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The Role of Imam Khomeini and the Islamic Revolution on the Integration of Muslim World

Background:

Grand Ayatollah Sayed Rohullah Musavi Khomeini, the founder of Islamic revolution of Iran, was born in a small town of khomein, in Markazi Province of Iran. Imam Khomeini studied religious and theology in Qom and then Holy city of Najaf in Iraq. Imam Khomeini overthrew the Shah's regime that was heavily dependent and close friend of west. He established Islamic republic of Iran and opposed and denounced western values. At the same time Imam Khomeini insisted on close ties with Islamic nations. The policy of "neither east nor west" was introduced by Islamic revolution, meaning that Islamic states should not copy, obey or follow the path of west or east but its own. As a result of these divine and independent policies, Iran today does not depend on any

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country, and has achieved eye-catching progress in different fields.

Introduction:

The unity of Muslim Ummah has always been one of the most challenging and testing issue for Muslims around the world. Many, charitable and effective affords had been made by various Islamic clerics, scholars, head of states and other influential people around Islamic world in order to bring about unity among Muslim, and promote proximity throughout Islamic world. But none of these attempts were, as profound and effective as Imam Khomeini's efforts. One of the most desired wishes of Imam Khomeini was the Unity of Muslim nation. One of his outstanding and creative Ideas in regards to the unity of Muslim was the issue of Palestine. Imam Khomeini urged Muslims around the world to join each other and stand firm in united position against the usurper Zionist regime. He named the last Friday of Holy month of Ramadan as Al Quds Day. The message of Imam was welcomed by Iranian people, honoured and respected by millions of Muslim around the world. The essence and philosophy of his invention and motivation for Al Quds day was to bring the proximity among Muslim and guided and directed the Islamic nations toward one goal as Imam called that; the liberation of Jerusalem is the duty of all Muslim. Those Muslims, who respected the call of Imam Khomeini, saw their interests in line with interests of Muslim world. As a result

of Imam's call, we witnessed the close tie between Islamic resistance groups like Hezbollah, Hamas and Jihad Islami movements are united in their struggle against Zionist regime. As a result of this honoured call of Imam, today Islamic resistance are in much better position, and stronger and more influential than ever have been. And Israel is weaker and more vulnerable than ever has been in its history.

Imam Khomeini and Integration of Muslim world:

When Imam Khomeini launched the Islamic revolution in Iran, the success of revolution was a warning to the west, especially those countries which supported Shah's regime and were close allied with Shah. Because, they believed that their interests and influences not only in Iran but also the whole middle east, were in peril. The fall of Shah's regime in Iran, dismayed and disappointed his close western allies specifically; the United States and United Kingdom. Islamic Revolution of Iran was unprecedented and unique in its kind. Modern political history of the world has witnessed that when the old regime collapses, the regime has enough supporters to disagree and oppose the new ruler. Often these oppositions end up to civil war. But in case of Iranian, it was not true. Because, Khomeini's personality and charisma was such, that the overwhelming majority of Iranian united behind him and supported his revolutionary call. The Islamic Revolution was a total success

for Iranian people by any standards of definition. Muslim around the world, were moved by the Islamic revolution in Iran and wanted to happen similar revolution in their countries too. Obviously, the western powers did not want to see other Islamic countries in the region to follow Khomeini's footsteps. So the west have tried to defame the Islamic republic of Iran at any cost to the rest of Islamic Nations. In doing so, western power used their puppets and proxies in Islamic world to initiate hostility and animosity among Muslim nations. One of these schemes was to divide the Islamic nations by using Shia and Sunni, Arab and Non-Arab slogans.

From the very beginning of Islamic republic revolution, Imam Khomeini was a strong advocate of the issues of Muslim unity. Imam Khomeini believed that in order to achieve the Islamic unity, Muslim nations need to overhaul their entire political establishments. Especially those Islamic countries that were heavily dependent on western countries. Imam believed that some of the Islamic countries are ruled by politicians whom are staunch of west and Zionists. Hence, Imam believed that these overhaul is the prerequisite to the Islamic unity. He urged Muslim Nation to over through their corrupt leaders as we did in Iran. Because, under the ruler who are staunch of the western countries that do not want to see Islamic unity, Islamic countries will never be able to walk the on same path and have the common goal, as the western power do not want this to happen. Figures like Saddam Hussein of Iraq and many more

were example that demonstrated and validated the idea of Imam Khomeini. The war imposed by Saddam Hussein on Iran was orchestrated by western powers to create division and animosity among Muslim Ummah. Due to Imam's wisdom and prudent, Saddam did not succeeded. Imam Khomeini astute handling of the situation dismayed the enemy of Islamic unity. Because Imam was reaching out to all Muslim around the world and declaring that the war imposed by Saddam on Islamic Republic was the scheme to divide Muslim. As long as these figures are in charge of Islamic countries, the path to prosperity, integrity, independency and Unity of Muslim Ummah is not feasible. Imam Khomeini strongly advocated the proximity and unity of Muslim Ummah at any time. Even, in the most difficult time, Imam sought any opportunity to unite Muslim.

At that time Imam Knew the unctuous manner of some Muslim towards Saddam, but instead of targeting them directly, Imam Khomeini was approaching these people, and sending them messages and guided them, that what Saddam is doing is not in benefit of Muslim world. (Iraqi Dictator Saddam Hussein, who had befallen to the western scheme, insisted upon the disparity that existed among Muslim. Quite opposite, Imam Khomeini, had the will, vision and devotion to turn these little disparity to unity among Muslim. Imam sought, any opportunity to unite Muslim around the world, and Muslim nations across the globe witnessed his efforts and will toward Islamic unity.

Imam Khomeini believed that all Muslims are the follower of Mohammad (PBUH), and the Holy Quran is the book of all Muslim. However, among Muslim, the date of Birth, of Prophet remains disputed. Some Muslim believes that Prophet was born on 12th Rabii Awal, other believe that it was 17th. Imam Khomeini believed that these kinds of disparity are utterly trivial matter. Imam Khomeini, come up with an idea; that the Muslim around the world should call that week as unity week (Hafte Wahdat) this invention, is one significant step which brought Muslim around the world together. This suggestion of Imam Khomeini exorcised some of the disparity that existed among Muslim. Under the leadership of Imam Khomeini, the trivial disparities that exist among Muslim had no value and significance to divide Muslim nations and weaken their strength and significance. Imam Khomeini knew the importance of Muslim unity more than any other Islamic leaders. And he also knew that, it is because of Muslim division that Israel has occupied the Palestine. He also warned Muslim, should you choose to be divided; you should expect more defeat and humiliation from Zionist enemy.

August 1979, Imam Khomeini declared the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan as Al Quds Day. Imam called that “Al Quds day is the day of Islam”. His message was directed towards all Muslim. The notion and rationale in his message demonstrate the fact that all Muslim has common goals and common enemies. Hence, Muslim nations need to work

together for the common purpose. The implication of Imam Khomeini's message to Muslim Ummah was overwhelming. Muslim around the world subscribed firmly and sympathetically to Idea of Imam Khomeini in regards to Al Quds day. As we witness today, since the declaration of Al Quds day in 1979, every year Muslim swarm on streets and denounce the usurper regime more than year before it. On Al Quds day, Muslim from all walks of life, all religious sects and schools of thoughts, Shia or Sunni swarm on streets side by side with each other. Confer with each other, to find solution for the Issues and problem Muslim are facing. Imam Khomeini inventions and intentions in regards to the unity of Muslim Ummah, have not been seen in the contemporary history of Muslim world. Imam Khomeini made aware and alerted Muslim Ummah, the acute period they are living in and the responsibility they need to take in regards to Islam. The challenges and crises imposed by our enemies are not directed to one sect or another, but the whole Muslim Ummah and should remain the reality of all Muslim Ummah.

On addition to what have been mentioned above, Imam Khomeini himself was a symbol of Unity. His character encompassed the qualities and values that a true Muslim leader supposed to have. Since Muslim around the world believed that, after a long setback in Islamic political leadership, finally Imam Khomeini emerged; that people believed that truth is coming from his mouth only, and he is the

only Islamic leader that can spot and explore the threats and opportunities for Muslim Ummah truly.

Iran has been the pioneer of Islamic unity

Islamic Republic of Iran with its unique leadership and strong economic, political and military strategic position has been the strongest advocate of unity and integration among Islamic nations and governments. Iran has been the pioneer of Islamic unity, in the past and in present. Iran has not shown any kind of resilience in pursue of Islamic unity since the Islamic revolution either in international arena or in among Islamic nation. In international arena, Iran has always been a strong and relentless supporter of Islamic interests. The political stands of Islamic republic of Iran's political stands and position with regards to Islamic countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and Bosnia have been in line and in accord with benefit of these countries. Western powers waged wars in Islamic countries like Iraq and Afghanistan was condemned and denounced by Islamic republic of Iran in the strongest possible way. Western powers have the history of victimizing and ill-treating of Islamic countries in different parts of the world, either directly or indirectly.

The Islamic revolution in Iran was considered by western powers as existential and immediate threat to their interests

and influence in the Middle East². Western's fear of Islamic Republic of Iran was growing and could not tolerate Islamic republic of Iran as a united, strong and independent country in Middle East, because none of them wanted other Islamic country follow the path of Islamic Republic of Iran. So the western countries started to think how to destabilize and demonize the Islamic republic at any cost. The direct intervention of western power was not feasible at that time due to many reasons, among them the strong and overwhelming support and devotion of Iranian people to Islamic revolution. So the western power particularly United States and United Kingdome planned a scheme; the indirect approach dealing with Islamic republic of Iran. By doing so, the strategy was to spread discord and animosity among Muslim nations through their staunch in Iraq.

The Iraqi dictator deceived by west, started all-out war against Islamic republic of Iran in September 1980. Saddam used Islamic money, assets and resources to fight the Islamic revolution of Iran. Due to his position and power, Saddam did manage to misguide some Muslim around the world and tried so hard to convince them that the revolution of Islamic republic of Iran and its ultimate Islamic Ideology is a danger to the rest of Islamic world specially the Arabs. Among many of his claim, one was that a stronger Iran mean weaker Arab world. And a

² Middle Eastern countries predominantly inhabited by Muslim are the richest part of the world in terms of natural resources. This region has always been subject to incessant interference and invasion of western powers.

fundamental religious in Iran would be against Arab world. In fact today we see the complete opposite side of story Saddam was presenting to Muslim. Today, Iran is the only Islamic power that the enemy of Islam the Zionist³ fear the most. Today, Iran is in a much stronger position than the rest of the Islamic world. Never threaten any Islamic nation. In fact Iran is has stronger and louder voice in international arena when it come the issue of defending the Islamic world. The Issue of Palestine is an example of Iran's positive perspectives and perceptions towards Islamic Ummah. Supporting Islamic resistance, demanding rights for oppressed nations were the slogan of Islamic Republic from day one to the very moment. The commitments and devotions of Islamic republic of Iran toward unity of Muslim Ummah and their interests are unbounded to the extent that some time, Islamic Republic of Iran put Islamic Ummah interest before its own interests. Because Iran does not consider a treat and problem subjected toward Arab as Arab treats. Instead, consider it as Islamic Ummah treats and problem and Iran see itself an important part of Islamic world.

The unwavering political, economic and military supports of Iran to resistance movements in Palestine are an example of Iran's intention and good will towards Muslim Ummah. Iran get huge amount of fierce condemnation from European and American politicians serving as lobby for Zionist regime as a

³ Zionist Regime has always tried to create division among Muslims. In doing so, the usurper regime employed spy, from Muslim, and also even political leader like Saddam Hussein as their staunch

result of its unconditional support of Palestine. The condemnations Iran get from EU and US is because Iran stands side by side with their Muslim Brothers and sisters and exposes and reveals the evil intentions of western power towards Muslim. Despite all these difficulties directed toward Islamic Republic of Iran, Iran never backed off from the support of their brothers and sister. Iran honour the unity of Muslim Ummah as a religious duty.

Sadly the political realities of Islamic world in last century have been such that, western countries had installed their staunch in some of Islamic countries. These puppets of western countries ruled some Islamic countries, like Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and many more tried to distance their great nations from Islamic Republic of Iran. No political relationship, no economic ties and no military coordination existed between these countries and Islamic republic of Iran. Despite, all of these efforts, to spread discord and distance among Muslim Ummah, Iran have been trying to reach out to the people of these countries through different channel. Every year Islamic republic of Iran invites Muslim scholars, university teachers, researchers, philosophers and other influential personality from around the Muslim world and engages and confers about the treat that faces the Islamic Ummah.

In each possible occasion the leadership of Islamic Republic of Iran advised and cautioned the Ummah that; the western

schemes are cloaked not as imperialism but of modernism. Deceiving many Muslim around the world by promising the modernity but in fact their sole objective is the old desire of imperialism and control of Islamic world and to make use of their resources. So they west did not and to some extend even now do not spare any chance to spread discord and disharmony among Ummah. From outside, Muslim world was pictured by many western powers as divided and easy-to-break Nation. In fact, sadly it was the reality and to some extend it is true even today. However, the emergence of Imam Khomeini and Islamic revolution has brought some respite to the believes of those that Muslim are easy to break and rule. This was because Iranian Nation demonstrated an exemplary approach toward proximity of Islamic nations, drove many western powers to despair. The more despair, the western world felt, the more pressure they imposed to Islamic nation

During Iran-Iraq war, Iran and its leader Imam Khomeini consistently and continuously promoted the unity among Muslims around the world, despite of the facts, that majority of Muslim were deceived by Saddam propaganda war and numerous conspiracy theories that were spread by Saddam Hussein and sadly were welcomed by many Islamic countries. Saddam Hussein was pinching to the Arab leader that Islamic Republic of Iran is of no beneficiary to Arabic and Muslim world.

Conclusion:

Today, the message of Unity from Islamic republic of Iran is louder than any other Islamic country. The Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently supported the Islamic unity among the ummah. Imam Khomeini believed that it was imperative that the unity of Muslim should be kept intact so that the integrity and prosperity of Muslim shall not be in tatters. Sadly, despite of his noble call toward Muslim unity, still Muslim nations are not united as it should be. That is why; we witness desecration of Muslim holy sites, Holy Quran and other Islamic believes by Zionists and its allies. And Islamic nations are quite in their peril.

Suggestion:

Muslim Ummah, ought to strengthen their love of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and his honoured family and get influence and inspired by his teaching to reach the highest level of integrity and prosperity. This only can be attainable, if only Muslim nations around the world confront the common enemy of Muslim Ummah, in a united front with cohesive forces and put their trivial differences aside. Muslim nations need to boost their political, social and economic ties with each other. In doing so, Muslim nations ought to share and exchange their resources, capabilities and competences with sound and virtue and this path of unity and brotherhood must begin now! As Muslims around the world are eagerly waiting for the day to see

united Muslim world, with that come a lot of efforts, self-sacrifice, acceptance, tolerance and good will toward each other. Yes, United Muslim, means the better quality of life for Muslim, integrity and prosperity and a sound social life style that only the teaching of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and his honoured family can generate.

