

Circle: Riots in Oldham & Leeds

- ◆ People may be surprised at the recent riots in Oldham & Leeds which have been linked to racism, they shouldn't be. This is because for racism to exist within Capitalist societies is natural.
- ◆ Although the Capitalist societies claim to espouse equality for all human beings in reality their objective in life is to attain the material benefit and based on expediency, it releases the instincts and the desire to dominate others.
- ◆ They lay a major emphasis on this objective in life to the extent that **their foreign policy became colonialism** i.e. the military, economic, cultural exploitation of other lands. So we saw the British physically colonised Africa, Asia and the Middle East treating the locals in a sub-human way. The French, the Portuguese and the other Europeans followed in the same trend.
- ◆ We can see how in a society where people strongly hold the criteria of benefit and in which the Nationalism is allowed to exist and even promoted at Sports events, etc. for racism to exist is natural.
- ◆ Parties like the BNP & National front, combat 18, etc are all examples of racist parties who play upon the nationalistic sentiments of the people.
- ◆ The concept of Pluralism allows these nationalistic parties to exist and propagate their message.
- ◆ Show how Islam doesn't contain contradictions like Capitalism, we truly believe that all people are equal and only differ according to their Taqwa. Islam united the Aus & Khazraj as brothers when they used to be enemies.
- ◆ The Khilafah moulded people from different races, places and backgrounds into one nation.

For example, at the time of Omar Bin Al-Khattab Egypt was opened by Amro Bin Al-'As. Hasan Ibraheem Hasan in his book 'History of Islam' (P.196):

"The Arabs did not treat the Coptics harshly or unjustly. They were very gentle with them. They gave them the choice of accepting Islam and if they did they have the rights and duties obliged by Islam. But if they refused they pay a small tax (Jizya) which amounts to 2 dinars, exempting the women, the old, and the children. In addition to that they removed the oppression they lived under.."

It was reported by Abu Dawd and Tirmidhi that the Prophet (saw) said: **"Undoubtedly Allah has removed from you the pride and arrogance of the Age of Jahilliyah (Ignorance) and the glorifications of ancestors. Now people are only of two kinds: Either believers who are aware or transgressors who do wrong. You are all the children of Adam and, Adam was from clay. People should give up their pride in nations because that is a coal from the coals of hell-fire. If they do not give this up Allah will consider them lower than the lowly worm which pushes itself through dung."**

"And hold fast all together by the rope which Allah and be not divided among yourselves" [TMQ Al-Imran 3:103]

Narrated Abu Musa: The Prophet said, **"A believer to another believer is like a building whose different parts enforce each other."** **The Prophet then clasped his hands with the fingers interlaced (while saying that).** [Bukhari]

- ◆ The rules (Ahkam) of Islam promote unity and collectivity not nationalism and individualism.
 - ◆ When the Khilafah returns it will implement Islam which will show the Kuffar the beauty of Islam and realise the rottenness of their own way of life.
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Reference

Riot police confronted in Leeds

Trouble is believed linked to the arrest of an Asian man

Riot police have been deployed on the streets of Leeds, following trouble involving up to 200 Asian youths in the Harehills area.

After a two hour stand-off, violence flared up again shortly after 2200 BST, when the police sought to clear the area.

It is thought the violence - which has seen cars and a shop set alight - may be related to the arrest of an Asian man two days ago.

The disturbances - in a mixed race area of Leeds - come less than a week after racial violence flared in Oldham, Greater Manchester.

BBC correspondents say that two social workers in Leeds believe some of those they have spoken to on the streets may have travelled there from Oldham.

Eight police vans, carrying police officers in riot gear have been drafted in, and a police helicopter and other emergency services put on standby in Leeds.

One on-looker said: "There was supposed to be a meeting today to discuss the result of the meeting between the Bangladeshi community and the police following the arrest of this man, but nothing really happened.

"Tonight is a reaction to the lack of police action following the incident in which the man was sprayed in the face with CS gas," he added.

Emergency services were called to the Harehills area of Leeds shortly after 2000 BST.

A West Yorkshire Police spokesman said officers had been called to the Banstead Park area, following reports that something had been thrown into the road at around 2015 BST.

No trace of any missile was found but they saw a group of 40 to 50 people gathered nearby, he added.

There were later reports that a shop and a car had been set on fire.

Police later marched down Harehills Lane forcing those standing alongside the road down adjoining streets.

As they progressed down the street forcing people away, one man was injured in the face by a plastic shield.

The Stephen Lawrence case, *an Ideological example* (21/3/99)

[Why looking at examples like this are important i.e. because we should constantly apply our concepts on the reality and broaden our thinking]

- ◆ I want to begin today's discussion by emphasising the need to constantly applying our concepts upon the reality, we must constantly be able to see our culture in the reality. We need to avoid becoming repetitive in our examples, limited in our thinking and narrow in our horizons. It is important for us to have breadth as well as depth in a concept, meaning that we need to understand the core basis of a concept deeply but also need to apply it to many realities. The application to multiple realities tests our understanding of the concept and gives us new angles.
- ◆ With this in mind I want to begin today's discussion on the example of the Stephan Lawrence case as an ideological example. I will first give the basic reality of the case and then go on to show certain concepts from it.
- ◆ We need to remember this is **not a hard and fast discussion**, the points that I will present are only some angles and concepts that I saw relevant to bring up, they may be many more than you can think of and uncover. You may agree/disagree with the angles that I present or even see better points that you could raise for discussion in the Question & answer session.
- ◆ The discussion today is based around racism in its various forms, including institutionalised racism. I could have chosen many examples to demonstrate the points that I will raise like the Rodney King incident in America or the recent beating of a black teenager in the West Midlands. I chose the example of Stephen Lawrence as it is a famous case and has been in the limelight.

[Reality of what occurred]

- ◆ Descriptions of the murder of Stephen Lawrence have been given in thousands of newspapers and television programs since his on 22nd April 1993.
- ◆ Stephen Lawrence had been with his friend Duwayne Brooks during the afternoon of 22 April. They were on their way home when they came at around 10:30 to the bus stop in Well Hall Road with which we are all now so familiar. Stephen went to see if a bus was coming, and reached a position almost in the centre of the mouth of Dickson Road. Mr. Brooks was part of the way between Dickson Road and the roundabout when he saw the **group of five or six white youths** who were responsible for Stephen's death on the opposite side of the road. The group came quickly across the road and engulfed Stephen. During this time one or more of the group stabbed Stephen twice.
- ◆ To quote the **official report** which was presented to the British Parliament in February 1999 for the Stephen Lawrence Enquiry:

"What followed has ultimately led to this public Inquiry. Little did those around Stephen, or the police officers, or indeed the public, expect that five years on this Inquiry would deal with every detail of what occurred from the moment of Stephen's death until the hearings at Hannibal House, where this Inquiry has taken place.

Stephen Lawrence's murder was simply and solely and unequivocally motivated by racism. It was the deepest tragedy for his family. It was an affront to society, and especially to the local black community in Greenwich.

Nobody has been convicted of this awful crime. That also is an affront both to the Lawrence family and the community at large." [THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY REPORT OF AN INQUIRY BY SIR WILLIAM MACPHERSON OF CLUNY]

- ◆ Since the Murder, there has been prolonged police investigations leading to no convictions. The police were accused of gross negligence and racism.

[Show how this problem and similar exist within capitalist societies due to the nature of capitalism itself i.e. expediency, colonialism - led to the concept of nation state - nationalism within western nations. The lethal cocktail of freedom, benefit and individualism within people who have low level of thinking i.e. normal public in capitalist societies leads to massive problems existing, this case being one of such.]

Racism a by-product of the Capitalist Nation state?

- ◆ One of the main questions that comes to mind when we look at this example is, **Why does racism and nationalism exist within Capitalist societies when they supposedly hold and call for the concept of human rights and equality?**
- ◆ In order to answer this question we have to look at the Nature of Capitalism. Let me quickly run through the basic philosophy of Capitalism. The Fundamental thought as we know is secularism, the detachment of religion from life's affairs. Once you have detached religion from life the only thing that remains is man, in reaction to the Church's view of man as being evil and therefore there is a need to suppress him - the original philosophers of Capitalism said that man was inherently good and that he should be left to express his goodness. They therefore denoted that man had inherent dignity and rights and any suppression of these is bad and should be legislated against [Quote human rights declaration]. The concept of the 4 freedoms originate from this. **So in theory all people should be equal and no distinction or bias should be incurred upon them.**
- ◆ However another major element of Capitalism, their criteria or viewpoint of life of expediency or benefit. This criteria was based on the philosophy that man has pleasure and pain to decide in his own actions (utilitarianism), because they detached religion from life their objective of life became only within the realms of the reality i.e. to maximise their pleasure and limit their pain.
- ◆ One of the Western philosophers, Jeremy Bentham outlined this principle, *"Nature has placed mankind under the governance of two sovereign masters, pain and pleasure. It is for them to point out what we ought to do, as well as to determine what we shall do."*[Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation, Jeremy Bentham]
- ◆ They lay a major emphasis on this objective in life to the extent that **their foreign policy became colonialism** i.e. the military, economic, cultural exploitation of other lands. So we saw the British physically colonised Africa, Asia and the Middle East treating the locals sub-human. The French, the Portuguese and the other Europeans followed in the same trend. Even the concept of nation state was developed by them - it was founded by a philosopher called Mazini and developed by Machiavelli - this too was in line with their objective in life, they wanted to establish fixed borders between territory so as to divide the nations; firstly to establish clearly where their own populations and resources lie and secondly they could use in the campaign of colonialism.
- ◆ **As we know the colonialism continues today in its various forms.**
- ◆ **The contradiction between their objective in life of benefit and the concept of human rights and equality can be clearly seen.** This is the result when the mind develops an ideology. We can see the clear flaws to extent that the slogan of Human rights is even used by the America and the like in order to achieve their interests, e.g. America took violation of human rights as an excuse to **intervene militarily in Haiti in 1994**, it selective towards the world states. It ignores the violation of these rights by certain states if American interest makes it necessary not to raise that issue. For some states, she stops at verbally warning them, whereas it takes military actions against others, like Haiti. In some cases, America takes economic and trade measures as was the case with China, or political and diplomatic measures as it did against other states.

- ◆ **This contradiction is apparent on a national level and in the case of Stephen Lawrence.** We can see how in a society where people strongly hold the criteria of benefit and in which the Nationalism is allowed to exist and even promoted at Sports events and when international issues occur how **Racism can exist** on a wide level. It may not be the primary bond united the society, however it can be a sentiment within the people.
 - ◆ e.g's - Gang warfare, football hooliganism, racist attacks even by Children at school,
- ◆ **Capitalism releases the instincts and the propensity for Mastership or dominance comes from the instinct of survival.** People feel good when they have status or see themselves as better than others, e.g. school bully.
- ◆ This is apparent to even to the people within this society, again to quote from the report on the Stephen Lawrence Enquiry:

"In his evidence during Part 2 of our Inquiry, Chief Constable Burden (South Wales Police) rightly impressed upon us that racism exists within all organisations and institutions, and that it infiltrates the community and starts amongst the very young. Recent research in Cardiff showed that 50% of the racist incidents considered by the Race Equality Council involved young people under 16 years old, and 25% of these incidents involved children between the ages of six and 10 years. The problem is thus deeply ingrained. Radical thinking and sustained action are needed in order to tackle it head on, not just in the Police Services of our country, but in all organisations and in particular in the fields of education and family life."

- ◆ **Lord Scarman**, at page 135 of his Report relating to the Brixton disorders of 1981 said this: -

"The evidence which I have received, the effect of which I have outlined, leaves no doubt in my mind that racial disadvantage is a fact of current British life Urgent action is needed if it is not to become an endemic, ineradicable disease threatening the very survival of our society racial disadvantage and its nasty associate racial discrimination, have not yet been eliminated. They poison minds and attitudes; they are, as long as they remain, and will continue to be a potent factor of unrest".

- ◆ Even Sexism exists due to these factors even though theoretically men and women are supposed to be equal.
- ◆ Another issue which allows it to occur is low level thought of people and not deep conviction in ideas. The people who are thinkers and understand the ideology are limited to the elite in this society and in Capitalist societies in general.
 - ◆ E.g. Sociology class - A Level - Who knows who Tony Blair is? Only 4 out of 12 knew.
- ◆ You may find within them some who may be sincere to their views if equality and multiculturalism, even then they would usually be the naive. The normal Sun reader, Pub goers in this society is very shallow in thought - coupled with the criteria of benefit they are hard to control.
 - ◆ E.g. that's why in every city you would find certain areas which are known to be racist, normally in deprived areas.
- ◆ Another characteristic of shallow thinking is looking for **scapegoats** or someone to blame, this also sometimes breeds racism.

[How capitalist societies try 'patch up solutions' to the problems that are created by themselves.]

[Even then slogans to solve these problems fall within the western view of politics -so they are used to gain popularity for the political parties.]

- ◆ **Finally I want to look at how Capitalist nations try patch up solutions to the problems they create.** This can be seen on a general level in this society with many of the problems.
- ◆ The governments current initiatives for **integration and multiculturalism** can be seen. E.g. Muslim News - recruitment for the British Navy, Army and Police. E.g. Legislation relating to ethnic minorities within companies, etc.
- ◆ They want people to go through the system rather than oppose it, so the family of Stephen Lawrence were encouraged to go through the system.
- ◆ These solutions are not going to really solve the problem because the root problem is with the ideology and its concepts.
- ◆ Even the way the government used the Stephen Lawrence case and other equality measures is linked to their viewpoint in life. The government uses these issues to gain votes and reputation. The way the opposition (Conservatives) argue it is also for the same motive of gaining power. As we said the material value is the most prominent value in Capitalist societies.

[How the Islamic state could use examples like this to highlight the contradictions within Capitalism and present Islam]

- ◆ On a final note, when the Islamic state returns, it should point out these contradictions in Capitalist societies to create and intellectual and ideological challenge.
- ◆ E.g. We could even use Ambassadors who are converts from British society - to show then the Unity that Islam brings.