

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



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Stable Economic System is Vital for Political Order

It is very important to see the connection and interdependence of different systems within a state. Different systems like political, social and economic systems influence one another and may hinder or pave the way to progress for others. Though all of these systems have their importance, economic system is considered as the most vital one. There are observations that clearly show that even political system is largely dependent on the economic one and it is largely determined by its nature and evolution.

Stable economic systems, wherein businesses and investments flourish, guarantee stability within political system, on most of the occasions. As politics is the game of power and authority, in today's world power and authority are directly linked to wealth; while wealth is the product of an economic system. Therefore, it can be easily observed in contemporary political scenario that the states that have wealth and prosper in their economic life are dominating the international politics. They, as a matter of fact, run and shape the world order. Whereas the countries with weaker economic systems suffer from lack of stability in their political systems and seem to have no tangible influence and authority within the international political scenario. They are mostly on the receiving end. Even their political systems and, in certain cases, their political leaders are chosen by the powerful countries of the world. It can, thus be said without any hesitation that the economic system has a compelling role within the development and stability of political systems within a state and within the international political order.

It is also easy to note 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 infrastructure 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 infrastructure has not been able to get enough attention.

Besides 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.

Only after having achieved 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.

Insecurity Crisis Undermined Social and Economic Activities

By Mohammad Zahir Akbari

Kabul is immersed in successive and paralyzing social and political crisis unprecedented in last 15 years. The Afghan capital is inundated with organized criminal gangs who stage kidnappings for ransom, often targeting foreigners and wealthy Afghans, and sometimes handing them over to armed groups. There is very high concern about the security situation not just for wealthy Afghans and foreigners but ordinary people also suffering from social crimes and it's really because the economy is so bad ... there are not enough jobs and so people have turned to crime. It is a real concern for people in Kabul and around the country because kidnapping has become a lucrative business. Social insecurity such as robbery, kidnapping and explosions in all parts of the country including the capital has become a common practice. Consequently, the daily social insecurity and insurgent military operations have undermined reconstruction efforts, humanitarian aids and restricted business activity in Kabul.

Recently, an Australian woman working for Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR) was kidnapped in the Qala Fatehullah area, Abdul Rahman Rahimi, police chief of Kabul, told journalists at a press conference. He added police were investigating the incident and launched effort for her recovery but not yet found the victim.

He assured that police would arrest the kidnapers in the near future as they made lots of progress in one night. It is said that the kidnapped Australian woman was of Afghan origin. Australian foreign ministry also confirmed that the Australian woman was kidnapped in the Afghan capital on Saturday. Still, there was no official word by Afghan authorities on the incident and no group including the anti-government armed militant groups has so far claimed responsibility behind the abduction of the woman. Similarly, a series of local and expatriate abductions have been occurring in the same year. Previously, Indian female aid worker was abducted from the vicinity of same area by unknown gunmen. However, the female aid worker, Judith D'Souza, was released late in the month of July and reunited with her family members by safely returning to India. Other foreigners, such as two foreign professors, one from the US and one from Australia, have been kidnapped in the Afghan capital Kabul, while the condition remained unknown. In addition, many of Kabul residents criticized what they called an increase in crime in the city.

It is said that abductions are mostly done by powerful criminals and powerbrokers; they come in armoured vehicles and kidnap people while no one can stop them. According to figures by Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), over 80 businessmen have been kidnapped this year alone. "Unfortunately, despite measures by security agencies, businessmen are killed or kidnapped and they pay money to be released," said ACCI spokesman Siyam Pesarlai.

The condition is almost similar throughout the country; six tourists were injured in western Afghanistan when a rocket struck the vans they were traveling in. The Taliban claimed responsibility for that attack, which occurred in Herat province. Rash of kidnappings and Taliban bombings have heightened security fears all over the country including capital city.

The United States already had warned its citizens in Afghanistan of a "very high" kidnapping risk after an American narrowly escaped abduction in the heart of Kabul. It is said that US and other diplomats have been barred from traveling by road the short distance from the city's international airport to their diplomatic missions. Instead, they've been ferried by helicopter. Many countries, including the US and UK, have longstanding travel advisories warning against all but essential travel to Afghanistan due to the security situation throughout the country.

The insecurity fears exacerbated amongst people after the media broadcast that the terrorists from Syria and Iraq will likely be ousted to Afghanistan as pressures on the rise due the military operations. Recently, Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan has also warned during an interview with the Japanese journalists in the run-up to his official visit to Japan. "The more pressure on those terrorists in Iraq and Syria, the more they are eager to leave for Afghanistan," Nazarbayev said.

At the same time, he noted that no threat existed for regional security so far, saying "there are not any visible threats as of today, there are no such fears." "Turkmenistan has the longest border with Afghanistan, followed by Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. As far as I know, everything is calm in those states, but they have been taking some measures," he said.

The remarks by Nazarbayev came as there are concerns that the terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan are attempting to expand their insurgency to the Central Asian countries.

The Central Asian leaders as well as Russia are mainly concerned regarding the attempts made by ISIS loyalists to expand foothold in the country despite the Afghan and US forces conduct counter-insurgency operations to eliminate the terror group.

The Afghan and coalition forces officials earlier warned that the ISIS loyalists are attempting to turn the Nangarhar province into a regional operational base and establish the Khurasan Caliphate in the region.

The Afghan Nation Unity Government must be warned that Afghanistan has already begun returning to the past; they would be responsible for losing all the values and political achievements obtained within past 15 years at cost of millions of Afghan martyred youth's life. On the other hand, it is also modifiable that an insecure Afghanistan is not only threat to Afghan but also a proper bed for growing international terrorism!

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The Dystopian World

By Hujjatullah Zia

Man's megalomania and egotism led to war and violence throughout the history. Dictatorial regimes sought to eradicate their political opponents so as to keep their positions safe from jeopardy. The despotic rulers had constantly choked the voice raised for rights or liberties or declaimed against oppressions. The individuals, bereft of their basic rights, were subjugated to puissant forces. The historical conflagrations and outpouring of hatred and animosity put man's humanity under question.

Malice and cruelty continue unabated. We harm one another, perpetrate honor-killing acts, blacken our neighbors' reputation and shed our brothers' blood without regard to the call of our conscience. We succumb to the worldly temptations, yield to carnal desires and satiate our voracious appetite for not only pecuniary issues but for hurting our fellows without feeling a sense of guilt.

In modern world, a vacuum for spiritual life is felt deeply. There lacks ethical code in individual and collective life in human societies. The rights and dignity of mankind is trampled upon in the worst possible way. Violence and carnage make the daily headlines on national and international newspapers. Terrorism shed the blood of men, women and children around the world, mainly in Islamic countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, etc.

Life is highly cheap. Since religious intolerance, radical ideology and degrading men's rights and status led to bloody wars within the past history, human society will have to nurture the spirit of brotherhood and respect one another on the basis of being human irrespective of their race, sex, color and creed. Similarly, we are to practice upon the Golden Rule, 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you' and listen to the call of conscience so as not to let the history repeat.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has uncovered the reason behind violence and violation of men's rights and dignity and also suggests the prescription for healing the men's chronic wounds as it states, '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'. The civil unrests and insurgency in Afghanistan stemmed from radical mentality, religious intolerance and a certain ideology. It is an unmistakable fact that the warring parties, who are operating under their religious leaders, cherish a certain ideology, which is highly narrow and pa-

rochial. Their radical mentalities have surpassed humanity and ethical code since they show no mercy to women and children. It must be noted that men are born free with natural and inalienable rights and dignity.

The rules like 'don't kill others' originates from the natural rights of 'harm no mankind' or 'certain punishments must be considered for certain misdeeds' originates from 'each perpetrator must be punished'.

Therefore, natural rights are the barometer for man-made laws and suit men's nature. It is believed that the war and violence will continue unless the world upholds human rights and dignity, practice tolerance towards one another and nurture morality in social life. Morality is not something innate such as parental loves or emotional acts. When you feel hungry you eat something or you just love your friends emotionally - they are not called moral acts. If you feel sympathy and help a criminal escape from the law or police, you have done even immoral act. Morality originates in your reason and conscience.

You follow the reasonable orders of your wisdom, which is not colored by your sensation, it is called morality. But it should be noted that if you help someone as a reaction to his support or expecting something in favor, it is not called a moral act. Rather morality is a selfless act that you do for others without any expectations - which draws people's praise. It is aptly said that 'nakedness is a disease of our time.' It does not necessarily mean physical nakedness but also spirituality and ethical code. Spiritually, men are naked of compassion and empathy. My species are deep in the quagmire of vice and wickedness.

We live in the world where our fellows seek their self-interests at the cost of our lives. We live in the world of nakedness of morality and spirituality. Men suck the blood of one another to lengthen their own life. Don't you believe that 'man is man's wolf' and there is 'the war of all against all'? 'Our task must be to free ourselves from the prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.

The true value of a human being is determined by the measure and the sense in which they have obtained liberation from the self. We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if humanity is to survive.' Let us exercise our rights and let others to do so in a peaceful air. In short, we are to respect men's fundamental rights and abandon violence and bloodshed otherwise the pain and sufferings in human societies will never come to an end.

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