

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION BRIDGE

***“I am going to do the worse to you.
I am going to remove your enemy...”***

Mikhail Gorbachev

***“A lot of the trouble in the world would disappear
if we were talking to each other instead of about
each other.”***

Ronald Reagan

THE CONCEPT

- 1) *The Politics of FEAR* has been used throughout history to unit people against people – the 'strange, mysterious' people. Education dispells the 'strange and mysterious' and connects people. Relationships start with education.
- 2) For trade and security, *America's neighborhood has grown to encompass the world*. We can talk to and see live pictures of anyone on the planet within a few seconds. And, if needed, we can be standing next to them – anywhere on the planet – in a matter of hours. We are connected now in a very real way. If a big fire or sickness or environmental spill happens anywhere – the effect is directly felt by many different countries and cultures.

Like it or not - we are all connected.

THE CHANGE

Borders are effectively gone. The computer and its world-wide-web have replaced the nation-state with the '*market-state*'. The world has become one *neighborhood* because:

- economic growth and capital investment ignore borders.
- disease-famine-environmental-population problems ignore borders.
- human rights is now a world-norm that crosses all borders.
- mass-destruction weapons make the protection of borders ineffectual.
- global communications and mass marketing penetrate borders and threaten national languages, customs and cultures – like it or not....

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This is an enormous structural change. The *market-state* has arrived and America is the prophetic nation.

And, because America is *the* leader and *the* inventor of this new state – we are going to be blamed for this rough and dangerous radical change. America is the world's image of this www-WTO-monoculture future. We are the epicenter of change – like it or not.

America has created a world where markets both build and destroy lives, and deliver freedom and exploitation together. Traditions evaporate and become volatile convictions with us as *the* target of any reaction.

But now, without any effective border-barriers, we are too slowly beginning to appreciate the need for a shift in security analyses. Borders as barriers are worthless and a failed trillion-dollar defense system is proof that our “security” methods need to be re-thought. Our front door is unlocked and we *don't* have a secure relationship with the world community.

In fact, much of the world both admires us – and – hates us.



1984 - the first laptop arrives in Afghanistan,

OUR PLAN

...is to create a learning bridge between the people who “blame us” and the people “we blame”. Learning about them as they learn about us – international education. The first phase is modest: to take one former Taliban government official from Afghanistan and get him into a top university in the United States and support his education – and understanding.

And, while at that university, this Afghan will teach about the perspective and logic that led up to the Taliban playing a part in the action against us. Behind every action is a unique perspective and rationale. When this person returns to the political world in Afghanistan – he will be changed – those who met and listened to him – they will be changed.

Rahmatullah Hashemi was the chief translator for Mullah Omar who was the head and founder of the infamous Taliban of Afghanistan. At the age of 21, he became a roving ambassador under the foreign minister – Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil - and traveled to the west as translator and ambassador. In the spring of 2001 he came to the U.S. for a series of talks to try and bridge the growing gulf between the moderate Taliban and the U.S. government.

Rahmatullah's education is unique and extensive. His formal school education ended in the 4th grade. He speaks four languages, is married with two small children, and his hobby is "gravitational theory as it applies to astrophysics." Only a top educational institution would consider even talking to such a unique potential student.

Bob Schuster, director of this foundation, arranged for an interview at Yale in 2004. Rahmatullah, with help from Americans stationed in Pakistan at the U.S. Embassy, received a visa to come to Yale for the interview. Yale was cautiously excited about this student - both for what he could teach their students and what he could take back to Afghanistan as a political science graduate



Rahmatullah taking with Kelly, WY students.

In the December of 2004, Yale agreed to admit Rahmatullah Hashemi, former Taliban, as a 'special student' – international bridge. He starts classes July 5th, 2005. Only in America.

THE PITCH

The admissions department has concerns about Rahmatullah's ability to survive under a full academic load. We do not. They said that if his English skills can consume the massive reading required this first summer semester, he would likely receive a scholarship and could be considered for student-teacher status as a member of Yale's Class of 2009.

Phase 1: we need to raise \$10,000 for all the Yale summer-semester costs for Rahmatullah, - - travel, tuition, food, housing, books, laundry, misc. We are getting a late start in raising this money as the U.S. student visa was only just granted.

If you are interested in this idea and would like to help with this first phase, please send checks to the foundation address below.

Phase 2 will identify other similar prospective students with unique potential. We will ask for more help then.

Phase 3 will utilize our foreign students who studied here, to help enroll American students in study programs in their countries. These three steps may be a start towards a student exchange foreign-affairs academy – and - student ambassador-bridges.

Thank you, Mike Hoover, Bob Schuster, Tat Maxwell

Checks payable to the:

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