Book Review

Fighting Suicide Bombing- A world wide campaign for life by I.W. Charney

Fighting Suicide Bombing- A world wide campaign by I.W. Charney, published in 2006 by Praeger Security International, is a graphic account of the gruesome reality of Suicide bombing, which is a ubiquitous practice in the world today. The author has undertaken a belletristic stance in dealing with this monstrosity. He explains vis-à-vis examples, as to how and why suicide bombing perseveres. This book is a vivid account of the inherent struggle of survival, as opposed to the mass murder, genocide and human violence called Suicide bombing. It is rife with innumerable, heart wrenching moments, where the ephemerality of human life is highlighted. Charney starts off with an arraignment of the Psychiatric community, which forgoes everything political and voices a strong and unequivocal message that everyone has the right to live! His transcendentalist approach goes a long way in explaining the plight of humanity, even when it may be camouflaged behind religion and politics. The central idea of the book is pro-life; there is an impassioned plea for a worldwide campaign to prevent this immoral, tragic and crazy act of martyrdom.

The effective utilization of rhetoric makes the book more engaging and relatable. The ultimate questions are: how does one efficaciously deal with the menace of suicide bombing? What peril does it pose? Is it deemed to be a sacrifice or is mass murder- plain, cold and brutal! The author explains through various anecdotes that, suicide bombing is the most abominable and reprehensible act, which needs to be
condemned at any cost. It is so saturnine and despicable, that it has galvanized the world over. He further addresses issues related to the culture of death as opposed to the culture of life. He sheds light upon the psychology of suicide bombers, their moral and ethical dilemmas and the fact that they are delusional enough to believe that they are the “chosen ones” by God to commit the ultimate sacrifice.

According to the author suicide bombing is worst forms of human evil and evokes feelings of revulsion in the hearts of people. Therefore, he proposes an aggressive and belligerent campaign, where this menace needs to be obliterated from the face of the earth, once and for all. The idea behind this bellicose stand is to establish peace all over the world, indefinitely. Suicide bombing is terrorism in its worst form, which has intensified manifold. If this threat is not curtailed, it will create havoc in the world and things might escalate to such an extent, that it would become apocalyptic! The author urges all the communities from around the world, be it religious or secular, to join hands in the campaign for life. This war against terrorism needs to come to its ignominious end.

Suicide bombing is a diabolical act and is usually associated with Muslims who live in democratic countries. Charney explores the dialectical tension between peace and death in Islam.
Both the glamorization of martyrdom and its establishment as a gateway to rewards in the afterlife are central factors in the suicide bomber equation. They create a mantle of power and glory, but not everyone is willing to wear it.

He concludes the book with a vignette from Islamic culture that speaks nobly to furthering peace and life