

## EDITORIAL

### UGLY AMERICANS II MY COUNTRY I CRY FOR THEE

[From Sikh Bulletin May-June 2017]

The years were 1958-1960. I spent those two years teaching Geography at the **Air Force Central School, New Delhi**. The Govt. of India was so secretive about its topographic maps that even I, teaching for the Air Force, had no access to them for teaching map interpretation to senior classes. Since Embassy Row was close by, I decided to visit the **US Embassy**. My first pleasant surprise was that this Embassy had a '**Geography Attaché**' and he had every topographic map of India the British ever published, stacked along the walls of this high ceiling room and I could use any of them, which I did. There was also a big library of audio-visual materials on the United States.

On the way to the Embassy from the Air Force complex was the brand new **Five Star Ashok Hotel**, built in 1956, adjoining the Diplomatic enclave.

<http://sikhbulletin.com/Files/AshokHotel.pdf>

I had many occasions to visit this hotel. Aside from the impressive building what sticks out most in my memory is **white middle aged American males** with fist full of brand new uncirculated Indian Rupee bills talking with other middle aged white American males and explaining that yes they were checking out that day and this is for the '**Boys**'. '**Boys**' were the **fathers** and **grandfathers** who worked at the hotel. One **US\$ was equal to Rs 4.85** at that time. My teacher's salary at the **Air Force Central School** was **Rs. 195.00** per month which was **Rs 10.00** increase over my salary as lecturer and Vice-Principal at **Khalsa Teacher Training College Muktsar**, Panjab the year before.

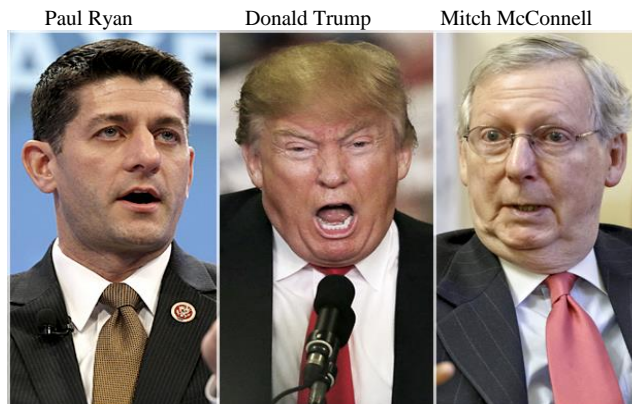
These people were bringing their **then traditional American values, "Slavery & White Superiority"** with them. That is why Indian media dubbed them '**Ugly Americans**'.

**Another factor** was the stark contrast between old arrogant American tourists flashing their dollars and young European and Australian and New Zealander tourists who typically would have hitchhiked to Pakistan and India from Western Europe through the Middle East, route that I took in my three month long 15,200 mile hitchhiking journey from New Delhi to the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington State, in 1960 with \$18.00. Once in the sub-continent they travelled on well-developed railway network in these two countries without buying a ticket and if the city did not have a youth hostel or YMCA/YWCA, spent nights at the railway station First Class Waiting rooms.

**Still another aggravating factor** was the official attitude of the US Government fostered by **John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State under Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower, from 1953 to 1959**. This was the **Cold War** period and United States was applying extreme pressure on newly independent from European Colonial powers Asian and African nations to join their block against USSR and China. His slogan was **'if you are not with us, you are against us'**.

**United States** stage managed the creation of **CENTO** in the Middle East and **SEATO** in South East Asia to encircle two communist giants, **USSR** and **China** and all countries in the region were supposed to tow the line or else. But two did not. **India under Nehru and Egypt under Nasser** did not comply. They were joined by a Communist country that is no more, **Yugoslavia under Tito**. This **Nehru, Nasser, Tito** trio that set up the **Non-Aligned** nations club was punished by the United States. In case of India the United States got its revenge by favouring Pakistan that did their bidding and even winked as Pakistan set upon the goal of going nuclear just as it had winked in case of Israel.

Now in 2017, the dawn of **Trump Era, Ugly American II** is back in the fore front but it is no longer confined to old white males. **It includes every one of Americans who voted for Trump** including **young college educated white women** whom he humiliated by using disgustingly vulgar language as to where he likes to grab them; every black like **Ben Carson**, one of **'his black men'** as he is fond of saying; every rich Indian like **Harmeet Kaur Dhillon**, as if one Indian, **Nikki Haley**, was not enough; **all the elected Republicans in the Senate and the House all the way down from Mitch McConnell and Paul Ryan**, Tweedledum and Tweedledee.



2017 Re-emerged Ugly Americans II, all Top Republicans

Trump has an uncanny ability of shredding social norms of a civilized society. *He has no compunction about brushing aside legal technicalities and feels no shame in demanding his subordinates' loyalty to him and not to the Constitution.* His National Security Advisor **Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster and Dan Coats**, Director of National Intelligence, both seasoned and reputable individuals, until now, were **rendered impotent** when appearing before the Senate committee they refused to publicly acknowledge that Trump had asked them to publicly say there was no collusion with the Russians by the Trump campaign. Only honourable exception in the crowd turned out to be **James Comey**. United States needs more people of Comey's **character and integrity**, not the ugly kind.



Elaine Chao

He humiliated his entire appointed cabinet by demanding they praise and appreciate him in public over national television and like sheep they all complied, including, **Mitch McConnell's Wife Elaine Chao**. **Elaine Chao's** defense of Trump for his spoiled kindergartener bully behaviour in pushing

aside the head of **Montenegro** to be at the center front of the group for picture taking and disgusting comments on MSNBC co-host **Mika Brzezinski** were **“He is new at it”** meaning being President. Perhaps she is ignorant of the fact that so were Abraham Lincoln and Barak Obama.

According to **Sikh Free Press**, of April 23, 2017 **Harmeet Kaur Dhillon [P.17]** a lawyer and the first vice chairwoman for the **Republican Party in California**, stood in front of an audience of Republican delegates and supporters, beginning the invocation by expressing the values that both the religion and Americans share, **“Humility, truth, courage and justice for all”**.

**Not all Americans share those values**; not the ones she was addressing. Out of total **231,556,622 eligible voters** only **138,884,643** (57.9%) actually voted. Of these **65,844,954 (48.2%)** voted for **Hillary** and **62,979,879 (46.1)** for **Trump**.

According to **Harmeet** ***‘voters will make a decision based on the issues and values that are most important to them’***. However, when asked about Trump's tendency to make off-the-cuff comments about certain groups of people, Dhillon declined to answer. **‘I don't want to be a part of any slandering of Trump,’ she said. Now the whole world knows what the most important values at least 62,979,879 Americans hold.**

**The real electors of Trump were the 42.1% who did not vote** in this crucial election; **Shame on them**. The reason Trump won with fewer votes goes back to the time when North, mostly Republican, defeated the slave owning South, mostly Democrat, in their Civil War and gave the vanquished South unfair advantage in electing the President through the practice called **Electoral College**.

During my last two years in India we believed the Republican and Democratic parties to be the two sides of the American dollar. **For both parties America was First**; Today **Trump makes America disdained again.**

Imperceptibly since 1960 I have seen the gradual reversal of roles by these two parties. Lincoln's Republican Party that went to war over issues of slavery with the Democratic South is now the home of **Ku Klux Klan** and former Democratic Party is the champion for immigrants like me and **Harmeet Dhillon**.

**Republicans have become party of Putin. Trump/Putin alliance is natural; both are racists and authoritarians.** G. W. Bush's Compassionate Conservatism was **FAKE**. **The Senate GOP's health-care bill is real Republican Conservatism. Trump cannot tell the difference, or he is faking it, between fake news and real news. He loves to watch Fox and Friends that distorts the news and heaps Fake Praise on Trump. Mainstream media for this man is Fake News. Fox and Friends were promoters of his theory during Obama's administration that he was a Muslim and born in Kenya.**

**Recently Trump seems to have touched a nerve in the main stream media when he tweet attacked Mika Brzezinski, co-host of Morning Joe on MSNBC** because this show, although Conservative, is main stream and they joked about **Trump's portrait on a Fake Front Page of**

**Time Magazine** displayed in his businesses. Besides their slogan is that if **he lies, which is almost always, they will report it.**

MSNBC's response to Trump's Twitter attack on Morning Joe co-host **Mika Brzezinski**, because this show does not shower praise on Trump as Fox and Friends do all the time, sums up this man's obsession against truth-telling media. Next day comments in the media ranged from **"disgusting vulgar pig to...It's a sad day for America when the president spends his time bullying, lying and spewing petty personal attacks instead of doing his job"**.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/06/23/opinion/trumps-lies.html>

### **Then there is Jeff Sessions!**

As Asia Samachar [p.18] writing about **Harmeet Kaur Dhillon** reports, **"her parents supported Republicans after they became naturalized U.S. citizens. Their politics were driven in part by her father's contempt for trial lawyers because of medical malpractice lawsuits."** **"Harmeet's parents hosted fundraisers for Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), a conservative with strong views on foreign policy. He, in turn, spoke out against persecution of Sikhs, the report added."**



Jeff Sessions

Jeff Sessions is an old Southern segregationist Democrat. He was appointed the Attorney General of the United States by Trump. This person, who is supposed to uphold the law of the land, lied under oath during his confirmation hearings in the Senate about his meetings with **Spy Ambassador of Russia.** When his lie was discovered he was forced to **recuse** himself from FBI's investigation of Trump campaign's collusion with Russia.

**Thirty one years ago Senate had rejected Sessions for a judgeship.** A letter by Martin Luther King Jr's widow Coretta Scott King played a significant role in that decision. Here is the key passage of King's letter opposing Session's nomination as a judge in 1986: **"Anyone who has used the power of his office as United States attorney to intimidate and chill the free exercise of the ballot by citizens should not be elevated to our courts. Mr. Sessions has used the awesome powers of his office in a shabby attempt to intimidate and frighten elderly black voters."**

Every American is free to belong, or not to belong, to a political party. **Harmeet's father, Dr. Dhillon,** chose to join the Republican Party, as Asia Samachar reports, **"driven in part by her father's contempt for trial lawyers because of medical malpractice lawsuits."**



**Harmeet Kaur Dhillon,**

**I know that opposing the Trial Lawyers is one of the Republican Party's talking points and policies. But I do want Dr. Dhillon to know that Trial Lawyers do serve a useful purpose by defending patients who cannot afford to defend themselves against powerful Insurance Companies or Medical Professional Groups when they are wronged by medical practice.**

I am talking from my personal experience with Kaiser Permanente of Northern California for botching my left knee replacement in 1994 (joining two pieces of my leg **40** degrees out of alignment) and overdosing me with radiation for my prostate in 2011 without any follow up checkups either by Radiologist or the Urologist. When after one year my bladder failed and started bleeding, without going inside to do the visual check, treated me with antibiotics for many months until I started ending up in emergency five days in a row only to be sent home after a few hours of flushing my bladder and inserting catheter that would get clogged with blood clots. I had to leave Kaiser and under regular Medicare get treated at **Stanford University**. I not only got proper medical care but also found **bladder therapy** that Kaiser never mentioned existed. It was then that I decided to write to three Law firms to take my case but two politely declined without any explanation and one did call me and explained to me that in California non-



economic loss limit is only \$250,000.00 and because I was retired and a79 years old without any dependants they will take my case only if I paid them \$10,000.00 for an expert opinion. I was not going to throw good money after bad and get myself entangled in a law suit with Kaiser Permanente which was both an insurer and provider of health services.

Eugene Robinson says **'Fake Hero president is an insult to our Founders'**. No, He is a **beast** and is **an insult to entire humanity, including the people who have voted for him.** They

should **redeem themselves** by openly expressing their regret at the choice they made at the ballot box. If they do not America may have to wait for another generation or two for these people to complete their journey on this beautiful place we call Earth.

**Since 1960 until now I was delighting in the choice that I had made and found two countries, United State and Canada, marching towards the world that Guru Nanak envisioned. Now only one is left, Canada. That is real SAD!**

Hardev S Shergill

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