

**PERISCOPIC VIEW:****HINDU NAZIFICATION OF INDIA – IMPLICATIONS
FOR ISRAEL, WEST AND THE MUSLIM WORLD****By: Afrasiab Mehdi Hashmi Qureshi**

The year was 1996, when a Hindu Sadhu remarked to me at a Bharatya Janata Party (BJP) function in New Delhi, “Time is coming soon, when the Christian world will fight against you, the Muslims. After that, would come the time for the Hindus to rule the world.”

The RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), under the garb of the BJP, came to power in India in the same year. Most significantly, 9/11 happened five years later in 2001. Strange coincidences do take place in life.

While the world is focused on serious developments in Gaza and Ukraine, to the disappointment of sane voices the ongoing Hindu Nazification in India is being overlooked by many. The more than two hundred million Muslims in India and in Indian occupied Kashmir (IOK) are being persecuted, outgoing Muslim Vice President of India has been scoffed at, and Muslim names of cities in the country are being changed to Hindu names.

There is even a move to change the name of the Indian capital New Delhi; and that of the country itself, to 'Bharat.' Above all, history is being rewritten to glorify the imagined Hindu past of India, a country which never existed as one country in history except during the British rule and earlier may be during the time of Alauddin Khilji.

In early 2002, India witnessed the horrifying genocide of Muslims in its State of Gujarat. While media reports placed the casualty figure at a thousand or so, eye witness accounts confirm that ten thousand if not more Muslims were massacred, with Muslim women raped and children mercilessly killed by Hindu fascists.

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, is the leading force in this process of massive change in a country of more than a billion. Modi joined RSS when he was only a seven year - old boy.

Ironically, RSS is categorized by some western scholars as a 'nationalist' organisation, ignoring the fact that it is a Hindu 'fundamentalist' organisation to the core.

What is RSS? What is its background? What are its objectives? This needs elaboration. The RSS is a Hindu fundamentalist organisation in India, the largest in the world, with more than six million all-male members. It was set up by a Hindu ideologue, Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, in Nagpur on 27 September 1925. The main objective has been to establish a 'Hindu Nation (Rashtra)' in the subcontinent.



Out of antipathy for Islam, Hedgewar described people of Muslim faith, as the “hissing Yavana snakes.”

(‘Saffron has a go at history’, Khushwant Singh) (Hindustan Times, 7 Nov 2008).

His activists used derogatory terms for the Christian, Dalit and Sikh communities as well. After its establishment, the founding fathers of RSS developed special links with the German Nazis.

They drew inspiration from the Nazis and emulated them. Interesting comparisons can be drawn between the Hindu ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar’s 1923 pamphlet ‘Hindutva: Who is Hindu?’, and Joseph Goebbels’ 1926 publication, ‘Der Nazi Sozi.’

The RSS is to BJP what SS (Schutzstaffel) was to the Nazi party in Germany. The difference being that SS under Heinrich Luitpold Himmler, was subordinate to the National Socialist German Workers’ Party (NSDAP) under Adolf Hitler.



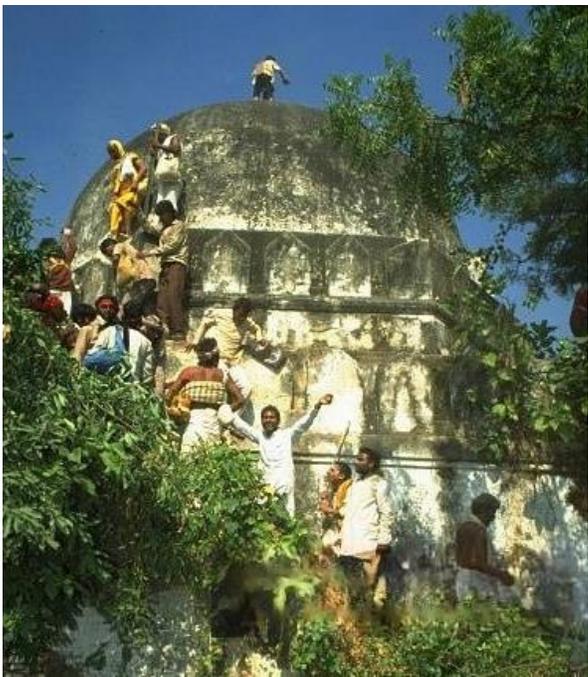
In India, BJP seeks guidance and takes instructions from the RSS. In fact, Nazi salutations and symbolism have been an integral part of the RSS practice. During World War II, the Hindu fundamentalists had received explicit support from Germany. Some even served in Hitler's army and in SS. In a speech in Dresden (Germany) in 1943.

“ Adolf Hitler reportedly emphasised: “I am impressed by the burning passion” with which Netaji (India’s nationalist leader, Subhash Chandra Bose) seeks to liberate India “from foreign domination,” adding, “Netaji’s status is even greater than mine.”

(‘Hindu Nationalists - Historical links to Nazism and Fascism’, Palash Ghosh, International Business Times, 3 June 2012). Netaji who died in 1945, continues to be held in high esteem in India.

“ Today, India is no longer the country of Gandhi as many would like to believe. India is no longer the country of Jawaharlal Nehru as many would wish it to be. India has changed. India is being ruled since 2014 by RSS whose leadership has sympathy not for Gandhi (the Father of the Nation of India), but for Nathuram Godse, who assassinated Gandhi in 1948 because he was considered soft on minorities, especially Muslims and the very idea of Pakistan.

The RSS was banned in British India on account of its linkages with the right - wing



outfits in Europe. The organisation was also banned by Prime Minister Nehru after 1947. It was banned again when Emergency was imposed in India by Prime Minister Indira

Gandhi in mid 1970s; and later when Babri Masjid was demolished by RSS Hindu fundamentalists in 1992.

Silent support for RSS has always been there in some sections of the Indian civil society, bureaucracy, armed forces, and in the security agencies of India.

According to a writeup on Samvada, the first Indian who was appointed the Army Chief of India, Field Marshal Kodandera Madappa Cariappa, in his remarks to the organisation, had underlined: “RSS is my heart’s work. My dear young men, don’t be disturbed by the uncharitable comments....Look ahead! Go ahead! The country is standing in need of your services.” (RSS website samvada.org, posted on 24 Oct 2012).

The neo - Nazi sites in Europe declare Hitler as the “reincarnation” of Hindu God Vishnu, and **RSS activists mention Adolf Hitler as “India’s Swastika God.” Slogans of ‘Hail Shree Ram - Hail Hitler’, have been frequently raised at mammoth gatherings of the RSS.** Significantly, the school textbooks in the country are being revised. Chapters have been added in the social studies books with titles such as: ‘Hitler, the Supremo.’

A section on Nazi ideology in some school publications glorifies fascism with comments: “Hitler gave dignity and prestige to Germany.” (‘Hitler’s Hindus: the Rise and Rise of India’s Nazi loving Nationalists’, Shrenik Rao, Haaretz, 14 Dec 2017).

Savitri Devi Mukherji (1905 - 1982), born Maximiani Julia Portaz, was a Nazi fascist who converted to Hinduism.

(India Today, 22 Oct 2018). Savitri was a strong proponent of the amalgamation of Nazism with Hinduism declaring Hitler an 'Avataar.' Her writings have influenced the RSS mindset. She is a hero to many intellectuals in India.

India's relations with Israel are considered important for both the countries. Friendly interaction has always been there since the late 1940s, though the ties were formalized later in 1992. India has emerged as one of 'the most dependable allies of Israel' in its present war against the Palestinians.

In his remarks on 10 October 2023, Prime Minister Modi emphasised: "I thank Prime Minister Netanyahu for his phone call and providing an update on the ongoing situation. People of India stand firmly with Israel in this difficult hour." (The Wire, 10 Oct 2023).

Modi advertises his communication with Netanyahu who is responsible for the killing of more than seven thousand children in Gaza. (Anadolu Ajansı, 5 Dec 2023).

However, there are obstacles; a natural barrier, in the growth of the relations between India and Israel. Not many would note it today, but its contours will emerge in the not too distant future.

The RSS is not secular; the organisation is embedded in Hindutva, which is ‘deep - rooted in Hindu religion.’ The Hindus believe in millions of gods. According to analysts, ‘33 million gods and goddesses,’ if not more. This belief is repugnant to Judaism which is strictly monotheistic. The Jewish Encyclopedia describes the ‘One God’ as one who is: “The Supreme Being, regarded as the Creator, Author, and First Cause of the universe, the Ruler of the world and of the affairs of men, the Supreme Judge.....”. (<https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles>).

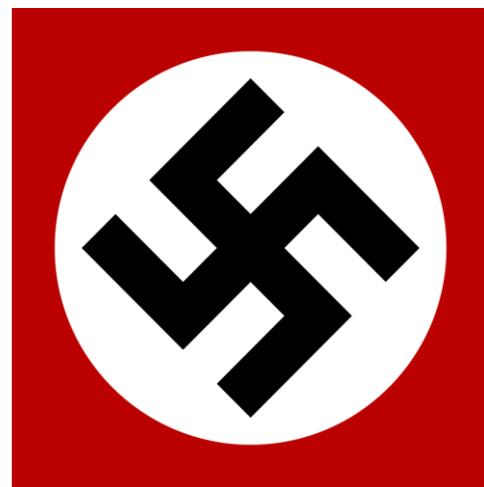
“Judaism, Christianity and Islam constitute the Abrahamic faiths. On the other hand, the RSS ideologues have an intrinsic antipathy towards the Abrahamic ideologies. It would be intriguing for many to note that the ideological father of Israel, Theodor Herzl, could speak “neither Hebrew or Yiddish, and had no Jewish education.”

(Shapell Manuscript Foundation: ‘Herzl on Religion, Freedom,’ 4 May 1896.)

Images are noteworthy. Swastika, the Nazi symbol of authority, has, since ages, been considered auspicious in Hindu religion. It is a sign of good luck, good fortune. Swastika cannot be respected by both the orthodox Jew and the Zionist.

Swastika is considered a sign of intense hatred by Jewish people in Europe, US and other places in the world. Swastika will continued to be used by people of the Hindu religion; and by the right wing extremists.

Savitri Devi, mentioned earlier, had depicted Hitler as ‘a sacrifice for humanity’ that would lead to ‘the end of the worst World Age, the Kali Yuga,’ which she believed was induced by the Jews, whom she saw as ‘the powers of the evil.’ (Kerala Academic Library Network, India). Hindu astronomer - sage Aryabhata (AD 476 AD - 550) is quoted as stating that the period of Kali Yuga started in 3102 BC.



Interestingly, Hindu pundits have been claiming association of the end of Kali Yuga ‘in the near future,’ with the seals of the ancient civilisation of Mohenjodaro, a place located not in India, but in Pakistan.

India is trying to recreate its image; Israel has its own impression on the minds of many. Strange as it would seem, during her seventy - year long reign, Queen Elizabeth II (1952 - 2022) never visited Israel in spite of invitations from the highest level. No proper explanation has been given for this astute avoidance, till one engages a Kabbalist or an esoteric, which is not the subject of this paper.

Nobody would say for sure that Narendra Modi is not interested in the esoteric aspect of Hinduism, just like the Indian President Droupadi Murmu who has a conscious association with the Brahma Kumaris. Members of this movement have strong belief in the cycle of time, including Kali Yuga. Interestingly, the ideology of Brahma Kumaris originated in the 1930s from a place not too far from Mohenjodaro, mentioned earlier.

The adulation of the Nazi mindset in India is being carefully noted in Israel. Case in point also being Hitler's autobiography 'Mein Kamphf' which has been reprinted in India "at least twice a year, to meet the growing demand." Analysts have also cited 'mutual influence' of India and the Nazis 'on one another.'

For instance, they note that Gandhi had ‘corresponded with the Fuhrer,’ adding that in their view, the book has more likely “influenced some of the fascist organisations operating in India.”

(The Telegraph, 20 April 2009. Also see Israeli publication, Haaretz, 14 Dec 2017).

The belief that they are ‘the chosen people of God,’ gives Jewish people the confidence of superiority over other peoples and other nations. Their scholars have highlighted that Jesus was Jewish. They have been holding the belief that Christianity developed as a deviant sect originating from Judaism.

The Jewish scholars exhibited this tendency of superiority in Arabia even during the time of the Holy Prophet of Islam. Jews looked down upon the Arabs, then. It is a paradox of history that Jews were granted a place of respect by Umar bin Khattab; in Muslim Spain, and by the Ottomans. Above all, Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) himself gave them their due rights under the Charter of Medina. Showing affinity, the Jews and Christians have been mentioned in Islamic literature as ‘people of the book.’

(‘People of the Book’, Craig Considine, Hurst, 2021).

To presume that Israel would psychologically consider the people of the Hindu religion in India, as their equals, would tantamount to naivety. Bulldozer is a powerful machine used to move the earth. In Palestine, bulldozer is used to demolish houses of the Palestinian people by some Jewish settlers.

Emulating Israel, Hindu fascists started to do the same in India. Bulldozer has been used to demolish houses of the Muslims and their holy places of worship by the RSS. India is closely watching the Palestinian genocide in Gaza. The RSS would like to repeat this against the Muslims in India and in Indian occupied Kashmir, with more vigour.



Israel is small but it would like to grow big. India is big and would like to grow by amalgamating its neighbours. Whether Israel and India would be able to realize their dreams, is a bigger question.

As the world slowly heads in the direction of theological fascism, contours of conventional religions seem to be attracting more attention.

Not only conventional religions, also the 'irreligions' and their unconventional beliefs, that are attracting the attention of many. Points highlighted in this writeup need to be looked at also from this perspective. This carries implications for India's relations with Israel.

Muslim mystics from Ibn Arabi to Jalaluddin Rumi, Bahauddin Naqshband to Nizamuddin Auliya, and Sultan-ul-Arifeen Sultan Bahoo to Shah Jalal, and some even today, have focused on the future. Just to emphasise, Ali bin Abu Talib, son in law of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the fourth caliph of Islam, has been quoted as stating:

“ Do not scold your children. They have been brought into this world, for a different world. ”

No doubt, the world of tomorrow will be gigantically different from the world of today. This is a fact.

(The Author is the Former Ambassador of Pakistan)

“The task is not so much to see what no one has yet seen; but to think what nobody has yet thought, about which everybody sees.”
(Erwin Schrodinger)

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