

# Bush or Kerry: 'Much of a

The majority of America's Muslims are supporting Kerry because he's not Bush. How clever! How very clever! If they think that President Kerry will be any better than Bush, they have another thought coming. Kerry is even more pro-Israel than Bush, and Israel lies at the root of what America pejoratively calls 'Muslim terrorism'. And 'Muslim terrorism' won't even begin to go away unless the Palestinians obtain justice, which means a viable homeland of their own free of Israeli hegemony, for Israel is a bitter pill they will still have to swallow, no matter what its shape and size. But it has become patently obvious that the Palestinians will have to win justice; they will not be given it. Nor the rest of the Muslims, though the latter are so disunited, confused and leaderless, that the chances of their 'winning' anything is a pipe dream until they drown even more in rivers of their own blood. Only then might the pipe dream become reality.

The PLO has already amended its charter to recognise the right of Israel to exist, and the least unpalatable manifestation of this mockery of freedom and democracy will be that it goes back to its pre-1967 borders. That would not be difficult if America stops supporting it blindly, which will remain a pipe dream too until the American people wake up and realise what the Israelis, backed by their Zionist lobbies in the USA, have done to them and the mess they have got them into all over the world. To put it in a nutshell, America, not any Muslim country, has become the most hated country in the world, even in the European heartland. There is hardly an inch of ground anywhere in the world where Americans do not fear to tread, including in America. No one, but no one, trusts them. This is where they have brought themselves to because of their mindless support of Israel. America has to be suffered, though, because of its military might.

Kerry's electoral rhetoric was right on the button when he called America's partners in the conquest and occupation of Iraq a "Coalition of the Coerced and Bribe". But don't get excited: Kerry's opposition to Bush over Iraq is over tactics and strategy, not over principles. Says Linda Heard in 'Arab News': "If at all possible, Kerry is more pro-Israel than George W. Bush and deeply aware of the issues surrounding Middle East politics." She tells us that Kerry's brother, Cameron, converted to Judaism in the early Eighties. This July, he spent six days in Israel as a guest of the Education Fund, which is linked to AIPAC (American Israeli Political Action Committee), the powerful Israeli lobby in Washington.

Accompanying Cameron was Kerry's campaign adviser on the Middle East, Jay Footlink, a former resident of Israel. Kerry is a Catholic but discovered his Jewish antecedents a year ago, that his paternal grandfather, Fritz Kohn, was a Jew but converted and changed his name to Frederick Kerry. He also discovered that many of his relatives were Holocaust victims. Israel would possibly consider Kerry as eligible to the "right of return", writes Nathan Guttman of the Israeli newspaper 'Ha'aretz'. "The Jewish community also points out that during all his years in the

BY HUMAYUN GAUHAR

USA 24/1/04

**Kerry is even more pro-Israel than Bush, and Israel lies at the root of what America pejoratively calls 'Muslim terrorism'** *The Nation*

Senate, [Kerry] had a 'perfect AIPAC record'. In other words he has always voted in accordance with the pro-Israeli lobby on matters related to Israel and the Middle East. His supporters also mention that he has visited Israel many times, unlike Bush who came to visit only when he was a presidential candidate."

Kerry himself wrote in the Brown Students for Israel publication 'Perspective': "My first trip to Israel made real for me all I'd believed about Israel. I was allowed to fly an air-force jet from the Ovada Airbase. It was then that Israeli insecurity about narrow borders became very real to me. In a matter of minutes, I came to violating the airspace of Egypt, Jordan and Syria. From that moment on, I felt as Israelis do: the promise of peace must be secure before the Promised Land is a secure margin of land." Would Kerry apply the same argument to other countries that have similar problems of 'narrowness'? Can they usurp neighbouring land to 'secure' themselves? Not without the blessings and connivance of the United States. Kerry will be no better than Bush and America's Muslim allies like Pakistan will be a necessary evil that will have to be suffered until they are not needed them any more. Then they will be back in limbo again, or the next target.

Kerry continues: "I went as a friend by conviction; I returned a friend at the deepest personal level... In this difficult time we must again reaffirm we are enlisted for the duration -- and reaffirm our belief that the cause of Israel must be the cause of America -- and the cause of the people of conscience everywhere." If John Kerry is truly one of those "people of conscience", and not of selective conscience, why does his conscience remain in hibernation at the plight of the Palestinians? Because he has eyes only for Israel, that's why. His unquestioning love for Israel does not permit him to see the hell that the Palestinians have been living in.

Linda Heard tells us further, that "in case there is any room for doubting Kerry's pro-Israel stance", in spring 2002 he "co-sponsored a resolution expressing solidarity with Israel, which called for continued assistance in strengthening Israel's homeland defences. Further, Kerry supports the 'construction of

# a muchness'

Israel's security fence to stop terrorists from entering Israel' and does not believe it is a matter for the International Court of Justice." He also believes that Arafat "should remain in isolation," says Heard, and advocates "the relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem 'Israel's indisputable capital'." Why, this man could start a world war. There is only so much nonsense and intellectual criminality one can accept at the altar of electoral compulsions.

The closest word for 'munafiq' in English is 'hypocrite'. 'Munafiqat' or hypocrisy is one of the great sins in Islam. Kerry showed himself to be a 'munafiq' par excellence when he told the Arab American Institute in Michigan: "I know how disheartened Palestinians are by the Israeli government's decision to build the barrier off of the Green Line - cutting deep into Palestinian areas." With time one tends to forget that the whole of Israel is a 'Palestinian area'! Be that as it may, Kerry continued: "We don't need another barrier to peace. Provocative and counter-productive measures only harm Israel's security over the long term, increase the hardships of the Palestinian people and make the process of negotiating an eventual settlement that much harder." Is there any point in asking, "would the real John Kerry please stand up?" when we know who the real John Kerry is: a biased pro-Israel politician in thrall of the Zionist state not just because of his Jewish roots but because he will unconscionably be a hypocrite too if it can help him get more votes from a gullible Muslim American public.

This is not a pro-Bush article. There is a 'much of a muchness' about him and Kerry and it makes little difference to us who gets elected. The difference will be in the speed of damage either does to the world and to America. In four years we have already seen the kind of damage Bush can do. If elected, he will probably try and mulishly fortify his position in Iraq and cause more suffering to Iraqis and to Americans and their 'coalition of the coerced and bribed'. That he might also attack Syria is not outside the realm of possibility, nor that he might encourage an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, if not attack the country himself.

If that happens, all hell will break loose, and the word 'Armageddon' will be on everyone's lips. Kerry might be more cautious, but he will try and achieve the same objectives through a less violent route. Either way, the Muslims and their countries will continue to suffer. We talked of two kinds of damage: the damage America does to the world, and the Muslims in particular, and the damage it does to itself through its chauvinist and hegemonic actions. Why, Bush has, by his own hand, unwittingly dismantled much of America's famous 'way of life' that the Muslims supposedly dislike and would forcibly change. Thus those who would wish America ill will be hoping and praying for a Bush victory, for he is likely to do more harm to America faster than Kerry would, and certainly cause it more damage than Osama bin Laden ever could.

E-mail queries and comments to:  
[hgauhar@nation.com.pk](mailto:hgauhar@nation.com.pk)