

How terrorism and its perception shaped by mass media

## 1 Introduction

2 Thesis statement: Mass media is playing greater role in shaping perception of masses around the world regarding terrorism. It had portrayed a bleak picture of muslim world as originator and promoter of terrorism. by connecting while presenting such some incident in western countries witnessed its biased role.

3 Difference between terrorism and freedom fighter, and role of Media

4 How terrorism shapes perceptions of masses?

- Strong Western influence on Mass Media
- World leaders and their <sup>political motives in influencing</sup> ~~role~~ ~~in~~ media ~~coverage~~
- Portraying Islam and Muslims as terrorist
- Financial dependence of media and exploitation of ~~economically~~ economically weak muslim countries
- Wide coverage of media after emergence of technology enhance its role in shaping perceptions
- lack of censorship mechanism especially in social media and reluctance of world leader regarding <sup>case of</sup>

5 Effects of Media biasness on World on general <sup>this</sup> and muslim world in particular

- Spread of Islamophobia and Muslim community as terrorist

b) Promotion of ethnicity and racism in world by giving biased picture

c) Economic effects of <sup>media business</sup> on Muslim world

d) Social ills and other social ills in muslim world due to degradation by media

e) Political breakdown and hampered ability of Muslim countries

6. Mitigating these business and way forward

a) Responsibility of world leaders to reshape role of media in painting true ~~essence~~ essence of terrorism

b) Observance of strict code of conduct for social media and practitioners

c) Financial <sup>and fair</sup> independence of media to promote free flow of information

d) Promotion of humanity rather than racism

7. Conclusion

Mass media is playing greater role in shaping perceptions of masses around the world regarding terrorism. It has portrayed a bleak picture of muslim world as originator and promoter of terrorism. While presenting some stories of west in more mild way witness biased role of media. Media has failed in differentiating between terrorism and freedom fight. Instead it has associated these terms based on the division of world; global north and global south. Few powerful and hegemonic states used ~~ever~~ have furthered their political motives using muslims and Islam as a cover to protect their genocide. All around the world, an ~~single~~ act of muslim individual gets attached to whole community while such act in west world remains confined to that particular individual not with the whole western community. This situation get worsened in absence of strict code of conduct for media especially social media who enjoys a large number of followers. Media in the world is financially dependent and prefer to remain loyal with west to meet its financial needs. As a result of

media's biased role muslim world have suffered a lot in social, economic, political and almost all spheres of life. Media and world leaders, especially of US, EU and China, should realize their role and part accordingly. This is the dire need of hour because world is already on the edge of the war. Any insignificant event could worsen the situation by bringing states into third world war which is cyber war. (200)

Terrorism is act of using and abusing force for political or vested interest. This term has emerged into world since 1979, after Russian invasion in Afghanistan. On the other hand, freedom fight is a struggle for some collective interest, rights and in some cases self-determination. Media has failed in distinguishing freedom fighter and terrorism on basis of its true meaning and situation instead it has associated terrorism with muslim world particularly and freedom fight with mighty greater powers and their allies. For example, they call Kashmiris<sup>as</sup> freedom fighters as terrorist while Israeli aggressors as freedom fighter or defenders.

This form of presentation has shaping public thoughts in way in which a common man living in Australia or Europe who ~~never~~<sup>neither</sup> met with any muslim nor eye witnessed any terror attack by muslim but still think of a muslim community as sponsor of terrorism. (110)

There are several factors behind this perception of a common white man. Media has influenced his thoughts greatly. The first and foremost factor is western influence on media. Almost whole world <sup>wholly</sup> ~~greatly~~ depend on western news agencies, associated press and others, for <sup>getting</sup> news. Western countries owns more than 80% satellites and other high technical equipment to cover and control news. Western media molds stories in way to paint muslim world as offenders and terrorist. They distribute these news throughout the world which further reinforce a worst perception regarding terrorism and muslims. (80)

World leaders, UN and EU's, have their political agendas to promote through present muslims as terrorist. The main reason behind using media against muslim is to suppress

muslim world. Islam is most growing religion of the world with emerging number of followers. Western community fears the influence of muslims over world order. Moreover, they have misinterpreted the concept of "Jihad". Media uses "Jihad" as a ~~lego~~ warrant to muslims by religion to fight and spread terrorism in world. (80)

In media stories a fact to be <sup>critically</sup> observed is that whenever media reports a terrorist or violent event of a muslim, <sup>media</sup> it terms it as an -terrorist attack without even looking for facts and cross validating them to check either its an attack or freedom fight. On the other hand same event in west reported with generous and tolerant language by calling commitor as insane or mentally ill. This biasness of media has reinforced among masses sentiments against muslims. (80)

In our global system media claims to be free and fair but in reality it has financial constraints which do not let media to play its role fairly. Western countries being developed and economically strong

give financial aids to media. It is natural phenomenon that media cannot report against western interests. In exchange of finance media has assumed responsibility to promote western agenda by compromising their code of ethics.

Another factor that intensifying the world sentiments is wide coverage of media with the emergence of technology. Social media has a far greater reach than newspapers and radio had in past. In <sup>the</sup> age of information, every person is greatly gets influence from media.

These technologies have made information to spread within seconds. Events are being reported on Twitter and other social media apps. The users of social media have ~~mostly~~ no age bracket today. This has impacted public mind and molded their opinion regarding terrorism and muslims.

Technology with its pros and cons has excited a wrecked havoc in world. <sup>Countries</sup> ~~to~~ have <sup>less</sup> ~~lessened~~ the control of ~~authorities~~ over social media and other ~~ways~~ ~~of~~ technologies. It is far difficult to control or shut down social

media than newspapers. Due to this freedom world have no strict code of conduct and control mechanism in media. Another mounting issue is world's leaders' reluctance to impose <sup>restrictions</sup> them to control exploitation <sup>and defeciation</sup> of muslim world. ~~and~~ These unfair role of media has impacted muslim world badly.

~~The~~ Probably the most worst impact is spread of Islamophobia. Masses have started showing hatred towards Islam because they thinks - that Islam promotes terrorism. This is obviously not true but a common perception by virtue of Mass media. Recent incidents of burning of Quran in France, insulting comments on our beloved personality, Prophet PBUH, in India by BJP leaders and in UK. There are thousand other incident witnessing Islamophobia spread by media.

UN human rights organization works for human rights of people around the world. Charter of UN ~~was~~ ensured equality of all but due to media's made perception a great emergence of racism



and ethnicity is witnessed. For example, many students from muslim countries face racial abuse in western countries. They are ethnically undermined due to ethnic differences. Black people are not considered equal to white ones. They are forced to do low-wages jobs. This is not confined to communities alone but in universities as well where teachers grade a child based on his color.

Muslim countries are already lagging behind western world economically. Media has further deteriorated the ~~impar~~ situation and pushing developing countries into deep economic chaos.

A muslim student find very difficult to get visa of western country which put pressure on ~~the~~ economy, increase unemployment and country. Due to fear of terrorist, foreign investor do not consider muslim countries safe for their investment which contribute into ~~low~~ low FDI and country's revenue

The increase in poverty, low human development, skyrocketing inflation, mounting money devaluation, increased illiteracy have both

long and short term impacts.

Economic impacts always leads to social impacts. This cannot be a case in which people with high poverty, rising prices, intense unemployment, and low human development leads a prosperous and happy life. In muslim world, social unrest has ~~at~~ reached its climax. Young graduates are frustrated and finding ways to leave country, brain drain, poor and underdeveloped areas due to low investment further cause violence and insurgencies.

The ~~a~~ ~~same~~ ~~in~~ muslim world' <sup>leader</sup> tagged with terrorism ~~an~~, finds very difficult to be heard and diplomatically negotiate. ~~It is~~ Very often a muslim leader finds himself in a <sup>weak</sup> position where he is not able to explain its stance in the world.

Media has made people to see muslims and leaders as terrorist so people follow suit. Nobody wants to hear and see injuries of a terrorism <sup>neglects</sup> neither feels pain <sup>not</sup> sympathy for muslim.

UN an organization to promote human rights and peace is responsible to control the world and pulling it back from brink of another war. US and EU being leaders of most developed states should come into scene and perform their obligations regarding promotion of peace. They should use media and other resource in a fair and honest manner instead of promoting their own vested interests. They should provide world with strict code of conduct for media. Controlling AI and other technology is need of the hour. ~~It~~ <sup>They</sup> should not use these technologies as a weapon to spread their influence and suppress others. Media should remind its role and ethics for honest practice. It should be financially independent so it can perform according to true spirit of its duty. Formalion of Press trust Fund internationally and in many countries is a right step in right direction. An independent media could ensure free flow of information by not undermining any religion or creed. It should promote humanity

instead of racism and ethnicity. World is badly fractured on ethnic and racial line, any exploitation by media could add fuel to the fire which media would not be able to control.

Media is only power around the world gifted with enormous pros and cons depending on its use. In modern world, media has assumed special role of informing, educating and influencing. Media through its diverse medium ~~info~~ influence public perception. It the media who makes King and villains. In recent decade media has contributed much in ~~shaping~~ portraying muslims as terrorist and this influence can be seen in public acts happening all <sup>over the</sup> world. It is the need of time to reshape role of media with more responsible and honest role to play in shaping ~~the~~ perceptions of masses.