

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



March 18, 2018

The Actual Responsibilities of a State

In the present times, mostly among the developed nations, there is a greater emphasis on the positive role of the state, because it is now clearly realized that the influence of the state permeates all our relations, even those of the personal kind. Every state must ensure that all the citizens are provided their basic rights and requirements of life.

First of all, the state should create conditions for the growth of free individuality and personality of its citizens. The function of the state is not merely the business of the policeman, of arresting the criminals or of ruthlessly enforcing contracts but of providing for men equal chance, as far as possible, of realizing what is best in their intellectual and moral natures.

State must protect and promote the welfare and well-being of the individual by preserving law and order. But this is not enough. Mere protection of the rights of an individual and enforcement of his duties do not exhaust the list of its functions. Every state now espouses the cause of the economically and socially weak, so that the mere requisites of health and decency shall not be denied by accident or misfortune or incapacity to any member of the community.

Furthermore, modern state now assumes the duty of promoting general welfare. It is now clearly realized that the state is a collective body and not a joint-stock company of the privileged class. It should promote social conditions for the welfare of all. It is now universally recognized that society cannot be happy, prosperous and progressive if some people suffer from the pangs of hunger or are illiterate and ignorant or are unhealthy and miserable. Modern society is becoming collectivistic. Hence modern state can no longer be individualistic, as it was in the nineteenth century. It is now recognized that state should interfere and regulate social and economic lives, if such interference and regulation promotes general welfare. Hence the sphere of state activity should extend to new fields of social and national life for there are many things of general well-being which are not provided by the efforts of individuals and associations either because their private efforts are insufficient or they are incapable of doing so.

The state should be the custodian of the future of the nation. It must conserve what the nation has now, and develop its resources for the future generations. The state with its command on the resources and its universal reach can build for the future in ways that no partial organization can exert. It should take different constructive plans and projects whose benefits will be shared by the future generations. Individual or private enterprise does not undertake it because it is selfish, its resources are limited and its methods haphazard and it aims at immediate gain. The state does not suffer from such limitations or short comings. While private enterprise cannot risk its limited resources in long-term projects, the state can undertake ambitious plans and schemes of conservation and development, as it possesses abundant resources. It can develop national economy by planning and building industry and agriculture by undertaking industrial and scientific research and discovery and encouraging such higher activities of life as science literature and art. In short, it can promote culture and civilization.

It is important to understand from another point of view that human personality in general cannot develop freely without the external conditions of social living which are of universal concern in view of the acknowledged objects of human desire. These conditions are peace and order, protection, safety and prosperity. The state must maintain peace and order not because it is a sort of universal policeman but because in peaceful and orderly atmosphere alone each individual can rise to the full stature of his personality. In other words, man develops his individuality and personality only when the state regulates the dealings of the citizens with one another, prevents confusion and chaos, maintains the rights of its citizens and enforces their duties. The state should maintain order not for the sake of order but for the higher ends of protection, conservation and development. Modern state cannot become merely police-state as the *laissez faire* wanted it to be. It is a positive state, for it actively creates conditions of human development and welfare. Analyzing our own country with this perspective we find that there are many shortcomings that we need to amend in order to make it a better society. The responsible authorities in this regard should take positive steps and let the people of Afghanistan achieve their basic requirements so that they are able to strive for the realization of their personalities in an atmosphere of peace, tranquility and justice. It is their right and no one should neglect them their due right.

China from another Perspective

By Hujjatullah Zia

A peaceful and violence-free world has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the People's Republic of China (PRC) which practices the "smile diplomacy". China plays a constructive role at national and international level and seeks to build a peaceful society, with the cooperation of the world, so that all individuals could live a quiet and prosperous life.

Much has been said about the economic development of China but its peaceful message to the world was left out. With the strategy of reform and opening up, China is believed to sow the seeds of harmony and friendship with the world. China opened its door for all countries to have people-to-people exchange which will not only boost the trade level but also strengthen the spirit of brotherhood.

It is self-explanatory that war and violence inflicted heavy casualties and indescribable sufferings upon human societies. People's rights and liberties were trampled upon. The colossal destruction and human toll outraged the public conscience. To "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind," China, besides cultivating friendly relation, supported global peace and strengthened the bond of alliance between nations. For example, China, unlike many other countries, has never been involved in the conflicts going on in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Afghanistan but she does feel the pain and anguish of those who are burning amidst such violence. Therefore, China urges the world for peace and prosperity and plays a conciliatory role in this respect.

China pursues a soft power to rule the hearts and minds of the public rather than imposing its will on them. With the opening-up strategy, this country has embraced individuals from around the world with a view to having better understanding of each other, exchanging social and cultural values, and strengthening strategic and economic bonds. We should not always view China from an economic perspective. For instance, the Built and Road Initiative (BRI) will not only connect the lands for trade but also the hearts for peace and harmony. As the room for tolerance and agreement has been narrowed at the current historical juncture, the world is in need of greater harmony and stronger bond - these are what China is in pursuit of. In addition to pioneering "One Belt One Road", China reinforces regional and global peace in some ways or the other. As a result, Conference on Interaction and

Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is one of the platforms to enhance regional peace and stability. As an Afghan delegate, I attended the last years' CICA forum hosted by Beijing and found it highly constructive for inspiring the spirit of peaceful coexistence and building a society void of violence and conflict. In this forum, the Member States affirmed their commitment to international principles, the UN Charter, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and pledged to promote regional peace and security which will necessarily lead to global stability. Hence, China takes active part insupporting peace and stability around the world.

China started upholding peace and harmony at national level. With the belief that racial discrimination and ethnic superiority are the root causes of conflicts, Chinese government advocated the individuals' rights and liberties and considered them equal regardless of their racial and ethnic backgrounds. This is the motto of political figures in China: "It doesn't matter if a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice, it is a good cat." This statement denies any discrimination on the basis of one's caste, color, or creed. Subsequently, China extended the realm of its peaceful ideology and called the world to promote the principle of "no-discrimination" for maintaining peace and harmony.

We live in the global village and have to minimize the conflicts so that all nations could live a peaceful life. To live in a violence-free society, extending the "smile diplomacy" and soft power will be highly essential. On the contrary, exercising hard power and imposing one's will on a nation will fuel the tension and threaten the global stability. The world needs to practice upon international principles and campaign against all issues that impede peace and prosperity.

To sum up, the Chinese government has taken an active part in social, cultural, and economic issues at national and international level and will continue to do so. To save all individuals through stirring the ship to the right route, all nations will have to play their role according to their abilities. Indeed, peace will prevail in this global village only if we accept one another, embrace one another with open arms, exercise tolerance, consider all individuals free and equal, promote the spirit of brotherhood, and develop people-to-people exchange. The win-win strategy, according to Chinese politicians, will be achieved through mutual cooperation and maintaining sustainable peace and stability.

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Vaccinating Against Poverty

By Seth Berkley

For most people, the choice between a life-threatening disease and a lifetime of crippling debt is no choice at all. Yet every year, hundreds of millions of people around the world are forced to make it, owing to the prohibitive cost of medical treatment. And, paradoxically, the hardest-hit people are not those with the largest medical bills, but rather those living in the poorest parts of the world.

Although countries like the United States have notoriously high treatment costs, with medical debt being one of the leading causes of personal bankruptcy, people living in poor countries actually spend more on health care costs relative to their income. And, because medical insurance is unavailable or too expensive, and because bankruptcy protection is not usually an option, too often they and their families end up being pushed into poverty.

But this tragedy - befalling some of the world's most vulnerable people - could in many cases be entirely avoided. A new study, published in February in the journal Health Affairs, suggests that there is another option: in many cases, the medical bills can be preempted by prevention, through the widespread and affordable use of vaccines.

We already know that vaccines are one of the most cost-effective ways to prevent disease and death, and the new study provides additional supporting evidence. By modeling the health and economic impact of childhood vaccines for ten diseases in 41 of the poorest countries, the researchers estimate that from 2016 to 2030, these vaccines will prevent 36 million deaths. But their analysis found something else: during the same period, vaccination will also prevent 24 million people from falling into poverty because of the cost of medical treatment.

The World Bank defines "poverty" as household income of less than US\$ 1.90 a day. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), health-care costs push as many as 100 million people below this line every year, with 150 million others facing "catastrophic health-care costs," defined as healthcare spending that consumes 40% of the household budget after basic needs have been met. All of this highlights the important role vaccination has to play in helping to reduce poverty. The fact that the study found that the greatest benefits of vaccination were among the poorest suggests not only that poorer people are more vulnerable and have a higher risk of developing preventable diseases, but also that the impact on their lives is

potentially greater.

For the governments of low-income countries, this is an opportunity, because it shows what they could achieve in terms of improving health equity and reducing poverty by targeting higher vaccination rates in poorer and more marginalized communities. Moreover, by making affordable, quality health care available to everyone, regardless of their income, governments can take an important step toward universal health-care coverage (UHC). That is because national immunization programs can act as a platform upon which to build a primary-care system. With childhood immunization come supply chains, cold storage, trained health-care staff, medical record keeping, data monitoring, disease surveillance, and much more. So, when a community gets access to childhood immunization, it is often not long before it also gets access to other services, such as neonatal and maternal care, nutritional supplements, malaria prevention measures, and sexual and reproductive health and education. In addition to this, immunization programs provide immense reach. Thanks to global health organizations like the WHO, UNICEF and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, vaccination is already one of the most widely available health interventions ever. With 80% of the world's poorest children now getting access to routine immunization - meaning three shots of a diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine - we already have a health platform upon which to build UHC, even in the most challenging of countries.

And now, as this new study implies, immunization has an additional, indirect role to play. In the absence of a government-backed national health service or affordable health insurance, routine immunization has a profound financial impact, by saving millions of people from needing health care in the first place, through disease prevention.

This study builds on a growing body of evidence that vaccines not only save lives, but also build economies. Previous studies have estimated that every dollar invested in vaccines saves \$16 in terms of health-care costs, lost wages, and lost productivity due to illness, or \$44 if the broader benefits of people living longer, healthier lives are taken into account.

What this new study now shows, however, is the tangible impact this has on people's lives. Over the next decade and a half, vaccines will save millions of families from the grinding misery of extreme poverty. We now have yet another reason to work hard to realize the enormous potential of immunization.

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