



I would like to concentrate briefly on interesting factors from Middle Eastern view which could lead to a better understanding between Europe & the Middle East for reaching common ground of values relating to

- Role of religion
- Economy
- Politics
- Democratic values

Religious values in Europe are now more translated in high standards of ethics on individual basis derived from human rights to environmental respect campaigned by no political involvement of the church institutions. While the religious values in the Middle East are still reserved and the effect of the religious institutions on individuals, societies and some governments is very effective.

While Islamic values are misunderstood due to irresponsible actions by fundamentalists, the world still admires positive values in Islam and Arab culture which are still preserved through religious doctrines and particularly in family values.

Accordingly " Amman Message "has been presented BY H.M King Abdullah II as a true voice of Islam which conveys the noble values of tolerance, moderation and dialogue that Islam embraces, and requires the faithful to respect in their daily lives. As such, "Amman Message" launched as an invitation to widen understanding and respect between faiths and cultures for those who believe that these are pillars of peaceful relations among nations and people.

Unfortunately the voice of Amman message is the voice that neither Europeans nor Christian Arabs constantly hear. Instead, they hear the hatred spewed by groups mistakenly called Islamic fundamentalists. In fact, there is nothing fundamentally Islamic about these extremists. They are religious totalitarians, who seek power by intimidation, violence, and even faith discrimination within their inner societies, they misuse Islamic concepts by preventing the Christian citizens from practicing their rights and duties to serve their countries in different positions that you cant get to by Quota (as the parliament) due to the rapidly increasing role of religion in the ME effected by several reasons such as occupation, ignorance and poverty etc. in spite of the great care and support which is given by some governments specifically the Jordanian government, While unfortunately the European outlook towards Islam and the way Muslims are treated in Europe is becoming a very sensitive and critical issue to the

Middle Eastern societies and it negatively impacts Arab Christians in different ways which leads them to immigration seeking better standard of living, for example the immigration of Christian Arabs in Palestine who averaged about 12% of the total population are now .05%, likewise in Jordan Christianity has decreased to about 3% recently.

the role of religion in Europe is decreasing on the contrary it is increasing in the middle East because of those fundamentalists , who are rejecting the original moderation and openness of Islam -- qualities that made the Muslim world the historical home of diversity and learning.

Hence European governments should engage with moderate Arab countries such as Jordan to solidly base coexistence among its communities, this struggle can be fought by moral, intellectual, political and social efforts, and all of us must share the responsibility to reject hate, ignorance, and violence. This requires an honest and continuing dialogue between the West and the Muslim World, to head for more convergence beyond what we already have particularly in the commercial sector, while divergence in the culture is expected to decrease in a slower path till the upcoming generations of educated youth reach a leadership status in their countries.

Optimistically I see a solution in my home-grown assets...(youth). The 21st Century has witnessed the largest increase in the population of youth in the history of Middle East. They should be shaped to be a model of coexistence where they build together hand by hand their countries with open eyes and hearts to the beauty of diversity aiming at a better global future with their European counterparts.

In only a few years, the world will be looking forward to these 200 million young men and women for our region's strategies, partnerships, and solutions if the needed tools can be given to them, in order to become the leaders who are capable of being in an undivided Middle East, empowered by cooperation, sharing values of justice, respect for international law and the right of all people to live in dignity. Through those young leaders the world has the power to transform the future.

As this summit moves forward with tangible solutions to the economic crises recovery, tangible strides in communication combined with sustainable, institutional effort to spread tolerance and acceptance through practical initiatives to be based on respect for human values and more support for political situation especially the rights of Palestinians to establish their own independent democratic country.

On the other hand you will realize that Clientism in the middle East is still mixed with tribal effects and religious politics which are more explicit in the political arena, while it should be based more on positive impacts in the social dimension, to sustain a healthy economy in democratic regimes.

Sure it is unfair to compare European democracy with the Middle East political setups which are still highly affected by tribal and religious ideologies but definitely the Middle East has a lot to learn from the European Experience in the above mentioned domains.

Needless to indicate that together, we share a responsibility to prevent the misuse of religion by those who aim to divide us. We have a special duty to combat injustice in democracy in the region, however we must do even more to make sure the real voice of Christianity and Islam is heard clearly. Today Muslims must speak out boldly in defense of a dynamic, moderate Islam -- an Islam that upholds the sanctity of human life, respects men and women alike, and insists on the fellowship of all humankind. This is the true Islam of the Prophet, and the Islam that terrorists and extremists seek to destroy.

Thank you.

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