

pulls the levers that move the world.

Q: What is the destiny of the Russian people?

A: That depends on how much longer the people remain in the political passivity in which it is imprisoned by the current Russophobia. The Russians have been subjected to appalling humiliations. No one has been spared, enemies have been exterminated, both inside and outside. But it is not possible to kill us: So long as there is one Russian still alive, he will fight for our own independence.

Q: Is even the present government Russophobic?

A: There are many people in the government. Some are, for example, Alexander Yakovlev, Politburo member, who continues the Bukharin tradition. . . .

Q: What was the worst catastrophe for the Russians?

A: There have been many, but the change of the traditional form of government has been the most lasting. It began when Peter the Great brought in his reforms inspired by the West, showing little faith in the strengths of the Russian people.

Q: What do you think about the October Revolution?

A: The ideas were good, but I cannot see their practical realization. In the whole history of the U.S.S.R., I see violence, terror, overbearing power in the hands of a minority who are Party members. Sooner or later, there will be purification, and it will be destructive for the enemy.

Q: Do you consider yourself an organized opposition?

A: Our aim is to wake people from their dreams. It is not a party aim, and none of us is a candidate for elections: We do not participate in the spectacles and games, we are not a circus, a group of vagabond actors.

Q: Do you hope for a change in the U.S.S.R., or a renewed Russia?

A: The time has not yet come to grasp the future of Russia. As for the form in which Russia exists today, well, it does not contradict our idea. The Empire has remained Empire, in which the lesser part serves the greater, and the greater defends the lesser.

Q: What do you think of Gorbachov?

A: He is a wise politician, but I do not share some of his proposals, particularly with regard to production.

Q: What do you think about the Orthodox Church?

A: There are a lot of bureaucrats who are carrying out ecumenical policy. We are against ecumenicism, and we favor traditional religion, whereas the heads of the Church have become bureaucrats of the ideological apparatus. But we are in favor of the Orthodox Church itself: It is only people who make mistakes.

Behind the satanic orgy in Islamabad

by Ramtanu Maitra

The Feb. 12 demonstration by a 10,000-strong, slogan-chanting mob in front of the American Center in Islamabad, Pakistan was, as facts reveal, as satanic in character as the book that allegedly inspired it.

The "political mullahs" who were leading the mob, and hiding in a newspaper office when the mob became uncontrollable, were using a religious cover to try to throw the country into chaos and regain the political ground the last election showed they plainly do not have. As Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who was in China winding up a highly successful trip at the time, charged publicly upon her return, the incident was "a last-ditch attempt to destabilize the government."

The protest march—ostensibly against Salman Rushdie's book, *The Satanic Verses*, and the publishers of its second edition in America—ended with the loss of five lives in police firing at the point the mob was poised to invade the Center and kill its 18 inhabitants, including 15 Pakistanis.

The march was organized under the leadership of Maulana Kausar Niazi, head of the newly set-up Tehrik-e-Tahafuz-e-Namooos-e-Risalat; Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the president of the Jamiatul-Ulema-e-Islam (Fazlur); and Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, the Pakistan Democratic Party (PDP) president and former head of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD), the nine-party alliance formed to oppose military rule during the regime of the late President Zia ul-Haq.

The way the incident was set up points to the real motives of the protesters. Consider the following:

- The book is and has been banned in Pakistan.
- Though *The Satanic Verses* was published in Britain about one year ago, when President Zia was in power in Pakistan, no one organized a single demonstration against the author or publisher during that time.
- The protesters were trucked and bussed in to Islamabad from the nearby garrison town of Rawalpindi, where the power-center is still in the hands of military officers who "made it" by helping themselves to the generous booty made available to them during the military regime. These behind-the-scenes powerbrokers would like to see the good old days return.
- While the protest march leaders insist that they were only planning to hand over a memorandum of protest to the

American Center authorities, no such memorandum was presented. In fact, when the same leaders later announced that they would deliver the memorandum personally on Feb. 15, they failed to turn up again. Maulana Niazi, when contacted, lamely proffered that he was not feeling well.

Who are these leaders?

A closer look at the protest leaders underscores their motives for organizing a march that was designed to turn violent:

- **Maulana Kausar Niazi** “made peace” with the military regime that murdered duly-elected Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1979 by writing a book, *Aur Line cut Gaycee (And the Telephone Is Cut)*, providing justifications for the military overthrow of the Bhutto government. Since the death of President Zia, the Maulana has been floundering in the political wilderness. Niazi visited the Soviet Union last year in the midst of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and has since styled himself a “protégé” of Iran’s Ayatollah Khomeini, who calls the West “The Great Satan.”

- **Maulana Fazlur Rehman**, who has been jockeying for power in Baluchistan, had earlier leaned toward supporting the Pakistan People’s Party government and was poised to push his party to form a coalition government with the PPP in Baluchistan. With 10 out of 45 seats belonging to his Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Maulana Fazlur was wheeling and dealing, trying to be the leader of the mullahs as well as the *Sardars* (clan leaders) of Baluchistan, but the seat arithmetic was not in his favor.

When the PPP and IJI joined hands, and with a lot of maneuvering formed a government in Baluchistan—a move that Mrs. Bhutto is sure to have come to regret—the Maulana turned against the PPP. He began efforts in earnest to bring down the government, and using his anti-PPP rhetoric, played along with IJI machinations which eventually did just that.

The entire process unfolded in a series of bizarre events—not the least of which was the sudden dissolution of the Baluchistan Assembly—that constituted the new PPP government’s first serious domestic political crisis. With the help of the verdict issued by the Pakistan Supreme Court, the Baluchistan Assembly has since been restored, and Maulana Fazlur has joined hands with the Baluchistan National Alliance to form a coalition government in the state. Having successfully humbled the PPP in Baluchistan, Maulana Fazlur is now working with the IJI to topple the PPP government at the center.

- **Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan**, is an embittered political veteran who ran the Opposition fiat against the PPP government in 1977 to bring Prime Minister Z.A. Bhutto down, then shifted gears to head the PPP-dominated MRD alliance, and has now turned anti-PPP once again. When the decision to hold parliamentary elections was declared in August last, Nawabzada tried in vain to persuade Mrs. Bhutto to stay within the MRD and fight the IJI—in other words,

Zia’s men—as an alliance. The bad blood between Nawabzada and the PPP surfaced when the PPP separated from the MRD and chose to contest the elections independently. It was a decision that put the nail in the coffin of small parties such as the PDP.

Although Mrs. Bhutto was gracious enough not to put up PPP candidates against the MRD leaders—thus ensuring that Nawabzada would win his seat—her decision to back the Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and not Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, as President of Pakistan made Nawabzada extremely unhappy.

He became so bitter that he once reportedly said that Pakistan is governed by a Sindhi (Mrs. Bhutto) and a Pathan (President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is from the Northwest Frontier Province), while the real Pakistanis (Punjabis, according to Nawabzada) have no control over power.

Waving the flag of Punjabi chauvinism is a real mark of desperation; in fact, Punjab, which has more than 60% of the population, is far and away the most dominating factor in the economy as well as in the bureaucracy and military of Pakistan.

Other factors

The mullahs had raised the drumbeat against Benazir Bhutto’s PPP government even before it was formed. When the PPP won a single-party majority—though not an absolute majority—in the National Assembly elections in November, and Mrs. Bhutto was considered the probable prime minister, Pakistan’s mullahs began shouting publicly that Islam does not allow a woman to become the leader of an Islamic state.

Some even toured the Arab nations to canvas support for denying Mrs. Bhutto the premiership. Though Maulana Niazi is not on record one way or the other, Maulana Fazlur, at the time still hoping to form an alliance with the PPP, publicly refused to oppose the mullahs on the issue.

Following the Feb. 12 incident, the IJI-dominated opposition—which campaigned recently in the Punjab by-elections on the platform that Punjabis should govern Pakistan—acted in such a blatantly partisan way that, for instance, Dr. Mahbubul Haq, former finance minister and an opposition senator, was led to state in the Assembly Hall that the Opposition is opposing for the sake of opposing only.

There are still other angles, as the two Maulanas and a Nawabzada were playing their game on a bigger chessboard. In the present context, the attempt to destabilize the Bhutto government could also be an effort by the mullahs and their associates to turn Pakistan anti-American, as Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran has done.

Even if such an attempt does not succeed, it could serve as a strong signal to Mrs. Bhutto to distance herself from the United States.

The Soviets, as Mr. Shevardnadze’s recent tête à tête with the wily ayatollah in Teheran indicates, may not dislike the Pakistani mullahs’ satanic orgy either.