

Muhammad Rasheed Khan
32359-15B-OB-59
Submitted to: Sir Ati Shahab

THE ESSAY

'Is Colonial mentality Impeding Pakistan's Progress.

Colonial mentality refers to a belief system or mindset that emphasizes the superiority of Western culture over the local or traditional culture of a colonized or formerly colonized country. It can manifest in various ways, including a preference for Western goods, services and lifestyles over those of the local culture, a lack of confidence in local institutions, and a tendency to prioritize the interest of foreign powers over those of the local population. In Pakistan the legacy of colonization has had a significant impact on the development and progress of the country. The British colonial administration imposed its own cultural, economic, and political system on the region, which had a lasting impact on the institutions and infrastructure of the country. Pakistan history is linked to its colonial past, as it was the part of British India until gaining independence in 1947. The British colonial administration left an indelible mark on the societal, political and economic structures of the region. The ~~colonial~~ British were considered as rulers as the rulers and the Indian subject. In simple words. It was a master and slave relationship. Today the same colonial mentality is represented by the institutions that Pakistan is carrying as her legacy. The list include bureaucracy, police,

(Bri

(2)

Judiciary, military and feudalism which are hindering societal, political and economic progress. This essay will discuss the colonial mentality and its impacts on Pakistan's growth.

First come the Bureaucracy that represents the colonial mentality which ultimately hinders Pakistan's progress. The bureaucratic structure is inherited from the colonial era is a crucial element in understanding the persistence of the colonial mentality in Pakistan. The British introduced a hierarchical and centralized administrative system designed to serve imperial interests. The Bureaucratic machinery, characterized by red tape, corruption and a lack of responsiveness, has endorsed in post-colonial Pakistan. This continuity has led to a resistance to change and a perpetuation of hierarchical and autocratic decision making processes. For example Shehryar Afridi and Shandana Gulzar were detained under section 3 of maintenance of public order. The MPO empowers the government to arrest individuals acting in any

(3)

manner prejudicial to public safety. Later sheheryar afzidi filed a petition with Islamabad high court against his detentions. On June 5 Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir declared his detention order illegal and instructed authorities not to arrest him within the boundaries of Islamabad. However sheheryar afzidi was arrested again under section 3 of the MPO. This intention was finally declared illegal by justice on 16 of August on that day the court decided to indict Islamabad, SP and other officials including SP for alleged contempt of court and misuse of power. The DC was sent to jail for six months. Moreover the colonial-era bureaucracy was built upon a culture of privilege and elitism with a clear distinction between rulers and the ruled. This culture persists, contributing to a sense of entitlement among the bureaucrats and detachment from the needs and aspiration of the general population. An example from the book "shahab-nama" written by Qudraullah shahab. He is telling that a patwari is demanding for corruption. His complaint is marked to commissioner by complainant. The commissioner mark that complaint to Deputy Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner mark that application to Assistant commissioner. The application is then marked to Tehsildar and

(4)

Finally that application is reached to that patwari against whom the complaint is registered. So, Bureaucracy is detached from the needs and aspiration of general population.

Similarly, lack of accountability within the bureaucracy mirrors colonial practices where officials were often immune to the consequences of their actions. This absence of accountability hampers efforts to address corruption and inefficiency within the bureaucratic system. As a result, it hinders the progress in Pakistan. For instance, the Ring road scandal ~~was~~ Rawalpindi 2021. In this scandal false maps were designed to benefit the housing societies, private entities and individuals. The names of some cabinet members were also mentioned as possible beneficiaries. NAB has also ordered an inquiry into the matter while Information Minister has claimed that the resignation of Mr. Bukhari is evidence that Mr. Khan will not spare even his close aides if they are accused of wrongdoing. DC Rawalpindi ~~the~~ retired Captain Anwarulhaq and Additional Commissioner Coordination Jahangir Ahmed was removed from offices and directed to report to the services and general administration department.

Second comes the role of police. The role of police in Pakistan's post colonial landscape is pivotal in understanding the perpetuation of colonial mentality.

(5)

The police force, designed to serve imperial interests during the colonial era, has struggled to evolve into a service-oriented institution focused on safeguarding the rights and well-being of citizens.

The colonial police force was primarily an instrument of control, maintaining order in the interest of the colonial rulers. This authoritarian legacy has endured, contributing to police culture that often prioritizes power and control over service and protection. For instance, the teachers' protests in the country. Even on the blind teachers' protest in Lahore, the police had fired water cannon on teachers and this police is playing the role of welfare in United Kingdom, where people do not fear of them.

Third come the political interference. The politicization of the police force, a practice inherited from colonial times, continues to undermine its autonomy. Political interference in law enforcement decisions perpetuates a culture of subservience to political elites rather than adherence to the rule of law as in Jalianwala Bagh massacre, incident on April 13, 1919, in which British troops fired on a large crowd of unarmed Indians in an open space known as the Jalianwala Bagh in Amritsar in the Punjab region in India, killing several hundred people and

(6)

wounding more. it marked a turning point in India's modern history.

The fourth one is the lack of training and modernization. The colonial police force was designed for a specific purpose in a different era. The lack of comprehensive training and modernization efforts has hindered the ability of the police to adapt to the evolving needs of a democratic society.

The fifth one is judiciary which is playing that role which is given to it in that time. The judicial structure is exactly that structure which British left in India and nowadays in England. There is no higher court than chief court which control local courts. The judiciary is a cornerstone of any democratic system, plays a crucial role in shaping the legal landscape of a nation. However, the impact of colonial mentality on the judiciary in Pakistan has been a subject of ongoing debate.

The colonial-era judiciary often served the interests of ruling elite. In post-colonial Pakistan, there are concerns about the judiciary's ability to dispense impartial justice, with allegations of bias towards powerful individuals and institutions as the case of *Molvi Tameezuddin* which is key constitutional law judgement of Pakistan. By way of brief background, the constituent assembly of Pakistan in 1954 sought to curb the powers of the governor general. They wanted to do

(7)

This by introducing a new section 223A and amended section 20 of India act 1935. However, under section six of the Indian independent Act ~~1947~~ 1947, the governor general had the power to give his assent to all laws. rather giving assent to these laws the governor general dissolved the constituent assembly altogether saying that it had lost the confidence of the people of Pakistan. Maulvi Tameezuddin, the president of constituent assembly then challenged this position in the chief court of Sindh. He prayed that the chief court should issue writs of mandamus and quo warranto under section 223-A and declared the act of governor general illegal. He also prayed for the validity of the appointments to council of ministers should be declared contrary to the law. The chief court of Sindh decided in favour of Maulvi Tameezuddin according to them the power of the governor general to give assent to all laws, containing in sub section six of section 3 was not an absolute power. it was necessary only when it was required expressly by the law. Moreover, the purpose of the constituent assembly was to make a constitution and this body could not be dissolved before this purpose was fulfilled. The decision was reversed by the court of Sindh.

Keep writing