

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



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## Modern State, Govt. and the People

In today's modern world of ours, human beings live within states that do not only differentiate them from one another politically but also strive, at least in theory, to facilitate them to benefit from the positive aspects of social and cooperative life. States evolved in human history as the need for organized life. The requirements of human beings developed in such a way that it was necessary to divert human life towards a political entity. Whatever may be the reason of the inception of organized life its basic incentive has been to provide human beings their rights, bring them bliss and contentment and secure them from discrimination and disorder. However, it is debatable on whether these incentives have been achieved by different states that exist in modern world.

In a state there are two very integral elements - the government and the governed. The government is the body in a state that is responsible for the management and administration of state affairs. There are different forms of government based on different political systems. Throughout human history there have been many forms of government that have been experienced by human beings; however, the most modern one and the one with most support in modern world is the democratic government. The democratic government, in theory, is basically chosen by the people themselves through their votes in election process. Even within the democratic government there may be different forms; nonetheless, the basic nature of the government remains the same - it is elected by the people.

The democratic government in a state is tested much and it is one of the most accountable governments as it is elected by the will of the majority. Moreover, the democratic government has to be effective as well, as after every definite period of time it has to be re-elected by the votes of the people. If it is not able to perform well, it is bound to lose authority. There has been much discussion in the political history regarding the form, nature and characteristics of the government and in modern political history there has been much analysis regarding that of the democratic government but the other factor has not been discussed much and that is the nature and characteristics of the governed.

It is really important to discuss the governed as they participate to a large extent in the formation of government in modern states. There are certain characteristics that must be there in them so as to have better society. As in the state, both the elements are highly interdependent on each other; therefore, both have their roles to play. Moreover, the governed are not just simple masses that have nothing to say as a response to the nature and characteristics of the government. In earlier states, this could happen to a certain extent but not in the modern era.

The masses in a state must be educated and aware because both education and awareness would make them understand the society and their status, roles, rights and responsibilities in it. Though education is debatable, awareness is indispensable. Awareness is majorly based on experience and open-mindedness. Though it is very difficult to achieve awareness without education, it is not impossible.

The governed must also be vigilant and must have an active part in the affairs of the state. They must not be dumb and deaf subjects as in that way their rights would be easily violated. There are political scientists who believe that the rulers are basically the people who gain authority in order to defend their own interests. They are not always interested in what the common masses get; rather their attentions are diverted more towards their economic benefits. Therefore, the masses must be vigilant to identify the policies of the government that are not intended to bring prosperity to them. They have every right to fight for their rights politically and must make sure that their rights are not violated in any way. In that manner they would be able to stop the rulers from using the authority only for their personal benefits.

Political consciousness is another important quality that the masses must develop so as to comprehend the developments and the changes in the political system. Through such a consciousness they would also be able to gauge the policies of the government as per the political demands. Furthermore, they would gain the capacity of strengthening the political institutions and enrich the political culture with democratic and positive elements. They would, at the same time, be able to exert for positive political changes through their voting power, the tendency to change, participation in political affairs and, at most, through democratic demonstrations and protests.

Countries like Afghanistan would also require concentrating on the characteristics of the governed as well. Unfortunately, the common masses in Afghanistan have not been able to gain the attentions. They still lack basic requirements of life and suffer from lack of awareness and consciousness. Therefore, their roles are very limited in Afghan society and mostly the rulers rule the country as per their will. Even if the rulers have the policies that are detrimental for Afghan people and Afghan society and are contradictory to the wellbeing of the masses, they do not face much opposition as the masses are not able to identify them and insist on the changes through political means.

## Ray of Hope for Syrian Problem!

By Muhammad Rasool Shah

The resolution of Security Council about Syria is not so promising but it is definitely a change and shows a new direction in resolving this conflict. Leading this direction, we can hope a breakthrough in coming weeks or months. It is the first time that world powers have agreed on a unanimous resolution, as the rift between the protagonists of this war was so wide that making them agree on any resolution was almost impossible. The resolution has paved way for future talks and most importantly, it may make both the sides agree on a cease-fire, which is the need of time.

In this resolution, the good thing was the fact that the international supporters of this war; the West, Russia and Iran have agreed that peaceful negotiations and power sharing is the only way to resolve this conflict. It is hoped that after these powers agree upon a path to resolve this conflict, the actual warring factions can be made to agree upon talks and peaceful settlement of this conflict. Although the actual peace would come when the government of Bashar-al-Assad and the rebel forces agree on a cease-fire but both the sides are under the influence of their international supporters and it would be difficult for them to ignore or reject a proposal put forth by the mutual agreement of international powers.

According to this resolution, which is given the number of 2254, UN will form a transitional and united Syrian government within six months and then in 18 months, a new constitution will be formulated. In the light of this constitution, independent and democratic elections will be held when the people of Syria will decide upon their representatives who will then take the control of affairs of the country and the country will change into a democratic state from a monarchy.

The role of Assad in the future setup of the country has been put on a side as it was the main reason that such talks were never fruitful in past. The rebels and its Western allies were never in favor of any share of Assad in future government of the country. On the other hand, any arrangement without the inclusion of Assad was not acceptable for Assad and its supporters of Russia and Iran. It is the reason why, the role of Assad in future government has been left untouched so that the initial ceasefire can be achieved. However, the Western powers are confident that when fair and independent elections will be held, people will dismiss Assad and it would automatically end the decades' long rule of Assad family.

All the involved powers had reached to similar consensus in past as well but then another question was left unanswered; who would control the elections and what would be the rules in these elections? These questions have been addressed for the first time and UN has been given the responsibility of this tough task. The representatives of Assad government and rebel groups will meet in Riyadh to decide upon the rest of the things. After this, there would be the announcement of ceasefire and further steps would be taken for the formation of a united, transitional government. In these elections, the Syrians in Syria and the Syrian refugees abroad will cast their vote.

However, all the participating powers agreed that ISIS is a mutual enemy and there will be no role of this terror organization in future. It is the case with some factions of Al-Nusra Front.

However, there is a long list of problems as well. Firstly, it may

take many years before ISIS is fought and eliminated. Although the Russian involvement has increased the pace of destruction of this terror group but having a look at their resistance against the bombing of US and Western powers for more than a year, it is feared that it may take long for complete annihilation of this group. It would only be a dream to hold free, safe and secure elections in parts of Syria ruled by Daesh. Another problem is the differences between the identification of different rebel groups. Excluding Daesh, the West supports almost all the rebel groups while the same groups have been labeled as terror groups by the government of Assad and it is the reason that, Russian bombings have indiscriminately bombed Daesh and other rebel groups. In the talks, it would emerge as the main disagreement between the two sides.

Similarly, the role of Saudi Arabia has been controversial. The Assad establishment accuses it of the moral and physical support of rebel groups. The talks are going to be held in the Saudi capital of Riyadh where the two sides are to meet. Russia will have to exert its pressure to bring the negotiators of Assad on the table.

According to a number of political analysts, this resolution is an indicator of a u-turn in the stance of West. The futile past talks on the issue are the reminders that West was not ready to accept any role of Assad in the future of Syria. However, the scenario changed in the last few years. The involvement of Iran and aerial support of Russia helped change the scenario in Syria. Initially, it was hoped that rebels would soon overthrow the government of Assad but the regime forces showed more resistance than expected. Recent military support from Iran and involvement of Russia gave a new life to the forces of Assad. It is the reason why, the government forces have emerged stronger in last few months. The internal fighting and ineffectiveness of rebel groups also weakened them and barred them from achieving their aim of overthrowing the government of Assad. Present circumstances show a grim picture of future for rebel groups and their international supporters. With Assad forces getting stronger with every passing day, the rebels would be pushed back and Assad would once again be ruling the whole of Syria. In such circumstances, it appears quite reasonable if a peace deal is brokered, in which the future role of Assad should be minimized and rebel groups should be given a support on the diplomatic end, if it was not successful from military point of view.

Another fact is the worsening situation of civilian casualties in the country. Now that death toll is reaching to 300,000 and the world is experiencing the worst refugee crisis, all the powers are desperate to bring an end to this conflict. The human loss is more than any justification that was initially given by Western powers. Without looking at the gain and loss of any side, it was badly felt that world powers should sit together to stop the loss of human lives in this war.

A temporary ceasefire would also halt the fleeing refugees and it may ease pressure from the neighboring Syrian countries that are hosting millions of Syrians.

Though there are so many problems but peaceful settlement is the only solution to this bloody problem and the first step has been taken in this regard.

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## Climate Action After Paris

By Jim Yong Kim

At the United Nations climate conference in Paris, courageous and visionary leaders recognized that people rarely change the world when they work within the constraints of what they think is possible. The world hoped for an agreement, but most of us did not dare to dream of a deal that aspires to limit temperatures to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Paris delivered for the planet and for the poor.

Five important steps must come next.

First, we need to approach development differently. Climate change must be considered in all of our work - from building cleaner cities to producing more food on less land - with a much stronger focus on adapting to changing climate patterns. This means that when we build a road in a country like Mozambique, we are also ensuring that it is resilient to the floods that accompany incessant rains. To this end, the World Bank unveiled a new climate action plan in Paris to help Sub-Saharan Africa in the years ahead.

Second, we need a clean-energy transformation at the speed and scale of the digital revolution. The Paris talks sent a clear signal to markets, public officials, and investors that low-carbon growth is the future. Market forces will drive this agenda forward, and there will be greater potential to invest in renewable energy in developing countries than ever before. Dramatic decreases in the cost of low-carbon technologies also support an ambitious global transition toward renewable energy.

One example is Bangladesh's innovations in increasing the sale of solar-power systems for homes in rural areas. Our low-cost financing helped to attract tremendous interest from the private sector, and today Bangladesh has the fastest-growing solar-home program in the world. More than 18.5 million people in rural areas now have reliable access to solar-powered electricity.

Third, businesses must immediately become climate literate. In Paris, CEOs from various industries - ranging from cement to technology companies - made clear pledges to decrease carbon footprints, invest in renewables, and manage resources

sustainably. This transition will require more partnerships across all levels of government, civil society, and the private sector.

Fourth, world leaders must push harder for carbon pricing. Carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels carry a hefty price. It's a bill that comes to all of us in the form of public-health costs, damage to the environment, and adverse weather effects. While about 40 countries and 23 cities, states, and regions are using a carbon price, this covers only 12% of annual greenhouse-gas emissions. More than 90 developed and developing countries included carbon-pricing schemes among the actions they intend to take after the Paris deal. This is a welcome step.

Finally, finance will be critical. National climate action plans - submitted by more than 180 countries - identify trillions of dollars of climate-related needs. This global economic transition holds tremendous investment opportunities for the private sector.

The risks of carbon are high, but the opportunities to de-carbonize are even greater. For our part, we recently pledged to increase the World Bank Group's climate financing to as much as \$29 billion annually by 2020.

Every country will take a different path to deliver on its commitments. National leaders must honor the timetable for adaptation and emissions reductions. We are here to support them. We have plans that focus on climate-smart agriculture, building greener cities, increasing access to renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and leveraging our finance for greater private investment. All are designed to lower greenhouse-gas emissions and help people adapt to the world's changing climate.

The conference in Paris produced an agreement that went beyond our expectations. We must now move with ambition that matches this historic deal - one supported by nearly 200 countries. We are at a remarkable moment in the long battle to reduce harmful emissions, and we must capitalize on this global commitment to preserve our planet for future generations. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

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