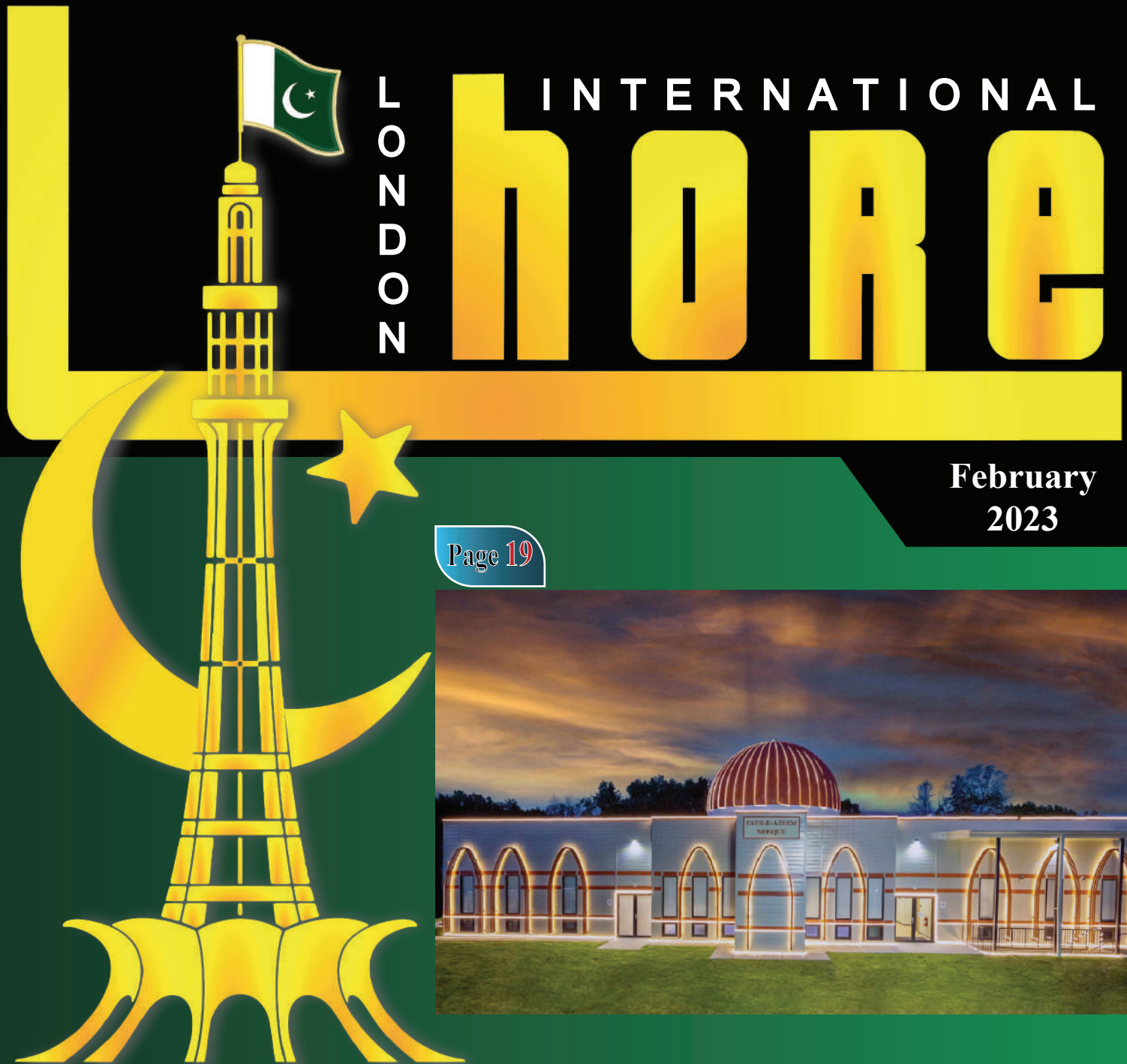


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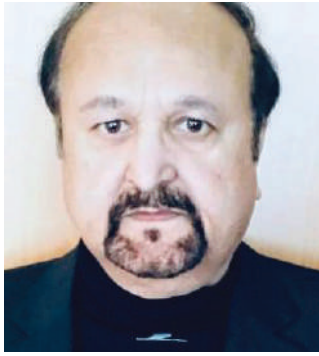
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# Editorial



Dr. Busharat Elahi Jamil

The worst economic crisis in the history of the country has hit Pakistan. In fact, Establishment and the political forces played their role to gradually push Pakistan towards the hell of the monetary deficits. No doubt, the political elites can be held responsible for making weak economic strategies and diplomacies on the cost of the countrymen's living economics. Since 1947, the privileged and authoritative classes have been getting stronger and wealthier unbelievably throwing all the discrepancies and liabilities in the cradle of the common masses. On top of the heap, they still demand sacrifices from the public without sharing anything to compensate the damages owed to their filthy wealth. Pakistan is an ill-starred nation forfeiting since 1947, in the name of national prosperity, unity and so-called development but unfortunately deprived from positive outcomes. Even in 2023, Pakistanis are deprived of their basic rights and in a status of begging for the basic needs. The recent figures state Pakistan's public debt soaring up to 275 billion USD (around 63 trillion PKR) with the foreign reserves hitting the rock bottom (around 5 billion dollars), the least in the economic history of Pakistan. Pakistan is suffering from the uppermost ratio of insufficient per-capita income.

Comparatively, in 2018 according to the World Bank figures number of poor population were 46.5 million (21.9%) in Pakistan. Furthermore, according to the Asian Development Bank in 2019 proportion of employed population was below 1.90\$ a day (age 15+) being 3.7% only. In 2020, poverty ratio magni-

fied by around 5%, which increased from 4.4% to 5.4%, in 2020 more than 2 million people fell below the poverty line (World Bank). In 2023, around 60% population of Pakistani is living a miserable life, below the poverty line.

Ruling elites are growing financially wealthier twisting or defying the laws of the country. In these circumstances NAB, Judiciary, FIA and other respective law enforcement agencies seem helpless. In a mockery statement, the symbol of corruption Mr. Shehbaz Sharif the PM announced that he had zero tolerance against corruption, in fact, making fun of the accountability system of the Country. PDM regime have taken every step in last 9 months to eliminate the corruption cases against them but failed to improve the worst fiscal status quo of the Pakistan.

To make Pakistan economically progressive all stratum of life including ruling and authoritative classes should participate to fire the economy of the Pakistan on all cylinders. Judicial system should be upgraded and accountability should be working with no hazard and interruption. Serious steps are needed to wipe out the corruption and corrupt elements, which are regrettably influential and prevailing in Pakistan. To contain the deficits, imports should be reduced and exports must be multiplied. Furthermore Media, educated classes, economists and religious stratum should support the system to make Pakistan economically prosperous. Last but not the least, deficit in honesty and morality should also be considered.

# Minus One



By: Ayesha Ijaz Khan

Nearly every civilian prime minister in Pakistan has had to leave office prior to the expiration of his/her stated term. Just as the army's blessings were crucial for the PMs to ascend to the highest civilian office, so too they have had to leave unceremoniously once they fell out with the establishment. The three-year itch is when things have historically gone sour, when the same page begins to rip.

To students of Pakistan's political history, the writing was on the wall. When Bhutto could be sent to the gallows and Nawaz into exile why would it be any different for Imran Khan? But this history was lost on PTI supporters. They believed Imran was exceptional. Until he wasn't. Yet, as a firm critic of Imran's politics, I must acknowledge that his charisma has proven overbearing. Who would have thought that when he falls out with the establishment, lifelong supporters of the institution would turn against it? That high-ranking retired soldiers would shift allegiances to him and become critics of the very institution they served in and benefited from? As an objective analyst I must hand it to Imran. This is a tabdeeli (change) that only he has managed. Yet his supporters are not interested in democracy or civilian supremacy. They are only convinced that anyone who opposes him is evil (read: corrupt, lifafa, chor, daku) and those who stand by him unquestioningly have seen the light. It doesn't matter if it's Reham Khan or Gen Bajwa; Aleem Khan or Jahangir Tareen. As long as they are tied to Imran Khan they are good people but the minute that link is severed, they become horrible. This is what is meant by 'Imran is our red line'.

*They believed Imran was exceptional. Until he wasn't.*

His authority must be accepted blindly. With the result that the party that was ostensibly created to counter undemocratic dynasties, has no real party structure and is entirely reliant on one man. That man is undoubtedly very popular and can contest from seven seats and win them all in the by-elections. But that popularity does not hold in the Karachi local government polls, where PTI candidates were lacklustre and the party slumped to third place, behind rivals PPP and JI. Party stalwarts like Fawad Chaudhry have announced that if elections are held on the seats from which PTI MNAs have resigned, Imran will contest from every constituency. So he will contest from 70 different places? Even if he wins all 70, what will happen when he vacates those seats (for he can only hold one ultimately) and has to field replacement candidates? How many of those seats will PTI be able to retain? And what about another perfectly possible scenario? The fabled Minus One. What if Imran Khan is disqualified? Again, if it can happen to Nawaz Sharif why can't it happen to Imran? Certainly there are legal cases outstanding — the matter of Tyrian White, the foreign funding case, the Toshakhana case. Any one of those can lead to his disqualification.

Let's compare how PML-N dealt with Minus One. Not well, to be honest. Unlike PPP, where there was a clear uncontested succession within the family, made possible because



of tragic assassinations, the Sharifs emerged divided. Matters are further complicated by Nawaz's daughter, Maryam, and Shehbaz's son, Hamza, vying for pole position. In a popularity contest, Nawaz and Maryam would easily outdo Shehbaz and Hamza. But it isn't April 2022 anymore. It's January 2023. And the economy is tanking. Granted the downhill trajectory had begun during Imran Khan's time. But the current government has not been able to arrest the nosedive. Replacing Miftah Ismail with Ishaq Dar was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. Unlike PTI, where one man reigns supreme and defines the party, PML-N supporters and workers are split. They are not all willing to blindly acquiesce. This is a good thing for a democracy. There must be dissent within political parties for democracy to properly take root. Given our history, one must add that it is not the prerogative of the establishment to manufacture that dissent. But that dissent must surface organically. In that regard, Miftah Ismail's story must be heard and heeded. Was his removal the result of family connections trumping merit? If Nawaz Sharif wants to leave a legacy, he shouldn't focus on tightening the family's hold on the party, but on hearing the dissenting voices of Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and other loyal party workers on how to better run affairs. This should also be a lesson for the PTI supporters. They need to start thinking beyond Imran Khan. What does the party stand for besides hate for opposing politicians? What will be their strategy if Imran is disqualified? They too must heed the dissenters like Jahangir Tareen and Aleem Khan, rather than ostracising them.

The writer is a lawyer in London.

6 Published in Dawn, January 22nd, 2023

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1732996>

## Maryam taunts Imran over criticism of caretaker CM



London: Maryam Nawaz, senior vice president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, on Tuesday mocked PTI Chairman Imran Khan over his criticism of the appointment of Mohsin Naqvi as Punjab's caretaker chief minister, saying that perhaps Farah Khan should be made caretaker CM instead. Ms Nawaz was referring to Farhat Shahzadi alias Farah Khan, a friend of the PTI chief's wife, Bushra Bibi. Ms Khan is accused by the incumbent government of having influence over political appointments and illegally amassing wealth and property during Mr Khan's tenure. "He [Mr Khan] has started crying over this [the caretaker appointment]. If he opposes certain names, maybe Farah should be made caretaker chief minister in Punjab, because she has experience of running Punjab," Ms Nawaz said while talking to reporters outside Stanhope House. PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, asked for comments on Mr Khan's criticism, said: "Forget about what Imran Khan says. This man did not leave any stone unturned when destroying Pakistan. He was a curse on the country. Getting rid of such a person is the responsibility of every Pakistani." Ms Nawaz is preparing to leave for Pakistan later this week and plans to play a key role in a reset of her party's political strategy. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1733504>

# Pakistan to Pay to Russian Energy Purchases in 'Currency of Friendly Countries'

## Russian Official

Pakistan will pay for energy purchases from Russia — when they start in late March — in “currencies of friendly countries”, a top Russian energy ministry official said on Friday during a press briefing, according to Reuters. The statement comes during the eighth session of the Pakistan-Russia Intergovernmental Commission held in Islamabad today, which was co-chaired by Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Russia’s Energy Minister Nikolay Shulginov. Shulginov also said that the two countries have agreed on late March as the timeline for crude oil export to Pakistan. A Russian delegation led by Shulginov is currently visiting Islamabad to discuss ways for improving bilateral economic and trade relations, with the focus mainly on the provision of oil and gas to Pakistan at discounted rates — as announced by Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik last month. In a joint statement released today, both countries agreed the “oil and gas trade transaction will be structured in a way it has [a] mutual economic benefit for both countries”, adding that the process would be completed within March 2023. The countries signed an agreement on custom matters, a protocol on the exchange of documents and data on the customs value of goods transported between the countries, and a working agreement on aeronautical products.

The statement further said, “Both sides have agreed to work on a ‘Comprehensive Plan for Energy Cooperation’, which would form the foundation for future work and is to be finalized in 2023.” Regarding the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline Project (PSGPP), both sides

agreed to consider it in terms of a “comprehensive infrastructure, which is economically viable for sustainable gas infrastructure development ensuring affordable gas supplies”. The joint statement stated both countries discussed “innovative ways of doing business, including through barter” and agreed to explore the option further. They also agreed to share information towards developing and improving rail and road infrastructure while nominating focal persons from both sides to discuss issues concerning connectivity and logistics in Central and South Asia.

### Pakistan, Russia finalise consultations



Pakistan and Russia on Thursday “finalised consultations” to enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interests — a day after they discussed ways for supplying oil and gas to Pakistan on a “long-term” basis — according to state media Radio Pakistan. The consultations were held in Islamabad between both countries’ energy ministers and other government officials on the second day of the eighth meeting of the Inter-governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation of Pakistan and





Russia. The visiting delegation had also called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore on Wednesday, where “views were exchanged on supplying oil and gas from Russia to Pakistan on a long-term basis”, a statement from the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) said. The series of talks follow the claim by Malik last month that Russia had agreed to provide oil to Pakistan at discounted rates to meet the country’s rising domestic and industrial energy demands. Pakistan would purchase crude oil, petrol and diesel from Russia at discounted rates, he had said. The vow had come after a Pakistani delegation led by Malik visited Moscow in late November last year to initiate talks for the procurement of oil and gas at discounted prices. The draft protocol finalised during today’s meeting would be agreed upon and signed at the meeting’s plenary session to be held tomorrow, Radio Pakistan said. It further said Russia opined that significant progress has been made in various areas, which would ultimately pave the way for deepening and strengthening relations between Pakistan and Russia.

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### **‘Important’ partner in Islamic world**

During the meeting on Wednesday, Shulginov had also delivered a “special message” from

Russian President Vladimir Putin to the premier. In his message, according to the PMO statement, Putin had said that Russia considers Pakistan as its “important” partner in South Asia and the Islamic world and reiterated Moscow’s strong interest in deepening the bilateral relationship. Meanwhile, Shehbaz had highlighted the importance Pakistan attaches to its relations with the Russian Federation. He recalled his meeting with Putin in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in September last year and said “important decisions” were reached back then to further strengthen Pakistan-Russia relations. Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatimi and petroleum minister Malik were also present in the meeting. “Matters related to gas pipelines were also reviewed,” the PMO added, referring to the 1,100-kilometre pipeline project stretching from Karachi to Punjab. Pakistan and Russia have signed two agreements — in 2015 and 2021 — for the construction of the \$2.5 billion pipeline, which was slated to begin last year but could not be started due to global sanctions on Moscow. The country has been grappling with increasing energy requirements, mainly oil and gas, together with an inflating current account deficit because of oil payments. The procurement of oil has long been a centre of local politics, particularly after former premier Imran Khan’s visit to Russia only a day before it launched its war on Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022. Khan, ousted through a no-confidence vote in parliament in April, had claimed that his Moscow visit was one of the reasons behind his ouster.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1732677/pakistan-to-pay-for-russian-energy-purchases-in-currency-of-friendly-countries-russian-official>



# Jim Mattis former US Secretary of "Defence" has a decade of experience of interacting with the military leadership in Pakistan in his new book "Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead" that hit the book stores on Tuesday terms

Jim Mattis former US Secretary of "Defence" has a decade of experience of interacting with the military leadership in Pakistan in his new book "Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead" that hit the book stores on Tuesday terms

Pakistan as the "most dangerous" country in the world for its nuclear capabilities, government dysfunction and continuing radicalisation. Former US Secretary of "Defence" Jim Mattis who led US forces into Afghanistan in the aftermath of 9/11, writes that the twin tragedy for Pakistani people is that they do not have leaders who care about their future...and they as a society are too selfish, corrupt and uneducated to help themselves. The 68-year-old who resigned as US defence secretary last year claims that Pakistan's political culture has an active self-destructive streak. "Pakistan was a country born with no affection for itself, upward mobility and self enrichment were the key drivers, and there was an active self-destructive streak in its political culture," he said, in the sense that everyone is working for themselves at the cost of the collective good and the state. "Of all the countries I've dealt with, I consider Pakistan to be the most dangerous, because of the radicalisation and lack of education and logic of its society and the availability of nuclear weapons," coupled with extreme blind religiosity Mr. Mattis said. The fastest-growing nuclear arsenal in the world cannot fall into the hands of the terrorists breeding in their midst, he said, warning that its result would be "disastrous" for the world. "The tragedy for the Pakistani people

is that they don't have leaders who care about their future. As an illustration of the lack of trust, when we believed we had identified Osama bin Laden's hiding place deep inside Pakistan, President (Barack) Obama sent in a team to kill him without informing the Pakistanis," because if their complicity and double dealing he said. Mr. Mattis writes in his book about the changes he made on the ground lines of communication to Afghanistan when he was Commander of the US Central Command. "I was uneasy that more than 70 per cent of NATO's logistics lifeline depended upon one route, via money hungry and unstable Pakistan. I took one look at the map and decided we had to change the pieces on the chessboard," he notes. Mr. Mattis writes that in September 2011 General John Allen, having replaced Dave Petraeus as NATO commander in Afghanistan, gave a warning to the Pakistani military. "He says he had learned the Haqqani "terrorist" group, harbored in Pakistan, was preparing a massive truck bomb. General Ashfaq Kayani, the Chief of Staff of Pakistan's army, said he would take action...but did nothing. "Two days later, that bomb detonated at a US base near Kabul, wounding seventy-seven American soldiers and killing five Afghans. A few days later, Haqqani "terrorists" attacked our embassy in Kabul," he writes. At a diplomatic function in Washington, Mr. Mattis bumped into the then Pakistani ambassador to the US Husain Haqqani, and "slammed" him with what he describes as "obscenity-laced" message. "You have a Pakistan Army division

headquarters in the same city as the terrorist headquarters. You say you're not on their side, but now they attack our embassy in a raid coordinated from your side of the border. You're supporting the very people who will kill you one day," Mr. Mattis told Haqqani. Referring to his bitter experience of interacting with the top Pakistani military leadership, Mr. Mattis said he concluded that America's military interactions with Pakistan could only be transactional, based upon the specific issue at hand and what each side had to offer the other. "Quid pro quo. Pakistan could episodically choose not to be our enemy, but it chose not to be a trusted friend or ally of the United States or NATO," because of their misguided beliefs and deeply flawed and violent world view he said. "Ultimately, it was in our common interest that we maintain a cautious, mindful relationship, with modest expectations of collaboration...pay and get what you want in small steps. We could manage our problems with Pakistan, but our divisions were too deep, differences too many and trust too shallow, to resolve them. And that is the state of our relationship to this day," he writes.....

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## Twitter will stop 'pushing you back' to recommended Tweets

The Twitter User Interface overhaul has got many people excited. Some users said that the UI changes were much needed. The microblogging platform's upcoming update should make it less mandatory for you to use the "For You" algorithmic timeline, according to a tweet from Elon Musk. In addition to remembering whether you left it on the reverse-chronological "Following" timeline or a pinned list, the app will "stop moving you back to recommended tweets," according to him. Musk's claims should be regarded with some scepticism, but let us hope the business follows through on this one. Up until a month ago, Twitter included a button that allowed users to choose which timeline version they wanted to use. When the social media firm released a user interface that allowed users to slide between the two timelines, that option was removed, and now the programme opens on the algorithmic timeline by default. Additionally, according to Musk, users will eventually be able to rearrange the top bar's "For You" and "Following" tabs as well as any pinned lists they may have. "Would be cool if we could move the tabs around as well and customise their positions," a user suggested to which the tech mogul responded: "coming feature." "Thank god because it always pushes me back to for you, which isn't useful to me." another user appreciated the billionaire's move.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1032905-twitter-ui-overhaul>



# Pompeo says US averted nuclear war between India, Pakistan



U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo speaks during a press conference with Iraq's Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein at the State Department in Washington on Aug. 19, 2020. — AFP/File

WASHINGTON: Former US secretary of state Mike Pompeo wrote in a book published Tuesday that India and Pakistan came close to nuclear war in 2019 and that US intervention prevented escalation. "I do not think the world properly knows just how close the India-Pakistan rivalry came to spilling over into a nuclear conflagration in February 2019," the likely future presidential contender wrote in "Never Give an Inch," his memoir of his time as Donald Trump's top diplomat and earlier CIA chief. India in February 2019 broke the precedent by launching airstrikes inside Pakistani territory after blaming a militant group there for a suicide bombing that killed 41 Indian paramilitary soldiers in the flashpoint Kashmir region. Pakistan shot down an Indian warplane, capturing the pilot. Pompeo, who was in Hanoi for a summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said he was woken up with an urgent call from a senior Indian official. "He believed the Pakistanis had begun to prepare their nuclear weapons for a strike. India, he informed me, was contemplating its own escalation," Pompeo wrote. "I asked him to do nothing and give us a minute to sort things out," Pompeo said. Pompeo said that US diplomats convinced both India and Pakistan that neither was preparing to go nuclear. "No other nation could have done what we did that night to avoid a horrible outcome," Pompeo wrote. Pompeo, who wrote that Pakistan "probably enabled" the Kashmir attack, said he spoke to then-army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Pompeo at the time publicly defended India's right to act. In his book, Pompeo spoke highly of India and, unlike officials in New Delhi, made no secret of his desire to ally with the South Asian democracy "to counteract Chinese aggression." Pompeo writes extensively in the book of his diplomacy with Kim Jong

Un, which included preparing three meetings between the young totalitarian leader and Trump. He recalled a chilling first conversation as he flew into Pyongyang in March 2018 on a clandestine trip as CIA director. "I didn't think you'd show up. I know you've been trying to kill me," Pompeo quotes Kim as telling him. "I decided to lean in with a little humor of my own: Mr. Chairman, I'm still trying kill you." But Pompeo described a budding understanding with Kim as the Trump administration offered incentives to lower tension. Pointing to Kim's smoking habit, Pompeo wrote that he told Kim he would take him to "the nicest beach in Miami and smoke the best Cubanos in the world. He told me, 'I already have a great relationship with the Castros.' Of course, he did." As for their substantive conversation, Pompeo said Kim spoke candidly on concerns about China, usually viewed as North Korea's main ally. Told that China believes North Korea wants US forces out of South Korea, "Kim laughed and pounded on the table in sheer joy, exclaiming that the Chinese were liars." Kim "said that he needed the Americans in South Korea to protect him from the CCP, and that the CCP needs the Americans out so they can treat the peninsula like Tibet and Xinjiang," Pompeo wrote, referring to the Chinese Communist Party. Pompeo became known for his hawkish stance on China, controversially accusing Beijing of spreading the "Wuhan virus." He said that Trump told him with an epithet that Chinese President Xi Jinping "hates you" and asked Pompeo to "shut the hell up for a while" as the United States needed health care equipment from China. Pompeo has not ruled out running against Trump for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, although early polls show little support for Pompeo.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1034018-pompeo-says-us-averted-nuclear-war-between-india-pakistan>

## CPJ: India's blocking of BBC documentary on PM Modi contradicts commitment to democracy

New Delhi, January 23, 2023 – In response to Indian authorities' restricting access to the BBC documentary "India: The Modi Question" on YouTube and Twitter, the Committee to Protect Journalists issued the following statement calling for access to the documentary to be restored: "The Indian government's order to social media platforms to block a BBC documentary about Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an attack on the free press that flagrantly contradicts the country's stated commitment to democratic ideals," said Beh Lih Yi, CPJ's Asia program coordinator. "Authorities must immediately restore full and unrestricted access to the documentary and withdraw regulations under the Information Technology Act that imperil press freedom and freedom of expression online." On January 20, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting ordered YouTube and Twitter to take down links sharing the first episode of the two-part BBC documentary investigating Modi's alleged role in 2002 riots in Gujarat, according to news reports. Clips of the documentary, which did not air in India, have been shared widely on social media. According to the Times of India, the companies complied and removed about 50 tweets and an unspecified number of YouTube videos. The ministry issued its order under legislation, updated in 2021, that expanded government's powers to censor online content, which CPJ criticized at the time. Authorities have also recently proposed legislation that would require intermediaries, including social media platforms, to remove news articles identified as "fake" or "false," according to news reports. CPJ emailed Google, Twitter, and the Indian Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for comment, but did not receive any replies.

<http://www.shorturl.at/efHI1>



# Why Anti-americanism Continues To Thrive In Pakistan

Normality cannot be achieved without Pakistan itself becoming a normal country, and Washington shifting its focus of interest to the people, from the ruling elite.

By: Touqir Hussain

Pakistan-US relations are on the mend. How far they will go and where they are headed is not yet clear, but the keenness to move forward is evident on both ends. However, one roadblock could possibly limit large-scale progress: anti-Americanism. The fact is, in today's world, no state relationship is sustainable without public support. A deep dive on anti-Americanism will, therefore, help Pakistan understand the facts of the relationship to avoid failed expectations and unfair blame in the future, and Washington to not repeat policies that have caused harm to both Pakistan's interests and its own.



## Not-so-right reasons

Anti-Americanism exists in Pakistan for both right and wrong reasons. The latter first: While the United States has often treated Pakistan unfairly and even high-handedly, public anger against the US for not supporting Pakistan against India in the 1965 and 1971 wars, is misplaced. The US, in fact, did not break any treaty commitments by not coming to Pakistan's aid. The Mutual Defence Agreement of 1954 dealt primarily with the supply of military equipment to Pakistan on a grant basis. The US was of the view that Pakistan violated Article 1, paragraph 2, of the agreement by using the weapons for purposes other than what they were provided for. The bilateral Agreement of Cooperation signed between the two countries in 1959 stated that in case of aggression against Pakistan by another state, the US would take appropriate action (in accordance with the US Constitution). This included the use of armed forces and was

envisaged in the US Congress's 1957 Joint Resolution to promote peace and stability in the Middle East in order to assist the Government of Pakistan at its request. The 1957 Joint Resolution states only one eventuality of the US coming to the aid of a country under aggression and that is in the event of communist aggression. Regarding the US attitude towards the Central Treaty Organisation (CTO), it never perceived the treaty as a military alliance. Another unjustified instigator of anti-Americanism in Pakistan is the myth that nothing happens in Pakistan without US approval. The reality is that in Pakistan, political dynamics have nearly always functioned fairly autonomously, and the primary — though not always the sole — stimulus for the rise and fall of governments has been domestic, not external. Yes, the US has previously had the reputation of causing regimes to rise and fall. But reputation is not proof. The world has changed, for better and for worse.

There is no doubt that the US still acts to gain and maintain influence in other countries where its vital interests are at stake but it is no longer in the business of secretly making and breaking governments. Instead, it has gone to war, used the weapon of economic sanctions and supported mass movements for change that serve its strategic interests, all in full view.

### **The genuine reasons**

There is no denying that there are genuine reasons for anti-Americanism as well. The elitist, army-led and feudal-dominated 'organising' idea of Pakistan has long had the US as its external pillar. To its credit, from 1954 to 1965, the US strengthened Pakistan's defence capabilities and potential for economic development, and helped launch the platform for progress. But the partnership with the US strengthened the army, enhancing its political profile in the country. American aid and political support helped unrepresentative and inefficient governments sustain power who benefitted from the relationship at the expense of the people. The American connection thus became complicit in Pakistan's troubled democracy, causing public contempt against the US. This added to the widely-held view that the US had not been a reliable ally. And then came another thorn in the relationship — the nuclear issue where America's attitude was viewed as discriminatory by the public and government alike. It piled yet another layer onto the existing anti-Americanism. Meanwhile, the 1979 Iranian revolution and unfolding of decades-worth of Iranian-US tensions began feeding anti-Americanism across the Islamic world. Pakistani and Iranian anti-Americanism came to reinforce each other, providing the nucleus of a broader sentiment against the US in the Islamic world. A decade of Jihad in Afghanistan during the 1980s made Pakistanis more vulnerable to fundamentalist Islamic rhetoric than ever.

This came in the backdrop of the larger Islamisation project set forth by General Ziaul Haq. Thus, as the Cold War drew to a close, the vast majority of the public, particularly the intelligentsia, harboured varying degrees of anti-Americanism.

### **The bad breakup**

With the imposition of Pressler sanctions in October 1990, this permeated to Washington's most trusted ally — the army. The US had no reliable ally left in Pakistan. The US response to the 9/11 tragedy, along with the ill-conceived war on terror, set in civilisational terms as a war of ideas, came to be seen as an attack against Islam by a vast majority of Muslims. As a consequence, anti-Americanism exploded uncontrollably. Pakistan suffered greatly at the hands of the spill-over of the war on terrorism and the Afghanistan war. It came to threaten Pakistan's stability — on one hand with the creation of the TTP, and on the other, by spreading anti Americanism among the wider population, making it vulnerable to radical influences. The Pakistan Army had its own issues with the Afghanistan war. The war ended up creating an Afghanistan that was not consistent with Pakistan's strategic interests. It resulted in an increasing amount of power and influence from India in Afghanistan, and India's enhanced role in the region was attributed to Washington's support.

### **My enemy's friend**

India's growing relationship with the US, especially the nuclear agreement, and Washington's refusal to give Pakistan the same deal, fostered perceptions that India and the US were opposed to its nuclear programme, among the army and general public alike. Anti-Indian sentiments and anti-Americanism merged. Religious, nationalist rhetoric was co-opted by secular and liberal circles who affixed it to their existing unhappiness with



the wars on account of how Pakistan was dragged into it by a dictator leading to a prolonged undemocratic rule. So, democracy, Islam, honour, sovereignty and nationalism all came to provide a common platform — anti-Americanism — to a wide cross section of political opinions, religious beliefs, and social statuses.

### **Enter Imran Khan**

After being in the political wilderness for years, Imran Khan realised he must first create a base in one part of the country. The opportunity came his way with the increased anti-American sentiment following the exponential rise in drone attacks, failing Afghanistan war and its continued horrendous spill over in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The consummate politician that he is, Khan tapped into anti Americanism, Pashtun nationalism, resistance against a big power, and Islamism with a single stroke — support for the Taliban. More than an expression of support for the Taliban, it was a symbol of opposition to America. He created a base in KP from where he could now expand his appeal to the rest of the country. He did so by stoking long-standing public anger and feelings of injustice at the hands of the country's established political leadership, and a sense of victimhood, incited by America's post 9/11 wars. The strategy was to malign his political opponents and the system on one hand, and the US on the other, both in the worst possible terms. And then to connect his opponents and the US in a relationship that he described in the worst possible way — slavery. It had a powerful appeal to the aspirations of the young, educated class and the Pakistani diaspora, especially in the West, whose increasing economic status was struggling to find social recognition due to the country's negative image which they had hoped Imran would change. Mostly well off, for them, the economy was not a priority, but the image, honour and

nationalism. For the poor struggling for their survival, he tagged the "Riasat-e-Madina" label. So some he courted with hope, others with illusion and some with a choice of being better than his rivals. Anti-Americanism not only helped him to come to power but also rescued him when he lost power. The cipher was a God-sent opportunity. Diplomatic language in the hands of a non-diplomat can be interpreted in diverse ways, and being a classified document, cannot be shared with the public. An ideal situation for a politician to exploit its contents to political ends without being accused of falsehood.

The document was seen as proof, validating his supporters' long held negative perceptions of America and giving unquestioned credence to Khan's entire political rhetoric. And by highlighting the army's shared interests with the US, he implied its involvement in the alleged conspiracy, broadening his appeal among those opposed to its domination of politics. The strategy raised his stock enormously. As we look to the future, people need to recognise for the good of the country that Pakistan has had serious problems of governance, social change, democratisation and development, for which we ourselves are primarily responsible. The US has not created these conditions but merely exploited them. The bilateral relationship between Pakistan and the US needs to become normal if it is to move forward; and it should move forward. A strong relationship is beneficial to both parties. But this normality cannot be achieved without Pakistan itself becoming a normal country, and Washington shifting its focus of interest to the people, from the ruling elite.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1732150/why-anti-americanism-continues-to-thrive-in-pakistan>

# America's strategy of failure comes to Ukraine

US mission creep in Ukraine follows in the fatal footsteps of ultimately failed war campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq

By: Brandon J Weichertv



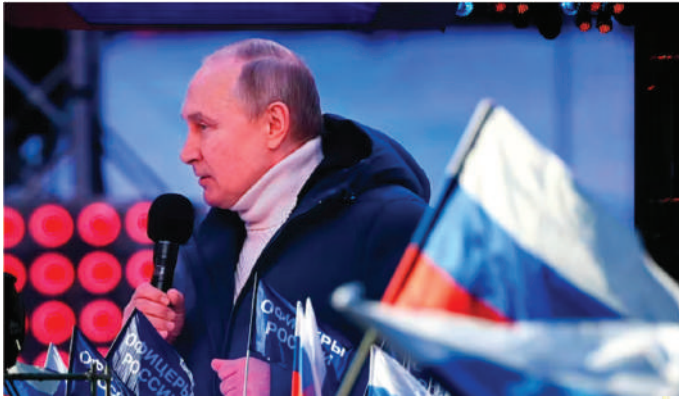
Since the failures of the US military missions in places like Afghanistan and Iraq – and many other Muslim nations like Libya – critics of the US mission in the “global war on terrorism” have lamented the lack of a coherent strategy. As the tired line from Carl von Clausewitz goes, “war is an extension of politics through other means.” Warfare, therefore, is an inherently political act. More precisely, it is the use of violence by a state or non-state actor to affect a political outcome. Thus whenever military force is used it must have clear ends set forth by the political leadership ordering the use of that military force. Those clearly defined political ends must be supplemented by reliable ways to achieve that realistic political objective. The means are the resources that must be brought to bear in order to accomplish the political end. What’s more, those political objectives must be fixed into place by the political and military leadership. They cannot change mid-mission (this has nothing to do with being flexible at the tactical level). One of the greatest failures of the last 30 years of US foreign policy interventions across the Middle East was what former secretary of defense Robert Gates called “mission creep.” This is akin to shifting goalposts in the middle of the game, making the game unwinnable. As America’s failed operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria and so many others since 1945 have shown, mission creep can be catastrophic to both the prestige of the US military as well as its readiness to conduct its larger mission of deterring actual great state rivals to the United States, namely China, Russia, Iran and North Korea.



## Afghanistan: the long loss

Once the base of operations for al-Qaeda and their Taliban allies, after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the US, Afghanistan became the primary target of America’s justified wrath. With a handful of Special Forces operators, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) paramilitary officers, loads of local tribal allies and judicious American airpower, the US military effectively deposed the Taliban and broke al-Qaeda’s stronghold on the country in about two months from October to December 2001. Had it not been for shabby planning that December, it is likely the conflict would have wrapped up with the capture or death of Osama bin Laden as he fled American forces in the foothills of Tora Bora. Even without having captured bin Laden, though, by the spring of 2002, the US forces in Afghanistan had accomplished what the American people had wanted them to: They had disrupted the terror networks in the country and brought to justice the groups responsible for 9/11. Despite this fact, the Americans hung around for another 20 years, bleeding its





troops, weapons stocks and treasury dry in the rocks of Afghanistan. For what purpose? Initially, it was to avenge ourselves upon the culprits behind 9/11. Once that was mostly achieved, why did the US expand its footprint and commitment to the “Graveyard of Empires?” The lack of a coherent, concrete strategy was one reason.

### **Iraq: an idiot’s delight**

In Iraq, the justification for war was clear: The George W Bush administration was convinced that Saddam Hussein had developed a massive, covert WMD (weapons of mass destruction, notably nuclear) program and had partnered with al-Qaeda. Once the US military was ensconced in the heart of the so-called “fertile crescent,” it became blatantly clear that both charges the Bush administration had made against Saddam Hussein were wrong or fabricated, depending on whom you ask. Rather than leave and try to save its power, the Americans again opted to hang around with massive targets on their backsides – all while the Bush administration quietly changed the objective from removing a regime that was actively building WMD and working with al-Qaeda to spreading democracy in the Middle East to end terrorism. In Iraq, the world saw the worst excesses of America’s strategic ignorance: It invaded the country based on false pretenses, with a force that was far too small to secure the country from insurgents; changed its objectives from something obtainable (ending a regime that was purportedly planning to nuke the US) to something less realistic (spreading democra-

cy); and the Americans left in humiliation – empowering its foes (Islamist Iran and ISIS) in the process.

### **Dazed and confused in Ukraine**

Having thoroughly failed in its Middle East wars, the Americans have now taken the odious products of its failure factories and sent them to the Russo-Ukrainian war. After the Russians invaded Ukraine last year, the Americans flooded weapons and other forms of support into the besieged nation. What was the plan, though? Initially, it seemed like the United States’ objective was to rally its NATO partners into repulsing the Russian invasion into Western Ukraine in 2022. This was a sensible strategy – and it worked. The relatively small Russian invasion force of 160,000 troops collapsed under the sustained pressure of Ukraine’s defenders. Once Kiev was secured and the survival of President Volodymyr Zelensky’s government was assured, the logical course of action would have been to sue for peace, to negotiate a settlement that kept western Ukraine free and ceded the Russian-speaking provinces of eastern Ukraine and Crimea officially to the Russians. At the precise moment that the Americans had achieved their desired goal, though, Washington doubled down and encouraged the Ukrainians to shift their objective from one of realistic territorial defense to an insane attempt to restore Ukrainian control completely over both eastern Ukraine and the heavily fortified Crimean Peninsula. Recently, Western leaders have begun talking openly about their desire to see President Vladimir Putin overthrown and the Russian Federation partitioned. Even under the best of circumstances, short of total world war, this was never going to happen. But the fantasists in Washington have deluded themselves and Ukraine into committing strategic suicide based on these unattainable dreams. By following the strategically illiterate Americans, all the Ukrainians will do is drain themselves – as well as

NATO's coffers and weapons stocks – and make themselves susceptible to a massive Russian counterattack. This, of course, is precisely what is happening in Ukraine. Thanks to their close association with the geopolitical naïfs in Washington, Ukraine has been duped into charging headlong into a war it cannot win against nuclear-armed Russia, all while the West does little to prepare itself for the wider war it has provoked.

### **Inmates running the asylum**

Had there been any adult in Washington during this current crisis or had former president Donald Trump been in charge during this time, it is likely that the entire Russo-Ukrainian war would have been avoided. Alas, the Washington establishment is incapable of self-awareness. These pampered princes must offer tribute for their unfounded status to the gods of war with the blood of Ukraine's sons and daughters – and eventually the blood of America's youth. Washington's ruling class has blundered for decades at the strategic level. With each foreign policy disaster, America's overall standing atop the world system has declined until it has reached its current nadir. By neutering America's power and standing in the world in these endless brush fire wars, the United States now has a stark choice to make. Either Washington manages to pull out a miracle in Ukraine or the Russians will crush Ukraine, and then break the back of the NATO alliance – thereby ending the US strategic position in Europe and likely birthing an entirely new world order where there are multiple power centers, as opposed to only America's. This fate was avoidable had the US simply given more attention to strategy rather than ideology. One way or the other, though, the United States is returning to the real world. It's not going to be pretty when it realizes how far it has truly fallen.

<https://asiatimes.com/2023/01/america-strategy-of-failure-comes-to-ukraine/>

## **Harry and Meghan rejected by Hollywood event**



Prince Harry and Meghan Markle were “not welcome” at the 2023 BAFTA Tea Party in Los Angeles on Saturday over PR concerns as his brother Prince William is president of the charity organisation.

A BAFTA insider claimed inviting the Royal couple to the event would be a “terrible idea” and a “PR nightmare”.

“Prince Harry, in his book and docuseries, has roundly attacked the Royal Family,” the BAFTA consultant told The Sun.

“The US team was reminded that Harry's arch-nemesis, his brother Prince William, is president of Bafta.

“So for them to rollout the red carpet to Harry and his wife would be like setting off a nuclear bomb. It's a no-go.”

<https://www.skynews.com.au/lifestyle/celebrity-life/harry-and-meghan-rejected-by-hollywood-event/video/e5d345e04b4131130eddccc93345e4e4>

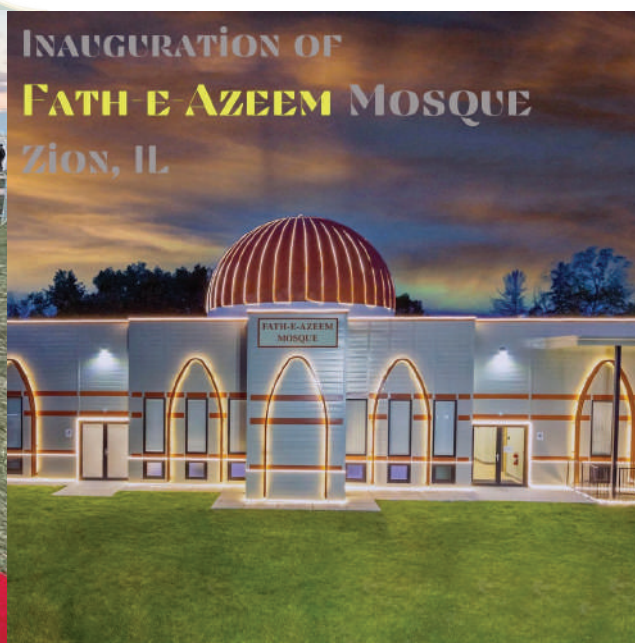


# The Sign of the Mosque of the Grand Victory in Zion will Bring About a Significant Change in the Lives of our Progeny



## Part - 2

By. Mohiuddin Abbasi, London



In May, 1901, the condition of the wife of Deacon Judd, one of his prominent disciples, suddenly turned for the worse during her labour pains. In accordance with the customs of Dowie's Church, medical help from the doctors was not sought, and the patient died in the same painful situation. The matter was taken to the Court of law where Dr Dowie gave a statement that there was no need of physicians for the treatment of patients. The Jury held Dowie and the patient's husband responsible for the death of the patient. The judge released them on a bail of 10,000 dollars each. But the Grand Jury, acquitted both of them. In June, 1902 Dr Dowie announced that Zion would purchase Jerusalem for its King and would establish many Zion cities. If we mobilize one million dollars a year, we can buy the Turks, Muslims and Jews, he stated. On 2nd June, 1902, Dowie suddenly proclaimed in an auditorium before an audience of five thousand: "I am the Prophet Elia

who at first appeared in this world as Elia and the next time he appeared in the form of John, the Baptist. I have come to restore all things. Elia was a prophet and John was a messenger. But I am blessed with the characteristics of a prophet and also a messenger. Without any fear, I declare that I am the perfect spiritual and physical reflection of Elia. Prophet Malachi and Peter had made a prophecy regarding my third advent on the earth. Prophet Moses had also made a similar prophecy three thousand years ago. Those who believe in me should stand up." Immediately about 3000 persons stood up and declared that they believed in his prophethood. On 14th May, 1902, just a few months after his claim to prophethood, Dr Dowie's only daughter Esther Dowie, who was a student of Chicago University, was doing her hair in her home when her clothes caught fire from a nearby lamp. She was completely burnt. At that time Dowie was in Zion with his wife. As soon as

he heard about the incident, he rushed to his daughter's house and engaged himself in prayer. But her condition deteriorated drastically and she died a very painful death. As it was Dowie's principle belief that patients should be treated through spiritual healing, no medical help was sought for his daughter.

An excerpt from the diary of the Promised Messiah AS, dated 6th August, 1902 Mufti Mohammad Sadiq Sahib RA used to read out the contents of the paper of Dowie, the famous imposter and liar of America who also falsely claimed to be Eliah. Dowie had made a prophecy that all his opponent nations, kings and kingdoms would be destroyed. At this, the religious jealousy and passion of the Promised Messiah AS was roused, so he declared: "This fabricator is a dangerous enemy of Islam. It would be best to publish and send an open letter to him and invite him to a challenge. Besides Islam, there is no truthful religion in the world, and blessings and signs are manifested only in favour of Islam. The time has now come that God Almighty will punish him for his forgery."

Therefore, in September, 1902, the Promised Messiah AS invited him to a 'mubahala' (prayer duel) and said: "We entreat Mr Dowie that he should choose me as his opponent and pray to God that between the two of us whoever is the liar may perish first."

(Majmua Ishtiharat, Vol 2, pp.568-570)

This challenge was published in the Review of Religions (English) in September, 1902, and it was widely publicized. It also reached America. In December, 1902, Dr Dowie ridiculed the challenge of the Promised Messiah AS and criticised him for his claims that Jesus miraculously escaped death from the cross and was buried in Srinagar, India. In a congregation, Dr Dowie said: "There is one foolish man in India, a Mohammedan Messiah, who persists in writing to me saying that the body of the Christ is buried at Cashmir in India, and can be found there. He never says

he has seen it, but the poor, fanatical and ignorant creature keeps on raving that the Christ died in India. The Christ reascended into the heavens at Bethany and he is there in his celestial body. I can tell with certainty the time of his reappearance, but I will not mention any day, or any week or any year."

Even after a year had passed since the challenge was given by the Promised Messiah AS, Dr Dowie did not utter a single word about it. He neither accepted the challenge nor rejected it." (Tarikh e Ahmadiyyat, Vol.2, p. 244)

Dr Dowie said: "People sometimes say to me why do you not reply to this challenge. Reply! Do you think that I shall reply to these gnats and flies? If I put my foot on them, I would crush out their lives. I give them a chance to fly away and live. The idea of bothering about these little things! Zion has no time to stop its wheels to answer them. It is like a mouse looking at the buzz saw and saying, 'You stop or I will bite you.' Let it bite the buzz saw and that is the end of it." On 23rd August, 1903, the Promised Messiah AS published a second poster in English inviting Dr Dowie to a 'mubahala', which said: "If Mr Dowie accepts my challenge and puts himself in opposition to me clearly or implicitly, he will depart from this world with great pain and misery during my lifetime... I, therefore, grant him a time for seven months from today, 23rd August, 1903. If during this period, he comes forth in opposition to me and makes an announcement in his paper that he accepts fully the plan that I have put forward, the world shall soon witness the end of the contest. I am about seventy years of age and Dowie, according to his own statement, is a young man of fifty years."

(Poster regarding prophecies about Pigott and Dowie, Majmua Ishtiharat, Vol.2, pp 606-607). Only a few days had passed since the Promised Messiah AS issued the mubahala challenge, its signs began to appear and as a result Dowie had to suffer many failures and losses. During his discourses, he began to



utter such sentences that the audience began to doubt his mental condition. In February 1905, news began to appear that Dr Dowie, his family members and high officials of his organisation were being afflicted with many kinds of diseases. On 1st October, 1905 Dowie suffered an attack of paralysis. Then again on 19th December, when stood up to deliver his lecture at Shiloh Tabernacle in Zion, he collapsed. Then he had to finish his discourse sitting in a chair. His voice was very dim and trembling. Later he suffered a second stroke of paralysis. Then all his followers left him and even his wife and children abandoned him. His condition became so miserable that he could barely walk a few steps. On 1st April, 1906 there was a revolt against Dowie which was led by his own appointed trustee Voliva, who in an open gathering declared Dowie to be a hypocrite and liar. His wife and children were also present in that

gathering. Among many other allegations leveled against Dowie, one was that he advocated polygamy. At that time Dowie was not in Zion. He had gone to Jamaica. During this period, all his business ventures and his paper Leaves of healing suffered financial losses. His own health deteriorated and he had lost his mental balance. His wife and children abandoned him and moved to another place.

The Promised Messiah AS says: "I received a revelation on 9th February, 1907 that 'You shall indeed be victorious' and the same day I received yet another revelation that 'You shall be bestowed another sign that shall cause happiness.' Allah says: I shall manifest a sign which will contact a great victory. It will be a sign for the whole world and it will be wrought by the hands of God and will be from the heavens. Let every eye wait for it, for God will manifest it soon."

(Haqeeqat ul Wahi, pp.509-510)

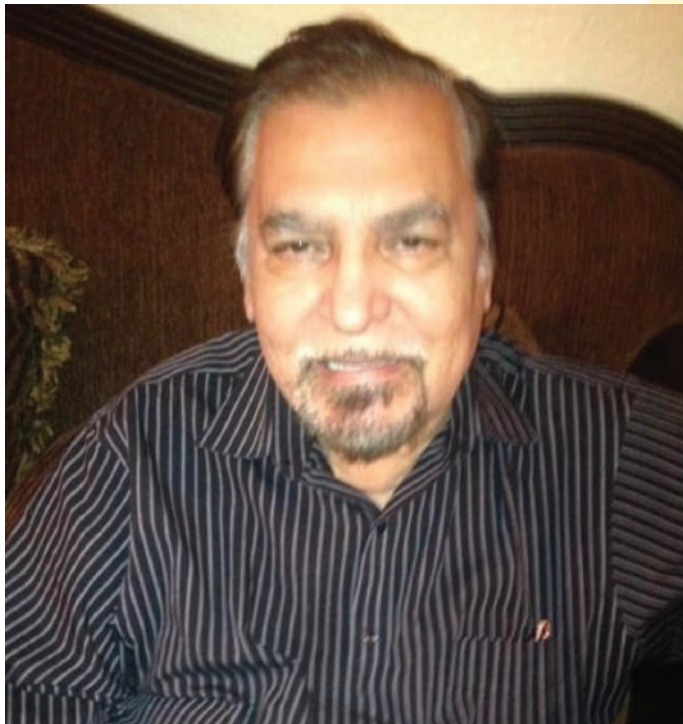
The Promised Messiah AS says: "On 9th March, 1907, I received a news through a telegram from London, which was published in the Civil paper, that Dowie, who had claimed to be a prophet, about whom I made a prophecy that he was false in his claim and God would not spare him, had died in a state of paralysis. All praise be to Allah. A great sign appeared."

(Haqeeqat ul Wahi, Ruhani Khazain Vol 22, footnote page 492)

As soon as the Promised Messiah AS gave a challenge of 'mubahala', Dowie began to experience a taste of turmoil and disgrace that he was destined to suffer for the rest of his life. He began to utter meaningless sentences in his discourse, his voice trembled, and his followers and audience began to doubt his mental condition. Consequently, his admirers and followers left him. He suffered multiple strokes of paralysis. He was rendered invalid. People began calling him a thief, liar, insane and mad. Besides, he was also found guilty of various offences by the courts of law. In short,



he suffered great ignominy as his black deeds were published in newspapers. In his paper Leaves of Healing issued on 19th December, 1902, Dr Dowie wrote that: "My part is to bring out the people from the East and from the West, from the North and from the South, and settle them in this and other Zion cities until the time shall come when religion of Mohammad is obliterated from the face of the earth." (Haqeeqat ul Wahi, Ruhani Khazain Vol 22, p.509)



**Anwar Mahmood Khan**  
(Head of Fundraising Mosuqe Project & Exhibition)

The details of this grand sign have been included in a special exhibition room at the front of the new Mosque which was curated by Anwer Mahmood Khan sahib (Head of Fundraising for Zion Mosque Project) and his team. The exhibition was an integral part of the Mosque's design and has been beautifully designed to enlighten all visitors. Guests are taken on a tour of Islam's basic teachings, the claims of the Promised MessiahAS and the details of the Mubahala with Dr Dowie. Through animations displayed on large TV screens, articles displayed on digital frames and also a touchscreen interactive kiosk,

guests are led through each stage of this historic chapter in our history. It was an honour to visit the exhibition, which also includes original historic artifacts from Dr Dowie, the city of Zion and original print newspapers from the time. I urge all readers to visit the Mosque and benefit from the exhibition which is truly faith inspiring. Dr Dowie claimed to be the second coming of Elijah who would herald in the second-coming of Jesus Christ. However he did not realise that his claims would bring the public's attention to the real second coming of JesusAS who appeared in Qadian, India. See this man who rose to obliterate the faith brought by the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, and used to say to his followers about the Promised MessiahAS that : 'Do you think that I shall reply to these gnats and flies? If I put my foot on them, I would crush out their lives.' Instead of crushing the true prophet of God, Allah Almighty paralyzed that very foot of Dowie and rendered it utterly useless. He was planning to establish his cities all over the world, but Allah's destiny prevailed. Dowie was accursed. This imposter and liar departed from the world in a state of despair, pain and sorrow. The prophecy of the Promised MessiahAS that Allah would inflict Dowie with a humiliating and severe punishment and disgrace him on account of his false claims, was fulfilled. Dr Dowie had lost his recognition in Zion. But the religion of Hadhrat Mohammad, peace be upon him, will be established in Zion, and the sapling in the form the Mosque of Grand Victory planted by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V, may Allah be his helper, will continue to flourish and prosper and the whole world will draw benefit from it. Insha'Allah.

**'It is not sensible to dare him who is a  
man of God,  
Don't lay your hand on lions, O frail and  
feeble fox!'.  
(Durr e Sameen)**



# Ukraine war: Give us tanks, says Zelensky, as Western allies meet

By: James Fitzgerald & Defence Correspondent Jonathan Beale

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has made a direct appeal for tanks at crunch talks involving dozens of Western allies in southern Germany. The US and European nations have already promised more weapons. But Mr Zelensky told defence ministers at Ramstein airbase: "Hundreds of thank yous are not hundreds of tanks." Germany had faced growing pressure to send its Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, but at the end of Friday's meeting had not yet committed to their supply. The nation was also under pressure to allow other countries to provide Ukraine with their own Leopard tanks. Under German law, the government in Berlin would have to give its permission before countries such as Poland or Finland could commit to re-exporting them. Speaking after the meeting, Poland's defence minister Mariusz Blaszczak said he was hopeful building a coalition to support Ukraine would end "in success". Germany's new defence minister, Boris Pistorius, had earlier told reporters at Ramstein: "None of us can say today when there will be a decision for Leopard tanks and what the decision may look like." Defence colleagues from more than 50 countries gathered at the airbase on Friday, a day after several nations pledged more equipment to help Ukraine fend off further Russia campaigns. US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told them it was time to "dig deeper". Almost 11 months into Russia's war in Ukraine, Nato military figures believe Moscow is planning a renewed spring offensive with troop numbers bolstered by a partial mobilisation since the end of September.



Western officials see a potential "window of opportunity" in the coming weeks for Ukraine to push Russian forces back. They say Moscow is running short of ammunition and trained troops - despite efforts to replenish stocks and mobilise additional forces. For its part, Russia has warned of increasing Nato involvement, direct as well as indirect, in the conflict. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday that sending tanks would not change the course of the conflict, but would "create more problems for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people". The UK has already announced it will send 14 Challenger 2 battle tanks. But Kyiv wants more tanks and UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said he hoped that the 50 allies would "all hear the message that unlocking the tank is part of 2023". Germany's Leopard tanks are key to that equation. They are in more plentiful supply than the British tank, and are operated by more than a dozen other nations. Ahead of the Ramstein meeting Mr Zelensky criticised Germany's hesitant attitude to sending tanks, assuring Berlin that the Leopards would only be used in self-defence and not go through Russia. "If you have Leopard [tanks], then give them to us," he told German public TV.

Polish deputy foreign minister Pawel Jablonski indicated on Friday that Warsaw might be prepared to provide Ukraine with Leopards regardless of Berlin's views. "We'll see. I think if there is strong resistance, we'll be ready to take even such non-standard action. But let's not anticipate the facts," he told Polish radio. Berlin was reported this week to have made a decision on the Leopard conditional on the US agreeing to send Abrams tanks, which it is not intending to do. The defence minister denied Germany was blocking deliveries of the tank unilaterally and said that when a decision was made he wanted to be able to move fast. "That's why this morning I told my ministry to make an inventory of the different types of Leopard tanks we have within our military but also within the industry." There are fears of escalation in Berlin and of going it alone. Until recently, Germany refused requests to send a Patriot air defence battery, but it relented as soon as the US did the same. On tanks too, Berlin would like to see the US take the lead. Ben Wallace has rejected talk of escalation. Germany along with the US and UK, he argued, had already supplied artillery systems, like Himars, with a much longer range. Mr Zelensky has repeatedly taken aim at Berlin's perceived hesitancy and on Thursday criticised suggestions that the US and Germany were only planning to commit vehicles if the other nation did the same. Retired US Army general David Petraeus said there was "legitimate reluctance" in Washington on the issue of sending Abrams tanks because they were difficult to maintain and had a jet turbine. He told the BBC it was "imperative" that any Western tank donations were made "early enough, so [Ukrainian soldiers] can actually train on them". On Thursday, Western nations pledged to send more vehicles, artillery and munitions to bolster the Ukrainian war effort. The US committed a new package worth \$2.5bn (£2bn), saying this took its spend on Ukrainian sup-



port to \$26.7bn since last February's full-scale invasion by Russia. Tanks were not included in the offer, but the Pentagon did promise an extra 59 Bradley armoured vehicles, 90 Stryker personnel carriers and Avenger air defence systems, among other provisions. The announcement came after nine European nations promised more support of their own following a meeting in Estonia. This included:

- UK - 600 Brimstone missiles
- Denmark - 19 French-made Caesar self-propelled howitzers (cannon)
- Estonia - howitzers, ammunition, support vehicles and anti-tank grenade launchers
- Latvia - Stinger air-defence systems, two helicopters, and drones
- Lithuania - anti-aircraft guns and two helicopters
- Poland - S-60 anti-aircraft guns with 70,000 pieces of ammunition
- Czech Republic - produce further large calibre ammunition, howitzers and APCs
- 8 Netherlands - support expected to be detailed on Friday

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-64341337.amp>



# Is Jacinda Ardern's sudden resignation a preview of coming attractions for Trudeau?

**FIRST READING:** Ardern was driven out by many of the same problems now facing Trudeau

By: Tristin Hopper

Jacinda Ardern — the New Zealand leader often compared to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau — abruptly resigned Wednesday and announced she would not be running for re-election. It appears to be an act of political expediency. Support for Ardern's New Zealand Labour Party has dropped off a cliff in recent months, making it increasingly unlikely she would be able to remain prime minister after the country's October 2023 federal election. "For many local observers, Ardern's announcement was simply hastening the inevitable," wrote the Sydney Morning Herald, reporting from across the Tasman Sea in Australia. Ardern herself explained it as not having "enough in the tank." "As much as I have taken great joy in this job, I would be giving a disservice to this country and to the Labour Party if I continued," she said. As a temperate Pacific island with a population smaller than British Columbia, New Zealand is a flawed analogue for Canadian politics. But it's perhaps notable that Ardern's lustre faded due to many of the exact same problems facing the Trudeau government. Ardern has faced strong public blowback for her heavy-handed response to COVID. New Zealand housing — which was already plenty expensive before Ardern's 2017 appointment — has become cartoonishly unaffordable under her tenure. At the exact time that Trudeau is being blamed for bail reforms that prompted a nationwide crisis in "catch and release" justice, Ardern oversaw a spike in violent crime, much of it coming from juvenile offenders. And New Zealand's overall cost of living is undergoing a sharp uptick roughly in league with Canada. The poll num-



bers that ultimately sealed Ardern's fate are also not all that different from those currently facing the Trudeau government. Just like the Liberal Party, New Zealand Labour has spent the last 12 months narrowly trailing behind their country's main centre-right option, the New Zealand National Party. In December, Labour posted their worst showing yet with 33 per cent support as opposed to 38 for National. It's eerily similar to a recent Nanos poll which had Canadian voters backing the Conservative Party by 36 per cent to the Liberals' 28 per cent. However, Trudeau still retains an upper hand over Ardern for two reasons. First, New Zealand elects its parliaments via a system of proportional representation. While Trudeau initially promised to introduce a similar system to Canada, his government has since pursued the opposite strategy of exploiting the first past the post system to the maximum extent possible: The 2021 election saw the Liberals' ride a wave of vote-splitting to claim victory with the slimmest share of electoral support in the country's history. Under a New Zealand system, victory in 2021 would likely have gone to the Tories under Erin O'Toole. Second, the New

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

We are truly grateful to our esteemed readers for their continued interest in **Lahore International** and **Aabgeenei Magazines** through which we have been able to fulfil our vision of promoting understanding of different sections of society through our informative articles. This has been a non profit organisation running without any financial help from others. We would be very grateful for any monetary contribution you can provide on a monthly basis so we can continue bringing you true and unbiased journalism.

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Hoping for an encouraging response for our readers for this noble cause.

May Allah be with you - Amen

Zealand parliament is home to a respectably sized caucus for ACT, a kind of right-wing NDP that can typically be relied upon to prop up a National Party government. With no such party in Canada, Trudeau could still see the Conservatives capture a substantial plurality, and remain prime minister anyways by striking another supply and confidence agreement with the NDP. Despite speculation, Ardern likely wasn't the victim of a U.K.-style ejection by her caucus. Rather, she appears to be opting for an exit that is more typically seen in Canadian politics: An unpopular leader bows out with months to go until election day, leaving a subordinate to go down with the ship. Pierre Trudeau did it in 1984, leaving John Turner to take the Liberals into the opposition benches. Brian Mulroney did it in 1993, condemning Kim Campbell to oversee the near-annihilation of the Progressive Conservatives just four months later. There have been no serious hints that Trudeau has any intention of stepping aside before the next election, which would occur in 2025 at the latest. In September, after a few months of speculation that he would be stepping aside in favour of Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, Trudeau explicitly told the Liberal caucus that he would be taking the party into the next election. Another parallel between Ardern and Trudeau? Both of them appear to have attracted unusual quantities of popular rage. For Trudeau, it's manifested in the form of near-ubiquitous "f-k Trudeau" bumper stickers now seen on Canadian highways, not to mention the wave of illegal blockades orchestrated last winter by the anti-mandate Freedom Convoy. Similar — albeit smaller — anti-mandate demonstrations have been in evidence in New Zealand, and Ardern has reportedly received an outsized quantity of death threats for a New Zealand politician.

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/jacinda-arderns-resignation-trudeau>





# Burning of the Holy Quran Sweden - A Despicable Act

By: Mansoor Ahmad BCA BEM, London

Member – Commonwealth Journalists Association (UK)



Recently Rasmus Paludan, a politician from the Danish far-right Stram Kurs (Hard Line) party in Sweden has ignited a massive world-wide outrage after he burnt a copy of the Holy Qur'an outside the Turkish Embassy in the Swedish capital Stockholm. In April 2022 Paludan's declaration of a "Quran burning tour" during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan sparked riots across the country. According to The New York Times, described an anti-Muslim provocateur, Rasmus Paludan had gained some notoriety through a series of online videos in which he insults Islam and its adherents. It is greatly tragic that Islam, a religion of peace; hope, harmony, goodwill and brotherhood has been scarred by the perpetrators of terrorists' acts and barbarism. Islam is perceived today as an aggressive and terrorist religion around the world. Everywhere the killing of innocent people, suicide - bombings, and terrorist activities are orchestrated by the people who claim to be Muslims, although in reality, the fanatic actions of these ignorant people have nothing to do with Islam. Islam in fact is such a religion that promotes peace and understanding among people of all faiths, and it strongly prohibits all forms of violence and aggression against all people regardless of their faith or race. Uncompromisingly, Islam is a law of peace and a religion of mercy. But those who misunderstand or are ignorant of its teachings, hostile to its system or are arrogant enough not to accept the evidence, will inevitably clash with this fact. The word 'Islam' is itself derived from the word 'salam' which means 'peace', and 'Muslim' is the epithet attributed to the believer who exercises this religion of peace. 'He (Allah) has chosen you, and has laid no

hardship upon you in religion; so follow the faith of your father Abraham; He named you Muslims both before and in this book (the Qur'an), so that the Messenger may be a witness over you, and that you may be witnesses over mankind'. (Surah Al-Hajj, 22:79)

The essence of this religion is peaceful submission to the Lord of the worlds: 'Nay, whoever submits himself completely to Allah, and is the doer of good, shall have his reward, with his Lord. No fear shall come upon such, neither shall they grieve'. (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:113) and 'When his Lord said to him, 'Submit', he said, 'I have submitted to the Lord of the worlds'. (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:132) Again 'And we have commanded to submit to the Lord of the worlds'. (Surah Al-An'am, 6:72). Muslims respect the Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) in the same manner that they respect the Holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (Peace be upon Him and the blessings of Allah). Both of these Prophets, as well as many before them, were messengers of God and preached peace and love. The burning of any religious scripture or holy books should be strongly and forever condemned. The Holy Qur'an is to be read carefully and the divine commandments contained in it are to be followed acutely. Such obedience to its laws would bring peace, harmony and love. There should be greater inter-faith understanding if such harmony is to ever be established. Islam's beauty exists in its forbidding of aggression. It recommends one to fight only if negotiation jeopardizes or fails in establishing peace and security. Fighting is only sanctioned with the pre-determined desire to end the fighting. This is the teaching on which peace can eventually be built, and

this is the teaching on which the Holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (Peace be upon Him and the blessings of Allah) based his own policies and his practice on. Our Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him and the blessings of Allah) suffered continuously and consistently in Mecca but did not fight the aggression of which he was an innocent sufferer. When he escaped to Medina, the enemy was out to eradicate Islam. It was, therefore, necessary to fight the enemy in defence of truth and for the right of freedom of belief. Allah Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an: 'Permission to fight is given to those against whom war is made, because they have been wronged-and Allah indeed has power to help them-Those who have been driven out from their homes unjustly only because they said, 'Our Lord is Allah' (Surah Al-Hajj, 22:40-41) The Holy Qur'an speaks of 'Tawheed', the divine oneness of God. It contains the direct revelation to the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him and the blessings of Allah) from God, consisting of; moral commandments and guidance, promises of reward to the righteous, warnings for acts of evil, narratives of the Prophets highlighting their exemplary obedience to God, inspirational stories of miracles, and perhaps most importantly with reference to aforementioned occurrence, the fundamental precept of Islam. Allah Almighty says : 'There should be no compulsion in religion. Surely, right has become distinct from wrong; so whosoever refuses to be led by those who transgress, and believes in Allah, has surely grasped a strong handle which knows no breaking. And Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing'. [Surah Al Baqarah, 2: 257]

The Holy Qur'an teaches that opponents should be dealt with justice and as such, a mode of debate should be designated that is centered on the code of justice. Furthermore, the Qur'an further teaches, 'And when thou seest those who engage in vain discourse concerning Our Signs, then turn thou away from them until they engage in a discourse other than that. And if Satan cause thee to forget,

then sit not, after recollection, with the unjust people. And those who are righteous are not at all accountable for them, but their duty is to admonish them, that they may fear God.' (Surah Al-An'am 6:69-70). In the aforementioned verse, Muslims are commanded only to turn away from such people temporarily, who seek to defame Islam. The separation is not permanent, and no consequences of the offense is mentioned either. In dealing with provocation, it commands: 'Take to forgiveness, and enjoin kindness, and turn away from the ignorant.' (Surah Al-Araf: 7:200). It is reported that Sweden's Foreign Minister, Tobias Billstrom, called the act "appalling". "Sweden has a far-reaching freedom of expression, but it does not imply that the Swedish government, or myself, support the opinions expressed," he wrote on Twitter. The high representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations has condemned the burning of the Muslim holy book by a Swedish-Danish far-right politician as a "vile act". Egypt has strongly condemned the burning of a copy of the Noble Quran by an extremist on Saturday in Sweden's capital, Stockholm, as a "disgraceful act". Morocco, Qatar, Türkiye and many other countries – as well as social media users – condemned the act, expressing their concerns amid a rise of extremist tendencies in Europe. The major problem with the current state of the world is lack of recognition of God and His guidance and surely lack of belief in an ever living God is the root cause of all problems. Until we can establish complete faith in the existence of God Almighty and our living relationship with God, both at individual level and as a society, we cannot fulfil the aim of having peace in the world. Without this foremost of the principles, world will remain lost in the darkness of chaos and misery. The only accurate and definite solution to the current world problems is to restore our relationship with God and submit to His guidance and it is only through the practice of teaching of the Holy Qur'an that we can achieve this.



# Why Inflation is Falling But Prices are Still Rising

By Hannah Miller



Every month we report the UK's inflation figures, but what does this percentage going up or down actually mean for your money?

The inflation figure gives us an idea of how fast the cost of living is rising in the UK but here are a few things you might not know.

## 1. Inflation is falling - so prices are still going up, just not as quickly

Inflation came down to 10.5% in December from 10.7% in November and 11.1% in October. So does this mean prices are on their way down too? Unfortunately not. Prices are still rising quite sharply compared to a year ago, just at a slower rate than they have been. A typical bag of shopping that cost £10 in October 2021 would have added up to £11.11 in October 2022. And that same bag of groceries would have been priced at £10.13 in December 2021, but jumped to £11.19 this December just passed, latest figures show. Prices are still likely to keep going up over the next few months, but not at the rate that has caused

such a shock to households and businesses across the country over the last year.

## 2. Your costs might be rising even faster

The inflation figure is an average - so your own cost of living could be rising at a very different rate to what's reported in the news, depending on what you spend your money on. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) which calculates inflation, bases its numbers on a basket of goods that reflects what most people across the UK are buying. But it doesn't include everything. So if you are buying a lot of unusual or niche items, or you have atypical tastes, you might find the cost of your own bag of shopping is going up more quickly - or more slowly - than the headlines suggest. Food inflation is currently at 16.8%, much higher than the average rate, so people who spend a greater proportion of their outgoings on food will find their personal inflation rate is higher than the 10.5% headline figure. The ONS says energy, food, and drink

accounts for around 15% of lower-income households' spending, compared to 10% for high-income groups. The Bank of England tries to control inflation by putting up interest rates which makes it more expensive to borrow money. This encourages people to borrow and spend less, and save more. The Bank is expected to stick with that strategy - of putting up interest rates - throughout this year. So if you have a tracker mortgage or a credit card or loan you could find yourself paying more interest. That's another way your own personal inflation rate could be affected.

### 3. Will prices ever fall?

Occasionally prices will fall very slightly compared to the previous month, but they are much less likely to fall year-on-year. And while this might be difficult to believe right now, falling prices aren't always a good thing - here's why. If people expect that prices are likely to fall, they delay spending with the aim of getting a cheaper deal later on. That means businesses have less money coming in, so they try to find ways to cut costs - most likely by cutting wages or laying off staff. So prices falling can mean people lose their jobs, which in turn makes prices fall further. This is called "deflation", a different kind of economic crisis that brings its own set of problems. That's why the Bank of England aims to have prices consistently rising by 2% - it's better to aim for a bit of inflation than to risk the negative effects of prices falling. It's important to remember that the price rises we've seen recently have been primarily driven by global energy prices. These are expected to come down, but not to as low as they were before, and any fall in energy prices will take time to feed through into the wider economy.

## King Charles, Prince William's plan is working against Prince Harry says expert



A British expert thinks the royal family 'keep quiet plan' in response to Prince Harry's recent allegations is working. "The Duke of Sussex will eventually "burn himself out", said Pauline Maclaran, while praising the royal family's old strategy.

Prince Harry had also talked about the palace's policy of not commenting on unfavorable media reports in his Netflix documentary. Two weeks after Harry's book was released around the world, both Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace have yet to make any public comment on the claims made by the prince. Talking to the Express.co.uk, Professor Maclaran said: "The Royal Family are taking the right stance because the way it is going is that Harry will burn himself out."

"If they make any reply, it risks exasperating the whole thing and we end up in a 'he said, she said, they said' battle. "They would be horrified to start that and are probably scared to set anything else off.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1034053-king-charles-prince-williams-plan-is-working-against-prince-harry-says-expert>



# Newport Ship: Medieval vessel is 'world's largest 3D puzzle'

By: Peter Shuttleworth

With almost 2,500 pieces, measuring 30 metres and weighing 25 tonnes, it has been called the world's largest 3D puzzle. Archaeologists can now, after 20 years of painstaking restoration, start to reassemble the wreck of a 15th Century ship found in a south Wales riverbank. Experts believe the medieval vessel is as significant a find as the Mary Rose - and it is a century older. "The ship is of global significance and interest," said TV historian Dan Snow. Specialists have been working on the Newport Ship conservation project since the discovery of almost a third of the former wine- trading vessel and 1,000 medieval artefacts in the banks of the River Usk in 2002. They have reached an important milestone on Thursday as all of its timbers, which had been preserved for more than 550 years, have now dried out and restored ready to go on display. The team working on the multi-million pound project are now planning the world's largest attempt to put an archaeological ship back together.

"We have a massive, flat-pack ship that we need to reassemble and there are no instructions," said the project's curator Toby Jones.

"There is going to be a lot of fitting, checking and disassembling and fitting again and again. "There are archaeological ships on display around the world but nothing from the period of the 15th Century so this is what makes this so significant and special. We have an actual medieval ship that's totally unique." Tudor king Henry VIII's flagship naval vessel the Mary Rose is perhaps the most famous 16th Century ship on display while the Vasa in Sweden is the 17th Century equivalent. Now historians say the Newport Ship will be



the only 15th Century maritime exhibit on show anywhere in the world. "The Mary Rose has been top billing since it was found and raised in 1982 as so many people remember it, now the Newport Ship is up on that scale," said Mary Rose's head of conservation David Pearson. "It can give us so much information as to what life was like in the mid-1400s and we can learn from the late medieval ship-building and from items found on board."

About £8m has already been spent preserving and restoring the timbers, which has included freeze-drying the wood at the Mary Rose museum in Portsmouth. The team made their final visit to England's south coast on Thursday to pick up the last batch of about 100 timbers and return them to Newport, ensuring they are all under one roof again for the first time in years. Then historians hope to put the wreckage back together and have it on display within the next five years.

## 'It's like a time capsule'

"The Newport Ship tells us a bunch of things that the Mary Rose can't," said TV historian



Dan Snow. "The Mary Rose was a Tudor vessel, it feels like an early modern vessel, while the Newport Ship is a trading ship operating at the beginning of a revolution in European shipbuilding. "It was at a time when those living along the Atlantic seaboard; the Welsh, people from Brittany, northern Spain, Portugal, Devon and Cornwall were starting to go to sea in bigger and stronger ships that would allow them to eventually cross the Atlantic and into the Indian Ocean. "So the Newport Ship symbolises the birth of this era of European exploration and comes at a very important time in maritime history - just a generation before Christopher Columbus set out across the Atlantic. "It's the birth of an era that changed the world in every way imaginable. People talk about globalisation and international trade as if it's something recent, this ship shows that way back in our medieval past we had strong links with Europe and we were trading and drinking French wine. "The Newport ship is one of the most interesting and important shipwrecks found in British waters in a generation. "It's a truly international find; the wood came from northern Spain and wine from France. It's like a time capsule, a piece of the 15th Century delivered to us here in the 21st Century. "This is something that's going to be of global significance and interest. Tourists will be coming from all over the world as it's very well preserved."

### Why was it in Newport?

It is thought the 30 metre (98ft), 400 tonne, medium-sized boat was having a refit following a voyage from the Iberian Peninsula to Bristol. This was taking place in a River Usk inlet in 1468 or 1469 when its moorings broke. Much of the oak planks and iron were stripped before the tide hid the stricken remains, with a third of the vessel succumbing to its muddy grave - lying untouched for more than five centuries. Economic impact assessments predict the preserved boat could attract up to 150,000 visitors a year - making it one of Wales' most popular tourist attractions - and boost the south Wales economy by £7m a year. Archaeologists plan to allow the public in to watch them reassemble the remains when a venue big enough is secured to take the boat. "You cannot build this thing then move it," added Mr Jones. "You can only build it in its final position, but when it is done, it will be stable and has the potential for being on display in perpetuity." Newport council, who have led conservation work, will soon start a feasibility study to look at where best to house the ship - with an empty department store a possibility. "We're keen to find a home which maximises accessibility for everybody as we want to share this great treasure," said Newport council leader Jane Mudd. "The potential economic benefits are important too - and as more than 1,000 people attend talks on the Newport Ship, it indicates there is huge interest."

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-64151535>



# What Black Americans Need Is to Build Wealth. All the Democrats Offer Are Handouts | Opinion

By: Daquawn Bruce

lack voters are getting tired of politics as usual. We need real solutions to pressing problems like income inequality and violent crime, not meaningless posturing and policies designed solely to assuage white guilt. In the 2018 midterm elections, Republicans received just 8 percent of the Black vote, consistent with historical patterns and identical to President Trump's share of the Black vote in both 2016 and 2020. In 2022, however, 14 percent of Black voters cast their ballots for Republican candidates—a 75 percent shift in just two years. It's likely that Donald Trump's absence from the ballot drove some of this shift. But it's also true that Democrats received a smaller share of the Black vote in 2022 than they have in decades. That's not even the full story. In addition to the significant number of Black voters who switched their votes from Democrat to Republican candidates, overall Black turnout in 2022 was at its lowest level since 2006, indicating that large numbers of Black voters sat the last election out because they couldn't bring them-

selves to vote for either party. That doesn't surprise me. I've seen firsthand how Democrats have neglected the needs and interests of the Black community. For decades, they've proclaimed themselves to be champions of the Black community while implementing policies that perpetuate the cycle of poverty, deny us the opportunities we need to succeed, and leave our neighborhoods at the mercy of criminals. The solution to economic inequality, for instance, cannot possibly be more government handouts. We know this because that approach has been tried over and over, at the state, local, and federal levels, and we haven't made any real progress toward solving the problem. What we really need are policies that help us to build intergenerational wealth. That wealth doesn't come from barely keeping your head above water; it comes from seizing opportunities to thrive. Successful entrepreneurs hand down productive assets to their children and teach them valuable life skills that enable them to succeed on their own. Instead of stimulus checks, food stamps, or more public housing, we need policies that make it easier for Black and brown Americans to start and grow businesses and become homeowners. One thing that makes it difficult to start a successful small business in many Black communities is the pervasiveness of crime—both violent crime and property crime. Unfortunately, most Democrat politicians today are fixated on policies that make life easier for criminals, such as eliminating pre-trial detention and reducing sentences for serious crimes. No wonder Black voters, who live in the communities that suffer the worst



consequences from soft-on-crime policies, are questioning their loyalty to the Democratic Party. The same goes for education. Safe, high-quality schools are essential for any community to thrive, but far too many Black students are trapped in failing neighborhood schools without access to adequate instructional materials. The situation continues to deteriorate as talented teachers flee those schools to escape crime and a lack of institutional support. Unfortunately, instead of championing solutions to these problems, most Democrat politicians reflexively side with their allies and donors in the teachers' unions, allowing Black students to fall further and further behind. The Democrats are aware of the problem, but they aren't willing to listen to the actual concerns of Black Americans. Instead, they're pouring their energy into political theatrics, like trying to make South Carolina the first primary state. Black voters in South Carolina already play a meaningful role in the Democratic nominating process, and moving them up a few slots does nothing to create intergenerational wealth or make Black communities safe places to run a business or raise a family. The rise of Independent and independent-minded politicians like Kyrsten Sinema and Tulsi Gabbard only intensifies the danger for Democrats. If they don't start listening to what Black voters actually want and need from our government, they're going to find that the Black voters they depend on to win elections are no longer there for them. DaQuawn Bruce is the executive director of Concerned Communities for America, a 501(c)(3) advocacy group that promotes economic empowerment, public safety, free and fair elections, and quality education for the Black community.

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<https://www.newsweek.com/what-black-americans-need-build-wealth-all-democrats-offer-are-handouts-opinion-1774467>

## European Union agrees to impose broad economic sanctions against Russia

Moscow did not stop after annexing Crimea but continues to foment insurgency in Ukraine. Western intelligence assessments indicate that Russia continues to transfer heavy weaponry and fighters on the eastern fringe of Ukraine even after Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot down on July 17. It has also deployed troops near the border to assist the rebels. It's possible that a full-fledged invasion of Ukraine is in the works. Europe can't just stand by and watch, especially as most of those who died in the MH17 crash were Europeans. A calibrated response, such as the so-called 'Phase-3' sanctions which envisage imposing severe restrictions on trade with Russian defence, banking and energy sectors, will deter Kremlin from its belligerent moves in the region bordering Europe. Past measures, such as asset freezes on wealthy oligarchs who are close to Russian President Vladimir Putin, have been symbolic and ineffective. While the current Phase-3 sanctions have more teeth, there is room for flexibility as they will be reviewed every three months. Should the situation change on the ground and the threat to Ukraine recede, they can easily be withdrawn. On the other hand, Europe would have given ample warning that should Russia invade Ukraine that would be met by full-spectrum Western sanctions that will cause the Russian economy to collapse. It is not in India's interest that Russia's moves on Ukraine should succeed. They are similar to Pakistan's moves on Kashmir and India would like the principle of national sovereignty to be upheld. Russia is mostly dependent on energy exports for its place in the global economy and if a trade war were to erupt between Russia and the West, the Russian economy will collapse much sooner. It's important, therefore, that the West sends a unified message of resolve in response to unacceptable Russian actions.

<http://www.shorturl.at/DGV34>



# India's Dark Shadow On Kashmir Falls On Pakistan



To believe that a political alliance that puts Kashmir on the backburner will be productive for Pakistan is delusional

By: Muzzammil Ayyub

On December 15, Abdul Rashid Dar was having his dinner when Indian troops barged into his home. Minutes later, he was taken away by a posse of troops who promised the family that he would be returned in the morning. As the dawn broke, Dar's family went to the military camp in the village, only to be told that he had been tortured and had gone missing. A new torment has visited this village, Kunan-Poshpora, which has been victimised by the might of the Indian Army for over three decades. In February 1993, the men of the village were detained and tortured, while the women were subjected to sexual violence that sends shivers to every Kashmiri soul — born and unborn — to this day. Rashid is now being counted among the more than 8,000 Kashmiri men who have been subjected to enforced disappearances since 1989.

His mother knows this feeling, her demand is also to seek his corpse — if he were killed — so that she can have a grave to mourn at. His family on Monday threatened to burn themselves alive in Lal Chowk — the city centre — were their son not located. In this city centre, 75 years ago, Indian Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru made a promise to the people of Jammu and Kashmir that only they would decide their political future.

A promise that has been broken by different regimes and victimised several generations of Kashmir. India, today, on the back of its military and economic prowess now says that it is in the past and it is dead. In Kashmir, the past is never dead. It is buried in hushed funerals inside meadows that are part of tourism itinerary that is used to broadcast to the world that Kashmir is normal. It is caged inside jails



where our prisoners continue to rally for the day of reunion. It is in the censorship of our journalists who no longer can report but keep the record of everyday history. It is in the demolished homes built painstakingly brick by brick. It is in the silence of our mimbars (pulpits) inside mosques where our clerics are silenced. Kashmir's religious scholar and political leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq continues to be under illegal house arrest. He is told that he is free but not free enough to meet the people. It is part of Indian regime's new Kashmir where you are told that you are free but you are not actually free. In an ideal world, Mirwaiz's freedom would have been a rallying point to mobilise global attention on Kashmir. Yet, the silence in Kashmir is being aided and abetted by our allies who have become comfortable bystanders. India's policies and military might in Kashmir is part of the age-old delusion that by killing and silencing enough people, it will be able to end the people's struggle. History has told us that no oppression persists and no occupation lasts. It is this idea that forced India in the late 1990s and mid-2000s to pursue a pathway of peace in the valley. In 2001, Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf and Hurriyat leaders of Kashmir wanted to estab-

lish lasting peace. It gave hope to the people in South Asia that peace is possible. Even after the end of one Indian government, another one pursued this path.

But after the failure of peace talks for a variety of reasons, the future of South Asia is again at stake. We have seen multiple instances where a full-blown war between two nuclear nations almost broke out. The current dispensation in India believes in the ideology of Hindutva expansionism. It believes in the idea that Muslims are to become second-class citizens. The ideology also believes that the 'oppressive Muslim-majority character' of Kashmir is a source of 'headache'. It also states that Azad Jammu & Kashmir is a 'scourge undermining the sovereignty of Bharat'. To believe that India's economic prowess and a political alliance that puts Kashmir on the backburner will be productive for Pakistan is delusional. In speeches across India, Modi's lieutenants continue to call for the blood of Indian Muslims and destruction of Pakistan. Yet, some members of the former Pakistani establishment and the liberals of Pakistan believe the normalisation with India is beneficial to the state. To normalise the occupation of Kashmir and not put India to account for its increasingly Nazi policies is not a liberal thing to do. It is an immoral thing to do. After three decades of violence, the valley has become a perfect panopticon — an open air prison. Everything and everyone is under constant surveillance. To say that the new generation of Kashmiris has bowed out is to normalise India's move towards pursuing settler colonialism. Back in Kunan-Poshpora, Dar's family continues to wait for his return. His story is a continuation of Kashmir's story. Never take our silence for granted, we do not accept the oppression. It is not part of our culture, our history and our future.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2397019/indias-dark-shadow-on-kashmir-falls-on-pakistan>



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## Part - 2

# History: The Fall Of Dhaka From Bihari Eyes

By: Engr Imtiaz Alam Khan

The din had become deafening by now and the stairwell was reverberating with loud shouts, banging, screams and shrieks. We all had our eyes fixed on the door, expecting it to burst open any moment, and then my mother said, "They are now at Mujib's house." Mujib Sahib was another Bihari who lived with his family on the first floor, directly below Mallu Bhai's flat. The mob had broken into his flat, locked his wife and children in a room and started beating and whipping him in another room. There was laughing and jeering from the crowd as Mujib Sahib screamed in pain and his family wailed loudly. This continued till he fell unconscious. When my father went to see him later, he appeared as good as dead. He bled all over; his arms, legs as well as some of his ribs were broken. The mob had left him for dead and moved out of his flat.

The violent mob needed to climb only two short flight of stairs to break into our second-floor apartment. But then a miracle happened. Inexplicably, the mob just went down and left the building. We were spared, as if Allah had just rewarded my father's implicit faith in Him. Waving their sticks, rods and whips, the crowd moved to another part of the colony, to beat more Biharis to death. In the ensuing comparative lull of the night, from the distance, I could hear the shrill voice of some Bengali woman shouting, "O, Biharis, why do you cry now? Why don't you call your supporters, your beloved Pak Army, to come to your help? Why don't they come to save you from our wrath. Where are they now? They have left you to be killed and now we will kill you all!" The taunts floated in the night air for a long time, adding to our misery

and despondency. Around noon the next day, we heard the fire of automatic weapons. We were terrified when, a little later, there was a knock on our door. My father opened the door and found it was Mr Mannan, our Bengali neighbour who lived on the ground floor flat directly below Mujib Sahib's flat. He whispered to my father that some Mukti Bahini had arrived in the colony and they were arresting all Biharis. He had come to offer help. He wanted to hide us in his house to escape arrest. We went to his house. His family treated us well and we stayed there till night when the Mukti Bahini finally went away. Coming back to our house, we learnt that some Mukti Bahinis, led by another Bengali neighbour, Haji Abdul Bari (who lived in the flat on the first floor directly below us and adjacent to Mujib Sahib's flat), had broken into our house to arrest us. Haji was livid to find the menfolk absent but the Mukti Bahinis were quite happy to ransack the house and steal whatever cash, jewellery and other valuable items they could lay their hands on. That day the Mukti Bahini arrested around 400 men and boys from our colony. Even five-year-olds were not spared. They took their prisoners to Ramna Police Station. Some of the "prisoners" returned after three or four days but some never came back. Whether they were thrown into jails or killed is anybody's guess. In the suburb of Dhaka lay the colonies of Muhammadpur and Mirpur. These were perhaps the only colonies in East Pakistan with a Bihari majority. The first units of Mukti Bahini reached Mirpur in the wee hours of December 17. They were heavily armed with mortars, machine guns and field

guns. They were stopped at Mirpur bridge by the Bihari Razakars (volunteers) guarding the bridge. The Mukti Bahini fighters knew that there was no Pak Army there and it was merely a bunch of poorly armed Razakars resisting them. They repeatedly called the Razakars to surrender but the Razakars held the bridge for about three hours and kept fighting till their last man was killed. The Mukti Bahini fighters finally entered Mirpur section numbers 1 and 2 and promptly started firing their field guns on the houses. After blowing up some 30 houses, they announced that, to save their lives, everyone had to go to the Eidgah ground as they are going to destroy all the houses. There being no other option, everybody ran helter-skelter to the ground. When the ground was filled with men, women and children, the Mukti Bahini opened machine gun fire from all sides on them. Among the countless massacres of that terrible time, this was another one. An Indian Army unit arrived at Mirpur in the afternoon. They stared aghast at the grisly scene. The entire ground was strewn with thousands of dead bodies and the green grass was now shiny red. This prompted them to call in reinforcement and take over control of Muhammadpur and Mirpur. In truth, it was not massacre at just one or two places. It was mass killing of non-Bengalis, the Urdu-speaking people nicknamed Biharis. These people had been living in East Pakistan since 1947, some had settled in the area even earlier. They lived amongst the Bengalis like brothers, amicably, without any discrimination. So what happened all of a sudden that generated this tidal wave of hatred against them, all over the country? The explanation is simple. Shaikh Mujibur Rahman's party, the Awami League, had won a majority of seats in the 1970 general elections of Pakistan. They had full rights to form a government and rule over Pakistan. However, the military leadership of Pakistan and the political leadership of West Pakistan

combined together to deny transfer of power to the Awami League. This infuriated not only the Awami League but the entire population of East Pakistan. The Awami League announced that, as protest to this gross injustice, March 23 celebrations would not be held in the province and all private and public buildings would hoist black flags. Anyone who hoisted the Pakistani flag would be declared a traitor and punished severely. They particularly asked the Bihari community to show their solidarity with Bengali people by not hoisting the Pakistani flag for that act, they felt, would mean that they were enemies of Bengali people. The Biharis argued that they were Pakistanis. They had migrated here because of Pakistan. They had great faith in the Pak Army and were confident that the army would protect them and soon control the situation. They did not pay heed to the warning given by the Awami League. At Mirpur, they raised a huge Pakistani flag atop the public water tank which could be seen fluttering in the air from a mile around. The flag sent a clear message to the Bengalis that Biharis were patriotic Pakistanis and would not support them in their endeavour to secede from Pakistan. The lines were thus drawn, lines which proved to be bloody and indelible. Consequently, a majority of the Bihari community perished in the massacres conducted by the bloodthirsty Mukti Bahini. Of the survivors, some managed to flee to West Pakistan while the unlucky ones, who could not afford to do so, still languish in relief camps in Dhaka in unspeakable misery. The Bangladesh government treats these hapless Biharis as Pakistanis and urges the Pakistan government to take them back. To this day, the Pakistan government refuses to repatriate those who sacrificed their kith and kin, lost their properties and became destitute but did not change their nationality because of their love of Pakistan.

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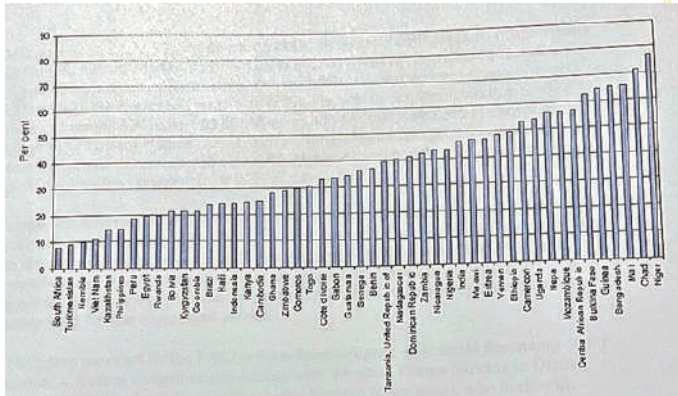


# Forced Marriage: A Violation of Human Rights

**By Munazza Abbasi LL.B (Hons )**



Figure 1.3 Breakdowns of countries showing proportion of girls married by age 18.



In the UK, 49% of victims encountering forced marriage were between the ages of 17 and 30, and children under the age of 16 accounted for 41%. This is shown in the table below: Figure 1.4 Age of forced marriage victims in the UK: Statistical Analysis:

	Number of respondents who mentioned victims aged 12-16	Number of respondents who mentioned victims aged 17-30	Number of respondents who mentioned victims aged over 30
England and Wales	14	16	3
Scotland	3	4	1
Total	17 (10.8% of respondents)	20 (12.7% of respondents)	4 (2.5% of respondents)

It is almost impossible to identify the number of forced marriages that occur annually in the UK, as many forced marriage cases are not reported. Therefore, a recorded figure of the amount of these cases is unavailable. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) however, has attempted to provide a figure of around 300 cases that they deal with every year with 65%

of known cases involving Pakistani victims, 25% from the Bangladeshi heritage, a small percentage from India, and the rest spread across the globe. Although it is not a religious problem, Muslims accounted for 90% of the cases. In the first nine months of 2008 alone, over 1,300 incidences of suspected forced marriage were reported to the FMU, an increase of 79% over 2007. Cases also come to the attention of the police, social care services, health, education and voluntary organisations. Nonetheless, this is not an exhaustive figure and is considered to be a gross underestimate of the problem, as the FMU team suggests that many cases are unreported for fear to personal safety. The figure provided by the FMU is not a definite figure, as it varies depending on the source. A women's organisation dealing with the issue, Karma Nirvana in Derby, receives 300 calls for help annually. Judge Marilyn Mornington, who deals with family cases in the county courts of South Yorkshire, suggests that the FMU deals with around 500 cases of forced marriage a year, with a further 1000 calls received relating to individuals. She also warns that official statistics on forced marriages in the UK are "tip of the iceberg." Taking into account the figures provided, even "one forced marriage is one too many."

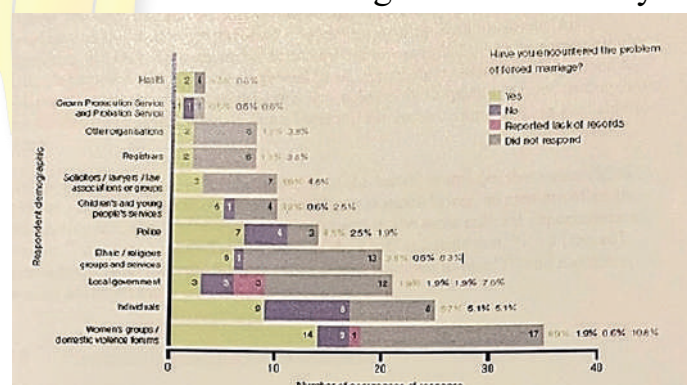


Figure 1.5 Experience of forced marriage, broken down by respondents to the FCO's

consultation document of forced marriage:

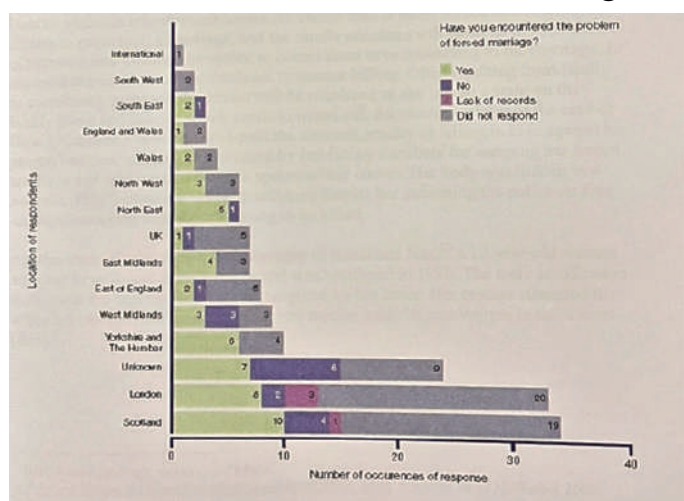


Figure 1.6: Geographic location of respondents' experience of forced marriage.

The majority of forced marriage cases were reported in Scotland and London, and were dealt by local or regional women's organisations and the police. The above two figures illustrate that the number of forced marriage cases differ according to the location and the source, organisation or authority dealing with the issue. It is therefore, difficult to ascertain the exact number of cases that occur every year in the UK. The amount of cases being reported have, nonetheless, arisen in comparison to the previous years, as more victims feel less vulnerable to speak out now, as they have been made more publicly aware that a listening ear and a helping hand is available for them. Although women account for the majority of the forced marriages that occur (85%), of cases concern male victims. This figure is much lower, as men are often the dominating sex, and thus, are not always subject to the same cultural expectations as women. Also, as Vinnay Talwar, head of the FMU suggests that "[i]n a [forced]", and therefore, marriage situation it involves rape, which doesn't happen to men women are much more adversely affected. Consequential Acts of a Forced Marriage Perpetrators Acts where victim refuses to marry Honour violence crimes occur where the victim who is being forced into marriage refuses to enter such a marriage, and the family members will often go to such extent of torturing and abus-

ing the victim to coerce them in to consenting to the marriage. In the most extreme scenarios, this leads to honour killing. Often resulting from family or community pressure, the victim will be murdered as she is seen a stain on the family name and honour which needs to wiped off. An example of this is the case Of Banaz Mahmood, a victim who paid the ultimate penalty of falling in love against her parents' wishes, as she was murdered by her family members for escaping her forced marriage and seeking to remarry a spouse of her choice. Her body was hidden in a suitcase. This "notorious" tragedy occurred despite her informing the police on four separate occasions that she was going to be killed. Another case of relevance here is the case of Rukshana Naz, a 19-year-old woman who had been forced into marriage and was murdered in 1998. The mere justification to this was the fact that she became pregnant by her lover. Her brother strangled her while her mother held down her feet. Her mother said: "It was written in her kismet [fate]." Victims' Acts when being / after being forced into marriage The victim running away from home is witnessed to be a safer and easier option to escape being forced into a marriage they do not want. This will mean victims will often break all ties of relationship, love and affection from their friends and families, which would be very difficult to regain, as once a glass is broken, it can never be fixed. Emphasis is placed on the sensitivity and fragile nature of the issue. A case study illustrates that a Pakistani girl who was being forced into marriage by her "vali" (father) escaped to her female cousin whom she tied a bond with in a court marriage. In return, her female cousin underwent gender reassignment surgery to become a post operative transsexual, in order to become a male to support her in the eyes of the society that would look down on her. Once they leave home, victims face further problems, including financial support, accommodation, living expenses, lack of support from friends and family, thus gaining a



level of independence, which they would not have had previously would be hard to cope with. A further risk to health problems is then posed. Depression or anxiety is a major cause of such acts. Reduced performance and attendance at school, college or university is seen by teachers. Living in a constant fear for the rest of their life is another daunting consequence of being forced into marriage. The major concern, as the Forced Marriage Unit suggests is that the victim suffers from isolation and very low self-esteem. In the most unfortunate of cases, the victim might commit suicide to alleviate all these problems. Studies have suggested that the rate of suicide among young Asian women is 2-3 times higher than the national average. Forced marriage is one contributory factor to this disproportionately high rate according to the Newham Asian Women's project. The case of Shafiea Ahmed is to be welcomed here. The case involved a young girl who drank bleach in protest to the marriage her parents had arranged for her. In response to her protest she was brutally murdered by her parents. In other situations, however, where the victim is living unhappily in her marriage, she may inflict harm on her husband, or even kill them. One of the first and most famous case of victory against oppression from forced marriages dealt by the Southall Black Sisters (a non profit human rights organization highlighting and challenging violent against women). There also was the case of Kiranjit Ahluwalia, an Asian woman who set fire to her husband Deepak in May 1989 after suffering his brutality for 10 years She was charged with murder and imprisoned for life, with a recommendation she serve 12 years. Southall Black Sisters states on its website that the case "did much to raise awareness of domestic violence and to understand the plight of women trapped in such situations." Three years after she had entered prison, Ahluwalia was released, and her conviction was reduced to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. This can be contrasted with the

case of Mohammed Azam who sexually abused his wife, Zoorah Shah who in turn administered Arsenic. She was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 20 years. Her case was not as successful as Ahluwalia's, as the defence of diminished responsibility could not be relied upon. Despite these acts, many helpless victims often suffer in silence with no resort to turn to for help. Why forced marriage is an erroneous practice Women allow themselves to be sheltered into a marriage that they do not want tends to be a cultural issue, and pressure from local communities. However, it must be noted that "all the invisible but oppressive rules laid down by 'the community' doesn't give you the 'special pass to happiness.'" The victim feels they need to carry on the traditions of their family; otherwise they will bring shame to their family name, and as a result will be disowned by their family. However, it could be a matter of education of the victim. It may have failed to be demonstrated to them that in a marriage situation, they do have a choice which they are indeed free to exercise. The victim and the family may not even consider the problem that forced marriage is unacceptable, as the practice will be so embedded in their customary traditions, they will often fail to even concede that the practice is objectionable. The main reason for the practice occurring, as suggested by Hannana Siddiqui, is that "[t]here is a risk of religious fundamentalism. There is more pressure on women to conform to traditional roles." Therefore, refusing to conform to those roles as a woman, will consequently be disrespectful to the parents making their choices, and will bring dishonour to the family. Tackling the problem — need for a legal reform. The claim that forced marriages is a culturally acceptable practice that derives from customary beliefs demands the measuring up of culture against the stance of moral and ethical religious beliefs, in order not to diffuse cultural relativism with moral and religious beliefs.



# Modern Society – Myth & Reality

By: Safer Ahmad Khan, MA (Edu) USA.

The foundations of the so-called Modern Society were firmly laid in the aftermath of the First and Second World Wars in which millions of men stayed away from their families for long periods of time and hundreds of thousands were killed and never returned home. This extraordinary phenomenon gave birth to moral degradation and sexual free for all resulting in hundreds of thousands of illegitimate and unwanted children the likes of which the world had never seen before. Resultantly, the stayhome Moms were sucked in the male dominated and highly predatory workforce leaving the females at the mercy of male exploitation with deadly social consequences. The traditional housewives, school teachers, nurses, telephone operators and social workers gave way to cocktail waitresses, club dancers, comfort companions, pornography prostitutes to name a few. The “feminine sanctity” was traded for “material gain” with devastating social consequences, resulting in the breakup of the traditional family unit triggering a sexual free for all atmosphere turning neighborhood after neighborhood into virtual brothels and drug war zones where opposing mafias locked horns in mortal conflict and cops would dare not go alone but in twos with guns drawn. Mankind ditched itself in an abyss blinded by

the temporary glitter of material gain relegating morality to the backseat with devastating social consequences. Double edged weapons like Cable TV, Internet, Android phones & laptops provided a global outreach in the hands of the inexperienced and the young and brought the clutter in people’s living rooms. The good old moral values were permanently lost to the so called Modern Technology. The situation was far better in the small towns and villages tucked away in the hinterland away from the suicidal laws of the “Modern Society,” holding on to the good old family values of love and respect. Unfortunately, the Church, the Synagogue, the Temple or the Mosque have ceased to provide the guidance which the present generation is so much in need of and which was their duty to perform for the betterment of the society. Though Islamic teachings and practices have time and again proved beneficial for man’s peaceful existence, Muslims too predominantly have proved to be “poor practioners,” with no moral authority to lead the world in the right direction. Today, the world is waiting for a Massaih to rescue mankind from the evil clutches of the “so-called modern society,” more than anytime before. In ending, I would like to quote a famous Einstein saying, “If you lose your morality, you lose everything.”





# Saudi Arabia Mulling 'Creative Ways' To Support Pakistan

DAVOS: After extending the term of a \$3 billion deposit to boost its foreign-currency reserves late last year, Saudi Arabia's finance minister has said his country is also discussing with the World Bank and other institutions how can it be "more creative to provide that support" to Pakistan. Speaking at the World Economic Forum, Mohammed Al-Jadaan also indicated the kingdom is changing the way it provides assistance to allies, shifting from previously giving direct grants and deposits unconditionally. "We used to give direct grants and deposits without strings attached and we are changing that. We are working with multilateral institutions to actually say we need to see reforms," the minister said. "We are taxing our people, we are expecting also others to do the same, to do their efforts. We want to help but we want you also to do your part." Earlier this month, Saudi state media reported the kingdom could boost its investments in cash-strapped Pakistan to \$10 billion, from the \$1 billion announced in August, as well as increase the ceiling on deposits into the Pakistan central bank to \$5 billion. "We are providing even oil and derivatives to support their energy needs," Al Jadaan said. "So there is a lot of efforts, but we wanted this to be conducted." Separately, the minister also indicated that Saudi Arabia is open to discussions about trade in currencies other than the US dollar.

"There are no issues with discussing how we settle our trade arrangements, whether it is in the US dollar, whether it is the euro, whether it is the Saudi riyal," Al-Jadaan told Bloomberg TV on Tuesday. "I don't think we are waving away or ruling out any discussion that will help improve the trade around the



world," he said. The world's largest oil exporter, which has maintained a currency peg to the dollar for decades, is seeking to strengthen its relations with crucial trade partners including China. The kingdom is a pillar of the petrodollar system established in the 1970s that relies on pricing crude exports in the US currency. Asked about Saudi ties with major trade partner China, Jadaan said Riyadh was taking a "wider approach" in which relations with both Beijing and Washington were important as well as building ties with other countries. "We are looking to enhance our relationship with Europe. We are actually advancing our relationship with Latin America, with Asia," he said. During President Xi Jinping's visit to Riyadh last year, the two countries agreed to boost coordination on energy policy and exploration. During that trip Xi said that China would make efforts to buy more oil from the Middle East and also wanted to settle that trade in the yuan. "We enjoy a very strategic relationship with China and we enjoy that same strategic relationship with other nations including the US and we want to develop that with Europe and other countries who are willing and able to work with us," Al-Jadaan said.

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