Questioning the Trojan Horse

Some key articles, March–July 2014

Since early March 2014 there has been a single dominant narrative in the mainstream media, both national and local, about the so-called Trojan Horse affair in Birmingham. In the blogosphere, however, a counter narrative has been robustly developed and articulated.

To remind yourself of the counter narrative’s principal features, it’s worth reading or re-reading some of the following articles. They are listed here in reverse chronological order, with the most recent first. Very few, it will be noted, are from the mainstream media.

**British Muslims Are Asking: are we all extremists now?**
[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/museji-ahmed-takolia/islamophobia-muslim-extremism_b_5554007.html?utm_hp_ref=uk](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/museji-ahmed-takolia/islamophobia-muslim-extremism_b_5554007.html?utm_hp_ref=uk)

**Gove and Wilshaw will rue Operation Trojan Donkey**
Editorial in *School Leadership Today*, volume 6 number 1, July 2014

**Trojan Horse, Ofsted and the preventing of education**
by Shamim Miah, *Discover Society*, 1 July 2014

**Policy Briefing: the Trojan Horse, the media and the Ofsted inspectorate,**
by Jacqueline Baxter, *Discover Society*, 1 July 2014

**Markets, publics and education: a tale of Trojan Horses,**
by John Holmwood, *Discover Society*, 1 July 2014

**Operation Trojan Horse: how a hoax problematised Muslims and Islam,**
by Chris Allen, *Discover Society*, 1 July 2014

**Across Europe’s schools, push for national values is infringing religious freedoms,**
by Olivier Roy, *The Conversation*, 25 June 2014

**Dispelling myths about British Muslims,**
by Peter Oborne, *Daily Telegraph*, 21 June 2014
[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/bookreviews/10911636/Dispelling-myths-about-British-Muslims.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/bookreviews/10911636/Dispelling-myths-about-British-Muslims.html)
British Values and the British Muslim
by Adoolkarim Vakil, Open Democracy, 20 June 2014
http://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/adoolkarim-vakil/british-values-and-british-muslims

Behold Michael Gove, the Caesar of the schooling system,

Islamophobia and the readiness to believe in mythical Trojan horses,
by Sarah Soyei, Equaliteach, 19 June 2014
http://www.equaliteach.co.uk/blog/4582780646/Islamophobia-and-the-Readiness-to-Believe-in-Mythical-Trojan-Horses/8302474

Trojan Horse brings a packhorse of British values into every school,
by Gus John, Gus John Consultancy, 18 June 2014
http://www.gusjohn.com/2014/06/trojan-horse-brings-a-packhorse-of-british-values-into-every-school/

Trojan Horse affair: five lessons we must learn,
by Tim Brighouse, The Guardian, 17 June 2014

How should Muslims contribute to the British Values debate?,
by Abdoolkarim Karim, a video recording of a speech to the Muslim Council of Britain, 15 June 2014
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbMgs-osP-k&sns=tw

The curious incident of the Trojan Horse in the middle of Birmingham – twenty questions to solve the mystery,
by Tim Brighouse, Times Educational Supplement, 13 June 2014

The Trojan Horse Plot – ‘draining the swamp’ of anti-Muslim prejudice,
by Tahir Abbas, personal blog, 12 June 2014

In the so-called Trojan Horse debacle, Birmingham schools have become Gove’s sacrificial lamb,
by Myriam Francois-Cerrah, New Statesman, 12 June 2014
http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2014/06/so-called-trojan-horse-debacle-birmingham-schools-have-become-gove-s-sacrificial

Michal Gove’s assault on schools is naked discrimination,
by Seumas Milne, The Guardian, 11 June 2014

The Trojan Horse affair: British Muslims and the narrative of belonging,
by Maria Werdine Norris, Centre for the Study of Human Rights, 11 June 2014
Trojan Horse: a conversation still waiting to happen,
by Richard Sudworth, Presence and Engagement: the Church in a multi-faith society, 10 June 2014

Is the Trojan Horse row just a witch hunt triggered by a hoax?,

Is there an Islamic conspiracy in Birmingham schools?
Editorial in Teaching Times, undated (early June 2014?)
http://www.teachingtimes.com/articles/is-there-an-islamic-conspiracy-in-birmingham-schools

If you want to stop extremism in UK schools, try a little understanding first
by Yasm Alibhai-Brown, The Independent, 9 June 2014
http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/if-you-want-to-stop-extremism-in-uk-schools-try-a-little-understanding-first-9509345.html

Ofsted’s slur on the Muslim community of Park View School
by Lee Donaghy, The Guardian, 9 June 2014

Fiasco over faith in Britain’s schools: Cameron’s team mishandled Operation Trojan Horse
Editorial in Financial Times, 9 June 2014
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/99d5f3e0-efdc-11e3-bee7-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=uk#axzz36ZOesG90

Birmingham has most to lose from the Gove-May extremism row, by Chris Allen, The Conversation, 7 June 2014
http://theconversation.com/birmingham-has-most-to-lose-from-gove-may-extremism-row-27650

Michael Gove book offers clue to Trojan horse row and his views on Islamism,
by Alan Travis, The Guardian, 6 June 2014
http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/jun/06/michael-gove-trojan-horse-islam

Naming the narratives: the Trojan Horse affair in Birmingham,
by Robin Richardson, Institute for Race Relations News, 5 June 2014

What research on violent extremism tells us about swamps and crocodiles,
by Linda Woodhead, Westminster Faith Debates, 5 June 2014
http://faithdebates.org.uk/blog/linda-woodhead-research-violent-extremism-michael-gove-theresa-may/

When did Michael Gove become the government’s expert on Muslims or extremism?,
by Mehdi Hasan, Huffington Post, 4 June 2014
http://m.huffpost.com/uk/entry/5443576?utm_hp_ref=tw
Trojan horses and policing ‘extremism’ in schools,
by Gus John, Gus John Consultancy, 3 June 2014

Where lies sound truthful and murder is respectable,
by Ibrahim Hewitt, Middle East Monitor, 30 May 2014
https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/articles/europe/11778-when-lies-sound-truthful-and-murder-is-respectable

Inquisition against successful inner city schools,
editorial in Muslim News, 30 May 2014
http://www.islamnews.co.uk/newspaper/editorials/inquisition-successful-inner-city-schools/#.U49J8JJy1bA.twitter

The Trojan Horse affair in Birmingham: conflicting and overlapping narratives
by Robin Richardson, Instd Consultancy, 6 May 2014
http://www.insted.co.uk/trojan-horse.pdf

Trojan Horse: conjuring the slave, the witch and the grand inquisitor,
by M G Khan, Open Democracy, 2 May 2014
http://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/mg-khan/trojan-horse-%E2%80%93-conjuring-slave-witch-and-grand-inquisitor

Ofsted’s future at stake after Trojan Horse scandal,
by Jacqueline Baxter, The Conversation, 1 May 2014

An ideological war against Muslims in UK schools,
by Assed Baig, Anadolu Agency, 25 April 2014

This war on ‘Islamism’ only fuels hatred and violence,

A new wave of Islamophobia: where it comes from and how to stop it,
By John Rees, Stop the War Coalition, 24 April 2014
http://stopwar.org.uk/videos/a-new-wave-of-islamophobia-where-it-s-come-from-and-how-to-stop-it#.U2vjHSO3PFp

Teachers complain about behaviour of Ofsted inspectors investigating plot
http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/apr/20/teachers-ofsted-inspectors-investigating-plot-birmingham

No Trojan Horse: the bishop, the chief executive and the knowledgeable journalist agree,
Political Concern, 16 April 2014

Crusade against British Muslims in education,
by Ibrahim Hewitt, Al Jazeera, 12 April 2014
http://m.aljazeera.com/story/201451018411814899
The Muslim plot that wasn’t
by Assed Baig, Huffington Post, 7 April 2014
http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/assed-baig/muslim-plot_b_5103347.html

The Trojan Horse is being used to destabilise Muslim majority schools by galvanising Ofsted,

An Islamophobic lie goes half way round the world,
by Robin Richardson, Insted Consultancy News, 10 March 2014
http://instedconsultancy.wordpress.com/

The inconvenience of the truth: Birmingham schools don’t need a witch hunt,
by Tom Bennett, Times Educational Supplement, 9 March 2014

Insted consultancy, last updated 9 July 2014