

Conversations Islamaphobia

Despite the passionate debate today, one point that the class unanimously can agree on is that Islamaphobia exists, both in the US and around the world. The news coverage for the Ground Zero mosque shows America's fear of people of other beliefs. Muslims didn't commit 9/11- terrorists did. But the fact that people associate any given attack with the attacker's religion (or the predominant religion of the attackers' home town) is something that reporters and the general population should be aware of. What's ironic is that America allows large, corrupt corporations like oil companies and McDonalds - companies that have adversely impacted the lives of countless people, farms, and animals - to make business and fuel their corruption at Ground Zero.

Countries have done terrible things to other countries, to the point where nations like Laos do not allow Americans the pleasure of entering their country at will. MIT Global Poverty Initiative had a very detailed hunger-fighting project in Laos - however, it was denied at the last minute due to the students being from the US, which devastated the organizers of the project. However, nothing in history can justify the fact that Muslims are discriminated against by the American government and population. As a nation that has militarized and taken over many other countries, America and other nations should set an example by not discriminating based on color and religion, as well as not label criminals and terrorists by their religion. Although some criminals in the past happened to be Muslim, that doesn't mean that the TSA should watch out just for people who dress "Muslim." There have also been Christian terrorists, but the fact that they are Christian isn't blown up by the media nearly as much as if the attacker was Muslim. Racial profiling can backfire in that it's quite easy to bypass the TSA by simply dressing in nondescript clothing. So while it may be some people's human instinct to scrutinize Muslims more than others at the airport, unfairly detaining them is just as wrong as unfairly detaining people of any other religion.

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