The Inevitability of Changes in a Society

The course of history in different societies and states has been dominantly guided by social and political changes. These changes are responsible for the evolution of society and states. Social scientists mostly strive to find out the trends in these changes so that they should be able to understand the patterns of change and should be able to prognosticate them. But unlike the material and exact sciences, prognostications are difficult to be made in social sciences. As they involve many variables which cannot be controlled by the social scientists as per their will. Moreover, they involve human behavior, values, norms and attitudes that different from place to place and are mostly subjective phenomena.

It is always not true that there are particular patterns of change, that once discovered can retain for the future circumstances. Most of the scientists believe that there are paradigmatic changes in societies; therefore, they seem more certain in their prognostications about the future changes, but most of the times the changes do not seem much interested in what they think about them, and follow their own rules. Another aspect of social change is its normative aspect.

Mostly, the social changes are related to the evolutionary process, therefore they are concluded to be positive as the term "evolution" is considered positive; and are expected to take the society towards betterment, but that is not always the case. The changes can be negative as well. Sometimes they are negative for the entire society, sometimes for majority of the people and on most of the other occasions for the minorities.

The changes in the societies that are comparatively more ordered societies are easier to understand. Such societies are marked with political and economic stability and cultural integrity. The paradigmatic approaches can be very helpful in such societies, wherein the course of the changes can be easily traced as they are not marked with frequent fluctuations. Nevertheless, the societies that are marked with instable socio-political and socio-economic setups are difficult to be comprehended and the changes are not traceable even after much struggle.

Another important aspect of the social and political changes is their scope of influence. Some of these changes are not very intense, therefore, they cannot cast much effect on the surroundings, but others may be greater in magnitude with far reaching consequences. The scope of these changes have to be seen in relation with time and space, a particular change at a particular intersection of time and space may prove to be very much meager, while at yet another, it can be of immense impression and importance.

The social and political changes have always bothered human beings. They have been in constant struggle to comprehend their nature and have control over them. In this regard there are researches, studies and mechanisms in societies, with the objective of curbing them appropriately. One of the basic reasons of the formation of a political system was to introduce control within states. This control mechanism is guaranteed by the government in a political system along with other pillars of state. A part from that, the political parties and institutions also play a major role in addressing these changes.

At the present scenario our country Afghanistan is going through a transition period. Transition period here does not mean the transition of the security responsibilities going on in the country; rather here transition is mentioned with much broader perspective. Afghanistan is moving, though to a very limited extent, from a tribal society to a democratic one. Though the real democratic signs are yet to be found in most parts of the country, there have been movements in that direction to a certain extent.

Unfortunately, this transition period is facing myriads of hurdles. The instable political and social setups have further made this period uncertain. The control mechanism itself seems to have lost the focus and devotion. It seems perplexed in the interwoven web of frequent social changes and has been contaminated with intense corruption. It lacks clear vision itself, so how it is possible for it to guide the social and political changes towards a definite goal. The country at the moment is marked with swelling wave of terrorism. Even the securest of all the people are insecure, the international forces are withdrawing, the national forces are not completely ready to shoulder the security responsibility, the political system is marked with certain incapacities to deal with the diverse political requirements and all these changes have been magnified because of their occurrence during a transition. So, the economic future is clearly uncertain and the most tragic fact is that we are completely unprepared.

This transition period has to be over one day, as happens with every transition period; but what could this period lead to is of immense importance. This period can either lead us to another chaotic state of affairs wherein we have to wait for a couple of more decades for the same transition or it can lead us to position from where we can move towards a successful democratic state. Definitely, the second option is what most of Afghan people desire for, but that is achievable only after prudent, agile and above all sincere efforts on the part of the control mechanism.

Kunduz

Refugees Deserve the Support of International Community!

By Muhammad Rasool Shah

The miseries and sufferings of refugees continue and world powers especially, the European Union has to come up with a unanimous decision in this regard. Thanks to some of the tragic and heart-melting incidents and following photos, international opinion greatly changed in this regard. In the beginning, only Germany was the country to welcome the refugees warmly but now, more and more countries are joining this generosity and number of refugees to be accepted by them has considerably increased.

Although this year was the record-breaking year in terms of number of refugees fleeing to European countries but having a look at the prospects of expansion of disaster of terrorism and ISIS in a number of Gulf states and rise of Taliban in Afghanistan, it is feared that the worst phase is yet to come. The intervention of Russian air force in Syria, the intensification of conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the continuation of sectarian clash in Yemen and the re-emergence of Taliban in different parts of Afghanistan all indicate that the worst part is yet to come. The recent increase in fighting between Taliban and Afghan security forces in Afghanistan has resulted in a situation when majority of Afghans have lost hope from the future of the country and thousands of young men and hundreds of families have started fleeing the country. The recent incident of the fall of Kunduz province to Taliban also gave rise to the fears that country's future stability appears bleak and it is on the verge of falling into the hands of Taliban and other non-democratic powers. Although USA, Australia and almost all the European countries have announced considerable increase in the number of refugees they would accept, it is feared that many more will be knocking at their gates in near future and no kind of quota might be sufficient in this regard. It is also a message to all those who are against the refugees and want to stop their inflow into European countries. It is a message that they should be mentally ready to accept many times more refugees in the following years if their leaders do not work to bring peace in the disturbed countries from where these refugees are coming.

Other day, an Afghan student of Kabul University had posted on Facebook that instead of taking his university entrance card, he is going to take his passport and leave the country. He was absolutely hopeless of the future of the country and wanted to make his future in one of the developed countries. He had written that he felt really sad to leave his country but he was left with no other option. Just like this student, it must be kept in mind that people never leave their home country and families easily. They try their best to compromise with the worsening situations. However, when they see that their lives are in danger and the country remains no more a place to live, then they decide to leave their country. Almost all the refugees also realize that they will have to endure innumerable difficulties on the way and many of them can embrace death before reaching to their destiny. In the same way, they may also be turned back even if they reach to a developed country after all the toil and hardships. It also remains a fact that the economic conditions in Europe and America are also not suitable as they once used to be. Now people cannot earn thousands of dollars with less effort and they will have to work very hard to earn good enough to support their living. All these harsh realities show that no one leaves the country until it does not become a matter of life and death. Those who keep criticizing the refugees, terming them to be those who leave their homelands in greed and desire for more luxurious living, must understand these realities as well. While making decision regarding the fate of these refugees, leaders of the developed countries should not forget this reality.

It is laudable that people who love humanity welcomed the refugees in a number of European countries while there were also some leaders and individuals who could not conceal their hatred against this influx of refugees. Before criticizing any refugee and expressing the hatred against them or their background, these realities must be kept in mind.

Other day, an interesting point caught the attention of a number of readers. The writer had written that instead of issuing permanent citizenship to the refugees, they should be issued with long-term conditional documents so that they should be returned to their homelands once peace is restored in their countries. This act would not only repel the fear of some Europeans who are afraid that inflow of Muslims in such large numbers might change them into minority or imbalance the proportion of followers of faiths in their countries, but it would also discourage those who are leaving their countries only for the sake of obtaining the passport of a country which can bring many opportunities for them. The host countries can also make an agreement with the refugees that they would return to their homelands once peace and economic stability comes there. Similarly, the host countries should educate or teach them skills so that they should be the useful members of their societies after they return to their homelands.

All the above measures are those that indicate the problem and the condition will remain the same until we do not address and solve the actual reasons of this problem. People choose to leave their countries due to war or economic instability. In all the countries from where these refugees are coming, these two factors are evident. In all these countries, either the lives of people are in danger or they are not able to earn a sufficient income. In this regard, we must hail and encourage all those voices and efforts that talk of peace. War is not the solution to any problem and all the evils get birth of the curse of war and destruction. No kind of democracy or economic stability can be brought by bloodshed.

Secondly, international powers should sit and make plans to bring economic stability in countries from where people are fleeing due to poor economic conditions. It would be wise to spend the money in building infrastructure, establishing industries and creating jobs instead of spending it to refugees once they enter your country and become dependent on your economy.

In case of Afghanistan, majority of people are not afraid of the war as they have been facing this for more than four decades now but unemployment and widespread poverty forces them to cross their borders in search of good jobs or economic opportunities.

Just like other political issues, the problem of refugees is easy to be understood and it does not need the wisdom of Aristotle. The only thing needed is sincerity with the refugees and their countries that are burning in fire actually started by the international powers to control the world.

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Violence Turning An Overriding Phenomena

By Asmatyari

Getting a directive and order done by a person physically or mentally inferior through use of force is the optimum strategy pursued by quiet a handsome number of people around us. Being born and raised in such a country we all have witnessed children being subjected to sever corporal punishment to get them learn etiquettes, moralities and discipline by parents. A similar stratagem is widely applied in community mosques and Madrassa education system, considered inevitable, where children are taught religious education. Being raised in the environment of aggression, every Madrassa students not only ingest enormous violence but also bear the brunt of in-depth humiliation and character assassination, are bound to reciprocate identically. Unfortunately such acts receive wide appreciation by minimally educated parents who finds that serving the interests of their children, and the society that keeps mum over very such sensitive issues.

The tale of endless violence does not end here; even the children in families are put to punishment given they turn down an illogical dictate of parent or elder sibling in the family. Father deems repression his due right to get every member of the family surrender to his very commandments. The same dominance of violence is reflected in the society where every influential and powerful person considers subjugating the ordinary people their inherent right. Seeing the unproductive circumstances the person is left with sole option of exercising utter obedience or revolt against irrational dictates and bear the consequences.

Seeing all these, what do you think; the promotion of violence is not self-driven phenomenon in these societies? A person is held liable of punishment provided he reasonably contradict with ongoing outdated norm and tradition. Fearing a rational justification of a deed goes round, serves provocation and motivation to use of force hence paving way for bloodshed, murders and cruelty against other fellowman on religious, racial and sectarian or etc, ground.

"Life is sacred" is an ideal that the majority of people can agree upon to a certain extent. For this reason taking the life of another has always been considered the most deplorable of crimes, one worthy of the harshest available punishment. Thus arises one of the great moral dilemmas of our time. Should taking the life of one who has taken the life of others be considered an available punishment? Is a murderer's life any less sacred than the victim's is? Physical punishment immoral is the idea that it creates a climate of violence. If a society punishes a murderer by murdering them what do we say about violence and crime? We got to learn crimes can not be exterminated by executing criminal minded people as long as the underlying serving factors are not sort out. We must teach our children that crime and violence does not solve any problem. Being the highest form crime it is no different to the crime it punishes.

We should not be amazed that many Muslims countries practice such blind laws that promote and encourage the violence in some forms which are discussed below to support my standing. The earlier rumor based mob mobilized murder of fatless Farkhunda in the capital of Afghanistan testifies the account of aforesaid reckoning. Similarly, ISIS subjects every innocent citizen to sever punishment, vivisection, butchery being accused of minor misappropriation or falling short of obeying their orders. The social media site is greatly supplemented with testimonials of innocent people being beheaded found accused of nonconformities with the directive of ISIS commanders.

Nonetheless, the biggest economy and oil rich African Muslim state Nigeria suffers at the hands of terrorist of Boko Haram who has become the main security threat to the stability of Nigeria with increasingly threats to its neighbors. The group has killed thousands of people, many of them civilians, and kidnapped hundreds while the government has struggled to forge an effective response.

Here in Afghanistan the masses suffer at the hand of Taliban, Al-Qaida, ISIS and their affiliates are driven mad by the motive of revival of caliphate system across Muslim world, only solve the giant problems of Islamic world. The interesting and common about all of them is; they share same ideology and similar tactics to enforce their stately law and rule of business. Henceforth, the rationalization of teachings and interpretation and execution of laws for common good must be celebrated.

If we go on tallying the laws practiced by imminent Islamic states we might not draw a distinction with that of practiced by ISIS, receiving worldwide condemnation. The horrific video, purportedly showing the beheading of Japanese hostage Kenji Goto by the militants of the Islamic State must have turned a nightmare to people being privileged to watch. In it, Goto is seen kneeling, dressed in an orange outfit, as a masked man standing beside him with a knife blames the Japanese government for his slaughter. There are countless tales of atrocities executed by terrorists of ISIS in the drive of maintenance of so-called Islamic values and teachings, they interpret. Irrespective of condemnation of the world such blind and illogical practices can not get the miseries of masses away.

We have to reach to the very point that "violence breeds violence" is depicted from all the religiously motivated terror groups whether Taliban, Al-Qaida, ISIS, Boko Haram, etc are the product of extreme portrayal of violence and Jihad aided by lawlessness, corruption and dictatorial regimes. Decades of promotion of repression, widespread lawlessness and corruption have seen violent Islamic terrorist groups fill the power vacuum in this region and continue to turn out an alarming number of religiously motivated terrorists.

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