

Such a war would be useless, dangerous, and a disaster for Pakistan, India, the minorities of the subcontinent, and the world.

Many South Asia's watchers speculate that India needs a war to keep its multinational empire together and to divert attention away from its other internal problems. They have even speculated that India's collapse is not a fantasy, and that even L.K. Advani, the militant Hindu Home Minister of India, is worried about India's territorial integrity.

However, a war in South Asia could become the trigger that brings freedom to the minority nations such as the Sikh homeland of Khalistan, predominantly Christian Nagaland, Kashmir, and others, just as World War I brought independence to many nations living under the rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire. The end of the Cold War brought freedom to many nations which had been living under Soviet rule, including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and others. A war in South Asia could have a similar effect on the nations and peoples of the subcontinent.

The Council of Khalistan recently called on Sikh soldiers not to fight for India, but to fight to free their homeland, Khalistan. Given the oppression that has killed over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984 according to the Punjab State Magistracy, that continues to hold 52,268 political prisoners, which the Movement Against State Repression reported that the Indian government has admitted to, that has killed over 80,000 Muslims, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, thousands upon thousands of other minorities like Bodos, Dalit "Untouchables," Tamils, Assamese, Manipuri's, and others, why should any of these minorities fight for the Indian state?

The Council of Khalistan's recent Open Letter contains much more information on this. To help my colleagues and constituents stay fully informed about the sentiments of many Sikhs within India, I would like to put that open letter into the RECORD at this time.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington DC, May 21, 2002.

OPEN LETTER TO THE SIKH NATION

CLOUDS OF WAR BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN GATHER; INDIA IS ON THE VERGE OF DISINTEGRATION—SIKH SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS SHOULD NOT FIGHT FOR INDIA BUT TO FREE KHALISTAN; NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO LAUNCH SHANTMAI MORCHA TO LIBERATE KHALISTAN

DEAR KHALSA JI: WAHE GURU JI KA KHALSA, WAHE GURU JI KI FATEH!

War clouds are gathering in South Asia. War between India and Pakistan looks imminent. It is expected to break out this fall. Troops have been gathering on the borders, and the recent killings in Kashmir provide the Indian government with an excuse to attack Pakistan. The killing of Abdul Ghanni Lone, a leader of the Kashmiri freedom movement, merely heightens the tensions.

Remember that the fanatic BJP leaders are on record that they want to make an "Akand Bharat" by defeating Pakistan and incorporating it into India. Their aggression in Kashmir is internationally known. They will not hold a plebiscite in Kashmir, as they promised to do in 1948. It is India that launched the nuclear arms race in South Asia and has nuclear weapons pointed at Pakistan. Despite the militant Hindu nationalist government's statement that they do not intend to attack Pakistan, it is clear that their drive for hegemony over all of South Asia continues.

If war breaks out, Sikh soldiers and officers should not fight for India. Instead,

Sikhs should take this opportunity to reclaim our lost sovereignty and liberate our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation.

L.K. Advani has said that when Kashmir goes, India will fall apart, and he is right. We must take advantage of this situation to reclaim our lost sovereignty. Sovereignty is our birthright. The Guru gave sovereignty to the Khalsa Panth. ("In grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshahi.") Banda Singh Baliadur established the first Khalsa rule in Punjab from 1710 to 1716. Then there was a period of persecution of the Sikhs. Again Sikhs established a sovereign, independent rule from 1765 to 1849, when the British annexed the Sikh homeland, Punjab, into British India.

This is a wake-up call for the Sikh Nation. The massacre of Muslims in Gujarat is a testament to this. The fanatic Vishav Hindu Parishad (VHP) burned Christian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons alive. They murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned churches. They are assimilating Christianity, Islam, and every other minority into Hinduism. The Sikh Nation must free itself from India to ensure its survival as a nation and to enjoy a prosperous future. Without political power, nations perish.

About 80 percent of the sacrifices during the fight to regain freedom from the British were Sikhs, even though Sikhs formed only 1.5 percent of the Indian population at the time. At the time of India's independence, Sikhs were equal signatories to the transfer of power from the British. The Sikh leadership should have gotten an independent country for the Sikhs at that time, but they were fooled by the Hindu leadership of Nehru and Gandhi so Sikhs took their share and joined India on the promise that they would have the glow of freedom.

We have seen this "glow of freedom" in the form of the attack on the Golden Temple in June 1984, when over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in Punjab in a single month. Sikhs can never forgive or forget the desecration of the Golden Temple. This is the history and tradition of the Sikh Nation.

The next massacre of Sikhs occurred after the assassination of Indira Gandhi in Delhi. There was a mass murder of Sikhs throughout India, including Delhi. The Sikhs were pulled out of trains and burned alive. Sikh truck drivers were pulled out of their trucks. Hindu militants put tires around their necks and burned them to death. Sikh police officers were disarmed and confined to their barracks. This is very similar to what happened recently to the Muslims in Gujarat.

Human Rights Watch Asia has clearly stated that the Indian government orchestrated the recent genocide in Gujarat. Policemen stood and watched while Muslims were attacked and murdered. One policeman said that he was ordered not to stop the violence. This is the same modus operandi that the Indian government used in 1984 to burn the Sikhs alive and destroy their property. For the Sikh Nation to ensure their safety, we must free our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. We pray every day "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." We must do our best to realize our God-given right to be free.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. The U.S. State Department reported in 1994 that the Indian government paid out over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression MASR, the Indian government admitted that 52,268 are rotting in Indian jails under TADA, which expired in 1995. Many of them have been in illegal custody since Operation Bluestar in 1984. In February, 42 Members of the U.S. Congress from both political parties wrote to President Bush to get these political prisoners re-

leased. The U.S. government recently added India to its "watch list" of violators of religious freedom. It should impose sanctions to stop the oppression of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and others.

Jaswant Singh Khalsa, who exposed the government killing of Sikhs in fake encounters, became a victim of the Indian police himself. He was kidnapped outside his house and murdered in police custody. Even Akal Takht Jathedar Sardar Gurdev Singh Kaunke was murdered by SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna and then his body was disposed of. The Badal government was forced to conduct an inquiry by three Punjab police officials under the leadership of DIG Tiwari into the killing of Jathedar Kaunke. As of today that report has not been made public.

The only solution is the formation of a Khalsa Raj Party under new, honest, dedicated, and committed leadership. Now is the time to do it. Let's not waste time and prolong the suffering and agony of the Sikh Nation. The only remedy is to sever our relationship with Delhi completely, declare independence from India and start a peaceful agitation to free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. The present Akali leadership of Badal, Tohra, Mann, and others are under Indian government control. Their betrayal of the Sikh Nation is well documented in the Book Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism by S. Gurtej Singh.

Sikhs are a sovereign, independent nation and ruled Punjab until 1849. The only way the Sikh Nation can protect itself from the Indian government's ongoing efforts to destroy the Sikh religion is to achieve independence for our homeland, Khalistan. Guru gave sovereignty to the Khalsa Panth. The new Sikh leadership must launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland. The only way the Sikh Nation can prosper is to free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. The freedom of the Sikh Nation will bring prosperity, stability, and peace to Punjab and to South Asia.

Panth Da Sewadar,
DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE
MORE THEY REMAIN THE SAME:
ERIC HOFFER ON ISRAEL IN 1968

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I recently came across an article by the American social philosopher Eric Hoffer, about the double standard to which the world holds Israel. The sad irony is that this extraordinary piece was written 34 years ago, and it is just as relevant today as it was then. Mr. Hoffer's insightful analysis was published in the Los Angeles Times on May 26, 1968.

Eric Hoffer was an American social philosopher, author of nine books and a winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His first book, *The True Believer*, published in 1951, was widely recognized as a classic.

This article, which as I mentioned appeared in 1968, describes the trend of international scorn focusing solely on Israel; whether it is the status of refugees, fighting in self-defense, or ending armed conflict, Israel is consistently held to a standard that is different from that which is applied to the rest of the world. Put simply, what other nations freely do, Israel cannot.

Although he was not Jewish, Mr. Hoffer championed a strong U.S.-Israel relationship and understood the geopolitical importance of Israel. Furthermore, Mr. Hoffer recognized the moral responsibility of the international community to support the world's only Jewish state in light of worldwide inaction and indifference to the Holocaust, which had occurred just 23 years before this article was written.

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 26, 1968]

ISRAEL'S PECULIAR POSITION

(By Eric Hoffer)

The Jews are a peculiar people; things permitted to other nations are forbidden to the Jews.

Other nations drive out thousands, even millions of people and there is no refugee problem. Russia did it; Poland and Czechoslovakia did it; Turkey threw out a million Greeks, and Algeria a million Frenchmen. Indonesia threw out heavens knows how many Chinese—and no one says a word about refugees. But in the case of Israel the displaced Arabs have become eternal refugees. Everyone insists Israel must take back every single Arab. Arnold Toynbee calls the displacement of the Arabs an atrocity greater than any committed by the Nazis.

Other nations when victorious on the battlefield dictate peace terms. But when Israel is victorious it must sue for peace.

Everyone expects the Jews to be the only real Christians in this world. Other nations when they are defeated survive and recover, but should Israel be defeated, it would be destroyed. Had Nasser triumphed last June he would have wiped Israel off the map, and no one would have lifted a finger to save the Jews. No commitment to the Jews by any government, including our own, is worth the paper it is written on.

There is a cry of outrage all over the world when people die in Vietnam or when two people are executed in Rhodesia. But when Hitler slaughtered Jews, no one remonstrated with him. The Swedes, who are ready to break diplomatic ties with America because of what we do in Vietnam, did not let out a peep when Hitler was slaughtering Jews. They sent Hitler choice iron ore and ball bearings, and serviced his troop trains to Norway.

The Jews are alone in the world. If Israel survives, it will be solely because of Jewish efforts and Jewish resources. Yet at this moment Israel is our only reliable and unconditional ally. We can rely more on Israel than Israel can rely on us. And one has only to imagine what would have happened last summer had the Arabs and their Russian backers won the war to realize how vital the survival of Israel is to America and the West in general.

I have a premonition that will not leave me; as it goes with Israel so it will go with all of us. Should Israel perish, the holocaust will be upon us.

RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES CLARK

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James Clark for his years of service in the educational system. Dr. Clark, who retires this year, has served as the Superintendent of the Joliet Township High Schools since July 1, 1996.

Dr. Clark started his career in Marion, IN, where he taught speech, drama, and English.

He has since taught in Harvey and Lockport High Schools. In 1999 Dr. Clark was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services at the Joliet Township High Schools. In 1996, he received the appointment as Superintendent. Dr. Clark is also an Adjunct Instructor at Aurora University and Governors' State University.

Being a generous person, Dr. Clark is also involved with the community. He is active in Rotary, serves as a member of the Joliet Area American Cancer Society Board of Directors, on the Joliet Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry Board of Directors, as vice-chair of the American Heart Association Heart Walk, and in various professional school administrator organizations.

Dr. Clark and his wife Linda are the proud parents of two sons and one grandson. Dr. Clark is revered throughout the Joliet community. In fact, the city of Joliet declared Monday, May 13, 2002, as "Dr. James H. Clark Day."

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefited and strengthened America's communities.

PERMANENT MARRIAGE PENALTY RELIEF ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, once again the House is working on behalf of the taxpaying family by voting today on the Permanent Marriage Penalty Relief Act of 2002. This bill would permanently eliminate the destructive marriage penalty taxes that were temporarily enacted by last year's tax relief package. As I think about the 65,000 married couples in my district who will personally benefit from this bill, I am also reminded of the more than 100,000 children who will benefit.

When the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act expires in 2011, my constituents in Kansas who have decided to get married will be forced to pay more taxes simply because they chose to say, "I do." When the government tells married couples they will be punished because of their wedding vows, we are sending a dangerous message to younger generations about the importance of marriage. If Congress fails to make permanent the marriage tax penalty relief, this country will see 21 million married couples suffer because their taxes will be increased.

I am especially concerned that if Congress does not act, many of our low-income married taxpayers will see their Earned Income Credit reduced or completely eliminated. This unfairly discriminates against poorer families who have made a commitment before both God and man to remain faithful in marriage to one another. I am appalled that any member of the United States Congress would support such discrimination against the institution of marriage. Most marriage penalties occur when the spouse earning the higher wage makes between \$20,000 and \$75,000 per year. We are not talking about the rich, we are talking about low and middle class families who are working hard just to make ends meet.

I would also like to remind my colleagues today that with passage of this bill, we will be

further helping low-income taxpayers by preventing Earned Income Credit simplifications from disappearing in 2011. Failure to pass this bill will increase taxes on married couples by \$5.7 billion in 2010 and by \$10.4 billion in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, let's respect the sanctity of matrimony by eliminating these shameful marriage taxes.

TRIBUTE TO JACK TEICH

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Jack Teich, CEO and Co-Chairman of the Board of the Acme Architectural Company. Mr. Teich was honored this past October at The Friars Foundation Annual International Gala Dinner and Ball, along with legendary writers and lyricists Betty Comden and Adolph Green. It is in the spirit of this occasion that I am pleased to call to the attention of my colleagues the many contributions Mr. Teich has made to his community and the Friars organization, and to congratulate him today.

Mr. Teich, a resident of Harrison, NY, in my district, is the President and CEO of Acme Architectural Products Inc., a leading manufacturer of building products, which has offices and manufacturing plants throughout New York State. His sons Marc and Michael have recently joined their father in the family business.

Mr. Teich is also involved with several philanthropic organizations. He is a member of the Chief Executive Organization and the World Presidents Organization, of which he is Vice-Chairman of the New York chapter. He is also a Trustee of the Pension and Welfare Funds of Local 2947 Carpenters Union, and is active with the Personal Enterprise program with Cornell University. He and his wife Janet are on several charity boards including the Pediatric Cancer Foundation. Janet is also a board member of The Rye Art Institute.

Jack has been active with the Friars Club since 1974, and serves on its Finance Committee. His family has also been and continues to be deeply involved in the Friars Foundation, which gives Performing Arts Scholarship Grants to 12 colleges in New York State to young people studying one of the performing arts.

For his commitment and many contributions to his community and his State, it is my privilege to join the Friars Club in honoring Mr. Jack Teich on this special occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, because I attended the groundbreaking of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in my