

“The World After September 11”.
“Give Peace a Chance”

Winner of First Prize / Roundtrip Airfare to London, UK.

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Humanity, from its inception, has been plagued with a primordial nonconformist tendency that is somehow imbedded within human nature itself. The epic struggle between Habil and Kabil, perhaps defines the ferocity of this tendency that manifests itself in the form of violent conflict resolution. It shows the detestation of one brother towards his consanguine kin leading to a slaughter that inculcates itself in the minds of the progeny of Hazrat Adam till the end of time. The documentation of conflicts stretches from that time, till this very moment, as numerous examples are present in the latest newspapers of today as well as in the annals of historical texts. Contemporarily speaking, however, the events of September 11 are most definitely dwarfed by previous wars and struggles, yet as the killing of one person in Habil's case tilts the balance of justice towards him, this event gives impetus for the Muslim world to take advantage and demand peaceful resolutions for all of the genuine grievances faced in this post-Colonial era.

The changes in everyday living such as altered lifestyles and the accompanying values brought about by the industrial revolution introduced throughout the world a new era of advancement. This, followed by the technological revolution and the improvements in political representation of peoples across the globe, forced those who opposed such changes to alter their desires, or face the prospect of being left behind in such a fast-paced environment. Conflicts often arose when local traditions clashed with foreign practices, or when the increasing political and economic gap that developed threatened once harmonious coexistence between people of the same social status. Thus, this situation demanded a rational conflict resolution outline where disagreements would be negotiated and violence prohibited through the enforcement of civil law, because without peace and stability, neither commerce or education, or any other facet of normal life could flourish. With the advent of the internet and other technological wonders, it became evident that those who lagged behind would suffer both economically as well as politically, leaving rival competitors to gain market share and prosper. One can accurately make an analogy between running a business, and maintaining a society, both require and demand a peaceful, serene atmosphere where rational minds prevail over irrational decisions.

The actions of the al-Qaeda and its terrorist subsidiaries were beyond doubt based upon non-conformist and recidivistic ideologies, by people who maintained a fundamental religious doctrine that proved disastrous not only for their cause but for Muslims throughout the world. Therefore, despite having genuine concerns, resorting to an irresponsible and extremely negligent campaign of violence and terror, they have forever blacklisted their names in the annals of criminal history. Their actions are a lesson for

future activists and fighters, strongly asserting that to gain respect one must respect others and respect Allah and to obey His commandments.

History speaks, as they say, it reflects the doings of humanity in the past; let us make history speak kind words to our future generations.

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