

Of terrorists & 'threatened' civilizations

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SINCE the outrageous events of September 11, Western media has been telling the world that the civilization of the "prosperous" West is under threat from Islamic "militancy". The West certainly appears under threat, though, it is debatable whether it is as "civilized" as the Western media would like us to believe. For, its crimes against humanity over the centuries, are both shameful and enormous.

"Whatever is good for America" is "good for the world", irrespective of how wrong it might be for others, has been the cornerstone of US foreign policy. It is this un-civilized attitude that bred hatred for the US among the less prosperous states. Yet, none in the US administrations, past or present, seemed to care. The US public too doesn't seem to care about what successive administrations under Eisenhower down to Bush Junior, have been doing to the rest of the world. September 11 should serve as an eye opener for the US public to demand an explanation for the abject failure of its intelligence services for which taxpayers have been paying through their nose all these years.

Recent events show that "the all powerful" US is vulnerable to terrorism. But targeting terrorists (a recipe tried often before) only makes things worse. It hardens the uncaring image of the West, and makes the capitalism-powered divide between the East and the West more stark. Seemingly, it negates the view that helping the socially and economically disadvantaged is the way to change their view of the prosperous and civilized West.

Treating them as outcasts strengthens even more the grip of the religious zealots among them.

In the context of "civilization" the role of the Taliban and the other Islamic groups operating elsewhere, also deserves scrutiny. They are obviously wrong.

Undoubtedly, Westerners made mistakes in the past, but so did the Umayyad, Abbasid, and the Ottomans. The bitter harvest we are reaping in the Balkans is a legacy of the misdeeds of the Ottomans. Neither the Christian, nor the Muslim empires of yesteryear are defensible. Attempts at restoring them will push the world back into the dark ages. Given Muslims' lethargy for centuries, the recent upsurge in their desire to beat the West can't be fulfilled by gun-totting youth who know little about the true Islamic approach to undoing injustice and deprivation. Even if these crusaders could access arsenals of sophisticated arms, they would destroy not just their "perceived" enemy but the whole world.

The conduct of the Taliban indicates that they knew precious little about Islamic rules of statecraft. Their wholly misguided self-righteous attitude won them enemies, not friends, and was ultimately the cause of their defeat. Their belief that they could take on the world, eventually proved suicidal. The debacle in Afghanistan should open the eyes of religious zealots that assault rifles and a few tanks and armoured cars cannot defeat the West.

The self-styled Islamic warriors everywhere must understand that if they want to defeat the West (though an ignoble cause in itself), a decisive victo-

ry can be won only on the economic battlefield. Instead of playing with guns and gun powder, they should pick up their tools, and wage an economic war. It may (if they try hard) make them the winners. What they have done, so far, is utterly shameful. It has bred only hate, not goodwill for their tactless approach to defending the down-trodden. They have pitted the world against the Muslims. September 11 events have shifted world attention from Palestine and Kashmir. Freedom fighters in both these disputed territories are now being labelled as terrorists - no small success for the enemies of Islam.

It is worth asking who really stands to benefit from Muslim-specific hatred? If attacks on US mainland can be pinned on Muslims, that may not be difficult to imagine. It has been reported by a Canada-based information service (Stern-Intel) that well before September 11, a memo was circulated among US intelligence agencies about impending terrorist attacks by Israeli agents on US mainland to shift attention from Israeli brutalities on the Palestinians. Inflaming US public opinion to a point where the US reacted by attacking a Muslim state seemed a welcome prospect to the Israelis.

Labelling of Israel as a racist state at the recent UN-sponsored conference on racism added to the urgency for such diversionary attacks. Yet, in the investigation launched by US intelligence, there isn't even a hint about possible Israeli involvement. Hints being dropped now by US media indicate that Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia, and Sudan could be the next targets in the US cam-

paign against terrorism because, as per its current US definition, terrorism means any aggressive act against US and European interests.

European madness fuelled by elongated national egos of the 1930s, is to blame for the rise of the US as the superpower, and one-sided world politics since 1945. By the end of WW-II, thanks to large-scale arms purchases from the US by both Allied and Axis powers, over 60% of the world's gold reserves had shifted to the US. In a war-ravaged world, US thus became the richest and the most powerful state.

To capitalize on this unique development, following their exodus at first from Germany in the 1930s, and later, from German occupied Europe in the 1940s, many Jews headed for the US realizing that enriched, rather than impoverished by the war, the US will eventually become the most powerful state in the world. Jews made the US their home for two reasons: prospect of earning wealth from a ruthlessly capitalist economy, and using it to influence US political and policy making systems, and eventually ruling the world using the US as their proxy.

Jews strongly believe in the Quranic prophecy that they will never have a state of their own. They know that Israel is only a make-believe state. Without US protection, it can be written off in a matter of hours. In their pursuit to rule the world rather than be satisfied with a tiny "state" therein, Jews nearly made it to the top in the last US Presidential elections. Given the long years and efforts devoted to achieving this goal, Al Gore's (and, of course, Libermann's) defeat was a rude

shock for them. They are now taking their revenge on the US, indeed on the whole world. They now prefer the world's destruction in a Muslims-Christian clash rather than being content with "just" Israel.

Jewish influence in US executive and policy-making circles is evidenced by the fact that since WW II, US leadership has passed into the hands of people who don't recognize the critical importance of being objective in their responses. Their response to the September 11 events proved just that. Within minutes of the attacks, from former US presidents down to retired bureaucrats, the demand was "get Osama", without first credibly establishing as to who really was behind the attacks. The gentlemen, supposedly of sound mind and high intellectual capabilities (entitling them to hold high offices they have held) showed that they didn't possess the qualities that distinguish statesmen from gun-toting cowboys of the wild West. Instant launching of operation "infinite justice" (re-named as an afterthought) bears testimony to this self-righteous, rash, and uncaring mentality.

US foreign policy is often blissfully self-centred, over-confident, over-aggressive, and above all, biased. It projects issues purely from self-serving angles that don't malign friendly countries, no matter how despotic they may be. Not surprisingly therefore, state terrorism is not clearly defined by the US foreign policy. State terrorism by friendly South American countries is hushed up, and blatant terrorism by the fascist Israeli government is excused in the name of self-defence. ■