

Book Review: Islamic Monocultures – the Fruit of Multiculturalism

Among the Mosques: A Journey Across Muslim Britain

Ed Husain

Bloomsbury, 352pp, 2021, £15.19 hardback (Amazon)

Author, commentator, and former Islamist Ed Husain has written a disturbing account of life among Britain's Muslim communities. He raises serious questions about where the doctrine of multiculturalism has led us, and what the future may hold.

The fastest growing community

As Husain, points out, Muslims are the fastest growing community in Britain. While the population of the UK grew by 10.9% between 2001 and 2016, the Muslim population doubled to 3.2 million, and is projected to reach 13 million by 2050. Husain is a Muslim himself, and points out that, 'The problem is not that the Muslim population is increasing: the question is what *type* of Islam is on the rise in British mosques' (p.4, emphasis his).

Husain travelled to ten towns across the UK to assess what the Muslim communities are like. The book recounts what he found in his visits to the following towns and cities: Dewsbury, Manchester, Blackburn, Bradford, Birmingham, Cardiff, Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and finally London. In each case he visited the leading mosque and sometimes one or two others. He asks questions and describes his observations and feelings. The book reads like a travelogue, with a conclusion at the end.

The Islamic Republic of Dewsbury

First up is Dewsbury, the European central office of the largest Muslim organisation in the world – Tableeghi Jamaat. It is a hard-line Deobandi movement, and today more than half of Britain's Mosques are Deobandi. The London tube bomber from 2005 came from Dewsbury, as did Britain's youngest ISIS suicide bomber, and also Britain's youngest convicted terrorist.

The main mosque in Dewsbury holds up to 4,000 worshippers – and this is just men; women are not allowed in the mosque. The women he sees on the streets are all dressed in black, wearing Islamic face coverings. Husain argues that such uniformity of clothing is not seen in Turkey, Syria or Egypt. There are no major retail outlets on the high street, not even a McDonalds. Predictably, Husain finds hard-line literature on the role of women in the Islamic bookshop.

Having previously read the highly recommended book, *The Islamic Republic of Dewsbury: A Requiem*, by local born and bred newspaper editor Danny Lockwood, I was aware of the seismic cultural shift in this town over the last few decades. It appears that Husain was not. Lockwood says there are no longer any licensed restaurants or clubs in Dewsbury. Saville Town is 99% Muslim with its own particular property bubble. There is a serious drug problem too, with 98% of the drug dealers being Muslim (Lockwood, pp.141-42).

Islamic culture

As Husain travels to other towns, they begin to merge into one in the reader's mind. Fundamentalist literature (of the kind banned in Saudi Arabia) appears to be on sale in virtually every Islamic bookshop he finds. Several mosques do not allow women inside, but some segregate the women. In

Blackburn he finds it common knowledge that the Whalley Range area of the town is a no-go area for whites. When he drives up and down the high street there, he doesn't see a single white face. Husain finds evidence of sharia courts and of women having Islamic marriages that are not recognised in UK law and which therefore offer them no protection if there is a divorce, or their husband engages in polygamy. I have written about this problem before.¹ Husain says that some men have second wives and families abroad. In London he witnesses self-flagellation and finds there are videos of this taking place in multiple towns across Britain.

Multiculturalism has enabled monoculturalism

In some areas, Husain laments that 'multiculturalism has now enabled monoculturalism'. I have written before about multiculturalism² – an ideology that is opposed to objective moral values, and therefore anti-Christian. Husain is right to point to its disturbing and paradoxical fruit. In his conclusion he notes that there is a growing communalism amongst Muslims in the UK whereby they identify primarily as Muslim and then in an increasingly political manner. He also notes the alarming 'spread of caliphism as a social and political aspiration, on the grounds that Britain is flawed and failing' (p.288).

Where are we heading?

Hussain asks:

What will happen when Birmingham or Bradford have a Muslim majority and organised caliphists hold the balance of power? Does the city begin by banning alcohol sales, using council funds to remove statues offensive to monotheism, enforcing new school uniforms for girls that exclude short skirts, banning nightclubs and gay bars, or making Fridays a local holiday for communal prayers? Caliphism and clericalism are sequestering an entire community away from meaningful contact with mainstream Britain. The cordon sanitaire around many minds will become solidified unless we change course. (p.289)

Husain concludes by suggesting that we should celebrate six defining traits of British culture. These are: Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Gender Equality, Openness, Uniqueness, and Racial Parity. Husain notes, 'These six qualities are also the outcomes of a Protestant Christian ethic that has moulded today's Brits'. (p.298) He is right about this, but without the Christian foundation from which they were built, these qualities are already crumbling around us. The doctrine of multiculturalism entails an abandonment of these values since no one culture can be seen as any better than another.

The parable of Batley

Events at Batley Grammar School³ took place after this book was written. The teacher who showed a cartoon of Muhammad in a lesson about blasphemy remains in hiding to this day. This must be the most powerful lesson ever taught by the school. Everyone now knows that we have a *de facto* Islamic blasphemy law in effect; break it and you end up in hiding. Even worse, there was a conspiracy of silence⁴ about this by all the mainstream candidates in the recent by-election. None of them spoke up in support of the teacher – they do not want to risk offending the Muslim voters.

¹ <https://christianconcern.com/comment/sharia-marriages-not-legally-recognised/>

² <https://christianconcern.com/resource/whats-wrong-with-multiculturalism/>

³ <https://christianconcern.com/comment/teacher-requires-protection-for-showing-a-cartoon/>

⁴ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-9728987/DAN-HODGES-wont-Labour-Tory-candidates-Batley-stand-teacher.html>

What has happened in Batley is a parable for the nation. As the Muslim population grows, so does its political influence. Before long, all mainstream politicians will be desperate to win Muslim votes and will therefore avoid saying anything critical of Islamic practices or culture. Unless there is a dramatic shift, we are on the road to an Islamic Britain. Only a revival of Christianity can turn us off that track and take us to a better future.