

MINARET COMPROMISES IN PRINTING PIPES' ARTICLE

I was shocked and disappointed at your invitation to Daniel Pipes to write in the September 2000 issue of *The Minaret*. Under the guise of being a "fair and balanced" magazine (p. 38), you gave a forum to this non-Muslim who has only proven himself to be a fierce opponent of Islam in the United States.

Under that logic, then, the NAACP would be unfair and unbalanced for refusing to offer a forum to the Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. Or perhaps it is that the NAACP has more integrity and self-respect than *The Minaret* editorial staff!

For how long will Muslims look to non-Muslims for validation?

Either we have looked to them to tell us what to think of ourselves when we shoot them down. But in either case, we fail to exercise our own integrity or to manifest our own self-respect as a religious, spiritual and political community.

I am appalled that *The Minaret* would find it necessary to invite this clear enemy of Islam to taint its pages.

To claim that you are doing so out of "fair mindedness" is only an insult to my intelligence and my integrity as a self-respecting Muslim.

ANVER M. EMON
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PIPES' ARTICLE HELPS MUSLIMS ANSWER ACCUSATIONS

It was a pleasant surprise to see a piece written by Daniel Pipes. I think it helped me and many of my colleagues to understand his criticism and concerns about Islam and Muslims.

It is important that we try to understand the point of views of those who are antagonistic against Islam. This is the only way we can defend ourselves and see the strength of our argument.

I think Daniel Pipes is not coherent in his understanding of Islam and Muslims. He does not know his subject despite being a Ph.d. He does not understand Islam

and Muslims. He bases his argument on a few books written by Orientalists. He interprets the Quran and *Hadith* (sayings of the Prophet) the way he wants in order to suit his political interests. He reduces Islam and Muslims to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Pipes' piece is full of racism and religious bigotry. He coins his own term and phrases to describe Muslims. He takes a few isolated incidents and statements and generalizes to characterize Islam.

Is this scholarship? He is mediocre. He is well known because there are people who are promoting him in Washington D.C. The anti-Islam lobby in Washington needs people like Steve Emerson and Pipes to fabricate and concoct facts against Islam. They want Pipes to agitate Muslims.

I am glad that you published his article and also printed the rebuttal. Pipes should not believe that this country would buy his logic and ideas. Islam is much bigger than Pipes wants Americans to think about.

YUSUF ALLAM
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PIPES' ARTICLE REVEALS HIS BIAS AGAINST MUSLIMS

After reading the subject article in *The Minaret*, I came to realize that in his small parochial world, Daniel Pipes wants Muslims to submit to his will, rather than to submit to Allah's Will. His criticism of Hasan al-Banna, Mawdudi, and Khomeini implies that the present and future Islamic thinkers will have to please Pipes rather than Allah! (God forbid)

It seems after graduating from Harvard University, Daniel Pipes became a victim of intellectual incest. People like him sit on the admission

committees of universities like Harvard and try their best to disqualify even the brightest Muslim students with straight As and top MCAT, LSAT and GRE scores. As a result, they deny themselves any opportunity to interact and live with real Muslims.

I have heard many horror stories from young and brilliant Muslim students who were denied admissions at the so-called elite schools such as Harvard prejudicially, just because of their Muslim name, or because their C.V. showed that they took Arabic language in their undergraduate programs.

On what basis was Daniel Pipes given consulting jobs for the State and Defense Departments as an "expert" on Islam? Why weren't practicing Muslims given those jobs? Isn't practical experience better than his mere theoretical knowledge from the ivory towers of Harvard? How can someone who does not believe in Islam represent Islam at the State and Defense Departments? Déjà Vu in industry, academia, and government!

If the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) labels Mr. Daniel Pipes as an "Islamophobe," I will be glad to second it. His superiority complex is leading him towards "Pharaoh-ism."

AKHTAR H. EMON
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LIBERAL JOURNALISM?

I was shocked to see the piece by Daniel Pipes. I don't think you should allow the opponents to ridicule Islam and Muslims in Muslim magazines. They have all the forums available to say whatever they want to say. They should not be encouraged and given any legitimacy by Muslims.

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