Media and the Myths about Western Muslims :the British Context

A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Letters and English Language in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Master's Degree in English Language, Literatures, and Civilization.

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Dedication 1

I have the honor to dedicate our work :

To my family specially my parents "Mourad and "Bakhta"

To my little sister " Niserine" and brother "Yousef"

To my beloved husband "Ounis Samir" for

his love and support.

To my little girl "Ounis Maria Nourcine"

To the memory of my dear friend "Saidia Abla"

To all my friends

My dear colleagues who shared with me the educational life

To all my friends and sisters in law

(Zaoua Amina).

Dedication 2

First of all I would like to dedicate our work to my precious Parents Louiza and Faisel,

And I am grateful to their great support and countless advice.

This work is also dedicated to my beloved grandmother Meriem for her kindness, prayers, and

generous support.

To all my uncles and aunts for their support, guidance and generous encouragement

in the process of writing this thesis.

To my dearest angels Ghadir, Mirame Youcef, Melek, Adem, Selim,Hanen, Taki,

Sendes,Riheb, Oussama,Shams eddin,Maroun,Mahdi, Assinat,Abd el-moumen andZakariya.

finaly, to all my ultimate friends and relatives.

(Boussedra Soumia).

Abstract

This dissertation aims to reveal the role played by media in Britain in promoting some myths and stereotypes about the country's Muslim minority group. Some media in Britain helped spreading some untrue information about Islam and Muslims related to the size of population and radicalization of Muslim youth .The work is based mainly on the analysis of some media stories and newspaper articles dealing with issues related to British Muslims. These myths contributed largely to the deterioration of the overall situation of Muslims .The rise of Islamophobia in the last few years is also shown to be strongly related to these myths and stereotypes. The study also attempts to shed light on the historical background of Muslims in the West generally and Britain particularly including the history of their immigration to Britain and the hostilities they have faced. However, the focus is on Muslim immigration after the Second World War. Muslims have been oppressed and accused, Islamophobia emerged and prejudices increased as a result. Muslims are now portrayed as violent and likewise Islam as the religion of violence, source of threat and terrorism. The work reveals that many of the views and concepts about Muslims and Islam in Britain and the West, are not real at all, they are just myths and stereotypes.

ملخص

تهدف هذه الدراسة الى اظهار الدور الذي تلعبه وسائل الإعلام في بريطانيا في الترويج لبعض الأساطير والقوالب النمطية عن الأقلية المسلمة في البلاد.سعت بعض وسائل الاعلام البريطانية في نشر المعلومات الخاطئة عن الاسلام و المسلمين فيما يخص حجم السكان و تطرف الشباب المسلمين .كما يستند هذا العمل في الاساس إلى تحليل بعض المواد الإعلامية والمقالات الصحفية التي تتناول القضايا المتعلقة بالمسلمين البريطانيين .كما ساهمت هذه الأساطير في تدهور الوضع العام للمسلمين إلى حد كبير .ان تصاعد الاسلاموفوبيا في السنوات القليلة الاخيرة يرتبط ارتباطا قويا بهذه الاساطير و الافكار النمطية .وكذلك تسعى هذه الدراسة الى تسليط الضوء على الخلفية التاريخية للمسلمين في الغرب وبريطانيا، ولا سيما تاريخ هجرتهم إلى بريطانيا والأعمال العدائية التي واجهوها.بعد الحرب العالمية الثانية انحصر التركيز على الهجرة الإسلامية .كنتيجة لذلك تعرض المسلمون للقمع والاتهام، وظهر الخوف من الإسلام، وزادت التحيزات.و اتصف المسلمون الان على انهم عدائيون ،و كذا الاسلام كدين العنف ومصدر التهديد والإرهاب .يسعى هذا العمل الى اظهار العديد من وجهات النظر والمفاهيم حول المسلمين والإسلام في بريطانيا والغرب على انها ليست حقيقية على الإطلاق، فهي مجرد خرافات وقوالب نمطية.

List of Abbreviations ana Achronims

BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BF	Britain First
BNP	British National Party
CBN	Christian Broadcasting Network
ECRL	European Council of Religious Leaders
EDL	English Defense League
EU	European Union
FN	Front National
GB	Great Britain
LP	Labour Party
MAMA	Measuring Anti Muslim Attacks
MCB	Muslim Council of Britain
UK	United Kingdom
UKIP	U k Independence Party

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Introduction

For a long period of time there has been a continuous wave of immigration from Muslim countries to the West .This led to the formation of large Muslim communities across Europe and North America due to the coming of great numbers of immigrants. These new comers created a crack in the country where there have been hostilities by the mainstream population and refusal of the different cultures and traditions brought by the new Muslim immigrants.Therefore, the government seeks to satisfy both sides.

One of the solutions made by the governments was the establishment of many tactics that seek to preserve social stability and cohesion. Assimilation was one option ,but generally immigrants did not accept to melt in the pot. So, the British governments reformed this plan with another one that embraces the hosts' personality and culture to what is identified as multiculturalism. This prototype was encouraged by other acts to protect the Muslims.

Despite all the governmental efforts which in fact failed to secure minority groups, Muslims still face challenges in their everyday life from rejection, hatred, deprivation and discrimination , taking the context of Britain. Media, in its turn played a negative role by targeting Muslims particularly during and after the post 9/11 attacks which took place in the USA and spread panic not only within its geographic limitation but rather in the whole globe. As a result, Islam was presented as a threat that must be fought and exterminated.

Eventually, Muslims were blamed of any terrorist action also they were put within the most horrifying class of violence and terrorism. Thus, Britain makes some precautionary measures to counter radicalization among Muslims. In fact Muslims witnessed many challenges and experienced many violations; they were not accepted from their first arrival to Europe and after any terrorist acts they became more restricted.

The main questions to be raised by this dissertation are mainly the following: what are the challenges that are facing Muslims in UK? How they are depicted through the non- Muslims eyes? Also, how the British Media portray Muslims Minorities? What are the myths that media tell about them? Finally, what are the effects of media myths on British Muslims? Mainly after the attacks of 9/11 and 7/7 bombings. This study has put a light on the contribution of British Media in destroying the Muslims minorities' real picture and how are they live inside Britain.

It is important to draw some goals behind making such investigation that demonstrates the negative influence of the British media on people and how they brainwash the audience about a given concept, idea or group. Also, how do this religious group is practise their religion in the presence of different problems such as racism and terrorism.

Thus, for the purpose of accomplishing the topic understudy, it was based on an extensive use of secondary sources. The work is a collection of a general introduction about the topic, three chapters, and a conclusion. The first chapter is alienated into two cuts, the first portion is mainly concerned about the immigrants and how they came into Europe from the former decades and how does their numbers got greater after WWII searching for work and better conditions of life from one side, and the European demands of the hand crafts and labor from the other side, then how they mainly became rejected by natives. Also, the chapter's second cut is a kind of further investigation of the challenges and obstacles that Muslims face such as: Islamophobia, socioeconomic and educational defies, under one big title "Overview of Muslims in Britain and the West".

The second chapter is devoted to examine the stereotypes made by media about the Muslims who settled in Britain "Media Myths about Western Muslims in Britain". The chapter is composed of two subtitles one is concerned with the media trials convince people

of the idea that Muslims would integrate in the society through enlarging families and media raising their birth rate therefore to name them with Islamic names specially boys in order to obsess the British minds about this minority. And the other is mainly about spreading the myth of radicalization ; that Muslims are radical and extremist who pose a danger to the security of the country and who seek to build their own laws to govern UK. In fact, these myths were put to clarify that Muslims would take control of the whole nation but each separate idea would be contradicted with some proofs to show the incredibility of the broadcastings news.

The last chapter of this work, entitled "Impact of Myths in the life of Muslims", highlights how media influenced and promoted the public's attention and push them to react against this minority which led to the rise of different parties and radical rightwing groups to defeat Muslims as well as punching them in variant worshiping places. This slice also, explains the Muslims complicated experience after the attacks of 9/11 and the bombings of 7/7 and how they became suspected, violated and attacked including all the categories even the youngest generations. Here, the great role of media is really eminent in shaping ideas and how interlocutors especially politicians and their followers communicate through the net in order to extend their powers.During the course of this chapter, it is necessary to get the readers' interest and increase their awareness about this sensitive issue and the difficulties faced by British Muslims and how the innocent majority pay the price of one individual or group's crimes.

The significance of the study is to measure the media contributions in distorting the public face of Islam and Muslims in the entire world and the daily sufferings of this religious community under the shade of the media's mythical reports.

The method adopted in carrying out this process is descriptive because this research seeks to shed light on the Muslim minority in the west mainly Britain and describing their sorrows and how they became the victims of both media and the radical attacks. The descriptive method is used to describe the non-Muslims views about this religious group .

Throughout history, Muslims were subject of abuse and challenged many difficulties in the Western countries specially Britain, this phenomenon was deliberated by many writers taking the example of Chouki El Hamel book *Muslim Diaspora in Western Europe: The Islamic Headscarf (Hijab), the Media and Muslims' Integration in France* was interested on the daily miseries of the minority group in the west

Another book by Ehsan Masood *British Muslims Media guide* which emphasizes showing how this minority suffered from ignorance and deprived of the right of being like any other citizen and enjoy their basic rights.

The research extended also to cover other different articles and reports taking as an example "Islamophobia and Its Consequences" by Chris Allen, who tended to explain how Islam became the source of threat and terrorism and Muslims the most frightened group.

Another significant work is "Islamophobia qua racial discrimination" by Burak Erdenir who elaborated his work to show the idea of Muslim discrimination in the West and how they immigrated to these foreign countries.

Another interesting report that is considered a leading reference about Islamophobia in Britain is the famous "Islamophobia a Challenge for Us All" which is Runnymede Trust publication on the effects of Islamophobia on British Muslims.

This dissertation based also on some article newspapers such as: *The Sun* "British Isis Fanatics Call on UK Muslims to Join in Iraq" by Allen Felix who shows a negative picture about Islam and Muslims of radicalization and terrorism as a consequence of both Islamophobia and media.

Another newspaper article written by Dathan Matt "Radical Students Leader Claim Young UK Muslims are Travelling to Join ISIS in Syria for Reasons Including Government Cuts to Education and Mass Unemployment".

Chapter one

Overview of Muslims in the West and Britain

Contacts and even relations between Europe and the Muslim world are deeply rooted in the history of both parts. Many accounts and books had tackled the history of this relation in which immigration of Muslims to Europe played a significant role. Many academic works subdivided it into three phases in order to demonstrate clearly this connection.

The starting period was marked by the Muslim world's dominance to the fall of Granada. In this era the Islamic world witnessed a massive extension, with the spread of Islam from the Arabian Peninsula toward the North of Africa and few parts from Asia and Europe. The second era is considered as a continuation to the first one, which is characterized by the 'Western counter attack' namely The Christian Crusades, that began in the eleventh century and finished in 1686 C. This year witnessed the end of Muslim Empire expeditions that stopped at Vienna.

The completion of the Crusades signaled the beginning of the third retro that is characterized by the Western control and the colonization of the Muslim world in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Thus, the presence of Islam and Muslims minority in the Western world is not a new phenomenon.

Britain has always been one of the major European powers that shaped in many ways the present of many countries in the Islamic world. In the 20th century, Britain colonized large parts of the Muslim world especially in South East Asia.

Despite the fact that the Muslim immigration to Britain existed since long times ago, it was only after the Second World War that their numbers suddenly increased because of different factors. This influx caused many problems for the Muslims communities who had to face a lot of obstacles and challenges to adapt and integrate.

This first chapter of the dissertation is divided into two parts; the first one is a historical background of Muslims in Britain which provides the two periods of Muslims immigration to the country and the main factors behind this migration. Also, it sheds light on laws and policies introduced by the government in order to protect minority communities and to keep social stability in the country. The second part discusses the challenges faced by the Muslim minority group in Britain in different fields especially educational, socioeconomic, and those related to the rise of anti-Muslim sentiments.

I. 1 Historical Background of Muslims in Britain

The United Kingdom is described as a country of foreigners and place of security and opportunity .The Muslim communities in Britain have evolved over several centuries. Islam is now the second largest religion in the country after Christianity. In addition to this, the connection of Muslims with the country is not new; rather they have always had a special relationship which was started by Muslim traders and sailors.

I.1.1-Pre-WWII Migration

The mid nineteenth century is said to be the period of the first Muslim settlement in Britain. It began with the Yemeni sailors in the 1850s.At that time, they were engaged on 'domestic traffic' in South Shields , Cardiff and Liverpool that remained obvious until nowadays .The first group of immigrants were known as lascars (Indian and Arab sailors).They were organized in a few hundreds' communities in that period until the World War Two. These immigrants were ignored and worked in building-homes (Atif Imtiaz).

The secretariat of the ECRL indicated that the majority of Muslims from Morocco, Algeria and Malaysia lived in London, by contrast to south Asians who resided far from London in extended Urban areas as West Midlands, Greater Manchester and Yorkshire because these Muslims were handbook employees closer to a huge number of manufacturing areas ,for example : Brimingham,Manchester and Bradford (5).

Besides, the economic ambittion was one of the motives that pushed Muslims to travel to Britain as Monshee Mahonet Saeed in 1777 founded ' an Indian Vapour Bath and Shampooing Establishement'.Also,he wrote a book titled ' *Travels of Dean Mohamet'*.It is considered to be the first book published by a Muslim in Britain.(Ansari 2)

Another reason was the education factor mainly the Indian upper class because they thought that the best learning existed in the West, from 1840 to 1910 there were 911 students and more. (5)

I.1 .2 -Post-War Immigration

In the fifties and sixties, the number of Muslims in Britain increased due to immigration policy that gave the chance for thousands to enter easily. They came from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, in other words, British ex-colonies. In this period, a massive wave of immigrants from India and Pakistan moved to Britain to search for good conditions of life.

The majority intended to take their families with them and others planned to earn money and return back to their mother countries. Eventually, the chief factor behind the Pakistani Muslims migration to Britain was the foundation of the Mangla Dam is a multipurpose dam located on the Jhelum River in the Mirpur District of Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan, in the 1960's in which 100.000 persons, were moved away from their houses by the state. Few of them choose to relocate in other places in the country. However, the majority immigrated to

Britain when the government and their mother country signed a treaty that gave them the permission to enter easily . They were farmers that had a special relationship with Britain .Also they resided in public homes or shelters within small communities. These Pakistani men worked hard in order to gain a sufficient money because they either wanted to take their families with them ,or to come back to Pakistan and live there.(5)

Despite the reunification of many families , Muslim communities lived isolated lived ,away from the British culture. In addition to this, they kept to their tradition and protected their native language .However, the new generation who were born in Britain and settled there had a closer connection with the indigenous citizens unlike their ancestors .

Later, after the Second World War, there was a mass migration from variant countries that were considered to be a part of the Commonwealth. " According to the *Registrar General* of 1966 the term 'New Commonwealth immigrants' embraced all those Commonwealth entrants that did not hail from the 'Old Commonwealth' countries of Canada, Australia and New Zealand." (Julios, 80).As, it is stated in the following quotation :

> As the Law stands, any British subject from the colonies is free to enter this country
>
> at any time as long as he can produce satisfactory evidence of his British status. This
>
> is not something we want to tamper with lightly… We still take pride in the fact that
>
> a man can say civis Britannicus sum whatever his colour may be and we take pride in
>
> the fact that he wants and can come to the mother country. (Spencer 23)

In other hand, the government is given the permission to all ex-colonies to enter the country with satisfaction.

Also they migrated to Britain in order to search for work, to earn money and save their familiesm, this kind of movement is considered as a product of distinct episodes of

immigration "This process is perhaps best characterized in terms of the 'pull' factors which attracted Muslims to Britain, and the 'push 'factors which forced them to leave their countries of origin "(Anwar 129). In other words, there was two different reasons behind the Muslims immigration to Britain the first one was related to the miserable situation they used to live in their home countries especially as regard to work and education ; the second one was related to the promising situation in Britain which was also in need for workers.

In this era, Britain witnessed a radical shift in economic and social arenas . As a result of an increase in the economic section, the native employees turned to take an adequate situation, for this reason Britain suffered a shortage in labour (Anwar 129).

The British government passed different laws, and adopted policies and acts in order to protect Muslim immigrants and to secure the country .These laws were used to integrate them through two distinctive ways that were assimilation and multiculturalism. At that time, they provided for them better conditions of life respecting their difference in housing , education and work .With the increased prominence of Muslims in the British society ,media and academics started to question issues related to citizenship:" The story of post-war migration to Britain is the story of citizenship, and the latter was officially defined for the first time by the British nationality Act 1948 " It means that, every person who came from former colonies of Britain had a permission to get the British identity in easy way and become as a full British subject .This caused a massive influx of immigrants in the country after 1950s .For this reason, the government tried to pass another law in order to regulate this situation because this increase could affect the social and economic makeup of the Britain . (Helanová 14)

Also, there were concern that the presence of Muslim immigrants in Britain could influence negatively the British population (Julios 87). The immigrants were required to get rid of their ties with their nations and heritage of origin and should fully integrate in the

British society in order to keep on the status quo of the country .This approach is known as assimilation or cultural assimilation and is usually defined " an intense process of consistent integration whereby members of an ethno-cultural group, typically immigrants, or other minority groups, are 'absorbed' into an established, generally larger community. This presumes a loss of many characteristics which make the newcomers different."(Abrahámová7)

The assimilation appraoch did not work as a result the government tried to adopt another one that is the multiculturalism approach. They introduced multiple acts beginning by the Commonwealth Immigrant Act 1962 to the Immigration Act 1971.

I-1-3 The Commonwealth Immigrant Act 1962

The primary reason behind the Commonwealth Immigrant Act 1962 was the rise of the anti-immigration associations in the country by different politicians as Enoch Powell who is from the Conservative Part, His purpose was to prevent and vilify the right of immigrants to enter the country, also media played a great role in preaching intolerance against the Muslim communities and spreading campaigns against them in the whole country .

The essential purpose of this act was to limit and control the number of the coming immigrants. Its content was clearly explained in this speech :

An Act to make temporary provision for controlling the immigration into the

United Kingdom of Commonwealth Citizens; to authorize the deportation from

the United Kingdom of certain Commonwealth citizens convicted of offences and

recommended by the court for deportation; to amend the qualifications required

of Commonwealth citizens applying for citizenship under the British Nationality

Act, 1948; to make corresponding provisions in respect of British protected

persons and citizens of the Republic of Ireland; and for purposes connected with

the matters aforesaid [18th April, 1962]. (Abrahámová 26)

The speech showed three different objectives that the government tried to achieve behind this act as to control the operation of immigration and restrict it in two sides work and education.

Although, the policy had a success but it did not work and some members of the government as Canon Ronald Preston refused and thought that the act caused a distinctive obstacle to the immigrants especially West Indians as he said in a speech his speech, " directed mainly against West Indians who are entirely British in upbringing " (Hayter). Finally, the government tried to pass another law to solve this problem.

I.1.4-Commonwealth Immigrants Act 1968

It was prepared by the Labour Party after their success in the polling of 1964. They thought that the Commonwealth Immigrants Act 1962 could harm the British society and spread discrimination (Hampshire 26). They did not reject it completely but added some important points in order to regulate it. The party wanted to eliminate some bad situations as the big increase of the population rate and discrimination.

The Home Secretary James Callaghan justified "origin of this Bill lies neither in panic nor prejudice, but in a considered judgement of the best way to achieve the ideal of a multi-racial society" ("Home…"). It means that the fundamental purpose behind this legislation was to secure the country, protect immigrants, and also to create a multicultural society .At the end, the act failed because some politicians disagreed with it and refused its content. One of them the Commonwealth Secretary, George Thomson who thought that from the first time the base of this law was incorrect resulting in different problems and had negative effects on the life of immigrants ("1968…").

Consequently, the British Government searched for a suitable decision to adjust these conditions. Among them the policy of immigration acts of 1971 that insured the British nationality, or having the residency of five years at least in addition to the condition of working. In other words, immigrants who had the ambition of employment without bringing their families. Education was also the emphasis of government since it was seen as the only tool that could address the new generations of the emigrants' origins thus to reduce discrimination and other forms of racism(Kurcewicz 360).

Despite the fact that the British government adopted different policies and laws in order to integrate the Muslim minority group into their society, they still suffer from the different forms of discrimination. This segregation caused many obstacles and problems in the daily life of British Muslims by the mainstream population.

I.2. Challenges Facing Muslims in Britain

According to many politicians and scholars Muslims are seen as intruders and source of threat through the non-Muslims' eyes. The minority groups (especially Muslims) living in Britain face many problems in their everyday life, at schools, at work and even in lifestyle. Because of many factors they are not free or allowed to practice their religion normally. One of the biggest challenges and difficulties that are facing them in UK is the phenomenon known as Islamophobia.

I.2.1.Islamophobia

It is widely believed that, Islamophobia is much employed in different contexts rather than it is understood as a notion. Actually, this word is divided into two sub words 'Islam' and 'phobia' which means the extremely irrational fear of Islam and Muslims. Accurately, there is no agreed definition upon this terminology since it is traced back to a long history.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines it as "a hatred or fear of Islam or Muslims". Richardson pointed that this term has many disputed terminology in different languages that reflects variant meanings ("Islamophobia…?" 1).

However, Chris Allen in his book argued that the origins of this term are still debatable and not restricted to one place or area, that it is to say not related only to Britain but also to France by Etienne Dinet and Slima Ben Ibrahim in 1925 when they wrote about the Prophet Muhammed 'accès de dèlire islamophobe' but, they did not use it as the concept of our current days. In the other hand, Caroline Fourest and Fiammetta Venner believed that Islamophobia was used at the first time to describe women who refused to wear the Hijab during the Iranian Revolution by the 'Mullahs'. (5)

In addition to Fourest and Venner, Baghajati used the word in different way as todays' coinage. Allen claimed that they all preferred to describe the Muslims frightened of Islam and the fear of non-Muslims toward Muslims. Moreover, in the 1997 some authoritative records by Hyde Park Christian Fellowship suggested that Islamophobia as a term was first coined by a Muslim researcher. Allen mentioned that it was not until the 1990's the word has been defined and utilized in the way that we know today due to the publication by the Runnymede Trust of its 1997 report *Islamophobia: A Challenge For Us All.* (5-7). This report's authors included journalists, academics, religious leaders and policy makers both Muslims and non-Muslims:

"Unfounded hostility towards Islam. Unfair discrimination against Muslims individually or as Part of a group". (9)

Muslims in Western world suffer from ignorance, political and social discrimination. By the other side, Westerns or the non-Muslim world have a closed idea about Islam and its representations. This creates prejudices toward Muslims as inferior, uncivilized, violent and irrational. Furthermore, this did not hinder them to depict Islam as evil, extremist faith

and the heir to Nazism and communism.

While Westerners are referred to as superior, civilized, enlightened and sophisticated. Then, maybe the idea behind creating this stereotype and later on Islamophobia is that all Muslims support terrorism as well with the absence of an open view toward Islam systematically created the idea of hatred as a result hurting the Muslim communities ("Islamophobia …"9).

According to "EU European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia on the impact of 7July 2005 London bombing attacks on Muslim communities in the EU" published in 2002, following the attacks of 9/11 religious people living in UK were suspected and restricted; they were abused and attacked either verbally or physically through the firebombs and hate-crimes. Muslims paid so much, harsh attacks on houses and mosques, women's headscarves were removed children also were abused. Actually, those consequences seem to be "Islamophobic" because if someone fought with another one the struggle would pass and solved normally but it would not be the same case if a Muslim was bitten.("Islamophobia"2)

"Impact of 7 July 2005 London Bomb Attacks on Muslim Communities in The EU"indicated that the immediate period after London Bomb attacks of 7 July 2005, there was an increasing fear of minority communities and the hate crimes across the UK rose too. Muslims were deprived and accused. So, they were terrified and their safety becomes at risck. politicians and European Muslim reacted and defended vocally minority groups – and particularly British Muslims – as a result media stressed the importance of distinguishing between the acts of few individuals and community as whole; as a result of the prejudices and stereotypes created against them. (6)

I.2.2- Muslims and Education

This process of acquiring knowledge creates opportunities for individual to melt within society and to get informed about rights as well as duties; any member of the society could play a major key inside his community. Ansari claims that:

"Education represents for British Muslims a major area of struggle for equality of opportunity and assertion of identity. It was over education that Muslims became increasingly vocal in raising their demands in the early 1980s, and it is where they have succeeded best in having many of their needs recognized in the face of controversy and opposition from broad sections of British society" (British…)

In reality, schools open many chances for people to get in touch with the external world. It is the first institution that helps individuals to contact with each other, to create friendship and to get in touch with external world as well community through the design of curriculum. The ("Young …"2) claimed that the census of 2001counted around 1.6 million Muslims in the United Kingdom who are from different nationalities. This population contains Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Indian and other Asian ethnic background. Other groups include those identifying themselves as Arab, Afghan, Iranian, Turkish, Kurdish, Kosovan, North African and Somali Muslim immigrants.

Additionally, Families are considered as an important character in building society as whole and in creating child's personality in particular, regardless to the ethnic backgrounds (being white or non-white). However, Muslim parents preferred to send their kids to safe, comfortable places where ethnic minorities are treated respectfully and Islam is seen as one of the other recognized faiths, for instance Churches and private schools. Other caretakers felt more at ease when they put their children at separated or one-sex schools.

Muslim students faced obstacles among other students, within the syllabus which stressed on the Christian's roots and principles. Besides, Muslim parents were afraid about the ways of receiving complex lectures .Thus, teachers should be aware about the strategies to present sensitive lessons. And, even with the language itself "A lack of familiarity with the British education system, not to mention the English language, can cause some parents/careers to feel isolated from the education process, a situation that can also arise with parents from other communities, e.g. Travellers."("Guidance…"6)

Furthermore, Ansari in his report pointed out that gender and age are vocal points in the learning system, since young men from variant ethnic groups acquired language very well, in contrast to few Pakistani and Bangladeshi women between 25 and 44 years of age were as competent; the National Literacy Trust research on Languages Spoken by Pupils in London argue that most of UK's Muslims speak other languages beside the English language such as Punjabi, Bengali, Guajarati, Urdu, Turkish or Arabic. Also, Britain's younger Muslims are exposed to irony because of their wearing Hijab and Headscarves. S. Burgess and Wilson's research suggest that the level of ethnic segregation is higher in schools than in local neighborhoods, and that ethnic segregation is particularly higher toward pupils of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin, both at secondary school and in their neighborhoods. ("Muslims…"106-112)

The effects of high levels of poverty and social deprivation, and of the discrimination encountered by many minority groups, many Muslims have one family member in jail. Evidently, the Office of National Statistics, show that Muslim prison population is the largest proportion of the whole general proportion and the number of Muslim prisoners doubled between 1993 and 2000.In fact, they were blamed of many crimes committed involving: theft, burglary, drugs offences and fraud.

Besides, many Muslim kids experience violence stereotypes, religious prejudices and racism. Furthermore, many sources including Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies argue that Muslim children in Britain experienced major factors of risks among them child poverty, children suffer from homelessness, or they live in parent lone-parent household, and even growing up in households without central heating. The eligible grownups for free schools living with their families have no transportation or earn less than half the average income for the UK according to the Department for Work and Pensions. In the other hand, parents also have no educational fulfillment or are semi-skilled which prevent them from getting an employment and to earn money.

I.2.3- Socioeconomic Challenges

People after marriage try to achieve all the needs of life and to cover the maximal responsibilities, especially for those who have an educational qualification. However, decent people (Muslims) in Britain still lack the simplest rights that any human being has from: housing, health, employment.

A study demonstrated that only 19.8% of the Muslim population is in fulltime employment, compared to 34.9% in the overall population. 7.2% of unemployed Muslims compared to 4.0% in the overall population. Due to numerous factors Muslims have the lowest percentage of employment and the highest percentage of unemployment ("Islam…"1). Among this few percentage, small were working" Among working age men, Muslims had the highest overall levels of economic inactivity in 2004 –31 per cent compared with 16 per cent of Christians.

This is partly explained by the young age profile of Muslims and the correspondingly high proportion of students. However, among older men of working age, Muslims also tended to have the highest levels of economic inactivity, largely due to ill health." (Muslims in Britain, the census of 2011 the second largest religious group in Britain (after Christians) are

Muslims, but they still have the highest level of economic disadvantages compared to other ethnic groups because they are classified within lowest occupations which is related to their lowest educational qualification among other ethnic group (2011 Census), they also earn less than other religious groups £350 each month. So, it seems to be a religious effect than an ethnic effect but in reality recent researchers try to clarify this issue. Nonetheless, it tends to be a complex issue because some ethnic groups share some cultural norms. ("CSI…"261)

Muslims face also penalties according to their race (color) if a British citizen is a Muslim he is going to face a penalty and if he is black and Muslim then it is worse as Khattab and Modood claim: "If you are a Muslim in the United Kingdom, you are likely to face a penalty regardless of your color or geography. If you are a Christian in the United Kingdom, you are not likely to face any penalties unless you are black. If you are white you will also be pro tected unless you are a Muslim or to a lesser extent atheist (have no religion). The penalty will peak if you are a Muslim and black." ("CSI…" 26 2)

Minority populations tend to be refused and unwelcomed in the labor market, they suffer from segregation and discrimination because of their faith. The MCB report of 2015 argues that Muslims are facing double penalty in entering labor market in the base of racial discrimi-nation as well as Islamophobia. Perhaps the reason behind the problem of melting or being member in the society is the cultural difference in which Muslims are the most decent people among other religious groups specifically with the idea that women should stay at home as it is presented in ("British…" 19).

However, Muslims old and new generation mostly face the same obstacles even if a Mus-lim born in Britain and his grandfathers are immigrants he is going to be treated the same way

as his old family taking the example of housing : while 2.2% of the overall population are in hostels or temporary shelters for the homeless, this is 5.1% within the Muslim population others are living in crowded accommodation or household, this is due to the low income which is in turn related to the employment factor, as it is documented in MCB Census. For many politicians and researchers the issue of Muslims' living in the west world is not a new one but rather an old phenomenon since it is not an easy task that could be solve in few years, in the other hand this religious group is seeking to obtain its rights and to be presented in the society as any British citizen.

Really, this seems to be impossible, according to the previous data gathered from the variant sources Muslims are always getting the lowest percentage in all life needs' calculations .This due to the British peoples' thinking that minority groups are terrorists and only want to spread Islam the religion of corruption and killing. Another, reason behind this negative classification is related to policy makers' fear of taking over control the country then creating new laws that suit only Muslims and handle Christians from political participation. The question that rises up is whether Muslims can be integrated in the British society and its political values. Modood said:

> "In the UK, many politicians, commentators, and letter writers and phone-callers
> to the media, again from across the political spectrum, have blamed these
> concerns on the perceived cultural separatism and self-imposed segregation of
> Muslim migrants and on a 'politically correct' multiculturalism that has fostered
> fragmentation rather than inte gration and Britishness" (101)

So, the British government tried to skip and abandon the issue of integration. But, many politicians and researchers criticize it; Muslims are going to stay in the same career. Ansari considered the women identities' as an important issue that should be tackled. Truthfully, Islam gave them all privileges (not to be rapped or marry by force). Nonetheless, they are

limited at houses as housewives or mothers since they lived within patriarchal communities due to traditions. Nevertheless, this category rejected this leadership community and decided to be presented as any other member of society then again they had a poor language to communi-cate with the outside, consequently they depended either on their husbands or other relatives. Yet, in households they are the key players in raising children and in the cultural values transmission. Within this opened society they felt freer subsequently they asked for the collec-tive concerns and needs through creating women political and non – political organizations (14-15).

Despite all the efforts and trials made by Muslims and policy makers, Muslims of both sexes and categories still live the same conditions. The West did not accept this group because they reject the Muslims' roots and culture.

After dealing with an overview about Muslims in Britain and the West, their origins and how they came to such countries in the first part then the challenges and obstacles that are facing them including some Islamophobia, and education then the socioeconomic challenges that confronts this religious group in the second part. As a conclusion from the first chapter, the Muslim emigrants and the Muslims who were born there face many obstacles since British Christians do not have problems with the race only but also with religion specially Islam.

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Chapter Two

Media Myths about Muslims in Britain

The image of Islam and Muslims in Western media is generally very negative. Also the Muslim minorities who live in European countries or in the United States of America are represented in media in a bad way. After the attacks of 11 September 2001, the negative portrayal of Muslims in media have become worse and Western Muslims are seen as potential terrorists.

While the world is getting advanced, Muslims in the West face increasingly complicated problems and obstacles. Instead of focusing on such suffering, Western media keep accusing this minority group of terrorism and create new rumors about it. Indeed, media plays an important role in shaping peoples' life, they affect humans' thinking either positively or negatively through spreading myths and lie about given events since they analyse it the way they want . But, people are no longer sleepy or passive except some illiterate persons.

The substantive content of this chapter is contained in sections to stress the significant points that most western and British citizens think about Muslims. This large public strongly believe that minority groups are going to dominate the country and affect the mainstream culture of the host country.

The first part contains further details about the case of Muslims living in Britain and how they are depicted through the Western media, focusing on some newspapers and other media outlets to reveal how they play a big role in spreading myths that center around the alleged islamization if the country via analyzing some major examples such as: the Muslim birth rate and the controversy around the name Muhammed .

Muslims are also the victims of another myth which is 'Muslims will have their own Sharia Law', separate from British law .Another myth promoted by media about British

Muslims is that their communities produce radical extremists who attempted to wane the western society as the civilization.

This chapter is divided into sub chapters, each separated element will be discussed from two sides: one side presents the myths of the media on Muslims. While the other opposite side contrasts the previous interviewers' notions via appointing some clarifications and data revealing that they are just myths not reality.

Indeed, all of these are going to be proved with some documented articles, journals and researchers' quotations. Later on, as a result there would be an assertion that many of what have been said about this minority group are just myths.

2.1. The Myth of Muslims Takeover of the West and Britain

Some Christian Britons and westerner journalists want to exclud Muslims from their homelands since they have the fear of Muslims taking over the West and Britain basing on two beliefs: the first is that this religious group is proliferating in huge numbers and the Muslims birth rate is booming, the second way is that Muslims will change the dominant culture of the British society via spreading Islamic culture like the name Muhamad (naming...). Media try to demonstrate these ideas and to convince the audience through utilizing some data and statistics. However, in the next part, claim and myths of the media about the size and influence of the Muslim communities are refuted.

2.1.1 The Muslim Birth Rate

The indigenous people of the Western sphere of the world think that Muslims in the West are growing very fast in population and the size of this minority group is getting higher. So, this belief creates an opportunity for media to get in, as a result many journalists try to expand their opinions through articles with shining titles and news stories that attract the audience specially the interested ones. For instance Dominic Kennedy in his 10 January 2014

article in the *Times* newspaper reported that Muslim ' babies' percentage is twice higher than the rest of population, which would change the religious demographics of UK and he clarified his ideas with a census figures (Rise…).

Evidently, the *Mail Online* of 10th January 2014, the journalist Davies informed that the proportion of Muslim younger generation is numerous "One in ten children under the age of four is now Muslim in England and Wales, the latest statistics show." The journalist revealed that "In the under-fives age group there are nearly twice as many people identified as Muslim as in the general population, census data reveals." (One…) However, she conveyed her readers with figures that 0.5pc over 85s who had Muslim identification in Britain. Nevertheless, this percentage was seen as outnumbered counter to those who practicing Christianity in UK " 'One expert said the number of practicing Muslims could soon outnumber the number of Christians who actively worship in the UK'. David Voas, Professor of Population Studies at the University of Essex, told The Times: 'It's not inconceivable.'" (One…)

In addition to the later data, Davies added that according to 2011 census around 3.2 million from 3.5 million children aged between 0 and 5 years were Muslim. According to her portrayal, Christians are still the largest group among the kids aged between 0-5 with 43 percent. The same website in 2015 stated that the last decades knew a huge growing of Muslim population.

Crossley for *Mail Online* revealed that the MCB had shown that "Muslim's proportion rose 75 percent from 1.5 million to 2.7 million in 2001"also a third of Muslims aged 15 and under were located in Wales and England "The research shows that one in 12 school-age children is now Muslim, and a third of all Muslims are aged 15 and under, with half under

the age of 25." (Number of Muslims) Likewise, the MCB in 2011 carried out that Muslims'

number in UK increased from 1.5 million in 2001 to 2.7 million in 2011 . Additionally, to the

analysis made by the census in the same year publicized that "Muslim population has risen by

75%". It revealed that the majority of Muslims with the British nationality were born outside

Britain "Although more than half of all Muslims in the UK were born outside of the country,

73 per cent of those practicing the religion said their national identity was British", the report

found.

It also states that around one in 20 of the population was Muslims." The journalist argued

that the majority of Muslim pupils settled in some parts in Birmingham " Many wards in

Birmingham have young Muslims making up more than 80 per cent of a school's intake, such

as the Washwood Heath ward where 86 per cent of children are Muslims." Moreover, *The

Telegraph* in 2015 indicated that only three quarters of Muslim children who identified

themselves as British " Landmark study shows number of children under five being brought

up as Muslim rose 80 percent in a decade while three quarters of Muslims in UK identify

themselves solely as British" (Number…).

In fact, John Bingham a religious affair editor- and previous journalist believed that the

Muslim population is increasing day after day which would create future troubles such as

dominating the country "The report, presented to Parliament, concludes that Muslims could

play a decisive role in the coming general election, expected to be the closest in recent times,

making up a significant share of voters in some of the most marginal seats in the country."

And expand in the British lands then transmitting the Muslim customs and traditions "But the

study of official census data by the Muslim Council of Britain also concludes that the Muslim

population will continue expanding for "many decades" to come – something experts said

could transform everything from social attitudes to foreign policy" (Number…).

Finnigan to *the Telegraph* "Number of UK Muslims exceeds three million for first time" indicated that the majority of population in London now are Muslims due to two factors birth rate and immigration. Another new study published by *the Telegraph* (Babies Born to Muslims Will Outnumber Christian Births by 2035, Study Finds) Sherlock stated that the next generations will contain great numbers of Muslims in contrast to few amounts of Christians. In the other hand, MCB report suggested that the Muslim minority settled in all region of England and Wales but much more in the capital London because of many factors ("British …")

Correspondingly, this new younger generation would make future changes because the first generations experienced harsh conditions: unemployment, deprivation, exclusion, and stereotypes this would encourage them to change the country roots. "Prof David Voas, director of the Institute for Social and Economic Research based at Essex University, said: '… Even if immigration stopped tomorrow it is clear that in due course by the middle of this century or a bit later, 10 percent of the population of Britain will be of Muslim heritage.' He said that is likely to change political decisions and social attitudes on both a local and national level." (Number…)

Actually, it is clear that large sections of Western media rise concerns about the increasing profile of Islam thus creating ideas and imaginations such as minority groups are expand-ing to take control of the country and turning the things upside-down and later on British or Christians would experience the same prior challenges. In fact, media tried to raise awareness toward younger generation through touching the sensitive sides as politics, just to push readers to react and exclude Muslims from society.

2.1.2. The Name Mouhammad:

The British media have used statistics by the British Office of National Statistics about the most popular baby names to spread fears about the growth of Muslim population and the

domination of Muslims . The news that Muhammad has become the most popular name glimmered, according to many journalists the name Muhammad is going to be a popular boy's name in Britain which creates for them a fear of taking over the country. The BBC News of 6 June 2007, for example, stated that "name Mohammed is the second popular name in UK after Jack", and said that "if the fourteen different spellings are added the name likely to be rise next year" (Muhammad…) the news related this increasing back to the Muslim families enlargement.

" The official register of names puts Mohammed at number 23, but an analysis of the top 3,000 names puts Muhammad in second place" in the other hand, Thomas was on the third place followed by Joshua and Oliver in the list. BBC News relates these variant spellings to the different families' origins or to the alternative pronunciations. Another source, *Mail Online* offered that Muhammed is the most popular name and ten top listed according to BabyCentre figures chronicled by Oliver and Jack in second and third places. This article claimed that the Arabic names rise and inspire the next generations. (Muhammad…)

Whereas, the *INDEPENDENT*'s journalist Dearden showed that the name Muham-mad, created debates since name Muhammad has many spellings the BabyCenter ccounted them and top listed it. However, "name Oliver one name until the spellings totaled over 3,944 Muhammads, 2,887 and Mohmmeds, 1,059 Mohammads gathered, giving a total of 7,445 babies." (Muhammed …) In 18th Aug 2015, *Sunday Express* (Amelia ...) presented the name Muhammed including the different spelling variations is the chosen name for the Mus-lim newborn babies Oliver is still the favorite name. Besides, Emilia stills the preferred girl names for two years in Wales and England followed by Olivia, Isla, Emily and Poppy.

Others such as Elizabeth McLaren argued if the Muhammad's variant spellings are counted then, Oliver and Ollie, James and Jim should aked into consideration too.

Waugh to the *Metro* newspaper claimed "A new list of top baby names in the UK has revealed that 'Mohammed' has been knocked off the top spot – by 'Oliver' – and some children have been blessed with very unusual names indeed " (Amelia ...) .The name Oliver top listed in 2016 followed by Muhammed in the second place in UK. Where, Olivia is the first top ten girl names. For the *Sunday Express*, Amelia and Oliver were the ideal names in England and Wales. "But despite, 6,941 babies being named Oliver in 2015 making it officially top of the list; Muhammed ap-pears to be the most popular name for boys for the second year running."

Yet, if the three name variations are included to the name Muhammad: Muhammad, Mohammed and Muhammed, it would be at the top of the list. "Muhammad was once again the most popular baby name in London and also topped the list in the West Midlands." In the 2nd December 2016 the name Mohammed was chosen as the first popular name thanks to its spelling variations and followed by the name Oliver in London and the West midlands. "Oliver was the most popular boys' name for all regions of England except London and the West Midlands, which both had Muhammad as the top name" (Amelia ...). Amelia reserves its place as the most favorite girl's name for five years.

Clearly, British media created a big controversy for many years about the spread of name Muhammed, since it represents Muslims prophet and symbolizes Islam. Indeed, this controversy is another myth to support the claim that Muslims are going to take over the country and to rise fear and hatred against Muslims and their religion.

Other journalists show just the opposite "A report released this morning claiming that Muhammad was Britain's most popular boy's name is actually based on seriously faulty math

and some pretty dubious methodology from its creators, BabyCentre.co.uk." the Metro news, Rob Waugh for Mettaro.co.uk claim that the most Britain's popular name is Oliver ac-cording to an official report the Office of National Statistics. However, this myth created intentionally because of the fear of Muslims to take over the West and Britain then to establish new government with new laws and constructions (Mohammed ...)

2.2. The Myth of Sharia Law

Sharia law is the Islamic legal system, which originates its rules from Quran, hadith, and Islamic scholars, or what is known as fatwa. It helps Muslims to solve their everyday life problems and to practice their faith. Due to the very bad portrayal of Sharia in the British media , this word have a very negative significance for Britons and Europeans in general. People are frightened by the mentioning of this word. The way media talk about Sharia courts in Britain give the impression that the country is ruled by Islam. But , in fact it is just another myth about Islam and Muslims in Britain.

2.2.1. Sharia Law

In UK, Sharia law is seen as the mirror that reflects discrimination, the British courts believed that the sharia courts do not respect human rights taking the example of women that could lose her the right of keeping her baby if she expatriated to Lebanon as the law gave the guardianship of the kid to the vicious father, also sharia law abandoned the right of women of supervision since it provided this right inevitably to the father.(" Sharia…"19)

Media sought to address the idea that Muslims would settle their rules down in UK through asking about new growing demands, and considered it as the appropriate for all crimes' punishments even with women's objections "The use of Sharia, or Islamic religious law, is growing in Britain, with thousands of Muslims using it to settle disputes each year, but women's groups and some others are objecting." The journalist Talwar to the BBC News,

Muslims tended to expand their bodies to cover the greatest cases since they are enlightened with Islam, as it is quoted from the same source by Sheikh Al-Haddad "Muslims are becoming more aligned with their faith and more aware of what we are offering them," (Growing…) other growing demands of sharia councils to help British Mus-lims that twisted a westerner's fear "As a demand for Sharia thrives, a number of British law firms are starting to tap into the booming market." One of the Muslim lawyers Aina Khan offered client in the based London-law firm "She offers clients advice that is in keeping with both English and Islamic law."

Likewise, the *Mail Online* news testified the case of Izzadeen who attempted to make his voice heard through printing yellow leaflets, thus to make Britain the first Sharia zone through his demands, which were a list of forbidden things in Islamic religion and seemed to be critical for westerners such as: drinking alcohol and taking drugs. "Under his brutal set of rules, there would be a ban on alcohol, gambling, drugs, music, smok-ing and homosexuality, as well as on men and women mixing in public." Many of young Muslims encouraged him this made many people afraid and angry "So how likely are the-se extremists to succeed with their plans to turn parts of Britain into militant Islamic enclaves?" reporter scared of Muslims controlling of the country through Sharia Law "According to this year's Global Islamic Finance Report, Britain is now the main Centre for Islamic finance outside the Muslim world."(As Islamic…)

In the Western countries, Sharia law was accused of being cruel and inhuman .They always refer to cutting hands of thieves, women could be divorced and could not reat-tach the family again if the husband declared divorce three times " you are divorced three times". Boztas to the *INDEPENDENT* agreed that women were likely to be marginalized and did not get their full rights "Sharia in the UK: The courts in the shadow of British law

offering rough justice for Muslim women" all sharia courts meant to have harsh stance toward women taking the example of Jewish courts "Ms. Zee's analysis is blistering: these courts all treat women as less than equal and are incompatible with human rights law." (Sharia …)

In contrast to what have been said, Sharia law is made just to help Muslims to solve their problems, as a guide in the ambiguous situations with its very limited power in the government. Islamic judges could only solve agreement differences according to the *Telegraph* which noticed : "Islamic judges can resolve disputes by agreement but cannot grant divorces or punish crimes." Rozenberg informed that Media also tried to show that like Muslims, Jew-ish women are humiliated and married by force too "The same problem can arise under Jew-ish law, where the woman is known as an *agunah* —meaning "chained" or "anchored" wife.", and also cannot get a divorce in civil courts because her husband could deny.

Accordingly, Rozenberg reported that the ordinary courts are found to deal with such situations unless the British civilian wanted to finish his divorce with talaq, he should go to such courts since the British law is above all and governs all the tribunals "It is entirely clear from this account that Muslims living in Britain must go to the ordinary civil courts if they wish to be divorced. The tribunal is not claiming any power to grant a divorce that would be recognized by the civil courts." (What ...?)

Around 30 councils existed in the UK as merely bodies; they are not useful and active especially the Islamic courts, which were source of interest. For many decades, Muslims have been attacked and suspected, every violent event was associated with them until nowadays. Ignoring the fact that we cannot generalize the work of someone on the whole population. Muslims are still confronted and threatened to be excluded from societies. " Walker in Global Security News showed that Sharia law supports killing, stoning women till death this

Created fear of Islam and its roots, that's why the majority of civilians do not counter Sharia courts as a real tribunal (Unite...).

2.2.2. Radicalization

The stereotype that harms the lives of British Muslims more is convicting them of terrorism. Members of this minority group were presented as extremists and terrorists.Te Daily Express by Burman conveyed that "(TERROR…) police are monitoring more than 3,000 homegrown Islamist extremists who are willing to carry out attacks on the UK, security sources have warned." Britons were frightened of being attacked by Muslims "Terrifying numbers of British men and women – many of whom are still teenagers - are being radicalized and could stage attacks on home soil within weeks" the same source indicated that Mr. Andrew parker (the first MI5 director in the agency's history to give a live broadcast interview, called for larger works to preserve the British citizens from Muslims attacks) called for larger works to preserve the British citizens from Muslims' attacks "He confirmed the UK's security agencies are having to work harder than ever to protect Britons, following last last week's revelation by David Cameron that secret services had foiled six terror plots over the past year " (TERROR...).
Obviously, The British main policy makers were afraid from the possibility of the 9/11 attacks' implications at home.

Another testimony made by media, "Hundreds more UK Muslims choose Jihad than army" British Muslims preferred to travel to Syria and Iraq to join the Islamic State (Isis) and other extremist organizations, rather than to connect the British Army "The difference could be even greater after it was claimed last night that the number of Britons to have fought with Islamic State (Isis) and other extremist groups in the region was much higher than the 400 to 500 identified by police." (Hundreds ...) .

Also, the Sun posted videos of ISIS member who called for the British Muslims to sacrifice their lives and to join the organization "BRITISH extremists fighting with terror group Isis have posted a chilling recruitment video online" (British ...).

Besides, Dathan a political correspondent for the *Mail Online* used a student's speech as evidence, and claimed that the majority of UK students would join ISIS because of the harsh conditions facing them "Radical student leader claims young UK Muslims are travelling to join ISIS in Syria for reasons including Government cuts to education and mass unemployment" (Radical …) since students would finish their studies with some qualifications, they tended to stay unemployed and face many obstacles outside. Consequently, they would go to Syria to fulfil their religion desire via sacrificing because life is just a test.

Eventually, CBN news in an article entitled "*How Britain Became a Global Exporter of Terrorism"* Hurd portrayed that while the radical British Muslims are growing day after day and joining ISIS, the British government is unconscious about the future results. It proclaimed that Muslims gave many signs to show their interest in Jihad particularly after the manifestation of Muhammed's cartoons, that explained the spirit of killing and being extremists. "Britain is now a major exporter of terrorists, the result of multiculturalism. There have been warning signs for years" (How ...).

In actual fact, full of broadcasts showed the extreme fear of Muslims to rule UK, and argued that they were the most extremist minority. Here, some journalists present these negative pictures toward Islam as an example . *The Guardian* of 14th November 2007 by Press associa-tion reported that "Research into one week's news coverage showed that 91% of articles in national newspapers about Muslims were negative." (Study ….)

Another study reported by The Telegraph in 2006 "A Twenty per cent felt sympathy with the July 7 bombers' motives, and 75 per cent did not. One per cent felt the attacks were

"right". To show that even though, the bombers were Islamist but the Muslim British did not felt empathy toward them as Islam is the religion of peace and mercy (Poll ….).

Media remains the only means that could brainwash minds. Throughout the discussed parts, it is clear that media implemented some myths to persuade viewers and attract their attention with brilliant titles and various calculations. All that just to keep Muslims always isolated from the public. However, the intelligent people can differentiate between what is wrong and what is real.

Ultimately, the Muslim minority seems to be victim of both media and the Islamist organizations. Because, news covers what extremists did and generalize on the whole Muslims. On the other hand, they are suspected of being traitors who do not serve Islam ambitions because they did not volunteer to fight with those radicals who carry flags with the name of Allah. This category presents hypocrisy, they want to fulfill their desires by pro-claiming that they are doing the right thing.

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Chapter Three

Impact of Myths on the Life of Muslims

The many myths and stereotypes promoted by the British media about the Muslim communities of the country harmed their lives a lot. These myths played an important role in the increase of attacks on Muslims and in the rise of Islamophobic, extreme rightwing groups . Islamophobia is, thus, the result of media negative representation of Islam and Muslims.

This chapter is divided into two parts ; the first focuses on the rise of extreme right which works on creating violent mood about British Muslims and the several attempts to dismiss them from UK through using different justifications. It also sheds light on various organizations and parties known for their anti-Muslim activities.

The second part of the chapter discusses the rise of hostility toward Muslims and how are they depicted and treated by the non-Muslims after different events: 9/11, 7/7 bombings. Moreover, the media myths and the rise of far right impact on this minority group eventually lead to the creation of an intolerant climate.

The last findings from this last section denote the innocence of the British Muslims' majority because of the radical groups' minority. This is due to the falsification made by media news and lies.

3.1.The Rise of the Extreme Right

Extreme groups such as EDL, BNP and BF use the myth promoted by the media on Muslims to serve their hatful agenda. Those people called for excluding Muslims from their homelands because they thought that religious groups had taken all the available opportunities

in the country. Due to media myths and their campaigns, those parties grew more and more in order to prevent Muslims from showing off.

According to the UK news,12 weeks after the murder of Drummer Lee Righby in Woolwich, there were attacks over thirty five mosques in England and Wales as a reaction to his death. " Observers claim the murder of Lee Righby was the initial 'trigger' form surge in anti-Muslim hatred in 2013. The study made by Dr Feldman and litter about anti-Muslim incidents recorded by Faith Matters' Tell MAMA an organisation which monitors anti-Muslim attacks, and academics at Teeside University, project over 2013/2014. it also confirmed that 40 per cent of attackers had links to far-right anti Muslim groups such as the English Defence League and Britain First which are rapidly growing in popularity". *THE WEEK* (Anti-Muslim…).

3.1.1.The BNP

It was initiated in 1982, under the National Front leadership and after the ten years when this Front split, it became independent 'far right' through gaining the majority votes of elections both FN and BNP rejected non-white emigration. BNP stands for British National The *Guardian* reported that the British National Party is considered as the biggest extreme-right political party, the founder of this party was by the co-founder of Front Nationalism John Tyndall who was known for his racism toward non-whites .He insisted on excluding them from society and banned the immigration of the colored persons and emphasized on the competing elections. Later on, under the guidance of Nick Griffin who changed the path little bit and turned his prominence on Islamophobia and the rise of immigration extents, this shift helped the party to progress more and gain more votes "In the 2005 general election, the party increased its total number of votes to 192,850, from 47,219 in 2001, according to reports." So, BNP wanted to win future parliamentary seats.

After the successive improvement of the BNP in consequence of the public's support, this party lost its placement because it did not accomplish the electoral registration and came to be no longer political party when it received an announcement from the commission "on Friday, January 8, the British National Party was removed from the register of political parties in the UK by the Electoral Commission." As it is indicated in ("BNP…").

The *INDEPENDENT*'s journalist Dearden reported that the British National Party declined due to the escalation of other new far- rights "The BNP, which has seen a dramatic decline in support since the rise of UKIP and emergence of new far-right party Britain First, was still active online today". (BNP…)

3.1.2.EDL

This acronym stands for English Defense League. It emerged in June 2009 by interdisciplinary team at the University of Northampton's School of Social Sciences, as a reaction to radical Islam complaints, called itself 'human rights organization' that aimed to defend the non-Muslim rights through using attractive speeches based on ultra-nationalism and non-Muslim politics, in order to make their demands clear via exploiting media. Probably, Islamophobia was considered as the key factor behind the growth of EDL. (Allchorn et al.)

However, this new far-right group does not look like the earlier organizations nor the new ones as it is indicated in the report (the EDL…) "this 'new far-right' does not contest elections like yesterday's National Front or today's Brit-ish National Party. Instead, this is direct action politics, disseminated and coordinated via the new media – ranging from Facebook to mobile phones, and digital film to YouTube."(Jackson et.al 3)

This party also targeted mainly the Asian Muslims and supported the prejudgments against them. Jackson and others supposed that it encouraged rejection, separation, discrimi-nation. Also, any far-right organization had 'front stage' and 'back stage', more precisely the first stage mirrors the valuable message of that movement and the second reflects the hidden and the aggressive goals. (11)

EDL's mission statements are about how to reduce Muslims' situation in the govern-ment. It assumed that English Defense League is a human rights initiative since Islam is the religion of radicalization that threatens the public's rights , thus their aim is to protect the Brit-ish citizens' rights. Likewise it argued that Islam is barbaric, oppressed women and supports killing in addition to other extremist actions that's why EDL is founded "to protect the inal-ienable rights of all people to protest radical Islam's encroachment into the lives of non-Muslims" and anti-modern therefore British Muslims are free to reformulate their religion and give women equal rights. Consequently the government should protect them from Islamic tradition "The Government should protect the individual human rights of British Muslims. It should ensure that they can openly criticize Islamic orthodoxy, challenge Islamic leaders without fear of retribution". ("EDL…")

Besides, the Mission Statement pointed that Sharia law would be enforced on Western societies and EDL came to oppose this idea. It attempted "to promote democracy and the rule of law by opposing sharia law" for the reason that it is considered as a threat to the British democracy and would cooperate with the existing traditions and customs by using some strat-egies such as the Islamic courts, and the Halal food industry which are spreading bit by bit in UK. This would decrease the authority of the British attributes and even markets therefore creating new problems and maybe splits or divisions in the country. So, restaurants should offer both halal and non-halal foods to show admiration to other religions and to contradict sharia law which allow segregation and distinction between Muslim and non-Muslim citizens.

Accordingly, this organization could be seen as an ultra-patriotism because it appeals for English national patriotism that stressed on deforming Muslims faith and Islamism. (Jackson et.al 14).But, as any other organization this did not succeed for the reason that it was restricted to manifestations at streets and its demands were not heard unlike BNP which was a political party.

3.1.3.BF

Britain First was established in 2010, under the leadership of James Dawson and Nick Griffin, this later was the BNPs founder. The organization was a combination between the BNP party and EDL extreme far right body. In one hand, it was considered as a political party like BNP and in the other hand it preferred to protest in streets as EDL so it gained support from both sides at the governmental and the public level as it is indicated in *Newsweek* in 2014.

The *Guardian* reported that this far right body did not contain insane members, but it came to protect their original culture and Christianity's roots. "… Britain First is not just some group of simple-minded patriots with too much time on their hands. Instead it was founded by Belfast-based business man with a rather canny knock for building up protest groups and movements on the basis that it was your Christian duty to follow his work" (The Truth …)

The journalist Mughal to the Open Democracy sued that after the left EDL, First Britain came to compensate the gaps with more aggressive actions and physical violence against Muslims. It also spread rumors about them that they are the most aggressive minority. Besides, they went into mosques and annoy elder Muslims so that to create struggles thus to capture them. ('Tit… ") Britain First's mission statements focused on the marginalized British people that were under inequality and pressure, it also demanded for the strict and 'lowly' people that would

aid the construct a developed future for the country, BF gave more opportunities to the native public before aliens "we want our people to come first, before foreigners, asylum seekers or migrants and we are overtly proud of this stance" and do not leave any chance for the allied power to intervene, so the native citizens to became the 'second class' . Other statement made by FB concentrated on Christianity to be the basic religion since it turns out to be the second faith in the country and confronted racism and Britons felt themselves as foreigners because of their Christianity mainly in employment. With the fast progress of Islam women became marginalized, freedom of speech declined , and discrimination grew.

Collins, in the *Guardian* (The truth…) conveyed that while the world is getting more aware about the BF, it is attain-ing more supports in the online web and gain further support as a result this party join the UKIP "So Britain First has now attached itself to UKIP. Admittedly, it runs a much slicker Facebook operation than UKIP (and most other parties)."

In the other hand, UKIP or the UK Independence Party were considered as a political party that was against racism and discrimination and put harsh punishments for any member who wants to agitate radicalism. This was revealed in public "UKIP said that it was a 'non-racist, non-sectarian party'" .William Henwood, an ex-council nominee that was suspected of being pro-racist for the reason of tweeting about Mr. Lenny Henry of departure the country because of his recommendations that the television should contain more ethnic characters and said if he is concerned about black people he should go to a 'black country'. ('Ban'…) by Kenber in *The Times*.

However, Hayton sued that UKIP emphasized on the British unity and identity "Britishness". It appealed to create unified UK that embarrasses all Great Britain states including Ireland .Moreover, it encouraged the exit of Britain from European Union. Also it

aimed at reducing immigration thus multiculturalism. ("The UK" 2).

Kenber to the Times UK Independence Party stated 'Ban Islam and Knock down all the mosques' here, it appeared that UKIP encouraged racism and attacks Muslims and blamed them of 'ethnic cleansing' when Jackie Garnett, a counselor in Oldham airmailed on her Facebook account a series of a speeches against religious minority group and recommended that all should be destructed and she indicted Muslims of having ethnic purge missionary against English. ('Ban'…)

Another testimony about the UKIP's hatred toward Islam, Chairman Magns Nilson who was famous through his posting on Facebook about Islam "Islam is an organized crime under religious camouflage" and defined Islam as the faith of lawbreakers and Quran is considered as the source of inspiration. In addition, he argued that "Islam is created by a man called Muhammad who was a gang leader of criminals and he justified his behavior by saying he was instructed by god to behave that way …" ("Camden…")

3.2. The Rise of Hostility toward Muslims

Due to media myths, Muslims have been living under pressure and stress. In fact, this minority challenged many difficulties in employment, education, and practicing religion. In addition to the verbal assaults, they also experienced the physical insults. The Islamophobic attacks on British Muslims increased partly because the media associated them with terrorism. The organizations too of the extreme right played a great role in raising hostility toward Muslims and impact their lives negatively. This later, tended to exclude the ethnic minority from the homeland whereas British leaders justified that they would purge the British country from natives through implementing Islamic traditions.

3.2.1.Islam, Islamic or Islamist?

Muslims in the west are the most marginalized religious cluster due to many factors. Media helped in creating bad images about them and tended to brainwash the audience. Generally, according to Western journalists the word Islam could cover many acts and movements done by different organizations and individuals. However, Ehsan who serves at many posts as: a science writer, broadcaster, journalist, author and a teacher at the Imperial college at London believed that Islam, Islamist and Islamic refer to different contexts. The Muslim Council of Britain tried to understand the idea behind how Muslims and Islam were described in media consequently it brought executives and journalists to realize this indication from both sides before the attacks of 11 September in USA. Those who did the attacks did not continue after this period because they considered it as an Islamic duty (7).

Other different researchers and reporters, utilize the term 'Islamic' as an alternative of 'Islamist' in distinguished manner to other journalists in which this word could represent the committed terrorist acts done by an individual or organization under the name of religion. Actually, it is related to the author's opinion that he wanted to convey in his publication (8). "The British Muslim magazine *Q News*, for example has used 'Islamic terrorism' to de scribe acts of violence claimed to be committed in the name of Islam. Similarly, more secular-leaning English language newspapers and magazines in the Muslim world use phrases such as 'Islamist parties' or 'right-wing Muslims' when describing Islam in poli tics. But publications such as *www.islamonline.net* that are more sympathetic to Islam in politics like to use the phrase 'religious parties'. Islam Channel's editors use 'human bombs' to describe what are otherwise known as 'suicide bombers'." (8)

Though, each part wanted to clarify its concepts more and more in other words Muslims sought to relate the violent events to terrorism whereas, westerners mix the acts within innocent individuals because they share the same religion with the criminals.

3.2.2. The Impact of 9 /11 and 7/7 on British Muslims' life

Before the 9/11 attacks Muslims' identity knew a change in which they transformed from Muslims who lived in UK to British Muslims. Although, after this period they were more regulated and limited. Islamophobia upraised, discrimination and verbal abuse took a place, and they were stereotyped owing to media which considered this era as a suitable casual to discuss this issue (Hussein). Also, Dr Abbas , an outstanding expert on Muslims in Britain , stated that the racism toward this religious group increased. Indeed politicians focused on the "war on terror" rather than on Islam and Muslims, thus they took the peoples' Islamophobia for their own benefits. In addition to that Muslims' loyalty to Britain was suspected (30). In the other hand, this retro had matched some chaos especially in the relation between Muslim leaders and government. Furthermore those leaders supposed that the new legislation such as anti-terrorism laws had negative influence on Muslims .This minority felt annoyed and discriminated against mainly about UK's support of Iraq and Afghanistan invasion. (Masood 22).

Offenses against Muslims included verbal and written insults for example threating phone calls or letters ; also they were not allowed to pray in the private places thus, their holly time of praying was not respected. Besides, women and children were the most vulnerablet category of this mistreatment mainly students who faced discrimination at schools. In addition to the verbal insults, this minority group confronted other physical attacks as beating

And taking off women veils or spiting of alcohol on them. Hate crimes also rose as per

attacking Muslims' institutions including: mosques, Islamic establishments and Muslim

houses;

"In the majority of cases there were repeated and persistent attacks on the victims' property.

Damage included graffiti, arson, general destruction and more sinisterly, petrol bombing."

("The Hidden ...)

The report of The London Bombings and Racial Prejudice "Evidence from Housing and

Labour Markets" suggested that the 7/7 bombings affected the Muslims' life negatively

Our results suggest that, relative to control areas, house prices in the treated areas fell by

approximately 2.3% in the two years after the attacks, with sales falling by approximately

5.7%, and unemployment rates rising by approximately 5.8%. Furthermore, we find an

increase in segregation: the proportion of Asians increased in treated boroughs after the

bombings relative to control boroughs. These results are robust to various sensitivity analyses.

(14) Hate crimes in Britain got greater than before, they were abused and suspected as a

consequence they lose their jobs and their homes became priceless.

3.2.3. Violence against Muslims in UK

In fact, British Muslims were the most maltreated religious group.Tthey experienced

different vicious deeds containing verbal abuse, physical insults, discrimination…etc. (The

Violence…) survey measured that London witnessed the major 'Islamophobic' hate crimes

(4). Furthermore, the MCB counted many attacks on mosques and the anti- Muslim prejudices

had increased (5) women were the victims of violence and were judged about their wearing

.For instance according to a policeman a driver wanted to hit a female adult who was wearing

headscarf and abused her verbally in Southampton (8).

More viciousness had encountered Muslims in the United Kingdom .They were attacked in streets with no help. The *Guardian* newspaper reported that most of British Muslims had experienced racism against since they carry the Islamic faith and the only responsible for those crimes is media and politicians. Muslims also feel also they were abandoned. " More than half said they had been 'overlooked, ignored or denied service in a shop , restaurant or public office or transport', while three-quarters said they had been stared at by strangers"(Majority…) .

Other sources claimed that Muslims were bitten to death without considering the age or the gender. For example Withnall to the *INDEPANDENT* testified that "Imam beaten to death in sex grooming town". (Manchester…).

Eventually, ("The Impact of Anti-Terrorism Powers on the British Muslim Population") report indicated that Muslim representatives noticed minority Muslims were under arrest without any reason only for their faith "lawyers and groups representing Muslims have noted increase in complain from individuals who have never been in trouble with the police before but who report being stopped and searched, and having their cars and homes searched. According to recent press coverage, all allege they have been targeted for no reason other than their religion" (5).

Media and politicians were responsible for raising hate crimes against Muslims since they spread rumors about them thus creating chaos in the society as a result many were killed or received threating letters "A rise in the number of hate crimes against Muslims in London is being encouraged by mainstream politicians and sections of the media …" (Manchester…)

3.2.4. The Rise of Islamophobia

Consequently, Islamophobia knew an unprecedented increase after 9/11and 7/7 attacks, and got greater with the rise of far extreme right groups. Politicians inclined to raise fears toward excluding this minority or putting them in remote places and raise security in the government. This minority also was abused and attacked to firebombs and hate crimes and even spiting on them. (Allen 153)

Noticeably, some researchers such as Sian, Law and Said in their report (The Media…) claimed that all Muslims were suspected for any crime made in the society under the name of Islam this fear of Muslims is related to media misrepresenting of Muslims and Islam, according to Lewis "The five adjectives that we found most commonly used in relation to Muslims were in order; radical, fanatical, fundamentalist, extremist and militant. Muslim extremism is itself now a big story. Muslim moderation is not." (in 233) .In other words, Islam is described as the primary source of threat, fear, violence and it was used as a tool of terrorism.

Lambert and Githnes-Mazer argued that the BNP and EDL effected the Muslims life "…Throughout 2009 and 2010 the BNP and the EDL campaigned passionately and angrily against Islam and Muslims. In consequence Muslims in many UK towns and cities faced an increase threat of hate-crimes including verbal and physical threats…" (8)

Increasingly, hostility toward Muslims advances day after day due to the many reasons and mainly media according to Lewis "The ways in which Muslims are discussed or talked about in the press tend to be in a context that clearly are rather negative. So it is terrorism, it is about the clash between Christianity and Islam; it is about Islam as an extreme religion."(232…) by Sian, Law and Said, Muslim citizens experienced multi-racial discrimination and always seen as hosts that should leave in one day

or another, because they threaten the security of the land through expanding their religion that focuses on the ultimate beliefs and tradition as far as, the original identity would diminish subsequently. So, the homeland government should make an act toward this minority to preserve British national identity.

Ultimately, Islamophobia was not the only source of threat toward Muslims, but also the rise of the far right that used variant ways to attack this minority through committing aggression against mosques and killing people. Also, they offended the younger men who, search for better conditions. Open Democracy by Mughal ('Tit'…) .Finally, media had great influence on peoples' life; it used different offensive data to raise the hatred against Muslims so it touched the sensitive sides of life including: politics, religion, and dominance. Broadcasting spread variant fables to push the younger audience to react.

Truthfully, mass media created more opportunities for the public to get in politics in order to show their anger towards Muslims. Subsequently, British people manifested out in streets and used violent tools to abuse them. This lead to the creation of different parties that were concerned about the same issue to secure the country from foreigner immigrants such : BNP, EDL, BF and UKIP. Actually, these organizations had two faces one had direct objectives and the other was indirect aims.

Also, web shaped a smaller world for the organizations to expand more and to get in touch with its supporters, for example leaders could publish any statement on different issues via using network accounts and get the feedback quickly with a simple click on like. Evidently, both media myths and the far right vilified Islam and Muslims' status consequently it transformed the life of the religious group and complicated the way of melting within society and Islamophobia became an international cause.

By the other side, Muslims were the victims of the terrorist deeds, indeed the few riot categories who misrepresented Islam and exploit it in by claiming that it is an Islamic duty to purge the world from the non-believers and make the world one community under the dominance of radical groups as ISIS.

Precisely, after the 9/11 and 7/7 attacks Muslims became more restricted and suspected , worshipers, women and children were among the insulted victims .Mosques and private places were destroyed .The innocent people received threatening letters and phone calls to push them to leave UK.

Generally, Muslims were seen as the most extremist immigrants who want to destroy the country and build up a new eastern world with new ideology. But, this was wrong since this group is the supreme marginalized minority as it is shown in the previous parts of the chapter. It can be said that the different media outlets that spread myths and hatred against the British Muslim minority group bear a big responsibility in the current situation of Muslims. They are continuously under danger as media succeeded in associating their faith with terrorism and in making the public afraid they would take over the country in the space of few decades.

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Conclusion

The rise and intensification of anti-Muslim sentiments in Europe and the West in general in the period following the 9/11 attacks ,known as Islamophobia have made the situation of Western Muslims which had been already severe , worse.Many factors contributed to the rise of this phenomenon and research revealed that media played a leading role in giving a very negative image of Muslims and their religion.

The history of the British negative attitude toward Muslims dates back to a long story based on a complicated relation between the two spheres of the world. The West has always a closed idea about the East particularly on faith, traditions and culture that play an important part in the West's aspiration to dominate the world.

Because media in Britain like everywhere have a strong influence on public opinion, Islamophobes ,rightwing politicians and groups use it effectively to raise concerns among people about the rapid growth of the Muslim population in Britain. In the main British newspapers , there has been a focus on news related to Muslim birthrate and its increase, the increase of Muslim names , mosques and Islamic centers , and the symbols of Islam in general. Many warned openly that Britain will turn an Islamic country within the space of few generations calling on the government to do something to stop this.

Official statistics and studies showed that all these fears are not justified because Muslims in Britain are still a small minority that accounts for less 9 per cent of the total population of Britain.The claim that Britain is in the way to become Islamic is therefore a myth.

The media also promoted many other myths like the spread of Sharia Law in Britain , the unloyalty of British Muslims to the institutions of the country and their support to terrorism.

These myths helped in inciting hatred against Muslims especially veiled women. The rate of attacks against them increased a lot in the last few years.

Commonly, Muslims around the world became suspicious and "Islam" was the most horrifying concept due to media portrayals who promote unreal information about it, they took the opportunity of the Westerners' closed idea about this minority and irrational explanations to hate or to carry such judgments toward Muslims.

Attributable to media, Muslims around the world turned to be the target and the enemies in others' imagination whenever Muslims traveled across the world they are suspected and even rejected because it misrepresented Muslims and Islam through the use of mythical events and touching the sensitive topics that affect the public opinion in turn .Reporters continuously depict Islam's existence in the west as a matter of invasion so they refered to the example of the Hallal food industry as a means to dominate the country via spreading Muslim culture and way.

Besides, all the terrorist conducts around the world are attributed to Muslims. People in the West and mainly British people think that Islam came to protest against Western way of life thus supporting discrimination and killing; despite that all human kinds could make any trouble in the society regardless to their religious background.

Muslims in Britain also have a big responsibility to improve the distorted image about them and to give a better image of their religion. They should take action toward their situation and do not be passive. So, as any other journalists, Muslims also have the freedom of speech to clarify their status and distinguishing between what is extremism and what is a peaceful creed. They should build their own media to give the correct image of Islam.

Above and beyond of all what have been said, Muslims should be responsive about the reports coined to them, and rise the world' awareness of generating the crime of one person or group on all population .

Regardless of all the challenges that are facing this minority group in such foreign countries; they still suspected of taking natives' rights and opportunities , that's why British citizens support the lies made by media which in the other hand shakes their ideas and pushes them to react against this religious group.

To sum up, media are the key factor in shaping peoples' life and thinking through what is written in the front pages in order to attract more and more readers thus to convince them about certain ideas. But, people should be aware not to judge others mainly ethnic groups just from a shining title, or to generate a crime of an individual on the whole population because persons do not look the same even if they belong to the same society, religion and family.

Muslims and Islam are now an important component of Europe and the West and stereotyping them and spreading myths about them can harm the social stability of Western societies. Governments in Britain and the West in general should thus play a serious role in confronting anti-Muslim sentiments and hatred.

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