Submitted by Mary Murphy at Call to the Public 5-19-15

Hand Me Down World Lyrics

"Hand Me Down World" was written by Kurt Winter.

Anybody here see the noise See the fear and commotion? I think we missed it Anybody here see the love See the hate, being motioned?

Don't give me no hand me down shoes Don't give me no hand me down love Don't give me no hand me down world Got one already

Anybody here see the long distance cheer For the notion? I think we missed it Anybody here see The sky weeping tears, for the ocean?

Don't give me no hand me down shoes Don't give me no hand me down love Don't give me no hand me down world Got one already

Anybody here see the fuzzy-wuzzly Loving cup explosion? I think we missed it Anybody here see the changing Of the year-end emotion?

Don't give me no hand me down shoes Don't give me no hand me down love Don't give me no hand me down world Got one already

Don't give me no hand me down world Don't give me no hand me down world Don't give me no hand me down world

SONGWRITERS

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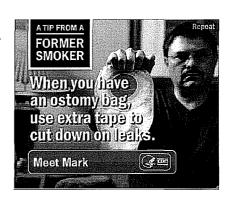
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Arizona Daily Star

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This is what blind support for dictators gets you

emen's descent into chaos — with jihadi groups jumping in to fill the vac uum of authority — has startled many observers.

Just months ago, the White House was touting the country as a model for its anti-terrorism campaign. But Yemen's trajectory should not surprise anyone. It follows a familiar pattern in the Arab world, one that we are likely to see again — possibly in larger and more significant countries like Egypt.

Yemen was ruled for 33 years by a secular dictator. Ali Abdullah Saleh. He ruthlessly suppressed opposition groups, especially those with a religious or sectarian orientation (in this case, the Houthis, who are Shiite). After 9/11, he cooperated wholeheartedly with Washington's war on terror, which meant he got money, arms and training from the United States.



Fareed Zakaria

But the repression ensured that over time, dissent would grow. His regime faced political and military opposition, and eventually, during the Arab Spring, he was forced to resign. While people have mostly local grievances but both in Yemen and in Washington promised a more representative government, they quickly settled into a comfortable relationship with Saleh's former deputy. Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who broke promises for political inclusion and participation and quickly began to rule as repressively as his predecessor.

As Farea Al-Muslimi wrote

in a perceptive essay in Foreign Affairs last summer, "the number of elected officials in Yemen was effectively set at zero."

This is the pattern that has produced terrorism in the Arab world. Repressive, secular regimes - backed by the West become illegitimate. Over time they become more repressive to survive and the opposition becomes more extreme and violent. The space for compromise. pluralism and democracy vanishes. The insurgents and lihadis because Washington supports the dictator, their goals become increasingly anti-American.

The Obama administration praises Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who arguably rules in a more repressive manner than did Hosni Mubarak. Sissi's regime has killed hundreds of protesters and jailed tens of thousands, mostly members of the

political opposition, according to Human Rights Watch, It has censored the press and imprisoned journalists.

And it is not just the Obama administration. Intellectuals like Ayaan Hirsi Ali praise the general for wanting a moderate version of Islam. Sen. Ted Cruz praises el-Sissi for his courage in calling out Islamists, contrasting him with President Obama, Rep. Louie Gohmert compares the general to George Washington for his singular determination.

There was an American president who understood the danger of blind support for Arab dictators, no matter that they were admirably secular in their outlook or willing to jail jihadis or to stay at peace with Israel, He said, "60 years of Western nations excusing and accommodating the lack of freedom in the Middle East did nothing to make us safe."

His secretary of state was

clearer about the connection. explaining that in the Arab world, "there were virtually no legitimate channels for political expression in the region. But this did not mean that there was no political activity. There was - in madrassas and radical mosques."

That was George W. Bush and Condoleezza Rice. The fact that Bush's administration so botched its remedy — regime change and occupation of Iraq — should not blind us to the fact that it was accurate in its diagnosis of the problem.

As we ally ever more closely with Yemen's and Egypt's dictators and engage in joint military actions with the absolute monarchy of Saudi Arabia, we should be wondering what is going on in the shadows, mosques and jails of these countries.

Email Fareed Zakaria at comments@ fareedzakaria.com

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