

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



October 29, 2016

## Bell the Cat

Do you really think that resuming reconciliation process will lead to political stability? The Taliban's radical leader Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada still orchestrates deadly attacks against the National Unity Government (NUG) and nation suffers violence and carnage severely. With the current crises, the gleam of hope disappeared and Afghan men and women are exhausted from the situation. Political rhetoric and bombastic discourse about peace talks are likely to be no more a panacea for the challenges. Unsurprisingly, nation's ballots could not protect them from the militants' bullets and the slogans for democracy, which were chanted during the presidential campaigns, never came true.

Now in its 16th year, the intervention in Afghanistan is the longest war in US history. More than 8,000 troops are still deployed here, down from a peak of around 100,000. More than 2,300 American soldiers and at least 31,000 civilians have died in the conflict, which has cost about \$800bn. Similarly, Afghan soldiers sustained high casualties within the two last years as the Taliban declared their spring offensive and Omari Operation. US Army General John Nicholson expressed deep concern over the high fatalities of Afghan soldiers saying that both corruption and leaders failing to lead their troops on the ground in a dangerous situation are resulting in Afghan Security Force casualties. Moreover, spokesperson for Operation Resolute Support Brigadier General Charlie Cleveland said, "Casualties are a problem." He added that checkpoints are "a huge source of casualties" and many of the Afghan casualties have occurred at the thousands of Afghan checkpoints around the country, which are usually undermanned.

Despite this fact, The Taliban is on the offensive, funded by a booming drugs trade, and reportedly controls more territory than it ever has since the 2001 invasion. It briefly managed to capture the important northern city of Kunduz last September, and threatens to take other provincial capitals, too.

A new story by The Washington Post paints a bleak picture of the war, with one US official describing it as an "eroding stalemate". To make matters worse, the self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has emerged in the country. Suspected ISIL fighters just killed dozens of civilians in retaliation for the death of one of their commanders.

ISIL spill the blood of innocent men, women and children on the grounds of their caste, creed and color and seeks to stoke sectarianism across the country. This year, suspected loyalists to ISIL abducted and/or killed a number of the ethnic minority group, attacked the procession in Kabul and threatened to continue so.

Increased violence has taken a heavy toll on the civilian population. The UN documented record civilian casualties in 2015, with little improvement this year. Indeed, 2016 has seen a "worrying" 15 percent increase in child casualties. Afghanistan is the world's second largest source of refugees, after Syria, and a "brain drain" has seen educated professionals flee the country, while the number of internally displaced Afghans has doubled since 2013. According to UNHCR, the total numbers of "people of concern", including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), refugees and returnees, nearly doubled between 2013 and 2015, rising from 985,197 to 1.77 million people. UNOCHA estimates that 265,141 more were displaced from their homes in 31 of 34 provinces between 1 January and 15 September 2016.

On top of this has come an unprecedented rise in recent months in the return of registered and unregistered refugees from Pakistan, averaging 5,000 people daily in early September. Combined with the new internally displaced, an alarming one million (57 per cent of whom are children) could be on the move just as winter sets in between September and December 2016. All will require urgent food assistance, health, shelter and other essential services. This spike in the numbers of IDPs and returnees will increase the percentage of the population facing seasonal or permanent food insecurity beyond the current estimate of 40 per cent, and will further strain already meager economic and employment opportunities and public services.

The NUG's inability or unwillingness to respond to these challenges has profound implications for both its legitimacy and the future of the post-Taliban political order. In the Asia Foundation's 2015 Survey of the Afghan People, citizens who believed the country was going in the right direction declined to 37 per cent from 55 percent in 2014. After insecurity, worsening economic conditions were cited as the main reason for such pessimism. While the NUG inherited problems that were already mounting before it was formed in September 2014, the Afghan public increasingly links the worsening economy with the government's policies and/or inability to perform.

Aside from some major infrastructure projects such as energy transit routes, which depend on good security and may take years to make a tangible impact on the economy, the NUG has done little to respond to immediate asks such as job creation or the protection of the private sector against rising criminality and insecurity. Hence, the NUG will have to take practical and effective steps in tackling the aforementioned crises rather than giving empty rhetoric or expressing condolence over the terrorist victims, which will never alleviate the anguish of their families.



## Pensioners and Populism

By Anatole Kaletsky

If Donald Trump loses the US election, will the tide of populism that threatened to overwhelm the world after the Brexit vote in June begin to wane? Or will the revolt against globalization and immigration simply take another form?

The rise of protectionism and anti-immigrant sentiment in Britain, America, and Europe is widely believed to reflect stagnant incomes, widening inequality, structural unemployment, and even excessive monetary easing. But there are several reasons to question the link between populist politics and economic distress.

For starters, most populist voters are neither poor nor unemployed; they are not victims of globalization, immigration, and free trade. The main demographic groups behind the anti-establishment upsurge have been people outside the workforce: pensioners, middle-aged homemakers, and men with low educational qualifications receiving disability payments.

In Britain, where detailed analyses of the votes actually cast in the Brexit referendum are now available, the group most directly affected by low-wage competition from immigrants and Chinese imports – young people under 35 – voted against Brexit by a wide margin, 65% to 35%. Meanwhile, 60% of pensioners who voted backed the "Leave" campaign, as did 59% of voters with disabilities. By contrast, 53% of full-time workers who participated wanted Britain to remain in Europe, as did 51% of part-time workers.

The British data suggest that cultural and ethnic attitudes, not direct economic motivations, are the real distinguishing features of anti-globalization voting. Asked whether "social liberalism" is a "force for good" or a "force for ill," 87% of "Remain" voters said it was a force for good, while 53% of Leave voters called liberalism a "force for ill." On "multiculturalism," the difference was even starker – 65% of Leave voters were against it, while 86% of Remainers approved. Another analysis published by the BBC after the referendum found one of the strongest predictors of a Leave vote to be support for capital punishment.

In America, polls suggest that gender is an even more important indicator of support for Trump than age or education. Early this month, when Trump was only a few points behind Clinton in overall support, a Washington Post/ABC poll compared voting intentions with the 2012 election. It found not only that white men backed Trump by a margin of 40 percentage points, but also that their support for Trump was 13 points higher than it was for Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican nominee.

White women, by contrast, marginally supported Clinton and had swung by 15 percentage points against the Republicans. Among voters without a college education, the gender difference was even starker: less-educated white men favored Trump by a 60% margin and had swung in favor of the Republicans by 28 percentage points, while women had swung by ten percentage points in the opposite direction and only marginally supported Trump.

It seems, therefore, that the conflicts generally ascribed to economic grievances and globalization are actually the latest battles in the culture wars that have split Western societies since the late 1960s. The main relevance of economics is that the 2008 financial crisis created

conditions for a political backlash by older, more conservative voters, who have been losing the cultural battles over race, gender, and social identity.

The dominance of free-market ideology before the crisis allowed many controversial social changes, ranging from income inequality and intensified wage competition to greater gender equality and affirmative action, to go almost unchallenged. "Progressive" social liberalism and "conservative" free-market economics seemed to be two sides of the same coin. But when free-market economic liberalism failed in the 2008 crisis, political challenges to social liberalism could no longer be deflected by invoking impersonal economic laws.

But if social change can no longer be legitimized as the necessary condition for economic progress, it seems unlikely that democracies will now vote to reinstate the social conditions before the ascendancy of economic liberalism and globalization. Racial and gender equality are now backed by clear majorities in the US, Britain, and most European countries, and even apparently popular policies such as trade protectionism and strict immigration controls rarely muster more than 30-40% support in opinion surveys. Why, then, did Brexit win, and why is it still possible that Donald Trump will be the next US President?

Both Brexit and Trump were powered by an unstable alliance between two very different, even contradictory, movements. The bulk of their supporters were indeed social conservatives and protectionists who wanted to undo the social changes that began in the late 1960s.

Two of the most effective slogans of the Brexit and Trump campaigns have been "Take back control" and "I want my country back." But the social conservatives inspired by such atavistic and authoritarian sentiments do not make up majorities in any Western country. On its own, social conservatism could never mobilize more than 30-40% of voters. To achieve majorities, the socially conservative protectionists had to unite with the remnants of the Thatcher-Reagan laissez faire movement, who resent the interventionist economic management of the post-2008 period and want to intensify the competition, deregulation, and globalization that social conservatives resent.

This unstable political compound is now dissolving in the US, and also in Britain, where Prime Minister Theresa May's government is divided between ideological nationalists and economic liberals. If the US election on November 8 confirms Trump's failure to bind social conservatives and economic liberals into a winning coalition, similar disintegration is likely among European populists, too.

In that case, the Brexit vote will begin to look like an aberration – not the start of a powerful new trend toward nationalism, protectionism, and de-globalization, but the end of a backlash against modernity by an unstable alliance of social authoritarians and laissez faire market liberals. It will be the last gasp of an aging generation that tried to impose its nostalgic parochialism on an increasingly cosmopolitan younger generation, but succeeded in only one unfortunate country. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

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## Effects of Education

By Ahmad Shah Karimi

Education is an effort of the senior people to transfer their knowledge to the younger members of society. It is thus an institution, which plays a vital role in integrating an individual with his society and in maintaining the perpetuation of culture. Emile Durkheim defines education as "the influence exercised by the adult generation upon those who are not yet ready for adult life". The role that education plays is quite important in everybody's life because getting proper education is very necessary to get success and happy life just like healthy food is necessary for healthy body. Everybody wishes to live luxurious and better life. It develops personality of the people, provides physical and mental standard and transforms people's living status. It promotes the feeling of physical, mental and social well-being by providing better life. Good education is constructive in nature which constructs future forever. It helps a person to improve his/her status of mind, body and spirit. It provides people lots of confidence by giving them bulk of knowledge in every fields. It is a single and vital way to the success as well as personal growth.

Besides, the more knowledge people get, they grow and develop more in the life. Being well educated never only means to earn certificates and good salary from the recognized and reputed institutions however it also means to be a good and social person in life. It helps everyone to determine whether something is good or bad for them and other persons related to them. The first purpose of getting good education is being good citizen and then being successful in personal and professional life. A person is incomplete without a good education because education makes him/her right thinker and correct decision maker. In such a competitive world, education has become a necessity for human beings after food, clothe and shelter. It is able to provide solutions to all problems; it promotes good habits and awareness about corruption, terrorism, and other social issues among us. Education is the most important tool offers inner and outer strength to a person. Education is the fundamental rights of everyone and capable of bringing any desired change in the human mind and society.

Personality, is the basic internal and external feature and character of a person with diverse beneficial qualities for one person as well as for others. And it is gained on that time when a person's qualities make the people interesting, attractive and pleasant by passing many process of learning about awareness of the best quality or character which should be worthy, helpful and beneficial for all human beings. It is possible by many factors that one has to follow up so that he/she adapts the best personality. For instance, an individual's personality is the complex of mental characteristics that makes them unique from other people. It includes all of the patterns of thought and emotions that cause us to do and say things in particu-

lar ways. At a basic level, personality is expressed through our temperament or emotional tone. However, personality also colors our values, beliefs, and expectations. There are many potential factors that are involved in shaping a personality. These factors are usually seen as coming from heredity and the environment. Research by psychologists over the last several decades has increasingly pointed to hereditary factors being more important, especially for basic personality traits such as emotional tone. However, the acquisition of values, beliefs, and expectations seem to be due more to socialization and unique experiences.

After knowing what personality is the question arises that can education guarantee the best personality. Education directly can never guarantee the best personality because education is not personality, education is only the way which teaches us the knowledge of getting the best personality like showing brotherhood, sincerity, justice, equality and sympathy to feel the grieves, exclamation and the demands of the people by acting practically over that to render great services, contribution, progress and peace for all masses in a country without racism, discrimination and recommendation is the exact definition of personality. Sad to say, the real definition of personality cannot be recognized in these third world countries because when a child opens his eyes, he grows up with target killing, terrorism, genocides, robbery, injustice and corruption which makes him disappointed of his life because these all evils bring the wrong and infective concept or ideology in mindset of our new generation.

On the other hand, education can never guarantee the best personality unless the best and impartial personalities work to introduce the exact meaning of personality because the mendacious leaders, personalities, politicians have founded the word personality such as ruling, accumulating wealth, having comfortable life and comfort only for themselves by corruption and violating the rights of poor and vulnerable masses. So, this is the time that all the leaders, intellectuals and other personalities have to wake up their conscience to eliminate these all selfish acts which only resulted in crisis and backwardness of Afghanistan and nothing worthwhile come out as an outcome of their deeds that they have exercised during many years of war and after the collapse of Taliban. In our society we have well-educated figures as well as leaders but their actions are not in alignment with their education. To sum up, education gives knowledge and information about diverse things but it does not teach people directly how to adapt the best personality which results in acting in the best way possible so that the people of a community or country can be benefited in many ways and the works which those personalities do are based on the interest of all regardless of their classes, race, religion and so.

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