

beyond

COLONIZATION

rising above the shadow of the beast



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SHAPING the MUSLIM Psyche



ORIGINS OF THE COLONIZED MIND a brief history of colonization

by Hatem Bazian

A small man equal in size to half of the trunk of the elephant can control the elephant. The trainer trains the elephant from infancy with a painful chain around his neck, eventually searing the image of the chain in the mind of the elephant. When the elephant grows up, the chain is no longer needed as an instrument of control because the mental image is far more powerful in subjugating the elephant than the actual chain itself.

The current leadership in the Arab world is the child that was brought up as the elephant in training. A relationship of master and slave was cemented from the early period of nation-state establishment in the Arab world.

The foundation of these modern regimes was constructed in order to serve the interest of European powers at the expense of Muslim and Arab society. Those who participated in the Arab revolt against Ottoman rule, those who cooperated with the British in the Gulf region and their descendants are the very ones that currently rule many Muslim nations.

The story of the 'Great Arab Revolt' is a fairy tale that has been propagated by some Arab countries and individuals in the hope of donning on themselves the ropes of legitimacy as they moved to establish the nationalist nation-state structure. No single event in the past hundred years has transformed the landscape of the heart of the Muslim world to such an extent as did the 1916 "Arab Revolt" against Ottoman rule. In a short period of time, Muslims in the Arab world found themselves transformed into subjects of British and French colonialists.

Not only did direct colonial rule usher in the end of Ottoman Islamic rule over these territories, but it also initiated a total collapse of the Islamic structures in place for some 400 years. The change was not limited to the physical plane, but encompassed a complete and painful transformation of a society's world view and understanding of itself in relation to the rest of the world.

Muslim lands in the heart of the Arab world were protected from the ravages of European colonialism for almost 400 years by the power of the Ottomans. While colonial rule was not established until the 19th

century, its roots were already being planted as early as the 15th century. The last time that these vast lands

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THOUGHT CONTROL intellectual manipulation at its best

by Zahir Janmohamed

During the Gulf War, as the United States mercilessly bombed the people of Iraq, U.S. authorities insisted on calling the bombings, "Surgical strikes." Herein lies the dangerous world of thought control. The word "surgery" implies a scientific, necessary procedure conducted for the benefit of the patient or recipient. It invokes precision, care, and caution. "Strike" suggests that the action is quick and therefore, meticulously accurate. Coupled together and the two words deceive the average Joe into believing that the American government was painstakingly cautious in bombing Iraq, avoiding casualties at all costs, just as a surgeon avoids harm to the body.

Renowned linguist Noam Chomsky refers to this as the "Propaganda Model." In his book *Manufacturing Consent*, Chomsky suggests that a tank is to an authoritarian state as a thought control is to a democratic society. In a repressive, military state like today's China, compliance is achieved through brute force. Disobey the state and die - such is the national ethos. But in a democratic society, where people gloat in their "personal freedom" they must be deceived into compliance. As

John Milton warns, "Those who have put out the people's eyes reproach them of their blindness." The problem then is not that people can not see, but that people do not know they can not see.

Let us take another example. We all know the story of Helen Keller. The story is the darling of every elementary school teacher. Here is Helen Keller, the blind and deaf girl who overcame her physical handicaps as an inspiration to future generations. Movies, informational serials, books - all have boasted about Helen Keller's courage and perseverance. Even leading education specialist Mc-Graw Hill concedes that "The gift of Helen Keller... is to constantly remind us of the wonder of the worlds around us... and (that) the greatest service any person can make is to help another reach true potential."

In his book *Lies my Teacher Told Me*, James M. Loewen suggests that this story has suspiciously omitted a rather important fact that Keller devoted sixty years of her life to socialism and her support for the USSR. But of course we do not want our children growing up to be socialists so we erase the entirety of her adult life simply because we do not agree. Loewen's fascinating book is

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