Changez’s characterization

Changez is both the protagonist and the narrator of the novel, therefore he is a round character with a complex personality. For this reason, in the present text I’m going to analyse his multiple identities, trying to give a personal judgment.

The name of the protagonist recalls a change and throughout the novel the reader understands that the name chosen by Mohsin Hamid wasn’t accidental. Indeed the reader is able to find a development of his mind, that goes in parallel with the changeable settings and context.

According to the first impression, Changez is a young Pakistani man, who works hard to get financial aids in order to leave Pakistan and to follow the American dream. His initial actions bring to surface Changez’s brilliance and inclination to duties, that helps him to reach many achievements at Princeton. Here he gets excellent results and raises to upper class society. Status offers Changez a chance to ‘transform’ himself from an outsider to an insider. He always behaves extremely politely and formally, conforming his style, language, routine, food (etc.) to Manhattan. He showed the same attitude working for Underwood Samson. He obtained the job thanks to the similar origins of Jim.

The way he approaches America changed radically after the twin Towers collapse. His roots, his sense of belonging, his culture and origins become more and more stronger. He doesn’t feel at ease anymore in New York, he isn’t able to emphasize with colleagues. The way American people react to the attack causes to Changez a radical removal from American society, from Underwood Samson fundamentals, from the idea of “maximum efficiency”, from his job and finally from Erica.

In the second part of the novel, the reader comes across into a more mature Changez, when he is finally acquainted with the ambiguity of living in betweenness. The ambivalence leads him to Pakistan again.