

Globalisation and religious fundamentalism

G.C. Conference
2002

What is globalisation & where did it come from?

- ❖ The Wall symbol of the old world system, the cold war a divided / blocked off world.



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What is globalisation & where did it come from?

- ❖ Globalisation is the No Walls World



- ❖ The Web symbol of the new world system, World Wide Web, the joined up world, integration.

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What is globalisation & where did it come from?

- ❖ Communism has lost, Capitalism has won outright
- ❖ The Cold War marked by the document, Globalisation by the deal.
- ❖ Nation states are loosing power, Trans National Corporations [TNCs] are gaining power.
- ❖ How has this happened?
 - Technology
 - Finance
 - Information



What is globalisation & where did it come from?

- ❖ The world has shrunk: in late 19 century from large to medium, in the 1990s it shrank again from medium to small.
- ❖ All the world's trade in 1949, all the world's foreign exchange in 1979 & all the world's phone calls in 1984 all now happen in a single day. A year in a day. Welcome to the fast world. Keep up!
- ❖ Globalisation is “the ever-increasing integration of national economies into the global economy through trade and investment rules and privatisation, aided by technological advances” Colin Hines
- ❖ It is “Market Fundamentalism” George Soros
- ❖ America is the Globalisation's engine, is it also its homogenising culture?

What is Fundamentalism and where did it come from?

Definition of Fundamentalism

A cluster of religious movements concerned about the contemporary marginalization of religion and its public role in society, claiming a divinely revealed inerrant scripture as their sole ultimate authority for all spheres of life, mainly literalist in their handling of the source scriptures, radical and rigorous in terms of contemporary application of these scriptures, extremist [though not necessarily violent] in terms of their methods, and exclusivist in their views of completing ideologies.

Dr. David Zeidan: The Resurgence of Religion:
Doctoral Thesis, University of London, September 2000 page 45.

The Land of Islam

Where the government is working Lil-Allah il-Azeem. [Great God]

Where above their own desires is Qur'an el-Kareem. [generous]

Where the law of Allah is the law that's supreme.

That's the land, that's the land, that's the land of my dream.

Where the spring is forever, it's the spring of Eman,[faith]

Where the flowers are the words of the beautiful Qur'an.

Where the melodies are sweet, in the sound of Adan.[call to prayer]

That's the land, that's the land of Afghanistan.

Where Mujahideen are safe, from the pressures of the West.

They're the best of the Ummah, they are treated as the best.

Where they care about Allah only, and nobody else.

That's the land, that's the land, that's the land that is blessed.

The Land of Islam

Where the Prophet said will be, the supporters of Mahdi.^[awaited prophet]
Where the banners black emerge, as has happened, you can see
Where we are supposed to go, now is everyone ready?
For the land, for the land, of the True Mahdi's army.

Where every good is welcomed, to Allah they are grateful,
Appreciating blessings, the people are not wasteful.
Where cherished is their faith, and sins are very hateful.
That's the land, that's the land, Where you can be very useful.

Where like the Prophet Muhammad, they sit on earthen floor,
No gold or silver plating, no carving on the door.
Where life is very simple, its simplicity does lure,
That's the land, that's the land where are blessings many more.

The Land of Islam

Where no alcohol, no drugs, and no rapists anymore.
Where the women now are safe, and their honor is secure.
Like buds that haven't opened, in their cover they are pure.
That's the land, that's the land,
Where much good there is in store.

Where women now are wealthy, their wealth is their Islam.
Their jewel is their modesty, their shyness is their charm.
Protected on the streets, and now safe from any harm.
In the land, in the land, in the land of Islam.

The Land of Islam

Where they welcome the restriction, really a benediction.
It's like a vaccination, for their good and their protection.
From problems it's a shield, and from evils a deflection.
Where the medicine of God will give treatment and prevention.
That's the land, that's the land, where to go we have intention.

Where you witness not the fitna,^[civil strife]
no shamelessness around.

Yet love is felt in everything, its meaning has been found.
It's felt in every grain of dust, it's felt in every sound.
It's the purest love of Allah, the Love that does abound.
In the land, in the land, in the land that I love.
Connected from this earth to Paradise above.

The Land of Islam

- ❖ What are your initial reactions to this poem?
- ❖ Are there any apparent reactions to Globalisation?
- ❖ Does anything parallel with your Christian desires for society, if so what?
- ❖ What insights does this poem give you to militant Islamic fundamentalism?

Generalisations Miss The Diversity Of Islam At It's Heart

“On the Islamic side, mainline groups view the struggle [jihad] mainly in ideological terms and advocate involvement in civil society, charitable work, and democratic politics to change the evil situation. Among radicals, jahiliyya, takfir, and jihad, are the concepts used to justify terrorism, armed resistance and violent takeovers of government from corrupt and apostate regimes. While some see all of contemporary society as apostate and legitimate targets of violence, others claim it is only the rulers, regimes and active helpers that may be targeted.” Dr. David Zeidan

Where Does All This Anger Come From?

1. Overriding reason is a sense of being Humiliated and Threatened; a great sense of shame.

- ❖ For over 1000 years Islamic empires were the superpowers.
- ❖ Muhammad established a state and his followers established an empire, no theology of suffering, Islam is true and therefore must rule.
- ❖ Defeated by the Western colonial powers which divided the Muslim world between themselves.
- ❖ Defeated by the Jews who Rule over the third holiest sight in Islam.

Where Does All This Anger Come From?

2. Israeli - Palestinian Conflict

- ❖ Feel cheated by the British and US broken promises given in W.W.1 and W.W.II
- ❖ Truman's manipulation of the UN to give the Jews $\frac{1}{2}$ the land when they owned only 12% and were less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the population.
- ❖ Enraged as they watch on their T.Vs Palestinian Muslims killed by American missiles, F16s, and other weaponry purchased with \$3 billion of American military aid each year.
- ❖ Where were the Americans when we wanted justice and implementation of UN resolutions?

Where Does All This Anger Come From?

3. Ascendancy of the West

- ❖ Islam has the superior culture but the West has superior power.
- ❖ Eroded morality with drugs, alcohol, sexual immorality, and worst of all secularism.
- ❖ Corrupted Muslim leaders to adopt Un-Islamic, Western models of society.

4. The West & especially America has called for democracy but empowered corrupt unpopular regimes in Muslim lands.

- ❖ Backed the Shah in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait
- ❖ Built Saudi bases

Where Does All This Anger Come From?

- ❖ In 1998 Osama bin Laden protested: "For more than seven years the U.S. has been occupying the lands of Islam in the holiest of its territories, Arabia, plundering its riches, overwhelming its rulers, humiliating its people, threatening its neighbors, and using its bases in the peninsula as a spearhead to fight against the neighboring Islamic people."
- ❖ After the bomb blasts that killed 24 Americans in Saudi Arabia in 1995 and 1996, Bin Laden is quoted as saying, "They have raised the nation's head high and washed away a great part of the shame that has enveloped us."

What Is Our Christian Response ?

- ❖ Remember that God loves fundamentalists.
- ❖ We should build bridges not walls, we actually have a lot in common, let's build on that.
- ❖ The war on terrorism must include a war on the causes for popular support for terrorism.
- ❖ Work for just global regulation of the "free" market. We are called to love people and use money, not the other way round.
- ❖ Our call for justice cannot be selective.
- ❖ Some walls, both spiritual and protectionist, are good.