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Is Colonial Mentality Impeding Pakistan's Progress?

Outline:-

1) Introduction

2) Overview of the colonial rule in the sub-continent

3) How colonial mentality is impeding Pakistan's Progress?

a) Inheritance of the parliamentary form of government from British colonial rule with little adaptation to local needs

b) Bureaucracy was introduced by colonial powers as a tool to control rather than govern the citizens - the mindset is still in place

c) Concept of elitism, power-hunger, self-interests and rent-seeking in politics and bureaucracy are replicated

- d) The class divisions, inequalities and ethnic tensions are the collateral of colonial mentality
- e) The economic model of dependance and foreign ^{its} funding rather than self-reliance owe ~~their~~ existence to colonial rule
- f) Preference to imported goods over local goods can be rightly pinned on British legacy
- g) The non-diversification of exports with agricultural exports and raw materials exports still dominate Pakistan's trade framework
- h) The outdated curriculum and the rote learning - the western centric education - define the educational system of Pakistan
- i) English language is considered as a hallmark of intelligence and competitiveness

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k) The concept of brain drain, in the form of pursuing higher studies ^{at} from the western universities, is the result of the west imposed standards

l) The erosion of the local culture and romanticism of western culture is resulting into identity crisis

m) The social fabric is disintegrating steadily, promoting individualism over community development

4) The colonial mentality has strengthened Pakistan's progress: An echo from the other side of the chamber

a) Infrastructural development and improved connectivity in Pakistan - Railway, Energy and roads

b) Legal frameworks inherited from the British colonial system - Govt of India act, 1935 and Pakistan Penal Code (PPC)

c) Modernization and improvement in the standards of living - High value added products

c) How Pakistan can navigate through the challenges of colonial mentality, impeding Pakistan's Progress :

i- Moulding political systems to the local needs

ii- Reforms in the economic model - self-sufficiency over foreign reliance

iii- Making bureaucracy a symbol of efficiency, prioritizing ^{good} governance over arbitrary control

iv- Introducing reforms in the education system, making it a purposeful and pragmatic

v- Protecting local culture and local industries through behavioral changes

Is history repeating itself? Yes, in many respects. Today's political turmoil has strong echoes of the past. Economic meltdowns, scarce resources, ineffective public service delivery and rising terrorism have been witnessed before. Throughout its history, Pakistan has seen some really tough times, fought wars on two fronts, experienced trauma of East Pakistan, post nuclear test sanctions, military coups and terror campaign of the war on terror and much more. The description of the historical challenges of Pakistan can take many tones to accommodate. However, it will be suffice to say that the current situation in Pakistan can be rightly pinned on the colonial mentality. It has continued to take its toll squarely on the political, economic, social and legal structures of Pakistan, thus impeding Pakistan's pathway to progress and prosperity. Colonial mentality is hampering Pakistan's progress to prosperity in many respects, such as faulty system of government with little to no alterations at all, ineffective and inefficient bureaucracy and the touch of elitism in

policy making of Pakistan. Similarly, class divisions, inequalities and ethnic tensions in the politics as well as society of Pakistan are the corollary of the colonial rule and its subsequent mentality ingrained in the people of Pakistan. By the same token, the economic model that promotes aid dependency and foreign reliance, preference to imported goods over local ones and the limited exportation of agricultural products and raw materials are the result of colonial mentality in Pakistan, hampering Pakistan's potential to tap its resources. Similarly, the ineffective education system with rote learning, out-dated curriculum and western-centric English learning are seriously obstructing the Pakistan's way to progress. The concept of brain drain, erosion of the local culture and the ^{disintegration of} social fabric are the outcome of colonial mentality, impacting the progress of Pakistan. These factors altogether serve as an underlying cause of the challenges Pakistan facing today. However, it is important to consider the echo from the other side of the chamber that believes

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The colonial mentality or the developments resulted during colonialism have strengthened the Pakistan's progress, such as huge infrastructural developments.

Pakistan has inherited sophisticated infrastructures in the form of railways, roads and transmission lines. Moreover, legal frameworks that served as the basis for our political and constitutional developments are also the result of colonial mentality.

Similarly, modernization and improvement in the standards of living through trade and globalization have enabled opened Pakistan to achieve progress and development.

Despite the developments, the overall toll of colonial mentality on Pakistan is huge and pervasive. Therefore, Pakistan should navigate the current challenges and acquire a golden balance between the ^{two} extremes of colonial mentality's cons and pros. By adopting reforming and modernizing its political, economic, educational, legal and social structure, Pakistan could be definitely steered out of the troubled waters of colonial mentality that impedes its progress. Pakistan envisages a world free of hunger, want, deprivation and poverty, therefore, following these steps would ensure its progress in a sustainable way.