

WESTERN IMPERIALISM MENACES MUSLIMS

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By

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INTRODUCING THE AUTHOR

Maryam Jameelah was born in 1934 in New York at the height of the Great Depression - a fourth-generation American of German-Jewish origin. She was reared in Westchester, one of the most prosperous and populated suburbs of New York and received a thoroughly secular American education at the local public schools. Always an above-average student, she soon became a passionate intellectual and insatiable bibliophile, hardly ever without a book in hand, her readings extending far beyond the requirements of the school curriculum. As she entered adolescence, she became intensely serious-minded, scorning all frivolities, which is very rare for an otherwise attractive young girl. Her main interests were religion, philosophy, history, anthropology, sociology and biology. The school and local community public libraries and later, the New York Public Library, became "her second home."

After her graduation from secondary school in the summer of 1952, she was admitted to New York University where she studied a general liberal arts programme. While at the university, she became severely ill in 1953, grew steadily worse and had to discontinue college two years later without earning any diploma. She was confined to private and public hospitals for two years (1957-1959) and only after her discharge, did she discover her facility for writing. Marmaduke Pickthall's translation of the Quran and Allama Muhammad Asad's two books - his autobiographical *Road to Mecca* and *Islam at the Crossroads* ignited her interest in Islam and after correspondence with some prominent Muslims in Muslim lands and making intimate friends with some Muslim converts in New York, she embraced Islam at the Islamic Mission in Brooklyn, New York at the hand of Shaikh Daoud Ahmad Faisal, who then changed her name from Margaret Marcus to Maryam Jameelah.

During extensive correspondence with Muslims throughout the world and reading and making literary contributions to whatever Muslim periodicals were available in English, Maryam Jameelah became acquainted with the writings of Maulana Sayyid Abul Ala Maudoodi and so, beginning in December 1960, they exchanged letters regularly. In the spring of 1962, Maulana Maudoodi invited Maryam Jameelah to migrate to Pakistan and live as a member of his family in Lahore. Maryam Jameelah accepted the offer and a year later, married Mohammad Yusuf Khan, who later became the publisher of all her books. She subsequently became the mother of four children, living with her co-wife and her children in a large extended household of in-laws. Most unusual for a woman after marriage, she continued all her intellectual interests and literary activities ; in fact, her most important writings were done during and inbetween pregnancies. She observes *Purdah* strictly.

Her hatred of atheism and materialiam in all its varied manifestations - past and present - is intense and in her restless quest for absolute, transcendental ideals, she upholds Islam as the most emotionally and intellectually satisfying explanation to the Ultimate Truth which alone gives life (and death) meaning, direction, purpose and value.

UMAR FARUQ KHAN

WESTERN IMPERIALISM MENACES MUSLIMS

European imperialism did not come to an end with the nominal political independence of Asian-African countries but merely changed labels and tactics. A century ago, imperialists talked of the “white man’s burden” Christian missionaries “bringing light to the jungle,” “the sterling qualities of the Anglo-Saxon race” and the European “civilizing mission.” Now the labels have been changed to “westernization”, “modernization”, “secularization,” “urbanization,” industrialization, “technological assistance to underdeveloped countries,” “foreign aid,” “economic development” and “progress.”

The aim of Europe’s “civilizing mission” is to put an end to the cultural variety of the world and subjugate into a permanently inferior status all non-European nations and non-white peoples to a debased proletariat, a cheap source of abundant, servile labour and a global white European culture. The fact that the standardizing process of westernization in Asia and Africa has greatly accelerated since World War II shows that European cultural and economic imperialism is more powerful and active than ever before. Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, French and British imperialism has been replaced by the two superpowers of the world today — America and Russia,

The brutal fact that no government of the so-called "Third World" can remain in power without the tacit approval or active support of America, Russia or both - proves that the political independence of the "Third World" countries is only nominal. In order to isolate the various parts of the Muslim world, *Kafir* powers have broken us into 55 separate mutually exclusive, weak, and powerless states and forced upon them the tyranny of unstable military dictatorships. Nationalism and imposed leadership enslave the *Ummah*. Third World governments are merely puppet rule. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan from December 1971 to July 1977, is the kind of ruler America and Russia like best.

Because of the almost total economic and military dependence of the Muslim countries on America and Russia, Muslims cannot effectively defend themselves against their enemies and any armed struggle on our part is pre-ordained to fail. The Palestinians cannot regain self-determination and human rights in their homeland and adjacent Arab countries cannot protect their territory against Zionist encroachment because both America and Russia guarantee Israel's continued right to expand. Lebanon, itself a product of French imperialism, has, as a result of civil war and Israeli invasion and de-facto expropriation of the South by Israelis heavily armed by America with the most sophisticated weapons, completely disintegrated. What is happening in Lebanon today could occur in Pakistan

or any other Muslim country tomorrow. The Eritrean liberation movement is being crushed by Marxist Ethiopia armed to the teeth by Russia. Although Pakistan managed to defend itself against the Indian invasion of September 1965, because of the timely intervention of America and Russia, in January 1966, the late President Mohammad Ayub Khan signed the *Tashkent Declaration*. The result was the dismemberment of Pakistan in December 1971.

The mass emigration from Muslim countries to Europe and America in search of lucrative jobs paying high wages and a better "standard of living," is also an integral part of the same colonial process. Because economic conditions in impoverished areas of the East do not permit skilled manpower to remain within the country, the "brain drain" is guaranteed to keep it poor, weak and backward. Instead of finding their Paradise in the West, the dark-skinned immigrants to England, Canada, U.S.A., Germany and the Scandanavian countries often encounter severe racial discrimination and their assignment to the most undesirable, servile, menial jobs which none of the white people want. Although the "brain drain" from East to West permits some skilled professional people from Asia to find good jobs and economic prosperity, the majority of immigrants crowd the urban slums to overflowing. For example in the U. S. A., foreign-trained doctors who are not American citizens, no matter how competent and highly qualified, are

usually allowed to practice only in the State mental hospitals.

The only Third World power which is economically and militarily independent enough to be free to pursue a national course in its own interest is China. But the communist rulers have done their best to eradicate every trace of its indigenous civilization based on the teachings of Confucius which the Chinese people today are taught to despise as “backward” and “reactionary”. The degree of ideological and cultural enslavement of China today to Western ideals can be judged from the following news report of an American correspondent who recently toured the country :

China is a nation on the move. That statement is true at almost every level of meaning but the sense in which it strikes the first-time visitor is the most literal. Almost everyone he sees is in motion. On your first morning in Peking, you awake to the sound of barking horns. You soon discover why. Broad as the main streets are, they are not wide enough to allow the streams of cars, trucks and buses easy passage around the schools of bicycles or past the slow-moving carts. The drivers use their horns to intimidate the bikers and cart-tuggers producing a cacophony that is louder than the martial music over the loudspeakers. The number of private cars on the road drops sharply once you leave Peking or Canton but the bicycles with their jingling bells and the carts are sufficient provocations for the buses and trucks to make a racket even on a country road here.

All this coming and going is the most visible evidence of the questing spirit for advancement that characterizes the current rulers of China— a hard-

headed pragmatic group less interested in ideological quarrels than in pushing forward industrial production and economic growth. Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-Ping is a man of such restless energy that even when he is seated in a quiet conversation, he pulls deep on an ever-present cigarette and puffs the smoke as high in the air as the factory smoke-stacks in Chungking.

Most of the travelers are Chinese but there is an ever-increasing flow of foreign tourists — overseas Chinese, Japanese, East and West Europeans and not least, Americans. Tourism, of course, can be a valuable source of foreign currency which China needs to finance the purchase of technology from abroad. But if this is the wave of the future, one has to view it with at least a tinge of regret. The Chinese have not resisted some of the worst aspects of commercialized natural grandeur, Hollywood style.

For centuries, Chinese artists and poets have drawn inspiration from their landscape. But today, Chinese artistic taste and restraint have been overwhelmed and debased by some distinctively Disneyland touches. Neon lights—a garish blue, orange and gold—are activated when the guide shines her flashlight on an electric eye embedded in the beautiful rocky caves along the Yangtze river gorges. No rock is allowed to remain just a rock. A magnificent natural cavern is artificially lighted and described as “crystal palace”. And sure enough on its 200 million-year-old walls, some fool has inscribed in irredescent paint; “LONG LIVE THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE CHINESE AND LAOTIAN PEOPLES!” As you walk up the concrete steps that cover the natural rock, you see a chocolate candy bar wrapper at your feet.*

* “The Questing Spirit of Today’s China,” *The Sun*, Lahore, October 25, 1977.

The Muslims of the southern Philippines - the "Moros"—the Muslim people furthest removed from the religious and cultural centres of Islam—have successfully resisted imperialism and assimilation longer, more strenuously and heroically than any other Muslims. For more than three centuries, the Muslims in the Philippines battled against Spanish colonialism, then fought the Americans and are now still resisting the Christian Philippino colonization, the legacy of Western imperialism.

Who are the Europeans? If Europe had not expanded, the "Europeans" would be confined to those whose homeland is in Europe. But European imperialism expropriated three continents by exterminating the indigenous populations — North America, South America and Australia. South Africa and Israel must also be included in the inventory of European colonial conquests. To a non-European, Americans, Europeans, white South Africans and Israelis are completely indistinguishable from each other and most Europeans cannot see any important differences between them either.

Imperialism is not a recent phenomenon. In ancient times, the Aryans in India, Greece and Rome practiced imperialism on a large scale. If the modernized Muslim of today wishes to understand the historical forces which make him as he is now, he must have some knowledge of how European imperialism has worked down through the centuries. It is the same sad tale all over the world.

Contact between Europe and the rest of the world began with the waning of the Middle Ages, when five small European countries (Portugal, Spain, Holland, France and Britain) became extraordinarily aggressive and sent forth explorers, traders, empire-builders and Christian missionaries into the so-called "uncivilized" world. At the turn of the nineteenth century, along with the great industrial and social revolutions, contact intensified between Europe and the rest of the world. If the non-European, non-white people did not immediately adapt or at least provide profitable markets for the white-man's goods, they were harassed and persecuted, forcibly converted to the white man's ways, or deliberately exterminated. Countless cultures, faced with the steam-rolling impact of an intolerant Europe, quickly disappeared either because their members were exterminated or because their culture was assimilated. Many more are today in imminent danger of extinction, their dark future determined by the same processes that were in operation a century ago.

In any study of non-European societies which have undergone or are now undergoing the traumatic experience of contact with European culture, it is astonishing how constant has been the pattern of conquest and the reaction to it. First came exploration and settlement ; these stages were followed by exploitation, expropriation of native land, the decimation of the population and its forced conversion to the ways of living and religion

of the conquerors. All this in turn lead to the eventual disappearance of both the race and the culture. Fortunately, not all non-European peoples have yet travelled the whole of this disastrous road. Some have been able to adapt. Most, however, have not.

Illnesses introduced by Europeans took a terrible toll of the peoples inhabiting the lands that were discovered, exploited and settled by the Europeans during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Taken as a whole, a great mass of evidence indicates that the diseases of the invaders and of their labour forces were a powerful factor, perhaps in some cases, the most decisive cause in the defeat of the indigenous peoples and their destruction. Where the indigenous peoples had no natural resistance to smallpox, tuberculosis, measles and leprosy, the destruction was horrific, at least until modern medicine was available to them or some kind of natural immunity could be established, enough to lead to recovery and population growth. The effect of what we think of as mild, insignificant illnesses—the common cold, influenza, whooping cough, measles and chicken-pox—were often disastrous to isolated peoples who had never before come into contact with them and for whom they became scourges of the most devastating kind. There is now irrefutable evidence that some settlers, hungry for land, found room to expand by deliberately killing off the natives with diseases which were purposely introduced. Smallpox virus,

for example, could be—and was—wiped on gifts of cloth intended for unsuspecting natives. Germ warfare of this nature, appalling and sensational as it may appear, has been documented both in the past (North America and Australia) and the present (South America). In Australia, the white settlers even resorted to mass poisoning of the native food and water supplies.

Syphilis and gonorrhoea were also introduced and became major enemies of fertility and hence a prime cause in the disintegration of peoples who experienced an almost continuous sexual invasion from sailors, soldiers, whalers, sealers and traders. These roving men found themselves separated from their own women for years on end and habitually engaged in orgies of sexual licence with the women, willing or otherwise, of the conquered races.

Explorers, traders and exploiters not only brought disease, they also filled the natives with alcohol, usually as a means of payment for local goods. To people never exposed to alcoholic drinks, this was universally disastrous. Gin, whiskey, rum wine and beer were immediately appreciated and became a craving. Only a small intake was needed for immediate drunkenness. Violence often followed. In addition, the health of the subjected peoples worsened because of dietary deficiencies. The unfamiliar European foods distributed to the natives—white bread, white sugar, refined polished white rice, jams, tea, coffee, cola drinks, tinned food, lacked the essential proteins, vitamins and minerals

and so rendered its consumers susceptible to disease.

Colonial governments and administrators of subject peoples completed the havoc which disease, the Christian missionary and the settler had begun. The most efficient method of removing "dangerous natives" was to place them in prison-like concentration camps, reservations, reserves or Bantustans—call them what you will—on the most arid, unfertile lands that white settlers did not want and could not live on. These reserves are designed to keep the natives away from the fertile lands occupied by white settlers. But as soon as oil or minerals are found on the native reserves, these lands too are expropriated and exploited by the whites.

The process of colonization is always the same ; the invaders begin at the sea, moving across whole continents and islands, removing forests with their steel axes, replacing the original inhabitants' hunting grounds with farmland, pastureland, for cattle, lands for thickly populated towns and industrialized cities and in too many cases, the deforested eroded, exhausted soil, with wasteland. As the land is consumed, the natives are pushed further and further back into the most unfertile parts of the country. It is a swift business because the invaders are always armed with superior technology, superior weapons and an unquenchable thirst for fresh lands to exploit. Scattered populations of hunters, food-gatherers and subsistence farmers and even the citizens of highly-developed civilizations like the

Aztecs, Maya and Inca, fell before the European explorers, soldiers, missionaries and land-speculators.

The origin of the most powerful imperialism in history — that of British imperialism — had its beginnings in the Celtic regions of England when King James VI of Scotland succeeded Queen Elizabeth on the throne in 1603. The new King, known to the English as King James I, had begun his efforts with the Celtic-speaking peoples of the Hebrides, a group of islands off the west coast of Scotland. It was he who granted a charter to the first colonizing Corporation. This was designed to take over the Celtic lands and do for a large section of Celtic Scotland what the Virginia Company was later to do in North America. In their under-developed virgin state, the Celtic lands tempted foreign invasion. Furthermore, they constituted a vast wilderness which could be populated by loyal and “civilized” subjects from England. They, King James believed, would vastly increase the country’s wealth and improve her defences. But his greed for land, was, of course, the most important motive; the possibilities that the lands of the Celts offered for development with the latest technology then being developed in England for agriculture, were enormous. Furthermore, the Celts possessed rich and fertile lands which amounted to fifty per cent of the British isles with a population density only one-seventh that of England’s. King James justified his oppression of the Scots, Welsh and Irish on the grounds that they were backward and primitive.

However, they were white, if not whiter than the English. Most of the Irish, Welsh and Scottish people were of Nordic blood, despite their foreign Celtic Speech and the Scottish Hebrideans were almost pure Scandanavian. Thus in the history of land expropriation in Britain, the racist arguments could not be used ; instead, King James made do with the notion that a campaign must be waged on behalf of “civilization” against the “primitive” menace.

King James began his subjugation of Scotland, Wales and Ireland by giving joint stock companies title to tribal lands. All the native tribes then became outlaws and the companies which planned to make profits from real-estate development were given the right to wage warfare against the native rebels and destroy them. However, the less “wild” Irish tribes in Ulster were to be placed into reservations and not exterminated as Queen Elizabeth had originally intended. An order was sent out by the King stating that any natives found outside the reserves after a specified date were to be executed. Outside Ulster, the Irish tribes remained in their original state until they were subjugated in 1649-1653 by Oliver Cromwell who sent his army into Ireland with orders to wipe out the whole tribal system and also existing religious practices. Civilization in the form of English culture and the Protestant religion, came to Ireland at a terrible cost. Ninety thousand natives were shipped to the West Indies as chattel slaves where they toiled alongside

the African blacks and American Indians who had been sent there by the Puritans of New England. Of the Irish population at home, it has been estimated by that at least a million were slain or died from starvation. In Scotland, the Highland tribal system of government was destroyed ; the Gaelic language was forbidden and even the native dress was banned. Everyone was forcibly converted to the state Protestant religion. Clansmen were deprived of their firearms, other weapons, personal property and all other things that could interfere with their assimilation into an English or "civilized" way of life. The cleverest move was to eradicate the native culture by sending the Highland children away to attend English schools. In due course, the Highlanders were declared not intelligent enough to adopt the new agricultural methods so their lands were then taken over and "developed" by the English colonizers.

In North America, the policies and tactics of King James I and Oliver Cromwell were applied with little variation ; the native Indian populations were satisfactorily removed from fertile lands through warfare, the deliberate spread of disease, the transfers of large populations to reserves and the psychological breaking of their spirit. The original Indian population of North and South America was vast, constituting at that time almost a quarter of mankind ; that of Mexico alone being estimated at more than thirty millions. Today the number of Indians and Eskimos between the Rio

Grande and the Arctic is just under ten millions. By 1850, the Indian population of North America had shrunk to a mere two hundred and fifty thousand.

The American Indian fell victim to the white man because they occupied fertile lands suitable to white settlement. First the river-valleys went, then fertile grasslands, then the forested land and finally marginal lands, leaving the Indians on their arid reserves which no pioneer or frontiersman wanted.

Like the Celts of Britain, the North American Indians fiercely resisted white encroachments on their land. And in 1763 when the British army rushed to the aid of the colonizers, the officers debated whether the Indians should be hunted down with dogs or deliberately infested with infectious diseases so the army distributed handkerchiefs and blankets from smallpox hospitals. Even Benjamin Franklin declared that alcoholic liquours should be regarded as an agent of Providence to "exterminate these savages in order to make room for the civilized cultivators of the earth".

No sooner had the Indians east of the Mississippi been "removed" West than the settlers and miners were on the move again. Once again, the Indian was in the way, a human obstacle to white expansion as described by an editorial in a Kansas newspaper at the time as "a filthy set of miserable, lousy, blanketed, thieving, lying, sneaking, murderous, faithless, teacherous savages as the Lord

ever permitted to infect the earth and whose immediate and total extermination all white men should pray for” On the Great Plains in the mid-West, the whites attacked the Indians’ staple beast, the bison on which they depended for food, shelter and clothing ; the bison were soon destroyed. The Indians were then pursued mercilessly from waterhole to waterhole, the American army troops hunting them down like wild animals, slaughtering men, women and children, burning their encampments and their personal belongings. Their chiefs became miserable fugitives ; the survivors were herded into reservations no better than concentration camps where alcohol, disease, and starvation reduced their numbers. Some three hundred Sioux, mostly women and children, waiting to surrender in South Dakota, were massacred in cold blood at a place called Wounded Knee in 1890. This atrocity finally broke the resistance of the Indian nations.*

* Atrocities against the American Indians are not a thing of the past but are still continuing today under new labels and different tactics :

“Speakers at the four-day conference on the discrimination of indigenous peoples here in Geneva today, accused the United States of America and Brazil of genocide. Swiss delegate, Rene Fuerst, told the conference held at UN. palace that one million red Indians in Brazil were threatened with genocide. He asserted that the Brazilian government was depriving the Indians of their lands and properties and was taking decisions on their fate without even listening to them. Brazil also refused exit visas to Indians wishing to attend the conference. The Chairman of the International Indian Council, Mr. Russell Weans, accused the United States of America of decimating the Red Indians there through sterilization, “Our women go to hospitals for an appendix operation and out they come sterile.” he said. *Since 1972, 45 per cent of the American Indian women had been sterilized under any pretext, Mr. Weans charged.*

“America and Brazil Accused of Genocide,” *The Pakistan Times*, Lahore, September 24, 1977.

Slavery has been universally practiced by almost all peoples everywhere since ancient times but in the natural course of their evolution, gradually died out. This was not the case of the African slave-trade which lasted for more than four centuries and was a highly organized business and industry based on the most brutal exploitation and maintained by violence. Spain, Portugal, Holland, France and England eagerly participated in this traffic of human flesh. The exploration and colonization of America opened new opportunities for the traffic and here it flourished more than ever. More than a hundred million Africans were affected, among them many Muslims, in the greatest migration across the oceans that has ever occurred in history. A third to a half of these perished during the voyage which was made under the most horrible conditions that can be imagined. The captives were stripped stark naked, branded with red-hot irons, chained and made to live for weeks and months in the unventilated holds of the ships, forced to lie shackled to one another in their own excrement and packed so tightly together on rough wooden planks, there was not an inch of space between them. When they arrived in America, they had to renounce all their cultural and tribal affiliations, adopt Christianity and the names of the masters who owned them. In the American colonies, it was a crime to teach a slave to read and write. Female slaves were frequently raped by their masters and their half-breed children, despised and disinherited

by their white slave-owning fathers, sold away to other plantations, never to see their mothers, brothers or sisters again. The abolition of slavery in America gave them their freedom but nothing else. Although some black people in America have attained prosperity, the majority live in poverty, filling to capacity the urban slums of every large American city. Despite more than a century since the Emancipation Proclamation, they still occupy an inferior status.

Today the black people of African slave-origin form a large minority in America. They are also found in significant numbers in South America, particularly in Mexico and Brazil. They form the majority in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Jamaica and Haiti where the native Indians were completely exterminated.

The Indian struggle against white European colonialism is still continuing today in South America, especially in Brazil.

The story of the Indians' decimation in Brazil is long and horrible. It began with the first days of European exploration and settlement when soldiers, acting on instructions from the Portuguese government, massacred all Indians on sight. Meanwhile in Portugal, expert Christian theologians argued endlessly whether these savages had souls or not ; in the end the Pope solemnly declared that they did.

The Portuguese conquered Brazil, exterminating, driving out or assimilating the Indians, expropriating

their lands and working it themselves or with imported slave labour from Africa. Tragically, the campaign against the Indians in Brazil has intensified in recent years. This is because the lands of the few remaining Indian tribes is to be "developed" by the Brazilian government for the millions of poverty-stricken peasants who live in overcrowded areas where the worn-out and eroded lands can no longer support them. However, most of the land in the Amazon jungles is unsuitable for small holdings and many of the pioneers fail after one or two years and then cannot even manage to find their fare home. Consequently, instead of the jungle being opened up to the poor peasants, it is merely being exploited by rich foreign land-owners, road contractors and land-speculators. One fifth of Brazil is owned by foreigners, most of them Americans. The peasants usually remain as poor as they were before; the profits go to the big operators who cut down the forests, exterminate the Indians and then watch its value increase. The Indians are the problem. Not only are their tribal lands being expropriated and sold but they have to be "pacified" before the road gangs move in and then removed to reserves before the settlers can begin farming because they are universally feared as cannibals, murderers and headshrinkers. Since the Indian tribes occupy land which is now considered valuable for farmland or is found to be rich in metals and minerals, their situation has become more precarious than ever. The massive road-building efforts now underway in the Amazon jungle

and central Brazil are partly a prestige effort on the part of the present military regime. The roads are creeping forward relentlessly deeper and deeper into Indian territory, passing through the homelands of previously unknown tribes which must be "pacified" and removed to reserves. The Indians in Brazil which once numbered in the millions, now total less than seventy thousand. If nothing is done quickly, they will all die off or be killed in a few years. The few remaining survivors now live in dismal hovels and wear uncomfortable and dirty clothes. They have forgotten their traditional beliefs and customs. One or two old men try aiming their bows and arrows or stumble through half-forgotten dances for the tourists but on the whole, they have become listless and apathetic, inspired only by strong drink or the chance of a few coins.

Originally more than three hundred thousand aborigines lived in Australia and their numbers were growing. The aborigines lived at one with nature. Totemism, their religion, was a view of nature, life, the universe and man which influenced all aboriginal culture, inspiring their religious ritual and linking them to the past. To be able to pursue his life as a hunter, the aborigine relied upon nature and they had a passion for the natural environment and the land upon their existence depended.

The English settlers in Australia had no conception of the life and religion of the country's

native inhabitants. As far as they were concerned, Australia provided limitless land which was there for the taking and it was too bad if the "black-fellow" was in the way. The coastal aborigines who lived in a temperate climate and on fertile lands fell back steadily before the white man, refusing to conform to his ways, losing their freedom of movement over their own country for social, food-gathering and ceremonial purposes. Diseases and violent death were their usual fate. In time, the aborigines inhabiting the more arid central areas also suffered by the expansion of cattle and sheep ranches. Their waterholes were taken over, the totem animals hunted to extinction, their wives raped, their children sent to Christian missionary boarding schools and their men used for cheap menial labour. Tied as they were to their tribal territories by the strongest spiritual bonds, they were forced into the white-man's world. This meant relinquishing the whole of their traditional culture. Today the aborigines are reduced to a quarter of their original numbers. Most of them are attached to reserves run by the government or by the Christian missions. Many hang around towns and settlements, begging for odd jobs, trying to attract the attention of tourists and generally depending on the white man's bounty. The conditions of the aborigine slums in Australia are notorious ; many live in rough lean-to's of old iron and tin open to the sky and rely on sacking or old clothes as protection from the wind and rain. They suffer from severe racial discrimination ; special

seats in the cinema houses are reserved for them and they are banned from the better shops and stores because the local white settlers complain that they are "dirty" and "smelly". Alongside them, belonging to neither the white or the black world, are twenty thousand half-castes who are unrecognized by their own white fathers and are regarded as socially unacceptable by colour-conscious white Australians as a whole.*

The menace of European imperialism does not affect primitive and aboriginal populations only but the most highly civilized peoples of Asia and Africa as well, among them, vast numbers of Muslims. One of the worst affected today by European colonialism are the Muslims of Central Asia, which was aptly termed by no less than Lenin himself as a "vast prison of nations". The Soviet system relies on its police, army, bureaucracy and even the staffs of its mental hospitals to preserve "order" among these subjected and persecuted peoples as did the Czarist regime before it.

Prior to the Communist revolution, at least fifty million people lived in Turkestan. Among their ancestors were many world-famous personalities, Bukhari, who collected and edited the most authoritative books on *Hadith*; al-Farabi, Ibn Sina and al-Khwarizmi, the Muslim astronomer. The Uighurs who lived in East Turkestan, now occupied by Communist China, had many thriving

**Into the Primitive Environment*, Robert Brian, Prentice-Hall Inc., Englewood-Cliffs, New Jersey, 1972, pp. 7-65.

madrasahs or religious schools. Since the 15th century under Ivan the Terrible, the Slavic Russians have engaged in continuous colonial expansion at the expense of the Muslims, annihilating many formerly independent Muslim Sultanates and Khanates from the Volga River to deep into Central Asia. Russia's treatment of her Muslim minorities both under the Czars and Communism, presents the same classic picture of Western imperialism elsewhere. All signs of political independence were ruthlessly crushed by force ; under Communism the people were prohibited to practice Islam or teach it to their children ; mosques were turned into museums or club-houses, *Haj* was banned ; under Lenin and Stalin, mass arrests, executions, deportations to Siberia and forced slave labour became the order of the day ; the native languages were deliberately Russified and the Arabic script banned. Politically, Muslim Turkestan was divided between Russia and China and the Russian portion split up into a half dozen mutually exclusive provinces under white Slavic domination. The economy of the region was made totally dependent upon Russia by substituting cash crops for food crops and thus Russia turned the whole of Central Asia into a vast cotton plantation. Most significant, the government encouraged and is still encouraging white Slavic colonization as the most effective means of ensuring the permanent subjection of the native peoples.

The most recent example of Western imperialism which has worked hand in hand with the Christian missionary enterprise is the recent drought and famine in the Sahel region of Africa. All who have knowledge of the area, agree that the drought was largely caused by foreign aid interference during the 1960's due partly to cattle vaccination and indiscriminate well drilling which disturbed the delicate ecological balance. The famine brought vastly increased foreign aid and the Christian missionary organizations to distribute it. This caused complete dependence upon foreign organizations, humiliating and degrading to a beggar status vast numbers of Muslim nomads and farmers and teaching them to depend upon Western-Christian sources for their subsistence. This established a feeder/fed relationship between the Christian missionary social workers and the native Muslim population. Although since the terrible famine in 1974-1975, the economic situation has improved, the Christian missionary organizations, instead of withdrawing, are now busy implementing long-term "development" programmes. Thus in June 1975, the World Council of Churches announced a two year five million dollar rehabilitation programme in the Sahel. "There is particular concern for the children", the report stated. "There is little doubt that the way of life of the younger generation will have to change. However much the parents cling to their old obsolete traditional way of life (Islam), the young people will be forced to migrate to the cities and earn

through modern industry whatever means of livelihood they can. Any education in French and English, however basic, may be invaluable. . . .”

The most classic, well-known and most widely publicized example of European colonialism is the state of Israel. The Israeli-Arab conflicts are nothing but colonial wars. It is futile to draw upon European anti-Semitic materials for an explanation of the rise of Zionism and the creation of the state of Israel. In fact, the founder of modern Zionism, Theodor Herzl, was proud to achieve the friendly support of no less than Phlevo, the architect of the Jewish massacres in Russia at the end of the last century. In his Diaries, he frankly admits ; “The anti-Semites are not the arch-enemies of the Jews but rather will become our most dependable friends and the anti-Semitic countries our allies.” And how does Herzl envisage such a sudden change of heart on the part of those nations accused of harbouring anti-Semitic feelings ? Addressing himself to the general European reader in his historic work, *The Jewish State*, in 1896, he proclaims the Zionist conquest of Palestine as an extension of Europe’s imperial policy abroad. “We should in Palestine form a portion of the rampart of Europe against Asia ; an out-post of civilization as opposed to barbarism. We will have to maintain contact with all of Europe which will guarantee our existence.” In other words, Herzl intended Zionist colonization in Palestine to be modelled after the imperial policy of Europe in the rest of Asia and Africa. Amidst

great ovations, Herzl's best friend and most faithful colleague, Max Nordeau addressed the 8th Zionist conference at the Hague in 1907 as follows : "We mean to go to Palestine as the standard bearers of Civilization with the mission of extending the moral frontiers of Europe from the Nile to the Euphrates!"

Let us take a closer look at some of Herzl's ideas and opinions which went into the making of the Zionist legacy and have constituted the basic policy for Zionist practice ever since. In his published Diaries he states :

The Zionist movement of today (1898) is a fully modern one. It grows out of the situations and conditions of present-day life and aims at solving the Jewish question on the basis of the political possibilities of our time. The general advantages of the Jewish state to Europe would be to build railroads into Asia, the highway of the civilized peoples of Europe. If it be God's will that we return to our historic fatherland, *we should like to do so as the representatives of Western civilization* and bring cleanliness, order and the well distilled customs of the occident to this plague-ridden blighted corner of the orient.

And what is the fate of the indigenous Arab population of Palestine ? How does Herzl view their basic human rights in planning the Zionist conquest of their homeland ? According to his published *Diaries*, Herzl has the following "obligations" to perform :

"We shall ask for what we need—the more immigrants, the more land.....Property owners who rejoice at the Zionist intrusion, can go ahead in their naive belief that they are cheating us, selling us land for more

than it is worth. But we are not going to sell them anything back. We shall sell land only to Jews and all real-estate will be traded only among Jews. We must expropriate gently the private personal property on the estates assigned to us. Then we will spirit the penniless Arab population across the border by procuring employment for them in the neighbouring countries while denying any employment to them *in our own country*.

Portions of Herzl's book, *The Jewish State* are a striking replica of Hitler's speeches a mere four decades later. Says Herzl :

“Might precedes right ! This being the case, the improvement of the Jewish race becomes a first imperative in Zionism. It must be made strong as for war.....Antagonism is essential to man's greatest effort.....Permanent peace is a dream and not even a beautiful one but war is an essential element in God's scheme of the world.....Universal brotherhood is not even a beautiful dream.....”

In 1949-1950, after the establishment of the state of Israel, large numbers of destitute Jews from the Arabic-speaking countries were brought in to serve the purpose of cannon-fodder in the army as well as a source of menial, servile labour. The white European Jews enjoy economic well-being while the impoverished Oriental Jews fill the slums of every city and town in the country. Most of the pimps, prostitutes, criminals and drug-addicts in Israel are Oriental Jews while the white Jews of European origin hold almost all the political and economic positions of power and influence. Intermarriage between Oriental and European Israelis is rare and

there is little social intercourse between the two castes. Few Oriental Jews receive higher education; the college and university students are almost all white. The dark-skinned Oriental Jews feel subjected to so much racial discrimination that some of them have formed "Black Power" groups of their own and in fact, the status of the Oriental Jews in Israel is no better than that of the black people in America. In recent years, some of the Arab countries, such as Morocco and Iraq, have begged the Arabic-speaking Jews to return to their original homes but this the embarrassed Israeli government would never permit.

The Palestinian Arabs are viewed by Israelis much the same as the Red Indians were regarded by the white pioneers in the early history of America. Palestinian freedom-fighters who strive to regain their political and human rights in their own homeland are typically maligned in the Israeli press and in Zionist popular literature as "terrorists", "infiltrators," and "marauders".

The impact of European imperialism on Asia and Africa was so great that in the post-colonial era, some totalitarian dictatorships in the so-called "Third World" did not hesitate to carry out mini-imperialist ventures on their own in blind imitation of the classic European model—for example, India in Kashmir, the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser's exploits in Yemen, Ethiopia's attempt to subjugate Eritrea and China's invasion and conquest of Tibet in 1950 and her domination over the

Muslim peoples in what was once eastern Turkestan, now known as Sinkiang.

Language is one of the most important elements in any culture or civilization and the European imperialists were never unmindful of this fact. Wherever the imperialists went, they did their best to impose their language,

Teaching English overseas is a booming business today. Japanese businessmen, Arab engineers and Pakistani housewives all seem desperate to learn the language. In fact, the demand for English teachers is so great that anybody who can string two sentences together can pick up a job as a teacher.

The British Council is the pump-primer for English teachers overseas. Last year it recruited and sent abroad 810 teachers and advisers including 466 specially concerned with English language teaching. They went mostly to the underdeveloped countries from Oman to El-Salvador and from Pakistan to Nigeria. The other main exporter of the English language is the B.B.C. Its World Service has gained a world-wide reputation and one of its most immensely popular weekly programmes is "The World of English". Among its listeners, India, Pakistan and West Africa top the list. The British Council justified the high proportion of its budget in teaching English in Asia in its 1969 report. "English is everywhere the language of good jobs and is a main factor in scientific, technological and economic progress and the principal means of spreading modern ideals and values and surrealistically, the language of most computers." Such argument are used in favour of the widespread teaching of English and even its adoption as the medium of instruction in educational establishments and in many countries in Asia and Africa, as the official language.

A close examination of these arguments, however, will reveal some inherent weaknesses. As an example, it is said that English is the language of science and technology, development and progress. Are we then to forget the technological achievements made by Germany, the Soviet Union, Japan and China whose internal progress was made entirely in their own national languages? We have therefore to see other reasons why the B.B.C. and the British Council so fervently promote the use of English.

Both the B.B.C. and the British Council are propaganda organs for the British government. The aim of their activities is therefore to further British interests and the English language is a powerful tool in reaching this goal. To quote the Report: "Broadcasting in English has a powerful propaganda advantage. We gain political, commercial and cultural advantages from the world-wide use of English. There is a hidden sales element in every English teacher, book, magazine filmstrip and television programme sent overseas. Nor can the English language be completely neutral. Something of the cultural attitudes and habits of thought it describes will influence those who speak it. The British teacher of English cannot help being a teacher about Britain. There is also an immense advantage of being able to enter local education almost anywhere in the world to teach a subject in universal demand".

Those who support English as a unifying force in the Third World forget that in developing countries, it is a very divisive force, separating the masses from the European educated elite. But then to produce such an elite may well be their purpose. In Uganda, for instance, nobody is allowed to stand as a candidate for parliament until he has passed a proficiency examination in English! Knowledge of English is in these countries, the sole guarantee for political power and economic prosperity.

In the case of the Muslim countries, what could be a greater unifying force than Arabic? Had Arabic been declared as the national language of Pakistan after its creation, the curse of regionalism would have never existed and Pakistan could not have been dismembered in December 1971. Thus the emphasis must be given in our schools to mastering the mother-tongue and original scientific works must be produced in the indigenous languages. Only then will English cease to be a major factor in the exacerbation of social inequalities in the Third World.*

During the last five centuries of European imperialism, most of the indigenous languages of North America, South America, Australia and Africa have become nearly extinct. Although for the most part non-literate, they were by no means "primitive" as each of them possessed a complete grammatical structure and a vocabulary rich enough to express the finest shades of abstract thought.

Where the imperialists were not able to exterminate the indigenous languages, the colonial administrators, their native collaborators and the Christian missionaries did their best to mutilate them beyond recognition and thus destroy the entire literary, cultural and religious heritage of non-European peoples and permanently alienate the rising generation from their historic past. In the case of the African Muslims, the Colonial administrators and the Christian missionaries deliberately tampered with the vocabulary and grammatical structure of

*"Of English Language and British Propaganda," Ziauddin Sardar, *The Muslim*. London, March-April 1973.

Swahili, Fulani and Hausa, changing the script from Arabic to Latin letters. The same mischief was done to Malaysian and Indonesian. As a result of radical nationalism, the Turkish language was "purged" of its Arabic and Persian vocabulary and numerous loan words were borrowed wholesale from English and other European languages. Finally in 1928, the Turkish government banned the Arabic script by law and made the use of Latin letters compulsory. Persian is also being "purged" of its Arabic vocabulary. The late President Mohammad Ayub Khan in his book, *Friends Not Masters* expressed himself in favour of adopting Latin letters in place of the Arabic script for Urdu. Among the major languages of Asia, under Christian missionary influence, the classical mandarin Chinese, in which all the Confucian classics are written, was in 1917 discarded for the colloquial Chinese so that the Classics would be unintelligible to the rising generations. The Chinese characters also underwent changes, so that the Chinese written and spoken a century ago, cannot be understood or read by Chinese today. Even Arabic has not been spared. For almost a hundred years, European Orientalists and Christian missionaries have been trying to persuade Arabic scholars and intellectuals to do to Arabic what was done to Chinese - that is, to replace the classical literary language of the Holy Quran, Hadith and all the treasures of Islamic literature - with regional colloquial dialects, although happily thus far, with little success. The Coptic scholar and

writer, Salama Musa and his supporters and sympathizers in Egypt and other Arabic-speaking countries championed the cause of the colloquial as against the classical Arabic as well as the adoption of the Latin script deliberately to eradicate (as Turkey had done under the inspiration of Ziya Gokalp and Ataturk) the entire historic and literary heritage of Islam.

The reader who feels shocked to learn of this should realize that it is his European-oriented education which makes him outraged. In all stages of human history, among all peoples and cultures, atheism and materialism have been the rare exception and firm religious belief the rule, the former to be found most often in the final stage of a civilization's evolution — the stage of its decay and collapse. The student of history therefore finds skepticism and disbelief in religion not only to be the exception but also hostile to health and life - a product of decadence and disintegration. Europe's civilization entered its decline at the end of the so-called "Middle Ages" with the weakening of the Roman Catholic Church and is now nearing its end.

When European civilization began to decay, the Europeans turned to the conquest of all other peoples, civilizations and cultures in the rest of the world and his mind to the conquest of nature with the weapons of science and technology. In continuously accelerating speed, this double outward conquest was intended to compensate for the spiritual disintegration of European civilization from within.

The absolute superiority of Europe's science and technology led to the conquest of the rest of the world and to the present imposition of its culture on the whole of mankind. **But what is today being exported from Europe and America to Asia and Africa is merely the rubbish from the collapse of Western civilization** along with the deadly poisons of atheism and materialism. America and Europe's exaggerated obsession with science and technology is nothing but an escape from the realization of the loss of her spiritual values- The export of the products of secularism, atheism and materialism guarantee the extinction of non-European civilizations under a thick suffocating layer of rubbish and debris from the West.*

The most powerful weapons of Western cultural imperialism are its systems of education and the mass-media - radio, television, films and the popular press, against which the indigenous artistic and spiritual heritage of Asia is almost defenceless. One of the most conspicuous products of Western trash is the world - wide impact of American jazz and "pop" music, which make such an all-pervasive inferno from the radios, television sets, tape-recorder machines and loud-speakers that it is almost impossible for anyone to escape from the noise. Jazz is often praised as the American-Negro's unique contribution to international art and culture where it has in fact proved [more destructive to both than

* "A multi-million dollar Arab Disneyland, the First of its kind in the Middle East, is to be built in Kuwait, the Lebanese Journal *The Middle East*, reported recently. (*The Muslim World*, Karachi, August 26, 1978, p. 7.)

anything else. Jazz is no art all but anti-art which was first produced at the end of the first World War by group of demoralized, alienated ex-slaves from the brothels of New Orleans. Such a perverted "art" form could never have become world-wide without a massive propaganda campaign over the electronic media. The same kind of advertising over the mass-media, financed by enormous and unlimited funds from the giant American business corporations has promoted throughout the world for pure commercial profit the consumption of worthless non-nutritious articles of diet severely detrimental to health such as white bread, white sugar, white polished rice, corn-flakes for breakfast, Coca-Cola, Pepsi-Cola, 7-Up, coffee, tea, cigarettes, alcoholic drinks and substitution of bottle for breast feeding of infants. Even more disturbing are the inevitable results of the social disintegration in the West—drug addiction and crime :

Turkish criminologists blame westernization for the steeply rising crime rate that has made bank and jewelry store hold ups, muggings and car thefts daily events in big Turkish cities.

"This is criminal maturity, a sociological phenomenon directly related to economic and environmental conditions, fast urbanization and Turkey's opening up more and more to the Western world" a criminologist said. He predicted that in the near future, the criminal will prey on roadside restaurants, liquor stores, doctors offices, drug stores and other places where there is a likelihood of finding easy cash.

U. S. movies and television shows, enormously popular in this country are at least partly responsible for encourag-

ing and even teaching criminals, the criminologist claimed. "It is part of the westernization process", a bank official agreed. "We imitate the United States of America in everything else, so why not this?"

A senior official at the General Directorate of Security said that crimes against property had increased 300 to 500 per cent in the last three years. According to police statistics, in the last 15 years, there have been 35 bank robberies in Istanbul and 12 of them this year. Most of the thieves have not been caught. *

Our attitude towards Western civilization and its products has amounted to worship. The ideals of "modernization" "Development" and material "progress" have won far more reverence from us today than Allah, the Holy Quran, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the *Sunnah*.

The proud Polynesians of Hawaii seem to have been the most supine of all peoples in the face of European and American domination. They made only feeble, isolated attempts to resist the imposition of Western religion, morals, material culture and the usurpation of 90 per cent of their land. Hawaiians have never been conservative; for them new things have always been better than old things. This attitude and their belief that foreigners who were superior in technology must also be superior in everything else won an uncritical admiration for all things Yankee and European. At the same time, they were deeply impressed with a consciousness of their own inferiority.

The reverence accorded Captain Cook, for example, the first white man to visit Hawaii, amounted to worship.

* "Crime Upsurge in Turkey due to Westernization," *The Sun*, Lahore, April 14, 1977.

They thought he was God. It was adoration at first sight. The very instant he stepped ashore, he so dazzled the populace that they fell down flat on their faces.*

This attitude of mind has not been confined to savages in remote, inaccessible places. Did not our modernizers like Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan, Shaikh Muhammad Abduh, Dr. Taha Hussain, Ziya Gokalp, Kemal Ataturk, Gamal Abdul Nasser and Habib Bourguiba react to the European imperialists in exactly the same way ?

“In addition to the historical facts of colonization, imperialism and westernization, the Islamic world which had always functioned as an organic whole, embodying unity in diversity, has become more isolated and separated in its various parts than ever before. There is much talk of easy communication today but as a matter of fact, both intellectually and culturally there is less communication between the various parts of the Muslim world today not only than during the period of the classical Khalifate but even than after the Mongol invasion. The various parts of the Muslim world which for centuries complemented each other and functioned harmoniously as an organic whole have been severed by alien imperialism and imposed nationalism into fragments left to flounder by themselves. It is typical of this lack of communication between the various parts of the Muslim world that it is easier to speak by telephone from any Muslim capital to London or Paris than to

* “Into the Primitive Environment,” *Op. Cit.*, pp. 71-72.

another Muslim capital. In fact, in some cases, one cannot telephone anyone from another Muslim country except through some big European city. Those who have tried to telephone, for example, from Beirut to Tehran, must have been surprised by this fact.

“Renaissance in the Islamic sense can only mean rebirth or literally a renaissance of Islamic values and ideals and not just a rebirth or awakening of no matter what. Every sign of life is not a sign of spiritual life and every activity that occurs among Muslim peoples is not necessarily an Islamic activity. A renaissance in its Islamic sense would correspond to *Tajjid* or renewal which in the traditional context is identified with the function of a renewer or *Mujaddid*. The *Mujaddid* thus differs profoundly from the “reformer” in the modern sense who is usually a “deformer” because he is willing to sacrifice Islamic tradition for the sake of expediency, most often made to appear inevitable by being called “an inescapable and unavoidable condition of the times”. One wonders what would have happened to Islam during and after the Mongol invasion if such “reformers” had appeared and tried to make Islam conform to the “conditions of the times”, those connected with the victorious pagan Mongols and their barbaric way of life. A true Islamic renaissance is thus not just the birth or rebirth of anything which happens to be fashionable at a particular moment in history but the re-application of the eternal divinely-

revealed Quran and Sunnah”.*

The colonizers and imperialists did not only tell us that we were inferior to them but also that our culture or life-style was inferior. We were told that we were primitive, backward, medieval, static, superstitious and that our life-style had become out-moded and obsolete. It was, we were told, because of the faults and defects of Islam. “Be like us, forward—moving, dynamic, rational, scientific, modern and progressive !” And we believed all this profoundly and with shame. Very few of us ever had the courage to speak the truth and assert that we could only be saved from degradation, humiliation, permanent subjection and eventual extinction by a revival of a genuine pure Islam and a concerted prolonged *Jihad* to drive out the colonizers and imperialists together with their life-style,

Unfortunately, our intellectual and political leadership has no fear of Allah. What they fear are America and Russia. They do not really speak for a Muslim audience. They can never forget even for a single moment that America and Russia are listening and watching. They fear for their lives, property and reputation. They dare not arise and speak the truth lest they be persecuted, maligned, arrested, imprisoned, tortured or assassinated. In other words, we have become moral and physical

*“*Islam and the Plight of Modern Man*, Seyyed Hossain Nasr, Longman Group Ltd, New York, London, 1975, pp. 126—

cowards who fear above all else, death or material loss. We have forgotten that Allah in the Holy Quran speaks at great length about death and its consequences in the after-life. The Holy Quran tells us that our span of life has been predetermined by Allah and nothing can cause our death a moment before the appointed decree. Every living creature will taste of death from which there is no escape. In dealing with the subject of *Jihad*, the Quran emphasizes again and again that we cannot escape death by running away ; Death will surely come to every one of us even if we surround ourselves with bodyguards or shut ourselves up into the most heavily fortified towers. Since nobody can escape from death, the only question remains *how* we will die—with dignity and nobility or in a state of fear, degradation and humiliation. Since we are all destined to die anyhow, is it not better to die as a *Shahid* or martyr in the prime of one's life while one is at the peak of one's mental and physical powers and usefulness to society than even more painfully and miserably in a hospital bed from an automobile accident, heart-attack, stroke, senility or cancer ? We cannot possibly be rescued from foreign subjection until new leadership arises among us which has no fear of death or material loss and which is determined to persevere to the end and never lose hope even if our initial efforts are preordained to fail, they will not lose heart but will continue to strive with more and more effort and determination even though success in this world may take centuries—

strong, honest and God-fearing leadership which has its gaze fixed on the next world rather than this world. As the Quran asks us :

What if ye die or are slain ? Surely pardon, mercy and forgiveness from Allah are better than all they amass. (III : 157)

It must be asserted repeatedly with no ambiguity that in order to preserve Islamic values and ideals, our intellectual and political leadership must meet the challenge with courage, self-confidence and imagination. We must close our ranks and cease to live in a state of psychological and cultural inferiority. To this end we may derive solace from the fact that our historical record is not blighted by the curse of racism, imperialism and exploitation. We must not only cease to live on the defensive but also launch an offensive and provide from the Quran and Sunnah the only remedies that can save mankind from destruction and collective suicide. But even if we take the most pessimistic view regarding our present plight and assume that nothing of our traditional civilization can be saved from the deluge of westernism, the fearless assertion of the Truth is the most valuable of all acts and its effects are far beyond what any of us can imagine, The Truth must therefore be told and all the fallacies of our contemporary thinking clearly pointed out. The ultimate results of our efforts do not rest in our hands but are predetermined by the will of Allah as is promised us in the Holy Quran :

Truth has come and falsehood will vanish away. Lo !
Falsehood is ever bound to vanish. (XVII ; 81)