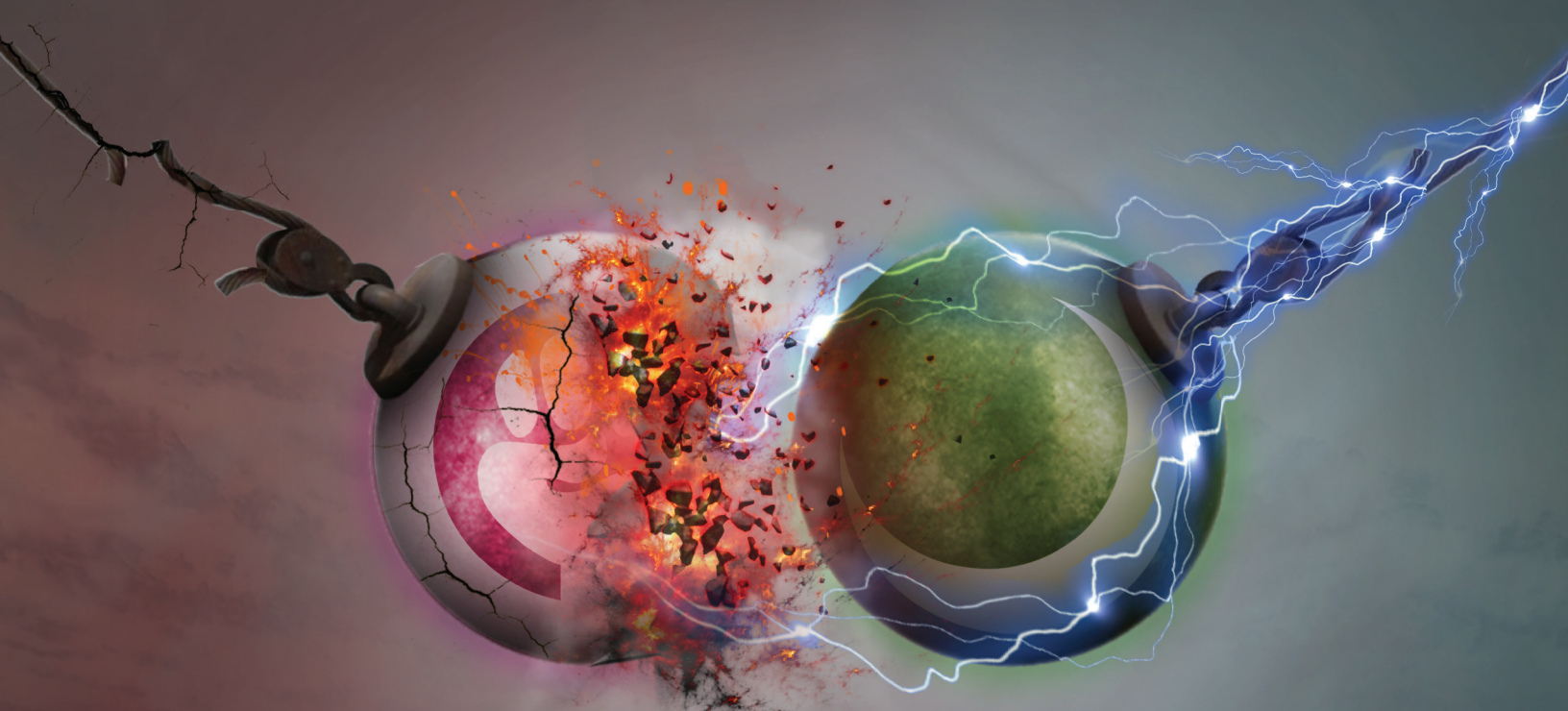


THE

MILESTONE

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ISLAM

VS

FEMINISM

EDITORIAL

Dr. Mubasshir Alig, PhD, AMU

The war between truth and falsehood will continue in this world till the Day of Judgment. Whether it is between Adam (عليه السلام) and Iblees, Musa (عليه السلام) and Pharaoh, Ibrahim (عليه السلام) and Namrood or between our Prophet Mohammad (ﷺ) and the Jews and the Kuffar. In this struggle, eventually, it is the truth that prevails and the evil is destroyed.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the most powerful countries of the world, in their pride and arrogance attacked the war-torn vulnerable countries. Everybody witnessed how these poor countries would be erased from the world map and there would be no one left to mourn for them. Neither the sky nor the earth would shed even a tear for them. But there were some who had complete trust in Allah, his Sunnah, and His army scattered across the universe. In comparison to the science and technology, and the material pleasures of this world, they firmly believed that eventually success would come to the people of faith and the evil forces that are marching towards Afghanistan would one day come to an extremely humiliating defeat and they would not have a place to hide themselves in. On the 15th of August, the entire world witnessed those scenes that the people of Faith were waiting for.

This victory of the Taliban stunned the entire world. The whole system built by the West was totally collapsed. This was not only the defeat of the West's armed forces but the defeat of their cultural, political, and social layers as well. It is also the defeat of the West's materialistic

factors and the so-called democracy. Although, the US deployed all of its allies to hide this defeat.

Now the media has begun to spew venom and all those baseless accusations that were leveled 20 years ago have come into motion again. E.g., the Taliban does not grant women their rights and humiliates them; they pursue and violate the minorities and dhimmis (non-Muslims), are barbaric and cruel, are extremely intolerant, indulge in religious violence, and murder those who oppose them. These allegations are made with such loud noise and action that the world is not aware of the real truth and the defeat of the United States is getting unheard of under all this noise. None of them nears around the fact that the US has lost completely. All the facts that the 20-year-old US government has wreaked havoc in Afghanistan, and testimonies that people were killed, raped, and bombed in cities, are being wiped away.

After the Taliban took over Kabul, the media showcased that a horrific situation prevailed in Afghanistan. These scenes were compared to "Judgment Day" and the media found only one "witness" to the incident of a US Air Force plane flying over Kabul airport, after which hundreds of people were running. But, was it because of the Taliban? Was the Kabul airport under the Taliban's control at that time?

The evil forces have always tried to keep the general public in darkness so that they may become successful in their endeavors. But, in today's world of social media, everyone can easily find out the real story and thus all the propaganda loses its fire. Before the Taliban took over Afghanistan, there were some names popping up, especially those of some women, that they would fight the Taliban, but nothing as such happened. All those



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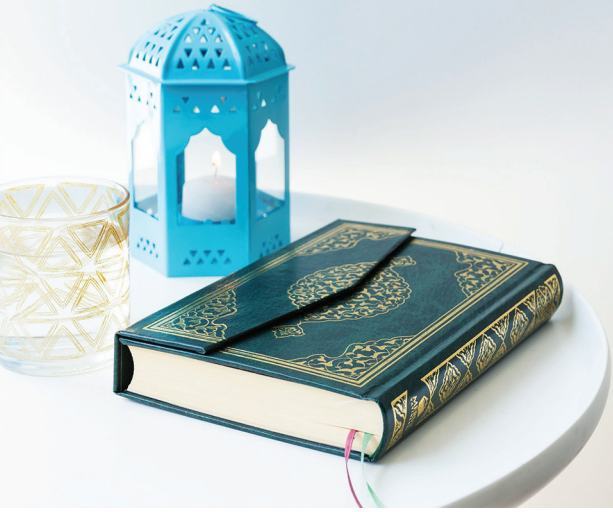
people or groups who were rumored to hold out against the Taliban ended up accepting them. Those who have not accepted them, are those forces of the enemies of Islam, who cannot digest this victory of Islam so much so that even those members of the media who were talking about clean and honest reporting have also shown their true colors.

The success of the Taliban has proved that to achieve any goal, sacrifice and power are of the utmost importance. If you don't have power, you would be discredited and will have no importance in this world, and the world would crush you. But if you have power, the world will come towards you. Without power, deals are only made on papers, they have no implementation on the ground.

**rishī ke fāqoñ se TuuTā na
barhaman kā tilism
asā na ho to kalīmī hai kār-e-be-
buniyād
Allama Iqbal**

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CREATOR'S CALL



وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ حُسْنًا وَإِنْ جَاهَدَكَ لِتُشْرِكَ بِي مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلَا تُطِعْهُمَا إِلَىٰ مَرْجِعِكُمْ فَأُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ

We have bequeathed to man to be kind to his parents. But if they urge you to associate with Me what you have no knowledge of, then do not obey them. To Me you will all return, and then I will inform you of what you used to do.

Ismael Hamidi
Jamiatul Falah

This verse of Surat al-Ankabut guides us in many matters. The verse begins with the fact that

“We have bequeathed to man to be kind to his parents” It is worth noting that Allah has used the word “bequeathed” to indicate the significance of this command.

A person who is about to depart this material world does important things to his relatives before he leaves their company and tries his best to convey the things that are very useful to them. In the same way, Allah has shown the importance of kindness to parents here by using the word “الوصية”.

The fact is that Islam’s emphasis on good behavior towards parents is unsurpassed by any other religious teaching. In Several commandments and advice, Allah Almighty has emphasized parent’s rights alongside His rights on followers.

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَيْهِمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أُفٍّ وَلَا تَنْهَرُهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا

سوره بنی اسرائیل ۲۳،

Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and do good to parents. If any one of them or both of them reach old age, do not say to them: uff and do not scold them, and address them with respectful words.

Read this ayah again and again and contemplate over the magnitude of emphasis on treating parents kindly and the extent to which they are required to be taken care of, that is even saying “uff” (a word or expression of anger or contempt) to parents is forbidden let alone talking to them in loud voice or abusing them or treating them unfairly in any way.

These commands of Allah have been explained by the Messenger of Allah ﷺ through his hadiths, and by saying “هما جنتك ونارك” he preached the glad tidings of paradise for treating parents kindly

and promised Hell as a consequence of mistreating them. In the books of hadiths, you will find dozens of hadiths that emphasize good behavior with parents. Despite such a prodigious position of parents in Islam, Allah has made it clear in the following verse of Surah Ankabut that, when parents order something wrong what are we supposed to do.

This verse gives us a clue that when it comes to Allah’s obedience, none can outdo it, even the parents who have been revered and held in the best position by Islam.

Those, for whom we are ordered kind treatment and highest respect in the first part of this verse, even they don’t have the authority to command us something which falls under Allah’s disobedience let alone others.

Various books of hadiths and Seerah narrate the story of Hazrat Saad bin Abi Waqqas RA in the context of the revelation of this verse, in which his mother tried her best to somehow force her son to commit shirk. She said to his son, “I will neither eat nor drink nor sit in the shade until you leave the deen of Muhammad ﷺ.” Regarding this, Allah instructed in clear words that keep the rights of the mother in their place, but when it comes to my disobedience, never accept it.

This is also explained by the hadith of the Prophet ﷺ

لا طاعة لمخلوق في معصية الخالق

That obedience to any creature is not permissible by disobeying the Creator.

In the end, Allah Almighty says that all of you have to return to Me. Then I will reward or punish you according to what you used to do.

Here Allah Almighty is saying that the relations of the world, the acquaintance here are all temporary, all of you will come back to us and all of you will be held accountable, everyone will be responsible for his own deeds. So do not disobey your Lord for anyone else, otherwise, you will have to bear the burden on the Day of Judgement.

WOMEN SUBJUGATION OR EMANCIPATION.

A tale of Feminism



Osama Azeem Falahi
Ph.d, Punjabi University

“On the table of consciousness, don’t pick up the sugar-coated or well-seasoned lies by mistake. The truth has natural flavours.”

WOMEN’S LIBERATION MOVEMENT

Women’s Liberation Movement (Feminism) is a popular trend nowadays. It is one of the residual parts of the Renaissance movement of Europe against the church’s atrocities, which advocated absolute freedom for women. Since the beginning of this movement, its objectives have been unnatural and destructive for a sound human society, hence it is one of the prime responsibilities of believers to safeguard the world from the ill effects of this movement.

BACKGROUND OF THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT

Prior to the 18th century, European nations had deprived women of all their basic rights. When Europe got rid of the church’s rule and Industrial Revolution began to make life more luxurious; the competitive Industrial age demanded women along with men to work in industries to accelerate and maximize production.

It all started with pretty slogans to encourage women to leave their houses for jobs; subsequently, women were incited to revolt against every system in the world that has been expressing its reservations regarding the absolute freedom which feminists were demanding.

THE GOALS OF FEMINISM

The clear ideas and objectives of this movement are that women should have the same rights as men in every sphere of life; there should be no restrictions on their freedom; whether employed in offices and factories or the free trade and industry, various sports, or other recreational pursuits, women should have the same right to participate as men.

Marital responsibilities, raising and upbringing children, family service are all outdated and narrow-mindedness.

In order to achieve the above goals, this movement has gained so much momentum in Europe that the fabric of society got shattered and the procreation spirit got ebbed. Life is devoid of Peace, illegitimate children and suicides have become customary. Sense of individual and social responsibility has disappeared. Moreover, the situation has turned so strange that the women who were strong supporters of the feminist movement such as Betty Friedan and Germaine Greer are screaming over the terrible outcomes of the feminist movement. Betty Friedan writes in her book ‘The Second Stage’-

“Can women deny their sexual existence?

Can she be completely separated from the man? Can she really get salvation by getting rid of her children or getting out of the family institution?” Similar views have been expressed by Germaine Greer and others. Their estimates have all been proved wrong, and they need a home more than a job.

FEMINISM IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Through modern Arabic literature, Egypt became the first victim of this movement, and later on, with the support of the government, this movement reached its peak in Turkey. However, this movement saw the light of the day in Muslim countries when the Cairo Conference was organized in 1994 and the Beijing Conference in 1995 under the supervision of the UN. These conferences passed several resolutions, the summary of which are as follows.

A woman should not be forced to become a mother and if she becomes pregnant during an illicit relationship, abortion is her legal right, not a crime.

The Cairo Conference and then the Beijing Conference had been instrumental in fueling the storm of women’s depravity which included condom culture, abortion for women, and women’s choice for pregnancy.

In fact the deodorized word ‘feminism’ coined and exploited by the west is not feminism in the real sense of the word’s meaning. An examination of the ideas propounded by founding women of this

movement and a study of the Cairo and Beijing conferences reveal that the feminist movement is indubitably a movement to proliferate immorality and obscenity, murder motherhood, and wipe out the family system from the society.

THE CONCEPT OF MEN AND WOMEN IN ISLAM

Allah has established the balanced order of the universe based on justice. A slightest dent in justice and balance would cause the society to fall prey to corruption. Accordingly, Allah has made men and women responsible for their distinct place and position in the society. Allah has made both of them responsible for what He has ordained in their nature. Humans are the ruler of world affairs; that includes both man and woman, indicating both are equal in dignity; their conscience is raised from the same substance.

No one is superior or inferior, both are equally responsible and accountable.

Survival of life and reproduction are primary responsibilities imposed by nature on human beings. As far as survival of life is concerned, man has to arrange food, accommodation, and protection from sudden suffering such as illness, sorrow, and enemy. To perform these three duties, one gender is endowed with the required attributes.

Survival of progeny, unlike the previous responsibilities, requires a unit that will be engaged in the birth, breastfeeding with full attention and guidance for three and a half years for the newborns. Therefore, the second unit was given all attributes suitably. She was relieved of strict responsibilities of food, security, and protection from enemies. This distribution of services does not mean that the work of reproduction is inferior and that the creature that performs it is inferior or second-class.

Anyone who ponders on this natural division by Islam without prejudice will realize that only Islam gives great status to women, whereas feminism brings about the destruction of women and society.

THE QURAN AND MODERN SCIENCE

Compatible OR Incompatible ?

Maaz Chaudhary, XII Sc

At present we live in a so-called 'Modern Developed Society' which blindly believes in science and its research. As Muslims, we never doubt the Qur'an and the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, we believe that what he said is true, but our non-Muslim friends always doubt the Quran and its message. But what if I say that Quran and the Science both say the same thing (in terms of proven facts) with a twist that the Quran had said it 1400 years ago and Science has proven it in the last couple of centuries.

In the book "Quran and Modern Science, compatible or Incompatible" written by Dr. Zakir Naik, he covers a wide field of Quranic facts as evidenced by modern science.

Firstly, what is the Quran?

It is a book that contains words chosen & spoken by Allah which are revealed to mankind for their success. However, the Quran is not a book of science instead it is a book of "signs" i.e., Ayat's. There are more than six thousand 'signs' in the Quran of which more than a thousand deal with science. As we all know that many times science takes a U-turn, so we will discuss only facts and not about theories and hypotheses.

We all are familiar with 'The Big Bang Theory' which states that the whole universe was initially one big mass (Primary Nebula). Then there was a 'Big Bang' (Secondary Separation) which resulted in the formation of galaxies, stars, and planets, etc. Allah says in the Quran (21:30)

"Have those who disbelieve not known that the heavens and the earth were joined together as one united piece, then we parted them?"

How could a book which was revealed in the deserts of Arabia more than 1400 years ago contain this profound scientific truth? Some people to this date believe that the earth is flat, Allah says in the Quran (31:29)

"See you not Allah merges the night into day and merges the day into night"

which means that night slowly shifts into the day, and vice versa. This can only occur when the earth is round, if suppose the earth is flat then there would be a sudden transition from day to night.

As technology has advanced now, we can explore the universe, but the question is, how big is the universe? In the Quran (51:47) Allah says

"With power did we construct the heaven. Verily we can extend the vastness of space thereof"

Surprisingly scientists have found that our universe is constantly expanding. According to the Second Law of Thermodynamics "There is a natural tendency of an isolated system to degenerate into a more disorder state" and our universe is an isolated system. Suppose we have to mix salt water and fresh water & after mixing we have to separate it without any physical barriers. Will it be possible for us humans to separate? In the Quran (55:19-20) Allah says

"He has let the two seas (fresh and saltwater) meeting together. Between them is a barrier that none of them can transgress."

Modern science has discovered this phenomenon near Egypt, where the river Nile flows into the Mediterranean Sea and their water never gets mixed.

Everyone is familiar with water and it is essential for survival. In the Quran (21:30) Allah says

"And we have made from water everything. Will they not then believe?"

Only after advancement in science, we came to know that cytoplasm, the basic substance of cell is made of 80% water, which means 60% of the human body is made of water.

As we all know, there will be the torment of fire in Hell. In the Quran (4:56) **"Surely, those who disbelieved in our signs, we shall burn them in the fire. As often their skin is roasted through, We shall change them for other skin that they may taste the punishment. Truly Allah is ever most powerful"**. If a person gets burned severely, the pain receptors of burned skin dies and the person will not be able to feel pain in that area. So, Allah will regenerate a new skin so that they taste the punishment.

Allah says in the Quran (3:190) **"Verily, in the creation of heavens and earth and the alternation of night and day there are indeed signs for men of understanding"**. These signs invite man to understand the purpose of his existence on earth. Quran is a book of guidance that guides mankind to the truth and to the lord of the world who alone deserves to be worshipped.



Accountability and Success

Ghazanfar Ayyubi
(Btech, Mechanical)

Events and happenings across the world are like successive chapters from Adam (A.S) to the last man. The story of human life is drifting the world to its end one. When the last man completes his journey to this world, we know that an unending journey to the Hereafter awaits him, where he will be graded for the performance in the given test of his worldly life. Even so, have we ever spared a few moments from our busy schedules to probe the extent to which we have been keeping our promise to God by engaging in all these worldly affairs? Are we discharging our duty of abiding by the religion in totality that we were entrusted with, after the departure of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ or have we partially understood and confined our responsibilities to individualistic purview?

Who is successful?

If we look at human life, it is clear that those who pondered over the above question in their lives and held themselves accountable reached untouched heights. They were always remembered by the world and their rules and regulations became customs. Their asceticism became a beacon for the ascetics. Their struggle became a tall tower for the Mujahideen. Their sincerity taught humanity a lesson in divinity. And their death, like pearls on the shores of life, kept attracting others so that others too could find it and become precious. Allah, the Lord of the worlds, says In the Qur'an:

“On that day you will be presented, nothing will be hidden from you.”
(Surat al-Haaqqa).

He says in another place:

“Then he who has done an atom's weight of good will see it, and he who has done an atom's weight of evil will see it.” (Surat al-Zilzaal).

That is, whatever we consider inferior, Allah will take account for it.

Presumably, even if the life span is sixty or seventy years, will we be able to present an account of a single day before our Lord? To simplify this calculation, we must become accustomed to our individual and collective accountability in this world with sincerity and divinity. The encouragement of accountability has been given to us by the Prophet ﷺ through his ahadees and has also been the main attribute of the Sahaabah.

Organization and Accountability:

‘Accountability’ has been a vital component of the Islamic Organization since its inception. It is the sense which distinguishes heedless masses from those who strive in the way of Allah all over the world and brings humanity closer to piety. Holding oneself accountable for deeds and actions and introspecting worldly life to secure hereafter has lit many dark lives. It has liberated people from individual and social evils and encouraged sincerity and purity in actions. It has not only focused on social responsibilities such as charity, maintaining healthy family relationships but also motivated for personal development like acquiring knowledge and physical fitness. **Through this valuable program of accountability is available in the market today in the name of personality development for millions of rupees; Islamic Organization is making it available in society for free.** Ironically, the majority of the Ummah has ignored it, and it is correct to say that we, who are part of this program, do not truly follow the instructions of our organization for the fulfillment of accountability. Perhaps, the system of accountability should transform us into a role model for society enabling us to protect the youths and children of the ummah from falling prey to the modern vices and wasting their lives. If the popular philosophy of life is confined to the high standard of living, pursuing attractive careers, building economic empires and social status, striving for a high standard of

education for children, and exiting the world while being immersed with such affairs, then we should make a firm commitment to deviate from this philosophy and turn to the Qur'an and Hadith and lead a life of Quran under the shade of prophetic traditions.

Individual accountability:

Accountability is one of the best and most effective systems to transform a society, which can lead human life to ascension if used properly. Remember! Man spends his whole life in the quest of ‘matter’ and the world vaporizes ‘matter’ in the air like camphor. When the tomb is opened, there is no sign of the bones. All his struggles, the wealth he has earned, the offspring he has produced cannot bring him any benefit, even his good deeds, which he continued to do except for pure intentions.

Introspect sincerely before going to bed at night. Know that the shortcomings of obligatory acts are unacceptable. Make relentless efforts to avoid sins. If there is a slip, then immediately turn to Allah. Pray to Him, beseech and cry, give alms, until the heart is calmed by erasing sin from the book of deeds. If a sin is repeated, make fasting obligatory on you. Set your life on a schedule that will get you results quickly with regular planning.

Social accountability:

Strengthen collective accountability while in the organization. Encourage the Ummah to be accountable in some way. Create awareness in the ummah to understand and practice the religion. Question the leaders of Ummah fearlessly, where have we wronged ourselves? The responsibility of the affairs of ummah should be shouldered by someone. After all, what is the reason that despite the madrassas and schools we lack faith, belief, and knowledge? Do your best to reform the Ummah and pray that God will admit us to Paradise in the Hereafter without calling us to account.

Sealed Nectar



Attempts made to check the Onward March of Islam

Having fully perceived that Muhammad ﷺ could never be desisted from his Call, Quraish, in a desperate attempt to quell the tidal wave of the Call, resorted to other cheap means acting from base motives. Scoffing, degrading, ridiculing, belying and laughter-instigating cheap manners, all of which levelled at the new converts in general, and Muhammad ﷺ in particular, with the aim of dragging the spirit of despair into their morale, and slackening their ardent zealotry. They used to denounce the Prophet ﷺ as a man possessed by a Jin or an insane person: And they say,

“O you upon whom the message has been sent down, indeed you are mad.”

[Al-Qur’an 15:6]

Amongst the early converts, there was a group who had unfortunately no strong clan at their back to support them. These innocent souls were ridiculed and jeered in season and out of season. Referring to such people, the highbrow Quraish aristocrats used repeatedly to ask Prophet ﷺ, with jest and scorn:

“...”Is it these whom Allah has favored among us?” [Al-Qur’an 6:53]

The wicked used to laugh at the righteous in many ways: They would inwardly laugh at their Faith, because they felt themselves as superior.

In public places, when the righteous passed, they used to insult and wink at them. In their own houses, they would run them down. Whenever and wherever they saw them, they reproached and called them fools who had lost their way.

Distorting Prophet’s (ﷺ) teachings, evoking ambiguities, circulating false propaganda; forging groundless allegations concerning his doctrines, person and character, and going to excess in such a manner in order to screen off any scope of sound contemplation from the public. With respect to the Qur’an, they used to allege that it was:

“And they say, “These revelations are only’ ancient fables which he has had written down, and they are rehearsed to him morning and evening.”

[Al-Qur’an 25:5]

They also raised another baseless and superficial objection: And they say,

“What is this Messenger that eats food and walks in the markets? Why was there not sent down to him an angel so he would be with him a warner?”

[Al-Qur’an 25:7]

They were sadly ignorant and painfully at fault for they could not perceive that a teacher for mankind is one who shares their nature, mingles in their life, is acquainted with their doings, and sympathizes with their joys and sorrows. Contrasting the Qur’an with the mythology of the ancients in order to distract people’s interests from Allah’s Words. It is narrated that An-Nadr, headed for Heerah where he got conversant with the traditions of the kings of Persia and the accounts of people like Rustum and Asphandiar, and then returned to Makkah. Here he would always shadow the Messenger’s steps ﷺ in whatever audiences the later held to preach the new faith and to caution people against Allah’s wrath. An-Nadr would directly follow the Prophet ﷺ and narrate to

the same audience long tales about those people of Persia. He would then always append his talk with a question cunningly inquiring if he did not outdo Muhammad ﷺ. Ibn ‘Abbas (R.A) related that An-Nadr used to purchase songstresses who would through their bodily charms and songs entice away from Islam anyone developing the least attachment to the Prophet ﷺ [Tafheem-ul-Qur’an 4/9];

In this regard, Allah says:

And of the people is he who buys the amusement of speech to mislead [others] from the way of Allah without knowledge and who takes it [i.e., His way] in ridicule. Those will have a humiliating punishment. [Al-Qur’an

31:6]



On the authority of Ibn Jareer and At-Tabarani, the idolaters offered that Muhammad ﷺ worship their gods for a year, and they worship his Lord for a year. In another version, they said: “If you accept our gods, we would worship Yours.” Ibn Ishaq related that Al-Aswad bin Al-Muttalib, Al-Waleed bin Al-Mugheerah, Omaiyah bin Khalaf and Al- ‘As bin Wa’il As-Sahmy, a constellation of influential polytheists, intercepted the Prophet ﷺ while he was circumambulating in the Holy Sanctuary, and offered him to worship that they worshipped, and they worship that he worshipped so that, according to them, both parties would reach a common denominator. They added “Should the Lord you worship prove to be better than ours, then it will be so much better for us, but if our gods proved to be better than yours, then you would have benefit from it.” Allah, the Exalted, was decisive on the spot and revealed Surah Al-Kafiroon.

IS THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER IN AFGHANISTAN SIGNALING AN END TO 'PAX AMERICANA'

Ghazi Abdullah
(BA, Pol. Sc)

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, the United States was the predominant global power with unchallenged military strength, economic capability, and technological advances. Its cultural influence spanned the whole globe; from the East and the South China Sea to the Atlantic Ocean and south in the Indian Ocean region. Its economy was by far the largest, its technology dominated in almost all fields of innovation and learning. No one dared to challenge its military might which was based on 800 military bases around the world. Iraq made the mistake of challenging it by invading Kuwait. This invasion was dealt with an iron hand and the Iraqi Army was devastated while retreating from Kuwait. The contemporary global culture was synonymous with American culture. American movies and music dominated Entertainment all over the world. It was one of the greatest superpowers in entire human history. This period was 'Pax-Americana' in every sense of the word.

After the September 11 attacks on the twin towers, the US invaded Afghanistan anticipating an easy victory. Although this largely seemed to be true in the beginning; the US lost its focus on Afghanistan due to its invasion of Iraq in 2003. Consequently, the Taliban got a chance to regroup themselves to wage guerrilla warfare against 'foreign invaders' as they had done two decades ago against the Russians.

By 2004, a full-blown insurgency was started by the Taliban. By 2008 the situation became far worse than expected. Attacks on the US and its NATO allies were the new normal. The US was paying a heavy price both financially and militarily. Obama came to power with a promise

ending foreign wars but after taking stock of the situation in Afghanistan he ordered a surge of US troops to crush the insurgency. After the death of Osama bin Laden in 2011, in Pakistan, Americans hoped that this would weaken the insurgency but to their surprise, it only got intensified. By 2013, the Obama administration was yearning to negotiate with the Taliban. Taliban opened its political office in Doha, Qatar, yet no serious progress was made on a ceasefire. In 2017 Trump came to office promising to end foreign wars which were immensely damaging the US economy, military, and most importantly its position as the sole superpower on the Earth. The US spent \$2.3 trillion and lost the lives of around 2500 of its soldiers and tens of thousands suffered from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and other mental illnesses.

After years of negotiations, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo signed the Doha Agreement with Mullah Baradar, the deputy leader of the Taliban.

This agreement mainly concerned a provision of safe passage for the US and its NATO allies withdrawing from Afghanistan by a set deadline of May 1, 2021, and in the return, the Taliban promised not to allow anyone to use its territory against the US or its allies. Subsequently, the Taliban stopped attacking foreign troops but intensified its attacks on the western-backed Afghan government. After coming to office on January 20, 2021, Joe Biden drawing experience from his service as vice president under Obama was determined to end the war instead of focusing to containing the ever-rising power of China. Biden hastily withdrew the American troops from Afghanistan due to

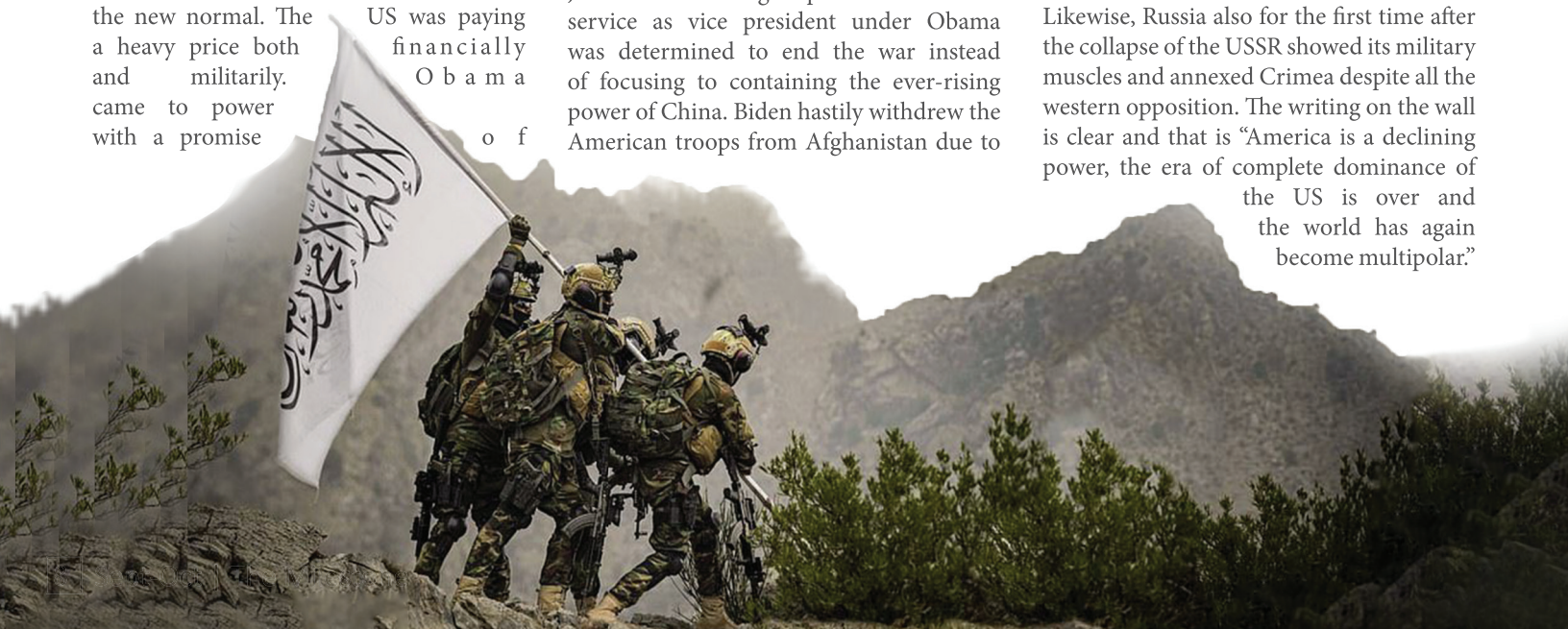
which the morale of the Afghan Army was shattered and they lost the will to fight. Consequently, the three hundred thousand strong Afghan Army men equipped and trained by the US in 20 years at the cost of hundreds of billions collapsed against the advancing 75,000 battle-hardened Taliban. City after city fell to the Taliban like a pack of cards. They overran almost all of Afghanistan in 10 days. It was a walkover for the Taliban. The US helplessly witnessed the Taliban takeover of Kabul on August 15 even before they were out of Afghanistan.

The scenes of the Taliban taking Kabul and the humiliating defeat of the US were broadcasted live around the world. This defeat is more humiliating than what the US suffered in Vietnam with the fall of Saigon in 1975 because North Vietnam was backed by USSR, the erstwhile opposite superpower, and China in every way. Contrary to this, the Taliban is not backed by any major power except some support by Pakistan which itself is an impoverished state.

The US' image of the sole superpower on Earth suffered a major blow in the eyes of both its friends and foes. Its friends like Taiwan's belief in the US help against a possible Chinese invasion suffered badly, while US rivals- China and Russia watched gleefully the humiliation of their common enemy in Afghanistan.

During these 20 years of war, China steadily developed its economy and became capable of challenging US hegemony around the world in general and the South China Sea in particular.

Likewise, Russia also for the first time after the collapse of the USSR showed its military muscles and annexed Crimea despite all the western opposition. The writing on the wall is clear and that is "America is a declining power, the era of complete dominance of the US is over and the world has again become multipolar."





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Introspecting Social Media

Three billion people, around 40% of the world's population, use social media – and we're spending an average of two hours every day sharing, liking, tweeting, and updating on these platforms, according to various reports. That breaks down to around half a million tweets and Snapchat photos shared every minute.

With social media playing such a big part in our lives, could we be sacrificing our mental health and well-being as well as our time?

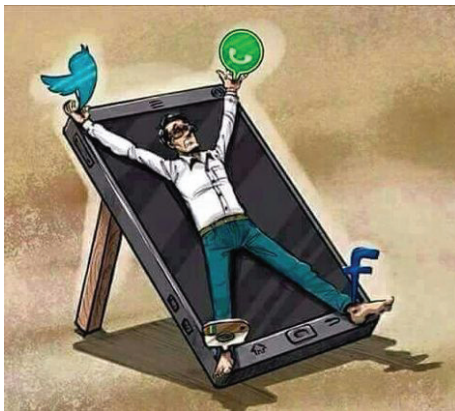
From a neurological perspective, social media affects different brain functions in unique ways. It contains many combinations of stimuli that can trigger different reactions, and because of this, social media's effects on the brain appear in a variety of ways.

Positive attention on social media, for example, affects multiple parts of the brain like-acquiring likes on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram causes activation in brain circuitry including the striatum and ventral tegmental area, implicating a reward, caused due to receiving Likes from others. This sounds complicated but when approached from a different perspective, it becomes a little more digestible. The ventral tegmental area (VTA) is one of the primary parts responsible for determining the rewards system in people's bodies. When social media users receive positive feedback (likes), their brains fire off dopamine receptors, which is facilitated in part by the VTA.

In one study, the participants were asked to record an experience using their notes or social media, and other groups were asked to simply experience the event

without recording it. At the end of the study, those who had recorded or shared the event performed worse and showed more of a memory deficit than those who experienced the event without recording it. Externalizing an experience worsened participant's memory because their brain received the message that it didn't need to hold onto information that was stored elsewhere. Consequently, not only did the individuals lose some memory of their original experience, but they may also experience longer-term deficits in the size and function of their brains.

People use social media to vent about everything from customer service to politics, but the downside to this is that our feeds often resemble an endless stream of stress. Twitter was found to be a "significant contributor". In 2014, researchers in Austria found that participants reported lower moods after using Facebook for 20 minutes compared to those who just browsed the internet. People who use seven or more social media platforms were more than three times as likely as people using 0-2 platforms to have high levels of general anxiety symptoms. Depressive symptoms, such as low mood and feelings of worthlessness and hopelessness, were linked to the quality of online interactions. Researchers found higher levels of depressive symptoms among those who reported having more negative interactions.



Humans used to spend their evenings in darkness, but now we're surrounded by artificial lighting all day and night. Research has found that this can inhibit the body's production of the hormone melatonin, which facilitates sleep – and blue light, which is emitted by smartphone and laptop screens, is said to be the worst culprit. In

other words, if you lie on the pillow at night checking Facebook and Twitter, you're headed for restless slumber. Tweeting may be harder to resist than cigarettes and alcohol. Social media addiction isn't included in the latest diagnostic manual for mental health disorders. The more time people spend on the site, the worse they feel later on, and the more their life satisfaction declines over time. Social media makes people feel negative emotions – mainly frustration – and envy was the main cause. This was triggered by comparing their lives to others, and the biggest culprit was other people's travel photos. Those who spend the most time on social media were twice as likely to report experiencing social isolation, which can include a lack of a sense of social belonging, engagement with others, and fulfilling relationships. It could displace face-to-face interaction, and can also make people feel excluded.

Instead of wasting time on social media, a believer uses his time on positive and productive works. Allah says in Qur'an about believers that:

And they (Believers) who avoid whatever is vain and frivolous. (23:3)

Since every cure of such problems is in remembrance of Allah. Qur'an says:

Verily, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest. (13:28)

However, Social media affects people differently, depending on pre-existing conditions and personality traits. As with food, gambling, and many other temptations of the modern age, excessive use for some individuals is probably inadvisable. But at the same time, it would be wrong to say social media is universally a bad thing because clearly, it brings myriad benefits to our lives. So we must try to adopt a balanced approach to social media and use platforms that are of immediate use for us. Also, we must seek that information only that is beneficial for us and refrain from going into an infinite loop of useless content on social media. We must stick to the viewpoint -

"Not everything found on the internet is useful."



IOBALIC COUPLETS

The message of Iblees to his political generation

لا کر برہمنوں کو سیاست کے پیچ میں
زناریوں کو دیر گھن سے نکال دو

Laa kar brahmano ko siyasad ke pech me,
Zunnariyo ko deyr e kuhan se nikaal do

The devil orders his children to abrogate the traditions of Hinduism and make the Brahmins, their leaders too much busy in politics that they come out of their temples to become the follower of the devil and leave their culture and civilization

وہ فاقہ کش کہ موت سے ڈرتا نہیں ذرا
روح محمد اس کے بدن سے نکال دو

Wo faqah kash ke maut se darta nhi zara,
Rooh e Mohammad uske badan se nikaal do.

Although Muslims are suffering from poverty and hunger, they have so much love of Allah and His Messenger Prophet Muhammad ﷺ that they are ready to sacrifice their lives for Islam and its founder at all times and find pride in it. So, remove this love and teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ completely from their hearts to pave the way for the establishment of the devilish system in the world.

شکر عرب کو دے کے فرنگی تخیلات
اسلام کو حجاز و یمن سے نکال دو
Fikr e arab ko de ke frangi takhayyulat
Islam ko hijaz o yemen se nikaal do

The devil, aiming at Arabia which is the center of Islam, directs his children to remove Islamic teachings and culture from the hearts in the Arab land including the prosperous regions of Hijaz and Yemen. Then, inculcate the western culture and civilization in their minds and society to such an extent that no place is left there for Islam again.a

افغانیوں کی غیرت دیں کا ہے یہ علاج
ملا کو ان کے کوہ و دامن سے نکال دو
Afghaniyo ki ghairat e deen ka hai ye ilaaj,
Mulla ko unke koh o daman se nikaal do.

The Muslims of Afghanistan, who are an exceptional example of Islamic pride, have this pride actually because of the religious knowledge of these Mullahs. Their solution lies in removing these Mullahs from the valleys of Afghanistan.

اہل حرم سے ان کی روایات چھین لو
آہو کو مرغزار خشتن سے نکال دو
Ehl e Haram se unki riwayat chheen lo,
Aahu ko murghzar e khhutan se nikaal do

If you remove the Islamic culture, civilization, and traditions from the hearts of the people of Haram (i.e., Muslims), then the whole Islamic world will get devoid of the Islamic spirit and the Muslim will be left of the name only, just like if the Musk Deers are removed from the Khuttan region (in Xinjiang), then the fragrance of this region will vanish automatically.

اقبال کے نفس سے ہے لالے کی آگ تیز
ایسے غزل سرا کو چپمن سے نکال دو
Iqbal ke nafas se hai laalay ki aag tez,
Aese ghazal saraa ko chaman se nikaal do.

The devil tells his disciples that to establish the devilish system, make this Iqbal silent. Because the fire of Allah's love and passion in the Muslims is getting fast and furious by his poetry and he has become a permanent threat for us. So, it's better to remove this poet from the meadows.

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Muhammad Azam
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WHY IS BURQA

only for women
in Islam?

Islam has prescribed a burqa for women i.e. a veil that covers the woman's body and is considered to be an act of modesty. However, people ask why are only women obliged to wear it? Muslims try to explain this by saying that it is for their modesty but a counter-question may be posed as to why only women should be modest and men roam freely?

Even before we start to explain this, we have to understand the basic concept in Islam regarding the male and female genders and their differences. Islam says that men and women are different-

**... And the male is not like the female...
Al Qur'an 3:36**

This principle is the basis because of which the Islamic prescriptions are different for men and women in Islam. If men and women had been equal, then the burqa would have been oppression for women. For the time being, we will cover only those reasons for this which are immediately related to our topic. In Sha Allah

First of all the burqa is for modesty. A notable fact is that men have also been prescribed to be modest and are required to cover their 'sitr' when among people. The sitr of men is from the navel to the knees (knees included). The sitr of women is stricter and covers the whole body except the face, hands, and feet. Both men and women are required to lower their gaze in public places. There are reasons because of which men are relaxed in this matter as compared to women. They are as follows-

As opposed to the western concept of individualism, Islam proposes the family system as the basis of society. In such a society, the man is the breadwinner and the women stay at home taking care of their children and home. In such a society, women must stay away from having relationships with other men as it harms the peace and strength of the family. It also has evil effects on the minds of the children and spreads STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) in society. So, women must protect their chastity by wearing the burqa.

Many people say that how can women do their activities outside their homes if they wear the restrictive burqa. The answer is quite simple to understand now. As Islam proposes that women should stay at their homes, it means that in an Islamic society, women will generally stay at their homes. Thus, they will have to face the restrictiveness only for some time as compared to other working women who may have to face the difficulties daily.

Women are not so much attracted to good-looking men as men are attracted to good-looking women. It is generally seen that women are more attracted to men who are rich and powerful. The Quran states about this obsessive attraction of men towards women in Surah Al Imran:

"Beautified for people is the love of that which they desire - of women and sons, heaped-up sums of gold and silver, fine branded horses, and cattle and tilled

land. That is the enjoyment of worldly life, but Allah has with Him the best return." (verse 14)

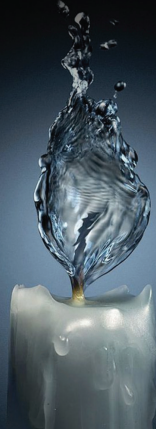
Here the list of things that men desire, is given. In this, women are mentioned first.

Similarly, the incident of Zulaykha and Yousuf A.S. also indicates this. After Zulaykha tried to seduce Yousuf A.S., the women of the town started making fun of her because she could not control herself on her husband's slave. She then called them all to her home to show that she was just a normal woman and that it was Yousuf A.S, who was exceptionally beautiful. If a man would have done this with his wife's slave, it would not be anything amusing for other men. This argument brings us to the conclusion that men are attracted more towards women than women are attracted towards men. Thus women should cover themselves up to more than men.

Women are soft and men are bold in nature. This is especially true in the case of relationships where men are the direct initiators. Women are generally passive in this process and use indirect methods to attract men towards them rather than confronting the man directly. The basic technique involves wearing revealing clothes. Wearing the burqa breaks this process of attraction and signifies that this woman who is wearing the burqa is chaste (generally).

Hence we get to know why Islam prescribes the burqa for women. I hope that this article will be eye-opening for the readers and help them in practicing this wise aspect of Islam.

Principle of REWARD AND PUNISHMENT



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(B.Sc Physics, AMU)

In the whole Quran, there are stories of Prophets in which we can see that those people who accepted and obeyed their messengers were rewarded and became custodians on earth and those who rejected their message were doomed in Allah's punishment. This decree was visible at the time of Prophets, so if we search for such decree in today's times we find this ayah.

وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ أَقَامُوا التَّوْرَةَ وَالْإِنْجِيلَ وَمَا أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ مِنَ الرِّبِّيمِ لَأَكَلُوا مِنْ فَوْقِهِمْ وَمِن تَحْتِ أَرْجُلِهِمْ مِنْهُمْ أُمَّةٌ مُّقْتَصِدَةٌ وَكَثِيرٌ مِنْهُمْ سَاءٌ مَا يَعْمَلُونَ
(Al maeeda -66)

And if only they upheld [the law of] the Torah, the Gospel, and what has been revealed to them from their Lord, they would have consumed [provision] from above them and from beneath their feet. Among them are a moderate community, but many of them are evil-doers.

This message is for people of the book and the same message is given to this Muslim ummah:

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ عَلَيْكُمْ شَهِيدًا
(Al baqarah-143)

And thus we have made you a just community that you will be witnesses over the people and the Messenger will be a witness over you.

Also,

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ
(aal e imran-110)

You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah.

So if we understand our responsibility of being the best nation, and work for it then there will be salvation, otherwise

وَضُرِبَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الذِّلَّةُ وَالْمَسْكَنَةُ * وَبَاءَؤُ بِغَضَبٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ
(Al baqarah-61)

And they were covered with humiliation and poverty and returned with anger from Allah [upon them].

ACROSS THE GLOBE

UAE allows blocked Afghanistan evacuation flight to depart for US

The plane carrying US citizens and permanent residents had been temporarily prevented from departing for the US. (30 Sep 2021)

Prominent Rohingya leader shot dead in Bangladesh refugee camp

Rights groups call for urgent investigation after Mohibullah shot dead outside his office. (29 Sep 2021)

'They started shooting': Assam Muslims recount police killing

Up to 1,300 families made homeless and two killed as authorities in India's Assam launch eviction drive.(29 Sep 2021)

Stop using drones, Taliban warn U.S.

The Islamist militia warned of consequences if the United States did not stop flying drones over Afghan airspace. (September 29, 2021)

Iran army holds drill near Azerbaijan border amid tensions

Tehran says it is concerned about Israeli and ISIL presence close to its borders with Azerbaijan. (1 Oct 2021)

'Living nightmare': UN says Lebanon faces growing starvation

Amid economic meltdown, Lebanon's medical crisis is a 'death sentence' and starvation a 'growing reality', UN says. (1 Oct 2021)

'We are under bandits': Dozens killed and abducted in Nigeria

Armed groups attack remote communities in Niger and Sokoto states, the latest incidents in spiralling cycle of violence. (30 Sep 2021)

'Shrilling': China cites Mao in attack on Taiwan foreign minister

China's Taiwan Affairs Office launches furious attack on Joseph Wu condemning him as a 'shrilling' fly. (1 Oct 2021)



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