

# TANZEEM-E-ISLAMI



Striving for the Law of Allah, on the Land of Allah

## PERSPECTIVE

The official online newsletter of Tanzeem-e-Islami

... Uploaded twice a month to [www.Tanzeem.org](http://www.Tanzeem.org)...



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**'PERSPECTIVE' is a trend-setting newsletter issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami that focuses on a candid commentary on the current national and international issues, in the light of the Qur'an and the Sunnah.**

**A blend that gives Muslims an insight into the events of the past, those happenings at present and the Signs of things to come...**

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**Chief Editor:** Dr. Ghulam Murtaza  
**Editor:** Raza ul Haq

**From the Qur'an:**

"And [mention] when Jesus, the son of Mary, said, "O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad." But when he came to them with clear evidences, they said, "This is obvious magic."

"And who is more unjust than one who invents about Allah untruth while he is being invited to Islam. And Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people."

"They want to extinguish the light of Allah with their mouths, but Allah will perfect His light, although the disbelievers dislike it."

"It is He who sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of truth to manifest it over all religion, although those who associate others with Allah dislike it."

(Surah As-Saf; Verses 6 - 9)

**Hadith:**

Anas ibn Malik (RA) reported: The Messenger of Allah, (SAAW) said, "None of you have faith until I am more beloved to him than his children, his father, and all of the people."

(Agreed Upon)

## { EDITORIAL }

All praise is due to Allah (SWT), and peace & blessing on his noble Messengers (AS), in particular, on the last of them all the blessed Prophet Muhammad (SAAW).

Before President Xi Jinping has even set foot on Saudi soil, there's already talk of "stepping on Washington's toes" and of interfering in a "US sphere of influence". Indeed, during his visit to Riyadh only five months ago, United States President Joe Biden told a summit of Arab leaders that the US "will not walk away" from the Middle East to leave "a vacuum to be filled by China, Russia or Iran". Biden has also tried to assure allies that the humiliating US withdrawal from Afghanistan last year will actually free more resources for its long stay in the Gulf and wider region.

But that has not deterred Xi or his hosts from organizing, in addition to a bilateral summit, separate summits with Arab states and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) during the Chinese president's visit to Riyadh from December 7-9. To rub salt into the wound, they might even go the extra mile in making the summits appear more prestigious than those organized for Biden. Why? Well, because US-Saudi relations, much like US-China ties, have been strained despite American attempts to maintain appearances of constructive engagement.

Both Riyadh and Beijing have grown tired of Washington pressuring them to take its side against Russia in Ukraine and preaching the rights and wrongs of their ways in the Western-imposed "rules-based international system". All of this seems to have brought them closer together.

A younger generation of Gulf leaders is showing more agency as they seek greater independence from Washington to diversify their partnerships in energy, technology and security. China's a natural partner for them: it seeks reliable energy sources and markets for its goods and services, and prioritizes development and trade over democracy and human rights. Some if not most of these Gulf leaders oppose Biden's attempts at reviving the Iran nuclear deal and his politicization of human rights issues. Earlier this year, the GCC even expressed support for China's controversial policies towards its Muslim Uighurs, which have been condemned by the United States and others.

In 2021, the Biden administration snubbed Saudi Arabia because of its poor human rights record and because it could afford to, with an excess of oil and gas in the global markets. Western nations were also bullish about the transition away from fossil fuels to green energy. But the Russian invasion of Ukraine earlier this year has changed all of that. The US and its European allies have suddenly found themselves facing either oil and gas shortages or higher prices that have hurt their economic recovery after the pandemic. Alas, moving away from fossil fuels will prove challenging and drawn out. Biden's attempt to appease the Saudis in the hope of lowering oil prices ahead of the US midterm elections failed miserably, as the de facto Saudi-led OPEC refused to increase oil production.

Other Western leaders have also tried their hand, with the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz descending on the Gulf region in the hope of finding a substitute for Russian oil and gas. But China had beat them to it, signing tens of billions of dollars of bidding contracts, though Europe, too, is signing energy deals with the region's monarchies. Yet while energy has been central to the new scramble for the Gulf, there is more to US frustration than mere oil and gas contracts. Unlike the fun and friendly "golf scramble", the Gulf scramble may prove ferocious and furious. Biden's frantic – even desperate – attempt to shore up the dwindling authority of the US in one of its most important spheres of influence is driven by the fear that China is willing and capable of filling the void that America may leave behind in the region and beyond.

After all, the US pivot to Asia to contain a rising China has come at a time when Beijing has been increasingly focusing its attention on the Gulf and Middle East, to secure more trade and investments than ever before.

The China Military Power 2022 report released by the US Department of Defence in the beginning of December 2022 examines

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how China seeks to achieve its “national rejuvenation” objective by 2049 with the help of international partners, such as Pakistan. The report says that China relies on Pakistan for projecting its military and economic might as Islamabad remains a key Beijing ally. According to the report, China ranks Pakistan as its only “all-weather strategic partner” while Russia as its only “comprehensive strategic partner with coordination relations”. Beijing has established a naval base in Djibouti, deployed a flotilla to the Persian Gulf, and reached strategic partnerships with Algeria, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Iran. It has also staged massive naval drills with Russia and Iran.

Unlike the energy-sufficient US, China needs the Gulf region to supply it with the oil and gas resources it needs to sustain and strengthen its economic growth and military machine and to become a world power. And that’s precisely what irks Washington. As the status quo superpower, America has dominated the region for decades whether through soft or hard power, including costly military interventions since the 1980 Carter Doctrine stipulated that the United States would use military force, if necessary, to defend its national interests in the Persian Gulf. It is not about to share all of that with what it sees as a revisionist Asian power that seeks to reshape the international order. After the USA team crashed out of the World Cup in Qatar, a popular joke on social media observed sardonically that this was the quickest that the US had ever left the Middle East.

Washington will insist on having a say regarding the shape and form of GCC-China relationships, which is sure to create new diplomatic, even geopolitical tensions. But as I wrote last year, the jury is still out on Beijing’s revisionism. Unlike the Soviet Union, China is deeply integrated into the Western-led international system, and does not seek world domination through an alternative global ideology, even if it does insist on co-authoring the principles of a new world order as an equal partner. And as Scholz writes in the Foreign Affairs magazine: “China’s rise does not warrant isolating Beijing or curbing cooperation. But neither does China’s growing power justify claims for hegemony in Asia and beyond. No country is the backyard of any other—and that applies to Europe as much as it does to Asia and every other region.”

We pray that may Allah (SWT) make these latest challenges that have arisen from the aforementioned developments a catalyst in effectuating a wake-up call for the entire Muslim Ummah, leaders and masses alike, and lead them to formulate a united front to cope with the evil designs of the enemies of Islam and Muslims.

Signing off...

Raza ul Haq (Editor)

## The Threat of Islamophobia... Within the Muslim World!

The Independent recently published an article called “Coverage of Muslims and Islam in UK media is mostly negative, study finds.” This article was based on a 162-page study:

The report by the Centre for Media Monitoring analyzed more than 48,000 online articles and 5,500 broadcast clips from 34 media organizations that mentioned Islam and Muslims between 2021 and 2022. The study, commissioned by the Muslim Council of Britain, found that almost 60 per cent of articles portrayed Islam negatively and one in five associated the faith with terrorism or extremism.

This is, of course, nothing new.

There have been many books and research articles compiled and published in relation to the Islamophobia industry, and while the majority of these focus on the US and especially the War on Terror, there have been specific studies pertaining to Islamophobia in the UK as well. One example is Leonie B. Jackson’s *Islamophobia in Britain: The Making of a Muslim Enemy*. Within this book, the author traces British Islamophobia back to colonialism and Orientalism (so way before 9/11), and she examines the issue mainly through the lens of Critical Race Theory.

Basically, everyone knows about Western Islamophobia, though timely reminders that often show up in the form of these studies are still very much welcome. Western Islamophobia could even be considered to be somewhat “expected” (since after all, Islam stands against their liberal world-system), but when have you ever seen anyone talking about the Islamophobia found... within the Muslim world?

“Indigenous Islamophobia”?

In 2018, Routledge released a book with an intriguing title: *Islamophobia in Muslim Majority Societies*. The book was edited by Farid Hafez and Enes Bayrakli. The work is a compilation consisting of chapters written by various authors, all pertaining to Islamophobia within different geographical locations in the Muslim world (Pakistan, Egypt, Turkey, Albania, and so on). As we’re not doing a complete book review, we’ll just be presenting a select few representative excerpts.

In chapter 4, Syed Furrukh Zad Ali Shah writes about how Pakistan’s elite promotes blatant Islamophobia through their secular and modernist projects: “Pakistan, with a 97 per cent Muslim population and a declared Islamic Republic, has a smaller, yet formidable section of society that corresponds to Islamophobic currents.

These Westernized secular power elites share similar anti-Islam sentiments, rooted in traditional Western discourses of secularism and modernity. Furthermore, modern resurgence of political Islamism and its conflation with violence also demonizes the religion in general, which is embedded in local cultural traditions and social customs. Religion that is seen as anti-modern and irrational has to be disposed of if society is to be reformed and modernized.”

And as the author demonstrates, this is not something restricted only to Pakistan. Rather, it extends to pretty much any Muslim country where the “post-colonial” elite ironically believes that “development” is attained by force, in the same way that colonialists tried to implement it.

To highlight a single example, think of the emphasis placed on “girls’ education.”



And then there's the fact that this "education" absolutely must take place in a secular setting—not a madrasah, never!—and obviously, following Western ideals and values.

In chapter 9, Sahar El Zahed examines the "internalized Islamophobia" in the Egyptian media. "You'd assume that such a thing wouldn't happen in a country where around 90% of the citizens are Muslims, but the author shows how Islam is constantly associated in the mainstream media with "violence," "backwardness," etc., and this is something that has intensified significantly since Sisi usurped power in 2014.

In fact, one of the most Islamophobic quotes that she presents is from Sisi himself, from "a speech at Al-Azhar University during the anniversary of the Prophet" ﷺ: I am referring here to the religious clerics. We have to think hard about what we are facing – and I have, in fact, addressed this topic a couple of times before. It's inconceivable that the thinking that we hold most sacred should cause the entire umma [Islamic world] to be a source of anxiety, danger, killing and destruction for the rest of the world. Impossible! That thinking – I am not saying 'religion' but 'thinking' – that corpus of texts and ideas that we have sanctified over the centuries, to the point that departing from them has become almost impossible, is antagonizing the entire world. It's antagonizing the entire world! Is it possible that 1.6 billion people [Muslims] should want to kill the rest of the world's inhabitants – that is 7 billion – so that they themselves may live? Impossible!"

Consider the occasion. Consider the place. He couldn't possibly have found a better time to describe Islam as a—if not the—source of all of humanity's problems!

As a thought exercise, it may also be interesting to reproduce this notion of "indigenous Islamophobia" with secular rulers and "decolonial privilege." Imagine a "White imperialist" using the exact words used by Sisi. He would be lambasted. But a Brown man with a name that sounds Islamic can somehow get away with openly saying such things; or banning the Hijab; or changing the language's script, etc., all in the name of "modernity" (which is itself the product of the "White imperialist"). Yet for some reason, he'll face no significant opposition. In fact, he might even be praised as a "leader" or as the "father of the nation"!

Islamophobia is universal because liberalism has become universal as well (through "globalization") and found willing allies (the loyal minions that are propped up as our so-called "elite") within the Muslim world.

**Courtesy:** <https://muslimskeptic.com/2022/11/24/islamophobia-muslim-world/>

## Press Releases issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami

**Date: 09 December 2022**

**Lahore (PR): "The China-Arab Summit is a severe dent to the global hegemonic ambitions of USA."**

This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, in a statement. The Ameer said that the China-Arab Summit and China-GCC Conference to be held during the ongoing visit of the Chinese President Xi Jinping to Saudi Arabia, in which the heads of state of 14 Arab countries are expected to attend, will usher in the beginning of a seismic shift regarding the regional and global world affairs. The rulers of USA had become used to treating Saudi Arabia as a client state. The fact of the matter is that the most important element of the US foreign policy is providing protection to the illegitimate Zionist state of Israel and the US has had complete control over almost all Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, toward that end during the last few decades. He said that the 34 agreements signed between China and Saudi Arabia worth \$30bn is clear evidence that Saudi Arabia is trying hard to break the shackles of US subjugation. The Ameer said that the Arabs would need to remain vigilant as the US would use all kinds of ploys to sabotage their growing relations with China. The Ameer concluded by emphasizing that it is imperative for the Muslim countries to unite against the malevolent powers so their nefarious designs could be thwarted.

**Date: 02 December 2022**

**Lahore (PR): "The resurgence of terrorism in the country is a matter of grave concern."**

This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, during the Khitab e Jumu'ah at Qur'an Academy Lahore. The Ameer said that the rise in incidents of terrorism after TTP announced to terminate the ceasefire agreement with the state of Pakistan is a dangerous development. One the one hand, neither TTP nor the government of Pakistan are willing to accept any of the demands of each other, while on the other hand the perturbing incidents of terrorism have become rife again. Moreover, the internal politics of the country seems devoid of any gesture of goodwill for each other and instead the politicians appear to have become mutual enemies rather than political rivals. The Ameer said that all politicians must unite on one platform to resolve the problems and difficulties of the country. The fact of the matter is that in order to ensure peace and order in the country, the differences with all groups that have misgivings, including TTP, should be resolved through negotiations. The government and state institutions must recognize that the use of excessive force to establish the writ of the state is counterproductive. Therefore, the Ameer concluded by emphasizing, all stakeholders should exercise utmost restraint and show compassion according to the Islamic principles, so that peace and order could be restored in Pakistan.