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Islamophobia Post-9/11 and its Effects on Afghan Refugees

For our research topic, we will investigate the ramifications of post-9/11 Islamophobia and its effects on Afghan refugees, as well as its global negative consequences due to the rise of radicals in the Islamic state. Since the events in 2001, there has been a clear change in how people view Islamic and Middle Eastern people. So, we wanted to take a closer look at Islamophobia, and how it has rapidly spread since the 9/11 attacks. We are particularly concerned with how refugees from Afghanistan and neighboring countries have been treated inhumanely and unethically. We are also looking at why, twenty years after the terrorist attacks, Islamophobia is still very present in many countries today. We are leaning toward the interpretive methodology group. We conducted our research using the KSU library and other well-known sources with credible authors. We hypothesize that the 9/11 attacks were the primary source of Islamophobia in the last two decades, not just in the United States, but throughout the world.

Ahmadi, Belquis, and Lakhani, Sadaf. *The Afghan Refugee Crisis in 2016*. United States Institute of Peace, 2017. ken.9922335472702931

Belquis Ahmadi has worked for over 25 years working with humanitarian issues related to Afghanistan. In this writing, she explains the magnitude of the Afghani refugee crisis in 2016. She states that “Pakistani authorities have imposed strict restrictions on refugee movement in the country” (Ahmadi). Because of this, Afghani refugees must return to the unsafe conditions of their home country. More than one million Afghani refugees sought shelter in Iran or Pakistan (Ahmadi). Many, out of the million, had to return to Afghanistan. This caused them to become misplaced (Ahmadi). Ahmadi also includes information about economic and social tensions and ways the refugees can be protected or assisted. This archive goes well with the research subject because it shows the true numbers of refugees being mistreated by their neighboring countries.

Alfonseca, Kiara. “20 Years after 9/11, Islamophobia Continues to Haunt Muslims.” *ABC News*, ABC News Network, 11 Sept. 2021, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/20-years-911-islamophobia-continues-haunt-muslims/story?id=79732049>.

Kiara Alfonseca is a journalist at ABC Network who reports on race, ethnicity, culture and criminal justice. She graduated from The College at Brockport, State University of New York. This article was published 20 years after 9/11 by the ABC News Network. In this article, Alfonseca explains how islamophobia is being displayed in politics in recent elections. She also informs her audience how Muslims and Islam were being treated after the attacks. Not only were immigrants being mistreated but also Islam americans that have been citizens before 9/11 took place. This source contributes to the main topic being researched because the data that is displayed gives us a better understanding of the injustices towards Muslims and Islam in America after 9/11. Alfonseca's article also gives us a different political perspective of xenophobia and Islamophobia.

Alsharif, Mirna. "9 Tropes about Muslims That Are a Product of Islamophobia." CNN, Warner Media, 11 Sept. 2021, <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/11/us/islamophobic-tropes-muslims-in-america/index.html>.

Author Mirna Alsharif, of CNN News, tackles the stereotypes that have developed by the rise of islamophobia. Alsharif starts by presenting and providing knowledge on the current predicament; islamophobia is a product of Islam being misunderstood even before the tragedy of 9/11. Islamophobia did thrive in many countries and, likewise, in many areas (mentally, socially, economically, etc). The author states nine of these labels, all of which are claimed to be "the most common," (Alsharif) and dives deep into each one elaborating it to her audience. The first one mentioned is that "all Muslims are Arab" (Alsharif). The author enlightens the reader by giving statistical support from cited sources that state that "Arabs are actually a minority of the Muslim population" (Alsharif) and "make up 20% of the world's Muslims" (Alsharif).

Cherney, Adrian and Murphy, Kristina. "Being a 'suspect community' in a post 9/11 world – The impact of the war on terror on Muslim communities in Australia" *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology* 2016, Vol. 49(4) 480–496, DOI: 10.1177/0004865815585392

The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology released a paper, written not too long ago, elaborating on the subject of Muslims being "stigmatized" (Cherney) or in other words labeled or grouped as a "suspect community" (Cherney). This is being said to investigate how the Muslim community is being set apart and viewed as a threat after the 9/11 terrorist attack. In addition to this, the paper is also acquiring quantitative data from Muslims living in Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne Australia. The author and experimental group do this by asking the focused group of people how they feel in reflection to their own opinion about themselves being subjected to that said labeling. The authors also explore how the chain reaction of how others view the Muslim community after 9/11 developed, then how this makes Muslims feel, and how these perceptions result in consequences affecting the Muslim communities. One of the consequences that are presented is how Muslims do not feel that they're able to voice their real concerns that they have about their safety to the police because of the other's labeling. This paper is greatly relevant to the explored subject because it explores how the terrorist attacks in New York affect the view of a Muslim community in another country.

“House Responds to GOP's Boebert with Islamophobia Bill.” NBCNews.com, NBCUniversal News Group, 15 Dec. 2021, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/house-responds-gop-s-boebert-islamophobia-bill-n1285987>.

A news article made by NBCNews addresses a representative of the House making “islamophobic” jokes and the actions of other House members. Lauren Boebert, a Republican, made a racist, Islamophobic remark against Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar. It wasn't the first time she made fun of the Muslim congressman. The House made the first formal step toward a response to Omar's bill, which would create a new position at the State Department to oppose and battle Islamophobia. It was stated that the bill is not likely to reach the senate. Republican leaders, on the other hand, have frequently stated that it is on Republican leadership to stand up to their most aggressive members who go too far.

Mbaku, John Mukum. “Counter-Terrorism Laws and Human Rights in African Countries.” *Washington University Global Studies Law Review*, vol. 20, no. 4, Oct. 2021, p. 941. Edsgcl.674840484

This article gives the perspective of African countries that reacted to acts of terrorism in their borders. Terrorist groups targeting U.S. embassies pushed African countries into action, causing countries to implement laws that prevent terrorism. The main issue with these laws is that the countries needed to find a balance between protecting their people and infringing upon the rights of the people living there. Unfortunately, some African countries use the terrorist-prevention laws to violate citizens fundamental rights. A court case, *Maseko and Others v. the Prime Minister of Swaziland and Others*, exhibited that national courts in African countries have the potential to optimize the legal environment for combating terrorism while also limiting national governments' power to employ counter-terrorist policies as an instrument of oppression.

Olanipekun, Peace. “Rise of Islamophobia across the World.” *The Organization for World Peace*, 1 Feb. 2021, <https://theowp.org/reports/rise-of-islamophobia-across-the-world/>.

This article takes a look at how islamophobia has become a major issue all over the world. The author looks at several countries from various parts of the world and discusses how these places are unfairly treating the Muslims who have immigrated there. They begin with the more recent issues with islamophobia in China, and the “re-education camps” (Olanipekun) that their government is imprisoning Islamic people in. The author then proceeds to recount other instances of islamophobia in the United States and the effects of 9/11. In Canada, where they limit muslim women’s rights, and in Belgium, where Muslim women are banned from wearing hijabs in schools.

Smith, Jordan Michael. “Twenty Years On, Are We Any Smarter?” *New Republic*, vol. 252, no. 9, Sept. 2021, pp. 20–29. edsgcl.689981770

This recently written article reflects on the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, twenty years after the event. The author goes through what exactly happened on 9/11 and the effects of that day. It touches on the war in Afghanistan and Iraq, along with how innocent Muslim citizens living in or visiting the United States have been mistreated. The author makes sure to include the most recent encounters with the terrorist group and what the United States has done about it. Perhaps the most educational part of the article is when the author talks about what former and current presidents did in the matter and how foreign policy makers acted. Then, the article is split into seven sections detailing the state of pre-9/11 America, during and immediately after the attacks, and finally post-9/11 America. Overall, this resource is a great insight into the background of islamophobia in the United States.

Kleiner, Juergen. "Diplomacy of Estrangement: The Dealings of the United States with Pakistan before 9/11." *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, vol. 24, no. 2, June 2013, pp. 312–33. EBSCOhost, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09592296.2013.789773>.

This article discusses the diplomatic actions the United States took to aid Pakistan from terroristic treatment. The US was willing to help Pakistan as long as Islamabad complied with American requests. These were aimed at limiting Soviet influence in the area and, more recently, against al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Pakistan has also been advised to stop producing nuclear weapons by the US. In order to implement this strategy, successive American administrations implemented sanctions on Pakistan. These restrictions were repeatedly reversed and restored because they harmed American diplomatic power with Pakistan's leadership. The United States had no intention of assisting Pakistan in its fight with India. Pakistan betrayed the US by failing to use its influence over the Taliban to catch Osama Bin Laden.

After analyzing these sources, we will address the topic of the increase of Islamophobia post 9/11 and how it impacted refugees from Afghanistan. Through our research, we observed that countries all over the world started treating Muslims negatively after the terrorist attacks. We will use our sources to demonstrate the poor treatment of Muslims. Our carefully cultivated research comes from places like educational libraries and websites. Through primary sources such as first hand stories and secondary sources such as articles we will provide insight on the evolution of Islamophobia in the United States.

All of the sources mentioned above have some connection to the topic/thesis, including the ramifications of post-9/11 Islamophobia and its effects on Afghan refugees, as well as its global negative consequences due to the rise of radicals in the Islamic state, which was previously mentioned. Every source contributes to the development of the main topic, subtopics, and supporting claims, such as the rise of islamophobia in the United States, the spread of islamophobia in other countries around the world, and how islamophobia is affecting Muslim people in their communities as a result of the labeling of "otherness" they've had to bear. All of

these areas of focus are to encourage the unraveling of the thesis statement. The sources that were chosen all have something that contributes perfectly to the thesis, for example, statistics on refugee population in certain areas, how Muslims being labeled as a “suspect community” affect how safe they feel, and even general stereotypes of Muslim people are a few examples from the sources.

When researching our sources we looked at quantitative facts that came from past events. The focus was toward Islamic refugees in the United States. However, we also researched the circumstances of Islamic people in their home countries. A lot of the sources were talking about the general community of Islamic people. The authors of the sources we used remain unbiased throughout the articles. Their writing did not seem persuaded by personal opinion. We have our own opinions on the subject, however we are attempting to remain unbiased by staying open-minded. The news and other media may persuade people to have certain views on Islamic people. Our bias would be that we researched this topic assuming that there were negative views placed on Islamic people.