



Ⓞ Overseas
Ⓟ Progressive
Ⓟ Pakistanis

Radicalization of Muslims in Europe

Amsterdam 02-02-2020

PURPOSE

“OPP is a platform for the people of Pakistani origin to promote progressive values in a multi-cultural environment”

MISSION

“Strive to eliminate exploitation and discrimination through meaningful dialogues”

VISION

“Unity in Diversity”

OPP's objectives

To provide the people of Pakistani origin, in particular younger generation, with a real platform where they can:

- Meet, interact, build and sustain inter-human contacts and exchange views on subjects consistent to our objectives, regarded taboos.
- Discuss and address their local community-issues, promote inter-cultural harmony.
- Where ever possible, support each other in resolving community problems.
- Contribute to promoting progressive narrative in Pakistan.

Political, Religious, Social inclinations

Political

- Democracy, human rights, minority rights, gender equality

Religious

- Separation of the state & religion

Social

- Integration, tolerance, acceptance, harmony



Inaugural Meeting

O Overseas
P Progressive
P Pakistanis

Amsterdam, 16 December 2016

Understanding & Bridging the Generation Gap

Amsterdam, 27 January 2017



Events 2017

Pakistan, in Search of an Identity

Amsterdam, 03 June 2017



Pakistanis in the Netherlands: Their Identities & Expectations

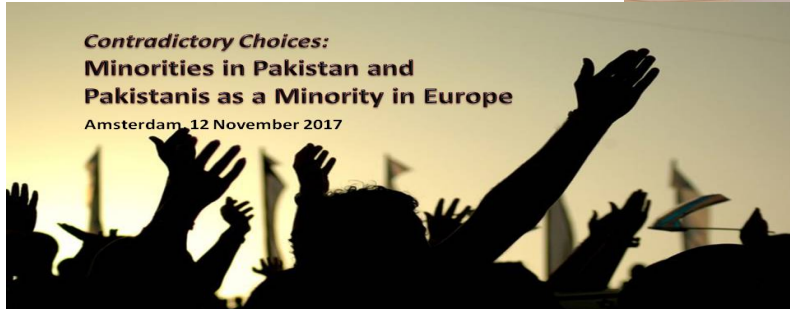
Amsterdam, 10 September 2017

3. Monammed Waseem
4. Asma Qadir
5. Tasmia ul Haq



Contradictory Choices: Minorities in Pakistan and Pakistanis as a Minority in Europe

Amsterdam, 12 November 2017



NGO'S IN PAKISTAN- PATRIOTS OR TRAITORS

Amsterdam, 25 November 2017



ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES IN PAKISTAN

Do constitutional and human rights matter anymore?

Amsterdam
25 February 2018



Dilemma or Opportunity

Challenges for Dutch-Pakistani Youth
in Reconciling Two Cultures

9 September 2018 - Amsterdam



Integration of Pakistani Women in Dutch Society

Tales from two countries through multigenerational lens

Amsterdam - 22 April 2018



Events 2018

Is Media Free or a Hostage?

The changing role of media under modern-imperialism & neo-liberalism



Amsterdam - 27 May 2018

Family Gala for Progressive Pakistanis

Sunday, August 19, 2018 at 14:00 hrs



Democracy & Religion

Are they mutually exclusive?



Amsterdam, 21 October 2018

Events 2019



Human Rights' Struggle in Pakistan

A tribute to Asma Jahangir

Amsterdam, 17 February 2019



Rising Populism in Europe & its Impact on Immigrants

May, 26 February 2019 - Amsterdam



Forced Marriage & Free Partner Choice

Rethinking: causes, consequences and solutions

9 November 2019 - Amsterdam



In collaboration with:
Coping Deep
Sunday, April 7, 2019
14:00 – 17:00 hrs
De Boelelaan 1105,
Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

Transphobia

Understanding

Plight of

Pakistanis & BT

in Europe



Speakers:

Isjed Hussain

(Queer, Activist)

Inaya Zarakhel

(Transgender)

Hassam bin Kamran

(Founder Butterfly Initiative)





Radicalization of Muslims in Europe

The Speaker

- PhD in Political Science from Stockholm University.
- Visiting professor at the Govt. College Lahore and LUMS.
- Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Stockholm University.
- Honorary Senior Fellow of the Institute of S.A. Studies.
- Visiting Research Professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore.



The Speaker

- Member of the editorial advisory boards of “Asian Ethnicity”, “Journal of Punjab Studies” and PIPS Research Journal of Conflict and Peace Studies, Islamabad.
- Author of: *Pakistan Askari Riyasat, Punjab ka Batwara, Pakistan – The Garrison State, The Pakistan Military in Politics, Punjab Bloodied, The Politics of Religion, The politics of Group Rights, The concept of an Islamic State, and several publications.*

Please welcome



Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed



RADICALIZATION OF MUSLIMS IN EUROPE

Myths and Realities

Ishtiaq Ahmed, PhD (Stockholm)

Professor Emeritus, Stockholm University

VRIJE UNIVERSITY, AMSTERDAM

2 February 2020

Radicalization

The term radicalization means simply 'going back to the roots'.

What is the norm on which legitimate political authority in the European Union is based?

How has been the Muslim presence in Europe historically?

(a) Before World II

(b) After World II

Bullet point continue

- How many Muslims are present in Europe currently?
- According to the Pew Research Center, the total number of Muslims in Europe in 2016 was roughly 4.9%.
- The total number of Muslims in the European Union in 2010 was about **19 million** (3.8%).

The Norm for Legitimate Political Authority in the EU

- Multiparty democracies based on free and fair elections
- The rule of law
- Inalienable individual human rights augmented with minority cultural rights
- Secularization of the political order with religion effectively confined to the private sphere
- Liberalization of citizenship
- Multiculturalism: pluralism, equal respect for cultures
- Market economy as well as welfare benefits

Policy framework for immigrant

- (a) The French assimilation model
- (b) The German segregation model
- (c) The general Integration model
- Multiculturalism: theory and practice

Growing cultural tensions

- 1975 the the Egyptian the head cleric of the London Regent Mosque demands application of Islamic law, the Sharia to personal matters of Muslims.
- In 1979 Ayatollah Khomeini issues a fatwa (legal ruling) against Salman Rushdie sentencing him to death for his book Satanic Verses.
- London-based Pakistani Kalim Siddiqui announces in 1989 the establishment of a Muslim Parliament.

Islamic revivals

- Cold War, political Islam and Western powers
- Islamic revivals
 - (a) Pakistan, Iran
 - (b) Iran – Saudi Arabia sectarian conflict
 - (c) Shia – Sunni, Persian – Arab hegemony
- Violence in the pristine Islamic past

The so-called Afghan jihad and globalization of Muslim radicalism

- Afghan Communists capture power 1978
- The Soviet Red Army marches into Afghanistan December 1979
- A US-Saudi so-called jihad is launched with Muslims recruited from all over the world to come and fight in the jihad.
- After 1989, the mujahideen networks assume different areas of action.

Muslim presence in the West described as a civilizational threat

- The Clash of Civilizations thesis of Samuel P Huntington Published in 1996.
- Islamic civilization identified as an expansionist force and Western states advised to restrict severely immigration of Muslims.

11 September 2001 terrorist attacks

- The 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in the US prove the self-fulfilling prophecy of Huntington's Clash of Civilization thesis.
- The United States announces a War on Terror and attacks the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.
- The Taliban regime is dislodged but the mujahideen networks formed during the Afghan jihad assume different roles: India-centric and Indian-administered Kashmir-centric; within Pakistan anti-Shia centric.

Militant Islam reaches Europe

- Terrorist attacks in several European cities.
- The Netherlands: Assassinations of Professor Pim Fortuyn who spoke out against Islam and multicultural and another critic of Islam filmmaker Theo Van Gogh (2004). Greet Wilders, a member of the Dutch Parliament took the position that Islam was not part of the Judaeo-Christian heritage.
- Cartoonists publishing cartoons of Prophet Muhammad greatly angered the Muslims and resulted in a number of terrorist incidents.
- The Hijab and Burqa/Niqab controversies.

The Myths and Realities about Muslim Radicalism

*Radical Islam was a marginal force in the Muslim world and nearly absent among Muslim immigrants till the early 1970s.

*While radicalization of Muslims has definitely taken place it does not mean that those attracted to extreme ideas are by any stretch of imagination a large group of people.

- Anti-immigration anti-Muslim parties have made significant gains in the recent elections but simultaneously we find more Muslims elected to various European parliaments.
- Ghettoization and economic marginalization has created pockets of extremist radicalism.
- On the other hand, the generations of Muslims born and bred in Europe do acquire Western ideas and values through the school system.

Radicalizations: Right-wing anti-immigration, anti-Muslim versus Muslim radicalism

- In the light of the above discuss we can now sum up what does radicalization means in contemporary Europe.
- For the anti-immigration, anti-Muslim parties it means restoring in some sense the pre-W W II nation-state based on ethnic homogeneity.
- For the Muslim radicals in Europe it means insulating their communities from mainstream society and in that state of isolation imposing on their strict control based on what they think are unchanging Islamic moral standards and legal precepts.

Western dilemmas

- Multiculturalism as voluntary integration has not been very successful.
- Security concerns are now paramount in the policies of Western states.
- While the liberal-democratic model remains firm and stable there is no denying that it is under considerable strain from both Xenophobic forces within mainstream society as well as continuing resistance offered by radical Islam to integration.

Muslim Dilemmas

- The Muslims voluntarily decided to settle in Europe. They therefore need to accept the responsibilities which such a decision entails for them. There are no rights without corresponding duties.
- Undoubtedly the publication of cartoons of the Prophet greatly anger Muslims but an implication of the freedom of religion and the freedom of expression is that they Muslims have been able to establish mosques and cultural centres.
- Isolationism and insulation from mainstream society has meant that Muslims have not been able to compete on equal terms with others in the job market and other opportunities.

What needs to be done?

- The ambiguities generated by multicultural need to be sorted out.
- A clear distinction between the sphere of citizenship and the sphere of religious community needs to be drawn.
- Special efforts need to be made by the governments and municipal authorities to improve the living conditions of immigrants living in rundown suburbs.
- We must learn that their primary loyalty should be toward the societies in which we live and earn a living and not to ideological centres looking in the direction of Riyadh or Tehran or any other centre.

Questions, discussion



Closing

- Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Sahib gave us a good overview of Radicalism, its evolution, roots, history, reasons, key turning points and its modern perspective.
- We need to ask ourselves a few questions too:
- If the west is becoming islamophobic, are we also becoming “westophobic”?
- Have we in some ways contributed to islamophobia?
- We enjoy the benefits of a secular state, but are we against secularism?



Closing

- Do we have any sense of loyalty to the country we are born in, raised, received education and and make our living in a relatively safe environment?
- How can some of these people radicalised to the extent that they voluntarily join ISIS? This includes not only marginalized persons but also highly educated and successful ones.
- Why do the Governments bow to the
- unconstitutional demands of the radicals?



Closing

- While many of believe that the extremists are “not really muslims”, we fail to condemn their actions?
- Why policy talks tackling radicalistion are conducted without considering the history, impact of colonisation, economic and political interests?
- And finally, what our response should be against Islamofobia?
- Let’s do some soul-searching. Dr. sahib has provided great impetus.



Thank
you!

Keep in touch



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Overseas Progressive Pakistanis



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