

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، نَحْمَدُهُ سُبْحَانَهُ حَمْدًا يَلِيْقُ بِجَلَالِ وَجْهِهِ وَعَظِيمِ سُلْطَانِهِ،  
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ،

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ، وَصَفِيَّهُ مِنْ خَلْقِهِ وَخَلِيلُهُ، أَكْرَمُ النَّاسِ  
وَأَنْفَعُهُمْ، فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ  
والتَّابِعِينَ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praise is due to Allah. I extol Him as is befitting to His glorious sovereignty and status, and I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship, except for Allah alone without any partners or peers.

I also witness that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger, the Best of His Creation, the Closest to Him and the most generous of all people. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family, his companions, and all those who will follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment. Amin

قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَن يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ

“They said, Will You place upon it one who causes corruption therein and sheds blood...” (2:30)

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ

“Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by reason of what the hands of people have earned, so He may let them taste part of the consequence of what they have done that perhaps they will return to righteousness. (30:41)

### WWI Centenary: What Must Muslims Learn?

- 100 years ago, the world witnessed a catastrophic event that sparked global repercussions. The legacy continues to fuel violence and conflict to this day.
- It was the bloodiest war in human history. 10 million combatants died and 20 million seriously wounded. 1 Million British Empire (Asians – **400,000 Muslim**)
- No previous century witnessed the same amount of bloodshed as the 20th century.

## Background to WWI:

- In the 19th century, **The Great Powers** – Britain, France, Hungary-Austrian Empire, Prussia and Russia – lived in relative peace due to the **“Concert of Europe”**, which was a system of regulation of international affairs.
- Towards the end of the 19th century modernisation flowed as a consequence of scientific, French and industrial revolutions. With new technologies and industrial capabilities they also began to develop their own armies and weapons in what became an arms race between the Great Powers.
- Europe was increasingly divided into two factions: Germany and Austria-Hungary collaborated to form the **Central Powers**; and France, Russia and Britain joined to form the **Triple Entente**.
- Due to the weakness of the Ottoman Empire labelled as the **“Sick Man Of Europe”**, the European powers were all waiting for the right time to conquer the region.

## The War

- The trigger to this growing volatile situation was the murder of the Austrian **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** and his wife Sarajevo on the **28th of June 1914** by the Serbs. Austria-Hungary hastily declared war with Serbia.
- By the 4th of August 1914, Britain – along with its vast empire – had joined the war. This was the beginning of a full-scale, four-year struggle between armies, economies and societies.
- The war lasted four years despite constant attempts for peace talks. As casualties mounted diplomatic solutions were rejected as it became difficult to end the conflict without significant gains to justify the war.
- America also intervened and entered the war as President Woodrow Wilson had his own progressive ideas for the new world order.
- From July 1918 onwards, counter-attacks and the growing American army reversed the military situation. Germany's armies retreated and the war ended on the 11th November 1918.

## How Should We Commemorate WW1?

- Prime Minister David Cameron has announced that £50m will be allocated for historic commemoration of the event and to “Ensure The Lessons Learnt Live With Us Forever.”

## But What Is This Legacy? What Are These Lessons To Be Learnt?

- Two main narratives for WWI. **The first** is that it was a just war that the British can look back with nationalistic pride. **The second** highlights the tragic loss of life, the sorrow and futility of war;
- **Living Legacy – Lesson:** The Muslim world today is on fire imploding/exploding, from Iraq/Palestine. A lot of these issues have their roots in WWI. WWI shaped the modern world we live in today on a macro level, in terms of international politics and ideology, political institutions such as the United Nations and ideologies such as nationalism, self-determination and modernity.
- WWI was directly linked to the rise of Nazism, Fascism, the 1929 depression and WWII, Cold War between the Soviet Union and the U.S. which culminated in the final supremacy of the U.S., which is where we are today.

- Post WW1 the most significant outcome for Muslims was the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and its division of land by the European powers. The Muslim world was quite literally carved up into new segments.
- Iraq was originally three distinct Ottoman provinces. Yet the British arbitrarily combined the Kurds in the north and the Sunnis and Shias in the centre and south resulting in an unstable Iraq wracked with inter-communal tensions. Moreover, Palestine was promised to the Zionists. Sykes – Picot, Balfour Declaration.
- In Conclusion: The world looks back at this ground-shaking event, we too should take an intellectual approach and examine in detail what changes were set in motion and how it is impacting us today and why.

وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ وَاصْبِرُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ  
 “And obey Allah and His Messenger, and do not dispute and thus lose courage and then your strength would depart; and be patient. Indeed, Allah is with the patient.” (8:46)

جَاءَ رَجُلٌ إِلَى النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ الرَّجُلُ يُقَاتِلُ لِلْمَغْنَمِ، وَالرَّجُلُ يُقَاتِلُ لِلذِّكْرِ، وَالرَّجُلُ يُقَاتِلُ لِيُرَى مَكَانَهُ، فَمَنْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ قَالَ " مَنْ قَاتَلَ لِتَكُونَ كَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ هِيَ الْعُلْيَا فَهُوَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ."

A man came to the Prophet and asked, "A man fights for war booty; another fights for fame and a third fights for showing off; which of them fights in Allah's Cause?" The Prophet said, "He who fights that Allah's Word should be superior, fights in Allah's Cause." (Bukhari)

وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ  
وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ تَفَرَّقُوا وَاخْتَلَفُوا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ وَأُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ

“Let there arise out of You a group of people inviting to All that is good, enjoining Al-Ma'ruf and forbidding Al-Munkar. And it is they who are the successful. And be not as those who divided and differed among themselves after the clear proofs had come to them. It is they for whom there is an awful torment.” (3:103-104)