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Roots of Terrorism

28

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By

Dr T.H.Chowdary

Chairman : Pragna Bharati, Andhra Pradesh
Director : Center for Telecom Management & Studies
Fellow: Tata Consultancy Services

Former: Information Technology Advisor:
Government of Andhra Pradesh
Chairman & Managing Director, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd
Advisor: Satyam Computer Services

Plot No. 8, P&T Colony, Karkhana (Secunderabad),
Hyderabad- 500 009.

Phone : +91 (40) 6667-1191 (Off) & 2784-3121 (Res)

Fax : +91 (40) 6667-1111 M: 98 490 6 7359

E-Mail: hanuman.chowdary@tcs.com

Website: www.drthchowdary.net

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PERILS INDIA IS FACING

- Furious growth of population among the poor and the uneducated.
- Growing unemployment.
- Populist competitive politics promising increasing give -aways to the "poor" without measures to enable the poor to quit poverty.
- Foreign inspired and funded religious conversions , infusing divisiveness , disaffection, intolerance and social strife .
- Intensification of caste consciousness and consolidation and competitive claims to larger degrees of backwardness.
- Falling standards in education - among teachers, examining and degree awarding bodies , often invoking "social justice".
- Maoist – Communist , Peoples Guerrilla Armies waging battles against the Indian State since the mid 1970s and lack of political will to disarm and disincentive them.
- Terrorism and holy war inspired, injected and funded by fundamentalist States and non-state actors believing in conquest by and conversion to the only true faith and its God.
- Denigration of literature and history that instill values, morality, patriotism and brother-hood and substitution of them by "sociology" that promotes caste and class conflict .
- Subversion of democracy by rearing and raising hereditary leaderships and proprietORIZATION of political parties , many based on castes and regionalism .
- Infiltration of nationals of other States and hosting of them by some locals to score demographic preponderance .

The Roots of Terrorism

Dr T.H.Chowdary*

“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.”

-UNESCO Constitution.

Terrorism is not new in history but its causes and aims had been different over time. Archduke Ferdinand of the Austrian royalty was shot dead by a Serbian at **Sarajevo** and that precipitated the First World War. Lord Louis Mountbatten was assassinated by a terrorist of the Irish Republican Army. Presidents Abraham Lincoln and John F.Kennedy of the USA, Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi of India were assassinated; Uddham Singh and Bhagat Singh assassinated. Michael O'Dwyer, Governor of Punjab and John P.Saunders an Asst. Superintendent of Police India's British rulers in Lahore in Dec 1928. In all these instances, the motives were political, nationalist not religious. Political and nationalist motivations are aroused by humans. Currently, assassination, beheadings and death wrought by bomb blasts and wars aroused by religious faith and prophetic injunctions are of a different class- they are for the defence and glory and triumph of the religion of the terrorist and are claimed to have been sanctioned by their God who obligated the faithful to convert others, save others by conversion and taught that others must be subordinated to their rule by faith. God's directions are more powerful than man's, however exalted a man is. Certain religions have Prophets and Holy Books and the content of the Holy Books are believed to be words of God, and His commands. The faithful's conduct and belief and actions are guided by the institution of that religion; the functionaries of those institutions. In the case of two Abrahamic religions, Churches and mosques are the institutions whose functionaries (Pope, Cardinals, Arch Bishops, Bishops and Pastors in Christianity; mosques and madrassas; Imams in Islam) instruct and inspire the faithfuls by expositions on and annotations of and inferences from the god's words in the Holy Book. Therefore, violence, terrorism and holy wars arising out of religious faith are intense and are believed to be in fulfilment of duty as ordained by

God in the belief of the terrorists. Indeed, such terrorists are proud in asserting and proclaiming that it is in fulfilment of their religious duty and for the defence and prevalence of their religion, that they are carrying out their battles and killing the enemies of their God.

2.1 Therefore, **those who want to put an end to terrorism, must go to the roots of terrorism** – are they in the Holy Books; in the Chronicles of the life and actions of the Prophets and history of how the religion(s) of the terrorists gained dominion and in the sermons and lessons in schools of the guardians of the religion(s) professed by the terrorists.

2.2 Islam is unique among the revealed religions. Its Prophet not only preached but also wielded weapons and established a government, gave laws governing his religious society and all as directed by his God. The Prophet is believed to have lived such ideal life and so acted that the faithful endeavour to live and act like him.

The assassination of the Asma bint Merwan¹, the poetess who ridiculed the Prophet, and the treacherous murder of Ka'b ibn al Ashraf Ben an-Nadir (“who will ease me of the son of AL-Ashraf? for he troubleth me” asked the Prophet. The severed head of ka'b was cast at the feet of the Prophet)^{2*}

“The strong religious impulse under which they (the assassins) acted hurried them into excesses of barbarous treachery and justified that treachery by the interests of Islam and approval of the Deity”.³

1. Page 239; 2 and 3 – Page 248
The Life of Mahomet by Sir William Muir, 3rd Edition
1894 first Indian Reprint; 1992 by Voice of India
2/18 Ansari Road, New Delhi- 110002

*show that assassination and treachery to the revilers of the Prophet have his sanction.

3. No living religion and its Prophet(s) command such intense faith and infallibility as Islam. And all terrorists, the jihadis in the last and current century have invariably claimed that their terrorist actions are in fulfillment of their religious duty to defend and promote their religion, Islam. “Secularists” in India, politicians fishing for votes pontificate that “***terrorists have no religion***”; jihadi terrorists are falsely claiming that they are Muslims; Islam is a religion of peace and therefore those self proclaimed jihadis and bombers and beheaders are not Muslims’ and so on.

3.1 Intellectuals, those who want to educate and lead societies and nations must be honest and profound. How did the Abrahamic religions arise; how did they spread by peaceful preaching and persuasion or by conquest and compulsion and enticements and how in current times, they are gaining converts (share in the religious markets).

3.2 The following essays give a peep into the roots of jihadi terrorism; examine whether the jihadis are in fact acting as their Holy Book tells and what they are instructed and by whom they are inspired and what civil societies and secular governments should do so that the seed-beds of jihadi terrorism do not flourish and nourish jihadi terrorists.

3.3 It is well to remember the eternally true thought of the great statesman, Edmund Burke: “**All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing**”. Good men should also remember the stirring call of Sir Winston Churchill :

“If you will not fight for the right when you can easily win without bloodshed; if you will not fight when your victory will be sure and not too costly; you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a small chance of survival. There may even be a worse case: you may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves.”

4. As never before, the United States and Europe especially intellectual classes there are having to inquire into the roots of terrorism waged by Muslims in the name of Islam. The destruction of the World Trade Center by using the United State’s airplanes themselves as missiles by the Islamic terrorists inspired and directed by Al Qaeda led by Osama Bin Laden, triggered this unprecedented inquiry into Islamic terrorism. There have been terrorism and terrorist depredations earlier also against US citizens and properties. But they were all not on the mainland of the US but elsewhere, in the middle East, in Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

5. Scholar, John A Lynn has in his excellent book, “Battle” - a History of Combat and Culture” traced how and in what manner battles were waged from ancient Greece to modern America. Therein he described the terrorism and cruelty that the warriors for various faiths, causes and reasons indulged in. He showed that **terrorism and violence are rooted in the culture and philosophy of their practitioners**. That is why scholars and leaders must search the sources of the religion and the ideology in whose name and for the glory of which, terrorists are indulging in their barbaric actions.

6. Terrorism practised by anarchists and communists has been well known to the world. But that is inspired by and rooted in political belief and faith and ideas like communism. There were enough studies of communism, its methods and its war plans in different countries at the party level and then at the state level as for example that of the former USSR. **What is common between jihadi Islamism and communism is non-reverence for life, hatred of the non-believer and sanction of violence for the realization of their aims**. Communism and Islamism each believes that it and it alone is right and true; that the believers are enjoined to propagate and convert and conquer the rest of the world to its own belief and faith . Both have been engaged in conversion and conquest.

7. Soon after the death of Prophet Mohammed, successive Caliphs embarked upon conquests. Countries on the north African coast from the Red Sea to the Atlantic and of Central Asia were all invaded and conquered within a few decades and almost all the conquered peoples were converted to Islam. The only exception is India where there was a bitter struggle for more than 700 years between the Islamic invaders and the native kings. India is the only country where though under the over lordship and rule of Islamic invaders for centuries not more than 20% could be converted. Un-converted were not only the nobles, educated and rich and strong but even the so called untouchables; remained faithful to their own religion, their own language, culture, faith and beliefs and modes of worship and life. The roots of Hindu thought, belief, culture and life must be so strong and rejuvenating that many Hindus preferred death and suffering and discrimination to conversion, to the religion of the conquerors.

8. Marxism and Communism triumphed in Russia in 1917 and by the end of the Second World War, the Russian communist empire, extended by conquest and or subversion of local democracies, to eastern Europe and the whole of Central Asia and the Baltic States. In an independent but not unrelated manner, the mainland of North Asia also went under communist rule. The violence by way of terrorism as well as by executions undertaken by the Communist States and their military, consumed over 20 million lives in the Soviet territories and 10 million in communist China. The victims were called “**enemies of the people**” and executed summarily. Such numbers exceeded the deaths in actual wars in which these countries were involved.

9. The Communist International (**Comintern**) was a transnational which directed the local communist parties in different countries to sub-serve the interests of imperial communist Russia. It was dissolved during the Second World War when the USSR had to become an ally of the democracies USA and UK. It was after the war, reinvented in the form of **Cominform** to once again inspire and direct communist parties in other countries. Inspired by

and instructed in Marxism as ideology and supplied with money and ammunition by the USSR or by China, or their surrogates, there were violent movements of communists in several countries spread across the globe. The threat posed by the USSR and its satellites and associate states induced the democracies to found the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in 1949 to contain communist expansion in Europe. When Great Britain led by the Labour Party became the founding member of the NATO, answering criticism of the Labour’s left wingers, their leader, **Aneurin Bevan** silenced them by saying: NATO will contain communism in Europe; it would not militarily vanquish and eliminate it. In a few decades, when enough educated, scientists, engineers, economists and sociologists are produced in the USSR, the USSR would be dissolved and communism would be discarded by the people themselves. And this is what exactly happened during 1989-’91 due to Mahatma Gorbachev’s (my title to him) glasnost. Thereafter, the former communist parties all over Europe have reformed themselves to acceptably participate in multi-party elections in a democratic milieu. They now are tamed and insignificant in the political life everywhere except in North Korea in China and Vietnam, they discarded the Marxist, Stalinist,- Maoist fervor and are efficient oligarchies.

10. Communist parties in India which were reared by the Comintern and Cominform are unable to reform; are very much in the Stalinist dogma, and their influence is declining; the steeper the decline, the greater the sectarianism and hence is the phenomenon of several communist parties in India for ex: those which have not given up violence and terrorism are under-ground and those which are tired of it, are above ground, falsely proclaiming belief in multi-party elections and democracy. There are, in India at last count, eight communist parties and over 70 front organisations among students, women, writers, artists, workers, historians etc. The above-ground leftist organizations act as providers of legal aid and exploiters of the freedoms and liberties and legalities that democracies grant, to see that least harm is done to the terrorism - practising and war- waging under-ground communists. who routinely shoot

or behead in public, whom they accuse as “police informers” and “**enemies of the people**” (a standard phrase of communist regimes / and red-guards and Moist guerilla armies).

11. The deep study and understanding of communism and the operational methods of communist parties enabled the democracies to wage a determined war against the evil empire of communism, leading to the latter’s collapse. If the evil of Islamist jihadism and terrorism that it has unleashed world -wide is to be vanquished, the same extensive study and correct understanding of the roots of violence and terrorism of the islamist jihadis must be made. Democracies could not have waged a successful war against the evil communist empire if they believed that communism is good and peaceful but that communists and their parties only were bad. The communists and their parties practised terrorism and violence and subversion and insurgency **because their ideology glorified them and used them as instruments.** Is there anything like that in Islam is what scholars must make a deep study of. Undoubtedly, just as there were various sects in communism like for example; Stalinists, Titoists, Maoists, Trotskyists, there are several sects in Islam also and many groups of terrorists spread across the world based in lands like Palestine, Pakistan, Bangla Desh, Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan, Libya, Indonesia, Philippines, the Balkans etc. Almost all of them are funded by sources in the oil-rich Kingdoms and Shaikhdoms. Telecommunications, computers, Internet and such devices of technology have made the terrorists into globally-knit and world-wide operating outfits, as never before.

12. Just as Das Capital and the Communist Manifesto are the “Bible” i.e. the source book for communism and just as the writings of Lenin and Stalin prescribed the practices that communists had to adopt, the holy Quran is the source book of Islam. The Hadit i.e. the practices and sayings of the Prophet illustrate how the Quoran has to be practised in real life and be lived by Muslims. Therefore, scholars who want to find where the roots of terrorism of the Islamic jihadis are, must study these. So should the history of the

battles and wars waged by the Islamic conquerors and what they practised on the defeated people should be studied. This is what exactly the scholars in the democratic countries have done regarding what the communist rulers and parties have done in the States they gained control of. It is by a profound understanding of the practices of the communist rulers like Stalin and Mao and their surrogates in the satellite states, that the leaders of democracy were able to conclude that Communism is an evil and that it should be contained so that it could reform itself or implode because of its own inadequacies, especially in relation to the rest of the world.

13. It is remarkable that no founder of a world faith like Christianity or Buddhism or Zoroastrianism ever wielded any weapons and led soldiers in battles even when they were tormented by their adversaries. In fact, Jesus Christ submitted himself to be crucified. Prophet Mohammad was unique in the sense that he had to take to weapons and create and lead armies to defend himself and his faithfuls from their foes as well as to subdue and get others to his faith. It is on record that he himself has lead his followers into many battles (eg. Badr). It, therefore, appears that either in defense of the faith or for its propagation and to gain dominion over others, violence and wars are legitimate in Islam. It is noteworthy that the elimination of persons who were held to be slandering the prophet was also sanctioned by or had the approval of him. A satirist, Asma, daughter of Marwan, mother of five sons, who taunted the people of Medinah with obeying a stranger (Prophet Mohammed), was assassinated at dead of night in fulfillment of a wish that the Prophet be delivered of the satirist [P 239, Mohammed and the Rise of Islam; by D S Margoliouth). Some scholars have pointed out a number of Ayats in the Holy Koran which interpreted and annotated in a fundamentalist way incite discord between and jihad against, non-believers (Reference to these can be found in, among other scholarly works, “**The Calcutta Quran Petition**, published by the Voice of India, New Delhi). For details please go through the below given links: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Calcutta_Quran_Petition
<http://www.faithfreedom.org/oped/Sundaram60315.htm>

14. The conquest of parts of India for some time by the Islam-propagating invaders has been held by the philosopher historian Will Durant as one of the most tragic. In his book, Story of Civilization he observed **“The Mohamedan Conquest of India” is probably the bloodiest story in history. It is a discouraging tale, for its evident moral is that civilization is a precarious thing, whose delicate complex of order and liberty, culture and peace may at any time be overthrown by barbarians invading from without or multiplying within”**.

15. In India during nearly eight centuries of battles, between the Islamist invaders and native Hindu rulers, the absolute abandon bordering on barbarity with which the defeated soldiers were butchered and their women taken into harems is a sordid story. That shows the ease with which cruelty can be practised and bloodshed and lives taken **in the belief that all these were permissible for propagation of the faith**. Perhaps these practices are what have led to irreverence for life, especially life of the non-believers.

16.1 In the period 1922 to 1947 when the Independence movement in India was being participated in by more and more ordinary Hindus and imperial Britain was getting forced to concede more and more of representative democratic Government, Muslim separatism from the Hindus was becoming stronger on two counts. Long ago (in 1888) Sir Syed Ahamad said that democracy would mean rule of the majority i.e. of Hindus over the minority Muslims and therefore it was not acceptable. Secondly, Muslims, with small exceptions did not participate in the various civil disobedience movements launched by the Indian National Congress against British Government for wresting freedom. In 1919, Muslim leaders Mualana Mohammed Ali ad Maulana Shaukat Ali launched the khilafat movement aimed at forcing the British government (in India and UK) to restore to Turkey’s Sultan and Caliph authority and dominion over Makka and Madina in Arabia which together with the Arab empire was lost to Turkey as a result of its defeat in the first world war (1914-1919). Mahatma Gandhi volunteered to lead the

Khilafat movement of India’s Muslim community and got the Indian National Congress to join the movement. Gandhiji thought and the Congress agreed that their participation in Khilafat would make M1 of Indi to join the congress’ movements for the freedom of India from British rule. Khilafat became futile when Kemal Ataturk deposed and expelled the Sultan and declare turkey a secular republic.

16.2 The Khilafat kindled separatism and Islamic consciousness as totally separate from and opposed to the Hindu majority. The result was as independence was nearer in sight, **there were increasing number of communal riots** i.e. Muslim-Hindu riots to force the division of India, to create the Islamic State of Pakistan for India’s Muslims. Dr. Ambedkar in his scholarly work “Pakistan or Partition of India” has surveyed the extent and cause of these riots. There were several enquiries before 1947 and later on, into the cause of riots but not one enquiry report was made public. The terrorism, the vandalism, the forced conversions and the massacres perpetrated by Moplas i.e. the Muslims of Kerala, immediately after the failure of the Khilafat movement brought out a glimpse of the violence and terrorism that could flow by invoking the faith. Gandhiji when asked to comment upon the Moplah atrocities on Hindus said **“They (Muslims) are a brave god-fearing people who were fighting for what they consider as religion, and in a manner which they considered religious”**.

A fallen Muslim is superior to Mahatma Gandhi

Maulana Mohammed Ali was a greatly respected by Muslims of India. Mahatma Gandhi committed the Indian National Congress to Mohammed Ali’s Muslim movement, Khilafat. The Mualana and Gandhi hailed one another as brother during the movement. After its failure and end, Maulana Mohammed spoke disparagingly against the Mahatma, his brother in the Khilafat.

Mr. Mohamed Ali speaking at Aligarh later at Ajmere (1924) said:

“However pure Mr. Gandhi’s character may be, he must appear to be from the point of view of religion inferior to any Musalaman, even though he be without character”.

The Statement created a great stir. Many did not believe that Mr. Mohamed Ali, who testified to so much veneration for Mr. Gandhi was capable of entertaining such ungenerous and contemptuous sentiments about him. When Mr. Mohamed Ali was speaking in a meeting held at Amina Baug Park in Lucknow, he was asked whether the sentiments attributed to him were true. Mr. Mohamed Ali without any hesitation or compunction replied.

Yes! According to my religion and creed, I do hold an adulterous and a fallen gentleman to be better than Mr. Gandhi”

This shows how even the most learned Moslems look upon non-Muslims, even the greatest like Mahatma Gandhi among them No wonder, the Muslim laity indoctrinated in the Madrassas and harangued by Imams in Mosques after Friday prayers, cannot have a view of Kafirs different from the learned Maulana.

17. In reference to communal riots Gandhiji said that Hindus are in general cowards and Muslims are by nature, bullies. The separatism and insurgency in support of it by Muslim populations in Phillipines, in China, Russia, Cyprus, India, Serbia (Kosovo), Macedonia and the very well known jihadi terrorism including suicide-bombing, hijacking by Palestinians and their Islamist backers, the destruction of WTC and other properties and maiming and killing in places as in Kenya, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nigeria etc. must be studied just as communism, the communist parties and the terror that they unleashed were studied, to understand the evil in Zihadi terrorism. The mantra that a particular religion is for peace and that its misguided practitioners only

are evil-doers, will not help. It is true that if there is an open, truthful and unbiased discovery of facts and a non-hurting exercise to own them up, Muslim intellectuals could come out for such Islam which will indeed be peaceful and respect religious pluralism and would in practice give freedom for others for practice of other religions and not resort to compulsion in matters of religion and accepts reciprocal respect to every other religion. Just as Cominform and Comintern were transnational organisations of communism, the **Organisation of Islamic Countries is a** transnational organization of Muslim countries. Things like the **Islamic Declaration of Human Rights of the OIC** as distinct from the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** of the United Nations, the periodic conferences of OIC and its resolutions in the name of Islam concerning the rest, the state sponsorship of terrorism by some Islamic states, funding of institutions apparently for education but in fact for the production of jihadi terrorists and the extensive networks of terrorists cannot but recall the communist networks themselves. **While communism was a political jihad, Islamism is a religious jihad.**

18. A number of Muslim intellectuals in several countries are very sincerely engaged in dis-abusing the Islamic jihadis of their belief that Islam sanctions terrorism, suicide-bombing etc. They will have to be appreciated, encouraged and all those who stand for preservation and promotion of religious and cultural pluralism must find out facts, get them acknowledged and then work together for true reconciliation and for the right interpretation of every religion, if necessary, by reforming them for peaceful coexistence. **Mere tolerance is not sufficient. It will be like truce to be broken up whenever one party thinks it is stronger. Reciprocal reverence and respect is what must be ensured.**

Tolerance :

I am in the right. You are in the wrong. When you are stronger, you ought to tolerate me for it is your duty to tolerate the truth. but when I am stronger, I shall persecute you for this is my duty to persecute errors.

- St. Augustine.

The most venerated Christian scholar and propagandist for Christianity.

(Source: Quoted in the article, Religion, Rajaji and his Social Philosophy by R. Srinivasan in the Jan 2005 issue of Freedom First, a journal published from Mumbai)

It cannot be that only one religion must be free to propagate and thrive and be practised unhindered in countries where it is a minority and where it is a religion of majority, followers of other religions would not be allowed to profess, practise and propagate their religion. True and sincere respect in a reciprocal measure is what should be accepted and encouraged and for all this, a multi-faith study of roots of terrorism and violence among various cultural, religious and political groups must be undertaken.

A Measure To Stop Teaching Of Fundamentalism And Violence And Holy War

Dr T.H.Chowdary

Why is it that so many inhuman bomb-blasts, suicide bomb explosions, beheadings and killings and rape are indulged in by Muslims who believe and claim that they are doing these terroristic acts for the glory and triumph of Islam? In India many “secular” intellectuals and “eminent historians” of the Jawaharlal Nehru University and Aligarh Muslim University and leaders of regional political parties who competitively seek Muslim votes say that these “**terrorists have no religion**”. Thereby they claim that they know the mind and conviction and aims of the jihadi terrorists more than even the

terrorists themselves. They want us to believe that the terrorists, though acting in the name of and for Islam, are not Muslims !

2. In India, the famous Calcutta Koran petition, argued in the Calcutta High Court in 1985/'86 listed 24 Ayats of the holy Koran which promote intolerance hatred and enmity violence against non-Muslims . (The episode, the arguments for omitting those Ayats the judgments and the aftermath are detailed in the book, “**The Calcutta Koran Petition**” by **Sita Ram Goyal** published by **Voice of India** publications, New Delhi. It went through three editions in 1986, 1987 and 1999)

3. As the UNESCO constitution declares, “*Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.*” The seeds of terrorism and jihad are planted in the minds of men through their education, through sermons in the places of prayer and worship, through literature giving exposition of the contents of their holy books. India has about 300,000 active mosques and over 100,000 madrassas, both larger than in any Moslem country. What is taught in the madrasas about Islam and Muslim history should be known to those who want to fight terrorism from jihadi Muslims. In the US, the government required the English translations of various books in Arabic that are used in the madrasas in that country. Then Arabic- knowing American scholars compared the English translations with the Arabic versions. They found that while the latter have matter that promotes intolerance and hatred of other religions and kafirs, the English version avoids such expressions and content. Then the US government forced the Arabic texts to be amended to delete the content that promotes intolerance, hatred, violence and disrespect to non-Islamic faiths and people.

4. Madeline Albright, the former Secretary of State of the US in her book, “**The Mighty and the Almighty**” referred to Saudi Arabia funding madrasas all over the world extensively. Here is what she wrote:

Saudi Arabia Sustains Islamic Fundamentalism

“King Fahd (who died in August 2005) was proud of precisely what makes me nervous —the support his government has given to Islamic institutions overseas, including some 210 Islamic centers, more than 1,500 mosques, 200 colleges, and almost 2,000 schools. The Saudis are confident that their faith is the true one and thus see no inconsistency in subsidizing their own religion abroad and at the same time prohibiting the practice of other religions at home.....During my meetings before 9/11, the Saudis reacted indignantly to any suggestion that Muslim terror networks were gaining strength. They viewed such allegations as an attempt to discredit Islam.” (Pages 208 & 209)

5. It is desirable that the religious schools and prayer places are kept under surveillance. Joint Committees (Hindu, Muslim and Christian) teams of right-thinking scholarly people of eminence should be constituted and authorised to scrutinise contents in the textbooks and also witness what is taught in the classes by teachers in schools and other educational institutions run by religious organisations, especially of those religions which claim that they alone are true and oblige their followers to convert others and have organised conversion activity.

In some cases, recording of the lectures and sermons in these institutions has to be made. Anything which promotes intolerance of other faiths, violence and sows disloyalty to the country and divisiveness among the people based upon religion should be noted and those institutions punished (including the closure of them).

Such committees for surveillance and observation must be at the district level, especially in those districts where religious schools like madrasas and seminaries and pathshalas are in large number.

Mosque - Military Alliance in Pakistan

Farahnaz Ispahani

Pakistani writer Farahnaz Ispahani is author of the book, ‘Purifying the Land of the Pure’. Speaking with Srijana Mitra Das, Ispahani, who’s married to former diplomat Husain Haqqani, discussed how Pakistan’s minorities were systematically marginalised, persecution politics, Preambles – and Pakistan’s fears over Pathankot:

(Report in the Edit page of Times of India, January 18, 2016)

You say Pakistan started by being liberal.

Well, Jinnah was a pretty secular man, a Shia Muslim from Mumbai, which is very pluralistic. Not even a year after Partition, Jinnah made a very powerful speech about religious minorities being equal citizens – but in his lifetime, that radio address doesn’t make air! Powerful bureaucrats and politicians gave orders not to run it – to this day, the tape hasn’t been found. But that script was found.

Very early, it was clear that for Pakistan’s religious minorities to be equal citizens was going to be very difficult. The first major sign was PM Liaquat Ali Khan giving the Objectives Resolution soon after Partition, talking about a Muslim nation.

Right off, the Preamble was not secular – anyone who’s not Muslim was already not being addressed in the same way.

In 1947, Pakistan had a healthy 23% non-Muslim population. Today, that number’s 3-4%. That’s counting the poor Ahmadis – now, every Pakistani who needs a passport must sign a form saying you consider Ahmadis non-Muslims. There’s religious hatred everywhere. In America, Donald Trump says put Muslims into camps. But **what makes Pakistan different is laws**

– the state itself is discriminating against people. (Emphasis is author's)

Why did Pakistan's politicians begin persecution politics?

People like Liaquat had come from India. They didn't have natural constituencies in Pakistan, no hometowns or voters – they turned to the mullahs for support. There was what is term 'Muslimisation' from 1947-51 – a massive decline in Hindus and Sikhs because of Partition, making Pakistan more Muslim demographically. Then came '**Islamic Identity**' over 1958-71, with state-sponsored textbooks rejecting pluralism, trying to forge Pakistani identity purely on Islam. Mohenjo Daro, Taxila, Sufism – all were marginalised.

From 1974, stage three **Islamisation was legislation against minorities**, the first law by Bhutto which made Ahmadis non-Muslim. Bhutto was under great pressure between clergy and military. He thought this was a temporary measure. But it wasn't – and it didn't help him either.

From there to 1988, Zia does the rest. Stage four is terrorism and organised violence from the 1990s. Organised by ? Jihadi groups, organised by the **mosque-military alliance** which owns everything now. They decide. Things were going well with Modi and Sharif. But these groups have no interest in good relations with India. Anyone who knows this, like my husband and i, saw something like Pathankot coming.

JeM was banned 13 years ago – now, they're saying, we're closing their offices. What offices? I thought they were banned. People are being killed. And there's no justice for 60,000 Pakistanis either who died in terrorist attacks on churches, mosques, temples.

I was there when Benazir Bhutto, Salman Taseer, Shahbaz Bhatti, died. I wanted to record the truth. My Pakistan had Faiz, qawwalis, poetry, Marx. It wasn't this.

(Source: Times of India 18/1/2016)

(The large number of madrasas in India are due to the munificence of Saudi Arabia. There is concentration of madrasas on India's borders with Nepal and with Bangladesh . Attempts to equate madrasa certificates with those issued by different educational boards of the state governments is very dangerous one. Education in madrasas (some are paying muezzins and Imams while Hindu priests are not) is purely religious and what little non-religious instruction is there, is elementary. Many governments in India are funding the madrasas, thereby promoting fundamentalist education among impressionable young Muslims. Those governments in contrast, do not fund educational institutions like Saraswati Sisu Mandirs run by some Hindu organisations. This unsecular act is entirely due to some political parties' efforts to get Muslims votes – Dr T.H. Chowdary).

How Imam's Sermons in Mosques Induce Fanatic Belief & Suicidal Islamism

A Pakistani cleric of a mosque has been arrested under terror charges for allegedly inciting a 15-year-old boy to chop off his own hand believing he had committed blasphemy.

The cleric, Shabbir Ahmed, was arrested yesterday under the National Action Plan (NAP) for allegedly inciting violence during his speech in a mosque in Punjab province's Okara district last week . The cleric told worshippers that those who love the Prophet Mohammad always say their prayers, before asking who among the crowd had stopped praying.

The boy, Muhammad Anwar, raised his hand by mistake after apparently mishearing the question.

“The cleric and the other people immediately accused the boy of committing blasphemy. The cleric told the boy that he can only compensate if he chops off his ‘blasphemous hand’, “ police said.

The boy later went to his house and cut off the hand he had raised, put it on a plate, and presented it to the cleric, police said. The boy’s act was reportedly celebrated by his parents and neighbours.

As the family refused to take any action against the cleric, police registered an FIR on behalf of the state under sections 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) and 324 (attempted murder) of the Pakistan Penal Code and arrested him Saturday.

Police officials said the cleric was arrested under the National Action Plan (NAP) which prohibits any “hate speech”. (Source: Indian Express 18/1/2016)

Fighting Jihadi Terrorism

Talveen Singh

Since the Paris attacks two lies have been repeated and a nauseum in prime time chat shows and in the editorials of our newspapers. The first is that this jihad has nothing to do with Islam. And the second is that all religions are the same and can all be misinterpreted by bad people. It defiles the memory of those who died such horrible deaths to repeat these lies, and yet they continue to be repeated, as if, as the country with the second largest Muslim population in the world, we are afraid of looking into the face the truth .

2. The truth is that jihadi terrorism has everything to do with Islam for those who think of the time of the Prophet as a blessed time that Muslims must

return to. In that time there were wars in which the Prophet fought, so he put into the Koran verses that instruct his followers to deal in many nasty ways with those who refuse to believe in his message. It is in strict adherence to these instructions that the Islamic State (IS) commits its hideous crimes against countries it believes are filled with sinners and us idol-worshippers.

3. In the Caliphate’s own words. “In a blessed battle whose causes of success were enabled by Allah, a group of believers from the soldiers of the Caliphate (may Allah strengthen and support it) set out targeting the capital of prostitution (Paris) and vice, the lead carrier of the cross in Europe-Paris...thus they were truthful with Allah- we consider them so – and Allah granted victory upon their hands”.

4. The second lie that has been repeated often in the past week is that every religion has the same message. Not true. No Indic religion orders believers to treat non believers as heathens or ‘kafirs’. There is not a single Indic religion that believes that it alone has all the answers and that those who do not accept this should be treated as scum . Islam not only believes that those who do not accept Islam are ‘kafirs”, it also believes that it is Allah’s wish that non-Islamic lands be treated as battlefields on which holy wars must be fought . If you are unfamiliar with the term Dar-ul-Harb, Google it up and find out exactly what it means.

5. As long as we continue to lie about Islam’s direct connection to jihad terrorism, we will never be able to deal with the problem India faces as the country with more Muslims than any other except Indonesia. Our Muslims have lived in relative peace and harmony with other communities because the Islam that has existed there for centuries has been a very different religion to the one that the IS seeks to impose upon the world . But in recent years this has changed . The Islam now preached from many Indian mosques is based more on the teachings of men like Syd Qutub and Abdul Wahhab, than ever before. And since 9/11 there has been a false narrative

that has been spread by Islamic preachers in which Muslims are painted as victims of a global plot to malign Islam. In this narrative, the men who killed thousands of innocent people in New York and Washington (Sept, 2001) were not Muslims at all. A disturbingly large number of Indian Muslims believe this ludicrous lie just as a disturbingly large number believe that 26/11 (in Mumbai) was a RSS plot.

6. These lies have to be acknowledged as lies if we are to deal with jihadi terrorism. Another lie that needs to be dealt with is the lie that what happened in Mumbai was the model for what happened in Paris. It cannot be because **the killers who came to Mumbai had the backing of the Pakistani army**. In a sense this makes our problem easier because we can confront Pakistan with evidence of its sponsorship of jihadi violence on Indian soil. In Europe the enemy is more nebulous and infinitely more dangerous because the caliphate is not a country in the modern sense of that word. Europe has to find its way to dealing with jihadi terrorism and in India we have to find our own.

7. The key to finding answers in India lies in finding out why Islam, as we knew it, has changed so horribly in the past decade or so. Is it because there is a new kind of Islam being preached from the pulpits of mosques? Is it because Indian Muslim are beginning to identify with their brethren in other parts of the world? Is it because of the Saudi investment in spreading Wahabi Islam? These are questions that need urgent answers, but we will not find them as long as we continue to spread lies about the nature of the threat we face. A good starting point is to admit that Indic religions are the anti-thesis of Islam.

(Source: The Sunday Express, November 22, 2015)

Do All Religions Teach the Same Thing

Dr T.H.Chowdary

It is very amusing and of course even comforting to listen to talks by speakers and read the articles by writers almost authoritatively pronouncing that all religions teach the same thing. This view is absolutely far from the real truth. Christianity asserts that all people are born in sin and unless they embrace Christianity and are baptised and go to the Church, they will be consigned to hell on the day of reckoning when Jesus Christ will come back and revive the good Christians . No Hindu Sastra or any *Pantha* of the Hindus agrees with this. On the other hand, Hindus hold that we are the children of deathlessness, amritasyaputraha: aham Brahmasmi tattvamasi . I myself am Brahman and thou art also Brahman. We are not born as sinners.

2. Islam holds that it and it alone is the true religion and that Mohammed was its final Prophet and that Quran is revealed by God himself. Unless one believes in all these he cannot be a Muslim. Hindus do not agree with this. they believe that whenever there is decline of Dharma, and Adharma is on the ascendant, god incarnates in the human form to put an end to the evil, the Adharma and to re-establish Dharma. There is therefore no finality of a Prophet.

3. Both Christianity and Mosques claim that it and it alone is true and that its followers are enjoined to convert the rest to its own faith. Temples does not believe in conversions nor does it assert that it and it alone is true and the others are false.

4. Islam prohibits the worship of images/statues. In Christianity, only the images of Mary and Jesus are installed and venerated, not any others. Hindus do not believe that images and statues and photographs of Gods and goddesses are Gods themselves. They believe that every human being may worship God in the form he conceives and understands and by the name

which is dear to him. The images and statues are only aids for one to contemplate the divine. Hindus believe that whosoever is born, in whatever religion of his parents, may continue to practice it and so there should be no conversions. But Christianity and Islam hold that non-believers are in sin and that they ought to be converted; they are missioned and ordained by their God to convert others.

5. Hindus believe in rebirth. They believe that by doing meritorious and good deeds, one goes on taking rebirth in higher and higher forms of life, finally merging with the divine itself – kaivalya. Christians and Muslims scoff at this belief of Hindus. Hindus hold that everything in nature is a manifestation of the divine, therefore it should not be ravaged, but that it should be revered. Christians and Muslims hold that God has given other animals and plants for the enjoyment of man. Killing and eating animals and birds is not undesirable; it is a God given gift according to Muslims and Christians. Hindus hold that taking out life is violence and ungodly and should be least indulged, only as a necessity if at all, not for the delectation of the palate.

6. In practice, those wielding power in the name of Christianity and Islam, had invaded other countries, conquered other peoples and converted them, as demanded by their faith. Hindus never invaded any other country in order to convert other people to their faiths. As conversion by them as a religious duty is not enjoined. Conversion has always been involving violence, allurements, fraud, false hopes. How can then we say that all religions teach the same?

7. Among the Hindu people, there are several pathways or panths to live their belief and faith. Vaishnavism, Shaivism, Madhvas, Swamy Narayana, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Adwaitis, Vasistha Adwaitis are different Panths. They did not resort to mutual elimination. Each one is tolerant of the others. No Hindu king has ever declared his faith or Panth as that of the State. And

Practised discrimination against others. On the other hand, in Islam, there is no distinction between religion and rulership. That is why, there are any number of Islamic states. Christianity also was for very long by the religion of some states. But with the reformation after the middle ages, the concept of secularism came and hence the separation of state and religion.

8. Tolerance is another over-used word. “You are dirty; your belief is false; your Gods are false. Yet, I will tolerate”, is this valuable? It is condescension. It could be true to be broken when one is sure of his strength to subdue the other. This is not acceptable. If the aggression of one religion against another is to be stopped there must be equal and reciprocal respect of one’s religion for the other’. The principle of reciprocity is not ignoble; on the other hand it is civilised conduct. It is for this, that Nobel laureate Sir Vidyadhar Naipal said, “ Muslims need not expect more tolerance than what they themselves show to others”.

9. It would therefore be seen that when some people say that all religions teach the same, they are projecting their own view, and not clearly stating the view of either Muslims or Christians. The latter are absolutely clear that Hinduism is false and all Hindus are living in sin and as non-believers, they must be converted to Christianity according to the Christian missions and to Islam, according to the faithful Muslims.

