

9/11 Incident and its Impacts: The Worst Portrayal in Selected Post 9/11 Literature

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Abstract:

This research discusses the present condition of the whole world portrayed in the novels 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist', 'Falling Man' and 'Terrorist' of prominent authors, respectively Mohsin Hamid, Delillo Don, and John Updike. These novels examine 9/11 incident and its effects all over the world as the question of ill-treatment given to Muslim in America, insecurity, rights, and freedom. It also focuses upon- how the situations occurred on one and all the non-America people. How they had to suffer from that condition? How did the thoughts change of the foreigners in America? And finally, what kind of change brought 9/11 all over the world? Etc.

This research attempts to study the way in which the novelist has represented a condition of the whole world, probably, Muslim and Christian in the context of post 9/11 novel. This research also aims to study that the world becomes lawless; Morality and humanity are lost; the way of thinking is changed; self-praise and others slander is increased and the egoistic people is destroying the lives of human being. Here the post 9/11 authors are sure that there is also an option to resolve this problem amicably.

Keywords: 9/11 incident and its effects – discrimination; feelings; hate; notion of unity; accusation; anger; religious unity; revenge; reaction; hybridity; identity crisis; migration; humiliation; spoiling relations; attraction for motherland and prayers for peace and harmony.

Introduction

The concept of 9/11 is especially a concern with terrorism, which, in fact, is known as the black day in the life of American people. It was a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks on World Trade Centre, Washington, DC areas by the terrorist group, Al-Qaeda. In this, a large type of attack, lots of things destroyed. It is objected that Al Qaeda (Khaled Shaikh Mohammed) funded the plotters and Osama Bin Laden made this attack but till the end of his life, he rejected as well as opposed the guilt. The attack on New York in America left behind a large type of impact, all over the world (The Reluctant Fundamentalist). This incident made conflict very personal. America felt completely insecure thereafter the 9/11 incident, only, because of the newly found insecurity. This 9/11 incident captured the hid of the common people and authors of the world, and gradually, literature too changed. American writer like Don De Lillo, John Updike and British writer like Ian Mc Ewan faced terror in their own way. Such many writers induce their mind and contribute to producing an amount of literature on the heart broking incident and its aftermath which is introduced as post 9/11 literature.

9/11 is the first shocking terrorist attack on American soil in ancient history. Changez explains unbelievable 9/11 incident in his words as "to be a film but... was a news". (*The Reluctant Fundamentalist, 2007:72*) John Updike is a first-hand witness to 9/11 incident. He normally spends his mornings, in virtual seclusion and writing. It happened to be less than a mile away from the World Trade Centre on September 11, 2001. Updike himself saw the destruction and the impact reported as horror.

The Americans made discrimination between American and Non-Americans. Therefore, the incident gave satisfactory pleasure to the Arab-American Muslims who were being treated as others. Watching America harmed, they felt happier for disaster. 9/11 incident awakened religious unity in every mind. Some of them took a different attitude. The situation among Muslims is full of contradiction. Some Muslims disapproved the attack but at the same time, they had the feeling of satisfaction. For them, the attack was sort of revenge for all the year of American dominance. American govt. requested to hand over culprit Osama Bin Laden. But, after no response, America attacked Afghanistan. Instead of arresting and punishing merely culprit; they punished every individual in Afghanistan. The FBI raided mosques after two weeks of attack on Sep. 27, 2001, shops, and even people's houses. Even dropped bombs over Afghanistan and killed several peoples. Again relations spoiled between both the countries and Afghanistan hated America.

On the other hand, patriotism aroused in the American heart, as well as a notion of Unity, took place among them. They felt insecure, united together and stopped facilities for Arab countries. Even, cultural programs were stopped. After invasion Afghanistan and killing Osama Bin Laden, American and Jews were unsettled. Their mind was captured by the thought of the danger of terrorism.

Western and eastern countries strengthened their own approaches about each other. American Muslims were given a lot of attention from both media and the general public. The common Americans usually considered all Arabs and Arab American Muslims. Janissaries were recruited by past empires and were totally cut off from their own culture and identity (The Reluctant Fundamentalist, 2007). After their training, they were sent to fight and defeat the cultures of their origins.

Muslims, all over the world, began to hate those people who were bearing torture living back in the USA. Mostly, Afghan Muslims felt unsafe; returned back to the motherland. Some of them, who stayed back in abroad, had to live on less than the dollar a day. They lost freedom and lived with a fear. Some of them were disappearing and some were detained by the FBI and tortured in imprisonment. Even faithful men like Changez treated as a possible terrorist. Because such behaviour, they regretted against American behaviour. It moved them toward a conflicted relationship with America and stood on the side of eastern people, probably Afghanistan.

Identity crisis emerged through these effects on the effect of 9/11 incident. Foreigner neither could live in America nor leave America. Some, who had changed their identity, protested and left in the USA. They lost their families. Even, they were banned to adopt anybody from outer country mainly from Islam countries.

Those, who stayed back in America after long days of the incident, are leaving a life like a dog caught in a cage. They, are tired of fighting, have no happiness and option instead of adjusting life in America. It is focused in 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist', Changes tried to think to join again Underwood Samsun but was confused whether he should or not?

9/11 churned old thoughts and broke the close and unbroken relationship. A question of outsider and insider emerged, some demanded justice. But there was no sign of it, therefore, they are attracted to the motherland. The notion of martyrdom took place in their mind. Finally, they rejected America. Transnational marriage, especially for a local woman, became curious. They had to leave unwillingly their husbands. Those stayed back in America, became a cause for hate of other Americans. Updike revealed that marriages with Arab and Muslims became problematic for the local wives themselves. A person's identity, born from two different country people, found in conflict. They neither could be of religion or of a particular country. They are induced by the fundamentalists for terrorist activities inducing as to be a martyr, for the place in heaven; even showing Images of destructions they started to inflame youngsters. Even after the incident, the brotherhood relationship is broken. Suspicion aroused about the foreigner. As revenge, America re-attacked on Afghanistan. This reaction did more harm to non-violent people and again it gave birth to a number of circumstances. The common people freighted a lot and finally prayed for the peace, harmony, and welfare of the world.

Such, several effects are found in this research. Those were, really, brutal and shameful for humankind. If the same goes on day-to-day, the day is not far to happen as Mahatma Gandhi stated: "*An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind.*" (Anura Kashyap: 2007) Therefore it is necessary to dream and enact to bring the whole world out of such issues; the whole world is needed a unique way of Mahatma Gandhi- '*Truth and Non-violence*'.

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