

ON BILL GATES USE OF "WHO CARES?" WHICH SHOWS REMARKABLE LACK OF CULTIVATION

ZULFIKAR MOINUDDIN AHMED

This brief note will examine my assessment of the remarkable sophistication of Bill Gates expression of "Who Cares?". In order to understand this we will first examine the broader issue of anyone caring about anything at all. You see, I will use some simple examples from my own caring about things. I am quite serious about literature. I care about Thomas Mann for example. I have his *The Magic Mountain* and some of his other books. I like the refinement of literary art that he represents. I happen to care about the Romantics and their concern with the *Transcendental Self*. I also care about low-brow things like gaining some skills with Starcraft II. I enjoy some of these real-time strategy games. I care about many things. I care about the rock songs of *Radiohead* and *Led Zeppelin*. In fact let me share with you the lyrics of *Ten Years Gone* which is a fine piece both musically and lyrics that move my heart.

Then as it was, then again it will be
And though the course may change sometimes
Rivers always reach the sea
Blind stars of fortune, each have several rays
On the wings of maybe, down in birds of prey
Kind of makes me feel sometimes, didn't have to grow
But as the eagle leaves the nest, it's got so far to go
Changes fill my time, baby, that's alright with me
In the midst I think of you, and how it used to be
Did you ever really need somebody
And really need 'em bad
Did you ever really want somebody
The best love you ever had
Do you ever remember me, baby
Did it feel so good
'Cause it was just the first time
And you knew you would
Through the eyes an' I sparkle
Senses growing keen
Taste your love along the way
See your feathers preen
Kind of makes me feel sometimes
Didn't have to grow
We are eagles of one nest
The nest is in our soul

Date: November 28, 2021.

Vixen in my dreams, with great surprise to me
 Never thought I'd see your face
 The way it used to be
 Oh darlin', oh darlin'
 I'm never gonna leave you
 I never gonna leave
 Holdin' on, ten years gone
 Ten years gone, holdin' on, ten years gone
 Ten years gone, holdin' on

I can tell you why I care here, as the timelessness of this love, of rivers flowing to the sea, the images of eternity and the metaphor of eagles come together to move the deep heart, and yet this eternity is not possible without love of the beloved. I care about the way of being able to live in timeless eternity when there is a beloved. It is not the beloved that allows the eternity but that without the high love of the beloved, the eternity is beyond our ability to see, to feel, and to be aware. A fine beautiful piece of art.

You see, why we care about whatever we care about is quite mysterious. For each of our souls are deep and we barely understand what drives our cares for anything at all. Some people believe that they will produce objective rational theories of why people will care for something. Well for those who have been in deep love with intimate partners, we know better than that. Even when we are close enough to be united in sexual union, we do not understand, and the beloved of our closest intimacy cannot tell us why she cares.

In this situation, the wiser course is to respect people's autonomy and not guess what they will care for. You might think it not so cultivated, this aspect of respect for autonomy. But you will see the profound cultivation in my views. You see, I never worry about pretending that I *know* who will care and who will not care about something. There are some statistical models that allow some simple inferences about simple issues.

Bill Gates' arrogance about assuming knowledge about who will care and who will not care is that of an illiterate uncouth moron, who presumes to understand and guess who will care about what, while half the world is far more sophisticated than him and he won't even understand why they care about anything even if they spend months attempting to explain their views in lucid and articulate ways.

1. PROFOUND DIFFERENCE OF "I DON'T REALLY GIVE A DAMN" AND "WHO CARES?"

I do use "I don't really give a damn" often in my mind and in my speech. It is profoundly and deeply distinct from "Who Cares?" The difference is that I am autonomous and I make a choice that is my right, of not caring and not giving a damn about something. The language is clear, and connotes that even if the entire human race does care about the issue, I exercise my right and veto the care for myself. There is here no presumption that I *know* who does and who does not care about the issue but rather that despite their freedom to care either way, I assert my right not to do so. This is correct and precise.

Being not particularly bright, Bill Gates is confused about this great distinction. So he instead claims illegitimately to presume to know what *others* will care about.

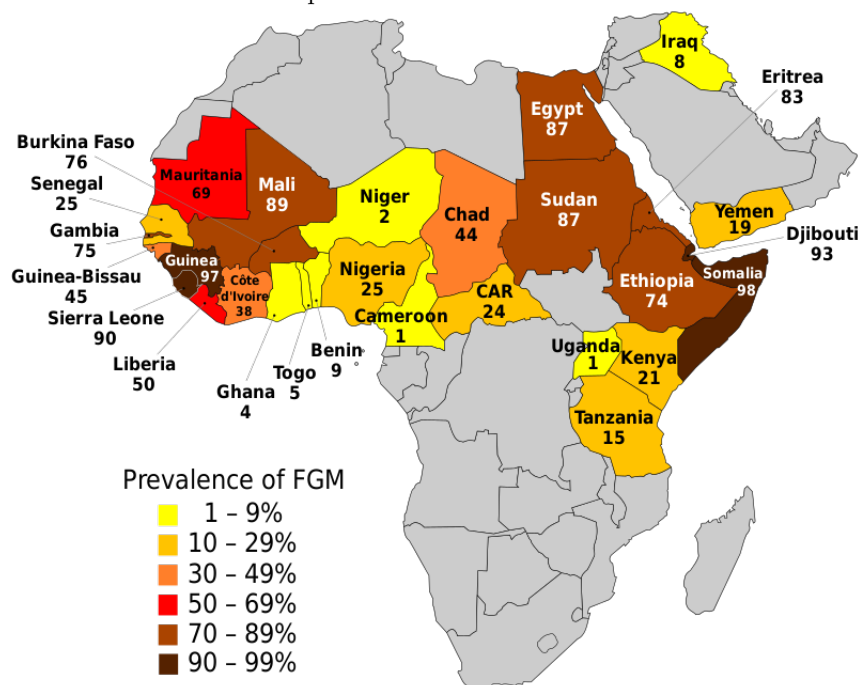
So he uses this uncultivated terminology of "Who Cares?" without precision in his language about exactly what he means.

The proper use of *rhetorical* who cares requires some accuracy in judgment of *public* sentiments and interest. So proper use of "Who Cares?" might to indicate that democratic consensus regarding genital mutilation for females in America? It is almost guaranteed that this is such an esoteric issue that if someone cares about this particular issue in America, it's totally too miniscule an issue and so I can say "Who Cares?". In fact, it's a "Who Cares?" issue even for Muslims because only in some pre-Islamic cultures in some parts of Africa this custom existed and persisted past spread of Islam and for 1.5 billion Muslims it's a "Who Cares?" issue because overwhelming majority of Muslims never heard of it in their entire lives.

2. I WILL GIVE AMERICAN RIGHT A WAY OUT

I did not set up a trap for American Right here. I am actually in agreement with American right about importance of fatherhood. I will recommend American Right just take genital mutilation off their particular political weapon because it is a "Who Cares?" issue among overwhelming majority of Muslims who never heard of it in their lives.

Let me give you some brief pointers. First, *female genital mutilation*(FGM) is restricted to Africa. The map of FGM is here.



The issue is that these are rituals from pre-Islamic cultures local to the region that Islam did not eradicate. You need some sense of Islamic history to understand why Islam has no interest per se in FGM. Islam does promote male circumcision, but FGM is not actually part of the Islamic package. American Right will be vulnerable to being considered ignorant and malevolent by vast numbers of Muslims if you continue to charge that *Muslims promote FGM*.

Let's take a closer look at the populations affected. But first let us always get the denominator straight.

Current and Projected Muslim Population by Region

	2010		2030	
	ESTIMATED MUSLIM POPULATION	ESTIMATED GLOBAL SHARE OF TOTAL MUSLIM POPULATION	PROJECTED MUSLIM POPULATION	PROJECTED GLOBAL SHARE OF TOTAL MUSLIM POPULATION
Asia-Pacific	1,005,507,000	62.1	1,295,625,000	59.2
Middle East and North Africa	321,869,000	19.9	439,453,000	20.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	242,544,000	15.0	385,939,000	17.6
Europe	44,138,000	2.7	58,209,000	2.7
Americas	5,256,000	0.3	10,927,000	0.5
Total	1,619,314,000	100	2,190,154,000	100

Source: Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, *The Future of the Global Muslim Population* (Washington, DC: Pew Research Center, 2011).

Be clear that total Muslims were 1.6 billion in 2010 so that you are able to understand how important an issue is. FGM is restricted mainly to Sub-Saharan Africa which holds 15% percent of world's Muslims. Right away you will be in trouble if you say *Muslims practice FGM* because outside of Sub-Saharan Africa Muslims never heard of this at all.

Then you look at the population affected within this 15% of world's Muslims. UNICEF says it will be around 3.6 million girls in 2013 to 4.1 million in 2050. The absolute numbers are large to some, but that's 1.49% of African Muslims now and will go down to 1% by 2050. In global population you are talking about what? Around 0.22% of Muslims.

Now you might produce a great deal of political noise about these pre-Islamic practices in 0.22% of Muslims and make a lot of noise about them, but it's a "Who Cares?" issue among Muslims who are not directly able to get involved in the politics of the particular African countries. What is clear is that it's not part of Islam as a ritual practice.