

Abstract

This study investigates the rising Islamophobia in the West. It also traces the roots and history of Islamophobia so that makes sense of the recent surge in Islamophobic attacks. Muslims are targeted, tortured, and dehumanized in western countries because they adhere to Islam. This study aims to explore how Islam is securitized by politicians and media outlets, particularly in the post 9/11 era. The political, legal, and social systems of Islam are viewed as incompatible with liberal democracy, human rights, and secularism. Islam has been labeled as archaic, static, and homogenous in western academic circles. Due to the misrepresentation of Islam, people tend to believe that Muslims are terrorists, barbaric and sub-human. Muslim immigrants are linked with terrorism and they are subjected to intense securitization everywhere in Europe. They are considered an existential threat to Europe. Their religious symbols are being targeted such as the ban on the hijab, a ban on the construction of mosques, and the erection of minarets. Many scholars represent Islam as one of the great threats to Europe in the post-cold war period. Thus, Muslims are targeted across western countries because they are the followers of a religion that is deemed incompatible with the western way of life. This study aims to ascertain the deep-rooted hostility toward Islam and the Muslims in the West.