

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

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## Let's Promote the Culture of Non-violence

Mahatma Gandhi, the well-known Indian spiritual and political leader, always promoted the golden teachings of non-violence. Most importantly, throughout his life, he practiced it with unshakable determination. He had once said, "There are many causes I would die for. There is not a single cause I would kill for." Keeping his invaluable contribution for peace and non-violence in consideration, October 2, his birthday, is celebrated as International Day of Non-violence around the world. United Nations General Assembly designated the day on June 15, 2007 under the resolution A/RES/61/271 to disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness". The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence". The main objectives of the day also include highlighting the importance of non-violence in the world and promote peace and tranquility against violence and war. It is to make the nations of the world believe that they can achieve a better human world through non-violence as Mahatma Gandhi had said, "Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man". Violence has no doubt brought a great deal of misery to human civilization. It won't be an exaggeration to say that humanity would breathe its last in the atmosphere of violence. If love is not provided immediately, no one can stop it from a certain death. Human beings have to love it if they want to see it alive. The world we are living in can only be conquered through everlasting love and non-violence. Love has the capacity to bind human beings together. Though there are many in the world who are shouting in the favor of violence and antagonism, they are in fact the sadists who clap at the sight of human sufferings, appreciate cruelty and dance with the cries of human hopelessness and can think of no way to extract the humanity out of this dismal and horrible situation. So, they should know that they are also participants in the miserable holocaust of human beings with the weapons of antagonism.

As human beings, compassion and affection should be our distinguishing qualities that may categorize us as the best of the creatures among the existing species. Non-violence should be the most essential part of our nature. It is non-violence alone that can make us look above the pathetic division of human race. Non-violence alone can make us look above the religious extremism, nationalism, sectarianism and racism. History has the lesson that all the human beings have never been able to stand under a single flag. It is because all the ideologies of the world have divided the human beings into "we and they". None of them has ever been able to embrace all the human beings alike. That's why followers of one religion and ideology have launched sanguinary wars against the others. Billions of people have been massacred in the pursuit of the same stupidity. It seems that the blood thirsty inclination of human beings have not been satiated yet.

Human beings definitely need to become one and make love and non-violence their guide in the rocky way to a better destination. They must think larger and make humanity proud. They need to see beyond the vicious circles of their cunning egos and join hands together for a peaceful world. They have to throw down the weapons and have smiles on their faces to win the hearts. They are supposed to teach their children the essential lessons of non-violence so that they may not be caught in the quagmire of hatred. They are to rise in the stature by bowing in front of sympathy and brotherhood. They should paint the world with the colors of bliss, contentment and pleasure, instead of the blood of the human beings. They require keeping in their books the immortal words of invincibility and prosperity, instead of destruction and disorder. It is important for them to be human in the real sense of the word and conquer the world through non-violence, not antagonism.

The day is of immense importance for the people of Afghanistan, as well, as the country has been suffering because of different forms of violence and wars. It is important that the people must realize now that nothing can be achieved through violence. They have spent decades of their lives pursuing their objectives through violence and what they have achieved is destruction and instability. Now, they have to value non-violence and peace and make every sort of effort to introduce them in their social and political lives. To some it may seem impossible but the life, teachings and practices of Mahatma Gandhi clearly shows that it is possible to pursue even the most difficult objectives through non-violence and strong resilience against antagonism, hatred and violence.

## Selection Criteria and National Responsibility in Elections

By Mohammad Zahir Akbari

Generally, everyone may agree on some common criteria such as honesty, loyalty to the people and country, expertise, ability, braveness and aware of social and political pain but very few people know how they are deceived by alluring promises and advertisements. Very few realize that if we select a wrong medical doctor he might kill only one person but if they select a wrong social doctor he would kill the whole society. Very few are aware a corrupt man would corrupt the whole nation but a righteous man will make a righteous nation. So, due to illiteracy reason, it is not hard in Afghanistan to propel people vote on the basis of deceiving promises, money, language and racial differences. In the other word, most people do not know why do we need to choose a representative, what are the main criteria to be considered, how can they check the candidates' background and make sure they have chosen a right person and what are the right expectations they might have from their representative in Parliament? Without considering these questions, choosing representatives have no benefit to us and our society, but also great losses. A large part of our social anomalies and our current personal losses are rooted to this issue. Unfortunately, we have never gone to the ballot box with well-consideration of these sensible views, but with the attitudes and interests of our ethnic, linguistic, and regional tendencies. We even voted for emotional tendencies seeing faces of someone, without knowing the destructive consequences of it. A large part of the social problems and individual losses of all of us is due to the fact that we select those leaders who inflicted irreversible harm to our nation. We sent the representative who either spent their time out of the country or enjoyed filling their own packets and never thought about fate of this nation.

Today, when our country is engulfed with various social and economic crises, to a large extent we are responsible; We voted for ethnic belongings, they operated with ethnic affiliations. We voted for regional affiliations, they acted with regional affiliations. We voted with linguistic affiliations and they acted with linguistic affiliations. This is how we went down in the midst of social anomalies. That is why, neither we could reach to the national unity and nor to the peace and prosperity. We are also responsible in front of our conscious and All! As a Muslim nation, If Allah ask, why did you vote a person who caused a lot of crises in the country what would be our response? Unfortunately, we do not have acceptable answer. If Allah ask, why you did not make enough research about his background, we would not be able to have right justification. Overall, parliament is the place of decision-making and political monitoring for Afghanistan. So, the first important criteria are social and political understanding about Afghanistan. No one can do this for better, unless it is armed with and faith, legal and political knowledge. Parliament is neither a hospital and nor civil engineering center to send medical doctor or engineer to do some technical jobs.

The second criterion is patriotism, unfortunately, the current situation and the economic dependencies of our country are such that some patriotic people are victims of their own economic and personal interests. Members of the parliament, as representatives of the people, should be patriotic and have a popular tendency to bring people and the interests of the people at the top of their decisions. Those who do not have sense of co-operation with people and people-centered ethics cannot be useful, the voting of such people is useless. Those who have their family out of Afghanistan cannot work for this country because they cannot feel the bitter of poverty and affliction and thus, they do not have a common fate with those who live in Afghanistan.

The third Nationalism and lack of bias, the great misfortune of Afghanistan today is that our curators and politicians are committed to personal, ethnical, linguistic and regional interest, rather than national interests. If we want to open the path to nationalization, national unity, peace and social openness, we must vote for those who are nationalist and well-expert. According to Islamic teaching it is not permissible to build our relationship or make our decision on the basis of tribe, language and racial differences.

The fourth criteria for electing candidates is to have a coherent and applicable program for solving city and community problems. In order to achieve this goal, the candidates should be able to analyses the root cause of problems. Otherwise, it's as if the doctor did not recognize the disease properly, so prescribing her medications would not be effective and may even aggravate the illness. Therefore, the tasks of the candidates are rooted in proficient identification of the problems. the programs that are provided without scientific support and non-professional work, or programs that only aim to collect votes and to deceive public opinion, are ineffective and will not cure the pain of people.

We should also be aware that people are influenced by emotion and seductive advertisements which does not have any logical justifications. We must know that the result of such an action, in addition to the cultivation of emotional culture and social unrest is that, it leads to continuing problems of non-development, social, economic, cultural and political problems. Voting someone on the basis of friendship, family, brigade and temperament, moral character, provincial, hostility and grudge, gender, money and capital ... are examples of emotional choices and will have emotional consequences.

In contrast to the emotional choices, there is a rational choice. Selection based on the criterion and index of reason and logic, scientific planning, commitment and expertise are examples of rational choices. Such a choice will lead to the accurate identification of problems and scientific and specialized planning for solving those problems, and the development of the city and province and, as a result, our country.

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## Managing the Global Factor Better

By Mohamed A. El-Erian

Imagine a world in which the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund were more client-driven. Ahead of the gathering - this year's will take place in Indonesia in October - the IMF would solicit from its 189 member countries three key policy issues on which to focus, not only in official discussions, but also in the numerous seminars that are held in parallel. The result would be an agenda that responded better to the continued anxiety that a growing number of policymakers - and populations - are feeling.

For much of the decade since the global financial crisis erupted, countries worldwide have been subject to what London Business School's Hélène Rey and others have called "the global factor": a set of external influences that countries cannot manage or control, but that play an important role in determining key domestic variables. This has generated economic and financial volatility that has complicated internal policy management, fueled political polarization, and exacerbated social divisions.

US President Donald Trump's "America First" approach has tended to amplify international feelings of uncertainty and insecurity, especially in Asia. Now, beyond having to cope with big changes in capital flows, interest rates, and currency movements, these countries must adjust to the reality that they may not even be able to count on some of their basic, long-standing assumptions about international trade.

But this is not just an emerging-economy problem. Despite attempts to boost resilience, including through both micro- and macro-prudential measures, much of the world remains vulnerable to the global factor.

Of course, countries with existing domestic economic and financial vulnerabilities are generally the first to face disruptions. But even in better-managed economies, external factors are affecting local financial conditions in ways that can have little to do with domestic fundamentals.

In Switzerland, for example, the major economic-management challenges of the last few years have had more to do with spillovers from the eurozone than homegrown problems. In confronting these challenges, the authorities have been forced to implement some distortionary measures - most notably, highly negative interest rates.

Some of these destabilizing dynamics could well intensify over the next few months, for two reasons. First, central banks will remain on the path toward monetary-policy normalization - albeit at different speeds - after many years of ultra-loose measures focused on repressing financial volatility. As a result, financial conditions for much of the emerging world are likely to become tighter and more unpredictable.

Second, advanced economies' performance is diverging, with growth in the United States accelerating, and Europe and Japan losing economic momentum. This will place even greater pressure on interest-rate differentials, already at historical highs, and fuel exchange-rate volatility.

Beyond their economic consequences, these trends are likely to exacerbate political and social tensions. After all, the effects of both trends can be diffi-

cult to grasp without a decent understanding of quite complicated market structure and technical factors. This will make the monumental challenges ahead difficult to communicate to the public, leaving many feeling confused, insecure, and frustrated.

The IMF can and should help its members address these challenges by assuming a larger role in providing analysis and leading more effectively discussion in pivotal areas. In such a world, the Fund's agenda would emphasize bolder action in three areas.

First, at the country level, in addition to focusing on general questions of economic resilience, the IMF would examine the scope for effective "sand-in-the-gears" measures to be implemented during the more extreme stages of global liquidity cycles, including to counter disruptive technical forces. Such an approach would be a natural extension of the work that has been done on micro- (institution-focused) and macro- (system-focused) prudential measures.

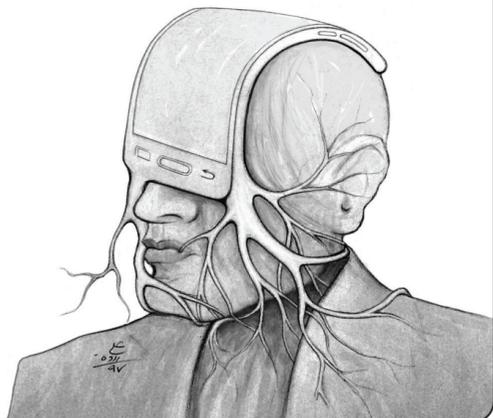
Second, at the institutional level, the IMF would continue to push hard for measures to track and address spillovers and spillbacks, including the incorporation and expansion of financial linkages that are superior in terms of monitoring, program design, and early-warning mechanisms. This would prevent the tail of obscure financial instabilities from wagging the dog of the real economy. The importance of such measures was highlighted earlier this year in Argentina, where a traditionally well-designed program was effectively derailed in just weeks by unanticipated technical developments.

Third, at the multilateral level, there is a need for more frank, genuine, and cooperative discussion about the cross-border effects of individual countries' policies. Such discussion must acknowledge the failure of past efforts to address the issue, as well as the costs of deepening fragmentation of the international monetary system. This will inevitably raise issues of fair representation and governance in multilateral institutions, as well as the persistent bias in the system's response to large imbalances and to divergence in economic and policy performance.

Without progress in these three areas, the unsettling puzzles and disruptive policy challenges facing many countries around the world will remain largely unresolved. This will raise the risk that countries will implement policies that not only conflict with those of their neighbors, but that may also end up being sub-optimal at home.

The IMF is the body best suited to serve as a trusted adviser and an effective conductor of the global policy orchestra. If it is to fulfill that role, however, it must strengthen its credibility as a responsive and effective leader. That means listening better to its members and then helping them more effectively to iterate more harmonious policies.

Mohamed A. El-Erian, Chief Economic Adviser at Allianz, was Chairman of US President Barack Obama's Global Development Council and is the author of *The Only Game in Town: Central Banks, Instability, and Avoiding the Next Collapse*.



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