre numbers left to him. Following his carefully drawn up plan, next morning, he attacked. Soldiers at the rear made a calamitous noise and he exchanged the forces of the left and the right flanks. Then enemy were no longer familiar with their banners and disposition, and in conjuncture with the noise of his rearguard, believing them to have been re-enforced, were frightened and refrained from attacking the Muslims, they were even elated when Khalid did not attack them. Then Khalid withdrew and took his troops back to Madinah, not victorious, nor defeated, but having achieved quite a considerable feat.

The leaders of this battle all knew they were marching against a formidable force who outnumbered them in manpower and technology, yet they fought heroically, not deserting the battlefield, nor turning their backs for worldly gain. By this, the honour of the Muslims and Islam was safeguarded. The proof of this was when Rasulallah (saw) returned to fight the Romans in the battle of Tabuk. When the Romans considered how the small band of Muslims had fought and that now they were greater in force and the Messenger of Allah (saw) was amongst them, their hearts were filled with fear and they retreated giving the Muslims a bloodless victory against the worlds leading superpower of the time. z

Ahmad Jassat



# EXPOSITION OF CAPITALISM - THE CORRUPTED CREED [PART 3] DEMOCRACY

**D**emocracy literally comes from the Greek term *Demos Cratus*, which means "People sovereignty". The concept itself had its origins with the Greek philosophers and thinkers. The system of *Polis*-which theoretically meant that everyone was entitled the opportunity to vote-became the model political system for major powers like the Greeks. The implementation of the democratic system resulted in many problems, which caused many of the Greek philosophers who founded the concept to reject it altogether as impractical. It was only revived by the European nations as a political system after they removed the church from the political authority they shared with the despotic monarchies. Thus the vacuum that was created, was filled by this system.

Since then The West has adopted Democracy as its political system. The democratic system is not a complete ideology by itself, but just the name of the political system adopted by the secular nations. A common misconception is that Democracy is unique to the capitalist nations. Even the former communist Soviet Union claimed that its political system was democratic; we have the communist North Korea formally known as the Democratic People's-Republic of Korea. It is claimed that its political system was democratic in nature because they maintained that the power to legislate lay with the people or a group from

amongst them i.e. The Communist Party.

Although many shapes and forms of Democracy exist, they all state, or claim to state that the sovereignty to legislate laws and systems resides with the people. Thus, the underlying factor of all democratic states is that the sovereignty, or the right to legislate and act as the source of laws and codes, is ultimately delegated to human beings.

## THE VEIL OF DEMOCRACY

It should be noted that the Greek philosophers who invented the concept of Democracy were also the first to criticise and even reject it. For example Plato believed that the selection of rulers could best be made through the prolonged training of men and women, he did not believe in wisdom of the masses and preferred rule by the select few or by an enlightened one.

If those who invented Democracy took this attitude towards their idea and system, then it doesn't require much research to realise that Democracy is a failure. The primary reason is because it puts man as the source for legislation. By putting man as the legislator, he is unable to design a system of laws and rules to organise humanity and address human problems in the correct way, any system that relies on the human

being as the source of laws and systems is bound to fail, as contradiction, disparity and differences will occur.

Thus we see nations built upon this basis failing to solve problems correctly, and inherent problems existing within them.

The Capitalist system in practice leads to disparity and contradictions. Experts are assigned to solve problems. Some of these are normal human problems. Others are problems that the system itself has generated. The result is that loopholes and get-out clauses proliferate dramatically.

A contradiction can be seen with the then UK Home Secretary Jack Straw's commitment to keep Myra Hindley locked up for the rest of her life. The original sentencing judge stated that 'life' meant, "...a very long time". In 1985, this was set at thirty years by the then Home Secretary Leon Britten. Now over thirty years after the original sentencing, 'life' suddenly means 'for life'. The right to appeal for parole for 'lifers' is enshrined within the British legal system. The sentence of 'life' meaning 'for life' contradicts British and European laws and conventions. The 'Moors Murders' have remained an emotive issue in the UK solely due to the tabloid manipulation of the masses. Hindley's deeds were hideous, but it is the

press that have sustained her infamy in the minds of the British people. Three and a half decades later, the press still titillate their readers with the gory details of the trial in a manner that has no relationship to the academia of the legal process. She ended up dying in prison. Thus, saving David Blunkett from facing the vexed question.

In the realm of government the problems that humans have created for themselves are numerous. The US has a relatively young system. It was framed far away from the bitter racial and religious prejudices of Europe at that time. The 'New World' consisted of many peoples that had purposely fled from religious intolerance. The Americans had the opportunity to take a long hard look at the European democracies. They attempted to take the best from Europe and to think deeply about forging a utopia. The American constitution has been a paradigm and an inspiration for many nations that gained independence from colonialism.

The American system, it may be said, was carefully planned and thought out by rational, intelligent, well-intentioned lateral thinkers. Yet, we see the reality of America is that it is a complete mess.

Some of the main issues that were mulled and mused over to the greatest depth were enshrined in 'The Bill of Rights'. The most famous of which was the First Amendment; freedom of religion, speech, press, protest and petition. For two centuries this has been quoted, used and abused in defence of many issues that even the average American considers damaging; for example, pornography and white supremacist material, whereas at the same time, these rights which allow such things, are ignored when it came to the Muslims incarcerated post 9/11. When this is linked with the Second and Fourth Amendments, we see the chaos that these principles gave birth

too. These being, the right to bear arms and, "the right to secure in their persons and houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures". The interpretation of these amendments led to the emergence of the 'Branch-Davidian' sect in Waco, Texas. The whole 'Waco Incident' was the direct result of the very things that the founding fathers held to be so sacred. The US has always been the home of weirdo cults, crackpot militias and right-wing lunatics.

Satisfactory solutions to human problems, such as crime, have been elusive to The West for all the above reasons. They have reached a point of complete desperation. Criminologists, psychologists and sociologists rack their brains to come up with satisfactory solutions. For example, to combat crime in Britain, they have just extended a trial of electronic tagging of criminals. However, the success statistics have not yet been published. We should not be surprised if this gives a greater than 80% re-offending rate as was seen with safari holidays, softly-softly, short-sharp-shock and confronting the victims of crime and so on. None of the methods cooked up by humans can ever produce satisfactory solutions. This is because the root remains the same; that man is the legislator.

### THE CAPITALISTS' TAKEOVER OF GOVERNANCE

If we look to every human society, it requires laws and rules to regulate and organise it. These rules and laws necessitate that it has a ruling system in order that it executes and administers the laws of the people, and the final decision is left with the one individual. In Islam, the ruler is the Khaleefah. His decision-making is limited to only the extraction of solutions from the Qur'an and Sunnah. His personal interests, or anything else for that matter, have a non-existent impact in rule making.

Let us compare this to states of The West. The governments are linked decisively, to the strongest factions in society, which are the Capitalists. Interest groups and individuals with big money hold the sway in policy-making, and in some cases are part of government.

The Capitalists, in essence control government policy, whether it is foreign policy or domestic policy. They influence this by dictating to politicians the policy to make. This has reached to the extent that the Capitalists are forming governments. A brief look to the present US administration reveals that its members were either heads of massive corporations, or sitting in high positions in the firms. By looking at just a few figures within the government we find George W Bush, who had a seat on the oil company

Harken Energy, Dick Cheney (Vice-President) was CEO of Halliburton Industries; an oil services company that had dealings with Iraq. Former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, was CEO of Alcoa the world's largest Aluminium manufacturer. Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans was CEO of Tom Brown Inc. a \$1.2 billion oil and gas company. Donald Rumsfeld was CEO of G.D. Searle, a pharmaceutical company. Colin Powell was on the board of directors of Gulfstream Aerospace and AOL, and so the list continues. This is not unique to the US, but endemic to all the capitalist states. The UK has had Ministers of State such as Lord Simon of Highbury, who was chairman of BP, and then became Minister of State for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe. The Capitalists further exert influence through funding the political parties, by giving huge donations to election campaigns, by sponsoring conferences, etc these special 'favours' are returned with patronage, lucrative contracts, and direct policy initiatives.

This state of affairs is not unique to one political party or the other, but just a reality of Democracy in The West.

This has led to despondency by many within The West, to the extent that voting turnout barely reach above 50%. Tony Blair's "landslide" election looks much less triumphant when you consider that 41 percent of the population didn't even show up to cast a ballot. While the media tried to portray the election as a tense battle between "left-of-centre" Blair and his arch-rival Conservative opposition, many voters saw the parties as virtually indistinguishable.

Blair spent less on health and education than Thatcher, and under Blair's "true radicalism" approach, the gap between rich and poor has grown even faster than under former Prime Minister John Major, a Conservative. So when faced with what Margaret Thatcher ominously called TINA, subverting the majority into thinking There Is No Alternative, many British voters just gave up.

Islam is the only system that is immune from prejudice and bias stemming from man. Nor as a source is it at the mercy of man's limited knowledge. This is the system that is from Allah (swt), our Creator. Allah (swt) is the one who created us with so many needs and desires, but He (swt) is the one without needs. Allah (swt) knows best our very nature. Nothing of creation escapes his knowledge. Allah (swt) designed us and, therefore, is the best designer of a system for us to live by. Surely His (swt) system is the only system for man to live by. z

*Asif Khan*

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