

# Islamic Fundamentalism

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## Abstract

*In Islamic world, the death of the five sensory man and his future has already happened. Clausewitzianism is dead. This is the Age of Sixth Sense i.e., intuition. The heart of it is suicide bomber, the intuitive rather than the five sensory man. It is a new military dimension based on intuition, faith and will. There is this idea of intuition, there is in quantum physics an idea called non-local reality i.e., Bells Theorem. They found that all reality is in contact. Two particles were set into clockwise motion at two different locations simultaneously. Then one was switched into anti-clock wise direction. The other turned anti-clockwise by itself. These are in connection. Heisenberg pointed out hidden variables, though Einstein protested. Bell discovered how to find these hidden variables e.g., splitting of the beam. Uncertainty is the fact of life, as opposed to prediction and control. It is impossible to make any scientific predictions. Newtonian physics is insufficient. Aristotelian logic i.e., either a thing is there or not has broken down at the tactical level. And the world is into this new intuitive reality. In Islamic world, opposition to America is an intuition based non-local reality. Just like Bells Theorem.*

**Keywords:** Intuition, Non-local reality, Islamic Fundamentalism, Islamic world

## Introduction

In the 16th century, there were three Islamic powers: Ottoman Empire, Central Asian Empire and Mughal Empire. All three vanished from the face of the earth leaving behind multitude of Muslim aspirations longing for the glories of the past. Pan-Islamism is the kernel and pith of these yearnings. Ottoman's geo-political decline started with the defeat in the Battle of Lepanto in 1571 against the combined naval forces of Europe. By 1900 it was the sick man of Europe, which duly disintegrated in 1922. Central Asian Empire, over the centuries, turned into Khanates that Czarist Russia transformed into Near Abroad. Mughal Empire's last gasping was the so-

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called war of independence of 1857. The failure led to the total control of India by the British Empire. Since then the absence of core state haunts the Islamic world. During this breakup of empires, Syed Ahmad Shaheed in India, Imam Shamil in Chechnya, Omer Mukhtar in North Africa and others were the individual revolts against this advancing and oncoming tide of Western Civilization. However, the centre of gravity of the Clausewitzianism and the strategic equilibrium had already shifted.

The World War I was a conflict among Europeans. The same is true for World War II, which was a war of ideas: fascism vs. capitalism/communism. Cold War was again the war of ideas: capitalism vs. communism. During the Cold War, Muslim countries in the Middle East attempted the 1948, 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars to exterminate the State of Israel but were squarely defeated. In South Asia, Pakistan too faced a military defeat in 1971, primarily due to its own follies. Iraq's fate in the first Gulf War was the climax of this laundering. For any army, military defeat on the battlefield is a traumatic experience. It permeates into the soul of nations. It becomes part of the bone and marrow. Then it is repressed, for it cannot be killed. It haunts. An ignominious and shattering defeat carries heavy burden in psyche. The iron of it enters the soul. The honors are won and lost on the battlefield. In such settings big lie means that small lies have no value. After 9/11, the Islamic world is caught in the dynamics of oil and gas fields. First, the Caspian was plucked away then Iraq emerged as a solitaire diamond surrounded by other diamonds. The conquest of Iraq tore off the veil.

The queen bee by sitting in Iraq wanted to radiate influence in countless lines after the boldest move for world domination in modern times. For an assertion of power creates a Strategic Environment for sometime to come. Capture of Iraq was an application of Clausewitzian idea but the key did not work. A presumed centre of gravity or linchpin deceived the world as well as Americans. In the struggle for power, misperceptions become errors. The failure to identify the centre of gravity in a conflict compounds the error. And Strategic Errors are rectified through Strategic Actions.

Long before this, came in Afghan war in 1979 as a result of the former Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan. Capitalist and Islamic worlds joined hands against communism. The financial and technological might of capitalism in combination with Islamic fundamentalism turned Afghanistan into a Soviet graveyard. And when the Communist Empire was drowned in the blood of Afghans and the cushion between the American led West and Islamic World was withdrawn, the U.S. was seized by a renewed zeal for the establishment

of so called New World Order. Islam and Muslims in this context were deemed as a greatest hindrance.

Earlier the western politicians and intellectuals had already initiated the war of ideas e.g., late Richard Nixon who as former president visited various Asian countries including Pakistan during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan to have a close view of the war, advised American allies on his way back home that they should revise their policy towards the Soviets, for in his opinion; the real enemy of the Western Civilization was not Soviet Union, it was rather militant Islam. “So long as the War Song of Islam remains” – the Nixonian view of Muslim call for prayers – “we cannot realize our global mission”, Nixon asserted. The same theme was later advanced by Huntington in his Clash of Civilization thesis in detail. Accordingly, NATO decided against the scaling down of forces after the elimination of Warsaw Pact. The perception was and is that as long as the militant Islam is active and alive, the scale down is not an option.

Consequently, both Bush and Blair deployed plots and lies to achieve their strategic ambitions e.g., Saddam’s weapons of mass destruction. Earlier the 9/11 had also happened for which Osama bin Laden and his Afghan hosts were blamed. The Islamic World was caught off-guard and Afghanistan and Iraq were invaded and occupied by the American led west and its cohorts. Moreover, Bush started his Crusades by addressing the Priests and Ministers of all denominations in the Central Cathedral near the White House.

### **The Centre of Gravity**

A strange thing was happening simultaneously i.e., Islamic fundamentalism too was having an *idea* and a *thought* to take on America. *And an idea can be a centre of gravity.* What’s more an idea cannot be killed with a bullet whereas containing it is like playing Russian roulette. The American occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq have further reinforced the anti-American centre of gravity. The centre of gravity of anti American insurgency around the Islamic world is U.S. policy towards Palestine, Kashmir, Chechnya, Mindanao, Xinjiang, Algeria, Bosnia, East Timor, Aceh, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan and Iraq,<sup>1</sup> including Fallujah and its Knights. Oil, sanctions, interventions, aggressions, tyrannies, dictators, kings and monarchs as well, as opposed to American centre of gravity which is economy.<sup>2</sup> This is neo-Orientalism. The Islamic world is under assault since centuries and remains so. America is no more a Republic or City on the Hill. It is neo-Rome, Obama or no Obama, for these Trilateralist symbols symbolize neo-imperialism.

The perpetuation of memory of oppression at Bagram, Guantanamo and Abu Gharib through different means, execution of unarmed wounded in the mosques of Fallujah, massacres at Haditha and Qana, blasphemous caricatures, Pope's statement, the threats to nuke Mecca and Madina and the anti-Islam Dutch film are pathology, i.e., sickness. It could be more than expected. The desecration of *al-Quran* time and again is sickness filled hubris e.g., after 17 Afghans protesting the desecration of *al-Quran* were killed, Americans took away Afghan girls and women on a gunpoint from Jalalabad to Bagram, the symbol of oppression and repression.

Osama bin Laden was the modern day individual revolt. Zukhar Dodayove's military genius was the Chechen expression. The elimination of Musab al Zarqawi, Abu Laith al-Libi, Abu Khabab, Abu Haris, Khalid Habib, Shaikh Saeed and the rise of Abu Hamza al-Muhajer and Hassan Nasrullah are indicators. So are Ayman al-Zawahiri, Saif al-Adil and Adam Gadahn. The al-Qaeda has a capacity to replace fallen commanders.

An aspect of strategy is the correct identification of the centre of gravity. It holds the conflict. When it falls, the resistance diminishes. *How to deal with the insurrectional war is the strategic question of the 21<sup>st</sup> century?* The plan to deal has to have an *intuitive* element. Escalation or enlarging the conflict is part of strategy, but has not worked. The centre of gravity could be intangible. It can be beyond the manifest. It has more to it than the eyes encounter.

One chooses his theatre of operations to have a trial of strength. The theatre of operations is global. In this surprise is the friend of weak and on the side of Islamists. The struggle is between the two worldviews. It is global in its reach and grasp. It is religion vs. science; deduction vs. induction. Deduction posits where as induction examines the truth. This is the metaphysics of contemporary global conflict. The Big Question is at what stage induction starts? The tremendous transformations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century unleashed by 9/11 have unpinnioned wings of an *Eagle*. After all, those who lived during the *French Revolution* never knew about it. The chain of events triggered would change the world dramatically, in particular the Islamic world. Discourse at two ends is totally different with its own signs and symbols. The two don't understand each other. This is the last encounter, until something else comes up. For the struggle for a new Islamic World will continue.

The suicide bomber symbolizes the last military stand of the Islamic world against neo-imperialism. The understanding of suicide bomber is in the knowledge of subconscious and conscious. And knowledge cannot be divorced from the state of being. The despair of the suicide bomber arises from a deep disappointment and disillusionment with

the leaders and their failures. When one decides to reject the gift of life, it is rejection of one's own totality. In an act of suicide, there is a little bit of killing one's self as well. This is the self-hate, perhaps unconsciously due to centuries of humiliation. And everything is logical in this world. For it is relative to witness in existential struggles. It is time to be equals.

In Pakistani and Afghan context, Pathan heartland is the main battlefield. The worldview of the Pathan resistance is pan-Islamic. Waziristan represents the ethyl alcohol of Pathan culture. Pathans are *intuitive* and understand the dimensions of power. Historically, they fought for it, acquired it, possessed it, applied it, resisted it, and of course are resisting it. *Raj Naiti* is in their blood. Their sense of jealousy is aroused for ancient reasons. Those who live in the world of Pashto have an edge in statecraft. There is this culture of resistance, non-conformity and no ambiguity compared to that of a giving safe passage. The mixture of Pathan ethnicity and Islam is a dangerous mix. Likewise, a Pathan is immediately suspicious of treachery. He is cunning in the sense of clever in genius and can take care of himself. And a Pathan never forgets. The gods have ordained a riddle worthy of old Oedipus which all Empires must solve or fall – the riddle of the Northwest Frontier.<sup>3</sup>

### **Global Balkans**

For the next several decades, the most volatile and dangerous region of the world – with the explosive potential to plunge the world into chaos – will be the crucial swathe of Eurasia between Europe and the Far East.<sup>4</sup> Heavily inhabited by Muslims, this crucial sub-region of Eurasia can be termed as the new “Global Balkans”,<sup>5</sup> including Pakistan. And the Middle Eastern winds have made it to Pakistan as well. The hundreds of suicide bombings all over Pakistan since 9/11 and the military operations in Swat and in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) verify the reality. Pakistan should weigh as to what are the chances of emerging as an enemy state arrayed against the systemic and sub-systemic forces? The mixed up situation raises many questions that need to be answered.

Additionally, the simultaneous advancement of EU and NATO up to Russian Federation was the first step in the dismantling of Yalta Agreement. The so called wars against terrorism and the weapons of mass destruction are the final acts. America is trying to shape a New Yalta that is global in scope and space to sustain a world order that (a) ensures its national security as against the other great powers, (b) encourages other nations, especially the smaller ones, to mould their social, political and economic institutions along lines that are at least not repugnant to (if not actually congruent with) American values, and (c) minimizes the possibility of naked, armed conflict.<sup>6</sup>

However, like it or not, various forms of Islamism will be the dominant intellectual current for some time to come and the process is still in its infancy.<sup>7</sup> The time and space of modern Islamic radicalism is emancipated from the Middle East and is a global space.<sup>8</sup> Physical defenses against terrorism need to be considered in conjunction with the roots of terrorism,<sup>9</sup> because *intuition* is central to Islamic Fundamentalism. On the level of consciousness, this means that religion is no longer taken for granted, but is an object of reflection and decision.<sup>10</sup> Today's suicide bombers and holy warriors don't suffer from some unique pathology but are fired by ideas that have a history.<sup>11</sup> A resurgent and readjusted Islamic world is shaping up. The West will have to learn to live with it. The al-Qaeda manifests a psyche that we will not accept come what may and it is spreading. And the extremism of Islamic fundamentalists is not so much an inherent aspect of Islam (which has produced some truly glorious civilizations) as it is a product of a wild counter reaction to modernity's attempt to terrorize and kill spirituality in general.<sup>12</sup>

The capacity to generate violence has become the measure of power. The marathon of insurgencies continues a decade after 9/11 and is in a bold relief. Other than al-Qaeda, the trans-national groups remain and the resistance goes on. The impossibility of military victory forced the Americans to make a strategic choice to rectify the strategic error by withdrawing ground forces from Iraq. Financially, Afghanistan and Iraq are America's second Vietnam. Science and the depleted wealth can delay the reality but it cannot change it for the U.S. economy is already damaged. Besides, Americans are afraid that they may get sucked into something involving Pakistan that they may have to strike at al-Qaeda and somehow get involved in Pakistani turmoil.<sup>13</sup>

Something is happening in the Islamic world after centuries. The Muslims are fighting back. It takes time but it is changing. Other than those who embraced martyrdom, the resilience of captured al-Qaeda men-at-arms spoke for itself. They were real soldiers.<sup>14</sup> They went through hell, and gave up very, very little.<sup>15</sup> The *Original* from the *Real World* cannot be defeated. The Muslim masses have destroyed the traditional thesis of their rulers, that the West or Israel cannot be defeated. The method has been discovered. The weapon has been found. It is far from over. The gloves are off. It is a fist fight.

The original language of Bible was ancient Greek. The word *sin* originally used in ancient Greek meant to "miss the mark". This missing the mark could be philosophic, emotional, social, economic, political and strategic. Generally everyone agrees that human beings have the capacity to miss the mark or to be on the mark. The Americans missed the mark after 9/11, particularly by invading Iraq. These strategic errors were sins

in the sense of missing the mark. If a fraction of trillions of dollars used in Iraq were used in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the situation would have been totally different. And Pakistan has gone as far as a country can go with the pain and harm. It has paid back down to the last penny in blood and treasure, because, the initiation of operations in FATA after 9/11 too were a strategic error and a sin in the sense and meaning of missing the mark. The situation years after that strategic error manifest the reality.

### Conclusion

Historically, resurgence in case of every civilization is accompanied with creative activity. Where is that in case of Muslims? Because for Muslims it all started with *iqra* meaning to read, suggesting thinking and learning and implying understanding on the basis of inductive logic, before deciding and acting. This is the ethyl alcohol of induction as opposed to deduction. Islam in its heart carries flexibility to the level of Hudaebia. Yet, the Muslim response is based on rage and anger, for nation-state is dead in the Islamic world, the death of the Islamic five sensory man, as opposed to an intuitive suicide bomber. The struggle and fight is to the death. Where and when will be the final confrontation? When a situation is vague, one can only hover on the fringes. As time goes by water will find its own level in the midst of a struggle for a life of honor and dignity.

The velocity of history has accelerated. The anchored positions are rooted in the past, and by extension in history. Indeed, history and historian will once again vindicate the victor. As is the case since time immemorial. However, the problem of historian is that it deals with a foreign country. It leads to a shaded judgement. Historian is not immersed in the past and it is difficult to understand the past, because, the emotional ambiance of histrionics is missed. Historian is not part of emotions and the passage of time makes it difficult to see through the time and emotional meanings. The essence, the spirit, that is, emotions are lacking and are not part of the historical and psychological analysis. History is an emotional affair. It is about understanding and interpreting emotions. And no doubt emotions are running high and continue to rise in the post 9/11 world.

The world of Islam is faced with American *gestalt thinking* bent upon re-ordering the Islamic World. On the other hand, the Islamic world has consensus but lacks cohesion, especially, the metaphysical divide is unfortunate. Yet, the idea of armed anti-American Islamist resistance is getting stronger in the Islamic World. And the conflict in Afghanistan will go on until the emergence of a victor. The *Real Islamists* have crossed the Rubicon and are banking on the power of hope to bury the

American Empire in the caves and mountains of Afghanistan. It is certainly no exaggeration to describe the Pathan tribes as the largest known potential reservoir of guerrilla fighters in the world,<sup>16</sup> whereas no man who has ever read the pages of Indian history will ever prophesy about the Frontier.<sup>17</sup> And the Muslim mind is unconventional and “commendably democratic – and dangerous”.<sup>18</sup> The Brave Hearts of Islam are fighting back to reshape and remake the Islamic World.

Lastly, the Strategic Question of an insurrection in the Islamic World will always remain for there will always be a group of Muslims to insurrect, because, one is in a bargain in which life is treated as a weapon system. How do you compete with a man who does not care for life? The eagerness to be fortunate in death is on the rise. And at any given time in an organization, it is always one man who sacrifices. The *Suicide Bomber* personifies that sacrifice. The *Spirit of Man* is unconquerable. The *Death Wish* continues, for whatever happens in the end – unless reversed – the war against Islam is there and that is the reality.



## Notes & References

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