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

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Celebrating Teacher's Day

October 5th marks Teacher's Day in Afghanistan, which has been celebrated by Afghan students across the country. A number of school teachers, educational center instructors, and university lecturers were presented gifts and flowers by their students. Some celebrated the day with cakes.

In Afghanistan, school students – all primary, secondary, and high school levels – prepare gifts for their teachers and children ask their families to pay them for the gifts. There is emotional connection between students and teachers.

Teacher's Day, which is celebrated once a year, is inspiring for Afghan teachers. They feel hopeful and believe that their students pay respect to them when Teacher's Day is celebrated.

However, it should be noted that teachers in Afghanistan live a miserable life, and they are not paid decently despite their dawn-to-dusk struggles. Teachers have very busy life in Afghanistan and make great efforts to educate the younger generation. They work really hard with devotion and moral responsibility to equip Afghan boys and girls with knowledge so that Afghanistan could make progress. But they encounter a myriad of challenges. First, as it was mentioned, teachers are not paid well. I remember vividly when in a remote area of a distant province, where teachers were lacking, two teachers had to teach and paid the salary of one teacher. It is really hard for teachers to run their life in a normal way. It is believed that if teachers are not paid decently, they are most likely to feel less responsibility and may not pay enough heed to their students. Moreover, when they encounter more economic challenges, they will lose their focus in the class and not prepare well for teaching. Meanwhile, they will be easily tempted to adopt selective approach towards their students by simply being invited for a lunch or dinner.

Second, a number of students do not respect teachers well. I remember when some students insulted teachers and even were ready to clash them physically. Even some university students were treating their lecturers very rudely.

On the other hand, some teachers and university lecturers, mainly in government universities, treat their students unfairly. Some lecturers in reputable universities grade their students in a very biased way.

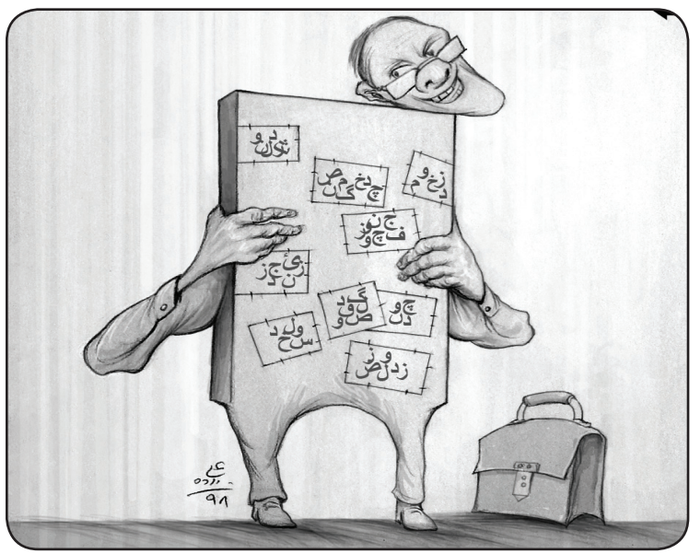
Sorry to say, some university lecturers do not deserve the position of teaching. They teach their students the way they themselves were taught about decades ago and the same chapters they learnt. They do not bother themselves to upgrade their methods or adapt their teaching materials according to the need of time. Some lecturers are believed to have occupied the posts of lecturers through political affiliation. Few years back, some lecturers refused to be retired despite reaching retirement age just to have their salary. Worst of all, the involvement of some university lecturers in moral corruption has been cited and reported on several occasions. Such teachers or lecturers blacken the names and reputations of teachers in the society.

Teachers have to carry out their duties with moral responsibility and respect their students. In other words, their responsibility is not only to simply teach some formulas, but also the way of living and have to be role model for their students in all aspects of their life. Teachers are considered as spiritual father in Afghanistan's culture and should treat their students like their children. If teacher promote their capacity and knowledge and teach students in satisfactory way, they will be always respected and admired by them.

Both the role and responsibility of teachers are highly critical. They have to fulfill their responsibilities and play their roles in the best possible way. Teachers are the builder of a society and nation. Afghan people liken teachers to candle, which is burnt to light around. Teachers should also work selflessly to enlighten a nation and society. They have moral and spiritual role to guide the society to the right way and shoulder the responsibility of divine prophets. With this in mind, teachers have to first equip themselves with the arm of knowledge and expertise and purify themselves so that they could guide the younger generation.

What is very important is that teachers, mainly in Afghanistan, should avoid spreading radical ideas. They should think in a moderate way and teach their students religious tolerance. Teachers should understand that the way of their thinking and behaving will impact their students' life.

The government should seek to increase the salary of teachers so that they could overcome their economic challenges and live a better life. Meanwhile, this is the responsibility of students to treat their teachers and lecturers with respect so that they are supported mentally and emotionally.



China Plays a Prominent Role in Promoting the Peace Process in Afghanistan

By: Huang Dekai ,Qin Ruijing&Peng Chaohui

On September 7, 2019, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Pakistani Foreign Minister Qureshi and Afghan Foreign Minister Rabbani held the third China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Triple Foreign Minister Dialogue in Islamabad.The three parties recalled the positive progress made since the second tripartite foreign ministers' dialogue in Kabul on 18 December 2018. The foreign ministers of the three countries reaffirmed their determination to further deepen cooperation among the three sides in various fields and agreed to continue to work together to strengthen political mutual trust and support key areas of tripartite cooperation, such as reconciliation, regional peace and stability, development cooperation and connectivity, security cooperation and counter-terrorism.

The status of the China-Pakistan-Afghanistan trilateral dialogue in the settlement of the peace process in Afghanistan has gradually improved. As an important platform, its importance will further increase with the improvement of peace and security in Afghanistan, especially in promoting regional economic development and responding to counter-terrorism. Not only that, the trilateral dialogue comes at a critical moment in U.S.-led negotiations for peace in Afghanistan, at a time when Trump cancelled a planned meeting with Taliban leaders and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday. As the United States withdraws its troops, the negative impact of a power vacuum in Afghanistan will spread to neighboring countries, creating more bloodshed and damaging public goods in more areas. It also hinders the smooth implementation of the "Belt and Road Initiative" initiative in Pakistan and Central Asia. To this end, China has changed the way the former Soviet Union and the United States were directly involved in the past to make up for the power vacuum in Afghanistan and is participating in peace negotiations and strengthening security cooperation. With the development of the situation in Afghanistan, China's role as the most suitable country for the future stability of Afghanistan is becoming more and more prominent.

First, China has played a central role in the resumption of negotiations between the United States and the Taliban in Afghanistan. China has always been willing to work with the international community to make unremitting efforts to promote lasting security and universal prosperity in Afghanistan and the region. It is in the common interest of China and the United States to help the United States actively advance negotiations with the Taliban in Afghanistan. In June, Abdul Ghani Badara, director of the Taliban political Office in Qatar, visited Beijing. Just a few days after returning to Qatar after the visit, US Special Representative for Reconciliation in Afghanistan Zalmai Khalilzad announced that. Positive progress has been made in negotiations with the Afghan Taliban.

Second, China has contributed to the continuous improvement of relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The settlement of the Afghan issue is inextricably linked to Pakistan, especially the fight against extremist forces on the border between the two countries, which can only be achieved through the joint cooperation between the two countries. Relations between the two countries have been strained because of territorial disputes left over by history. As a bilateral strategic partner between Pakistan and Afghanistan, it has played a constructive role in improving Abba relations within its capabilities. China supports Pakistan and Afghanistan in establishing crisis prevention and control mechanisms, properly handling various emergencies, building platforms, and enhancing dialogue and cooperation in various fields. Not only has Pakistan been willing to participate in the reconciliation process in Afghanistan, but the two countries have also cooperated in areas of common interest and achieved positive results.

Third, the peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan needs China. Afghanistan is currently at a critical stage and faces challenges as the dawn of peace reappears. As a neighbor of Afghanistan, based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, China has provided the necessary political support and economic assistance to the peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan in order to promote peace, stability and development in Afghanistan. In recent years, with the United States beginning to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, China has significantly stepped up its participation in the peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan. At present, China has become the largest source of foreign investment in Afghanistan, and intends to extend the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan. As one of the important node countries of "Belt and Road Initiative", Afghanistan occupies an important position in China's "Belt and Road Initiative" initiative. China's second China-Pakistan-Afghanistan trilateral foreign ministers meeting reached consensus on the extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan. The trilateral meeting of foreign ministers demonstrated that Afghanistan could benefit from the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor and was committed to promoting trade and connectivity projects between Afghanistan and Pakistan, such as the construction of the Kabul-Peshawar highway. The road to the reconstruction of Afghanistan cannot be separated from the strong support of China.

In fact, China's achievements and experience in poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism and development are affecting Afghanistan. The editor-in-chief of the Afghan newspaper, Dade Mohamed Annabi, praised China's great achievements in poverty alleviation, and hoped that Afghanistan would learn from China's experience in poverty alleviation, saying that Chinese experience would help Afghanistan eradicate poverty.

The world today is undergoing great changes that have not occurred in a hundred years. In the face of the changing international situation, all countries in the world cannot be left alone. It has not only contributed China's wisdom to building a community with a shared future for mankind, to better development of the world, but also provided a Chinese plan for global security governance. China is willing to share its experience in security governance with other countries in the world, and is also willing to work with all parties to deal with various problems and challenges. We should crack down on terrorism more severely and resolutely safeguard the security bottom line of human society. On the issue of security and development, we share the interests and joys and sorrows of Afghanistan. China is willing to work with the international community to make unremitting efforts to promote lasting security and universal prosperity in Afghanistan and the region. China firmly supports the peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan. Firmly supporting the "Afghan-owned, Afghan-led" inclusive political reconciliation process, and willing to work with Pakistan and the United States and other willing countries, on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and aspirations of Afghanistan, We will continue to play a constructive role in the reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

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The IMF After Argentina

By: Kenneth Rogoff

CAMBRIDGE – In case you blinked, the Argentine government built up a pile of debt out of almost nothing with surprising speed, and then proceeded to default on it almost as quickly. Compared to the country's slow-motion 2002 default, the latest crisis feels like 60-second Shakespeare. But in both cases, default was inevitable, because the country's mix of debt, deficits, and monetary policy was unsustainable, and the political class was unable to make the necessary adjustments in time.

And in both cases, loans from the International Monetary Fund seemed only to postpone the inevitable, and, worse, to exacerbate the ultimate collapse. So, after the second debacle in Argentina in less than a generation, it's high time to ask how to refocus the IMF's mandate for dealing with emerging-market debt crises. How can the IMF be effective in helping countries regain access to private credit markets when any attempt to close unsustainable budget deficits is labeled austerity? The only answer is to increase substantially the resources of international aid agencies (the IMF is a lender). Unfortunately, there seems little appetite for that.

Why was the IMF willing to pour resources into a situation that – at least with the benefit of hindsight – could be resolved only through stronger fiscal adjustment (more austerity), a debt default, more foreign aid, or a mixture of all three?

The IMF's difficulty in saying no to Argentina partly reflects an acrimonious history stemming from the failed loans from the late 1990s through 2001. It was also hard for the Fund to resist funding a big program in a world where countries can borrow at ultra-low interest rates from private markets. (China, too, has become a major source of funding in emerging markets, which might sound good in the abstract, but the lack of transparency makes Chinese loans fertile ground for corruption.)

But IMF staff know very well that countries with a history of serial default, such as Argentina and Venezuela, ride a slippery slope in debt markets. When Miguel Savastano, Carmen Reinhart, and I studied this phenomenon many years ago, we called it "debt intolerance."

There is a case to be made that by pushing the IMF to go easy in its loan program, US President Donald Trump's administration made Argentina's latest economic calamity worse. After all, Argentine President Mauricio Macri's father was a business partner and friend of Trump. But, whatever the truth of that argument, the Fund's ever-weaker bargaining position probably has deeper roots.

Political support for necessary loan conditionality has been eroded by repeated attacks from the left, which does not accept that the IMF does not have scope to give outright grants. But while NGOs might cheer if the IMF were to convert its loans to grants, pretty soon the Fund's coffers would be bare. This, too, might make some people happy, but it would be a disaster for global financial stability. Debt in many emerging markets today is at record levels, and the IMF remains the closest thing there is to a global lender of last resort. For all its limitations, the Fund has greater competency than any other organization to mitigate the costs of emerging-market debt crises, not least to the general population.

But the goal must be to prevent such crises from occurring – or recurring, as in Argentina's case. Macri was elected in 2015 by a populace that had grown weary of the slow growth and high inflation that marked the last few years of former President Cristina Kirchner's administration. Kirchner's policies (and those of her husband, Néstor Kirchner, who preceded her) sharply expanded state intervention and control. Booming commodity export prices allowed the economy to continue growing, but when the cycle turned, it all fell apart.

Still, Macri inherited an economy where debt was not high (owing to the 2002 default), and the main fiscal problem was an unsustainable pension system. The normal prescription for an incoming administration would have been to take the pain of budget consolidation early on, and hope that the economy recovers well in advance of the next election. Instead, Macri decided to close the budget gap slowly, and use his political honeymoon to cut taxes and liberalize markets. Unfortunately, after Big Bang reforms, economic conditions tend to get worse before they get better, and it appears that Macri, facing an election later this month, will not be around to see that. Things have gotten so bad that Argentina has "reprofiled" (a form of default) even domestic-currency debt (which is more common than most people realize, as Reinhart and I showed in our 2009 book). It is a sad state of affairs.

It also demands an answer to a fundamental question: How can the IMF reconcile the need for a credible regime in which emerging markets can conduct necessary borrowing with demands for more aid and less austerity?

The short answer is that the IMF cannot do it alone. The only way to square the circle is with a huge increase in aid flows. But don't expect either a Democratic or a Republican US administration to lead the charge. In the meantime, politicians should let the IMF do its job – helping to maintain global financial stability – and not force it to back unsustainable policy regimes.

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