

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



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Overall Stability is Dependent on Economy

Economy plays a vital role in development and progress of a country. Without sound economy it is a figment of imagination to think about order and stability in other fields of life. It can be observed in today's world that the countries with stable economies are dominant in various areas, the most important of which is politics. The international political arena is basically overshadowed by giant economies. Just consider the level of influence that the developed countries, like USA, UK and China have in contemporary international politics.

Politics is the game of power and power erupts from money, while money is generated through a proper economic infrastructure. Whether it is conflict or agreement, diplomacy or war, international organizations or national policies, power has a decisive role. And, that power rests with the countries that have large GDPs and great businesses. Therefore, it is easy to see the world powers having strong influence and say in different diplomatic undertakings and conflicts and wars in international political order. In fact, the current political order is designed by the most dominant economies among the developed nations of the world. The current political order, wherein capitalism and democracy have joined hands and reign most parts of the world is not very different from what the gigantic capitalist economies want them to be. A thorough study of economy and politics will reveal that economy is the root of a political system. For example, when human societies mostly had agriculturalist economies, there were no democracies and the political systems were based on monarchy and landlordism. However, as the societies evolved to industrialized economies there was a shift towards democracy. Thus, economy to a great extent decides the form and nature of the political system and, therefore, instable economy gives rise to instable political order and stable ones gives birth to stable political systems.

It can also be observed that the societies where the people are mostly poor and do not have the facilities of life, there are more chances of political upheavals. The discontented people, suffering from destitution would ultimately strive to overthrow the political order and would never respect such a system. Resultantly, it can be said that the societies that are economically instable are more prone to revolutions, disturbances and chaos. The third world countries can be observed in this regard. As the people are poor, do not have basic requirements of life and suffer from unemployment, they are more vulnerable to be the cause of instability. And, that is why we find them to be more attracted towards rebellions, crimes, terrorism and thus instability.

Afghanistan is one of the countries where economic instability has given birth to political instability. As there is no stable economic infrastructure, the country's democratic structure has shaky foundations. In Afghanistan insecurity has been influencing the economic life to a large extent. Both national and international businessmen are not readily willing to invest in all the sectors and they do not see positive prospects of their businesses. As insecurity has been overwhelmingly influencing the country, the development in the basic infra-structure has been meager.

The doubts and uncertainties of the Afghan market have made the international investors to think thousand times before they take an initiative to start their businesses in the country. Though there are great opportunities in Afghanistan and the country is blessed with different types of mineral and other natural resources, the economic infra-structure has not been able to get enough attention.

Apart from that there are other factors as well that have been influencing the economic system of Afghanistan. The insufficient and unfavorable business environment is also one of the issues affecting Afghan economy. There have to be strong business laws governing the society and controlling the business. The laws should not only safeguard the rights of investors and businessmen but also make sure that the competition within the system is maintained on strong and fair footings. The evils like monopoly based on unfair competition must be tackled with properly and there should be strong bodies that control the prices within the markets, which at the present are non-existent and the businessmen are fixing the rates on their own. This has given rise to a political system that, on the exterior, is called as democratic but in reality is an ad-hoc arrangement that has no strong foundation.

Afghan economy, therefore, require structured development towards a capitalist society. And in this regard, businesses can play a vital role. If within a system there are consistent investments and different businesses, the system is on a track towards development and prosperity. Since the very inception of human society, human beings have required businesses so as to have their requirements fulfilled. Throughout human history, businesses have taken different forms and characteristics and today have reached to a very advanced form. From the barter system to today's advanced era when the businesses are taking place online, there has been a series of different practices, but the vitality of the business has never been lost. Having developed its economic infrastructure based on capitalism or free market economy marked with stability, Afghanistan's political system can continue its journey towards a truly democratic country dominated by stability.



Compassion Embraces All

By: Hujjatullah Zia

It is important to see the world as a whole, as a unity. The systems in the world are designed or formed in such a way that they make people and things connect to and depend on one another. No human being can live alone in the world. Those who think that they can isolate themselves as individuals from their societies and their fellow beings are basically living in a fool's paradise. They need to wake up, and realize the true world and their true selves. As Albert Einstein had said, "A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."

Accepting others, supporting and assisting them are the only way to live in today's world that is turning to be more and more mechanical with each passing day. Human beings require adopting compassion as their top priority behavioral trait, if they want to guarantee their existence in the world. So much hatred, bloodshed and differences have been promulgated just because human beings have forgotten the habit of compassion. Though globalization has shrunk the distances among human beings, it has not been able to bring their hearts together. More and more abhorrence and intolerance have spread only because people are not able to accept others, to love them and appreciate their differences.

Hating others just because they belong to different cultures, religions, sects and ideologies is, in fact, a weird behavioral trait. If others are different for a person, it is also true that he is different for them as well. If he thinks others as detestable; others may also think so. However, it is important to see others in perspective of their environment and their socio-political context. Looking at others from one's own perspective is a silly mistake and may lead to abhorrence and hatred. Mahatma Gandhi had said, "It is easy enough to be friendly to one's friends. But to befriend the one who regards himself as your enemy is the quintessence of true religion. The other is mere business."

Compassion, in fact, has that capacity. It can turn enemies into friends. The policy of hatred can only generate further hatred; it creates a never-ending chain. If you hate others; others will hate you as well and process will continue. In order to break the chain of hatred and enmity, it is important to adopt compassion from the very beginning. An imperative point to understand is that every person must start

compassion from his own self. He must understand himself and his true nature first and then he can understand the worth and reality of others. Loving himself and developing his own personality will really help him in being kind to others. And, it must be realized as well that being compassionate to others does not mean that a person is superior to others – that he is on the giving end and others are on receiving end. It is mutual – compassion for others is vital for one's own self and personality as well.

As Pema Chödrön in *The Places That Scare You: A Guide to Fearlessness in Difficult Times* says, "Compassion is not a relationship between the healer and the wounded. It's a relationship between equals. Only when we know our own darkness well can we be present with the darkness of others. Compassion becomes real when we recognize our shared humanity."

Some may argue that it is only an ideal thinking that compassion alone can win hearts and turn enemies into friends. They base their observations and their thinking on the happenings and events that take place in our today's world. They see the hatred in it; the wars and the discrepancies. There is uncontrolled bloodshed in different parts of the world. People seem thirsty for the blood of their fellow beings. Politics and religions have turned into monsters that further push human beings towards hatred and disdain. They hold a strong point in claiming that compassion may not be influential in such a world. However, they need to see the point from another perspective as well.

It is crucial to comprehend that the current policy of animosity and envy will lead human beings towards extinction. Is it wise to continue the same policy? Never! So human beings require changing themselves. Realizing this fact is of utmost importance. Having realized it, we can further debate the viability of the policy of compassion in today's world. We cannot reject compassion because we consider it to be impracticable. How can we consider it to be impracticable unless we have adopted it fully in our lives? Human beings have failed to practice it or to launch it comprehensively in their social and political lives; therefore, they cannot conclude it to be useless. It is both a matter of common sense observation and a scientific way of thinking to see the result of an experiment only after the experiment has been fully performed and it has generated a result. Before carrying out an experiment, it is absolutely weird and unreasonable to claim about its outcome.

Human beings, thus, first need to adopt it as a golden rule in both their individual and collective lives and then wait for its results. If is not able to generate a positive result, I am sure it will not have side effects as well.

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We Need Moderation not Extremism

By: Rahmat Saifi

Human beings, while strive to understand the world and different phenomena in it, have gathered knowledge and formed ideologies. These ideologies have certainly assisted them in understanding the thought-provoking questions to a certain extent and at the same time provided them a frame of reference towards the events, incidents and changes. Nevertheless, these ideologies have also separated human beings. Some consider the dissimilarity in ideologies among different nations and groups of people as vital, because that is the feature which would eventually define the distinctiveness of the social and political groups and the progress of different cultures and traditions. Some even assert that to be unavoidable and the arguments they have are quite resounding as they consider the human natures to be different and even contradicting. The matter of discussion, in fact, is where the distinction and differentiation in ideologies have led human beings. Has it provided them more bliss and contentment or more conflicts and wars?

The vital factor is to note that it is the demand of social and political circumstances that the ideologies shaped in different societies by different groups ought to be different. The problem is not at all to be different; the fact is that every individual differs every other individual in some way or the other. The difference in ideologies may give birth to a variety of social groups with variety of social and cultural practices. Nevertheless, the problem arises when the ideologies turn extreme; when only one's own ideology becomes true and all the other ideologies become false and when it becomes the responsibility of the follower of one ideology to change ideas of the followers of others forcefully. After any social or political group becomes extremist, there are possibilities that it would adopt violence for the coercion of its ideas on others, as extremism would lead it to such a destination.

Extremism is a strong coercion that one's own ideology, religion, race or nation is always right while all the others are erroneous and detesting them would not be erroneous at all. It even convinces many to adopt hostility in the defense of their ideology or the defeat of the others. As hinted above, it has persuaded its holders to take the responsibility of correcting others for they are absurd and must be led to the right direction. It is important to note that extremism cannot be related to a single ideology, as is mostly depicted in modern times. Currently it has become a fad to link extremism with Islam and Muslims. However, it would be better to note that extremism itself is not an ideology; rather it is the frame of reference through which any religion or ideology is perceived that generates extremism.

If Muslims are extremists, there are certain Hindus, Sikhs and Christians as well, who are extremist. In addition it is

not very strange to experience extremist atheists in today's society. Even atheists, who do not believe in any religion, can turn belligerent and even fierce in defense of their ideology. Then there are many believers in modern political ideologies who are extremists. Hence, it can be safely said that extremism is not the content of an ideology rather it is the conception of the content and its impacts over human psychology and behavior and eventually his responses.

It can be easily observed in today's world that how extremism has turned people violent and even terrorist. The example of our own country Afghanistan can be discussed here without any hesitation. The terrorists who have been fighting in Afghanistan are mostly the extremists who believe their religious beliefs to be final and the best, while believe others' as meaningless and worth destruction. Therefore, what they have been doing is evident from the series of their tyrannies wherein they kill innocent people through indiscriminate bombings and shootings.

Now realize the concept of suicide attack. A suicide attacker is basically a person who believes extremely in a particular ideology and in the falseness of others so much that he becomes ready to blow up himself in order to kill others. This is what extremism can teach people; therefore, it is necessary that human beings must stop being extremists and adopt moderation before it is too late. Moderation, in fact, is the best way to adopt in pursuance of an ideology. Moderation teaches tolerance and cooperation. People with moderate ideology tend to accept others with all their differences and respect them as well.

It does not mean to forget one's own identity and mix up with others in order to lose oneself. It basically means valuing the heterogeneity and honoring the basic law of nature that people and groups of people are different and they have different perceptions, beliefs and practices.

The modern world is a world that has shrunk because of the advancement of science and technology. People are now closer to each other – as the distances have shrunk because of different means of communication and transportation, different religions and cultures have come closer to one another. It is the time when they have fully come to know about their differences and in certain cases that knowledge has led to conflicts and wars.

Therefore, it is better for all the human beings to adopt a moderate approach and try to understand each other instead of abhorring without any reason. Moderation would definitely lead them to find out the similarities among one another instead of finding out the differences and politicizing them. They would be able afterwards to make further developments on the same line and at the end can bind into a single chain of humanity.

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