

Critical Response Essay

The article “To any would-be terrorist” by N. S. Nye reveals the important subject of the international tolerance, relations between religion and national identity and the issue of terrorism, in the contemporary society. In just four pages, the author managed to create a persuasive, credible and incomparable summary of the global expectations and opinions, regarding Middle East community and its privity to terrorism. By being half-Muslim and half-American, the author appeals to the positive qualities of both societies and states about necessity to amplify the strong sides, rather than apply to violence and hatred. Generally, the article is full of optimism and determinacy, which claims that terrorism is not a part of religion or national awareness, since neither Middle Eastern nor any other mentality support the false ideas of violence and wars. Actually, the article states that Muslims should detach from the false stereotypes and concepts of terrorism, because their religion, culture, inherited traditions, and values as well as national consciousness confess the ideas of peace, harmony and generosity.

The article is composed in the form of a letter, addressing the Muslim community. The author clearly addresses some historical events, facts from cultural and religious studies and her personal observations. As a result, the article provides two pictures of the Muslims, described in the media and observed, in the everyday life. The sufficiency of commentaries and individual opinions create an objective image of the Muslim community and their implications to the global terrorism. The author argues that Middle East world has nothing to do with the violence and hatred, since their religion and culture refer to the issues of harmony and internal peace. Obviously, the notions of war and peace cannot co-exist in one mentality, causing the contradictions with the national outlook. The author believes that this mora dilemma should end

any attempts of terrorism and result in the choice of peace, supported by the national poetry, culture and global expectations, as well.

It is important to mention that the article provides many credible arguments and explanations of the chosen topic. Thus, the author shows her awareness of the Arabic history and comprehension of the Muslim poetry. She claims she has more rights to address the Muslim community, as she can understand their identity better, “than many Americans could possibly feel”. By stating this, she appeals to the ethos and makes the article sound convincing and reliable. Moreover, N. S. Nye addresses the issue of pathos, by describing the horror of wars, violence and hatred, present in the modern world. Finally, the article is valuable for its logical arguments, which present the formal statistics, facts of history and culture and explanation of the religious beliefs.

Overall, the article has a logical and comprehensive structure and utilizes the neutral vocabulary. In such a way, the author managed to expand its reading audience and make it suitable for different social classes and groups. Moreover, it is essential to admit that the article sounds rather frank and outspoken, revealing all the important issues directly. Probably, the author wanted to avoid any misunderstanding or false interpretations, since the topic of discussion is rather subtle and controversial. By using comprehensive arguments and describing logical facts, N. S. Nye completed an objective, justified and persuasive article, providing a new vision on the existed problem of treatment of Muslim community.

I totally agree with N. S. Nye and her vision on the values of the Arabic world and Islamic religion. Nowadays, many people confuse the ideas of religion and terrorism, making them interdependent and interconnected. This article states that terrorism does not derive from the religious values and national identity, as it contradicts to all commonly accepted norms and

manners of behavior. In her article, N. S. Nye says that many Muslims are pen-hearted, generous and peaceful citizens, who respect their religion, culture and mora values. Moreover, they are also scared and confused by the increase of global violence and terrorism, which occupies great territories of our world. It is unwise to blame them of the development of terrorism and violence groups, who break the families and set fear in the human hearts.

The fact that the author is half-Muslim makes the article more objective and credible. By being able to understand and compare two communities, the author develops her vision on the contemporary global politics. Despite the general anxiety and worries, she is confident in the victory of peace and justice, which is equal for all national communities. Interestingly, the author does not describe any nation as totally positive and right. For example, she accuses Americans of the production of violent movies and apologizes “to the whole world for sending this trash out into the air”. The author objectively judges of two nations and reveals both positive and negative sides. Nevertheless, she is certain that all people strive to peace, harmony and happiness and want to eradicate any violence and hatred.

To sum up, the article “To any would-be terrorist” focuses on the perception of Muslim community and describes its connection to the global terrorism. A number of arguments leads to the conclusion about the impossibility to connect Arabic world with the occurrences of terroristic attacks and violent actions. The author argues that Muslims possess many virtues, stored in their cultural and religious heritage, which makes them respect peace, dignity and individual security. As a result, it becomes obvious that we cannot blame Muslims for the increase of terrorism, in the world. The author believes that Arabic world should find its inspiration in the poetry and culture, rather than outbreaks of violence. I suppose this article is a great success on the way to establishment the international tolerance and proper comprehension of social diversities.