

## Questioning the Trojan Horse

Some key articles, March–July 2014

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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.

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British Muslims Are Asking: are we all extremists now?

by Museji Ahmed Takolia, Huffington Post, 3 July 2014

[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

<http://www.teachingtimes.com/articles/gove-and-wilshaw-will-rue-operation-trojan-donkey>

Trojan Horse, Ofsted and the preventing of education

by Shamim Miah, Discover Society, 1 July 2014

<http://www.discoversociety.org/2014/07/01/trojan-horse-ofsted-and-the-preventing-of-education/>

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

<http://www.discoversociety.org/2014/07/01/policy-briefing-trojan-horse-the-media-and-the-ofsted-inspectorate-2/>

Markets, publics and education: a tale of Trojan Horses,

by John Holmwood, Discover Society, 1 July 2014

<http://www.discoversociety.org/2014/07/01/markets-publics-and-education-a-tale-of-trojan-horses/>

Operation Trojan Horse: how a hoax problematised Muslims and Islam,

by Chris Allen, Discover Society, 1 July 2014

<http://www.discoversociety.org/2014/07/01/operation-trojan-horse-how-a-hoax-problematised-muslims-and-islam/>

Across Europe's schools, push for national values is infringing religious freedoms,

by Olivier Roy, The Conversation, 25 June 2014

<https://theconversation.com/across-europes-schools-push-for-national-values-is-infringing-religious-freedoms-27833>

Dispelling myths about British Muslims,

by Peter Osborne, Daily Telegraph, 21 June 2014

<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/abdoolkarim-vakil/british-values-and-british-muslims>

Behold Michael Gove, the Caesar of the schooling system,  
by Hugh Muir, The Guardian, 20 June 2014  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jun/20/michael-gove-caesar-schooling-system-trojan-horse-british-values>

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  
<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/jun/17/trojan-horse-affair-five-lessons-help-schools>

How should Muslims contribute to the British Values debate?,  
by Adoolkarim 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  
<http://news.tes.co.uk/b/opinion/2014/06/11/the-curious-incident-of-the-trojan-horse-in-the-middle-of-birmingham-twenty-questions-to-solve-the-mystery.aspx#>

The Trojan Horse Plot – ‘draining the swamp’ of anti-Muslim prejudice,  
by Tahir Abbas, personal blog, 12 June 2014  
<http://tahirabbas.co.uk/index.php/the-trojan-horse-plot-draining-the-swamp-of-anti-muslim-prejudice/>

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  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jun/11/michael-gove-assault-on-schools-naked-discrimination?CMP=EMCNEWEML661912>

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  
<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/humanrights/2014/06/11/the-trojan-horse-affair-british-muslims-and-the-narrative-of-belonging/>

Trojan Horse: a conversation still waiting to happen,  
by Richard Sudworth, Presence and Engagement: the Church in a multi-faith  
society, 10 June 2014  
<http://www.presenceandengagement.org.uk/trojan-horse-conversation-still-waiting-happen>

Is the Trojan Horse row just a witch hunt triggered by a hoax?,  
by Richard Adams, The Guardian, 9 June 2014  
<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/jun/08/trojan-horse-extremism-political-storm-michael-gove-ofsted>

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 Yasmin 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  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jun/09/ofsted-slur-muslim-park-view-school-values-extremism>

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  
<http://www.irr.org.uk/news/naming-the-narratives-the-trojan-horse-affair-in-birmingham/>

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](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  
<http://www.gusjohn.com/2014/06/trojan-horses-and-policing-extremism-in-schools/>

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.muslimnews.co.uk/newspaper/editorials/inquisition-successful-inner-city-schools/#.U49J8Jy1bA.twitter>

The Trojan Horse affair in Birmingham: conflicting and overlapping narratives  
by Robin Richardson, Insted 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  
<http://theconversation.com/ofsteds-future-at-stake-after-trojan-horse-scandal-25936>

An ideological war against Muslims in UK schools,  
by Assed Baig, Anadolu Agency, 25 April 2014  
<http://www.aa.com.tr/en/s/318232--an-ideological-war-against-uk-muslims-in-schools>

This war on 'Islamism' only fuels hatred and violence,  
by Seumas Milne, The Guardian, 24 April 2014  
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/apr/23/war-islamism-hatred-violence-blair-cameron-toxic>

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-comes-from-and-how-to-stop-it#.U2vjHSO3PFp>

Teachers complain about behaviour of Ofsted inspectors investigating plot  
by Richard Adams, The Guardian, 20 April 2014  
<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  
<http://politicalcleanup.wordpress.com/2014/04/16/no-trojan-horse-the-bishop-the-chief-executive-and-the-knowledgeable-journalist-agree/>

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](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,  
By M G Khan, The Guardian, 27 March 2014  
<http://news.tes.co.uk/b/opinion/2014/03/27/the-trojan-horse-is-being-used-to-destabilise-muslim-majority-schools-by-galvanising-ofsted-39.aspx>

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  
[http://community.tes.co.uk/tom\\_bennett/b/weblog/archive/2014/03/09/the-inconvenience-of-the-truth-birmingham-schools-don-39-t-need-a-witch-hunt.aspx](http://community.tes.co.uk/tom_bennett/b/weblog/archive/2014/03/09/the-inconvenience-of-the-truth-birmingham-schools-don-39-t-need-a-witch-hunt.aspx)

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Insted consultancy, last updated 9 July 2014