



THE PROPHET MUḤAMMAD (PEACE BE ON HIM) AS MERCY UNTO MANKIND IN THE CONTEXT OF 21ST CENTURY WEST

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A B S T R A C T

Every fifth person walking on the earth is a Muslim, who believes not only in the oneness of the Creator Allah, but also believes that the Prophet Muḥammad (peace be on him) is His final and last Messenger. Muslims of all colour, race, gender and background have lived their lives loving and following the footsteps of the Prophet (peace be on him) both in their private and public life. The life and mission of the

Prophet Muḥammad (peace be on him) has been regarded by the Qur'ān as a mercy for all the worlds (*rahmah li 'l- 'alamīn*) and an excellent example and role model (*uswah ḥasanah*). However, the non-Muslim world, especially the West has not been able to acknowledge, let alone accept the Prophet Muḥammad's role as the last Messenger of Allah. The Prophet Muḥammad (peace be on him)

encountered stiff resistance to his message from his people in Makkah with a mixture of ridicule, accusation of falsehood and insanity, together with physical attacks, socio-economic boycott and attempts on his life. Muslims throughout their

history, especially during the colonial period received abusive attacks on the Prophet (peace be on him) by a section of Orientalists, writers and journalists. This article studies these onslaughts which are perpetrated sometimes because of jealousy, sometimes out of prejudice and more often ignorance and then bring to the fore true picture of the life of the Prophet (peace be on him) striking some instances from his life for the readers to facilitate a comparison and analysis.

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