

# INSIGHTS

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*"The Truth requires constant repetition, because error is being preached among us all the time, and not by isolated individuals, but by the masses. In newspapers and encyclopedias, in schools and universities, everywhere error rides high and basks in the consciousness of having the majority on its side." Johann Wolfgang Goethe (1749-1832)*

## RANDOM THOUGHTS ON THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM

What do you hear from Tora Bora? Is the scoundrel still out on the loose? Or has he gotten away by some clever rouse? It does seem weird that he has disappeared from Kunduz, Khalben, Kandahar, and Kabul?

Actually, it would not make a tremendous difference if Bin Ladden were apprehended tomorrow, in ten years or not at all. Some other religious psychopath would take his place. Big landowners and petroleum nabobs would continue to finance the Islamic Jihad, Hamas, Hezbalah, and other terrorist groups. We have been urged to stay on in Afghanistan to ensure that stable political structure and economy would be established. But what advice and recommendations could we give to Afghanistan or any other Muslim state? Would we present them with a plan of regressive taxation, and support for land monopoly and speculation such as that urged by the International monetary Fund, World Bank, and the Lincoln Foundation?

They also have the problem of whether to allow freedom of expression and expounding of doctrines of hatred. They might have to copy German legislation which forbids any expounding of Nazi doctrines.

The Muslim landed gentry protect their monopoly of land and natural resources by putting the blame for poverty and unemployment on the United States and Israel.

Two years ago, *Insights* described the land situation in Southern Pakistan, where thousands of serfs tried to escape from their bondage and attack the country's biggest landlords, who for centuries had treated their ancestors and them as mere slaves.

Plantation workers ran away from their masters and the landlords hired thugs to drag the serfs back, often in chains. ● ● ● ●

Landlords claim that this is a benign system which forces them to act like parents to their laborers. They say they pay for weddings, medicine, and bail workers out of jail and that if they did not lend money to their workers, they would not work.

Forty percent of the arable land in Pakistan is owned by less than 1% of the landowners. One of the wealthiest landholding families is that of ex Prime Minister Benizar Bhutto. Less than half the people of Pakistan can read or write, and reformers claim that there are over 5,000 ghost schools, where no students study because landlords often pay teachers to stay home and work for them.

In practically every Muslim country, landlords are kings and tenants are slaves. Can there be peace with Muslim countries without their recognition of the fallacies of their political and economic system? But this would be very difficult when their religion teaches that if the benefits of land and natural resources are confined to a favored few, it is because Allah intended it to be that way.