

Date: _____ Title: We have learnt nothing from history Day: _____

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The adage "We have learnt nothing from history" elucidates human propensity to repeat past mistakes despite possessing ^{the wisdom of} hindsight.

Recurring global conflicts, financial collapses and exploitative colonialism stand as a testament to humanity's collective amnesia.

~~This analysis~~, This analysis ^{also} draws a lens onto Pakistani context. Echoes of historical missteps still resound in contemporary scenarios with problems like national integration and economic adversity. It is crucial not only to address recurring historical pitfalls, but also propose apt recommendations that could alter the trajectory of miscalculations and oversight.

History is shaped by the narratives of the powerful. Dominant groups ^{propagate} ideologies of their interest, thereby cherry-picking facts and figures.

Winston Churchill aptly captures this notion by his historic remark, "History is written by the victors". A classic case in point is that of colonial powers. Their

interpretations of history emphasize their achievements and downplay negative consequences on the colonized nations. European powers portray their conquests as civilizing missions notwithstanding the fact that they uprooted and murdered 56 million indigenous individuals of ^{the} Americas and Asia. Ironically, they are celebrated as the forebearers of justice and champions of human rights.

Contemporarily, colonial powers do not employ genocide to assert dominance over former colonies. They have shrewdly established institutions under the guise of "liberalism". In reality, global organisations like the United Nations, International Monetary Fund and World Bank are plagued with "Neo-colonialism": the use of political, economic and other pressures to control former dependencies. The voting rights and power distribution

within these institutions are disproportionate. For instance, the United States has the largest voting share in the IMF. It has successfully manipulated the World Bank and IMF to impose stringent conditionalities and structural adjustment programs on developing countries, thereby causing ruptures in their social welfare programs and derailing the progress of economies.

The current Palestine Israel issue also spells out the role of dominate powers in shaping neo-colonialist narratives.

It is baffling that even most Zionists are unaware of the history of Palestine including catastrophic events like the Nakba and unjudicial killing of Palestinians. Moreover, Israel has been pardoned in the name of "self defense" in spite of violating ^{over} one hundred UN resolutions. It is noteworthy that Iraq was invaded by the US on breaking only "one" such resolution.

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In the context of Pakistan, it is evident that its history is rife with lessons that have been criminally ignored.

The striking resemblance between the issue of Bengal and Baloch insurgence bears witness to the aforesaid.

Marginalization of the Bengali population led to an impasse between East and West Pakistan.

The seeds of national disintegration were planted when Urdu was forced upon the Bengal population. This act amounted to ethnic and linguistic cleansing of centuries worth of cultural progression.

To add fuel to fire, 71% of budget was allocated to West Pakistan despite having 45% population.

All these injustices culminated in a blood-soaked war and separation of East Pakistan.

The same historical episode is being repeated in Balochistan. The state has failed to take into account the aspirations and concerns of the Baloch people.

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It is ironic that the province bears the largest gas reservoir of the country yet its natives have to skip meals because of the acute gas shortage. It was not until ^{recently} that Sui itself was given a gas supply. Moreover, the natives are being ^{ignored} in projects under CPEC.

Resultantly, insurgent groups have emerged that oppose any sort of national projects. They opine that these projects will result in an influx of Punjabis and Sindhis ^{further} depriving the Baloch people from their land and resources. Anti-state sentiments are escalating in the region, and the government is ^{wrongfully} still employing the tools of oppression like it did in East Pakistan.

The repetitive nature of historical mistakes and adamant viewpoints of dominant groups ^{their ideological} intrigue one to dissect [↑] their underpinnings. Most influential groups

are avid followers of "ethnocentrism".

It is the belief that one's own culture, customs and beliefs are

superior. E.B. Taylor's anthropological

discourse furthers this notion. He

demonized primitive cultures by

labelling them "savages", suggesting

they are inferior to the white.

Consequently, the white people

^{justified their} right to sanction ^{natives} or

"civilize" them. These ideas were used

as ^{excuses} of ethnic cleansing

of millions and plundering of

their resources. Moreover, ethnocentrism

has effectively obscured historical

accounts and painted indigenous

people's lives less worthy.

The historic rift between Pakistan

and Bangladesh also underscores

the ideas of ethnocentrism within

the power system. West Pakistan

exhibited a blatant disregard for the unique Bengal identity. Apart from the language issue and economic disparity, Bengalis were also subjected to racism. Their short and weak stature along with a darker complexion was deemed "inferior" by their western counterparts. The locals were humiliated and exploited by top Pakistani officials. Consequently, their loyalty to the nation petered out and culminated in "Bengal nationalism" instead.

Pakistan's woes are not limited to the issue of national integration.

It's economy is teetering on the brink of an economic crisis. Repeated miscalculations in enacting a policy framework to boost the economy and recurrent emphasis on "debt" have led it into a quandary. Pakistan first entered an IMF Programme in 1958 and has since gone back to the lender 22 times. In addition,

it has amassed significant loans from other countries. As of September 2023, its external debt ^{stands at} ↑; a whopping 128.1 Billion US Dollars. Consequently, it has been assigned a poor credit rating of CCC+ by S and P, indicating a high risk of defaulting on current debt obligations.

World systems are slowly descending into chaos and hence it is sine qua nonne to iron out all obstacles in the way of extracting valuable historical lessons.

Overhauling dominant ideologies is imperative to dismantle entrenched biases. Initiatives aimed at reconstructing prevailing viewpoints should be actively pursued. Survivors and predecessors of victims of ethnocide should be acknowledged their side of the story should be disseminated. Contemporarily,

social media is playing an excellent role in this regard. It is acting as the mouthpiece for organizations formed by indigenous groups for example Native Indian and Alaskan activists. In the context of Palestine-Israel war, Israel is actively losing the social media war and is offering as much as 5000 US Dollars to influencers to ^{promote} pro-Israeli narrative. Palestinian journalists like Motaz Aziza, Plestia and Bisun are playing an active role on ^{digital platforms} ~~social media~~ to re-educate people on the Palestine issue.

The adoption of cultural relativism stands as a pivotal solution to the issue of ethnocentrism. It involves the acceptance, tolerance and appreciation of diverse beliefs. Educational institutions can play a crucial role in this transformation. Comprehensive history lessons by unbiased writers should be incorporated into the educational curricula.

These institutions should also hone the critical thinking skills of students to allow for a deeper understanding of issues. For instance, Pakistani textbooks are rife with ^{an biased viewpoints of history} misinformation.

The curriculum is designed to mould students to blindly trust the state. The issue can be catered by inculcating viewpoints of unbiased subject specialists like Hassan Askari and Dr. Ishrat Hussain into the national curriculum. This step will foster a culture of accountability and critical thinking among the masses.

Pakistan also needs to revisit lessons from the fall of Bengal and actively work to curb Baloch insurgence.

The concerns of the Baloch people need to be prioritized. It is incumbent upon the state to make them ^{equal} stakeholders in all national and international projects. The issue

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of budget deficit and resource ^{misallocation} ~~misallocation~~

can be mitigated by ensuring the implementation of article 140-A of the 18th amendment. The aforementioned

article relates to devolution of power

to local constituencies thereby contributing

to good governance and equitable distribution of funds.

Implementing evidence-based politics

grounded in historical insights is

pivotal to refurbish Pakistan's economy

Any more reliance on debt can turn

into a lethal brew of economic ^{collapse} ~~collapse~~

and default. The country needs to

implement a multifaceted strategy

focused on fostering domestic industries

and promoting innovation. Investing in

skills development of youth, and

empowering small and medium enterprises

through easy access of credit and

technology will be a step in the right

direction. In addition, ensuring

political stability is crucial to attract

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Foreign Direct Investment and avoid boom and bust cycle of economy. Moreover, ease of doing business and diversification of economy with emphasis on the IT sector is crucial in steering ^{the country} towards sustainable economic growth. It is high time for Pakistan to acknowledge that the era of debt financing on the basis of geo-strategic position ^{a new reality:} has been replaced by "geo-economics".

In conclusion, humans falter in heeding the warnings etched in history's pages. Neo-colonialism continues to plague global institutions. In addition, Pakistan is ensnared with ^{recurring} issues of national integration and economic austerity. Adopting cultural relativism in place of Ethnocentrism is pivotal to counter global injustices. Moreover, an impending economic crisis and national disintegration serve as a clarion call for Pakistan to reform ^{its} political and economic landscape.