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# If We Have to Wake Up (Would You Stop the Rain?)

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### If We Have to Wake Up (Would You Stop the Rain?)

A little over a month ago the news website *Mondoweiss* published an Op-Ed piece entitled, "Islamophobia and the Election: It's not just Trump." The article explained that the tyrannous and unpredictable trio of Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, and Ben Carson are feeding off anti-Muslim opinions in order to appear strict on their national security policies- and I seem to agree.<sup>1</sup> Islamophobia continues to spread over other regions of the world, however I believe that no country has as strong of an anti-Muslim attitude as the United States of America. This is because of 9/11, the devastating attack by Muslim extremists against America in 2001, however American Muslims still feel the after effects even today. Blameless American Muslims, the same people who want to live in America under an umbrella of protection and security but are instead subjected to violence and marginalization. And republicans like Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, and Ben Carson have gone to great lengths in their pursuit of the presidency by "keeping America safe" from Muslims.

I saw a bumper sticker the other day that summarizes my opinions pretty well in regards to the racist, insensitive Republican candidates, "To hell with Islam...I will never submit!" I question how any of my friends, acquaintances, or Americans in general can support the blatant shaming of the Muslim race! As a United States citizen I am free to do as I choose, but in order to obtain my freedom I must respect the ideals of this country. We are built on respect, tolerance, and understanding, and I will now list off the ways these candidates are tearing this nation apart by not adhering to these standards.

I shall now talk about the candidate with the greatest fan-base (Trump) who has actually proposed to completely ban Muslims from American society. According to the *Council on American-Islamic Relations* in their article titled "Islamophobia in the 2016 Presidential Election, "Trump has called for a 'total and complete shutdown' of Muslims entering the United States...believing that 'there is a level of hatred' in the American Muslim community" (1). First of all, Trump has contradicted himself by using Muslim hatred as a way to improve national security because such political rhetoric jeopardizes national security and indirectly supports Muslim extremists. Secondly, which is arguably the most important point to make, America does in fact need to find answers to Islamic terrorism and other acts of violence around the globe, but it cannot be solved by attacking an entire culture personally. Americans cannot adopt the same bigoted and simplistic views that Trump has because integration and diversity will become obsolete in the country that prides themselves on those customs. And finally, Trump's views should be rejected because they are simply wrong. I am sure that Trump's speech on the banning of Muslims does not speak to the democratic culture of the United States where we challenge prejudices and accept the values of every culture. The only reason that we as a society have reached the point of "hatred" is because of the fears that Trump has instilled in Americans, and it is a shame that majority of our citizens are voting for a monster who distorts the truth and fineness of America.

While I would continue on and talk about the similar, troubling political ideologies that Cruz and Carson stand for, I feel as though I would just be ranting on. Trump is the biggest

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<sup>1</sup> Siddiqi, Imraan. "Islamophobia and the Election: It's Not Just Trump." *Mondoweiss*. N.p., 10 Feb. 2016. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.

culprit in corrupting our nation and he has created a never ending cycle of hatred that could last well past four years if he is elected president. As Laila Lalami declares in her article “Donald Trump’s Hate-In” from *The Nation*, “What’s already clear is that he’s (Trump) has brought fascism back into the mainstream” (1). Americans are starting to lose track of themselves and are instead absorbed by the hatred and insanity that politics sometimes creates. As an American I urge you to delve into the hope of the Muslim community; that the President and officials that are elected will embrace other cultures and help put an end to stereotyping, instead of denouncing different backgrounds and pushing them out of our country.

**\*\*Less than 750 words but about 800 with “Works Referenced” page\*\***

Works Referenced

- "Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton." *Islamophobia in the 2016 Presidential Election*. Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), 14 Jan. 2016. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.
- Lalami, Laila. "Donald Trump's Hate-In." *Nation* 302.10 (2016): 10-11. Academic Search Complete. Web. 18 Mar. 2016.
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