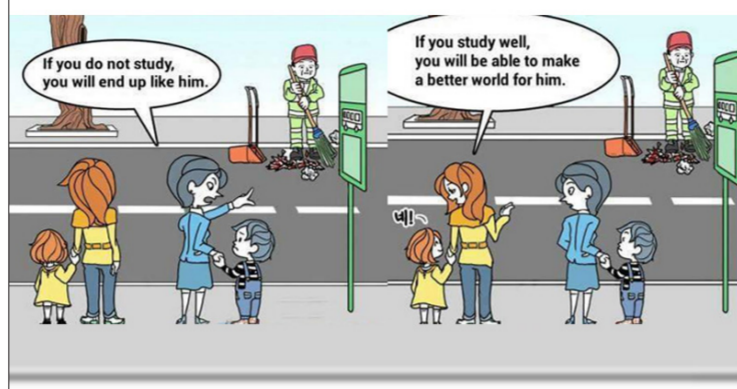


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NO HOLDS BARRED



Thwaites Glacier is 100 miles across and 4,000 feet deep. It's melting a lot earlier and much, much, much faster than ever thought possible. That's bizarre since the glacier, ever since the dawn of humanity, has been a permanent feature on West Antarctica.

Why Shaheen Bagh is Fighting Same Evil As Us, the Kashmiri Pandits

RISHI RAZDAN

An entire generation of Kashmiri Muslims is growing up with utter hatred for an authoritarian Indian State, while traumatised, and now hyper-nationalised, Kashmiri Pandits are growing delirious with veneration for that very same regime.

Thirty years ago, on this day, Kashmiri Pandits, including my family members, were driven out of the valley of Kashmir by militant Islamic separatists. Not even the great seers of our past would have been able to foresee the consequence of this horrible set of events.

The Pandits, abandoned first by a Congress union government, and then by a BJP-supported National Front government, were reduced to refugees in their own country.

A prosperous, proud people reduced to ordinary refugees in makeshift shanties and camps. Over 30 long, painful years we rebuilt our lives in metropolitan cities across the country.

We slowly mutated into an atomic sociopolitical anomaly: A persecuted Hindu minority from a majority Muslim state, within a Hindu majority country.

A damning validation of all the fears that Hindutva had been peddling for decades.

Thirty years later, the trauma vividly lives on. It is reinforced in drawing rooms by authentic inter-generational tales of fear and inauthentic, meaningless rants on national television. The former is remembrance, the latter generally an excuse for someone else's persecution.

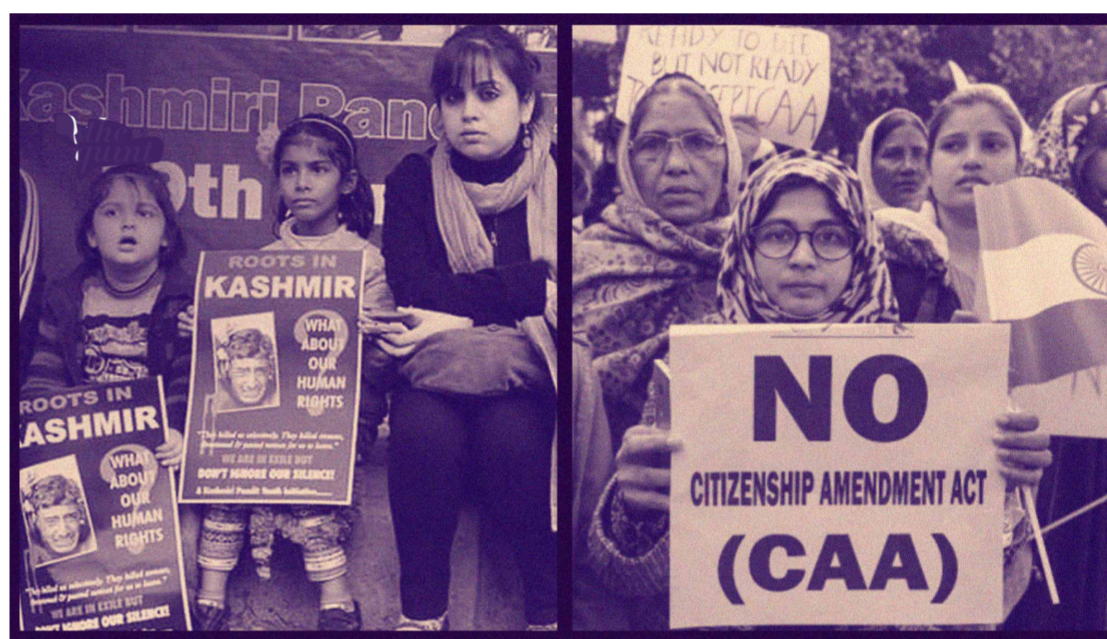
'Our Story Used to Polarise Nation'

First, the doves abandoned us and now the hawks have co-opted us. Over time, Kashmiri Pandits have become the rallying cry of the Hindu Right. Our story is used to polarise a nation. 'What about the Kashmiri Pandits?', cries a 38-year-old man, while protesting my protestation of a 19-year-old's lynching, without recognising my last name.

What about us? Whether we believe it or not, our dream has passed. There is no going back, especially not now.

An entire generation of Kashmiri Muslims is growing up with utter hatred for an authoritarian Indian State, while traumatised, and now hyper-nationalised, Kashmiri Pandits are growing delirious with veneration for that very same regime.

There is no reconciliation possible. Not between communities that deny each other's reality. For Muslims, as life becomes crueler, it becomes harder and harder to think of someone else's suffering three decades ago. For Pandits, time stopped 30



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years ago, and everything else is just frosting. We (Pandits) have also regressed as people. We were people of knowledge and nuance who produced scholars and leaders; we were the children of India's proto-democrat, Pandit Nehru.

'We've Become Simpler, Angrier People'

Starved of our heritage, we have regressed to becoming simpler, angrier people. Having to rebuild our lives in cubicles has shrunk our sense of self. We care less about the world, more about our own grievances.

We ask fewer questions and are more willing to follow displays of strength that make us feel safe. Complex narratives scare us.

We have become poster-children of an undemo-

cratic gasbag who publicly attacks, at every occasion, that which we built our history on – scholarship. Every day, I dream that we can build the kind of solidarity that can help my community see that the women at Shaheen Bagh are fighting the same evil that afflicted us 30 years ago.

It just uses different names and comes in different colours. Every day, I hope that we can reverse one of the greatest failures of the Indian Liberal-Left establishment: Losing the moral courage to speak loudly and clearly for those who needed their aid.

The views expressed are authors own. The article first appeared in The Quint

A Climate Time Bomb With Trump's Name Inscribed

ROBERT HUNZIKER
Counterpunch

THWAITES, in West Antarctica, is the world's most dangerous glacier. As of January 15th, scientists have labeled it: "A Climate Time Bomb."

Thwaites is crumbling apart on the underneath side where warm ocean currents circulate, which is clear evidence that global warming is really, truly hitting its stride even as America, obeying President Trump's orders, rejected its commitment to Paris '15, a major climate agreement of almost all the nations of the world.

In point of fact, America is too focused on ceaseless (mindless) NYSE trading at new heights to give even a passing thought to something as remote as Thwaites Glacier crumbling apart from inside-out (9,072 miles away, forever far away in the mindset of simple-minded folks).

Still, the cold, hard facts are irrefutable, to wit: NASA's studies, referenced as "IceBridge," have revealed an enormous cavity lurking beneath the icy surface of Thwaites; it's the size of NYC hidden within its core. Along the way, Thwaites glacier loses 35B tons of mass per year.

Beyond question, "What happens at Thwaites affects the whole ice sheet." (Source: Adam Vaughan, Antarctica's Doomsday Glacier is Melting. Can we Save it in Time? NewScientist, Jan. 15, 2020).

After all, Thwaites is the primary backstop for the entirety of West Antarctica, which contains enough ice to take sea level up 11-12 feet. If Thwaites collapses, it'll trigger an impending collapse of monstrous proportions. Although, truth told, nobody knows the timing, decades or centuries before serious collapse occurs, but judging by recent behavior, Thwaites is giving off plenty of chilling tipoffs, enough to generate some cold-sobered pause and very deep thought.

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Meantime, in the face of crumbling ecosystems found at the fringes of civilization, where the initial impact of global warming is felt first, the United States, under the direction of President Trump, dismantles decades of federal regulations that protect life and ecosystems. Nearly 100 federal regs designed to curb climate change, protect human health, and limit ecosystem ruination are being rolled back. It's Trump's infamous Great Dismantling of Federal Agencies (GDFA).

As such, crucial ecological and social welfare

policies are on a fast track of obliteration, somewhat similar to the impact of human-generated global warming's influence on ecosystems, e.g., permafrost shockingly collapses 70 years early in the high Arctic. Alert! Is global warming 70 years ahead of schedule? If so, if really true, awful climate-related upheavals will manifest very soon. (Source: Louise M. Farquharson et al, Climate Change Drives Widespread and Rapid Thermokarst Development in Very Cold Permafrost in the Canadian High Arctic, Geophysical Research Letters, June 10, 2019)

As for the status of America's scientists, Trump

is their worst nightmare come true in full living color, orange. No president throughout the history of America comes close to his purity of ignorance and utter failure to understand basic words, concepts, and rudimentary science. After all, it was his own secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, who said, "He's a f_king moron!" (Vanity Fair, May 23, 2019)

As for Thwaites, the good news is it will take hundreds of years for the final ice of West Antarctica to melt away. However, along the way, possibly sooner rather than later, the bad news is that it will likely wreak unimaginable havoc, meaning big time damage, by altering coastlines around the world, year-by-year, decade-by-decade, and inch-by-inch, but over time stretching to foot-by-foot. It's an extraordinarily dangerous prognosis, filled with all kinds of challenges for the world's coastal metropolises.

Significantly, and most importantly, the implied message within the NewScientist article is: Somebody in a position of authority in the world with powerful leadership skills (forget the U.S.) must wake up to the fact that global warming has already started taking human civilization down for the count, down to its knees... already in its earliest stages at the furthest latitudes, where it is hitting real hard, e.g., Thwaites' internal ice collapse.

Thwaites Glacier, as big as the country of Great Britain, is but one of several examples of early stage ecosystem collapse in the world, but people don't live where it's happening. Who sees it other than scientists?

Alarming, Thwaites' ice loss has doubled over the past two decades to 35B tonnes per year; that fact, standing alone, sends a haunting message. In time Thwaites will account for 2 feet of sea level rise. But that's only the start of a much, much bigger dilemma as it buttresses the West Antarctic Ice Sheet.

It was only 5 years ago when scientists confidently said the Western Antarctica Ice Sheet collapse had officially started but those same researchers said: "Even though sea level rise (10-13 feet) cannot be stopped, it is still several centuries off, and potentially up to 1,000 years away." No sweat! Now... they are sweating.