

09/25/2012

Re: A Co-Dependency of Hate

Dear Editor,

Just as the US and USSR and their respective politicians during the Cold War each needed the other to justify their military budgets and political power by stoking the fear and anger of their own people, so do we today see a similar co-dependency of hate being utilized by the right wing media in both the west and the middle east in order to generate outrage, violence and inflate their own influence and power.

Whether it be TV evangelists burning the Koran or Muslim "Internet clerics" promoting anti-American protests, both sides need the other to keep the fear, anger and their political or social power at elevated levels. On the other hand we can be heartened by recent expressions of goodwill in Libya where townspeople, in sympathy with the death of the American ambassador there, took matters into their own hands and ran armed Jihadists out of their neighborhood. Subsequently, several other radical Libyan groups disarmed themselves in the face of public pressure. Hurrah!

It's about time, for those of us in the west and also in the middle east, to stop being used as social tools and ignore the religious crackpots and political schemes on both sides that abuse religion and rile emotions to foster hate and intolerance.

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