

~~If~~ The time we live in is the Winter of the World

Essay outline

1. Introduction:

The present era is marked by the greatest chaos and unrest which illustrates that the time we live in is the winter of the world.

2. How present time is Manifested as a winter - Pressing Issues:

- 2.1 Humanitarian crisis: Genocide in Gaza
- 2.2 Global boiling and climatic injustices: Futile results of COP meetings
- 2.3 Lack of empathy among world leaders: Ukraine war an unresolved issue
- 2.4 Economic sufferings in third world. Food insecurity and malnutrition in Africa
- 2.5 Declining natural resources due to exploitation: World water scarcity
- 2.6 Nuclear race and negligence towards sustainable future: Russian walking out from START

3. Survival of the world from Past winters:

- 3.1 The Great wars of 20th century and subsequent leadership: Cold war and bipolarity

3.2 French revolution and emergence of present-day France:

3.3 War on terrorism and Afghan sovereignty: Withdrawal of NATO forces

3.4 Global pandemic - Covid-19 and increasing interdependencies: WHO constructive role

4. If winter comes can spring be far behind?

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4.2 All revolutions in the world led to independence: American and Russian revolution

4.3 The Great War united all countries on a single platform: UN and its ambitious achievements

4.5 Spring is always accompanied by winter:

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5.2 Positive use of social media and AI in the favour of humanity:

5.3 By giving up on national interests to focusing on more globalized approach: Regionalism to Globalism

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The 21st century is facing multiple novel challenges such as widespread deaths and destructions, natural calamities, and ceaseless power-struggle which show that the time we live in is the winter of the world. The world is striving against global heating. It is witnessing climatic injustice on the side of industrialist countries. On the other hand, less contributors in global warming are bearing the burnt of it in the form of economic crisis, health hazards etc. Moreover, depleting natural resources due to bulging population are some of the manifestation of winter in the present era. Although, the world has experienced several crisis-ridden centuries, it has been able to survive in an effective manner. For instance, American and French Revolution resulted in people-oriented government. Therefore, spring can not be far behind if winter comes. This essay aims to explore how to deal with the present-days winter of the world by learning from history.

To begin with reflection of present times challenges, deepening humanitarian crisis is one such manifestation. In present era humans

are suffering enormously due to the wide gap between powerful and victims. The weak segments of society are victims of powerful people. This can be ascertained from ongoing atrocities and genocide committed by powerful-Israel against weak people of Gaza. Reportedly, in last 40 days more than 14000 palestinians are killed by Israeli forces in Gaza (Jui magazine, Gaza Besiege, 2023). Therefore, humanitarian crisis is the worst reflection of how present time is the winter of the world.

Besides, pressing issues of the 21st century such as global warming and climatic injustice are also showing that present era is the winter of the world. The UN secretary recently has warned that we have entered in global-boiling era - as the Oct month has been recorded as the hottest month. In this regard, the world has been deaf to this fatal issue of present century. As a result of it, the great injustices have been done in climatic reforms. For example

the biggest emitters of green house gases are seen nowhere in an ongoing COP28 conference in Dubai i.e. US and China's president. Hence, negligence towards the most serious issue of climate change is manifestation how present century is the winter of the world.

Moreover, this negligence shows lack of empathy among world leaders which is also an illustration how present time is the winter of the world. Turning blind eye to human miseries is due to the greed on world leaders' side. As Mahatma Gandhi once said that the Earth has enough to feed all people, but has not enough to feed their greed. As a result of lack of empathy human sufferings multiply day by day. This can be ascertained from American president Joe Biden's unwillingness to solve Ukraine issue by sincerely mediating between Russia and Ukraine (John Meissner, Interview with Oxford Union). Hence, lack of empathy on world leaders' side mirrors winter of the present.

times.

Nonetheless, economic crisis in third world are taking toll on humanity which demonstrates that the present time is marked with winter of the world. Although, the efforts have been made by international financial institutions to address economic issues of developing countries, the widened disparities are further melting economic of third world. It is well defined by the world system theory that argues that core countries are exploiting peripheral countries by extracting their key economic resources. For example, presently food insecurity in Pakistan is persisting - it ranked 102 on Global Hunger Index. Moreover, Africa is a continent with gigantic a huge chunk of malnourished children. Therefore, economic woes in poor countries illustrate picture of winter of the world.

Moreover, depleting natural resources due to over-exploitation is also reflects how present time is the winter of the world. The emergence of advanced technologies

have revolutionized medical fields. As a result of it, population of the world has multiplied - 8th November 2022 was marked by 8th billion member in the world. This has resulted in an increased demand for goods and services; to cater the demands of billions require many resources which must exceed the amount of natural resources. This can be gauged by water shortage in general and water crisis in particular. Reportedly, global food insecurity peaked during 2020 to 2022 at 11%. (WFP, Food Security Update 2023). Thus, depleting natural resources is an example how present time is the winter of the world.

Least but not the least, burgeoning nuclear armament and negligence towards sustainable future are also some of the highlight that present time is the winter of the world. Nearly all of the powerful countries including US, China, UK, France and Russia are engaged in nuclear development race to increase their sphere of influence, irrespective of viable future. Similarly, despite socio-economic issues India and Pakistan are also included in bottomless

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arm race - millions of people are living in acute poverty but ceaseless struggle to empower military and nuclear program. One of the notable example is Russian complete withdrawal from START treaty which was signed in 2010 to put limitation on deployment of nuclear warheads (VOA News Report, Feb 2023). Therefore, nuclear weapons development which is instant threat to humanity is evident that the time we live in is the winter of the world.

Abovementioned analysis proved that present era is the winter of the world. but the question is that has the world always been winter? if so how it survived so far? To address these question a flashback to 20th century is crucial. During world war I and world war II the most destruction and violence was recorded, yet countries emerged as more powerful than ever before. Despite death and damage, countries such as US and USSR evolved more strong economically and military. As a result of it they began to rule the world during cold war period as two superpower. This shows that the world has been able to survive the biggest winter

of the world in the form of great world wars.

Before this, the world revolutions were also characterized by bloody conflicts such as French Revolution 1789. Although, this socio-economic struggle against King Louis or monarchy in France was most destructive, yet the result were far lasting and constructive. It resulted in end of dictatorial dynasty, freedom of speech, press, ownership of property, women rights etc. A notable example is present-day France - a vibrant democracy with robust internet freedom ranked 10 out of 100 countries (The Economist Inclusive Internet Index). Therefore, it illustrates that in past time countries that went through winter have survived and managed effectively.

Another crucial example of the winter was war-on-Terrorism in the beginning of the twenty-first century. In the aftermath of 9/11 attacks on American twin towers, Bush administration launched global war on terrorism against Terrorist groups. Despite massive bombardment and NATO invasion of Affgs Afghanistan

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under twenty years of constant war, Afghanistan has been able to survive the winter. As a result of robust resistance from Afghan Taliban to NATO troops, it has successfully protected Afghanistan's sovereignty and enforcing NATO withdrawal by in August 2021. Hence, survival of Afghanistan despite a weak country economically and militarily is an illustration how world survive winter.

Lastly, the recent pandemic started in 2019, and survival of the world from COVID-19 is an evidence how world survived the winter. Despite horrific news from European countries hospitals and downturned economies of third world, the world emerged more alert from the pandemic. It served as the reminder to the world that it needs a more sophisticated medical system. As a result of it the world emerged more interdependent, for instance, World Health Organization launched a massive campaign of indiscriminatory vaccination globally. This shows that the winter under COVID-19 period served as unifying force, hence the world

survived another winter.

Have you ever wondered that if the winter comes can spring be far behind? It has been said that every adversary is blessing in disguise. This can be observed from the recent adverse time, of global pandemic. During this period the of winter the world came to realize that it needs to be well equipped for the future winters. The blessing here was the lesson for preparedness in advance. For instance, Covid-19 was in reality a wake-up call for researchers across the globe. Thus, it is well defined in Holy Quran as well that with hardship comes ease.

Moreover, all revolutions that took place in history are evident that the winter is always accompanied by spring. The Russian revolution, the American revolution and the French revolution - all led to the independence of respective countries from the clutches of authoritarian rulers. Despite bloody ~~struggle~~ and fireless struggle these ^{war} revolutions left penetrated impact on the

geopolitics of the world. For instance, American revolution shaped the world democracy and it prevented western colonization under Monroe Doctrine. Thus, trial and tribulations during world revolutions show that with winter comes spring.

Lastly, world wars fought in the ~~twentieth~~ twentieth century resulted in the unification of even enemy countries. The effort was to made in the aftermath of world war II to maintain international peace and security by preventing third world war. In this regard, the United Nations was formed in 1945 in San Francisco. Today the UN acts as the world largest single platform where all the countries of the world gather on a single platform. Reportedly, millions of people are availing of UN socio-economic services and hundreds of peace agreements have been signed under UN auspicious. This shows that the winter of great wars paved the way for spring of unity among nations of the world.

Although, every winter throughout

the world history cultivated into spring. some steps can also be helpful to make the world's ~~spring~~ spring longlasting. First and foremost, superpowers of the present times: America and China can play vital role in shaping the world in positive way. By peaceful co-existence they can make the spring more lasting. For instance, giving up on the trade war - which will cost the world GDP 2.6% (IMF report, 2023) they can avoid another economic winter of the world.

Secondly, social platforms of the 21st century such as social-media can be a powerful tool to cope with winters of present time. Currently, social-media is playing constructive role by highlighting drawbacks of an ongoing COP 28. However, it needs to be more free to act in the favour of humanity. In this context, there is a need to establish International social-media Regulatory Authority under the umbrella of UN. It would serve as a watchdog to spearhead hazards

of climatic injustice etc.

Last but not the least, world leaders can act as catalyst to transform any winter into the spring. On regional level, G7, BRICS, and SCO should play positive role by giving upon their national or regional interests to promote more inclusive sustainability on global level. In this regard, BRICS recent agenda of multilateral inclusivity can be useful to turn into practice.

Therefore, world IGOs and regional organizations can turn the present-days miseries into prosperity in the favour of humanity.

To sum it all up it would be fair to state that the present era is the most darkest period in human history. It is marked with humanitarianism crisis, chaos and disorder, greed and emotionless etc. However, it can be turned into happier by acting positively on international fora. History is filled with the examples of

persisted sp winters, however, the world has been able to beat every winter successfully. Therefore, it can be concluded that with more holistic approach the world can turn this winter into longlasting spring by cooperation and collaboration and effective use of International organizations in the favour of humanity.

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