

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



July 15, 2018

Fighting Instability Through Reliable Economy

One of the ways Afghanistan would be able to face the serious challenges in different sectors is to strengthen its economy. A reliable economic system would help in political stability and restoration of security. The country cannot keep on relying on the external support indefinitely. It has to stand on its own and face its economic challenges itself. Most importantly, it needs to let the businesses grow, support them and enable them to bear roots. Both national and international businesses can assist the country in its journey towards a stable economic system.

However, the fact is that the attention given to the economic system of the country is really insufficient. Moreover, the different institutions that can play a great role in this regard have been victimized by incapacity and corruption. And, without strong economic institutions, developing the basic infra-structure on which to make the economy stand is almost impossible. One of the main institutions that has a key role in Afghanistan's economic prosperity is Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI). This institution has to be supported, groomed and managed properly so that it shoulders the tough responsibilities that are given to it. Unfortunately, the institution is being dominated by controversies and ill-management. On many occasions, the Afghan business community, entrepreneurs and private sector leaders have demanded that the leadership of ACCI has not been able to devise strategies that can help them develop economic and financial initiatives. They have also mentioned that business community wanted the ACCI leadership to adhere to the laws of the chamber and those of the country to ensure sustainable development of the market, business and economy of the country. They have also stressed that it is duty of the chamber to prevent any mistrust, misuse of public resources, abuse of power and authority.

They have also highlighted that the business community is facing serious challenges like kidnapping of businessmen, procurement issues and challenges, low quality of services especially in large projects, lack of electronic payment systems, failure to attract foreign direct investment, WTO representation, low employment and brain drain challenges, lack of support mechanisms and programs for Afghan businesses especially for women-owned businesses, misuse of ACCI resources by those in authority, capital flight etc. And, these all issues remain unattended, while the authorities are busy in saving the positions in the institution.

They, therefore, have always demanded that ACCI and other responsible bodies should play their roles in supporting the private sector and contribute to the economic growth and development of already fragile Afghan economy.

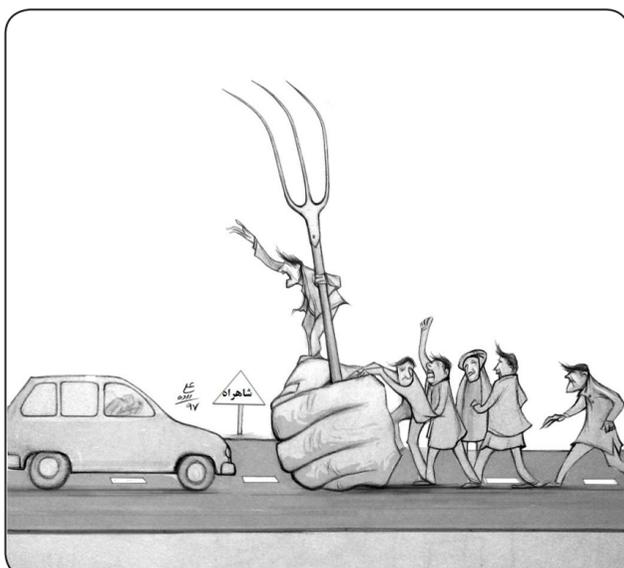
There are different pre-requisites for businesses and investments to flourish. Among them stability and security play a dominant role. If different systems within a country are stable and there are not major fluctuations every now and then, the ground is said to be ready for the investors and businessmen to jump in and establish their businesses. Businessmen want consistent outcomes from their investments and they abhor seeing political and social changes disturb their businesses.

The evil like insecurity plays a major role in discouraging businesses and investments. Different incidents of terrorism and killings compel the businesses to shut down, and frighten the investors to invest. The societies marked with insecurity do not have consumers going to the markets and enjoying the luxury of shopping different products. Afghanistan is one of the same kinds of country where 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.

Afghanistan needs to have strong economy so as to go through the transition period and most importantly to survive after the international supports dry. The country has to start from the institutions and basic infra-structure development and has to reach to a stable economy, wherein the businesses are able to function without any fear and inconsistency. The business institutions like ACCI need to develop an environment that can be galvanizing for both the national and international investors. Moreover, the golden opportunities wherein Afghanistan can exert maximum and can get the best outcomes from must be discovered and they should be strengthened so as to push the country towards self-sufficiency.

On the other hand, the businessmen and investors must also keep the national interests in their consideration while they establish their businesses and start getting the outcomes from them. They have to keep this in their minds that the society as a whole has certain rights that have to be fulfilled by them.



Is Trump an "Effective Leader"?

By Scott Cowen

No matter how much chaos and disruption US President Donald Trump causes - to trade, business, and even America's core alliances - his supporters regularly insist that Trump is a leader who gets things done. While Arkansas Senator and almost-CIA director Tom Cotton regards Trump as an "active, engaged, and effective leader," former Speaker of the US House of Representatives Newt Gingrich has gone so far as to describe Trump as "stunningly effective."

Given these accolades, I was curious about what the undergraduates in my course on leadership theory and practice think of Trump's effectiveness, so I organized a student debate. One side was tasked with defending the motion that Trump is an "effective leader." They portrayed him as a decisive go-getter, and marveled at his "chutzpah" in moving the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Among Trump's accomplishments, they pointed to the tax-reform legislation that he signed in December 2017, the airstrikes against Syrian chemical-weapons facilities in April 2018, the recent engagement with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, and the evolution of trade policy toward China.

The team arguing against the motion focused on the personal attributes usually associated with effective leaders: a moral compass, balanced reasoning, and a disciplined and principled approach to decision-making. Needless to say, they emphasized that Trump comes up short on all counts.

In the end, the debate boiled down to the question of whether effective leadership is about action and intention, character, or both. For example, at one point, a debater arguing for the motion was asked whether morality, trust, and integrity are relevant to effective leadership. "No," he answered. Effectiveness is morally neutral: if you announce your goals and then achieve them, you are effective, whatever the goals happen to be. It's a short hop from here, of course, to Machiavelli, and then to contemporary strongmen like Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un.

One source of conflict in the debate was over the timeframe for determining leadership effectiveness. The word "effectiveness" often implies immediate actions and results. Yet "leadership" suggests a capacity to deliver principled decisions and durable outcomes over the long term, usually through a robust process grounded in facts and informed by ethics.

Another area of disagreement, expressed vividly in the aforementioned debater's one-word answer, is that morality and decisive action run on separate tracks. In other words, a leader's morals can be regarded as "private," with no real-world relevance.

Missing from the discussion was the fact that corrupt motives - such as self-aggrandizement, contempt for others, and indifference to the public good - produce corrupt results. Policies that seem effective in the short term can end in spec-

tacular failure when they are driven primarily by a leader's self-interest and pursuit of power.

Many US presidents have become embroiled in scandals of their own making. Andrew Jackson had his genocidal "Trail of Tears," which entailed the ethnic cleansing of the Cherokee and other Indian tribes from the southeastern US. Warren G. Harding had the Teapot Dome scandal. And, of course, Richard Nixon had Watergate. All of these presidents' legacies were tarnished not by any single act - which might very well have looked "effective" at the time - but by habits of corruption and a disregard for ethical guidelines.

Trump bears some resemblance to these ignoble examples. In his rush to enrich himself and consolidate power, while abandoning all civility and decorum, he has shown contempt for the separation of powers, the freedom of the press, the norms of governance, and the rule of law. And, as with his predecessors, his administration will probably be remembered more for its scandals and mistakes than for its achievements, especially over the long run.

"Over the long run" is a necessary proviso, because only time can deliver the final judgment. Jimmy Carter is often remembered as a mediocre president. But a new book by Stuart E. Eizenstat, President Carter: The White House Years, shows that the establishment of formal diplomatic ties between China and the United States probably owes as much to Carter as to Nixon, despite the latter's historic visit there in 1972.

Or consider George W. Bush, who famously stood in front of a "Mission Accomplished" banner early in the Iraq War, and praised the inexperienced and incompetent director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for doing a "heck of a job" just after Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans. In both instances, the long run arrived rather quickly to render judgment on sheer folly.

As for Trump, it remains to be seen if his tax cuts and trade wars will save the middle class. His dealmaking with North Korea and his "no deal" with Iran may or may not end badly. But both history and leadership theory suggest that his lack of emotional intelligence, preoccupation with showmanship, and indifference to facts will lead to unambiguous failures.

Interestingly, when my students were asked which team had delivered the more convincing arguments, they overwhelmingly voted for the affirmative team, even though 90% expressed personal skepticism about Trump's ultimate effectiveness. Therein lies an important lesson: The glare of the daily news cycle can make us lose sight of the essential role of moral leadership in sustaining the US in the years to come. Without it, the "successes" of today can easily become the disasters of tomorrow.

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Exploring Higgs Boson in Therapeutic Arena

By Faisal Ali

The amphitheatres of Medical-Physics, Nuclear Medicine and Bio-medical Engineering have engendered preternatural verdure and irrepressible joie de vivre to the ephemeral lives of downtrodden humanity. Today, the bio-medical tools are beating the palimpsest of miseries and bringing salubrious arenas of change in the management of pathological conditions. The drudgeries and forays of the brains and brawn of Medical-physicists and bio-medical engineers have catapulted the standards of Clinical Medicine to the new heights and horizons with minimal effects of portending vagaries in the trendy cosmopolitan culture.

The field of Physics was revolutionized by various achievements that pummeled the maledictions of pessimism and spearheaded the incantations of optimism for the mankind in the 20th century. Physics further contributed to the comprehension of human nature in the form of Bio-Physics which was introduced by Karl Pearson in 1892. The 2012 was a unique year of human history because of an interesting episode that took place with the help of Large Hadron Collider. A new particle with a mass of 125GeV was discovered and confirmed to be the Higgs Boson. That discovery completed the Standard model whose journey right from propounding in 1964, led to the conferring of Nobel Prize on Peter Higgs in 2013. The Higgs Field is an energy field that permeates the whole universe and consists of countless Higgs Bosons. According to this writer, If Higgs Bosons and Higgs Field are true in their true sense then it should also be true that mankind can invent and devise antiviral, antibacterial and anti-neoplastic tools by minimizing or increasing the Higgs Field inside the molecules of viruses, bacteria and cancerous cells in the tomorrow of today. The human beings of the future can get various quantum leaps with the help of Higgs field minimizers and increasers. Although, the life spans of Higgs Bosons are very short but it is my firm conviction that they can play a pivotal role in the Clinical medicine of tomorrow. The Hadron and Proton Radiation therapies are already in use in the arena of Medical Physics. The Proton Treatment & Research Centre at Loma Linda University Medical Centre (LLUMC) has already replaced a paradigm of Proton Therapy treatments. In

the same chain of events, the media reported in February 2018 that Finland was pursuing the path of introducing new Boron Neutron Capture Treatment (BNCT) which would be used for treating the cancers of head and neck. In addition, The Higgs Boson/Field therapy will be a breakthrough in Medical Physics in the coming days. Furthermore, as a true believer in God and his wonders around us, the discovery of Higgs Bosons and Higgs Field also convey the message that dooms day can occur with the disappearance of Higgs Field from the whole of the universe. The lofty goals of Medicine became more sacrosanct in the modern era due to induction of hardware like Single-photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) & Positron Emission Tomography (PETs). Similarly, the imaging tools like X-Rays, Ultrasonography, Echocardiography, CT-Scans and MRIs are all the products of Medical Physics and Bio-Medical Engineering.

Most of the imaging equipment inside the Government hospitals of third world at secondary care level are outmoded and in malfunctioning condition that need urgent replacement. For that purpose, the brand-new machines like that of Digital X-Rays should be installed. To achieve the lofty goal of health care management, the MRIs and CT-Scans should be introduced in secondary care setups. Though, Bremstrahlung plays a central role in modern imaging and therapeutic equipment but the scientists should utilize their much-needed efforts to ferret out and explore other arenas that can be considered as leap forwards and achievements of extra-ordinary nature. The prominent role of Physicist should be highlighted in true sense in the humanity of orb. The physicist is responsible for a wide range of tasks in Nuclear Medicine and must perform duties that include the procurement and maintenance of imaging equipment and associated computer systems. Lastly, a vibrant institutional arrangement for producing the luminaries of Medical Physics and Bio Medical Engineering is to be evolved in third world countries for catapulting the health management system to the new heights.

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