

Outline

Essay: The Ostrich Mentality in the Ummah's Response to Israeli Actions.

1. Introduction

2. Israel's account of decades-long atrocities and the 'ostrich mentality' of Ummah

3. The key drivers of Muslim Ummah's passivity and fragmentation towards Palestine

(i) Geopolitics of the regional dynamics and the interference of global hegemons

(a) Colonial legacy of 'divide and rule'; the revolt of Sharif Hussein against Ottomans.

(b) Balfour Declaration (1914) and the legitimization of Zionist imperialism

(c) American 'unconditional' military, diplomatic and economic aid to key strategic partner, Israel.

(ii) Cultural, Sectarian and security-goals divergences amongst key Muslims Middle Eastern leaderships

(a) KSA and Iran; the cold war of Middle East.

(b) Fundamentalists states versus modernists; an ideological rift between ^{Muslim} states

(c) Significant divergence over key strategic objectives within the region; contest for regional hegemony and leadership.

(iii) Inability and not passiveness; stuck in domestic challenges to survival, sovereignty and stability

(a) Weak and challenged governance models; Egypt and Lebanon case.

(b) Post-Arab Spring political search for stability; Yemenis Civil war case.

(c) Terrorists and proxies pushing state's writ out; Syria HTS, AlQaeda, ISIS, and affiliates.

(iv) Failure to garner diplomatic dividends and geo-economical stakes for the world

(a) Collectively lowest contribution in international organizations, such as UNO, funding.

(b) Failure to diversify global stakes in Muslims world beyond 'Oil'.

(c) Insufficient use of geo-economics to generate geopolitical dividends.

4. Muslims Ostrich mentality offers "free-pass" to Israel continue its massive atrocities without fear of impunity

(i) The consequences of Muslims fragmentation and indifference towards Palestinian woes.

(a) Apathy leads to The empowerment of the oppressor

(b) Palestine has become hubris of dead bodies; largest open air prison and collateral damage strikes by IDFs.

(c) Displacement and massive refugee crisis.

(d) Hunger, poverty, and unemployment

- (e) Continuation of Israel's territorial expansionism and occupation, under 'Greater Israel' pretext
- (f) Erosion of the moral authority of Muslims leaders - might generate ripple effects at home.

5. Proactive and collective response ; need of an hour

- (i) Muslim Ummah must consider Israeli mass atrocities and war on Palestine as mutual and collective threat.
 - a) Building unity and cohesion
 - b) Strengthen diplomatic and economic stature
 - c) Generate counter-narratives and overcome becoming pawns of geopolitics of great powers.

6. Conclusion

"The Oppressor would not be so strong if he did not have accomplices among the oppressed". Simone de Beauvoir explains, ironically on holocaust examination, the 'banality of evilness'. To her conclusion, evil is not strong because of its evilness, rather the sustenance of evilness lies upon apathy, passiveness and the indifference of the 'rest'. Hitler was able to systematically murder 6 million European Jews not because of his power but because of the Ostrich mentality that prevailed amongst the people of that time. Unfortunately, the history is repeating itself. The victims, this time, turned the perpetrators of violence and genocide. 'We are witnessing a live genocide unfolding' reported UN representative to the Palestinian state. Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have unleashed massive genocidal campaign, under the pretext of annihilating Hamas - a terrorist designated organization responsible for 7th October attacks - without ^{any} moral or legal constrain. Israel's designation of an apartheid state, an evident consequential of its activities in the region. From collateral damage, indiscriminatory killings, extra-judicial murders, induced-hunger and poverty to land expansionism and occupation and settlements, there virtually left no harm yet to be inflicted upon Palestinians. Despite being aware of the chaos, the response of Ummah remains short of what is expected owing to geopolitical preferences, cultural-sectarian divergences, challenges at home and sheer inability to garner diplomatic and economic

stakes for the world. Muslims Ummah's ostrich mentality, fragmented and insufficient response to the unfolding genocide has ^{not only} provided free-pass to Israel to continue its atrocities on Palestinians but has also put big question mark upon moral authority of the Muslims leadership. To overcome, or at least halt the on-going unbearable genocidal campaign on Palestine, Muslims must build cohesion and unity in their narrative, response and action towards Israel.

The key drivers of Muslim Ummah's passivity and fragmented response towards Palestine constitute multiple factors. It includes geopolitical realities, cultural and sectarian divergences, domestic stability challenges and most importantly failure of 57 Muslim countries to generalise diplomatically and global economic stature. Israel is to America what Jamestown was for the British colonizers, is often said to analyse the significance of Israeli land in Middle Eastern region. The American interest and unconditional support to the Israel remains one key reason of Muslims failure and fragmentation toward Israel. The Ummah is clearly divided into pro-American and anti-American camps. Subsequently, American a global hegemon has played role in the region in manner of overthrowing anti-governments and installing puppets. Those governments not only appear to be weak domestically and governability perspective but has also significantly remained reluctant to devise any anti-Israel strategy, action or narrative.

American, British and French - former colonizers of the land - support both military and diplomatic that resulted in humiliating defeat of Muslims in series of Arab-Israel conflict. "The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must." The politico-military inferiority with respect to global powers - in favor of Israel - has resulted in Ummah's cognitive pessimism.

Besides the global politics and strategic realities, regional geostrategic dynamics plays another crucial role in driving the fragmentation of Muslim Ummah. Scholarly regarded as Middle Eastern 'Cold War' was a period when countries within the region became proxy battleground between the US and Soviet Union. With both ~~group~~ vying for interest and influence by supporting opposing factions and ideologies. The nationalists such as Nasser from Egypt aligned with the Soviets while the conservatives such as KSA leaned toward the USA. This emerged as roots of ideological, broader-interest divergences among the Muslim countries. "The Middle East is caught up in a confrontation akin to Europe's pre-Westphalian wars of religion. Religion is weaponized in the service of geopolitical objectives and civilians marked for extermination based on their sectarian affiliation" writes Henry Kissinger in 'World Order' on his analysis of the nature of conflict in the Middle East. The sectarian divergences, Iranian Shiaism and Saudi ~~Sate~~ Sunnis, further exacerbate the implicit

and internal contest for leadership within Muslim Ummah. This contestation has not only proven to be counter-productive to regional peace and consolidation but has resulted in inadequate and insufficient response and fight for the cause of Palestine. As it was manifested in Abrahams Accord, Trump's 2020 plan for Israel-Palestine conflict resolution, where regional stakeholder, immediate neighbors of Palestine and Palestinian authorities themselves were not included in negotiations.

Moreover, the ostrich mentality of Ummah towards Israel's war on Palestine accounts the domestically strain and caught up situation. Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq have to dealt with governance and economic crisis at home. Similarly, more worse domestic crisis appear in countries such as Syria, Yemen where governments have practically rendered against the rise of terrorist groups and on-set of civil war. Democracy, human rights, and rule of law in Middle Eastern Muslim-majority states remains elusive. It has resulted in popular resentment and challenge towards established governance models and authorities. Arab Spring was a manifestation of popular dissatisfaction. Majority of the countries have become "failed states" in ways that go beyond the threat posed by ethnic and sectarian divisions. They have failed to make adequate progress in civil and

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economic reforms and stopped short of reducing corruption and incompetence in national politics and governance. These problems are not specific to one-country or nations rather have been regionalized. Military backwardness and technological incompetiveness have further contributed to threatened survival and stability of these countries.

The Muslims-majority countries contribute less than 8% of global GDP collectively. If one minuses oil production and supply out of it, the figures falls to mere 4%. No single Muslim state fall in the category of top 10 contributors of United Nations budget. Failure to garner diplomati dividends, geoeconomics and financial stakes, for the global institutions and actor, in the region of Muslim dominated areas remain yet another cause of why Ummah struggles to project and successfully avail its objectives. Despite being resource and capital rich, geographically connectivity guarantor, Middle East and West Asian Muslim Countries have failed to propogate their geoeconomical importance. Economic dependencies and interconnectedness leads to political weightage and prestige. As Muslim Ummah shares miniature status in global decision making sites and procedures, such as no Muslim country at UNSC permanent seat, it becomes rather impossible to advocate its interest globally. Despite the issue and narrative of Palestinian cause remains alive, it has fallen short of generating practical and concrete conflict resolution mechanism.

So far it has been established that ^{caught up in} geopolitics, regional cultural sectarian rifts, domestically failing statuses and diplomatically weakened Ummah has developed an Ostrich mentality in its response and action towards Israeli actions and atrocities towards Palestine. Now, the implications of Ummah's ~~own~~ fragmentation, pessimism and indifference include the empowerment of Israeli oppression, humanitarian and global refugee crisis, Israel's boost for regional expansionism and most importantly, a blow to the moral authority of Muslims leadership. As Israeli forces speaks openly about ethnic cleansing of Palestinians the Western world remains silent while Ummah's action remain insultingly inadequate. Apathy and inaction not only leads to the continuation of conflict but also empower the oppressor ~~to~~ to continue without fear of impunity. Palestine represents an image of nothing short of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. With 750,000 displaced people, 40,000 and counting atrocities with 14 months and highest child mortality rate and poverty rate across the globe Palestine represents a bleak image. And the blame is on those who have offered free pass to Israeli forces and authorities to continue with their genocidal campaign - with their silence.