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Islamophobia “Trumps” Reason

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Islamophobia “Trumps” Reason

It seems to me as though much of the Islamophobic rhetoric that Trump is spreading is solely to prey on the fears of American citizens who simply do not know any better. In other words, he is using Islam as a scapegoat to get the attention off of him for those who see his behavior for what it is and that it is very fascist in nature. One of the issues with this is that, while Trump may only be using this for purposes of getting elected, people take these stances very seriously. This has resulted in the wide mistreatment of Muslims in general across the U.S. and has gone on to take the form of active discrimination.

For quite some time there has been mistrust of Muslims within this country. However, with this increase in hatred and rhetoric, it seems to have gotten much worse. Islamic citizens, or anyone who may appear to be from the Arab world for that matter, have come under direct attack. It was even shown that, for the right price, some people are willing to exploit their Muslim neighbors so that they can be identified and so that the community can aware of the “threat”. Is this really what the U.S. has come to? Imagine if we start identifying citizens based on their race, religion, or nationality so that we can start keeping tabs on them depending on the relationship we have with their country of origin or religion. This is much like what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II when they were forced to be rounded up in internment camps. Not only is this behavior dangerous in practice, but it starts to plant the idea in the average citizens mind that based on a specific quality of a person that it is okay to discriminate against because they are your enemy. This is fascism at its finest.

When someone like Trump makes a generalized statement such as “Islam hates us” it needs to be taken seriously and as an idiotic statement at the same time. For one, generalized statements such as this show little to no understanding of the subject matter and variety of people and cultures found in the world of Islam itself. On a more serious note, for those who don’t have the knowledge or intention to understand another culture, this could be viewed as an open invitation by a “political leader”, and I use that term loosely, to attack those that they don’t understand because they feel threatened. But if the only reason you feel threatened is because someone told you to feel that way, is that really a good reason? On an international note, comments such as these really hurt our allies in Muslim countries. As we say consistently, nothing happened in a vacuum. With this in mind, this kind of rhetoric, if allowed to continue through the presidency, could easily lead to a drop in international relations as those accused would not want to associate with a country that will act as an ally to them one second, and then turn around and promote anti-Muslim propaganda the next.

Another aspect to the conversation is that perhaps those who are considered the outliers of the Muslim world such as radicals in I.S., want somebody like Trump in power. Certainly they wish for conflict and to strengthen their numbers. If this country started to openly discriminate and mistreat Muslims simply for their identity, some would have no choice but to retaliate in order to protect themselves and their families. This is exactly what groups like I.S. want. They want there to be more conflict bred into Muslim societies so that radical ideals can take place. People see trump as a solution to the “Muslim problem” in the U.S. and abroad. In fact, if he were in power the situation would only become more violent as he obviously has no understanding of basic human rights or the difference between various religious sects and the people in them.

With these scenarios in mind, it can be easily stated that if Trump is allowed the presidency, it will lead to an unsatisfactory or even violent conclusion one way or the other towards Muslim Americans. The importance of this issue cannot be overstated and those who are most affected by it need to be defended so that we do not allow a fascist agenda to be carried out in this country.

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