

The Ostrich mentality in the Muslim's Response to Israel's Action

The Arab Spring may have awakened the Muslim world to the power of collective action but when it comes to Palestine, the Muslim world remain stuck in winter of inaction.

I. Introduction

"The Muslim's world response to Israel's inaction has been marked by an Ostrich mentality characterized by inaction, denial and disunity."

II. Israel's creation and Expansion

Case in point: 1967 six day war and 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre

III. The Ostrich Mentality in Action

a. Muslim World inadequate response to Israel's actions including:

i. Failure to take decisive actions against Israel

ii. Inability to unite and present a cohesive force against Israel

iii. Tendency to blame internal conflicts and divisions on external conflict

Case in point: The 2008-2009 war, 2014 Gaza war and ongoing Palestinian genocide

IV

Factors contributing to Ostrich mentality

a. Internal factors such as:

i. Sectarian divisions and conflicts within Muslim world.

ii. Authoritarianism and lack of democratic governance.

iii. Economic dependence on Western powers.

b. ~~#~~ Western support for Israel.

b. External factors including

i. Western support for Israel.

ii. Global media bias in the favor of Israel.

iii. International community's failure to hold Israel accountable for its actions.

V

Consequences of Ostrich Mentality.

a. Continued Israeli expansion and aggression.

b. Humanitarian crisis and sufferings of Palestinians.

c. Erosion of Muslim world's credibility and influence on global stage.

Case in point: i. OIC response to Palestinian crisis.

ii. The response of Muslim majority countries like Saudi and Iran.

VI

The Role of leadership and civil society in challenging the Ostrich Mentality.

VII

Way Forward

- a. Approaches and solutions to overcome the Ostrich Mentality
- b. Calling Muslim communities to find a proactive and united approach in response to Israel's actions

VIII

Conclusion

In 2009, I recall watching a documentary on Gaza war, which had devastated the Palestinian territory just a year ago. As I witnessed the heart-wrenching scenes of destruction and human sufferings, I was struck by the words of Palestinian woman, who lamented, **'The world is watching, but no one is acting'**

Her poignant statement echoed the sentiments of many leaders around Muslims around the world, who feel that their leaders and the international community have failed to take decisive actions against Israel's aggressions. This sense of powerlessness and frustration has led to a pervasive Ostrich Mentality within the Muslim world where many prefer to bury their heads in the sand rather than confront the harsh realities of Israel's actions. Further in the essay there will be exploration of the causes and consequences of Ostrich Mentality and the ways to overcome this mentality.

The Creation of Israel in 1948 was a pivotal moment in the modern middle eastern history. Following world war II, the international community led by United States and United Kingdom resulted in the creation of Jewish homeland.

The formation of Jewish homeland was the result of holocaust, which resulted in the systematic persecution and murder of about **six million** Jews. which became the root cause for the creation of separate homeland for Jews.

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However, the creation of Israel came at the expense of Palestinian's life who were living in the region for centuries. The 1948 Arab-Israeli war resulted in the displacement of hundreds of Palestinians, known as **Nakba** or catastrophe. This event marked the beginning of Israeli-Palestinian conflict which continues to this day.

The **1967** Six-day war was a decisive military victory for Israel, which resulted in the occupation of Gaza Strip, West Bank and Golan Heights. This war marked a turning point in Israel-Palestinian conflict as it resulted in the displacement of thousands of Palestinians and establishment of Israeli leadership in the occupied territories. Apart from this, 1967 six day war also resulted in a shift in power dynamics in middle east as Israel began to emerge in power dynamics.

In the same way in **1982**, Sabra and Shatila massacre which were attack on the Palestinian refugees living in the camps in these areas.

It resulted in the deaths of thousands of Palestinian refugees and marked the vulnerability of Palestinians and complicity of Israelis.

During 1967 six days war, Israel had made many displacements in Palestine. They have established many settlements in occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank which are considered as illegal under international law.

Recently, The Israel has accelerated its ongoing expansion, settlement and annexation efforts.

including the construction of separation barriers on west bank. These actions have been widely condemned by International law, as they undermine the prospects for a two-state solution and perpetuate the occupation of Palestinian territories

The **1993 Oslo Accords** marked a significant turning point in Israel-Palestinian conflict, as they established a framework for peace, negotiations and the creation of Palestinian Authority. However, the Oslo Accords ultimately failed to deliver a lasting peace as Israel continued to expand its settlement and maintain its occupation in Palestinian territories

Despite numerous resolutions and statements condemning the Israel's actions, the Muslim world has failed to take decisive action to address and hold Israel accountable. This includes lack of economic sanctions or boycotts against Israel, failure to support Palestinian resistance movements, inadequate provision of humanitarian aid to Palestinians. The Muslim world had been unable to provide a united and cohesive approach against Israel. This includes majorly the division between Shia and Sunni, rivalries between different Muslim-majority countries and lack of a unified strategy or approach in addressing Israel-Palestinian conflict

Moreover, the Muslim world has often blamed internal conflicts and division on external factors rather than identifying the root cause

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of the conflict. They blamed Israel or United States for internal conflicts or divisions and failed to address the issues such as corruption, authoritarianism and human rights abuses. Also they ignored the role of interior conflicts such as sectarianism, tribalism in perpetuating the conflict.

One of the primary factors contributing to the Ostrich mentality has been the Muslim world's internal divisions and conflicts - sectarian divisions between Sunni and Shia Muslims have been a major driver of conflict and instability in the region and have often been exploited by external powers. Authoritarianism and lack of democratic governance have also contributed to the Ostrich mentality by suppressing dissent and preventing the emergence of independent civil society organizations. External factors have also contributed to Ostrich mentality. Western support for Israel has been a major driver of conflict and has often been used to justify Israeli aggression and expansion. Global media bias in the favour of Israel has also contributed to the Ostrich mentality by perpetuating negative stereotypes and misinformation about Palestinian people. The Israel's community failure to hold Israel accountable also played a major role in Ostrich Mentality because it has perpetuated culture of impunity in which Israel has been able to act without the

fear of being held accountable.

Psychological and cultural factors have also played a major role in perpetuating ostrich mentality. The Muslim world's historical experiences of colonization and oppression have left scars and often perpetuated a sense of powerlessness and victimhood. Cultural and religious narratives that emphasize martyrdoms and sacrifice have also contributed to the social ostrich mentality by giving a culture of passive resistance.

The consequences of ostrich mentality have been devastating for the Palestinian people. The failure of the Muslim world to take decisive action against Israel's aggression has allowed Israel to continue the expansion and occupation of Palestinian territories with impunity. This has resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, the destructions of their homes and property.

The Ostrich mentality has also had significant consequences for the Muslim world itself. The failure to address the root causes of Israel-Palestinian conflict has perpetuated a culture of victimhood and blame-shifting in which Muslim world has become accustomed to see itself as a passive victim of external forces, rather than as an active agent capable of shaping its own destiny.

The ostrich mentality has also had significant consequences for global peace and security.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been a major driver of global instability and extremism and has perpetuated a cycle of violence and retaliation that has had far reaching consequences for global security. The failure of Muslim world to address the conflict in a meaningful way has created the cycle of violence and undermined global efforts to promote peace and security.

One notable example of Ostrich mentality is the Muslim world's response to Israel's

2014 Gaza war. Despite widespread international condemnation of Israel's actions, the Muslim world failed to take decisive action to hold Israel accountable. Instead, Muslim-majority countries issued weak statements of condemnation while failing to take concrete steps to support the Palestinian people.

Another important example of Ostrich mentality is the **Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** response to Israel's actions.

Despite being the largest international organization of Muslim majority countries, OIC has failed to take decisive action to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Instead, OIC has issued numerous statements of condemnation while failing to take concrete steps to support the Palestinian people.

Similarly, the role of leadership has been critical in perpetuating the Ostrich mentality. Muslim leaders have often prioritized their own

domestic interest and agendas over the need to address Israel-Palestinian conflicts. This Muslim leaders have often been reluctant to challenge the status quo or to take risks in order to address the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It resulted in lack of innovation and creativity in addressing the conflict and perpetuated the cycle of inactivity and stagnation.

However, there are certain leaders who have taken courageous steps to address the conflict. However, they have faced many obstacles and challenges but have remained committed to their cause for peace and stability.

Civil society has also played a crucial role in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. Different NGOs, community groups and many other reformist groups have raised their voices for the Palestinian cause and to get rid of genocide.

However, civil society in Muslim countries have faced many challenges and obstacles in raising their voices which include pressure from governments, lack of resources and social and cultural norms that discourage activism and dissent.

To move forward, the Muslim world must adopt a courageous and proactive approach to address the Israel-Palestinian conflict. This will require effective leadership, grassroots mobilization and commitment to justice and peace.

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One key step is to promote greater awareness and understanding of conflict among Muslim nations through different platforms including social media, education, campaigns etc.

In conclusion, the Muslim world response to Israel-Palestinian cause is a Ostrich mentality of denial, inaction and disunity which leads to the deteriorating and devastating situation of Palestinians. It requires a proactive and courageous approach by the Muslim community to address the cause at international platform and to raise voice against the genocide.

**EK hon muslim Haam ki postani k liye
Neel k sahil sy ly kr tablak e Kashghar.**