

please give me marks out of
100.

Name : Attia Altaf.
Subject : English Essay

Problems of the Muslim Ummah.

Outline

1. Introduction:

1.1. Problems

- (i) Tarnishing of Muslim image.
- (ii) Link with terrorism.
- (iii) Lack of Unity.
- (iv) Utilisation of resources.
- (v) High illiteracy rates.
- (vi) Weak democracies.
- (vii) Muslim youth vulnerable to extremist ideas.
- (viii) Little influence in world affairs.
- (ix) Lack of Peace and Stability.
- (x) Poverty eradication.
- (xi) Lack of human resource development.
- (xii) Dependency upon outside Powers.

(xiii) Disinterest in scientific knowledge

(xiv) Strengthening the bridges of

cooperation with the west.

(xvii) OIC : its Failure

(xviii) Sectarian conflict within
muslim societies

(xix) Food crisis and Poverty

(xx) climate change

(B) Suggestions:-

(i) Unity of Muslim Ummah

(ii) Trade

(iii) Promote education

(iv) Increase trade among
muslim nations

(v) Proposed Strategy to
replace dollar

(vi) OIC : 10 year plan outlined

(vii) Comments by western authors

Essay

"O ye who believe! Keep your duty to Allah and fear Him and speak the truth, He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger (SAW), he has indeed achieved a great success."

(Al-Quran)

Muslims today are facing some of the most critical challenges to their well-being and to their place in the global order. The challenge before the Muslim world today is to confront the ugly realities of our present situation and restore the image of muslims and Islam. We must strive for a renaissance of the Islamic civilisation. We must recover the hallmarks of that civilisation,

namely: peace, prosperity and dignity. As always the quest for international respect and dignity must begin at home. We must create an environment where peace can prevail, economies can prosper and people find their dignity.

Here, Professor Khurshid Ahmed quotes Robert Briffault, who examines in his monumental work "The making of Humanity", the record of the Muslim state and society. He observes: "Theocracy in the East has not been intellectually tyrannical or coercive. We do not find there the obscurantism, the holding down of thought, the perpetual warfare against intellectual revolt which is such a familiar feature of the European world, with Greece and Rome at its back."

The problem that bedevil the Muslim world have become widespread to the point that our image is tarnished by unfair stereo types. For example, Islam is now equated with violence, poverty and indignity. In reality, these troubles have nothing to do with Islam. These are not problems that are exclusively in the domain of Muslims.

More damaging is the increasingly professed link between international terrorism and Islam. The terrible events of September 11, 2001 have provided a convenient excuse for those who want to promote the theory of a clash of civilisations. To them, it is convenient to paint matters in the starkest possible terms between black with white, good and evil and the west and Islam. To

~~these~~ ~~cynics~~ ~~we~~ ~~can~~ ~~offer~~ ~~a~~
these cynics, we can offer a
Simple mathematical proposition:
terrorist-organisations. In comparison,
there are more than a billion
Muslims living very ordinary
and very peaceful lives. It is,
therefore, tragic that this
spurious association of Islam
and Muslims with terrorism has
gained international currency.

We must admit that
many of these problems arise due
to our weaknesses. And much of
our weakness stems from the
fact that our unity is so fragile
and all too easily fragmented.
All Muslims read the Quran.
It is and will always be a
source of divine guidance and
inspiration. The teachings of
the Quran are dynamic and
relevant for all times. As
such, it should not be blamed

for our failings but rather we should reproach ourselves for not successfully understanding its teachings and its messages.

But violence is not our only problem. There is an abundance of resources in many muslim countries. Indeed, some of us are rich and affluent. Yet poverty and other forms of deprivation are also an extensive and unfortunate part of the muslim landscape. As successive United Nations Development Programme reports attest, poverty is a serious problem in at least half the countries of the muslim world. In ~~the~~ Sub-Saharan Africa, of which a sizable portion is muslim, as much as 90 percent of the population of some countries subsist on less than US \$2 per day in purchasing power

Parity terms.

Islam emphasizes the pursuit of knowledge. Yet a majority of Muslim countries also has high adult illiteracy and indignity. Millions of Muslim children around the globe are malnourished. Most of the refugees in the world today are Muslims.

On the political front, much more can be done by some Muslim countries to allow participation by their people in the process of governance. It is important to recognise that, without their participation, the government will not know the people's aspirations and their full potential will also remain untapped. The limitation of civil and political liberties is particularly severe in the case of women in many

Muslim countries.

It is under these political and socio-economic conditions, when peaceful and democratic means for redress are limited, that the Muslim youth are vulnerable ~~to~~ to succumb to extremist ideas. Once they Muslim nurturing extremist ideas, they become easy recruits for those interested in ~~can~~ usurping religion for their narrow and violent ideas. Those who resort to terrorism often end up hurting not only the innocent but also the very cause that they try to champion. Violence and terrorism create a negative image of Islam and Muslims which can be exploited by Islam's enemies.

The cumulative impact of all these problems is to give an extremely negative

image of the Muslim World.
Because of our lack of capacity,
Muslim nations are often on the
periphery of the Global Order.
Despite our number, we have
little influence in world affairs.
We are accorded little
respect in the community of
nations.

Our first prerequisite
will have to be peace and
stability. We cannot prosper or
live in dignity without peace.
The peace and stability we
seek, cannot be imposed by
the barrel of a gun. And
peace that is attained by
denying our citizens a legitimate
voice is illusory and will
not last. Such a peace will
eventually breed a violent
reaction.

For the Muslim
World, to truly uplift,

We must concentrate on capacity building. The Ummah must be equipped with the tools to succeed. We should grasp every opportunity to exchange experiences amongst ourselves in areas concerning poverty eradication, development and economic growth. However, mere growth is insufficient. We must aim for growth that is sound and sustainable growth that is shared efficiently and distributed equitably.

One of the greatest constraints upon Muslim empowerment in global affairs is the fact that we are often divided among ourselves. We must close ranks. We should seek to dilute the mistrust, animosity and rivalry that sometimes undermine our cohesion. We should

strive to present a strong and united front on the issues that are dear and vital to the Muslim world. We must reduce our dependency upon outside powers and resist compromising our collective interests in favour of theirs.

The future of Muslims and Islam however, ultimately, lies in working with others for mutual enrichment and not in conflict with them. We cannot advance by building walls and retreating into our shells. We must actively seek out and engage the other for there is much that we can learn and benefit from them.

Early Islamic civilisation was open and outward looking. For instance, it did not hesitate to absorb scientific knowledge from the Greeks and the

Romans. In this process, Islamic civilisation also contributed to this knowledge base and passed it on to the Western World.

There is even greater urgency now for the Muslim world to learn from own neglect and poor governance. We must strengthen the bridges of cooperation and understanding with the west and with others. We must build trust and confidence. There is much that Islamic civilisation shares with the others. Muslim nations deserve to be accorded respectability by the international community.

The poorest countries with scarce natural resources and human capital will face the greatest challenges. National action alone will be inadequate. They will require robust and sustained external support from the international community including from friends in the Muslim World.

OIC aims to promote Islamic solidarity by coordinating social, economic, scientific and cultural activities. It is also pledged to eliminate racial segregation and discrimination. Unfortunately, it has not evolved into a responsible and creative body. Following are the problems. Lack of democracy, ethnic strife, international trade is very low, low trade among OIC countries, no research, far behind in

the field of science and technology illiteracy etc.

The suggestions related to:

- (i) an institutional mechanism for conflict prevention and resolution with member states.
- (ii) a network of centres of excellence in science and technology,
- (iii) establishment of a permanent forum of Islamic thought to provide guidance and opinion.
- (iv) allocation of adequate financial resources to implement these proposals.
- (v) allocation of at least 0.5 per cent of the GDP by the member states for implementing OIC objectives.
- (vi) a dedicated department in the OIC Secretariat for promoting intra-OIC trade.

It is very unfortunate that the whole world is watching how Muslims kill other Muslims. The sectarian violence involving Sunni-Shia conflict must be resolved. Muslim leaders throughout the world must begin to preach on the universal message of Islam. Sectarian differences should be accepted as differences that can be debated by scholars in a peaceful and gentle environment. Or should never reach the level of violence and killing which are seeing today.

The world is reaching its limit in being able to feed growing number of human population. Due to unequal distribution and unjust global food policies, we can see increase in level of global poverty. For example, there are plenty of statistics

and data about global poverty.

For example, there are plenty of statistics and data about global poverty - there are just a few.

Each year, more than 8 million people around the world die because they are too poor to stay alive. Over 1 billion people i.e. 1 in 6 people around the world live in extreme poverty, defined as living on less than 1\$ a day. More than 800 million go hungry each day. Over 100 million primary school-age children cannot go to school.

Based on definitions established by the World Bank, nearly 3 billion people i.e. half of the world's population are considered poor. But poverty is not simply a numbers game. It is about billions of men,

women and children enduring
unimaginable obstacles that keep
them from fulfilling their
most basic human rights and
achieving their individual potentials.

There is only one way
to achieve the unity of Muslim
Ummah and that way is the
Way of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

This way was used by the
Companions (R.A) of Allah's
Prophet (SAW) and the Muslim
Scholars during the 13 centuries
of Muslim rule of this
world. One may say that
everyone follows Quran, but we
are sh'el ~~disunited~~ ~~disunited~~ disunited.
That's truth. The dispute is not
in the Quran. The dispute ~~with~~
lies with those scholars and
their followers who interpret-
Quran based upon their own
sectarian beliefs and ignore
consensus of Islamic scholars.

Muslims must return to the consensus of Islamic scholars which did exist from the period of Sahabah (R.A) till the fall of Khilafat-e-Islamiyah just one century ago. Muslims must think as one nation and must overcome the linguistic, geographical, regional and ethnic differences. The agents of colonial Empires have seeded the linguistic and regional nationalism among Muslims. Muslims must leave linguistic and regional nationalism behind and become one body. If any part of the body feels pain the entire body should feel it and find the cure for it.

One solution to our predicament is trade, which was always the cementing factor between muslim

countries even from the earliest days of the Rightly Guided Caliphs. While the armies opened the way through military and political conquests, it was the traders and trade routes that maintained and bound the ties between nations.

Investment in education, along with basic health services, offers the highest potential returns on development spending. A larger part of the continued weakness of the Ummah lies in our low literacy and low educational achievement rates. This obviously contributes to the failures of the Ummah to master science and technology and makes it difficult to be economically competitive.

Thus, today, although many people may associate the lack of ~~political~~ political ~~reform~~ reform.

Unity with the lack of unity among the Muslim communities, one may also point out that the lack of unity among the Muslim communities is due to the fact that we have stopped trading with each other as much as we used to during the Zenith of our Muslim Civilisation.

As a result of the hurdles left by our colonial invaders and masters, we find ourselves today trading through Europe or through some third non-Muslim country. We note that for much of history, the Middle East was the commercial and intellectual bridge between Asia and Europe. It was among the most cosmopolitan regions of the world, the birthplace of ~~many~~ religions and alphabets and the

repository and laboratory for knowledge of all fields. Today, it is painfully clear that the main roads of international trade have by-passed the Muslim middle East.

We need to formulate a strategy to remove the role of the dollar as the international reserve currency as well as its role as the petro-currency. The following is suggested.

Muslim nations must instruct their central banks and large corporations to convert the bulk of their US \$ holdings into assets denominated in Euro and perhaps even Yen.

The OPEC countries must take action to denominate the oil trade in Euro instead of denominating it in US dollars.

The Muslim nations must attempt to use Euro as the currency of denomination when they trade among themselves.

The Muslim nations ~~must~~ must persuade Europe to denominate its trade with Muslim nations in Euro and persuade Japan to denominate its trade with Muslim nations in Yen.

Based on the views and recommendations of scholars and intellectuals, convinced of the potential of the Muslim Ummah to achieve its renaissance and in order to take practical steps towards strengthening the bonds of Islamic solidarity achieve unity of ranks and project the true image

and noble values of Islam,
a Ten-year Programme of
Action has been developed
which reviews the most
prominent challenges facing
the Muslim world today
as well as ways and means
to address them in an objective
and realistic way in order
to serve as a practicable
and workable programme
for all OIC member
states.
