
**Impact of Terrorist Attacks on American Muslim
Women in Samira Ahmed`s
*Love, Hate and Other Filters***

By

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Abstract

This research discusses the relationship between Feminism and the phenomenon of Islamophobia. After the terrorist attacks of September 11th 2001, the relations between Muslims in the West and Americans have become very bad, as all Americans have come to see Muslims as terrorists and that they pose a threat to the security and stability of America. Therefore, the American government decided to deport Muslims who don't have the American citizenship to their countries, while the American Muslims are detained in camps outside America's borders. In these camps, Muslims were tortured and their lives were very harsh.

As a result , the author Samira Ahmed decides to discuss this important issue through her novel , titled *Love, Hate and Other Filters* (2018) to show the danger of the phenomenon of Islamophobia on Muslims in general and Muslim women in particular , and how Muslim women with their courage and their strong will become able to overcome this phenomenon and other obstacles that they face in the American society to achieve their dreams and demand with their rights as any American citizen.

In *Love, Hate and Other Filters* , the heroine Maya Aziz is an American Muslim woman suffers from different types of

oppression from her classmate and from the American society as a whole because she is a Muslim women lives in a society where the phenomenon of Islamophobia is widespread . Her family prevents her from travelling to New York University to study what she likes because they afraid of the Americans , who have come to see all Muslims as terrorists and deserving of punishment. Maya exposes to verbal and physical attacks of her classmate who says " It`s a Muslim terrorist . They hate America ...Is that terrorist your uncle ... Egyptian? Indian ? What`s the difference? You `re both ragheads."(150). Aso, her parents expose to a terrorist attack as someone send them a message threatening to kill them because they are Muslims, and he writes their home address at the end of the message " a brick came flying through the window . Glass shattered everywhere. Patients started screaming . It was a brick with a paper wrapped around it with rubber bands... You `re dead . You fucking terrorists."(160).

The author leaves the ending open to the reader`s imagination , but mentions that Maya is still determined to achieve her dream as a filmmaker and study in New York University " Then I pull myself up by my bootstraps and start over . You taught me that . You came here, started with almost nothing, and built your practice. I know how hard you worked . Please, you have to let me al least try before you decide I1m going to fail ."(232). She ends this novel by saying " Maya and her family are victims of Islamophobic attacks."(261).

Key Words: Islamophobia, American Muslim woman and the terrorist attacks of September 11th 2001.

الملخص:

هذا البحث يناقش العلاقة بين نظرية الحركة النسائية و ظاهرة الاسلاموفوبيا . بعد أحداث 11 سبتمبر 2001 العلاقة بين المسلمين في الغرب و الامريكانيك أصبحت سيئه للغاية لأن كل الأمريكان أصبحوا يرون جميع المسلمين على أنهم ارهابيين و يشكلون خطرا على امن و استقرار أمريكا. لذلك قررت الحكومة الأمريكية ترحيل المسلمين الذين لا يتمتعون باجنسية الأمريكية الى بلادهم بينما المسلمين الأمريكيين تم اعتقالهم في معسكرات خارج حدود أمريكا . في هذه المعسكرات المسلمين كانوا يعذبون و حياتهم كانت قاسية جدا .

ونتيجة لذلك المؤلفه سميرة أحمد تقرر مناقشه هذه القضية الهامه من خلال روايتها حب و كراهية و أشياء أخرى لتوضح من خلالها خطوره ظاهره الاسلاموفوبيا على المسلمين في الغرب بشكل عام و على المرأة المسلمة بشكل خاص و كيف تستطيع المرأة المسلمة بشجاعتها و قوة ارادتها ان تتغلب على هذه الظاهرة و على العقبات الأخرى التي تواجهها في المجتمع الأمريكي من أجل تحقيق حلمها و المطالبه بحقوقها كأى مواطن أمريكي.

في رواية حب و كراهية و أشياء أخرى البطلة مايا عزيز هي امرأه أمريكية مسلمة تعاني من أنواع مختلفة من الاضطهاد من زميلها في المدرسة و من المجتمع الأمريكي ككل لأنها مسلمة تعيش في مجتمع تنتشر فيه ظاهرة الاسلاموفوبيا . عائلتها تمنعها من السفر الى جامعة نيويورك لدراسة ما تحب لانهم يخافون عليها من الامريكانيك الذين أصبحوا يرون ان جميع المسلمين هم ارهابيين و يستحقون العقاب . تتعرض مايا الى الاضطهاد اللفظي و الجسدي من زميل لها بالمدرسه الذي يقول انالمسلمين ارهابيين و يكرهون أمريكا... هل هذا الارهابي هو عمك؟ ... مصريين او هنديين ما الفرق كلاهما رجعيين .

أيضا يتعرض والدى مايا الى الاضطهاد بسبب ظاهرة الاسلاموفوبيا حيث يرسل لهم شخص ما رسالة تهديد بالقتل لأنهم مسلمين و في آخر الرساله ترك عنوان منزلهم.

المؤلفة تترك النهاية مفتوحة لخيال القارئ و لكنها تذكر ان مايا مازالت مصممة على تحقيق حلمها كصانعة أفلام و تدرس في جامعة في نيويورك فهي بتطلب من والديها أن يعطوا لها الفرصة في ان تجرب الاعتماد على نفسها لتعلم ما تريد . في النهاية تذكر المؤلفه ان مايا و عائلتها هم ضحايا للهجمات بسبب الاسلاموفوبيا.

الكلمات المفتاحية: ظاهره الاسلاموفوبيا و المرأة المسلمه الأمريكية و أحداث 11 سبتمبر.

1- Introduction

This study aims to shed light on a Feminist approach besides understanding the relationship between the theory of Feminism and the phenomenon of Islamophobia in *Love, Hate and Other Filters* (2018). The main purpose of this study is also clarifying the

danger of spreading the phenomenon of Islamophobia on the American Muslims in general and American Muslim women in particular. They suffer from verbal and physical assaults because they are muslims and the Americans regard them as terrorist who form a threat to the security and stability of their country.

1.2 Research Questions

- How does the selected novel demonstrate the effect of terrorist attacks on American Muslim women?
- How does the novel clarify that Islamophobia not Islam is the main reason behind Muslim`s women`s oppression in the American society?
- How does the heroine manage to achieve her dream?

2- Data

2-1 analyzing *Love, Hate and Other Filters* by Samira

Ahmed through a feminist approach and tying the theory of Feminism with the phenomenon of Islamophobia . This novel is about an American young woman wants to travel to New York University for studying filmmaking as her dream is being one of the greatest filmmakers in the Hollywood cinema but, the spreading of

the phenomenon of Islamophobia and the terrorist attacks such as the terrorist attack of September 11th 2001 make her parents change their opinion and refuse letting her travel to New York University. This novel tries to explain that the phenomenon of Islamophobia represents a hinder in the way of Maya`s dream and it also the main reason behind oppressing the American Muslim women .

3– Methods of analysis

This study involves a feminist analysis method of *Love, Hate and Other Filters* (2018) with the aim of looking at the writer`s choice of characters and language. The writer makes the heroine is an American Young woman to clarify that women in the West are twice oppressed because she is a woman and because she is a Muslim lives in a society suffers from spreading the phenomenon of Islamophobia especially after the events of September 11th 2001. The writer also proving that Women should not be regarded as useless beings as some men says because by their courage and their strong will , they manage to stand against the obstacles and hardships which exist in their way of achieving their dreams and aspirations.

4. The Relationship Between Feminism and Islamophobia

Feminism, according to Margot Badran, is a phenomenon that engages with issues of women`s rights , liberation ,and gender equality as part and parcel of the rights , which was shaped *concurrently* by Muslims and others in the East and by Westerners in

the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. History shows that feminism was created by both Easterners and Westerners, Muslims and people of faiths, colonized and colonizers, and Muslims and women of many colors and ethnicities. Feminism is still, in many ways, a prisoner of colonialism (Anitta Kynsilebto, 2008, p.25).

The first wave of feminism existed from the early nineteenth century till the twentieth century . However, the phrase “ feminist wave” did not emerge until the second feminist wave in the 1960s to denote a distinct succeeding feminist action with fresh demands for equality. The movement focused primarily on electoral rights, especially the ability of women to vote in the United States and the United Kingdom. The movement got its start at the World Anti- Slavery Convention in 1840, where women were barred from attending. The Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 resulted in the exclusion. It was the first conference held by and for women to advocate for women's righteous involvement in society. They sought the right to “ be free as man is free, to be represented in the government which [they] are taxed to support” (Seneca Fall Convention).

The Declaration of Sentiment was issued during the convention as a proclamation emphasizing women`s accomplishments in societal problems. It listed eleven resolutions, one of which was the freedom to vote for women. The demand for an elective franchise sparked considerable debate. It was, However, a mainstay of the first feminist wave. The response to this was divided into supporters and opponents...

Horace Greely, the editor of The New York Tribune, was one of the supporting writers, claiming that " however unwise and

mistaken the demand, it is, but the assertion of a natural right and such must be conceded " (Seneca Fall Convention) . An opposing stance embodied the writings of J.W Burgon whose " Woman`s Place" remarked his distaste for women who took part in elections . To demonstrate his objection to education women , he wrote to Educate Young Women Young Men , and with young Men–A Thing Inexpedient and Immodest (Harrison 32) . Brian mentioned in *Separate Spheres: The Opposition to Women`s Suffrage In Britain* that It was widely assumed that " women`s political opinion were unstable , uneducated , politically inexperienced and irrational " (33) .

Members of the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA), which was founded in 1869, staged rallies outside the White House, organized hunger strikes, and were imprisoned in favor of the suffrage cause. As a result, the Constitution`s Nineteenth Amendment stated that " the right to citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. " The first wave of feminism came to an end with the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote in elections.

The second wave of feminism lasted from the 1960s until the 1980s .It continued to work in tandem with the first wave, seeking to establish political, economic, educational and social equality. The second wave`s tagline was " personal is political, " inspired by Carol Hanisch`s essay "The personal is political." Second –wave feminists challenged women to incorporate parts of their household lives into the larger social and political framework of gender inequality.

As a result, the second feminist wave concentrated its efforts on reproductive rights.

This wave was influenced by Kate Millett's *Sexual Politics*, who asserted in her book that women had complete control over their bodies and the freedom to experiment with their sexuality. Thousands of women entered the workplace during World War II to fill the void left by men who went for military service. Their recruitment aimed not to advocate for gender equality but to aid the war effort. Soldiers returned after the war, and women were fired from their positions. The post-war public realm appeared to demand that women return to their limited domestic roles of child-rearing and housework. It emphasized home, but after experience in the workplace, women demanded an equal share of the workplace (Hannam 134).

The second wave of feminism began with the publication of Betty Friedan's best-selling book. *The Feminine Mystique*. Friedan was heavily influenced by Simone De Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, translated into English and released in the United States in 1953. *The Second Sex* observes that patriarchal ideology and female weakness are nothing more than rootless, cultivated delusions, and treating women as the second sex based on their biological sex in neither right Nor justified (136). Friedan depicts the topic of how women waste their potential by staying at home in *The Feminine Mystique*; she proves through her survey that women who have employed are more content with their lives than their jobless counterparts of women. Because jobless women believe they have no functional role outside the home, they pursue no other goals, leading to an unsatisfactory

life. Friedan refers to this topic as " the problem that has no name " (137).

The establishment of the presidential commission on the status of women, led by president John F. Kennedy and headed by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, was another event that influenced the second wave. A report was released to show that American women faced gender inequality and proposed a solution such as paid maternity leave, access to education, and child care assistance (Brunell and Burkett). A study published revealed that American women experienced gender inequality and offered solutions such as paid maternity leave, access to education, and childcare support .

The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded in 1966, with Friedan serving as its first President. The organization intended to accomplish broad demands for gender equality in employment possibilities. Many NOW members objected, claiming that black men suffered from poverty and racial prejudice and were below the poverty line; they needed work more than white middle and upper-class women. As a result, Friedan resigned as president. However, NOW later accomplished significant legal improvements; women were granted equal access to education through the Women`s Educational Equality Act, passed in 1972 and 1974. Women were first lawfully allowed to military academies in 1975.

Also, the Civil Rights provision, which prohibited hiring based on race, was amended to prohibit gender discrimination; Now fought to enforce the provision . Protests were filed at the Miss America contest in Atlantic City in 1968. Feminists filled garbage

cans labelled “ Freedom Trash Cans” with items that represented gender oppression , such as bras , makeup, false eyelashes, mops, and the like. Members of The New York Radical Women, the activists who organized the protests, explained that the purpose of the rallies` purpose was to oppose how women are regarded through their bodies rather than their intellect due to this pageant. The abbreviations Miss and Mrs. were changed by Ms. to highlight women`s immutable identity concerning men and to claim independence (Rampton).

The third wave of feminism is thought to have begun with Anita Hill's testimony in front of the Senate against Judge Clarence Thomas for his sexual harassment of her; they were all white males. Women all around America were affected by the occurrence. As a result, Rebecca Walker`s famous article " Becoming the Third Wave " was published in MS Magazine " I`m not a post- feminism feminist , " she famously stated " I am the third wave, " says Grady. The following year saw a political shift in favor of women. Five women joined the Senate, increasing the number of female senators. Furthermore, the first female The Attorney General and Secretary of State gained office. The third wave differs from the previous waves in that it was drawn nearer to the media and pop culture. Female music acts, such as Riot Grrrl, arose at the very start of the movement. Their songs` lyrics addressed subjects such as patriarchy, rape, domestic abuse and female empowerment (Grady). They inspired women to carve out their own space in the various areas and places dominated by men :

BECAUSE in every form of media I see us / myself slapped,

decapitated, laughed at, objectified , raped , trivialized , pushed , ignored stereotyped, kicked scorned, molested silenced, invalidated ,knifed, shot, choked , and killed ... BECAUSE a safe space needs to be created for girls where we can open our eyes and reach out to each other without being threatened by this sexist society and our day to day bullshit ... BECAUSE we Girls want to create mediums that speak to US. We are tired of boy band after boy. BECAUSE I am tired of these things happening to me; ... I`m not a punching bag. I`m not a joke (qtd . in Newton 46) .

The Violence against Women Act of 1995, which further safeguarded women from assault , was one of the period`s legal and medical triumphs. Furthermore, the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 made unpaid leave for family and medical situations acceptable.

The fourth wave was an internet movement, whereas the third was characterized by permeation into the media and mainstream culture. With the growing use of social Media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Tumblr, these have been utilized as a platform to address gender issues such as sexual harassment and rape. The #Metoo and Time`s Up movements were two of the most well-known. Some sources spurred the fourth wave of feminism, such as Emma Sulkowicz`s *senior thesis Mattress performance (carry That Weight)*-Emma was raped and reported to her university`s authorities, but her case was dismissed. As a response, she devised a senior thesis in which she dragged a 23 kilograms mattress around campus to represent the burden raped women face. Another important occurrence was " 10 Hours of Walking in NYC as a Woman ": It is a two -minute video of a 24-year-old lady travelling through various neighborhoods of New York

while being verbally assaulted. Various hash tags aimed at empowering women, such as #YesAllWomen, #StandWithWendy, and #MeToo (Grady) , have emerged on social media .

Elaine Showalter in *A Literature of Their Own* (1977), separates women`s writings throughout the history of literature into three stages. The first stage , which she refers to as "feminine," lasted, in her estimation, from 1840 to 1880. At this stage, men`s writing style began to imitate that of women, even using the names of famous men as their pen names during this time, such as George Eliot, whose real name is Mary Ann Evans. She categorizes the second phase as " feminist," , which she believes existed between 1880 and 1920. This stage represents women`s socially accepted rebellion against patriarchal ideals. Women writers during this era frequently portray characters from lower social classes while conveying their experiences with oppression. In this period, female writers exerted an effort to become autonomous. She refers to this third phase, which started around 1920, as "female." This period is remarked by developing a new writing style that mainly pertains to women. The period involves self- discovery and searching for identity (qtd. In Yadav 61).

Alshammari says that Islamophobia is a combination of two words, Islam, and Phobia . Islam refers to monotheistic religion or belief which mentions that Mohamed is the prophet of Allah(Rasulullah) . Phobia is an extreme and irrational fear of a thing. Elkassem believes that " A phobia is illogical fear of different phenomena. The phenomena is include a particular object, situation, or behavior. It is very difficult to determine the significant factors that are affecting the people or group of people. " (3-18).

Islamophobia is any form of discrimination, exclusion, or restriction towards, or preference directed towards Muslims or those who are perceived to be Muslims. It also includes any action that has the intention of undermining the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of fundamental freedoms and human rights on an equal basis in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life. Although anti-Muslim sentiment has existed for as long as Islam itself, the term "Islamophobia" is a relatively recent neologism used to highlight widespread prejudice and unjustified discrimination against Muslims.

The Runnymede Trust says that "the term has been popularized because of the resurgence in the post-Cold war and post 9-11 United States of the phenomenon it describes" (11). Regarding to the 1997 report by the Runnymede Trust's Commission on British Muslims and Islamophobia, hereafter referred to as the Runnymede Trust report, Islamophobia encompasses various forms of discrimination against Muslims such as discrimination in the workplace, healthcare and educational systems, and exclusion from government politics, and employment (including positions of management and responsibility).

It also includes acts of violence against Muslims such as physical assaults, verbal abuse and property vandalism, as well as prejudice against Muslims in public discourse and media. According to Marc Helbing's *Islamophobia in the West* the term "Islamophobia" has appeared as early the 1920s, it becomes extremely popular in the 1990s. Islamophobia is defined as the fear of or aversion to Islam and Muslims. The former view considers Islam either to be monolithic and static or to be aggressive and ideological. The word

"Islamophobia " appeared first in an essay written by Orientalist Etienne Dinet in 1922 (Cesari, 2011, p. 11). In an article titled " Orientalism " reconsidered in 1985, Edward Said may have been the first to use it in English.

According to Bravo Lopez (2011), more than its later application against Muslim populations, Islamophobia appears to have evolved from academics criticizing each other`s writings. For example, academics first used the term Islamophobia to criticize the work of writers who exhibited hostility towards Islam, the Prophet Muhammad, or the Qur`an. The emphasis should have stayed on a theoretical confrontation and Islam itself rather than Muslims themselves. Lopez believes that " Islamophobia consists of a hostile attitude towards Islam and a desire to do away with it entirely " for the late-nineteenth-century writers who coined the term. Islamophobia, in a nutshell, means viewing Islam as a foe to be defeated " (561).

Naved Bakali claims Islamophobia is more than just a reaction to the current political climate and war. He goes on to say that following the 9-11 attack, Islamophobia was mediated by the war on terror (2016). Islam and Muslims are shown as ' Other' in the literary world, particularly the Muslim population living in the west, misrepresented and marginalized by the 'Us'. Westerners perceive Muslims as fanatics and a threat to the West.

As a result , the Western world has begun implementing a zero- tolerance policy to combat growing militancy worldwide and has purportedly blamed Islam and Muslims for developing violence. In response to Islamophobia, the West's zero-tolerance policy revived fascist practices that enthusiastic fascist followers adopted in

the first half of the twentieth century. America has chosen fascist practices and postures to preserve its power over Muslims and marginalize them against the stereotyping and othering image it has built.

Since the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001, the Islamophobia had increased at a global level. N.S Bacchus states that the involvement of Muslims in that terrorist attack at World Trade Center was associated with the Islamic religion to damage the peaceful image of Islam in all over the world. However, in the history of the world there have been many terrorist attacks happened all over the world, but the terrorists have never been associated with their religion and the respect of the religion was maintained across the globe.

The event of 9-11 had been used to increase and promote the phenomenon of Islamophobia across the globe. P.Waikar mentions that the ISIS had made the situation more worse as the Islam was portrayed as the religion of violence . The misunderstanding of Islam has portrayed that the Islamic principles has spread by destroying the other religions. The people of different Western countries even categorized the Islam and the Muslims as an alien and the religion of bloodshed which triggers the intolerance level of the people of different religions.

5.Love, Hate and Other Filters

Samira Ahmed is regarded as one of the realistic fiction writers because her novel *Love, Hate and Other Filters* discusses something true to life and she adds from her imagination some

events. The events which portrayed in the realistic fiction conjure questions that the reader could face in everyday life. This novel is classified as a realistic fiction novel as it has a plot highlights social and personal issues which is the opposition of power and the oppressed versus the oppressors. This novel contains settings that seem like they could be actual places, characters also seem like they could be people one would know or see in real life. It discusses the issue of racism which exists in the contemporary life in the American society. It aims to reproduce objective reality. *Love, Hate and Other Filters* takes place in modern-day Chicago where many Muslim Americans are still seen as a threat to the security and stability of American society. Also, the American Muslim women have not recovered from the suffering of religious discrimination after 9-11. They always must prove their loyalty " We all get painted like we `re un-American and terrorist sympathizers, no matter how loudly we condemn terrorism and say it`s un-Islamic. It`s guilt by association"(148) . American Muslims in general and American Muslim women in particular face oppression and racial discrimination because of their religion and these problems increased after the terrorist attack of September 11th.

It is written from an objective point of view where the author creates different opinions through different characters. She does not use the traditional or classical narratology but, she uses hidden authorial voice because she makes the heroine Maya Aziz narrates the actions even though we can find various views. Some times the views agree with Maya`s opinion and sometimes do not. For example, the dialogue between Maya and her father about the terrorist attacks that committed under the name of Islam both of them have the same opinion . She says " If these jerks hate America

so much, why don't they stay in their own countries? He killed little kids... I don't understand that kind of hate . It's terrible tragedy. It's sin . The Quran says that whoever takes a life of an innocent , it's as if he has killed all mankind. And if anyone saves a life, it's as if he's saved all of mankind."(147-148). Her father's replay is" These terrorists are the antithesis of Islam . They're not Muslim. Violence has no place in religion, and the terrorists are responsible for their own crimes, not the religion and not us "(148). Also her mother says her opinion " Terrorism has no religion . Think about Dylann Roof and that church in Charleston or the attack at the Sikh gurdwara in Wisconsin. Terrorists have their own ideology" (148). Another example, the dialogue between Maya and her classmate who sees that Muslims are terrorists and they hate America too much. He says " It's a Muslim terrorist ... They hate America ...Why don't you people leave America if you hate it so much?" Maya's replay is " I was born here, you racist ! And that guy was Egyptian. My family 's Indian ...Why am I even explaining? I shouldn't need to explain " Then he says " Egyptian? Indian? What's the difference? You `re both ragheads. "(151). Furthermore, she creates a dialogue between Maya's mom and Maya's aunt (Hina) both of them have different point of view regard letting Maya travel to New York to learn what she likes . Hina says " *Apapa*, I know you're her mother . I know you love her. But Maya deserves a chance to pursue her dreams. I can help her do that . I can't stand by and watch Maya be pigeonholed into a life she doesn't want. " maya's mom says " No. No. No! ... I'm the one who defended your choices , but I won't have that life foy *my* daughter " (231). Also, the dialogue between Maya and her aunt who have the same point of view which is Maya should take her

chance to live her life as she likes and to start from the beginning depending on her self and on the other side Maya`s parents who have an opposite point of view as they see that she still a child " This is ridiculous. You`re a child... Dad, I`m sorry. But I`m a child anymore; I`m going to be eighteen in a few weeks. I`ll be legally emancipated ,and I have a right to live my life how I want."(230).

It`s essential to mention that the author uses third person omniscient point of view and uses multiple characters with different point of views . The author narrates the story through the dialogues among the characters referring to the characters by the third pronouns "he" , "she" and "they" to display various opinions . The author is an objective . She uses multiple points of view consequently, these points of view create a great flexibility. When Maya refers to the television reporters she uses the pronoun "they" . She says " They still don`t know what happened or who is responsible "(141). Maya`s mom uses the pronoun " she " when she refers to her daughter she says " She can`t go. She has to stay close to home "(123). In addition to the author makes no limits to the time and space for example when Maya remembers an event happened from many years ago " I remember my parents telling me about how devastating 9-11 was, how those burning buildings and all the posters of missing people are seared in their memories forever."(140).). Also, she narrates the events through different places such as a wedding party, an island, Maya` home, school, Springfield , Chicago and the New York University .

The author chooses to use a situational open- ended as he ends the novel with the situation of Maya`s father towards her insistence on travelling to NYU . He asks her to leave the house after a few

weeks and he and her mother will forget that they have a daughter named Maya " You've made your decision and now understand mine. As a daughter, you are dead to us. When you turn eighteen in June, you will leave this house."(233). The author lets the reader chooses from his or her imagination the suitable ending for the novel and he refers that Maya`s life is missed up " I feel scared. No camera. No filter. Just my life, totally unscripted."(234).

Thus, this chapter reflects the negative effects of Islamophobia on American Muslim woman through a live experience of an American Muslim woman represents a victim of Islamophobia and clarifies to what extent the terrorist attacks affect negatively on Muslim`s life and future particularly in the American society. The researcher also stresses on how Muslim women can strongly face the phenomenon of Islamophobia.

There are a lot of writers agree with the author`s point of view . They see that Islamophobia affects badly on Muslim women in America for example, Vasuki Nesiiah mentions in *Feminism as Counter-terrorism: The Seduction of Power* that violence against women should be taken as a “ warning sign” for terrorism because , in her view, “ groups that engage in these sorts of attacks on civilians as a whole often pursue misogynist agendas and carry out , or advocate, severe forms of violence against women .” (Bennoune op . cit., p. 49) .

feminist communities have engaged and fractured on different approaches to counter-terrorism. long before 9/11, many feminist groups had long been critical of the international community`s inaction to protect Afghan women, and groups such as the Feminist

Majority Foundation had been campaigning to pressure the American government and the U.N. "to do everything in their power to restore the human rights of Afghan women and girls." (Nesiah 2004). According to Kaplan (1978), the goal of terrorism is instilling tremendous dread" to create an extremely fearful state of mind " among people. Additionally, the audience for which this terrified state is meant many not actually be related to the terrorist victims; rather, it is intended for a different audience.

On this point the same emphasis was placed by Oots (1990, p.145), who says that the goal of terrorism was to create extreme fear and -or anxiety including effects in a target audience larger than the immediate victims. Like this, the definition of terrorism in the U.S Army`s textbook on military medicine repeats the idea that terrorism is defined in part by the audience it is intended for in addition to the immediate victim (Jones & Fong,1994).

Also, Hester Eisenstein demonstrates in her essay *Feminism seduced: Globalization and the uses of gender* claims that feminism is " essential " to the fight against terrorism because it makes Islamic societies appear to be " uniquely oppressive to women " . The war on terror and the struggle for women`s rights almost become synonymous during the Bush administration . The two were most openly linked by Laura Bush in her now famous radio address, where she state that " the fight against terrorism is also a fight for the rights and dignity of women. " (Bush 2011)

This study demonstrates that The United States takes the idea of liberating the Muslim women from the Islamic culture as way for launching the war against Islam not launching a war against the terrorism as they claim and what proves that is the oppression that

Muslim women suffer from in the United States and the hate crimes that committed against Muslims only . The American assumptions and their allied misconceptions say that Islam oppressing the women but the truth is that the terrorist attacks which result in increasing the phenomena of Islamophobia and the Western culture are the most prominent reasons for oppressing women

Samira Ahmed mentions that American Muslim women suffer from accusing them with being terrorists should be killed and suffer from increasing the phenomenon of Islamophobia because of terrorist attacks. The rise of Islamophobia has undoubtedly disrupted the identity and way of life of Muslim Americans in the last decade and half. Many people in this country have been affected by the 9-11 events, and they continue to have an influence felt in Muslim communities in America more than ten years later.

The aftermath has resulted in widespread discrimination, harassment, dehumanization, and disempowerment for Muslims living in America , which has been made acceptable by American government and Media policy . By portraying all Muslims as terrorists who should be put to death, the government and the mass media contribute to the development of the phenomena known as Islamophobia. It is characterized in this study as hostility and prejudice against Muslims. Anti-Islamic sentiment has been present In American society for millennia (Allen, 2010) but since September 11th terrorist attacks carried out by the Islamic extremist group Al-Qaeda, it has been more overt and pervasive.

On this track Maya against what terrorists do in the American society , she says to her father " If these jerks hate America so much, why don`t they stay in their own countries? He killed little kids " her

voice breaks and completes saying " I don't understand that kind of hate . It's a terrible tragedy . It's a sin . The Quran says that whoever takes a life of an innocent, it's as if he has killed all of mankind " (Ahmed 147). She also illustrates that " If any one saves a life , it's as if he's saved all of mankind. These terrorists are the antithesis of Islam. They're not Muslims . Violence has no place in religion, and the terrorists are responsible for their own crimes, not the religion and not us " (Ahmed 148)

To conclude, racist practices against Muslims in the West, especially Muslim women more than men as they wear hijab and niqab, and the western media which promoting negative ideas about Islam and Muslims especially after the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001 lead to increasing the phenomenon of Islamophobia , which results in spreading the hate crimes towards American Muslims , like what happens with Maya `s parents in their office and with her in the school by a classmate. This state of injustice leaves them in a state of constant anxiety and terror. In addition, they are deprived of their freedom and rights although they are American citizens. Also, this chapter clarifies that Islam is against terrorism and the bombing operations which carried out by terrorists under the name of Jihad for the sake of God and it gives a lot of rights to women in different fields not like the Western media claims that Islam is the religion of terrorism and it deprives women of their rights . Islamophobia is denying them that. As well as, the researcher deduces that the United States takes the idea of liberating the Muslim women from the Islamic culture as a way for launching a war against Islam not launching a war against the terrorism as they claim and what proves that is the oppression that Muslim women suffer from

in the United States and the hate crimes that committed against Muslims only . The American assumptions and their allied misconceptions say that Islam oppressing the women but the truth is that the terrorist attacks which result in increasing the phenomena of Islamophobia and the Western culture are the most prominent reasons for oppressing women .The American Muslim woman is a courage person as she able to face the religious discrimination and the phenomenon of Islamophobia to achieve her dreams like the heroine in this novel . Even though Maya is a Muslim woman living in the American society where the phenomenon of Islamophobia has recently escalated which obviously has an impact on all Muslims in the country and despite her parents` anxiety after the events of September 11th ,2001 which pushes them to prevent her from travelling to New York to study cinema and film making for achieving her desire of becoming a great film producer, she succeeded in enrolling in college and defend her dream. She is also able to demonstrate that the American Muslim woman has the power to overcome any obstacle that hinders her from attaining her goal, which makes the woman worthy of distinction in her community.

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