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## ISLAMOPHOBIA IS THE NEW ANTI-SEMITICISM: THE CASE OF MUSLIM IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN NEWSPAPERS

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### ABSTRACT

This article traces the rise of Islamophobia in Europe and America. It is to establish from news articles that Islamophobia is a new type of anti semiticism. In fact this is as bad as the anti-semiticism. The article tries to trace the rise of populist parties and Neo-Nazi groups in Europe and America.

Keywords: Islamophobia, Muslim, Immigration, Refugee crisis

Subaltern is a British word to denote someone who is in inferior in military rank. It is the combination of two words 'sub' (under) and 'alter' ('other). In postcolonial studies it used to denote a colonial subject. Currently it is used in resistance discourse against the discourse which creates a subordinate identity. The subaltern thus, is the product of any discourse that creates a subordinate community. Subaltern studies have to trace the discourse which classifies the subaltern as a subordinate other. (Abrams and Harpham)

The foremost task is to identify a subaltern community. Immigrants are subaltern. They are alien in any nation which makes it an 'other'. Refugees and immigrants are often considered to be criminal, poor, and cowardly. This in the eyes of the natives, makes them unfit to considered as equal to the natives. Real estate tycoon and Presidential candidate Donald Trump's tirade against Mexican immigrants as rapists and criminals is an example. This should also be noted with the fact that almost all Republican candidates were against refugees or wanted Christian refugees. (Lee)(Fusion)

Interestingly, there is a deep mistrust for Muslim refugees not just in America but also, in Europe. It is soothing to know that there are people who welcome Muslim refugees like in Canada which is ruled by a liberal party now. However the rise of Islamo-phobia and terrorism has made it hell for both Muslim immigrants and refugees. Therefore immigrants and refugees especially of the religion of Islam can be considered as subaltern.

One of the more striking examples of Islamophobia is how Sikh men are being attacked in America and Europe for mistaking their turbans as Islamic. There could be deliberate attacks on Sikhs. But most of them are clearly the case of ignorance or mistaken identity. (Times)

It is safe now to consider that Islamophobia is the new anti-semiticism. Antipathy due to Jewish stereotypes, tropes and symbols of the old era are being replaced by Muslim ones.

Syrian war has created one of the worst refugee crises since World War II. This has put most countries in the defensive. Some countries and politicians demand that they only host Christian

refugees. Some have even started settlements resembling internment camps. (Nuzzi)(Unhcr.org)

Denmark and Switzerland have even started to literally steal the valuables of refugees by passing controversial acts in parliaments making financial crisis as an excuse. This is similar to the confiscation of the properties of Jews in the days of fascism. (Bendixen)

There have risen many right wing Islamophobic neo-nazi groups. They are anti immigrants or xenophobic in general and anti-muslim or anti-islam in particular. There are also people in the US who try to provoke Muslims by insulting or desecrating Muslim symbols or demonizing Islam with the likes of Jon Ritzhimmer and Pam Gellar. They have the organizational and propaganda skills which would make Himmler (Hitler's propagandist) proud.

This is not just limited to fringe groups. Islamophobia is now going main stream. David Cameroon keeps making distasteful statements the government keeps making dangerous laws. (Mason and Watt)

In the US there is the famous Clock-boy, Ahmed who was arrested for bringing a clock to class. There are reports of harassment of Muslims by authorities in the airport and muslims are being kicked out of planes without enquiry or explanation. Even Presidential candidates try to boost their credentials by taking more and more anti-Muslim stances. Donald Trump wanted to stop entry of Muslims to America and setting up registers and surveillance for Muslims. Jeb Bush only supports coming of refugees Christian. Several States in US have already barred refugees from entering their states. Several states have banned 'Shariah law'. Several European parliaments have already banned minarets and other Muslim symbols or practices in the name of secularism.(International Business Times UK)(Nuzzi)

Islamophobia has resulted in the misconception that Muslim symbolism or traditions are equivalent to radicalization or terrorism. Thus countries like China, Tajikistan and certain European countries have doubled down on erasing Muslim symbolisms, identities and traditions.(Mail Online)(Aljazeera.com)

There are also instances of internal racism as even Arab states (even though most of them are monarchies or dictatorships) do not want Syrian refugees. Most refugees are stationed in countries surrounding Syria like Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. The rest of them try desperately to find asylum in Europe. It should be however mentioned the aid and funds for resistance groups do come from some Muslim groups. (Amnesty.org)(Shaheen et al.)

The antipathy towards refugees is also the result of bloody terrorist attacks around the world especially in Europe and America. Interestingly Lebanon attacks or attacks in Arab or North African countries do not get as such attention as the previous set. When Yezidis were sieged by IS militants, the US came to the rescue. But the US did not come to the rescue of Sunni Muslims in Madaya. (Hall)

The 2016 US Presidential election was a major turning point. Although Presidents Bush and Obama had invaded Muslim lands and have a record of civilian death; they had a sense to keep Islam out of policy statements and dissociate Islam from terrorism. They were supposedly at war with radical Islam. Trump on the other hand wanted to ban all Muslims; and has banned Muslims from seven countries US is on a state of aggression. This is not just Trump. Republicans in Congress wants to introduce legislation outlawing Muslim Brotherhood; a major Muslim political party. This would introduce a major precedent that would ultimately lead to a political witch hunt of Muslim organizations and individual Muslims and lead to radicalization of certain Muslims; making it a vicious circle. (Beydoun) (Barbash and Hawkins)

The only way to end hatred against Muslim migrants and refugees is to end islamophobia like anti-semiticism.

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