

Another Wing Clipped

COMMENT

EGYPT is eternal. She is the mother of states and empires. Egypt is Islamic. She is the giant of the Arab world and a pillar of Muslim polity. Egypt is also the saviour of the present political order in Eurasia. Some seven centuries ago, the Mamluk Egyptian army saved the world of Islam and the West by squarely trouncing the Mongolic hordes in the battle of Ayn Jalut. Had Cairo too like Baghdad fallen to the fury of these Central Asiatic nomads, civilisation as we know it would undoubtedly have perished. The barbarians would have advanced to the further shores of Europe, Rome would have been razed to the ground and who knows what fate might have befallen the three Scriptural faiths. East and West both, thus, are indebted to Egypt for securing their transition into modern times. Conversely too, along with fascination of the Desert, Egypt has always had to contend with the lure of the 'Mediterranean'. If her masses have pushed her towards Arabism and Islam, her rulers and intelligentsia have also tried to pull her towards cosmopolitanism and the West.

Notwithstanding her Islamic moorings, alas, Egypt today no longer acts as the hub of the Arab system, the champion of African aspirations and the frontline soldier of Islam against Zionism. Slowly but unmistakably, she is being dragged out of the Islamic camp into joining a new Middle-Eastern order under the Zionist hegemony. Clearly, this scheme is part and parcel of the grand strategy of the West. Not content with the 'Balkanization' of Islamdom, the Western bid to acquire total mastery of the world stipulates further that Islam must no longer be allowed to form the basis of polity even in Muslim societies. Unless the Umma is depleted of *all* political consciousness, the West fears, she would resist attempts at the imposition of a hegemonic world-order. The Turkification of Egypt is thus a major objective of the western crusade towards the creation of a politically innocuous Muslim Umma.

Today the choice rests with the people and the thinkers of Egypt. Will they accept the 'Turkish solution' to their problem of military

defeats, societal exhaustion and battle fatigue? Will they prefer the riches of Arabian sands to the toils of the Nile delta, spurious cosmopolitanism to genuine authenticity, secularism to Islam? Will they rise against or succumb to the mutilation of the Umma which is the all too transparent design of Egypt's western masters? Will they, in short, sell the Egyptian soul for some dubious political gains? Before they make any choice, they ought to know that nations which barter their historical identities and universal missions for the sake of transitory peace and elusive prosperity play with fire.

As for the 'Mediterranean Option', everyone can see, it is a farce for a poor country like Egypt: an Egypt severed from the Muslim world is a poor third-world state on the banks of the Nile, an Egypt severed from its Arab body is a stalemated society exposed to the full fury of the Zionist menace. The Mediterranean option is nothing but an invitation to cultural slavery, a blue-print for civilisational suicide and an embrace unto death by the boa-constrictor of global capitalism. We all know too well that the only relationship that Egypt can have with the West is one of debtor and creditor and the only peace she'll ever have under Zionism is the peace of surrender and capitulation.

Sure enough, the West's stragem is not new, nor are its designs unknown to the Umma. The body-politic of Islam has been mutilated before and the wings of the soaring Muslim Eagle - the Turkish polity - have been clipped in a similar fashion. Given the indispensability of Egypt to Islam and Arabism, however, it is heartbreaking to see that another arm of the Umma is being amputated right before our eyes. The Muslim failure in Turkey and the concomitant fact that a renegade state is no longer a pariah of the Muslim political order gives hopes to the schemers that a new apostate might be in the offing. Only the Muslim's perception of himself as belonging to a universal polity may frustrates that design.

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