

America where to?

The reasons behind the downfall of America

By

Dr. Mohsen El-Guindy

Many things have been going so badly for the United States in recent years. The economy is falling apart; the nation has been plagued with heat, drought and endless natural disasters. The cities are absolutely crumbling, America is getting involved in even more wars, America leads the world in so many bad categories, and Americans are more anxious and more overweight than ever before.

Why does nothing seem to be going right? Is America under some kind of a curse? It is almost as if she has entered a “perfect storm” that just keeps getting worse. In the old days it would seem like something bad would happen to the United States every once in a while, but now massive problems seem to be hitting the nation in rapid fire fashion. At this point, many Americans have “crisis fatigue” because the problems never seem to end. Each new crisis just seems to overlap with all of the other problems that are still going on. So what is causing this to happen, and what is America going to look like if the problems continue to multiply at this rate? (1).

Many of Americans today do not take the time to realize that the nation is little by little falling apart. The list of social problems is huge in the US. Some predominant social issues include the growing divide between rich and poor, domestic violence, unemployment, pollution, urban decay, racism, religious intolerance, abortion, atheists, drugs, suicide, prostitution, poverty, homelessness, illegal immigration, child abuse, discrimination, drug trafficking and use, sex outside marriage, fornication, adultery, sodomy, and thousands of bastard children being born each day, and many others.

The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, a sexual

orientation law and public policy think tank, estimates that 9 million (about 3.8%) of Americans identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (2011). The institute also found that bisexuals make up 1.8% of the population, while 1.7% is gay or lesbian. Transgender adults make up 0.3% of the population.

America's main problems have been summarized by Michael Snyder (1). The following are some of the bad things that are happening to America right now:

Heat And Drought

This summer, thousands of new high temperature records have been set all over the country, and weather conditions are much drier than normal in most of the nation.

In fact, the drought that America is experiencing right now is being called the worst drought in more than 50 years. More than 1,000 counties in the United States have already been declared to be official disaster areas, and there is no end to the drought in sight.

All over America this drought is killing the corn and this is causing the price of corn to soar. The following is from a recent Financial Post article:

“Chicago Board of Trade corn for December delivery has soared 54% since mid-June, reaching a contract high of 7.78 dollars on Monday and approaching its record price near 8 dollars.

Soybeans for November delivery soared to a new contract high of 15.97 dollars before slipping back a few cents.”

Crop watchers were alarmed that corn rated poor-to-very poor jumped to 38%, versus 30% last week and 11% a year ago.

The record high for the price of corn is just \$7.99 a bushel. Many believe that the price of corn will soon blow well past that price and could eventually reach \$10 a bushel.

Unfortunately, there is not much hope on the horizon. It is being projected that these very hot and very dry conditions will persist well into August.

Wildfires

The extreme heat has also been responsible for an unusual number of wildfires in the western United States this year. The recent horrific wildfires in Colorado made headlines all over the nation.

Sadly, these wildfires are part of a rising trend. The truth is that the 6 worst years for wildfires in the United States ever recorded have all happened since the year 2000.

Tornadoes

Earlier this year, many areas of the heartland of America were absolutely ripped to shreds by very powerful tornadoes.

More tornadoes happen in the United States than anywhere else in the world, and unfortunately we have seen a tremendous amount of tornado activity in this country in recent years.

In 2009, there were 1146 tornadoes in the United States.

In 2010, there were 1282 tornadoes in the United States.

In 2011, there were 1691 tornadoes in the United States.

Overall, 2011 was the worst year for natural disasters in U.S. history.

So where will 2012 rank when everything is all said and done?

Fukushima

Radiation from the Fukushima nuclear disaster will be affecting Americans for many years to come.

Most Americans do not think much about Fukushima anymore, but the truth is that Fukushima is still putting out a tremendous amount of radiation, and that radiation travels eastward towards us.

A couple of months ago, one reporter discovered that radiation levels in rain falling on Los Angeles were five times above normal.

But we don't hear about this in the mainstream media, do we?

One recent study concluded that the highest concentration of Fukushima radiation in the Pacific Ocean will eventually be just off the west coast of the United States.

But our "authorities" tell us that there is no reason to be concerned, so most Americans will continue to ignore the incredible tragedy that continues to unfold at Fukushima.

Recent tests have shown that 36 percent of all children living in the Fukushima Prefecture in Japan have abnormal growths on their thyroid glands. After the Chernobyl disaster, less than 2 percent of all children living in the area surrounding Chernobyl were found to have abnormal growths on their thyroid glands.

Economic collapse

The U.S. economy is currently experiencing its worst crisis since the Great Depression. The crisis started in the home mortgage market, especially the market for so-called "subprime" mortgages, and is now spreading beyond subprime to prime mortgages, commercial real estate, corporate junk bonds, and other forms of debt. Total losses of U.S. banks could reach as high as one-third of the total bank capital. The crisis has led to a sharp reduction in bank lending, which in turn is causing a severe recession in the U.S. economy.

There are more Americans dependent on the federal government than ever before in U.S. history. According to the Survey of Income and Program Participation conducted by the U.S. Census, over 100 million Americans are enrolled in at least one welfare program run by the federal government. Many are enrolled in more than one. That is about a third of the entire population of the country. Sadly, that figure does not even include Social Security or Medicare. Today the federal government runs almost 80 different "means-tested welfare programs", and almost all of those programs have experienced

substantial growth in recent years. Maybe we will always need a "safety net" for those that cannot take care of themselves, but it is absolutely ridiculous that the federal government is financially supporting one-third of all Americans. Americans must admit that America has become a social nation. At the rate America is going, it will not be too long before half the nation is on welfare.

Unfortunately, America will likely never get to that point because the gigantic debt that the nation is currently running up will probably destroy the whole financial system before that ever happens.

According to the report, entitled "Cost of the Crisis", the financial and economic crisis cost Americans \$12.8 trillion, including:

"Estimated actual gross domestic product ("GDP") loss from 2008 to 2018, of \$7.6 trillion. This is the cumulative difference between potential GDP — what GDP would have been but for the financial and economic crises — and actual and forecast GDP during the period.

Estimated avoided GDP loss from 2008 to 2012 of \$5.2 trillion. This figure is the estimated additional amount of GDP loss that was prevented only by extraordinary fiscal and monetary policy actions."

But \$12.8 trillion is a conservative estimate, says Better Markets president & CEO Dennis Kelleher, who joined The Daily Ticker's Henry Blodget in the accompanying interview.

The report also highlights the current impact to the U.S. economy, including:

- 23.1 million Americans, or 15% of the public, are out of work or unable to find full-time jobs using the broadest measure of unemployment, or U-6.
- 9.3 million Americans have lost their health insurance.
- 11 million homeowners, almost 1 in 4, are saddled with mortgages higher than the value of their homes.
- The global financial crisis in the first decade of the twenty first century has decimated the lives of many people, but the consequences of the crisis have been more far-reaching than

- just companies going bankrupt and people being fired, as bad as these consequences already are.
- Although there are a number of triggers and causes that have led to the global financial crisis, it is the consequences of this event which have been most felt by American families, and it is people from the poorest to the most wealthy that have felt these consequences, and have had to adjust their lives because of this.
 - The most obvious and tangible effect of the crisis is the number of American families who have seen members made redundant or fired from companies who have simply been unable to survive these consequences that have come from the crisis. This has led to many people be able to keep up with payments on home loans, credit cards and many other financial products, which is part of what has also escalated the crisis.
 - As well as the thousands who have become unemployed because of the financial crisis, there are also many workers who have had to take big cuts in salary in order to keep their current jobs. This will have further consequences for the family's finances as they all have to cut back and to try and find extra money to cover bills, or ways to reduce those bills so that the outgoings are less.
 - However, it isn't just in the salary stakes that American families have suffered because of the financial crisis, as there are many millions of Americans who rely on the incomes from investments to actually survive, and with the crisis itself the returns from these investments have been significantly reduced, leading to many pensioners seeing their income reducing a lot during the aftermath of the financial crisis.
 - It isn't just those who are already retired that are suffering from the hit that all investments have taken with the financial crisis. There are many American families who are finding the value of their pension funds have been decimated by the financial crisis, and the potential of being able to retire early because of their retirement savings have changed significantly. This may well lead to many Americans having to work for more years before they can retire because of the drop in the value of their retirement savings.

- There is no doubt that almost all American families will have had some of the repercussions of the financial crisis, and one of the best sites looking at how this has affected people is financialcrisis.biz, which is the best resource for all the information anyone would need.
- Facing the future in 2011 is much different than it was ten years ago for many American families, but it isn't all bleak and bad news, as the us economy is trying to recover, and it is a nation that has been famous for its resilience, and not even the worst crisis in living memory for the economy can crush the famous American spirit (2).

The US Federal Reserve's desperate attempts to keep America's economy from sinking are remarkable for at least two reasons. First, until just a few months ago, the conventional wisdom was that the US would avoid recession. Now recession looks certain. Second, the Fed's actions do not seem to be effective. Although interest rates have been slashed and the Fed has lavished liquidity on cash-strapped banks, the crisis is deepening (3).

Most Americans are baffled by the ongoing economic pandemonium in the European Union. For them, places like Greece and Italy are primarily tourist destinations they'll visit at most once.

So why should Americans care about any of this? The first reason is that, with American consumers still in the doldrums of deleveraging, the United States badly needs buoyant exports if its economy is to grow at anything other than a miserably low rate. And despite all the hype about trade with the Chinese, U.S. exports to the European Union are nearly three times larger than to China.

Until March, it seemed as if exports to Europe were on an upward trajectory. But the euro-zone crisis has stopped that. Governments that ran up excessive debts have seen their borrowing costs explode. Unable to devalue their currencies, they've been forced to adopt austerity measures—cutting spending or hiking taxes—in a vain effort to reduce their deficits. The result has been Depression economics: shrinking economies and unemployment rates approaching 20 percent.

As a result, according to the new president of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, a “double dip” recession in Europe is now all but inevitable. And that’s lousy news for U.S. exporters targeting the EU market.

But there’s more. Europe’s problem is not just that governments are over borrowed. There are an unknown number of European banks that are effectively insolvent if their holdings of government bonds are “marked to market”—in other words, valued at their current rock-bottom market prices. In our interconnected financial world, it would be very odd indeed if no U.S. institutions were affected by this. Just as European institutions once loaded up on assets backed with subprime U.S. mortgages, so most big U.S. banks have at least some exposure to euro-zone bonds or banks. One institution—MF Global, run by former Goldman Sachs CEO Jon Corzine—just blew up because of its highly levered euro bets. Others are biting their fingernails because it is suddenly far from clear that the credit-default swaps they have bought as insurance against, say, a Greek default are worth the paper they are written on.

But the third reason Americans should care about Europe is more important even than the risk of a renewed financial crisis. It is the danger that what is happening in Europe today could ultimately happen here. Just a few months ago, almost nobody was worried about Italy’s vast debt, which amounts to 121 percent of GDP. Then suddenly panic set in, and Italy’s borrowing costs exploded from 3.5 percent to 7.5 percent.

Today the U.S. gross federal debt stands at around 100 percent of GDP. Four years ago it was 62 percent. By 2016 the International Monetary Fund forecasts it will be 115 percent. Economists who should know better insist that this is not a problem because, unlike Italy, the United States can print its own money at will. All that means is that the U.S. reserves the right to inflate or depreciate away its debt. If I were a foreign investor—and half the debt in public hands is held by foreigners—I would not find that terribly reassuring. At some point I might demand some compensation for that risk in the form of higher rates.

Athens, Rome, Washington ... The shortest route from imperial capital to tourist destination is precisely this death spiral of debt (4).

The last recession was the worst economic crisis that America has faced since the Great Depression, and the economy has never even come close to recovering from it.

Now America on the verge of another global financial meltdown that appears likely to be even worse than the last one.

Peter Schiff, the president of Euro Pacific Capital, says that the U.S. economy is headed for a crisis that will make the recession of 2008 and 2009 look like a walk in the park.

So what is going to happen if the economy goes into the toilet and unemployment skyrockets much higher than it is now?

That is frightening to think about.

Poverty Explosion

Even during this “economic recovery”, poverty in America continues to soar.

For example, since Barack Obama has been president the number of Americans on food stamps has risen from 32 million to 46 million.

Overall, 49 percent of all Americans live in a home where at least one person receives benefits from the federal government according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That is an all-time record high.

The Death Of American Cities

The United States once had dozens of great manufacturing cities that were the envy of the entire globe.

Today, many of those cities have degenerated into crime-ridden, drug infested hellholes.

Things have gotten so bad in Detroit that thousands of homes are literally being torn down in an effort to make the city safer.

As the next step in an April deal between financially strapped Detroit and the state of Michigan, Governor Rick Snyder is finalizing a plan to tear down thousands of abandoned houses in a bid to make the city safer.

Detroit has been hard-hit over the past four decades by a steep drop in population, a steadily eroding tax base and crippling budget deficits, resulting in countless barren streets punctuated by vacant lots and burned-out buildings.

Increase in crime

Crime is on the rise in many of the American communities? The murder rate in Chicago is up 38 percent so far this year, and justifiable homicide rose by 79 percent in Detroit during 2011.

Criminals are getting bolder and are doing things that American citizens have not seen before.

For example, on Saturday night a mob of 300 teens invaded a Wal-Mart in Jacksonville, Florida and went absolutely wild. They started stealing stuff, breaking stuff and throwing food at each other without any concern for what the security guards would do.

When have we ever seen stuff like this happen in America before?

America already has the highest incarceration rate in the world and the largest total prison population on the entire planet by a very wide margin.

How many more people do we plan to lock up?

Meanwhile, even many Americans that are not considered to be “criminals” are becoming very cold-hearted. Just check out what happened in Arlington, Virginia recently. A video surveillance camera captured footage of numerous people walking right past a man that had just been hit by a car and was dying on the sidewalk. He was lying face down and bleeding and nobody even went up to him to see if he was okay.

If you were in a similar situation, would you stop to help that man?

Gang Violence

All over America gangs are taking over local communities. According to the FBI, there are now a total of 1.4 million gang members living in America. Just since 2009, that number has risen by 40 percent.

The Mexican drug cartels have deeply infiltrated the cities. There are only 200 police officers in Chicago's Gang Enforcement Unit to go up against an estimated 100,000 gang members living in the city of Chicago right now.

With numbers such as those, it is easy to see how violence in many of our cities could spiral out of control very, very quickly.

War

The United States continues to get pulled into more wars, and the conflicts that we are already involved in never seem to end.

Just today, 22 NATO supply trucks were destroyed in Afghanistan. The war in Afghanistan has already lasted much longer than World War II did, and there is no end in sight.

Meanwhile, Barack Obama has gotten the U.S. military involved in conflicts in Yemen, Somalia, Pakistan and a whole bunch of other places. The following is from a recent wired article:

“The center of the US drone war has shifted to Yemen, where 23 American strikes have killed an estimated 155 people so far this year. But you wouldn't know about it — or about the cruise missile attacks, or about the US commando teams in Yemen — by reading the report the White House sent to Congress about US military activities around the globe. Instead, there's only the blandest acknowledgement of “direct action” in Yemen, “against a limited number of [al-Qaida] operatives and senior leaders.”

The report, issued late Friday, is the first time the United States has publicly, officially acknowledged the operations in Yemen and in nearby Somalia that anyone with internet access could've told you about years ago. But the report doesn't just fail to admit the extent of the shadow war that America is waging in the region. It's borderline

legal — at best. The War Powers Resolution of 1973 requires the president to inform Congress about any armed conflicts America is engaged in. Friday's report isn't just uninformative about Yemen. It doesn't even mention the US campaign in Pakistan, even though the Defense Secretary says America is "at war" there.

So what is next? Well, there are endless headlines warning that war with Syria is coming. Other headlines warn that war with Iran is coming. Where will this all end?

Anxiety Epidemic

Americans today are unhappy and more anxious than ever before.

The following is from a recent Business Insider article....

According to a recent World Health Organization study, 31 percent of Americans are likely to suffer from an anxiety problem at some point during their lifetimes — compared to 25.3 percent of those in Colombia, and 24.6 percent in New Zealand, the countries that rank second and third. You'd think people in developing or unstable states — those preoccupied with concerns farther down on the Maslow Scale — would be more anxious than we are. Not so. "According to the 2002 World Mental Health Survey, people in developing-world countries such as Nigeria are up to five times less likely to show clinically significant anxiety levels than Americans, despite having more basic life-necessities to worry about," writes Taylor Clark, author of *Nerve: Poise Under Pressure, Serenity Under Stress, and the Brave New Science of Fear and Cool*. "What's more, when these less-anxious developing-world citizens immigrate to the United States, they tend to get just as anxious as Americans.

"The United States has transformed into the planet's undisputed worry champion," Clark adds.

Obesity Epidemic

Of all the major industrialized nations, the United States is the most obese, and a recent Gallup survey found that Americans are more concerned about our obesity epidemic than ever before.

And nobody can deny that we are getting fatter.

Back in 1962, only 13 percent of all Americans were obese.

Today, approximately 36 percent of all Americans are obese.

Drug Addiction Epidemic

The United States has a higher percentage of drug addicts than any other major industrialized nation does.

We love to escape the pain of our every day lives.

At this point, the United States has the highest rate of illegal drug use in the entire world.

The United States also has a higher percentage of people addicted to prescription drugs than anyone else does.

So what does that say about us exactly?

Child Abuse Epidemic

In the United States, we treat our children very badly.

Sadly, there are more than 3 million reports of child abuse in the United States every single year, and the United States has the highest child abuse death rate on the entire globe.

Teen Pregnancy Epidemic

When our kids grow up they tend to be very sexually active as teens.

Amazingly, the United States has the highest teen pregnancy rate on the entire planet.

And all of this sexual activity is rapidly spreading disease among our teens. According to one study, one out of every fourteen girls in the United States has at least one sexually transmitted disease.

Divorce Epidemic

We like to make movies and television shows about families, but the truth is that the family structure in the United States has been breaking down for a very long time.

Today, the United States has the highest divorce rate in the world by a very wide margin.

16 Trillion Dollar National Debt

Right now the U.S. national debt is \$15,884,155,929,632.05.

We will shortly cross the 16 trillion dollar mark.

This is the greatest debt in the history of the world and it is beyond criminal that we plan to pass this debt on to future generations.

Our greed has destroyed the future for our children and our grandchildren and yet we continue to borrow trillions more because we just can't help ourselves.

Political Nightmare

On top of everything else, we have a horrifying lack of leadership here in America.

Our last four presidents have been four of the worst presidents in U.S. history, and in 2012 we are faced with an incredibly depressing choice at the polls.

Is Barack Obama really the best that the Democrats can do?

The American people elected an incompetent con man to the highest office in the land. Virtually every decision that he makes is wrong and virtually everything that he has tried to do while in office has been a failure.

The Republicans dislike Barack Obama so much that they picked the candidate most like Obama out of the entire Republican field to go up against Obama.

What kind of sense does that make?

Is Mitt Romney really the best that the Republicans can do?

Right now the best selling point that Republicans have for Romney is this....

“You better vote for him or you will get another four years of Obama”.

But Mitt Romney would certainly also be a bad president and would lead us down the exact same road that Obama has.

This fall, Americans will either get to vote for the worst president in U.S. history or another guy who will almost certainly be one of the worst presidents in U.S. history.

How depressing is that?

So as this nation continues to fall apart, we are guaranteed to have an absolutely horrible leader in the White House.

Perhaps we are really cursed.

So do you have an opinion about why so many bad things are happening to America? (1).

My answer is: yes, I do really have one – the American dream

The American Dream

The term ‘American dream’ is used in many ways, but it essentially is an idea that suggests that anyone in the US can succeed through hard work and has the potential to lead a happy, successful life. Many people have expanded upon or redefined the definition to include things as freedom, fulfillment and meaningful relationships. Someone who manages to achieve his or her version of the American dream is often said to be ‘living the dream.’ This concept has been subject to criticism, because some people believe that the structure of society in the US prevents such an idealistic goal for everyone. Critics often point to examples of inequality rooted in class, race, religion and ethnicity that suggests that the American dream is not attainable for everyone (5).

There is a substantial lack of spirituality in the American dream. The depth of commitment to spiritual matters is not included anymore. Trade, science and technology became the ascendant gods of the American life. Religion becomes merely a vehicle for social conformity, and it no longer provides the spiritual guidance that the Americans need.

Unable to fill the spiritual void that leaves them fatigued and dissatisfied, the Americans seek different forms of escape that unfortunately, only temporarily provide distraction and give just an illusion of fulfillment. Nature as an escape from the daily grind, provide a way to clear their minds of all of the troubles and anxiety of modern life. They escape to nature when they can no longer bear the reality of their existence. However, the natural world, for them, is mainly a place for human indulgence and luxury.

Bohemianism is another form of escape. They use the parties, the dancing, the alcohol, and even the hangovers to distract themselves from their greater sense of unhappiness and the emptiness of their lives.

Finally, liberalism also becomes a form of escape. The Americans devote themselves to a cause when other forms of escapism fail, and though their commitment to politics is weak.

James Truslow Adams, in his book *The Epic of America*, which was written in 1931, stated that the American dream is "that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement.

Is the American Dream attainable by all Americans?

Some say, that the American Dream has become the pursuit of material prosperity - that people work more hours to get bigger cars, fancier homes, the fruits of prosperity for their families - but have less time to enjoy their prosperity. Others say that the American Dream is beyond the grasp of the working poor who must work two jobs to insure their family's survival. Yet others look toward a new American

Dream with less focus on financial gain and more emphasis on living a simple, fulfilling life.

Thomas Wolfe said, "...to every man, regardless of his birth, his shining, golden opportunitythe right to live, to work, to be himself, and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him."

The American dream relies then on worldly gains devoid of spirituality which enables man to discover the essence of his being and the wisdom of creation.

This hustling model, literally woven into the American DNA, doomed the country from the start, and led people inevitably to this dysfunctional point. It is not just the American Dream that has failed, but America itself, because the dream was a mistake in the first place. Americans in their core a nation of hustlers; not recently, not sometimes, but always.

Conventional wisdom has it that America was predicated on the republican desire to break free from monarchical tyranny, and that was certainly a factor in the War of Independence; but in practical terms, it came down to a drive for "more" -- for individual accumulation of wealth.

Western civilization cannot last long, for it is materialistic and does not satisfy humanity's perennial needs. Western sociologists, among them Oswald Spengler, predict its collapse, saying that it is against basic human nature and values. Islam has been available to humanity for 1,400 years, and the luminous world of the future can be founded upon the firm foundation of its ethics and spirituality, as well as its socioeconomic and administrative structures.

The way the Americans look at their dream is one of the factors behind the great depression we are witnessing today. The American dream is strictly personal and do not take into

account the good of the environment. To the Americans the nation is a hotbed or a rich pasture-land ready to be fully exploited for material gain, no matter how depleting this is to the environment. The main cause of depletion of resources is excess greediness of man to fulfill his needs on the expense of natural resources.

Humans have altered the face of the earth more than any other species and the pace with which this change is progressing is threatening. Nearly 80% of the earth's surface is already marked by humans and the hunt is on to mark the rest. Our hunger for resources will soon become a challenge to sustain on planet earth.

Humans have a greater negative impact on earth's environment than it can sustain and is outside of its carrying capacity. Studies and scientific research on environmental degradation reveals that we have only a few years left to change the way we live, to preserve our depleting ecosystems and natural habitats and to reduce our emission of greenhouse gases to prevent catastrophic changes in earth's climate which will result in mass extinction of species (6).

The Muslim dream

The Muslim dream is how to win the mighty triumph – Paradise. This is based on three Koranic teachings: obeying Allah while still living the worldly life, the way Muslims should look at money and wealth and glory do not belong to man but to Allah.

1- Obeying Allah

The Muslim dream is totally different. It can be simply stated in only two words: 'Obey Allah'. In all circumstances Muslims think of their salvation. To a Muslim the whole purpose of life is to worship the One and Only true Almighty God – Allah - on his terms. The term "worship" to a Muslim includes all acts of obedience to Allah. So the Muslim dream in life is a standing purpose: worshipping Allah by accepting His Will over his own. His life here on earth although short, is full of purpose and is totally meaningful within the complete framework of total submission to Allah in Islam.

Worshipping Allah, the only God of the Universe as a primary aim in life provides a believer with everything he needs to succeed in this life and the next.

They are not deceived by worldly pleasures. As the Koran taught them, wicked men are not denied prosperity, but the pleasure it affords them is of short duration, and then punishment in the Hereafter must follow conviction; the evildoers are destined to the abode of Hell, what an evil bed.

Throughout their lives Muslims adorn themselves with the Islamic virtues which are the seed-bed of faith, for truth is One and must prevail. Those who do wrong will be filled with vain regrets when it is too late for repentance.

The Koran teaches that Muslims shall be tried and tested in their wealth and properties and in their personal selves, and they shall hear much that will grieve them from the Jews and the Christians and from those who ascribe partners to Allah, but if Muslims persevere patiently, they will have then considered matters with an attitude of mind that reflects high spirit and strong will.

The Koran states:

You shall surely be tried in your possessions and your selves, and you shall hear from those who were given the Book before you, and from those who were idolaters, much hurt; but if you

are patient and god-fearing – surely that is true constancy (Al-Imran, 186).

Every soul shall taste death and only on the Day of Judgment shall it be paid its wages in full. And he who is diverted from the path leading to Hell Fire to the path which is bound to Paradise will have triumphed. Life here below is but a grail and an animate existence that affords pleasure which deceives those with foolishly credulous ambition and vain employment of time.

Because Islam teaches that this life is only a trial, it is only natural that the Muslim would accept death as not so much an ending to everything but more as a beginning of the final and lasting life in the Hereafter.

As the life here is considered as a trial for every individual, the death stage is considered as a resting period after the test. It could be easy for those who were faithful and dedicated or it could be grueling and horrible for the wicked.

Every person will be rewarded or punished according to his deeds during his stay on earth. None will be asked about the actions and beliefs of others, nor will anyone be asked regarding that which he was unaware of or incapable of doing.

The Koran states:

Every soul shall taste of death; you shall surely be paid in full your wages on the Day of Resurrection. Whosoever is removed from the Fire and admitted to Paradise, shall win the triumph. The present life is but the joy of delusion (Al-Imran, 185).

Those are Allah's bounds. Whoso obeys Allah and His Messenger, He will admit him to gardens underneath which rivers flow, therein dwelling forever; that is the mighty triumph. But whoso disobeys Allah, and His Messenger, and transgresses his bounds, him He will admit to a Fire, therein dwelling forever, and for him there awaits a humbling chastisement (Al-Nisa' 13, 14).

Based on the above, the Muslim dream is therefore to win the big triumph – Paradise. This is achieved through adorning his worldly life with the commendable qualities the believers must embrace in all circumstances – personal, social, economic and other. In order for their good deeds to be accepted, they must believe first in the One God Allah and worship Him alone without associating with Him any partners. They must believe in His Messenger Muhammad who brought them the last divine Message to the world that took them from darkness to light. Thereafter, they must work out their own salvation by humbling themselves in their prayers; refrain from idle talk, gossip and slander; by being active in deeds of charity, refrain from sex outside marriage; being trustworthy – an attribute which includes (1) fulfillment of the confidence reposed in them when entrusted with anything (2) meeting the obligation or responsibility (3) honoring the legal ownership property vested in them to hold or use for the benefit of others (4) keeping the promise when they make one (5) binding themselves by a vow to Allah (6) dedicating, consecrating or devoting anything to some person or service. And those who faithfully observe their act of worship and all it entails.

Such-like persons are the inheritors of Allah's mercy and blessings here and Hereafter. They shall inherit Paradise – the Garden of Eden where they enjoy the surpassing beauty and the supreme bliss.

This is the Muslim dream, wealth and mundane glory has nothing to do with it.

For a disbeliever the purpose of life is to collect and amass great wealth, money, power and position. Over indulging in eating, drinking, drugs, sex and gambling are a high priority to them. Wealth and its accumulation as a purpose would be doomed to a temporary success at best and in the end it would only spell out self destruction. But all of this will not avail them anything good in the grave, on the Day of Judgment or in the Hereafter.

If the purpose of life is to become wealthy, there would be no purpose after becoming wealthy. The fact is that when people amass wealth in this life they usually live in restless tension suffering from a feeling of worthlessness.

Wealth can do little or nothing to bring happiness to one who is a disbeliever in Allah the Creator, because regardless of what he or she would gain in this life they would always live in fear of what will happen to them in the Hereafter.

Allah says in the Koran:

Prosperous are the believers who in their prayers are humble and from idle talk turn away and at almsgiving are active and guard their private parts save from their wives and what their right hands own then being not blameworthy (but whosoever seeks after more than that, those are the transgressors) and who preserve their trusts and their covenant and who observe their prayers. Those are the inheritors of paradise therein dwelling forever (I-Mu'minun 1-11).

This drastic difference regarding the Muslim look at life must be well understood by non-Muslims when dealing with Muslims anywhere.

2- How Islam views the possession of wealth.

One of the most important principles of Islam is that all things belong to Allah, and that all wealth is the possession of Allah with which humans are entrusted. Money in Islam is a responsibility, a burden; it must be earned through permissible means and spent in permissible ways, such as spending on one's self and those for whom he is responsible for, without extravagance or waste.

The Messenger of Islam said:

"A slave will not be able to take a step further on the Day of Requitil until he is taken to account for: his time and how he spent it, his knowledge and how he used it, his money and how he earned and spent it, and his youth and how he passed it. (Tirmidhi).

The Koran states:

Believe in Allah and His Messenger and expend of that unto which He has made you successors. And those of you who believe and expend shall have a mighty wage (Al-Hadid, 7).

Accordingly money belongs to Allah, and in order for that money to be lawful it must be purified by paying Zakat. Zakat is the amount of money that every adult, mentally stable, free, and financially able Muslim, male and female, has to pay to support specific category people. This category of people is defined in surah at-Tawbah:

The alms are only for the poor and the needy, and those who collect them, and those whose hearts are to be reconciled, and to free the captives and the debtors, and for the cause of Allah, and for the wayfarers; a duty imposed by Allah. Allah is knower, Wise (At-Tawbah, 60).

In Islam money has to be spent in good ways. Piety is not to turn our faces in prayer towards the east or the west, but it entails to adhere to the rules and principles of Islam. It entails belief in Allah, His Books and angels, His Prophets and Messengers, the Day of Judgment, to give alms and pay charity, to fulfill the promise when we make one, and to exercise patience when befallen with a misfortune, and the distress of warfare against the enemy.

Allah says:

Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but [true] righteousness is [in] one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask [for help], and for freeing slaves (Al-Baqarah, 177).

Hoarding wealth has been condemned by Islam with threats of severe punishment whereas circulation of wealth has been ordained. This measure not only forces the hoarded wealth out of coffers of the rich but also ensures its flow into investment channels ultimately helping its natural distribution.

Narrated Abu Hurairah the Prophet said: 'Everyday two angels come down from heaven and one of them says, 'O Allah! Compensate every person who spends in your cause,' and the other angel says, 'O Allah, destroy every miser.' (Sahih Al-Bukhari, vol. 2, Hadith No. 522).

Misuse of wealth, property, and resources is frequently condemned in the Koran in three ways: (1) do not acquire anything wrongfully or on false pretenses; (2) do not hoard or bury or amass wealth for its own sake but use it freely for good, whether for yourself or for your neighbors; and (3) be particularly careful not to waste it for idle purposes.

Many among the Jewish rabbis and Christian priests in Mediaeval Europe devoured the money of people in falsehood. They got rich by issuing indulgences and dispensations; they made their office a stepping stone for worldly power and possessions. Even the Monastic Orders, which took vows of poverty for individuals grew rich with corporate property, until their wealth became a scandal, even among their own nations.

The Koran says regarding these rabbis and priests:

O believers, many of the rabbis and monks indeed consume the goods of the people in vanity and bar from Allah's way. Those who treasure up gold and silver, and do not expend them in the way of Allah -- give them the good tidings of a painful chastisement (Al-Tawbah 34, 35).

Gold and silver symbolizing wealth which these rabbis and monks cherished even more than the good pleasure of their Lord will not only be the cause but the instrument whereby they would receive a grievous punishment.

The Koran condemns all sorts of vices; here backbiting and selfish hoarding of wealth are emphasized:

Woe unto every backbiter, slanderer, who has gathered riches and counted them over thinking his riches has made him immortal! No indeed; he shall be thrust into the Crusher; and what shall teach thee what is the Crusher? The Fire of Allah kindled roaring over the hearts, covered down upon them, in columns outstretched (Al-Homazah, 1-9).

Muslims will not attain righteousness unless they spend of what they treasure and cherish in Allah's cause. It is unselfishness that Allah demands.

The Koran says in this respect:

You will not attain piety until you expend of what you love; and whatever thing you expend, Allah knows of it (Al-Imran, 92).

Ayesha the Prophet's wife reported that he said: 'This world is an abode for one who has got no abode, and a

property for one who has got no property, and one who has got no wisdom hoards for it.'

Since business and trading are the best manifestation of piling and accumulating excessive wealth, the Koran repeatedly warns those who are involved in business and trading concerning the danger being drawn towards the love of material profit to the point of giving more priorities to their business than to Allah.

As we read in the Koran:

Say: 'If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your clan, your possessions that you have gained, commerce you fear may slacken, dwellings you love – if these are dearer to you than Allah and His Messenger, and to struggle in His way, then wait till Allah brings His command; Allah guides not the people of the ungodly (At-Tawbah, 24).

Muslims therefore, spend of their wealth in benefaction, with no obligation to any, or expectation of a reward in return, or a mundane satisfaction, but only to seek the countenance of their Lord, the most High, the source of their goodness. Their purpose is to look at Allah's face in Paradise, for that indeed is happiness supreme.

This is beautifully expressed in the Koran:

Now I have warned you of a Fire that flames, whereat none but the most wretched shall be roasted, even he who cried lies, and turned away; and from which the most god-fearing shall be removed, even he who gives his wealth to purify himself and confers no favor on any man for recompense, only seeking the face of His Lord the Most high; and he shall surely be satisfied (Al-Lail, 14-21).

And in Surah al-Nur (24), verse 37, trade and business are specifically mentioned by Allah as deluders of man from the remembrances of Allah:

In temples Allah has allowed to be raised up, and His name to be commemorated therein, therein glorifying Him, in the mornings and the evenings, are men whom neither commerce nor trafficking diverts from the remembrance of Allah and to perform the prayer, and to pay the alms, fearing a day where hearts and eyes shall be turned about, that Allah may recompense them for their fairest works and give them increase of His bounty; and Allah provides whomsoever He will, without reckoning (AL-Nur 37, 38).

The tendency of being swayed by the temptation of material wealth is indeed very strong in man. The love of wealth according to the saying of the Prophet is the everlasting inspiration for man to think that he will not leave the world:

“The children of Adam will definitely be getting old but two things in him that will be always young, his hope and his love of wealth.”

The Koran repeatedly reminds us about the danger of business and trading because this kind of trading will make man heedless of another more profound business with a most noble business partner, a business with Allah Himself:

O ye who believe! Shall I direct you to a commerce that shall deliver you from a painful chastisement? You shall believe in Allah and His Messenger, and struggle in the way of Allah with your possessions and your selves. That is better for you, did you but know. He will forgive you your sins, and admit you into gardens underneath which rivers flow, and to dwelling place goodly in

gardens of Eden; that is the Mighty Triumph...(Al-Saff 10-12).

There is no limit of the profit of this spiritual trading. It is a trading with multiple profits. And how can we get less profit in a business when our business partner is the one in whose hand are the keys of want or plenty, who possesses the heaven and the earth.

The Koran says:

Surely those who recite the Book of Allah and perform the prayer, and expend of that We have provided them, secretly and in public, look for a commerce that will never fail, that He may pay them in full their wages and enrich them of His bounty; surely He is All-Forgiving, All-Thankful (Fatir 29, 30).

3- Glory is for Allah

Whosoever desires glory, the glory altogether belongs to Allah. To Him good words go up, and the righteous deed -- He uplifts it; but those who devise evil deeds -- theirs shall be a terrible chastisement, and their devising shall come to naught (Fatir, 10).

Glory be to Him, who created all the pairs of what the earth produces, and of themselves, and of what they know not (Yasin, 36).

So glory be to Him, in whose hand is the dominion of everything, and unto whom you shall be returned (Yasin, 83).

They measure not Allah with His true measure. The earth altogether shall be His handful on the Day of

Resurrection, and the heavens shall be rolled up in His right hand. Glory be to Him! High be He exalted above that they associate! (Az-Zumar, 67).

Glory be to the Lord of the heavens and the earth, the Lord of the Throne, above that they describe.' (Az-Zukhruf, 82).

He is God; there is no god but He. He is the King, the All-holy, the All-peaceable, the All-faithful, the All-preserver, the All-mighty, the All-compeller, the All-sublime. Glory be to God, above that they associate! (Al-Hashr, 23).

They do corruption in the land

Allah says in the Koran:

They do corruption in the land. When it is said to them, 'Do not corruption in the land', they say, 'We are only ones that put things right.' (Al-Baqarah, 11).

Truly, they are the workers of corruption but they are not aware (Al-Baqarah, 12).

Those who work corruption in the earth -- theirs shall be the curse, and theirs the Evil Abode.

Those that disbelieve and bar from the way of Allah - them We shall give increase of chastisement upon chastisement, for that they were doing corruption (Al-Nahl, 88).

Corruption has appeared in the land and sea, for that men's own hands have earned, that He may let them taste some

part of that which they have done, that haply so they may return (Ar-Rum, 41).

Or shall We make those who believe and do righteous deeds as the workers of corruption in the earth, or shall We make the god-fearing as the transgressors? (Sad, 28).

But who are those doing corruption in the land?

There are certain religious and political groups in America that are doing corruption in the land. In other words, the political and religious fabric of the United States is the reason behind the unrest of America and also the Muslim world.

1- Neo conservatives

The neoconservatives are one of the reasons behind the chaos the Muslim world is suffering from. Their core agenda is to reassert US global dominance through an aggressive foreign and military policy. After the 9/11 attacks on the US they switched priorities to the Muslim world. They focused on Iraq and pushed Bush to occupy Iraq under the pretext that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction! The Cheney-Rumsfeld-Wolfowitz axis aimed at using the US power to dominate and reshape the Middle East and, to put into effect the immortal words of Charles Perle, to send a message to America's enemies that "you're next".

The neoconservatives promoted the Iraq wars and are constantly the instigators for more confrontation with Iran and the Sudan and other Muslim states. They were among the chief instigators of the Kosovo War.

After the attack of September 11, Bernard Lewis in his book 'What went wrong?' using subtle arguments, placed the blame on Islam and Islamic traditions for the failure of Middle Eastern societies to develop and modernize like the West. Lewis' book has since been followed by articles and publications, mostly by neoconservative journalists and pundits, who reinforce Lewis' thesis and even blame Islam for the rise of terrorism as well as the rising tension between the West and the Muslim world.

The blame game is led today by neo-conservative pundits who often present Islam as the new villain to be confronted by American military power. They have consistently presented Muslims as incapable of democratic rule, and who espouse values that are antithetical to world peace and religious tolerance.

To ensure that their views are not challenged by academic community, neoconservatives are working hard to undermine academic freedom by intimidating scholars that present a balanced view of the Middle East. Martin Kramer's *Ivory Towers and Sand: The failure of Middle Eastern Studies in America*, and diatribe against Middle East studies in US universities, and Daniel Pipes' *Campus Watch*, an organization devoted to smearing professors critical of U.S foreign policy and Israeli's treatment of Palestinians, are two such examples. This campaign is one that aims to intimidate free thinking on Middle East politics and silence voices that challenge their perspective. In addition to that, we must not forget the other on line centers devoted to attack Islam like *answering Islam* (Sam Shamoun), *Political Islam* (Bill Warner), *jihad Watch* (Robert Spencer) and many others.

These websites are a network of groups and individuals funded by elements within the pro-Israel lobby who are pushing Islam phobia on behalf of Israel. These online websites have been leaders in the indictment of Islam, and each of whom is, not coincidentally, a vocal advocate of Israel and its policies.

The US foreign policy has been frequently characterized by Muslims as one of inconsistency and double standards – one that supports friendly dictators and corrupt regimes in the Muslim world, while pushing for democratic reform in Eastern Europe; one that defends human rights in China, but ignores them in the Middle East; and one that protests Palestinian violence against Israel, but remains silent in the face of Israeli violence in Palestine. Indeed the politicization of Islam and the rise of anti-Americanism are directly linked to the very efforts that aim at marginalizing Islam and forcing western secularism on Muslim society (7).

2- The Religious Right

The Christian Right is also the cause of the conflict in the Middle East. The Christian Right is a mass movement that has grown by actively involving millions of supporters. The bulk of Christian rightists are evangelical Protestants and their political ideology is rooted in a specific interpretation of Christianity.

The desire of Evangelicals today is to bring faith and politics together. They claim that there is an essential continuity in American history between the puritans of the New England colonies, who saw themselves as agents of Christ, and politicians today who say they are doing the Lord's work.

The Evangelicals also claim that America has always been defined as a Christian nation, even by its founding fathers. But this in fact is a denial of reality because the one and only mention of God in the Declaration of

independence is of "Nature's God," who is not defined in any way as a Biblical or Christian God. Nor there any mention of God in the constitution or the Federalist papers, the working documents of the Founders.

Christian rightists support Israel – specifically, right-wing Zionism, because they believe that a strong Jewish state is part of God's plan for the End Times – the final struggle against Satan. As part of this apocalyptic vision, most Christian rightists believe that all Jews and other unbelievers will be killed unless they convert to Christianity, the "true" faith. This means that the Christian Right is both pro-Zionist and anti-Semitic.

The eschatological thinking or doctrine of "end times," of the Christian Right sheds further light on what they are ultimately aiming at. The doctrine of the "end of days" being preached today in both evangelical and Catholic charismatic communities pictures the "end of days" - which they believe we have essentially entered - as a time of great economic dislocation, political chaos, and military turmoil. Both Catholic and evangelical communities teach that in order to end this disorder and turmoil, the church must unite. Furthermore, they teach that the union of Christendom must occur before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Finally, they teach of a great "latter-day" revival which will break out as a result of the re-unification of the church.

The sad truth is though that vast numbers of Muslims do see the US as engaged in a crusade against Islam, large numbers of Evangelical Americans welcome the idea of America as a crusader nation waging a holy war. it is Islam that emerges as the new "evil empire" for the religious right.

After Spt. 11, the biased media has regularly denounced Muhammad as the anti-Christ. It depicted the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as a clash of religion and civilization, and described the American soldiers as a Christian army doing God's work. Franklin Graham, the son of Billy Graham, denounced Islam as "a very wicked and evil religion."

The comments of the Religious Right and Bush's own declarations about a godly mission seemed to confirm the fear of many Muslims that the US was indeed fighting a religious war. Those fears stoked the fires of radical Islam, and by all accounts brought in a flood of new recruits to the cause of Jihad. They also had a deeply damaging impact on Washington's effort to enlist moderate Muslim support for its actions in the Middle East (7).

3- Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Christian Right

Since the demise of the Soviet Empire, "The World of Islam" is being seen as the new "Enemy". Islam in the western media is generally associated with the desert, with a Bedouin lifestyle, with backwardness, with violence and terrorism, and with the maltreatment of and discrimination against women. Islam is generally portrayed as a religion spread by the sword and characterized by "Holy War", and of Muslims as barbarous and backward, frenzied and fanatic, volatile and violent, and a threat to world peace and stability.

There is the alliance between America and Israel in the war on Islamic terror. But it goes deeper for Christians who interpret the Bible in a literal fashion. Israel has a crucial role to play in bringing on the Second Coming of Christ.

The Christian Right wants to make sure that the American administration sees the struggle in the Middle East between Jews and Muslims their way – the Christian way. American Christian Zionists say they are now more important source of support for Israel than American Jews or the traditional Jewish lobby. What propels them? Why do they love Israel so much? The return of the Jews to their ancient homeland is seen by the Christian Right as a pre-condition for the Second Coming of Christ. Therefore, when the Jewish state was created in 1948 they saw it as a sign. Israel conquest of Jerusalem and the West Bank in 1967 also deepened their excitement and heightened their anticipation, and today's war between Jews and Arabs was also prophesied. They have seen it all before – in the pages of the Bible.

The plot is ripped from the pages of the Bible, so it all winds up here in Israel where, according to the Book of Revelations, the final battle in the history of the future will be fought on an ancient battlefield in northern Israel called Armageddon. It will follow seven years of tribulation during

which the earth will be shaken by such disasters that previous human history will seem like a day in the country. The blood will rise as high as a horse's bridle at Armageddon, before Christ triumphs to begin his 1,000-year rule.

And what about the Jews? Two thirds of them will have been wiped out by now but the survivors will accept Jesus at last.

Gershom Gorenberg, the author of the "End of days," a book about those Christian Evangelicals who choose to read the Bible literally said, "They don't love real Jewish people. They love us as characters in their story, in their play, and that's not who we are, and we never auditioned for that part, and the play is not one that ends up good for us. If you look at the drama they are describing, essentially it is a five-act play in which the Jews disappear in the fourth act."

Kay Arthur, head of Percept Ministries in Chattanooga, Tennessee said, "The Jews need conversion. They need to know that the Messiah is coming, and the Bible tells us what is going to happen."

The late Jerry Falwell, a former leader of the U.S. Evangelical Christian right asserted it was the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy that Christians will ultimately control Jerusalem and that any Jews therein will eventually convert to Christianity.

The Christian fundamentalists believe that God gave the land of Israel to the Jewish people. "Every grain of sand between the Dead Sea, the Jordan River, and the Mediterranean Sea belongs to the Jews," says McAteer. This includes the West Bank and Gaza.

What about the three million Palestinians who live in the West Bank and Gaza? McAteer suggests the bulk of them could be cleansed from this God-given real estate and moved to some Arab country. Nothing can come between the Jews and their land.

In fact many fundamentalists believe that when Prime Minister Isaac Rabin signed the Oslo Accords and offered to trade land for peace, it was not only a mistake, it was a sin.

Billions of dollars are collected every year from the Christian Coalition and its followers (70 billions) to be sent to Israel for building new settlements on the Palestinian land in the West Bank and Gaza to help

gathering all the Jews in one place before their annihilation in Armageddon Battle!

That is precisely why the American Administration and the Israeli Government have been saying since September 11, that they are allies in the war on terror. But the Christian Fundamentalists go further. They say it is not just an alliance between nations but between religions.

Muslims feel this hatred from the Christians and Jews. The Christians and Jews are getting together and ganging up on them.

In this connection, it is important to mention that the use of the Bible to predict the end of the world constitutes an abuse of scripture. The Message that the Christian fundamentalists derive from scripture through their perverted reading is one of cruel vindictiveness against the vast majority of human race. Palestinians are also human beings created by Allah. They have the right to live freely on their land, to enjoy freedom, equality and brotherhood like any other human race. The purpose of man on earth is to make it a better place. But now the hands of the Israelis and their Christian fundamentalist's supporters are stained with the Palestinian blood. The followers of Moses and the followers of Jesus have violated the teachings of the Torah and the Gospel by sharing in the murder of the innocent Palestinians under the pretext of hastening the second coming of Christ or the approach of the battle of Armageddon. They have committed the greater sin of all; the sin of murdering human souls without right. They simply push back their timetables when the foretold events do not occur, then persist in vanquishing the Palestinians until the prophecies are fulfilled. Would Christ in his second coming accept to inaugurate an era of universal peace based on Palestinian expulsion and Palestinian bloodshed?

The punishment at the Day of Judgment is severe and would certainly touch Christian fundamentalists, and politicians supporting them as well as the Israelis who are implementing the policy of vanquishing innocent Muslim and Christian Palestinians. They all share before Allah the crimes of daily murdering, assassinating and the ethnic cleansing of thousands of unarmed civilian Palestinians. They will be the greatest losers before Allah in the Day of Judgment. Their striving goes astray in the earthly life, while they deem they are working good deeds. Allah shall not assign to them any weight on the Day of Judgment, and if they don't desist and repent their recompense will be torture in the blazing Fire of Hell.

Christianity has never been immune from error in apocalyptic teachings that have continually led Christians astray. These errors of understanding had become so rooted into Christian thinking as to constitute an effective delusion in the church, thus shaking its credibility before the world. Since the beginning of Christianity and many fundamental ministers are setting dates for the end of the world. The past two millenniums are full of failed prophetic predictions. Starting from 50 C.E. until the year 1999, there is 40 dates proposed so far. They all claimed that the end will come in their time. They established different foundational beliefs in regard to their respective millennium viewpoints. The fundamental ministers misread the biblical verses and forced them into meanings serving their preconceived notions. They predetermined what Allah would do in the future. Date setters, making irresponsible predictions, follow nothing but conjecture and usually mislead the masses.

The fundamental Christians even thought they were helping God by hastening the second coming of Christ! Is God so weak and helpless as to seek help from His servants, and He is the One whose command, when He desires a thing, is only to say to it, "Be" and it is?

Is their God as cruel and unjust as to accept help based on crimes of expulsion, bloodshed, racism and genocide! Is their God as racist and reckless as to accept only Christians to dwell in heaven while the rest of His human creation is to be thrown in Hell!

The times of the second coming of Christ, tribulation, rapture and the Day of Judgment are only in the knowledge of Allah. These events in order to happen might take one day, one month, one year or thousands of years. It is not our concern or job to determine the dates of such events because Allah has concealed from His creation the time of the Day of Judgment and the events preceding it. The concealment is a divine mercy because the Day of Judgment is overwhelmingly severe and tremendously catastrophic. The coming of the Judgment Day is certain, but the exact time is only known to Allah.

Is this how the Christian right works for its salvation? By considering all Palestine a conclusive home for Israel and to hell with the Palestinians, the original inhabitants of the land? The Christian right should have realized that by blindly supporting the Israeli aggression against the Palestinians, had entered into the circle of injustice. Its hands became

stained with the Palestinian blood and its conscious became burdened with the crimes of murder and expulsion.

In the sight of Allah supporters of criminals are equally guilty as criminals themselves. These crimes are the product of the Christian right's unconditional support for Israel without considering the simple right of the Palestinians to live as human beings in their poor modest homes.

Don't play Allah, for Allah is just to His servants and is against tyranny and aggression. Had they confined themselves to the real Christian teachings aiming at piety, righteousness, peace, and believing in Allah's Oneness, their relationship with Allah and the world would have been different and better.

They have forgotten their covenant with Allah and occupied themselves with things that are not of their concern. They better desist and work for their salvation by remembering their covenant with Allah. Allah wishes His servants to worship Him alone, to be morally correct, to stop corruption in the land, and to bring justice and everlasting peace into the lives of all His servants.

Do they think because they are wealthy now and have the power to impose their will upon others, they will be left uncontrolled without being charged? The universe is not theirs to spread mischief in the land, but belongs to Allah, its Creator. They must be smart enough to guard themselves against the calamities Allah brings to the evildoers in the present life. They must be wise enough to protect themselves in the Hereafter from chains, fetters and a raging fire prepared for the evildoers. They must be intelligent enough to protect themselves from a Day when a man shall behold what his hands have forwarded, and shall say, 'If only I were mere dust and had not been raised to suffer the disgrace and the chastisement'.

Promoting hatred and scorn for Islam and Muslims has become the only socially and legally acceptable modern prejudice.

Even long before the event of September 11, the media in the western world and particularly in America was still overwhelmed by the tendency to portray a distorted image of Islam. The attack on Islam was frequently launched by several Christians who insist on calling Muslims "heretics", "idle-minded", "devil worshipers", "irreligious". These misconceptions are inculcated in the minds of Christian children by priests, whose real

purpose is to distract their young and inquisitive brains. These interceptive activities are fed with the slanderous propaganda that the Islamic religion embodies aspects disagreeable with modern civilization.

The religious Right has had a much more direct and damaging influence on U.S. foreign policy. The millions of Evangelicals, who believe in the dispensational pre-millennialism, are sometimes called Christian Zionists. They believe that the cataclysmic events heralding the second coming will all happen in the territory of Biblical Israel, the territory that stretches from the Nile to the Euphrates. This land, they claim, was covenanted by God to the Jews and must be reclaimed by Israel before the second coming can happen and before Jesus can build his kingdom in Jerusalem. Many Christian Zionists even believe that the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, one of Islam's holiest sites, must be destroyed as a pre-condition for Christ's return.

Now if you hold these views the political implications are clear: trading land for peace, the longstanding premise of any peace deal between the Palestinians and Israel is a heresy.

Because of the strength of their numbers, and their passionate commitment to Israel, the Christian Zionists have become an extraordinarily powerful force on Israel's behalf—in many ways even more powerful than AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs lobby.

Over the past 22 years, the Christian Zionists have created literally dozens of pro-Israel organizations, notably the Stand for Israel Movement and CIPAC, the Christian Israel Public Action Committee.

They raise each year around two hundred millions of dollars to sponsor Jewish immigration to Israel, and to expand Israeli settlements on the West bank and the Golan heights. These too are pre-conditions in the eyes of pre-millennialists for the End-Days to unfold and for Judgment Day to happen.

Evangelicals also organize pro-Israel solidarity rallies and distribute videos that encourage the faithful to pray for Israel's victory over its enemies. The deceased Jerry Falwell said, "The Bible Belt is Israel's only safety belt right now." There is no safety belt for Palestinians.

Many Christian Zionists feel that Palestinians should simply be brushed aside by destiny, and be transferred to Jordan or some other Arab country.

The huge donations the Religious Right give Israel each year for building settlements on the Palestinian land, results in occupying the Palestinian land by force, demolishing their houses, expelling Palestinian families to barren lands and keep them there without shelter, and then those who oppose such evil treatment are killed without mercy under the pretext that they were terrorists threatening the security of Israel.

In addition to the Israelis who are guilty of committing such ceaseless human crimes, the Religious Right shares with the Israelis the guilt of such crimes as well (7).

In Islam those who unjustly hurt innocent believing men and women, bear on themselves a calumny and a glaring sin. They suffer the penalties of a double guilt; their own sins and the injuries they caused to the oppressed.

The Koran says in this respect;

And those who hurt believing men and believing women, without that they have earned it, have laid upon themselves calumny and manifest sin (Al-Ahzâb, 58).

For their part, successive Israeli governments have welcomed an alliance with Evangelical Christians, and do all they can to cultivate it. A special section in the Israeli embassy in Washington was set up to cement ties with Evangelicals.

Major Jewish organizations in the U.S. also welcomed an alliance of convenience with such a fervently pro-Israel community. But many American Jews feel their interests are not well served by the religious Right assault on the wall of separation between church and state. The last thing they want is for America to be formally defined as a Christian nation.

In November 2005, Abe Foxman, Director of the ADL and Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, criticized the religious Right for its bigotry. Remarkably, they were quickly silenced by other Jewish leaders, and by threats from Evangelicals that they might withdraw their support for Israel.

American Jews also wonder whether Christian Zionists are anything more than fair weather friends. After all, in the Apocalyptic "End Days",

as prophesied by the Evangelicals that two thirds of the Jews will die in the Battle of Armageddon, and the remaining third will have to choose to convert to Christianity.

The choice “die or convert” is obviously not the most appealing one for Jews, even if they believe, as they do, that evangelical scenarios are nonsense.

4-The influence of the Religious Right on Foreign Policy

It didn't matter to the White House, however, whether Evangelical views are nonsense or not. What mattered was that their votes were far too important for their positions on Israel to be ignored. As a consequence, George W. Bush has rarely taken any position on the Arab-Israeli conflict without taking into account the views of the Religious Right.

In 2002, George Bush initially urged Ariel Sharon to withdraw from key West Bank towns that Israeli troops had reoccupied when the second Palestinian uprising began. But within forty-eight hours, Bush suddenly reversed himself and gave a green light to the re-occupation. What had happened was that Evangelicals had flooded the White House with a hundred thousand e-mails and phone calls. And Karl Rove and other presidential advisors were not about to alienate the most important constituency in the Republican Party.

A similar reversal happened when Bush's press spokesman expressed concern over Israel's assassination of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas. His statement provoked another firestorm of Evangelical protest and another volte-face -- this time an endorsement of Israel's policy of selective assassination -- a policy that violates the Geneva Conventions and which the U.S. was alone in supporting in the UN Security Council.

In Congress, more than a hundred members of the Religious Right are active Christian Zionists. They oppose final status peace negotiations with the Palestinians, and dismissed the Road Map process.

Before being forced to resign on corruption charges, Tom DeLay, the House Majority leader, stated that “the time has come to drop the empty pretence that we (the U.S) can serve the region as a mere (peace)

broker.” On a visit to the Golan and West Bank, DeLay stunned observers by saying: “I don’t see occupied territories. I see Israel.”

It’s widely believed that Bush only agreed to sign on to the Road Map peace process because of pressure from Tony Blair. Blair rightly judged that the U.S. could hardly improve its image in the Muslim world without making at least a token effort in favor of justice for the Palestinians.

It is true that Bush has made some strong declarations in favor of a Palestinian state, which, on the surface, appear to run counter to the view of the Christian Right. So far though it has been a purely rhetorical commitment. Over the eight years Bush spent in the White House, it cannot be said that he has invested any real energy or effort towards advancing the two-state solution.

Indeed he has acquiesced in the building of Israel security wall that divides the West Bank, and he has quietly given a green light for the steady expansion of Jewish settlements there that make a peace agreement less likely every day.

Bush has said that Israelis have the right to make territorial adjustments -- code words signifying that they don’t have to return to their pre-1967 borders, the so-called Green Line. It was also made clear at the outset of his administration that, unlike his father, George W. Bush would never use economic levers to pressure Israel to make concessions to the Palestinians. Again, to do so would be to jeopardize the support of literally millions of his Evangelical voters.

So what we see in this context is the Religious Right having a very direct role in shaping American foreign policy. This biased policy has hurt American interests and in all probability drawn more recruits to the cause of Jihad.

Many in the Muslim world wondered about the extent to which the Bush administration (Bush, Ashcroft, members of the senior military and Congress) was influenced by their Hard-line Zionist Christian Right roots and supporters. The tendency of some Christian fundamentalist missionaries to celebrate the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan as an act of God, and rush to convert Muslims exacerbated the belief that

American foreign policy was fulfilling a Christian fundamentalist agenda (7).

5-The conservative protestant leaders attack the religion of Islam

After the event of September 11, the attack on Islam by the conservative Protestant leaders: Franklin Graham, Benny Hinn, Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Jimmy Swaggart, Chuck Baldwin and others became more frequent (7).

The false prophet Benny Hinn stated clearly that he had seen saints "dead saints" and that they talked to him, gave him instructions, and told him they were praying for him. This is clearly necromancy or communication with the dead. He went further to state that his necromancy was Biblically supported by Jesus Christ's experience on the Mount of Transfiguration when Moses and Elijah talked to the Lord." Literally hundreds of thousands of people are being influenced by this man's heretical teachings.

The false prophet Pat Robertson like most charismatic televangelists claims to receive additional revelation from God, and on regular and consistent bases. In fact he even claims that God speaks to him in an audible voice. He also apparently considers himself a prophet! In several occasions, he has made prophecies which did not come to pass. He also claimed that God chose him "to usher the coming of My Son'!

In his book, 'The Secret Kingdom', Robertson claimed God gave him a revelation of eight universal laws, and that God is bound by these laws and has no choice but to obey them. He also claimed that Jesus had appeared to him in a vision and told him that he has been appointed a modern day John the Baptist to "usher in " his coming. Further he says that Jesus specifically told him he wanted him to get the first television shots of his return to earth!

The teachings of these false prophets are extremely dangerous to spiritual health. A new generation of Word of Faith ministries is being grown, with more and more error and heresy. It continues to drift further and further into darkness.

As spiritual adultery increases in the church, false prophets will flourish as highly sought after speakers, and as Christians accept more of these false teachings indiscriminately, many will fall away, believing in a phony faith.

Jesus said about these false prophets:

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves (Matthew 7: 15).

We read in the Bible:

From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit (Jeremiah 6:13).

The Koran also talks about false prophets:

And who can be more unjust than he who invents a lie against Allah, or says: 'A revelation has come to me' whereas no revelation has come to him in anything; and who says, 'I will reveal the like of what Allah has revealed.' And if you could but see the wrongdoers are in the agonies of death, while the angels are stretching forth their hands (saying): 'deliver your souls! This day you shall be recompensed with the torment of the degradation because of what you used to utter against Allah other than the truth. And you used to reject His signs with disrespect (Al-An'am, 93).

Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, is the seal of the prophets. No real prophets will come after him. Jesus in his second coming will not be considered as the last of the prophets because he has already completed his mission. Jesus in his second coming will judge by the Koran, the one unified book guarded by Allah until the Day of Resurrection. Religion with Allah is only Islam and Jesus will continue to promulgate the Message of Islam until the end of his life on earth.

It is a fact that during the last 1400 years no man has emerged whose life and work bears even the slightest resemblance to that of a prophet. Nor has any one presented a book, which could be remotely considered

as divine communication. Still less has there been a man to claim legitimate authority as a lawgiver for mankind.

The Koran says:

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the last of the Prophets. And Allah has knowledge over everything (Al-Ahzab, 40).

The question then arises: how does a televangelist, who is supposedly involved in non-profit work, manage to create such a fortune for himself?

Televangelists think that their entertainment is so important that it is worth billions of dollars from their audiences. In order to validate the worthiness of their television programs, hosts invite prophecy ministers who claim to have divinely given prophecy that will dazzle audiences. But, we already know that God sealed prophecy, so whatever the minister has to say is just more theory. But, the prophecy minister tries to convince the audience that he is a really special person who has an in with God.

So, what compels ministers to claim that they have a special in with God so that God gives prophetic revelations only to them?

One answer is that ministers need to make a living. Income of ministers is determined by donations and book sells. A minister that is just entering the religious industry might decide he could make a good living as a special man to whom God gave prophetic understanding. Special prophetic understanding would be his hook. In advertising terminology, he would be using a main selling point for a target market.

These false prophets after being poor became extremely rich, after being modest and humble became arrogant and overbearing.

Televangelist Joyce Meyer said that she should not have to defend how she spends the ministry's money. "We teach and preach and believe Biblically that God wants to bless people who serve Him, so there is no need for us to apologize for being blessed."

Christianity in America became a business. The extravagant wealth of the televangelists was mentioned in many articles and several newspapers. They were called “greedy televangelists and wolves in sheep’s clothing.” Their extravagant wealth which included stylish sports cars and private jets, luxurious houses and family compounds, ranches and estates, exaggerating salaries and earnings, flashy jewelry, hotels, diamond mines, and extravagant life style – was mentioned in detail.

Among those mentioned are Paul Crouch and his wife Janish Crouch; Joel Osteen; John Hagee; Joyce Meyer; Pat Robertson; Creflo Dollar; Juanita Bynum; Robert shuller; Rodney Howard – browne; Benny Hinn; Paula and Randy White; James MacDonald; Oral Roberts; Jim and Tammy Bakker; Mike Murdock; James Eugene; Robert Tilton (5).

Allah said in the Koran about the rabbis and monks who amass wealth and do not spend it in the way of Allah:

O believers, many of the rabbis and monks indeed consume the goods of the people in vanity and bar from Allah’s way. Those who treasure up gold and silver; and do not expend them in the way of Allah – give them the good tidings of a painful chastisement, the day they shall be heated in the Fire of Gehenna (Hell) and therewith their foreheads and their sides and their backs shall be branded: ‘This is the thing you have treasured up for yourselves; therefore taste you now what you were treasuring (Al-Tawba, 35).

6- Tea Party hates Islam and Muslims

Does the Tea Party hate Muslims? Certainly if they are not actually anti-Arab Islamophobes, then they are doing nothing to challenge this portrayal of themselves as religious bigots, not to mention racists.

Judson Phillips, the founder of the Tea Party Nation, does not mince words when it comes to his views on Islam and the people who practice the faith. "A majority of Tea Party members, I suspect, are not fans of Islam," Phillips said. "I, personally have a real problem with Islam. With Islam, you have a religion that says kill the Jews, kill the infidels. It bothers me when a religion says kill the infidels. It bothers me a lot more when I am the infidel."

Phillips sent out an email asking voters of Minnesota's 5th Congressional District to vote for Republican candidate Lynn Torgerson, and against Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) because he is a Muslim:

"There are a lot of liberals who need to be retired this year, but there are few I can think of more deserving than Keith Ellison. Ellison is one of the most radical members of congress. He has a zero rating from the American Conservative Union. He is the only Muslim member of congress. He supports the Counsel for American Islamic Relations, Hamas and has helped congress send millions of tax to terrorists in Gaza."

And he refuses to backtrack from his anti-Muslim statements. "I am not going to apologize because I'm bothered by a religion that says kill the infidel, especially when I am the infidel," said Phillips on the Tea Party Nation website. "Should we vote out Keith Ellison just because he is a Muslim? No. But his beliefs define his character and his character is a central issue." Meanwhile Phillips denied on the Last word with Lawrence O'Donnell that he believes Muslims should be barred from holding public office.

Rep. Ellison responded to Phillips in the Washington Post, noting that religious tolerance is a deeply rooted American value: "Americans want unity, inclusion, and a spirit of generosity--not hate, bigotry, and fear. We cannot allow the politics of fear to drive our political discourse," the congressman said. "I issue a call to civility, and urge Americans to reject the divisive rhetoric of Republican Tea Party leaders like Judson Phillips; including calls for my defeat solely because of my religion." Ellison also noted that some people may not share his political views.

"This is OK. In America, we cherish our diversity of views. But an American's religion is their own business and no one should be excluded based on considerations like religion, race, sex, etc.," he added.

On her website, Torgerson displays her own brand of blatant Islamophobia. On immigration she says "The thing we most need to protect against is to prevent the immigration of radical Islamists into our

country. And, it needs to be emphasized that they are not going to tell us that they are radical Islamists." She adds that "we must cease allowing radical Islamists to immigrate into the United States. They wish to institute Sharia Law, Islamic Law, in the stead of the United States Constitution." On Iran, Torgerson says that "even President Obama supports sanctions against Iran. Opponent Ellison is not even backing his own President on the Iran issue. Opponent Ellison appears to be putting his allegiance to radical Sharia Law, like his radical Islamist friends at CAIR ahead of the interests and security of we Americans." (7).

7- Republicans attacking the religion of Islam

There's no member of the Republican freshman class in Congress more outspoken than Florida Rep. Allen West.

Since he was elected, West has become a strong voice on Capitol Hill for fiscal restraint, socially conservative values — and responding to the threat posed by Islamic extremists.

On the topic of Islam, West has been particularly controversial. He calls it not a religion but a "theocratic political ideology" that's a threat to America.

Republican presidential Tea Party candidate, Newt Gingrich whose image was seriously damaged in 1997 when he was fined \$300,000 for ethic violations announced in May of 2011 that he would seek the Republican nomination for president in 2012. In order to beg for the Jewish votes he announced that the Palestinians are an invented people.

"Remember, there was no Palestine as a state. It was part of the Ottoman Empire," Gingrich said. "And I think that we've had an invented Palestinian people, who are in fact Arabs, who are historically part of the Arab community. And they had a chance to go many places and for a variety of political reasons, we have sustained this war against Israel now since the 1940s," the GOP candidate said. "I think it's tragic."

The Palestinian Authority and the PLO, incidentally, explicitly recognized Israel's right to exist in 1993. But Gingrich and Israel of course deny not only Palestine's right to exist in actual fact; they deny Palestinians the right to exist—in history, in culture, in textbooks, and of course in the most important state of them all: in a state of their own.

Gingrich's cynical efforts to attract attention to himself with divisive and destructive statements will not help his presidential ambitions, since they are aimed at putting the peace between Israel and the Palestinians that Americans yearn for even further out of reach than it is today." Gingrich's announcements are apparently cynical, destructive, racist and a cheap stunt to get votes.

Gingrich showed his ignorance in even simple politics. He should have known that the vast majority of American Jews and the Israeli government are committed to a two-state solution in which Israelis and Palestinians live side-by-side as neighbors and in peace. Many in Israel support the idea of an independent Palestine alongside Israel and recognize the Palestinian struggle for independence.

Gingrich also called Palestinians "terrorists." The comments struck at the heart of Palestinian sensitivities about the righteousness of their struggle for an independent state. Applying the label "invented" suggests that the Palestinian quest for independence is not legitimate.

Gingrich comments were apparently made for political gains. It is a cheap attempt to get more votes. Gingrich by his irresponsible and destructive announcements sold America's interests by denying international Law and democratic principles.

What's good for America is secondary to the extremists like Gingrich and those who listen to him. The only thing that matters to him is to implement an extreme right-wing agenda.

Gingrich and those who believe him — represent a clear and present danger to the United States of America and they must be stopped before it is too late.

Willard Mitt Romney is an American businessman and politician. He was the 70th Governor of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007 and is a candidate for the 2012 Republican Party presidential nomination.

Mitt Romney rapped President Obama before a group of Jewish Republicans on the issue of the U.S. relationship with Israel.

Romney, who's been sharply critical throughout the primary campaign of Obama's handling of Israel, fired up attendees of the Republican Jewish Coalition at the group's conference in D.C.

"I don't think he understands America," Romney said, and promised, as he did in the most recent debate: "I will travel to Israel on my first foreign trip. I will reaffirm as a vital national interest Israel's existence as a Jewish state."

"In three years in office, he hasn't found the time or interest to visit Israel, our ally, and our friend." he said.

Romney *et al.* are vying with each other in their belligerency toward Iran. If any of them ever makes it to the White House, he will have far more executive authority to wage war than any governing Islamist party ever would in the emerging Arab parliamentary democracies. And given the American arsenal, he would have far more power to cause human catastrophe (as in Iraq).

Michele Bachmann has a rather bizarre view of the protests which swept the Arab world starting in January, and which so far have led to the downfall of three dictators.

Michele Bachmann condemned the Arab Spring and blamed President Obama for allowing it to happen by "showing weakness" and by compromising the United States' relationship with Israel.

"Why you think there was an Arab Spring", she asked at a GOP fundraiser at a local barbecue restaurant. She went on to tie the uprisings to what she described as signals from the White House that America was abandoning Israel.

Republican presidential hopeful Herman Cain says President Barack Obama has been on the wrong side of nearly every situation in the Arab world and the United States has mishandled the uprisings in the region.

Other Republicans, too, were tough on Obama's handling of Libya, Egypt and Yemen during debate on foreign policy. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich says the United States wrongly dumped overnight an ally in Syria, while Mitt Romney says it is time for the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad to end.

Rep. Ron Paul of Texas says it would be wrong for the United States to take active stands in the region. He says it's up to each country to determine its future.

Herman Cain said during GOP debate on foreign policy that President Barack Obama's reaction to the Arab Spring, the democratic uprisings in several Arab countries earlier this year, has allowed the movement to go in the wrong direction -- a surprising statement against democratic movements.

"You have to look at Libya, Egypt, Yemen and all of the revolutions that are going on and how the administration has mishandled them," he said. "As a result, this has gotten totally out of hand."

He said the revolution in Egypt, where citizens ousted long-time President Hosni Mubarak, could strain relations between the United States and Egypt, and he warned against the increased power of opposition group the Muslim Brotherhood, which formed a political party earlier this year.

"Our relationship with Egypt may not survive," he said. "It turned out that the opposition was more of the Muslim Brotherhood, which could end up with a majority of control of this new government."

People of the United States and the whole world must understand the truth about Islam. They must not believe those who are trying to deceive them by interpreting Islam as a religion of backwardness and violence. The hostile media and the several websites attacking the religion of Islam are in fact implementing political agendas designed to ruin the

Muslim world. The political and religious fabric of the United States plays a major role in such conflict (7).

Those who defy Allah and His Messenger, or challenge them, have come within the measure of Allah's wrath and have incurred Allah's curse here and Hereafter and there awaits them a severe torment.

The Koran says:

Those who hurt Allah and His messenger – them Allah has cursed in the present world and the world to come, and has prepared for them a humbling chastisement (Al-Ahzab, 57).

Those who unjustly hurt Muslims or offend them for no valid reason will have born malice against themselves and shall stand manifest for a major sin.

And those who hurt believing men and believing women, without that they have earned it, have laid upon themselves calumny and manifest sin (Al-Ahzab, 58).

8- Societal and Political factors behind the fall of the American empire

Every Empire, even the most powerful one, has to fall eventually. Everyone knows that America achieved its' peak power and world influence in the twentieth century. But how much longer is it going to last? It is hard to predict while it is still alive and reasonably well. But there are certain signs that may give early hints that the end is approaching.

In Washington D.C. It is hard to overlook corruption of the rich, legalized bribery, (nicknamed "lobbying"), demoralization of politicians shamelessly selling American secrets to foreign governments as soon as they resign from their office. Anyone can see growing divisions between poor and rich, white and black, native and alien... as well as growing national debt, inadequacy and incompetence of politicians, loss of influence and power on the world arena, decline in quality of life of an average citizen, social unrest. The list can go on and on... That is only one side of the coin.

1- Corruption in the governmental system

The Republic had also one important legal flaw, that turned against its' creators. "Liberum veto" - a constitutional amendment that was designed originally to protect democracy and individual freedom. It was supposed to assure that no law could be passed in the parliament unless there is total consensus, i.e. each representative had a power of veto. As a result, there were no laws passed in the last two hundred years of the Republic.

America has also an equally lethal flaw: the design of the whole justice system. It was initially conceived to facilitate fair and speedy execution of the law. It ended up as a monstrosity allowing criminals to go unpunished, promoting the fall of the health system as well as rise of racism. America is the only place on this planet where one can sue and get sued for anything - and win, irrespectively of the truth, if one has a clever lawyer on his/her side. A new society, based on distrust and greed was born. Where can we escape in search of freedom and justice now? (8).

2- Imperial decline and its impact on society

Future historians are likely to identify the Bush administration's rash invasion of Iraq as the start of America's downfall. However, instead of the bloodshed that marked the end of so many past empires, with cities burning and civilians slaughtered, this twenty-first century imperial collapse could come relatively quietly through the invisible tendrils of economic collapse or cyber warfare.

But have no doubt: when Washington's global dominion finally ends, there will be painful daily reminders of what such a loss of power means for Americans in every walk of life. As half-dozen European nations have discovered, imperial decline tends to have a remarkably demoralizing impact on a society, regularly bringing at least a generation of economic privation. As the economy cools, political temperatures rise, often sparking serious domestic unrest.

Available economic, educational, and military data indicate that, when it comes to US global power, negative trends will aggregate rapidly by 2020 and are likely to reach a critical mass no later than 2030. The American Century, proclaimed so triumphantly at the start of World War II, will be tattered and fading by 2025, its eighth decade, and could be history by 2030.

Significantly, in 2008, the US National Intelligence Council admitted for the first time that America's global power was indeed on a declining trajectory. In one of its periodic futuristic reports, *Global Trends 2025*, the Council cited “the transfer of global wealth and economic power now under way, roughly from West to East” and “without precedent in modern history,” as the primary factor in the decline of the “United States' relative strength—even in the military realm.” Like many in Washington, however, the Council’s analysts anticipated a very long, very soft landing for American global preeminence, and harbored the hope that somehow the US would long “retain unique military capabilities... to project military power globally” for decades to come.

No such luck. Under current projections, the United States will find itself in second place behind China (already the world's second largest economy) in economic output around 2026, and behind India by 2050. Similarly, Chinese innovation is on a trajectory toward world leadership in applied science and military technology sometime between 2020 and 2030, just as America's current supply of brilliant scientists and engineers retires, without adequate replacement by an ill-educated younger generation.

By 2020, according to current plans, the Pentagon will throw a military Hail Mary pass for a dying empire. It will launch a lethal triple canopy of advanced aerospace robotics that represents Washington's last best hope of retaining global power despite its waning economic influence. By that year, however, China's global network of communications satellites, backed by the world's most powerful supercomputers, will also be fully operational, providing Beijing with an independent platform for the weaponization of space and a powerful communications system for missile- or cyber-strikes into every quadrant of the globe.

Wrapped in imperial hubris, like Whitehall or Quai d'Orsay before it, the White House still seems to imagine that American decline will be gradual, gentle, and partial. In his State of the Union address last January, President Obama offered the reassurance that “I do not accept second place for the United States of America.” A few days later, Vice President Biden ridiculed the very idea that “we are destined to fulfill [historian Paul] Kennedy's prophecy that we are going to be a great nation that has failed because we lost control of our economy and overextended.” Similarly, writing in the November issue of the establishment journal *Foreign Affairs*, neo-liberal foreign policy guru Joseph Nye waved away talk of China's economic and military rise,

dismissing “misleading metaphors of organic decline” and denying that any deterioration in US global power was underway.

Ordinary Americans, watching their jobs head overseas, have a more realistic view than their cosseted leaders. An opinion poll in August 2010 found that 65% of Americans believed the country was now “in a state of decline.” Already, Australia and Turkey, traditional US military allies, are using their American-manufactured weapons for joint air and naval maneuvers with China. Already, America's closest economic partners are backing away from Washington's opposition to China's rigged currency rates. As the president flew back from his Asian tour last month, a gloomy *New York Times* headline summed the moment up this way: “Obama's Economic View Is Rejected on World Stage, China, Britain and Germany Challenge US, Trade Talks With Seoul Fail, Too.”

Viewed historically, the question is not whether the United States will lose its unchallenged global power, but just how precipitous and wrenching the decline will be. In place of Washington's wishful thinking, let's use the National Intelligence Council's own futuristic methodology to suggest four realistic scenarios for how, whether with a bang or a whimper, US global power could reach its end in the 2020s (along with four accompanying assessments of just where we are today). The future scenarios include: economic decline, oil shock, military misadventure, and World War III. While these are hardly the only possibilities when it comes to American decline or even collapse, they offer a window into an onrushing future.

3- Economic Decline

This was explained above but for further detail we explain here more:

Today, three main threats exist to America's dominant position in the global economy: loss of economic clout thanks to a shrinking share of world trade, the decline of American technological innovation, and the end of the dollar's privileged status as the global reserve currency.

By 2008, the United States had already fallen to number three in global merchandise exports, with just 11% of them compared to 12% for China and 16% for the European Union. There is no reason to believe that this trend will reverse itself.

Similarly, American leadership in technological innovation is on the wane. In 2008, the US was still number two behind Japan in worldwide patent applications with 232,000, but China was closing fast at 195,000, thanks to a blistering 400% increase since 2000. A harbinger of further decline: in 2009 the US hit rock bottom in ranking among the 40 nations surveyed by the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation when it came to “change” in “global innovation-based competitiveness” during the previous decade. Adding substance to these statistics, in October China's Defense Ministry unveiled the world's fastest supercomputer, the Tianhe-1A, so powerful, said one US expert, that it “blows away the existing No. 1 machine” in America.

Add to this clear evidence that the US education system, that source of future scientists and innovators, has been falling behind its competitors. After leading the world for decades in 25- to 34-year-olds with university degrees, the country sank to 12th place in 2010. The World Economic Forum ranked the United States at a mediocre 52nd among 139 nations in the quality of its university math and science instruction in 2010. Nearly half of all graduate students in the sciences in the US are now foreigners, most of whom will be heading home, not staying here as once would have happened. By 2025, in other words, the United States is likely to face a critical shortage of talented scientists.

After years of swelling deficits fed by incessant warfare in distant lands, in 2020, as long expected, the US dollar finally loses its special status as the world's reserve currency. Suddenly, the cost of imports soars. Unable to pay for swelling deficits by selling now-devalued Treasury notes abroad, Washington is finally forced to slash its bloated military budget. Under pressure at home and abroad, Washington slowly pulls US forces back from hundreds of overseas bases to a continental perimeter. By now, however, it is far too late.

Faced with a fading superpower incapable of paying the bills, China, India, Iran, Russia, and other powers, great and regional, provocatively challenge US dominion over the oceans, space, and cyberspace. Meanwhile, amid soaring prices, ever-rising unemployment, and a continuing decline in real wages, domestic divisions widen into violent clashes and divisive debates, often over remarkably irrelevant issues. Riding a political tide of disillusionment and despair, a far-right patriot captures the presidency with thundering rhetoric, demanding respect for American authority and threatening military retaliation or economic

reprisal. The world pays next to no attention as the American Century ends in silence (10).

4- High military expenses

Americans do not want to accept that the United States dominates the world through military power. Due to the extreme secrecy of the present administration, the American people are completely ignorant of the fact that the United States “garrisons the globe.” There is a huge network of military bases in more than 150 countries. It is called the new empire. It is the American Empire. The government employs more than half a million soldiers, spies, technicians, teachers, dependents and civilians as well as civilian contractors all over the world. In addition to officially listed bases, the US has numerous secret bases not to be found on any government listing. Some of these bases are engaged in listening to people all over the world, including American citizens – keeping track of what they are saying, faxing and emailing.

There are presently more than 725 American military bases located all over the world. Generally these bases are established near oil pipelines, and its inhabitants are there to protect those pipelines above all else. While the US has had bases in places like Saudi Arabia, United Emirates and Qatar for several years, new ones have been built in Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. As Chalmers Johnson writes:

“Our militarized empire is a physical reality with a distinct way of life but it is also a network of economic and political interests tied in a thousand different ways to American corporations, universities, and communities but kept separate from what passes for everyday life back in what has only recently come to be known as “the homeland.”

5- America is above the international law

The attack on 9/11 caused dangerous changes in the mindset of the American political leaders, who decided that the US is now equivalent to the Roman Empire, that it is no longer bound by international law or the opinions of allied and other non-allied countries. While during the Clinton years the nation had at least a semblance of multilateralism, now its actions became completely unilateral, and completely arrogant. Thanks to the American mainstream media, the common people knew nothing of its government and what it was doing in foreign countries. The Patriot Act came and only a handful of politically conscious people

protested and continue to protest. The Patriot Act stripped Americans almost entirely of the political liberties granted to them in the U.S. Constitution two centuries ago. Earlier we were referred to as the lone superpower. But today, we are called the American Empire. To question this, to voice dissent, is to question Bush's war on terrorism, which remains akin to treason. The media is completely complicit in the building and maintaining of American Empire, using politically appropriate vocabulary such as "collateral damage" (instead of "slaughtered innocent human beings"), regime change (instead of "imperialist invasion and occupation"), "illegal combatants" (meaning any civilian who does not tow the line of US occupation of Iraq and any other country it chooses to attack) and "preventive war" (There is no such thing as preventive war. Wars involve aggressive invasion by one country of another country.) With these cosmeticized terms in hand, the American public remains clueless about the crimes of the American government both outside and inside its borders.

6- False excuses to occupy countries

The US military enters countries on the pretext of liberating Afghan women from Islamic fundamentalists, or a natural disaster in the Philippines, or more recently Aceh, Indonesia, or claiming to protect Bosnians, Kosovars or Iraqi Kurds from campaigns of "ethnic cleansing." But invariably what happens is that after the crisis is over, the Americans do not leave. They remain in their new bases to strut around in arrogance in their newly acquired territory. It is a short mental hop from imperialism to racism as a way of life. As David Abernathy writes, "people who have superior power will quickly decide that their superiority extends also to intellect, morality and civilization." (10), (11).

"One of the disturbing facts of history is that so many civilizations collapse," warns anthropologist Jared Diamond in "Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or succeed." Many "civilizations share a sharp curve of decline. Indeed, a society's demise may begin only a decade or two after it reaches its peak population, wealth and power."

Now, Harvard's Niall Ferguson, one of the world's leading financial historians, echoes Diamond's warning: "Imperial collapse may come much more suddenly than many historians imagine. A combination of fiscal deficits and military overstretch suggests that the United States may be the next empire on the precipice." Yes, America is on the edge. Dismiss his warning at your peril. Everything you learned, everything

you believe and everything driving our political leaders is based on a misleading, outdated theory of history. The American Empire is at the edge of a dangerous precipice, at risk of a sudden, rapid collapse.

America is going to be poorer. Some analysts claim that health care is going to eat up more and more of the American income. America is going to have some huge disasters sooner or later caused by her failure to invest. Dams and bridges will break. Buildings will collapse. There are water mains that are 25 to 50 feet wide. There will be huge infrastructure disasters. The intellectual resources are in decline. America is failing to educate young people and instill in them rigor. America is going to continue to pour money into the military. It is even possible that America will have a revolution, a civil war that will see the end of the United States of America!

“The end of this country will come from the right and its failure to provide people with the basic necessities of life. Revolutions occur when young men see the present as worse than the unknown future. The politicians running for office who are denigrating the government, who are saying there are traitors in Congress, who say we do not need the IRS, this when no government in the history of the world has existed without a tax enforcement agency, are sowing the seeds for the destruction of the country. A lot of the people on the right hate the United States of America. They would say they hate the people they are arrayed against. But the whole idea of the United States is that the people criticize the government. The politicians however, remake it to serve their interests. They do not want that kind of society. They reject, as Aristotle said, the idea that democracy is to rule and to be ruled in turns. They see a world where they are right and that is it. If we do not want to do it their way we should be vanquished. This is not the idea on which the United States was founded (12).

7- Rising tide of religious bigotry in the United States

Muslim-bashing becomes more obvious, and marginalization becomes more common.

During the past two years, American Muslims have faced a growing Islamophobia industry handsomely financed by both individuals and groups. Some government agencies have even adopted their tactics. Spying on Muslims by the New

York Police Department, and widespread FBI surveillance and continued entrapments, are just a few examples of how everyone with a Muslim name or resemblance, as well as their neighborhoods, mosques, charities and institutions, has become a target.

A culture of bigotry that dehumanizes and opposes anything related to Muslims or Islam has taken root.

Some politicians have concluded that Islamophobia might be the shortcut to success in November. For example, introduction of anti-Shariah legislation in many states, an initiative collectively supported by some extremist religious groups, politicians, bloggers, and radio talk show hosts, has devastated Muslim communities.

The disinformation and propaganda spread by these bigots have resulted in physical attacks, harassment, vilification, and vandalism and desecration of mosques and cemeteries. Organized efforts to oppose building permits for new mosques and community centers have become common.

Many American Muslims have become more assertive about their identity. After an exponential rise in Islamophobia and bigotry, 55 per cent of US Muslims say it has become more difficult to live in the country, according to the Pew Research Center.

These efforts not only affect Muslims directly; they also cause collateral damage to our larger society. They violate the civil rights of a portion of the populace, degrade America's national prestige and make the Constitution irrelevant.

Interfaith organizations, human and civil rights activists, and constitutionalists have risen to these challenges, since Muslims rely on these groups to minimize biases against them and to reiterate for the public that Muslim-Americans are an integral part of our society, that we share equally in

its well-being and concerns, and that we and our children live here and deserve the same treatment as anyone else (13).

Although countless Muslims have condemned the acts of 9/11 in the United States and worldwide, American Muslims became objects of suspicion.

The 9/11 terrorists broke numerous laws of Islam and were denounced as mass murderers by Islamic religious leaders. Even so, Islam is viewed as a religion preaching violence.

In the aftermath, amidst the fear and anger, many American Muslims realized that the reason Americans were so quick to believe the worst about Muslims after the horrific attacks of 9/11 was that Americans knew little about even the most basic tenets of Islam.

Muslims realized that if they don't explain their beliefs and traditions, then other people would write our stories for us. And that's exactly what has happened.

Although 9/11 did compel some Americans to learn more about Islam, it also triggered a wave of anti-Islam feeling that has burgeoned. And though there have been interfaith initiatives, books on Islam, documentaries, education efforts, and shows like "All-American Muslim," polls show that Americans' negative views of Islam have increased since 9/11, not decreased.

Such trends cannot help but discourage even the most optimistic of American Muslims; many of them are more fearful now than a decade ago, and entire Muslim communities feel besieged.

Anti-mosque incidents have escalated in recent years. Earlier this summer, a mosque in Joplin, Missouri, burned to the ground. Last year, Roger Stockham was arrested with explosives outside the Islamic Center in Dearborn, Michigan.

An arson fire seriously damaged a mosque in Wichita, Kansas, last year. And incidents of mosque vandalism have become more common.

Hate groups have been on the rise, too; one of the most horrific hate crimes was the murder of Shaima Alawadi, a young mother who had received anonymous notes calling her a terrorist.

Almost every Islamic studies professor or speaker receives hate mail and sometimes death threats.

How has this happened? There are many reasons. It is not simply a lack of information about American Muslims, but also misinformation and, in many cases, outright fabrications about what Islam entails and what Muslims believe. An example of one of the most ridiculous is the assertion that Muslims cannot abide dogs; we are so evil, apparently, that man's best friend is our enemy.

The Center for American Progress issued a report in 2011 which documented a small but extremely well-funded network of anti-Islam fear-mongers who have worked diligently to spread misinformation about Islam. Directly or indirectly, these fear-mongers fomented the "ground zero mosque" hysteria, promoted the film "The Third Jihad," which the New York Police Department showed as a training video - and was strongly criticized for doing so - and have been responsible for Islamophobic advertisements on public buses all over the country.

Particularly frightening is the eagerness with which public figures and political officials have leapt onto the Islamophobia bandwagon. Peter King's "Muslim radicalization" hearings, Michele Bachmann's baseless accusations of public officials being linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, and the NYPD's long-term spying on Muslim communities (which produced no leads) are just several

examples of the increasing demonization of every Muslim and, increasingly, the entire religion of Islam.

Islam is the second-largest religion in the world, and Muslims comprise more than one-fifth of the world's population. No religion can flourish for 1,400 years without being flexible and adaptable.

The defamatory rhetoric directed at Muslims and Islam in the US has little to do with the actual religion or its adherents and everything to do with fear of the other.

Irrational fear of Islam and Muslims is bad for all Americans: it frays the social fabric of the society; it creates divisions between Americans; it affects the health of democracy; and it affects the wisdom of policy choices (14).

8- The terrorism industry

Islamophobia became an element of dissension in the American society. In early 90's, Professor Samuel Huntington (the Clash of the Civilization scenarios), characterized the Muslim world as "Islam's bloody borders." In our communications, Dr. Huntington indicated that he had no specific knowledge of the Islamic civilization or first-hand observations shaping the Muslim moral and intellectual fabric. They call the politically active Arabs and Muslims as members of "al-Qaida" (the organization originally perceived, developed and managed by the CIA and American political leaders to fight the USSR-former Soviet Union occupation of Afghanistan). It is dead long time except its label is used when and if convenient to the warmongers. Richard Chamberlain observed: "Al Qaida" is a CIA fabricated enemy, created as an opponent for the CIA-created "neocon" supermen, intended to embed an invisible terror army amongst the

people, in order to perpetually justify waging war upon the people.”

Islamophobia is an organized scheme of things - an industry - an anti-Islamic institutionalized hatred campaigns and fear-mongering across the US and Western Europe. It is business as usual by entrepreneurs and lobbyists of the Military-Industrial Complex warmongering establishment. Its ultimate aims are to keep the American and European people fearful of the growing Islamic presence in these parts of the world as if Muslims were the outcome of the eye of the storm to destroy the industrial progress or to halt the Zionist perpetuated fear of Islam.

The American society became engaged in a long-running grudge. Now we see hatred and intolerance to Islam, openly promulgated in the American society by members of hostile groups, namely: Robert Spencer, Pamela Geller, Daniel Pipes, Sam Shamoun, Bill Warner and others. Moreover, Islamophobia is even now used by Republican Senators to gain votes in the Senate like Peter King, Allen West, Michele Bachmann, and Newt Gingrich. They have nothing in their heads to talk to their people about but Islamophobia, thus igniting hatred and vengeance in the society without any logical reason. As if America is an ideal state without problems! And here I remember the Prophet's saying about the signs of the end of time, he said, "If the leadership is entrusted to those unfit for it, then expect the Hour."

The Runnymede Trust identifies eight components, characterizing Islam as:

- monolithic, static, and unresponsive to change;
- having differing values from other cultures and religions;
- being inferior to Western societies;

- barbaric, irrational, primitive, sexist, violent, aggressive, threatening, supporting terrorism, and clashing with Western civilization;
- an ideology used for political or military advantage;
- irrationally criticizing Western values;
- warranting discriminatory practices that exclude Muslims from mainstream society; and
- believing anti-Muslim hostility is natural and normal.

Pierre-Henry Bunel, a former agent for French military intelligence said: "The truth is, there is no Islamic army or terrorist group called Al Qaida. And any informed intelligence officer knows this. But there is a propaganda campaign to make the public believe in the presence of an identified entity representing the 'devil' only in order to drive the 'TV watcher' to accept a unified international leadership for a war against terrorism. The country behind this propaganda is the US and the lobbyists for the US war on terrorism are only interested in making money."

We come to realize that politics is a game of pretension and always remains problematic. Politicians need problems to get public attention and to argue being the deliverers. Most often, they are not except being treacherous, cynical and deceitful to their ideas and ideals and to the public interests they claim to serve.

Strange as is, Arabs and Muslims of the world are providing that food for thoughts to the US politicians. This is something a planned outcome of the Islamophobia movement in the US. Last year, Terry Jones wanted to burn the copies of the Quran- the Divine Book of Islam. It prompted action-reaction responses and people throughout the globe got attentive why such an extreme act of ignorance against Islam, when Muslims believe and respect Judaism and Christianity as part of their indivisible faith. A Danish journalist embarked on folly and carved up a cartoon of Prophet Mohammad. The world-over reaction by Muslims

and others consumed enormous time, energies and thoughts but what was the end of it? Few months earlier, American troops burned the copies of the Koran in Kabul. Massive protest but nothing changed on the ground. Islamophobia is well organized and flourishing across the Western cultural domains, again investing in "fear-mongering" of Islam and generating sense of insecurity to peace and global harmony. There is a problem with the Arabs and Muslims at large, they are emotional people, unimaginative and often shortsighted when it comes to rational thinking and steadfastness in situations of volatile circumstances. The Western politicians want Muslims to act like immature actors and bodies on their script originating from the Islamophobia scheme of things. This could be justified to the coming dangers to plan more wars of terrorism or terrorism of wars against the innocent people in the Islamic world. Truth speaks its own language. Islamophobia is intricately linked to the US-Western policies and foreign relations with the Arab and other Muslim countries.

Despite having a knowledge-based culture, the Islamophobia organizations generate hatred and fear throughout the global news media. They envisage and project the Muslim people as of draconian age, violent and lacking reason, science, and intellectual foresight. On September 12, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI equated Catholicism with reason, saying violent Islam lacked it. This contradicts the European history where Islamic civilization flourished for eight hundred years in Spain (Al-Andalus) and contributed to knowledge, scientific developments and helped the Europeans to become civilized when they were species of the dark ages. Was Pope Benedict not expected to be knowledgeable of these pertinent facts of the European history?

Hillary Clinton called the current battling scenes as "disgusting and reprehensible." President Obama claims, he has respect for Islam and understanding of the faith. These are just abstract words lacking meaning and purpose. What

if the US administration would move to arrest Sam Basile - the media described filmmaker of the controversial documentary movie and charges him with insult and injuries to the American public interest. After all America is part of the global moral and intellectual hub of the mankind, it is not out from somewhere from another planet of subhuman beings. The movie maker Nakoula Basseley Nakoula is reported as a fraudulent person who was convicted in California in 2010. Several members of the film cast and crew have disavowed the movie, saying Bassile/Nakoula duped them. Actress Cindy Lee Garcia said she thought she was in a film about ancient Egypt called Desert Warriors.

After the 9/11 and incidentally on the anniversary of the 9/11 on that very day, American politicians are vengeful, paranoid and often appear to be victims of their own obsession and insanity – that all problems must be solved by power, by military interventions, killings and devastation of other nations and habitats- more so of the Arabs.

Nobody has invincible armies and nobody can conquer the world on its own. Only people with monstrous mind can think that way. Not all problems require military actions but diligent and thoughtful moves to diffuse the crises. Perhaps, this is not part of the big American thinking after victimizing the mankind under the false flag of terrorism for over a decade.

Prophet Mohammad life is a role model for peace and human coexistence. He was always open to communication and took initiatives to have direct communication with his worst foes in Makkah and Madinah. He was commanded by Allah to invite them to peace and to Islam.

If American leaders were intelligent and responsible, they could have avoided these violent developments and opened communication channels with the Muslim world as President Obama had originally claimed to do so. But he rescinded his

promises and deceived the mankind on the war of terrorism, closing of the Guantanamo Bay and normalization of relationships with the Islamic world. Like the European colonists, Obama had pride and false sense of superiority that he failed to stop the bogus wars against Muslims and bring back his troops from the war zones. John Adams must have anticipated such political developments and offered this context:

"The pride and vanity of that nation is a disease, it is a delirium, it has been flattered and inflamed so long by themselves and other that it perverts everything." (15).

9- Fox News and its role in spreading Islamophobia

The American society is now dominated by the rise of a radical bunch of bloggers who had fashioned a controversy where one did not exist. Pamela Geller's snarling write-up about the "Ground Zero Mosque" in early May 2010 was picked up by Andrea Peyser of the New York Post, a conservative newspaper owned by the man at the top of Fox News, Rupert Murdoch. Peyser's regurgitation of Geller's outrage reached hundreds of thousands of people, turning what was once a conspiracy theory of some unknown right-wing Internet prowlers into a major new story.

Fox News' Sean Hannity had read Peyser's piece. He was familiar with Pamela Geller too, and on May 13, 2010, just days after the story made national news, he invited Geller on his show to talk about it. "There is a giant mosque being planned to be built in an area right adjacent to ground zero," he said. Of course, the Park51 community center's 13 stories were relatively small compared to the towering skyscrapers that hovered over the streets in midtown Manhattan. But the word "giant" had a certain frightening ring that Hannity and Geller sought to sell. "Andrea Peyser

wrote about it in the New York Post today,” he said. “Atlas Shrugs’s Pamela Geller, a blogger and columnist, is hosting a ‘No 9/11 Mosque’ rally at Ground Zero on June 6 to protest the construction and she now joins us on our newsmaker line.”

Media Matters reports that from May 13, 2010, until August 12, 2010 — a period of 91 days — Fox News shows hosted at least 47 different guests to discuss the project, 75 percent of whom opposed it. Nexis transcripts of Fox newscasts during that 13-week period were reviewed showing that just nine out of the 47 guests who appeared during that time favored the center. In some cases, guests expressed their personal opposition to the center but rejected the idea that it could be somehow prevented. Juan Williams, a former reporter for National Public Radio, was one of them. Appearing on Hannity’s show, he said, “I happen to agree with you about the idea that they shouldn’t build the mosque,” he told the Fox host. “But that doesn’t mean that we, as Americans, can say to him [Rauf] ‘No, you can’t build here.’ That’s wrong.” Williams stated his opinion plainly. It was something he did regularly — and something that two months later would cost him his job.

Fox News had, by offering Williams an expanded role, encouraged and even financed Islamophobia.

Fox News, the American television station that brands itself as “fair and balanced,” is the epitome of this relationship. It has been, for the better part of the last decade, at the heart of the public scare-mongering about Islam, and has become the home for a slew of right-wing activists who regularly inhabit its airwaves to distort the truth to push stereotypes about Muslims. It was little surprise, then, that a Brookings Institution poll on American values conducted in September 2011 found that approximately two-thirds of Republicans, Americans who identify with the Tea Party movement, and Americans who most trusted Fox agreed that the values of Islam are at odds with the values of the United States.

Additionally, nearly six in 10 Republicans who say they trust Fox also say that they believe that American Muslims are trying to establish Islamic law in America. In contrast, the attitudes of Republicans who view other news networks fall in line with the general population.

Some have argued that Fox News' viewers may not develop their negative views of Islam as a result of the station's programming, but rather they flock to those shows that reinforce and confirm an already existing, deeply anti-Muslim bias.

In February 2011, the Think Progress website released a study that detailed the specific ways that Fox News manipulates language to insinuate, or in many cases, state explicitly, that Muslims and Islam should be feared. Using three months' worth of material gathered from various television programs from November 2010 to January 2011, a graph was compiled to show that the network disproportionately deployed terms that reflected a negative view of Muslims, more so than Fox News' competitors. For example, Fox used the term "Shariah" 58 times over a three-month period, whereas CNN used the term 21 times, and MSNBC 19 times.

Similarly, Fox hosts brought up the phrases "radical Islam" or "extremist Islam" 107 times in three months, while CNN used the term 78 times and MSNBC only 24 times. Still, Fox used the word "jihad" 65 times, while CNN used it 57 and MSNBC used it 13 times.

That Fox News consistently ranked atop the list of networks that deployed these terms was not the real problem. The way in which they *used* the terms, however, was. They were often part of stories that made a larger point about allegedly nefarious Muslims who had either participated in some act of violence or were thought to be working their way into the political fabric of the United States.

In August 2006, for example, Fox News guest Mike Gallagher suggested an “all Muslims checkpoint line” at American airports. After the Fort Hood shooting in November 2009, for example, Fox host Brian Kilmeade suggested “special screenings” for Muslim U.S. soldiers.

Of course, these examples are but a select few from a multitude of anti-Muslim comments on Fox News programs. They are also products of a conservative fear factory run by Fox News president Roger Ailes. The man behind much of the station’s conspiratorial fear-mongering, 71-year-old Ailes allows his own personal phobias to steer the agenda of Fox’s telecasts.

Ailes, a longtime adviser and strategist for the Republican Party, once told President Ronald Reagan to ditch facts and figures during his reelection campaign against Democratic contender Walter Mondale. In an article for Rolling Stone, Tim Dickinson relates how Ailes advised the president: “You don’t get elected on details. You get elected on themes.” At Fox, he took his own advice, knowing full well the gripping power of emotion, especially fear. So encumbered with fright was Ailes that he traveled to work each day with a private security detail. He bought up the land surrounding his \$1.6 million estate in order to broaden the security perimeter. He is sure that he is on the top of al-Qaida’s hit list. “You know, they’re coming to get me,” he told one friend. “I’m fully prepared and I’ve taken care of it.”

He has a personal paranoia about people who are Muslim — which is consistent with the ideology of his network.” Tim Dickinson of Rolling Stone magazine notes that Ailes is a master propagandist, so tuned in to the demographic makeup of his Fox audiences that he is able to calculate how and where and when to plant a story in the news stream to maximize its impact: The typical viewer of Hannity, to take the most stark example, is a pro-business (86 percent), Christian conservative (78 percent), Tea Party-backer (75 percent) with no college degree (66 percent), who is over

age 50 (65 percent), supports the NRA (73 percent), doesn't back gay rights (78 percent) and thinks government "does too much" (84 percent).

Targeting the show's content to each group had proven to be a successful strategy. According to one insider, Ailes meets with Fox anchors prior to their broadcasts and feeds them talking points and message strategies. What appears to viewers as a casual conversation is actually a scripted dialogue. During the 2008 president election, Dickinson notes, "References to Obama's middle name [Hussein] were soon being bandied about on 'Fox & Friends,' the morning happy-talk show that Ailes uses as one of his primary vehicles to inject his venom into the media bloodstream." It was on that very program that suspicions about Barack Obama being a Muslim and trained in a *madrassa* were first raised (16).

In one of the last pieces he published at Salon before moving to The Guardian, the American columnist Glenn Greenwald mounted a devastating critique of what he labeled, in the article's title, "The Sham 'Terrorism Expert' Industry." In his inimitable style, Greenwald proceeded to discuss the work of several so-called terrorism experts — among them, Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, J.M. Berger, and Fran Townsend — who have embraced the pretense of scholarly objectivity to justify the US government's "war on terror." As is well known, this is a "war" that has overwhelmingly targeted Muslims, due in no small part to the pervasive Islamophobia that has spread through western Europe, Canada, but above all, the United States, since the terrorist attacks of September 11 2001.

Greenwald points to "terrorism experts" as having played a particularly insidious role in stoking fear of "Islamic terror" through the exaggeration of so-called jihadi violence, and thus having provided a pretext for U.S. violence against Muslims over the past decade. Of course, Greenwald is far from alone in pointing to 'terrorism expertise' as a veritable industry: Among the scholars he cites as having exposed the steady growth and intellectual bankruptcy of this purported field of study are Stephen Walt of Harvard University, Remi

Brulin of New York University, and Richard Jackson of New Zealand's National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies.

Not unlike the "terrorism expert" industry that Greenwald eviscerates, there is a separate quasi-academic industry that has seen its fortunes rise precipitously since September 11, 2001, again due in no small part to pervasive Islamophobia. This is what I would call the "persecution expert" industry, with the persecution in question being that directed against Christians in Muslim lands. And, this is an industry that has long had Egypt as one of its principal targets of reproach.

Before I discuss "persecution expertise" as industry, I should emphasize that none of what follows is to suggest that persecution of Christians in Muslim lands is nonexistent or unimportant. Indeed, I have written at great length elsewhere of the imperative that Egypt address its problem with sectarianism — a problem that is of the utmost importance in the post-revolutionary context, with the rise of various currents of Islamists on the political scene. Discrimination against Copts and anti-Christian attitudes are disturbingly genuine phenomena, arguably on the rise, that Egyptians can no longer breathlessly deny as they invoke the well-worn symbols of national unity. And, activism to combat these phenomena, both in Egypt and among Egyptians abroad, is a vital part of the solution to this problem.

What I find disturbing is the alacrity with which particular US political forces have taken up the cause of anti-Christian persecution, notably over the past decade, just as the "war on terror" has gained so much momentum. And perhaps unsurprisingly given these political links, "persecution experts" have, much like their counterparts in the 'terrorism expert' industry, tended to find their way to particular think-tanks in Washington.

Arguably the leader in this regard is the Hudson Institute, which houses the Center for Religious Freedom under the directorship of Nina Shea. According to the Hudson Institute's website, the Center "promotes religious freedom as a component of U.S. foreign policy by

working with a worldwide network of religious freedom experts to provide defenses against religious persecution and oppression.” Despite the emphasis in this description on a ‘worldwide network,’ a quick scan of op-eds by Center staff reveals that the geographic scope of their concern is substantially narrower: The vast majority of the articles concern the Muslim world, and among them, Egypt features most prominently. The venues in which Center staff publish op-eds is likewise worthy of note, and far and away the most popular is National Review Online, “America's most widely read and influential magazine and web site for conservative news, commentary, and opinion.”

Why would American conservatives take a particular interest in sectarian tensions in Egypt? As is well known, in recent decades, evangelical Christians in the United States have moved increasingly rightward in political orientation. At first glance, it would appear that Christian conservatives are moved by the plight of fellow Christians like the Copts. In practice, however, these Christian conservatives are moved to a still greater extent by Israeli protestations of insecurity. Given their track record of unstinting support for Israel, and relative disregard for the plight of Palestinian Christians, the focus on Egypt's Copts emerges as a function of ‘Realpolitik’ rather than ideals. And with the political rise of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt since the 25 January revolution, accusations of anti-Christian persecution have become a particularly useful tool for discrediting the Islamists who are now in government.

It is disturbing enough that the important issue of sectarian relations in Egypt is bandied about Washington as a means of leveraging Israeli security. Emblematic of this was how a panel at this year's American-Israel Public Affairs Committee conference evolved into a sort of elegy for the Coptic community, led by Nina Shea.

Perhaps more disturbing, though, is how particular Copts have endorsed the Islamophobia of "persecution experts" without considering their political consequences in Egypt or the United States. In this regard, I cannot help but recall an image recently

posted to "The Free Copts" page on Facebook. In the image, President Obama, with a photo-shopped beard and turban, appears under the following caption: "This idiot helped transform Egypt from a modern state into a Muslim Brotherhood dominated tribe and still claims it's a transition into democracy!" In a breathtaking concoction of bigotry, white anxieties about a black president are fused with Coptic anxieties about the rise of Islamism. To my mind, the post speaks powerfully to the influence, and the ignorance, of the "persecution industry." (17).

The wrath of Allah is on sinned and rebelled nations

Indeed we now live in an age where Islam is being continuously and viciously attacked from all sides. The attacks now range from everything we Muslims believe in, from the Noble Koran, to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and to the Islamic law. It is the way of Allah that when the Muslims are unable to punish those who harm Allah and His Messenger by means of insults and abuse, Allah takes revenge and punishes the scoffers.

Allah says:

So proclaim that thou art commanded and turn thou away from the idolaters. We suffice thee against the knockers, even against those who set up with Allah another god. Certainly they will soon know (Al-Hijr 94, 95).

"Therefore, proclaim openly (Allah's Message of Tawheed) that which you are commanded, and turn away from Al-Mushrikun (polytheists, idolaters, and disbelievers). Truly! We will suffice you against the scoffers (those who mock the Messenger)." (Al-Hijr 94-95).

The groups of scoffers and American Islamophobes pose a threat to the United States. These hate mongers have in fact transformed America into an evil land but they are not aware. Defying Allah and His last Message to the world with such insolence usually brings His wrath on the rogue cities.

The wrath of Allah is something to take heed of. The godless thoughtlessly challenge Allah's wrath, but do they realize its nature? People must be moved with terror when they think of its consequences. The part of the wise is to prepare for it.

In this connection we must not forget the natural disasters which tremendously affected America in the past and are still affecting it at present, i.e. hurricane Isaac; hurricane Galveston; hurricane Katrina; hurricane Okeechobee; heat wave 1980, 1988; Johnston flood 1889; Dust Bowl 1930; Great San Francisco Fire and Earthquake; the present drought that is now parching America and brought growers to their knees, etc.

The enemies of Allah are constantly devising against Him and against His Messages and Messengers. But Allah in whose hand is all good – has His plans also, against which the evil ones have no chance whatever.

Allah says in His last Testament to the world:

And they devised, and Allah devised, and Allah is the best of the devisers (Al-Imran, 54).

If Allah decides to destroy a city, He gives every chance to the wicked to repent. When wickedness gets so rampant that punishment becomes inevitable, then the Word of punishment is justified against the rogue city, and Allah destroys it utterly.

The Koran says:

And when We desire to destroy a city, We command its men who live at ease, and they commit ungodliness therein, then the Word is realized against it, and we destroy it utterly (Al-Isra', 16).

Allah may send upon rogue cities a painful chastisement of wrath. Hasn't He destroyed past societies because they rebelled against Him? Do people feel secure that Allah will not cause the earth to swallow them, the while it rocks? Who is this that shall be a host for

them to help them, apart from Allah? Or who is this that shall provide for them if He withhold His provision? What think them if in the morning their water should have vanished into the earth, then who would bring them running water?

It is Allah who created man, appointed for him hearing and sight and heart, yet little thanks he shows! He blessed him with fortune, children and sustenance, yet he sets himself up as enemy to Allah! Allah will draw the sinners on little by little from directions they perceive not.

Why do natural disasters occur?

Allah says in the Koran:

Say, 'He is able to send forth upon you chastisement, from above you or from under your feet, or to confuse you in sects, and to make you taste the violence of one another.' (Al-An'am, 65).

Just as Allah sends down blessings for His creation in the form of rain, good cultivation, and abundance of sustenance, He also sends down warnings and punishments in the form of earthquakes, floods, and tsunamis.

The Koran says:

Whatever affliction may visit you is for what your own hands have earned; and He pardons much (Ash-Shura, 30).

The above verse shows that whatever calamity that strikes us is the result of our wrong deeds, but also, Allah pardons a lot. Meaning the punishment doesn't come except when people have crossed all bounds.

The place where a calamity strikes may have both good and bad people. When sins rise in a community and a punishment is sent down, it also affects the good people. While that calamity is a punishment for the sinners, it becomes a source for purification or a reminder for the good doers.

The Prophet peace be upon him used to seek refuge with Allah from His torment and punishment.

Increase in the frequency of earthquakes is also a sign of the Day of Judgment.

The Prophet said:

“The Hour (Last Day) will not be established until (religious) knowledge will be taken away (by the death of religious learned men), earthquakes will be very frequent, time will pass very quickly, afflictions will appear, murders will increase and money will overflow amongst you.’ (Al-Bukhari, 2/17 no. 146).

All these signs now prevail.

Allah says in the Koran:

Corruption has appeared in the land and sea, for that men’s own hands have earned, that He may let them taste some part of that which they have done, that haply so they may return (Al-Rum, 41).

The calamities are not a full recompense, but only a part of what man does. Were we to be punished for all that we do, there would be no creature living on earth.

As we read in the Koran:

If Allah should take men to task for what they have earned He would not leave upon the face of the earth one creature that crawls; but He is deferring them to a stated term. But when their term is come – surely Allah sees His servants (Fatir, 45).

The purpose of calamities is then that we may return to the obedience of Allah and reform ourselves.

The National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) is the Nation's Scorekeeper in terms of addressing severe weather/climate events in their historical perspective. As part of its responsibility of monitoring and assessing the climate, NCDC tracks and evaluates climate

events in the U.S. and globally that have great economic and societal impacts. NCDC is frequently called upon to provide summaries of global and U.S. temperature and precipitation trends, extremes, and comparisons in their historical perspective. Found here are the weather/climate events that have had the greatest economic impact from 1980 to 2011.

Between fires, twisters, hurricanes, droughts and floods, 2011 has been Mother Nature's most continuously whopping year for the United States.

With data recently updating the number of weather disasters passing the billion-dollar mark, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration now counts a record of 12 disasters -- smashing the previous record of nine such calamities in 2008 by a third. In total, the dozen have killed almost 650 people and add up to more than \$52 billion in economic damage.

The U.S. has sustained 133 weather/climate disasters since 1980 where overall damages/costs reached or exceeded \$1 billion (including CPI adjustment to 2012). The total standardized losses for the 133 events exceed \$875 billion.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated 1,692 counties as disaster areas due to the drought. The department notes about 80% of agricultural land in the country is affected, making this year's drought more far-reaching than any since the 1950s.

Had the people of the cities believed in Allah and worshipped Him alone and conformed to the system of faith and worship He has ordained, He would have opened for them all the great channels of mercy, blessings and prosperity from the realm of heaven above them and from the earth beneath their feet. But they obstinately denied His signs, so He seized them in requital for what they used to earn.

Yet had the peoples of the cities believed (in Allah's oneness) and been god-fearing (by applying the teachings of the divine Books), We would have opened upon them blessings from heaven and earth; but

they cried lies, and so We seized them for what they earned (Al-A'raf, 96).

The Koran also says:

How many a Prophet We sent among the ancients, but not a Prophet came to them, without they mocked at him; so We destroyed men stronger in valor than they, and the example of the ancients passed away (before them) (Az-Zukhruf, 6).

We also read in the Koran:

How many a city turned in disdain from the commandment of its Lord and His Messengers; and then We made with it a terrible reckoning and chastised it with a horrible chastisement (Al-Talaq, 8).

Allah gives the sinners respite and delays His action, but assuredly His guile is sure and it strikes at the root. The sinners will be caught suddenly and utterly unprepared while engrossed in unbelief, a life of impiety and open revolt against their Lord.

Mocking at the Messengers and disrespecting them must be universally condemned and must be considered blameworthy as other forms of racist and hate-speech. Those who wish to promote peace and mutual understanding, should voice their concern over the irresponsible abuse of the media, because such actions only lead to more hatred and suspicion. As citizens of the global village, insults and mockery towards religious figures are unacceptable.

Muslim believers are friends one of the other; they bid to honor and forbid dishonor, and they obey Allah and His Messenger. Upon them Allah will have mercy. No wonder, they are the victors.

Muslims are the knights of Allah on earth. We believe in Him and our adoration of Him brings us to our knees. We prostrate ourselves before Him and worship Him alone. We defend His religion because He loves those who fight in His way.

Muslims are watching. We will leave the morons increase in their error and insanity till they encounter the Day of Judgment wherein they shall be faced with terror. The Day when their plotting will avail them nothing and no help shall be given them. Yes, the Day of Judgment is their tryst, and the Day of Judgment is very calamitous and bitter.

US foreign policy towards Muslims must change

The official United States policy towards Islam is quite admirable. "Our policies are guided by our profound respect for Islam," states a January report by the White House on national security strategy for the new century. "US policy in the region is directed at the actions of governments and terrorist groups, not peoples or faiths."

However, the reality is different. American policy toward Islam in practice is reflected in CIA director George Tenet's testimony before the Senate Select Intelligence Committee in February. Tenet named the global Islamic movement as a principle national security threat.

"There is an intricate web of alliances among Sunni extremists worldwide, including North Africans, radical Palestinians, Pakistanis, and Central Asians...there's an infrastructure out there that is perhaps bigger than we anticipated," said Tenet. "We essentially have undertaken to systematically develop a strategic plan to attack this infrastructure."

Some might object that the two statements are not contradictory; that the first refers to Islam as a world faith, and the second relates to "extremists" and "terrorists." The premise of this objection is rooted in a fundamental misunderstanding and shortsightedness in American foreign policy that, if not corrected by the incoming administration, could lead the United States into a quagmire.

In villages and cities from the Balkans to Africa to China, young people are discovering the richness of the faith of their ancestors, the faith that led them to build just societies, to reach new heights in art, science, and culture. At the grassroots, Muslims are convinced their civilization is on the brink of recovering from the Islamic world's

equivalent of Europe's Dark Ages. The world can count on Muslims continuing to search for ways to bring this renaissance about.

The primary fallacy underpinning American foreign policy in the region is the idea that the global Islamic awakening is an inherent danger to the United States. This impression was burned into policymakers' minds when the Shah, America's client in Iran, was tossed out in 1979 with a great deal of understandable animosity toward the tyrant's sponsors in Washington. The perception of an "Islamic threat" is reinforced by manifestations of Muslim anger over America's sponsorship of the Zionist regime in Palestine and a host of two-bit dictators in the region.

Some observers conclude that Muslim anger toward the US exists because Islamic society is, at heart, totalitarian, and that it is America's "freedom and democracy" that rubs Muslim sensibilities raw. It is certainly the case that America's steady cultural moral decline saddens and repulses religious Muslims (as it does religious Christians), but to suggest that opposition to "democracy" is the source of Muslim anger with the US is uninformed and ethnocentric.

Anger flows only when Muslims are on the receiving end of perceived or real American-supported or American-tolerated oppression. Political prisoners in Egypt (the second largest recipient of US aid), Palestinian refugees under American-made Israeli guns, and religious Turkish women blocked from an education by their government while the US remains silent can all be excused for their bitterness. Policymakers, however, see this anger and conclude that the solution is to encourage yet more repression of the thriving Islamic movement.

Case in point: speaking this month at Johns Hopkins University, Lt. Col. William Lahue of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said that US Army special forces are stationed in Uzbekistan and provide training, trucks, radios, and other so-called "non-lethal" military equipment to that country for its war on Islamic insurgents. NATO holds regular exercises to train Central Asian dictatorships "to be able to handle these internal regional problems," US General Thomas Franks was recently quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, human rights groups, Congressional committees, and even the US State Department say Uzbekistan's treatment of Islamic believers is appalling. Human Rights Watch reports that police routinely torture and murder detainees in Uzbekistan in the course of its neo-communist government's "crackdown against those whose practice of Islam falls outside of state-sanctioned religion, often charging them with ill-defined crimes of 'religious extremism'."

Tenet's warning of an "intricate web of alliances" is ironic. Islamic activists would not have to operate underground to achieve reforms in their countries if the region's governments were not, in general, ruthless dictatorships hell-bent against any sort of opposition. Instability in the region is not caused by Islamic groups but by autocracies that drive those believers underground and deny them peaceful means of participation in society.

A December report by the National Foreign Intelligence Board predicts that by the year 2015, "political Islam in various forms will be an attractive alternative for millions of Muslims throughout the region...Islamists could come to power in states that are beginning to become pluralist and in which entrenched secular elites have lost their appeal."

A policy based upon the notion that the Islamic revival is inherently anti-American and thus must be suppressed is a self-fulfilling prophecy. A non-hostile relationship with the grassroots of the Islamic world is vastly more beneficial to America's national security interests than friendly relationships with regimes that are useful in the short term for their complacency but that are doomed by their autocratic domestic behavior.

Rather than earning the rancor of millions of Muslims by, in the CIA director's words, "systematically developing a strategic plan to attack" the Islamic movement, the incoming administration should enter into a dialogue with its leaders, who are generally more representative of the Muslim world than its political rulers. Such a dialogue would help the United States understand why Muslims are sometimes angry at its actions, and thus build a foreign policy toward the Islamic world that will reduce the aggregate level of tension in a world that does not need a new cold war (18).

In the heat of anti-American demonstrations sweeping lands west and east of the Red Sea, north and south of the Gulf of Aden — protests at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo [Egypt], protests at U.S. diplomatic facilities in Sana'a [Yemen], Khartoum [The Sudan], and across the region; myriad manifestations of resentment against the United States in much of the Arab and Muslim worlds — most Americans don't want to understand.

“The critical issue is the deep-seated resentment that people have for U.S. policy throughout the region. Hatred and resentment for U.S. policy are the heart of the problem. Communities throughout the Middle East are angry.

Nevertheless, the people and politicians in United States are reluctant to grapple with Middle Eastern reality and are clearly resistant to change.

Promises 2009 made at Istanbul, Turkey, and Cairo and the campaign pledge “not just to end the Iraq war but also to end the ‘mindset’ that had gotten the United States into that strategically and morally failed project went unfulfilled. The new administration walked back completely from those commitments.

The unasked question is why the dishonesty in policies; and, in light of this, how can people of the Middle East take seriously the word the United States of America “as a constructive force. Until Americans and the politicians can address this question, they will never understand the reasons underlying “Middle Easterners’ anger.”

Americans have not begun to grapple with the enormity of the challenge as countries in the Middle East became more politically participatory, and people have a voice.

Thinking that the United States has “cards” with which it can leverage key local actors is fantasy. The first trips of the new president of Egypt, for example, were not to the United States but to China and Iran.

The train has left the station in these countries, unless America figures out how to adapt, the strategic position of the United States — in the Middle East and hence throughout the world — will continue to erode (19).

Indeed, the deepest wellsprings of resentment lie in US policy on the region. From backing dictatorships, to the strangulation by sanctions and eventual evisceration of Iraq, to drone strikes across the Muslim world, to steadfast support for Israel's occupation of Palestine, now in its fifth decade—the list of grievances is long. And Muslims are well aware of the Islamophobia permeating American society and government.

Washington's support for the Arab Spring was too inconsistent and came too late to outweigh America's troubled history in the region. The collapse of longstanding dictatorships has allowed antipathy against the United States.

The United States needs a radically new Middle East policy, based on respect for the democratic aspirations of Arabs and Muslims, with economic assistance focusing on jobs and justice, and an end to military solutions that seek control rather than cooperation. If we want a change in attitudes, we need a change in policy.

The United States must change her policy according to the events of the Arab spring. The changes Egypt has undertaken in her internal policy after the revolution could help define the main issues the United States has to adopt in her foreign policy towards the region.

On the eve of his first trip to the United States as Egypt's new Islamist president, Mohamed Morsi said the United States needed to fundamentally change its approach to the Arab world, showing greater respect for its values and helping build a Palestinian state, if it hoped to overcome decades of pent-up anger. It was up to Washington to repair relations with the Arab world and to revitalize the alliance with Egypt, long a cornerstone of regional stability.

"If Washington is asking Egypt to honor its treaty with Israel", he said, "Washington should also live up to its own Camp David commitment

to Palestinian self-rule. He said the United States must respect the Arab world's history and culture, even when that conflicts with Western values."

President Morsi emphasized that Egypt under Islamist rule will remain a stable partner, but the United States should not expect Egypt to live by its rules.

President Morsi said, "If you want to judge the performance of the Egyptian people by the standards of German or Chinese or American culture, then there is no room for judgment," he said. "When the Egyptians decide something, probably it is not appropriate for the U.S. When the Americans decide something, this, of course, is not appropriate for Egypt."

He suggested that Egypt would not be hostile to the West, but would not be as compliant as Mr. Mubarak either.

"Successive American administrations essentially purchased with American taxpayer money the dislike, if not the hatred, of the peoples of the region," he said, by backing dictatorial governments over popular opposition and supporting Israel over the Palestinians.

Little known at home or abroad until just a few months ago, he was the Brotherhood's second choice as a presidential nominee after the first choice was disqualified. On the night of the election, the generals who had ruled since Mr. Mubarak's ouster issued a decree keeping most presidential powers for themselves.

But last month Mr. Morsi confounded all expectations by prying full executive authority back from the generals. In the interview, when an interpreter suggested that the generals had "decided" to exit politics, Mr. Morsi quickly corrected him.

President Morsi stated, "The president of the Arab Republic of Egypt is the commander of the armed forces, full stop. Egypt now is a real civil state. It is not theocratic, it is not military. It is democratic, free, constitutional, lawful and modern."

He added, "We are behaving according to the Egyptian people's choice and will, nothing else — is it clear?"

He praised Mr. Obama for moving “decisively and quickly” to support the Arab Spring revolutions, and he said he believed that Americans supported “the right of the people of the region to enjoy the same freedoms that Americans have.”

Arabs and Americans have “a shared objective, each to live free in their own land, according to their customs and values, in a fair and democratic fashion,” he said, adding that he hoped for “a harmonious, peaceful coexistence.”

But he also argued that Americans “have a special responsibility” for the Palestinians because the United States had signed the 1978 Camp David accord. The agreement called for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank and Gaza to make way for full Palestinian self-rule.

“As long as peace and justice are not fulfilled for the Palestinians, then the treaty remains unfulfilled,” he said.

He made no apologies for his roots in the Brotherhood, the insular religious revival group that was Mr. Mubarak’s main opposition and now dominates Egyptian politics.

“I grew up with the Muslim Brotherhood,” he said. “I learned my principles in the Muslim Brotherhood. I learned how to love my country with the Muslim Brotherhood. I learned politics with the Brotherhood. I was a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood.”

He left the group when he took office but remains a member of its political party. But he said he sees “absolutely no conflict” between his loyalty to the Brotherhood and his vows to govern on behalf of all, including members of the Christian minority or those with more secular views.

“I prove my independence by taking the correct acts for my country,” he said. “If I see something good from the Muslim Brotherhood, I will take it. If I see something better in the Wafd” — Egypt’s oldest liberal party — “I will take it.”

He repeatedly vowed to uphold equal citizenship rights of all Egyptians, regardless of religion, sex or class. But he stood by the

religious arguments he once made as a Brotherhood leader that neither a woman nor a Christian would be a suitable president.

“We are talking about values, beliefs, cultures, history, reality,” he said. He said the Islamic position on presidential eligibility was a matter for Muslim scholars to decide, not him. But regardless of his own views or the Brotherhood’s, he said, civil law was another matter.

“I will not prevent a woman from being nominated as a candidate for the presidential campaign,” he said. “This is not in the Constitution. This is not in the law. But if you want to ask me if I will vote for her or not, that is something else, that is different.”

He was also eager to reminisce about his taste of American culture as a graduate student at the University of Southern California. “Go, Trojans!” he said, and he remembered learning about the world from Barbara Walters in the morning and Walter Cronkite at night. “And that’s the way it is!” Mr. Morsi said with a smile.

But he also displayed some ambivalence. He effused about his admiration for American work habits, punctuality and time management. But when an interpreter said that Mr. Morsi had “learned a lot” in the United States, he quickly interjected a qualifier in English: “Scientifically!”

He was troubled by the gangs and street violence of Los Angeles, he said, and dismayed by the West’s looser sexual mores, mentioning couples living together out of wedlock and what he called “naked restaurants,” like Hooters.

“I don’t admire that,” he said. “But that is the society. They are living their way (20).

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