Analysis of the phenomenon of Islamophobia and ways to deal with it

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Abstract

However, Islamophobia is a new terms of the relationship between Islam and the West, and it is the phenomenon of prejudice or discrimination against Islam and Muslims, But Islamophobia is not new. Because Islamophobia was started since the beginning of Islam. Islam had always Opponents and rebellion that were hostile to Islam because their interests threatened and they act in such a way that to Destroy Islam and its goals. History has witnessed such acts in order to demonstrate the Ineffectiveness of Islam. History of the term dates back to the 1980s but after the attacks of September 11, 2001 the scope and depth of it has increased. With a closer look at the relationship between Islam and the West, It becomes clear that the historical background of this concept is the ongoing conflict between the two cultural civilizations. However, the points of interaction in the development of these two civilizations existed but the dominant interactions were based on conflict and mutual distrust. This study at first provided a comprehensive definition of Islamophobia and then fields and the growth of Islamophobia in modern times checked and finally, strategies to combat this phenomenon and mitigate its effects can be expressed.

Keywords: Islam, Islamophobia, West, Islam
Introduction
In addition to nature, Mental and psychological needs such as the need for comfort, peace and joy, the Response to loneliness, need for freedom and … In human history Lead people towards religion in a way that There was not a tribe without any form of religion. Therefore it is true that some thinkers have changed the definition of man as talking animal and said that Man is a religious animal. (Beheshti mehr, 83: 2007) In fact, the most complete ideology is Religious ideology that mankind can find it. And because without a complete ideology, Development in the field of science and practice is not achieved, Therefore, Humans in his practical and scientific perfection Need religion And this is why Humans need religion From beginning to end, And arguments and reasons given in religious texts and philosophical and theological books has been expressed, is an Interpretation and description of this main reason. (Rabbani Golpayegani, 75: 1997) Therefore the necessity of religion in the lives of all human beings is properly identified. Islam as a religion that lies in second place in the world1, Islam as a religion that lies in the second place in the world is no exception. Monotheistic world view is the only world view in which commitment and responsibility to each other Makes sense and rightly that the worldview can save human from the fall in the terrible emptiness valley and nihilism. However, on the one hand Ignorance and lack of knowledge about the religion of Islam, especially in some Western societies and on the other hand different media Invasions, Hollywood attacks and propaganda In order to deviation the Islam With the investment on critical points and induce various doubts, Highlighting rigid thinking, manipulative, evil and violent form of Islam shows such an Islam that is a Strong threat to the peace and security of present and future generations. So the lack of correct understanding of Islam has led to an opposition as the issue of Islamophobia. Considering the importance of this issue, in this study, we have tried with a detailed and comprehensive analysis of this issue, Devise coping strategies to this phenomenon.

1. Definition of Islamophobia
Many definitions have been proposed for Islamophobia that its common pattern have been “Intolerance”, “Xenophobia” (Roald, 2004, 53) and "racism" (Johnson, 1998, 182). In all definitions for this phenomenon, there is a kind of irrational fear of Muslims Saying that Muslim world in general And Muslims in other countries are The origin of the danger and a threat to other people That this irrational fear has sparked Intolerance against Muslims in Western countries.
In 1992 Runnymede set up a Commission Entitled "Islamophobia: a challenge for all of us". Often in the definition of Islamophobia, The definition provided by the Commission is proposed which defines Islamophobia as follows: Fear or hatred of Islam and as a result, fear or dislike of all or most Muslims. (shir gholami, 1001: 2011) This institution expressed that this term also refers to the discrimination and exclusion of Muslims from the economic, social and public life. Islamophobia also means that Islam has no values in common with other cultures and is lower in comparison to the West's position and more than a religion, it is a political ideology. In the following eight concepts from the Islamophobia of this Institute expressed.

1. Islam is seen as a monolithic bloc, static and unresponsive to new realities.

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1 http://www.adherents.com/Religions_By_Adherents.html#Islam
2. Islam is seen as separate and other - (a) not having any aims or values in common with other cultures (b) not affected by them (c) not influencing them.
3. Islam is seen as inferior to the West - barbaric, irrational, primitive, sexist
4. Islam is seen as violent, aggressive, threatening, supportive of terrorism, engaged in a 'clash of civilizations'
5. Islam is seen as a political ideology, used for political or military advantage
6. Criticisms made by Islam of the 'West' are rejected out of hand without consideration
7. Hostility towards Islam is used to justify discriminatory practices towards Muslims and their subsequent exclusion from mainstream society
8. Anti-Muslim hostility accepted as natural and 'normal. (Ghanbarloo, 107: 2010) (Runnymede trust, 1997)

In short, Islam can be analyzed According to the above report as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: The definition of Islam in the eyes of West (ibid)

2. Review of historical backgrounds and areas of Islamophobia
It is clear that the phenomenon of Islamophobia in the West and the Christian world is one of the most strategic issues that it cannot be considered only as a result of a doctrine Such as the doctrine of the clash of civilizations but also this strategy has been shaped over time and in a long historical context So that many theories and doctrines Had an important role in its formation. In the following the important factors in the emergence of this phenomenon is expressed.
1-2 conquest of Islamic world
One of the primary factors of the Enemy of Christianity with Islam was the Fear of territorial expansion and Military, political and culture overcome of Islam. Islam from the beginning, Step into the soil of Europe. The rise of Islam in Europe began from the conquest of the islands of the Eastern Roman Empire in the late third century AH and despite the Contraction and Expansion of Muslim territory in different periods, until the end of the tenth century AD (sixteenth century) was continued. Muslim conquest of Europe can be divided into three periods or three categories: Conquests in Spain and surrounding lands, naval victories and possessions of the Ottoman state. (Vanaki Farahani, 208: 2005). Therefore, with a historical perspective it’s concluded that repeated wars Of Muslim in Europe, in the ninth and tenth centuries, and in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries had an impact on the notorious image of Islam. (Moradi, 2008)

2-2. West's ignorance toward Islam
Another important factor in creating the phenomenon of Islamophobia stems from West's ignorance toward Islam. The first four centuries of Islamic history should be called The "Age of Ignorance" of Christian world from Islam. Because at this time, Europeans knew virtually nothing about Islam and Christians were trying to interpret Islam based on the Bible. Edward Said, the Arab scholar writes: Europeans wrote about the East that Eastern human are Irrational, spoiled, children's character and different and European human and rational, virtuous and natural. The content of these Posts is that Basically, Europeans with good properties that have in their nature are superior to the rest of the world and this is why that they should prevail upon the world. (Emamjomehzadeh, 16: 2010) Some Christian scholars have said that Islamic teachings are false and deliberate distortion of the truth. They knew some of the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) correct but they said He mixed them with the wrong interpretations of the Old and New Testaments and He has not nothing in support of his claim And the first of those who have accepted his teachings, Did not have enough intelligence. They said that the spread of Islam is due to Islam's teachings about heaven and in particular, having promise of the opposite sex and the precepts of Islam on the use of force and violence. Some medieval scholars and writers such as Thomas Aquinas have said that Muhammad not only mixed truth with falsehood but also wherever he told the truth, some distortion added. (Vanaki Farahani, 208: 2005) Professor Watts says that While Christians in Islamic territory in their criticism inevitably observed a precautionary measure; the citizens of the Byzantine Empire Does not hesitate in providing evil caricature of Islam. So on the one hand ignorance and incomplete knowledge of Islam and on the other hand comparison on the basis of their accepted values and norms has intensified this issue.

3. causes and factors of creation and growth of Islamophobia
It is obvious that the reason for many issues is not limited to one cause and you should be looking for its cause. There are many factors for the creation of Islam phobia too. In this section it is tried the most prominent causes investigated.
1-3 Differences in The ideology of the West and Islam

It is clear that the dialogue of East and West and explaining the differences between these two regions has a long life. All the philosophers that have spoken about East and West Notes a Cultural serious discrimination and the general attitude of the residents of East and West about the existence. This distinction is more than being related to climatic and geographical situation, Refers to the contradictions between two types of ideology and worldview. Attitude and intellectual and philosophical foundations of Islam to the world, Man, politics, security, spirituality, happiness, ethics, economy, welfare and justice is quite different from The West's view. In other words the relationship between the two systems with two distinct and different in nature is never rejecting reconciliation. Western order historically is based on the Humanism in thinking, Sensuality in ethics, originality of profit in the economy And Originality of power in politics. (shafiee sarvestani, 2012) while, Islam religion is a holistic and complete worldview That is based on consensus, With emphasis on the centrality of knowledge in the world and its systems. At first it may seems that these issues are reflected only in the intellectual and cultural stage but with a careful look It is understood that these fundamental differences are in Political, social and cultural dimensions.

2-3 Increased tendency to Islam in the West (demographic and population issues)

Population growth of Muslims in Western societies is an important factor that has contributed to the spread of Islamophobia. Muslim immigration to these communities and the formation of distinct communities within Western societies as well as the tendency of non-Muslims in Western societies to Islam Encourage the development of Muslim communities in Western society. About 15 million Muslims now live in Europe that according to the next 30 years this figure will reach 50 million. In a report the birth rate of Muslim immigrants in France is Three times more than France. (Aminian, 138: 2009) In the following table, the process of the growing presence of Muslims in Europe is shown:

Table 1: Muslims in Europe (Savage, 27: 2004)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Grouping</th>
<th>number of Muslims (in millions) 1982</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>Percent of the total population 1982</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU-15</td>
<td>6/8</td>
<td>15/2</td>
<td>1/9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New EU Members</td>
<td>0/20</td>
<td>0/29</td>
<td>0/4</td>
<td>0/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-15 plus New EU Members</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15/5</td>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The presence and spread of Islam and Muslims has created concerns for the West. The first concern is that if Islam's influence spread across Europe, Christianity will lose its unifying effect and that the future of Europe's population crisis and growing population of Muslim immigrants, faced Europe with an identity crisis. And that is why Muslim population growth have intensified Islam phobia.

### 3-3 Spread of Violence and intolerance in the name of Islam

However, Islam means peace and violence, coercion and duress is no legitimacy in the Islamic culture but a lot of people considered Islam as The main cause of wars in the world and said that Islam is “the mother lode of bad ideas.” They believe that Islam is a religion of violence and recession And Muslims need to reform that occurred in the West in which the role of religion in general has changed. Gregory Davis (2006) argues that Islam is a military-political world view. He Claims that the “sacred” books of Islam present the “House of Islam” (the believers) and the “House of War” (the non-believers), and it is the obligation of all believers to fight the non-believers until they submit to Allah, and adopt Shariah law. (Triandis, 2013, 976) And this is while most Muslims oppose violence (Gabriel, 2006), and their very way of greeting each other, “Peace be with you,” suggests that they value peace. In light of Islamic texts, Muslims follow a religion of peace, mercy, and forgiveness, and the vast majority have nothing to do with the violent events some have associated with Muslims. If an individual Muslim were to commit an act of terrorism, this person would be guilty of violating the laws of Islam.
4-3 Mixing between Islam and the present situation of Muslims

Another important factor that has had a significant role in creating the phenomenon of Islam phobia is Mixing Islam and the present situation of Muslims. Today, issues such as why Muslims in various fields of scientific, political, economic, social, cultural, etc. are backward from Non-Muslims are highly maneuverable. And these issues for many people, especially the young, are not digestible. To explain this brief introduction is necessary. Pre-Islamic period have called “period of ignorance” In which polytheism and disbelief and many ugly tradition prevailed. Buried Alive girls, Whistle and clap and Tawaf naked in the house of God, Binge and prostitution, Aggression and war, Superstition, bigotry and blind imitation, pride and privilege, eat pork, blood, dead meat, gambling and usury, and various marriages and divorces were Ugly tradition of pre-Islamic Arabs (Ghasemi, 2013: 89). Arabia was a male-dominated society. Women had no status of any kind other than as sex objects. The number of women a man could marry was not fixed. When a man died, his son “inherited” all his wives except his own mother. History has recorded stories of their fifty-year wars and hundred-year wars for very small and insignificant reasons. After the advent of Islam Principles and values in society that were against the world and the Hereafter became human and divine values. All the rules and standards of physical appearance replaced by Precious and excellent standards. Certainly the mission of the Prophet changed the anti-human values. (Tabrizi, 2005: 80) The result was that in early years of Islam Muslims have progressed such a way that a large part of the world civilization and culture were affected. "Jawaharlal Nehru’ in this regard says: It is amazing that The Arab (Muslim) which through the centuries spent sleeping, suddenly woke up And with prodigious strength, has changed the world very much. Arab history and the story of how they were developed quickly in Asia, Europe and Africa and created a great and excellent culture and civilization, Is one of the wonders of human history. ”(Ansari, 2009: 1) But cases such as hereditary rule in the Muslim world, The lack of suitable areas for the implementation of true Islam, The lack of unity and stability needed to advance in the Muslim world, Cultural Inferiority and lack of confidence, Ongoing war and continuation of despotism And in the words of martyr Motahari The elimination of social justice And political authoritarianism and rigidity and dogma and influence of ideas and alien cultures (Rahmaniyan, 2008: 167) And in the words of doctor Shariati distorted version of the original Islamic teachings(Rahmaniyan, 2003: 135) have provided The causes of backwardness of Muslims throughout history. The result was that Muslims in terms of participation in human civilization at the political, economic and cultural level was placed lower than other nations. At the political level it can be referred the Wars and armed conflicts such as Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan which Islamic countries are unable to Stop these challenges or crush them And Muslim are living in very difficult conditions. Many Muslims live below the poverty line that it’s an evidence of the weakness of Muslims in terms of economic level and in terms of culture the situation is the same. Therefore, it is very difficult for Western men who have watched only backward aspect of this community to establish emotional interaction with this religion.
Strategies for Coping with Islamophobia

To combat Islamophobia, the roots and causes of this effect, and many misconceptions and mistaken beliefs should be detected that in this article tries to investigate it. Now, to achieve this important matter the following points are noteworthy.

- increase awareness of Muslim people and culture and Islam as a religion
- develop an appreciation for the contribution of Muslim people to European society
- explore contemporary and historical manifestations of islamophobia and racism against Muslims
- develop individual skills and institutional strategies for recognizing and confronting prejudice and discrimination against Muslims
- participation of Muslims in the common social programs and being with other people from other religions
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