UNTITLED

Stephen A. Rosenbaum

I cannot pledge allegiance to the flag
Nor to the Republican Administration for which it now stands
(Flying over the skies of Afghanistan)
Nor to the Minister of Homeland Security
When Insecurity rains like so many tears and guided missiles.
One nation in-di-vi-si-ble? I don’t think so.
Perhaps a nation of invisibles.

Like the many flags gathering dust on attic floors and hardware store shelves
only now defiantly unfurled and saluted.
Invisible: Like the Punjabi cab driver who must paste a decal on his windshield lest his loyalty be questioned.
Invisible: Like the schoolgirl who must leave her hijab at home for fear of taunts and stares at her covered hair.
Invisible: Like the Iraqi grocer who displays a star-spangled poster—not to sell Budweiser, but to ward off bricks and stones.

So say can you see
how united we stand?
One nation, under God
Adonai
Jehovah
Mars
Yaweh
Ares
Hashem
Krishna
Allah.

---

1 This poem also won the Social Justice Award in 2002.
2 Lecturer in Law, University of California, Berkeley (Boalt Hall) and Stanford Law School; Affiliate, Boalt Hall Center for Social Justice. Mr. Rosenbaum teaches Social Justice Skills and Practice Issues, Disability Rights Law and Mental Health Law, Advocacy and Policy.
United we stand
Behind a policy of
  bombing Afghanistan?
  arming Pakistan?
  muting criticisms of Uzbekistan?
  currying favor with Tajikistan?
  calming fears in Turkmenistan?
Supplying airborne humanitarian food aid
  with liberty and justice
  for all—
Or just *US*?