

Book Review by Dr. Umair Mahmood Siddiqui

Communist Challenge to Islam by
Dr. Muhammad Fazlur Rahman Ansari

(This book is edited by Dr. Umair Mahmood Siddiqui in 2017 and it was first published in 1951 by Makki Publication, Durban, South Africa. Pages: 260. Price: 500. The second edition recently published in 2017 by World Federation of Islamic Missions, North Nazimabad Block-B Karachi, Pakistan.)

“*Communist Challenge to Islam*” the magnum opus of Maulana Ansari was first published in 1951, Durban, South Africa by Makki Publications and I have the privilege to reproduce it in 21st century as Communism’s return as a philosophical concept has fully established after USA bitter loss and agony of defeat in Afghanistan. Dr. Ansari authored the book in 1950 and penned its preface in Medina Munawwarah during missionary world tour along with his mentor Maulana Shah Abdul Aleem Siddiqui in whose name he dedicated the book. Being an exposition of Communism vis-à-vis Islam, it may rightfully be asserted to be a unique endeavour of its kind in the literary history of Islam which deserves serious recognition. In 1949, Maulana Ansari was on job and worked as officer incharge of the Sind Government weekly journal, the “Sind Information”. He resigned from his job to complete his work on Communism and thereafter to proceed on a world tour. Though he was in financial crisis and suffered from various ailments but he quit his job and left no stone unturned to accomplish the task assigned to him by his Shaykh Maulana Abdul Aleem Siddiqui. His epistles to Maulana Abdul Aleem Siddiqui are enough to comprehend the depth of his concern.¹ The Reader can easily feel his true love for Islam in his resignation letter;

“God, in His infinite Mercy, has arranged for my return to Islamic missionary work, which I carried on for about fifteen years before joining the present employment under you. The call of Islamic duty has been incessantly agitating my mind during my Government service, so much so that lately it became more and more impossible for me to resist it. I have, therefore, by God’s Grace, resolved to resign my present job and to plunge forthwith in the storm and stress of Islamic work. I intend to complete as soon as possible my book on “ISLAM & COMMUNISM” and thereafter to proceed on a World-Tour, Insha-Allah!.....”

According to Osman Belal after Maulana's demise, United States Information Services offered to publish and distribute "The Communist Challenge to Islam" in its campaign against Communism provided the following sentences were removed from the content of the book:

"Among internal evils, the "Ahmadiya" propaganda from Qadian and Lahore provides a fitting instance, while Communism enjoys this privileged position among external forces."

Alhumdulillah! This satanic offer was turned down by Shaykh Ja'afar (May he rest in peace) and these lines are intact to unveil false Qadiani propaganda. Maulana Ansari has discussed the nature of Marxist philosophy, its implications and bearing. He arrived at the conclusion that no ideological or practical compromise is possible between Communism and Islam. Aptly he wrote:

"In the present book we have shown that: (1) In its spiritual and philosophical foundations Communism is Islam's enemy No.1; (2) The political ideology of Communism is thoroughly incompatible with the ideal of Muslim nationalism and all that it stands for; (3) Communism has already wrought widespread and far-reaching ideological irreligious devastation among all those Muslim populations which have so far come under its sway; (4) Alliance with the Communists in any form means nothing less than courting disaster."

There can be no compromise with Communism or American Capitalism. These two ideologies are contrary to Islam and devastating for humanity. Karl Marx wrote in "A Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right":

"It is the opium of the people. The abolition of religion as the illusory happiness of the people is the demand for their real happiness."²

He wrote in fragment of the Appendix of his doctoral dissertation:

"In the country of reason the existence of God cannot have any meaning. Take paper money to a country in which this use of paper money is not known, and everyone will laugh at your subjective representation. Go with your gods to a country in which other gods are worshipped, and you will be shown that you are the victim of fancies and abstractions. And rightly. Anyone who had brought a migrant god to the ancient Greeks, would have found the proof of the non-existence of this god, because it did not exist for the Greeks. What is the case in a certain

country for certain foreign gods, takes place for god in general in the country of reason: it is an area in which his existence ceases.”³

Former KGB officer Yuri Bezmenov wrote in his book “Black is Beautiful, Communism is Not”:

“Now please try to understand that in the eyes of people who walk by Comrade Lenin’s statue, he was a short, bald man with a speech impediment who died from syphilis, and who introduced the system of mass terror and concentration camps in my country long before these beautiful ideas came to the mind of Adolf Hitler. Nazis killed 6 million Jews. The system established by Lenin killed 66 million of my people.”

As a result of American imperialism over 6 million Muslims have been killed brutally after 9/11 carnage. Inhuman invasions on Islamic countries reflect the thought of famous American moral and political philosopher in liberal tradition John Bordley Rawls (1921-2002), as he wrote in his book “Political Liberalism”:

“That there are doctrines that reject one or more democratic freedom is itself a permanent fact of life, or seems so. This gives us the practical task of containing them like war and disease.”⁴

We have no need to incline towards any “ISM” or any philosophical ideology. In the words of Quaid-e-Azam, we have the Quran and Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ for our inspiration and guidance. Instead of putting prefix and suffix with Islam we must vow to follow Islam as we are directed by Allah and His last Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. I am very thankful and indebted to Abdul Wahid Osman Belal, one of the close adherents of Maulana Ansari for providing me the original copy of the book “Communist Challenge to Islam”. I have annexed “Islam versus Marxism” and “Islam verses Communism” (A lecture delivered by Maulana in South Africa) so that it may be a compendium of what Maulana had done on Marxism in his life time. May Allah accept this humble effort. Aameen

¹Read Epistles of Maulana Ansari compiled by the editor, published by WFIM in 2016.

²<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1843/critique-hpr/intro.htm#05>. Retrieved on 9/1/2017

³<https://www.ewtn.com/library/Theology/ATHEMARX.HTM>. Retrieved on 9/1/2017

⁴John Rawls, Political Liberalism, University Press, New York, 2005, 64.