

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



February 07, 2015

## The Tragedies of War Victims Raise no Concern

We live in the frigid zone of inhumanity and men are afflicted with megalomania. Human rights and human dignity seem to be no more than mendacious claims. The oozing blood from the amputated throats of the innocent victims is unable to rouse the public concern. The painful groans of the widows and orphans fall on deaf ears. The hackneyed phrases of violence, terror, bloodshed, violation of rights, rap victims, etc. can no more make people raise their eyebrows. Devotion and affection are changed into industrial products which are used merely to embellish the amorous films and romantic serials. Moreover, only the abortive love or tragic suicide of adorners can move one to tears. Altruism and humanity are left meaningless in real life and as if cruelty and barbarity run in men's blood. As a result, A UN report released that 2014 has witnessed some of the worst violence in years, leaving at least 12,282 civilians killed and 23,126 others injured, making it the deadliest year since the flare-up of sectarian violence in 2006-2007. However, a recent report said that a total of 1,375 Iraqis were killed and 2,240 others were injured in terrorist attacks and violence in January in Iraq. "790 civilians, including 59 policemen, and 585 Iraqi security forces personnel were killed, while 1,469 civilians including 69 policemen were wounded. An additional 771 security members were wounded in terrorist and violent acts during the month." The lurid reports and poignant tragedies of the day are highly nauseating for one who feels a tinge of humanity. Imagining the amputated limbs, cut throats, bloody corpses of men, women and children in war zones in Syria, the piercing screams of a mother saddened by the death of her child in Iraq, the soulful sobs of a child orphaned in a suicide bombing in Afghanistan, the blood-spattered bodies of schoolchildren in Pakistan, the faint and fair bodies riddle with bullets in the war-stricken areas of Palestine and the chained bodies of Nigerian women being arrested by terrorists before the eye of international community reflect the barbarity of our age. It is a certain fact that war undermines our economic infrastructures, razes the cities to the ground, wrecks havoc on our financial resources but they are all considered unimportant comparing to human loss. In other words, precluding from the mammoth destructions of war is secondary to preventing human loss.

"Unfortunately the love that is to be born out of hate will never be born. Hatred is sterile; it breeds nothing but the image of its own empty fury, its own nothingness. Love cannot come of emptiness. It is full of reality. Hatred destroys the real being of man in fighting the fiction which it calls 'the enemy.' For man is concrete and alive, but 'the enemy' is a subjective abstraction. A society that kills real men in order to deliver itself from the phantasm of a paranoid delusion is already possessed by the demon of destructiveness because it has made itself incapable of love. It refuses, a priori, to love. It is dedicated not to concrete relations of man with man, but only to abstractions about politics, economics, psychology, and even, sometimes, religion..." "Our modern age, wherein "human rights" are declaimed in stentorian slogans, is void of virtue and moral values. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) claims to heal the bleeding wounds of human societies and precipitate universal peace and justice as it is asserted in the preamble of UDHR, "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people, Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law ...." Furthermore, article 2 of this Declaration states, "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status..." Besides oozing charm, the statements claim high moral aspirations; however this Declaration, like many other international instruments, lacks a strong mechanism to enforce the law. As it was mentioned above, human rights are violated flagrantly in the worst possible way around the globe, the megalomaniac powers infringe the international law with impunity, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, etc. are burning amidst violence and bloodshed, the war victims flock to neighboring countries with a tinge of hope to find a safe haven and, to their unmitigated chagrin, some lose their lives in peregrinations, yet no voice is raised or finger is pointed at seriously from the UN families, including international community. The UDHR, based on its assertion, entitles men with equal rights irrespective of their "race, color, sex, language, religion, etc." but why a Palestinian baby is doomed to pain and suffering from the very first day of his/her birth? Why the cruelty and barbarity, take place in Palestine, Syria, Iraq, etc. are given the cold shoulder by the world? Hope restrictive measures be taken to preclude from further violence and bloodshed and men be entitled with equal rights, in is true meaning, all around the world. In short, prayerfully the day will come that a Muslim baby born in the war-stricken area of Palestine be entitled the same rights as a Christian baby born in the heart of America.



## Davos Conference and Helpless Economies!

By Muhammad Rasool Shah

The gathering of super-rich ended in Davos without any unexpected results. As expected, the conference was a blend of blames and accusations and in the end, everyone agreed to disagree and this has been the result of almost all the previous editions of these conferences. The rich were busy to repeat their old slogans that overall economy of the world has improved and poor nations need to look at the brighter side of the picture. On the other hand, both inside and outside the conference, there were large number of angry people who were getting almost violent on the frightening situation of unemployment, inflation and the widening gap between the conditions of rich and poor. But this conference was badly needed as the world economy has failed to recover from its economic disaster continuing from 2008 and it stems back to the decisions made after 9-11. The decision of opening wars one after the other by the key economies of the world had negative effects on their economies and of course, to the rest of the world, which are directly or indirectly, get affected from the prime economies of the world. Eyes of the world were beamed on the prime economies of the world to make decisions to change the present scenario but unfortunately, they were not ready to give up the privileges that they take for granted and this mindset has not left any room for changing the present scenario of world economy.

When the conference was in progress, different debates were in progress on the media. Majority of the economists were of the view that major economies of the world should shoulder more responsibility in taking the world out of this disaster as their selfish moves and decisions brought the world to the present day miseries. On the other hand, there were also present some experts who were busy in defending the international powers. An advertising video of a program on CNN gave the facts that in last ten years, the world economy has expanded and grown almost double in its size, the overall poverty has decreased and there are mixed views around the world about the opinion of people about this progress. The statistics shown in this regard may be true.

But the ground realities are also equally painful. According to Forbes, the number of billionaires are increasing briskly around the world but living standard of majority of people have sharply declined throughout the world. In the same way, the earnings of lower and middle classes have considerably decreased when compensated with the increasing inflation. In past, the conditions of billions of people living in Africa and Asia were really miserable and majority of them lived under unbearable and unimaginable poor conditions but they were never given much importance as the majority of people living in America, Europe and a number of Asian countries were having good income to support their expenses and they lived quite comfortable lives but it is not the situation today. From time to time, we witness protests in developed nations of Europe like Greece, Spain, Italy, and even France and general public is very much distressed in the United States. The economic bailout packages for Greece and a couple of other countries in Europe was meant to save these economies from complete failure and bankruptcy. An average American today is suffering a lot to make its ends meet and majority of them complain of the shrinking public facilities to the public. In the same

way, a number of European countries have cut down so many facilities to their citizens that were provided in free in past. In such conditions, it remains almost impossible for the world economies to remain silent when alarming bells are ringing near their ears. Statistics show that world economy has increased considerably in its size in last ten years but it is also a fact that, after 9-11, the whole world economy has turned into a war-time economy and the boom it experienced is mostly artificial. The war-time economy is useful only after a country becomes absolutely destroyed due to a war and immediate spending are made to invent artificial economic activities and expansion but this strategy cannot be used in a long run or on permanent basis. The war expenditure of trillions of dollars in Afghanistan, Iraq and a number of other countries of the world could have resulted in considerable change in the economies of these countries only but such a strategy can be even dangerous at certain situations when it is employed as a regular strategy in normal conditions. In the same way, the artificial economic boom of post 9-11 era brought an economic disaster in 2008 but no lessons were learnt from this and once again, the artificial economic boom trend was supported in almost all the economies of the world and at present, large numbers of countries are suffering badly from this meaningless economic strategy. In these years, one fact has become absolutely evident to all. The world economies are now controlled by large corporations and they are so strong and powerful that even the governments are not able to oppose their plans. They have such influence everywhere that they are able to alter legislation for their own benefits. In the artificial economic boom after 9-11, these corporations made billions of dollars and their executives and shareholders brought into their hands unbelievable amount of money. For these corporations, only objective is to make money and this is possible by violent expansion, be it natural or artificial. When it was revealed that some limited number of corporations were responsible for the collapse of the world economy in 2008, no action was taken against these corporations and they are still left free to play with the fate of billions of people living in different corners of the world who are affected either directly or indirectly from their decisions.

Very unfortunate is a fact that these corporations only believe in making more and more profit and they don't believe in any ethics that can restrict their voraciousness for more and more revenue and income. In the same way, they have tied the hands of law as well by controlling the legislators and there seems to be no power on earth to stand in front of them. It is also a fact that international powers, especially, US, the Britain and their allies that make almost two-third of the world economy have spent more of their energies on war and not on development projects. Even if there were development projects in the war-torn countries of the world, they were to compensate for the disaster made by their own war. At present, when the world is burning with the heat of war that can be termed the biggest after WW2, the trend of war spending is likely to continue for many decades to come. Keeping in mind these facts, such conferences and meetings would be meaningless until the influence of international corporations are not restricted and world powers vow to stop using war as a tool to boost up their economies.

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## Flawed Teaching Techniques Unrewarding

By Asmatyari

Within the past couple of years, class sizes have been increasing in both high schools and colleges/universities. The larger the class size, the less individual attention each student receives. In some cases, the students may not even get attention at all from their teachers such as in some lecture classes at universities. When students are in classes that are considerably larger than they should be, they feel a sense of anonymity and they may ultimately be deprived of valuable learning experiences and interactions. Active learning must be incorporated to engage the students in such large classes, and one way to do this is to promote small group work. Small group work allows for students to interact with other students while forcing them to pay attention. Discussions occur, work is talked through, and learning is enhanced. A study conducted in 1999, discovered that "when compared with students who participated in traditional instructional methods, students gained a deeper understanding of course content in the discussion sessions than lecture sessions. In addition, these abilities were further enhanced when students believed their institutions emphasized practical application of information and promoted the use of course material in situations beyond the classroom. It is highly effective when small group work is used especially in large classes. It allows students to feel connected to the class, it promotes active learning, and it allows students to interact with one another. A common problem students face is not being able to relate course material to the real world. Students feel as if the knowledge they learn in school is useless and that it is a waste of time to learn the information if it won't benefit them later on in life. The school enhances education by first educating students in the classroom and then bringing them out into the real world to put to use the information that was learned.

When students are able to put their knowledge to use in the real world, they are able to live their education and gain the tools to solve the problems of our time. This hands-on method has forced students to naturally become interested in learning and it has proved to be a very effective teaching method.

Some teachers believe that the best way to teach is by taking on the role of the dictator in the classroom. As dictators, they treat their students as sponges, and merely feed the students information and expect it to soak in and be comprehended. These kinds of teachers believe that once the information is presented, it is the students' own responsibility to comprehend the material. Instead of communicating, the teacher issues communiqués and makes deposits which the students patiently receive, memorize, and repeat. The teacher think until the information sinks in, it will not be understood. This concept of education doesn't encourage students to engage in critical thinking, instead, it requires the students to be passive and accept facts as they are given without having the option of questioning or debating.

If teachers want their students to grasp the material, they have to realize that the banking concept is not an effective method.

Aside from the mentioned teaching methods, there are other techniques that are beneficial to the classroom. For example, when teachers bring in movies, and visual aids, students naturally take an interest since the techniques are new and exciting. Not only are the students engaged, but the techniques captivate students' attention and cause students to take an interest in the material. These methods stimulate students' mental activity and make it more feasible and effective for students to learn. Moreover, each student's learning process is different; some people learn better by listening, some by watching and others by doing. When all techniques are combined, students have a better chance of understanding the material.

Functionally narrating, brain has two distinct parts; each one is responsible for specific tasks. The left side of the brain controls speech, logical, and thinking skills; the right side is the athletic, creative, and visual portion. Although both sides of the brain function properly, one side is dominant, causing each person to be stronger in either a logical way or a creative way. This contributes to the reason why each person learns differently. Everyone has a specific type of learning style that works best for them. Teachers, faced with the challenges of accommodating different types of student learning styles and academic levels, are forced to implement various teaching methods in order to captivate each student's attention.

However, teachers need to recognize that not every student learns the same way. Some students learn material quicker and easier than others due to the way their brains are wired. If only one type of teaching method is applied, not every student's learning needs will be accounted for. Various teaching methods need to be combined so that students have the opportunity to learn in multiple ways. The more opportunities that are available for a student to learn, the more valuable the education becomes. Therefore, the most successful teaching technique is one that involves a variety of different methods in order to accommodate every student's unique learning style. Students need to be challenged, engaged, and eager to learn.

There are many ways that a teacher can get students engaged and involved. First, if the students understand the value and importance of the subject, they will be willing to devote their time and energy into learning the subject matter. Secondly, if students are allowed to work together and collaborate their ideas, learning will be enhanced. It is vital that students are able to formulate their own ideas and opinions, and being able to work with peers certainly facilitates that. Thirdly, students need to practice active learning. Students do not learn just by sitting in classes listening to teachers, memorizing pre-packaged assignments, and spitting out answers. To truly learn the material they must talk about what they are learning, write about it, relate it to past experiences and apply it to their daily lives.

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