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Islam and terrorism

How does Islam differ from terrorism? Let us think about the Islamic religion itself. Islam does not derive from violence and giving harm to others. Islam is a religion in where creating peaceful lives and not harming others for certain disagreements. Islam is just like any other religion; it creates beliefs, leads people, and gives us spiritual closure. In the Qur’an, all Muslims are to respect and preserve human life (verse 5:32). This verse gives us an overview of how Islam’s paths aren’t to bomb innocent people and hurt others for their social values.

Growing to be a Muslim myself has made me a better person through my religion; Islam. As I became an older Muslim women I have become more discouraged on how America views Islam as terrorism. As a was brought into the Islam religion I got to learn how beautiful our religion is but how there are some people out there that turn it into nonsense. Although I don’t wear the religious Islamic clothing I still believe in my faith and have respect for human life. My experience in observing how the Muslims and western culture interact is quite interesting. I got a chance to observe an interaction between a Muslim women and a group of people. I learned how it would take the group of people a while to get comfortable with the Muslim women.

Maykel Verkuyten is a student at Utrecht University in the Netherlands who wrote an article about a man named Geert Wilders who is a leader of the far right party for freedom. Wilders is a man who made a distinction of how Islam is a major threat to the west. He asked the government to prohibit the building of new mosques, close Islamic schools, legally ban our holy book, and tax Muslim women for wearing a headscarf. This gives us a view of how certain people will go to the power of authority just to have their country within their norms. However, my friend Nash has a story that gives us a view of her life as a covered women in America.

When Nash was a fifth grader she came to realize that she would get treated differently because she wore a hijab. When Nash and I would go to get coffee together and when we walk into star bucks, people always gave a longer stare on her than on me. “At first I hated it and the staring made a negative effect on me” said Nash. Society creates a place where women like Nash who are covered up and Muslim are placed into the out of society’s norm category. People’s perception of a Muslim who is covered is probably foreign and don’t want to indulge into the American culture. Doing something specific or wearing specific clothing is embracing your religion and people need to stop thinking that Muslims are trying to bomb something up every time. “Muslims don’t dress to impress but, we cover up because it’s part of the Islamic religion and Muslims to their best to keep that belief within themselves.”

Nash believes that if 9/11 never happened then our society would never have connected Islam with terrorism. “Islam isn’t associated with terrorism but, there will always be that one person in each religion that will make their religion look bad.” In a positive way if there was no terrorism thoughts linked with Islam people would look at our religion; Islam as a peaceful religion. Even though America is a free and equal place and yet there’s always those norms; Society will continuously set standards to what’s normal for society.

When I asked Nash the question “what do you suggest that people should take under consideration to the thoughts of Islam being linked to terrorism and when women are covered up?” Nash said that people should realize where they’re getting their information from. People need to think for themselves and stop letting society create an overall opinion for everyone to follow. Nash suggests that people probably should take the time to learn about each culture through their lifespan. One aspects Nash crucially emphasized is that people need to stop shooting disrespectful questions at a Muslim’s face. Nash isn’t suggesting to stop asking questions she just implies that people need to have a respectful way to approach a question about any culture.

The culture of killing is tearing the Islamic religion apart. Peoples’ perceptions of how every Muslim is connected to terrorism is how society portrays it through the Medias. Abu-Nimer stated “The Quran, the Hadith, and other Islamic traditional sources provide plenty of evidence to support the conviction that Islam is a religion of peace and justice, and that nonviolent practices are well rooted in the religion” (David Smock, 2002, p.1). There are people within the Islamic religion who use their religion as an excuse to their terrorist involvements’. Truthfully, the terrorists who represent their acts upon the Islamic religion are only increasing extremism.

It is the nonviolence that needs to be explained, not the violence. We need to create a perspective of how Islam creates nonviolent acts instead of violent acts. When Muslims are put into a category of terrorism it reflects on how society still stereotypes people. Nowadays, our society is in need of creating an “Islamic transformation.” What do I mean by Islamic transformation? The meaning behind is to change how we see Islam and stop connecting to the reason why terrorism exists.

There are people who are Muslims but become extremists and reform what Islam really is. There isn’t just one single cause of extremism in the world. “Another prime factor in the rise of extremism, Pasha suggested, is the failure of many governments in the Muslim world to address the overwhelming challenges of development arising from rapid social, demographic, and economic changes over the last century” (Peacewatch, 2002, p.1)

The 140 million people living in Pakistan today, most are poor and susceptible at some level to the appeals of extremist groups, which claim to have answers to questions that their own government has unsuccessfully addressed or simply ignored. This explains how economics and poverty can increase the risks of becoming an extremist. People who become extremists fall under the people who need the world to hear them and fix the economic problem. A third factor is in the rise of extremists groups relating to the crisis within Islam. Individuals join extremist groups for a couple of reasons, including the desire to achieve specific political goals, as well as a variety of financial, spiritual, and emotional incentives and rewards.

The Muslims who believe in the value of terrorism are named “radicals.” They use Islam to perceive it as an excuse that it’s alright to kill millions of innocent people. Islam was revealed at a specific time in a specific place and in a response to specific conditions and situations. For example, certain chapters or suras were revealed to Muhammad in Medina while he was fighting several battles and struggling to create his umma-based "Islamic State."(Islamic reformation, Antidote to terrorism, 2005). These certain chapters or suras give us a sense of how the radicals lean on the terrorism side than on the peaceful religion related side. In restating of how terrorism is linked to Islam. People intend to relate it to Islam because of how extremist use our holy book “the Quran,” and recite holy suras when doing violent acts. When this happens it cause the view of the religion Islam to be despised and not reconsidered Islam as a peaceful religion.

Muslims must strive to help the poor. Hoarding wealth and ignoring the needs of the poor places a prosperous Muslim would be at risk of severe punishment in the hereafter. Muslims need to earn their afterlife and the one of the ways to earn their afterlife is to help out people and their communities. We tend to find specific careers paths or ways in giving services to our community. For example, Islamic organizations work in the fields of social services (hospitals, clinics, legal aid societies), economics (Islamic banks, investment firms), education (schools, childcare centers), and in religious publishing and broadcasting. Muslims enjoy giving their services to people and their own Islamic community. We as Muslims give charity to nonprofit organizations and to shelters.

Muslims are just people who give to those who don’t have as much and ask for nothing in return. For example, I myself as a Muslim enjoy helping out at the Utah food bank and helping out my brothers and sisters in Islam. My dad is one who has helped out many of his own and who helps out whenever he sees someone in need of help. Muslims are the same as other people; they give and never think to receive anything in return. We all are the same kind and giving people inside but, its society that makes everything look ugly through a hazed up mirror.

Throughout the Islamic world, the primary cause of terrorism is repression, Muslih believes: "The greater the repression, the greater the degree of jihadi and violent activity"(Peacewatch, 2002, p.2). In this Muslih explains the more they hold back, the more terrorism and violence increases. There are also certain types of terrorists called suicide terrorists. These terrorists die with the attacks that get planned. "The motivations for suicide attacks are not so different in many ways from the motivations for other types of terrorism, including attention to a cause, personal notoriety, anger, revenge and retribution against a perceived injustice," says Audrey Kurth Cronin, a former specialist in terrorism with the Congressional Research Service (Washington File, 2007). Here Audrey describes the basic intentions of a suicide attack.

A Turkish news article from two thousand thirteen stated how Islamophobia rises in France. "Muslims in France are perceived as those who exploit the financial resources of the country and pose a threat to national security, and there is a rising racist attitude against Muslims in France," Ayhan Kaya, the director of the European Institute at Istanbul Bilgi University. Ayhan explains how France created a bias towards Muslims. Muslims are just like everyone else; we all believe in something.

In coming to my final position; both media and the religion Islam have both played a role in twisting around how terrorism began and how Islam is seen as. I also lean on how we all need to look into a religion and its people before assuming the worst. It all comes down in not being tempted in following society norms and educate ourselves before creating certain opinions.