

QUESTION:

WHAT ARE THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES FACED BY THE MUSLIM WORLD ?

VIP

Page No.

A INTRODUCTION :

The Ummah, the supra-national political community of Islam, established by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) 1440 years ago today consist of 57 sovereign states. It comprises over 1.5 billion people that is one fifth of the world population and one third of the total membership of the United Nations.

Muslim Ummah is currently facing a number of internal and external challenges: the external one includes challenges caused by western colonialism, globalization, and ongoing international geopolitics of the western power. The internal challenges are more lethal and more devastating which are caused by own fault of the muslims. The internal challenges include: political disunity among the muslims, use of rabid extremism, lacking in scientific and technological advancement etc. To address these challenges effectively, muslims in capacity of individuals, state and civilization need to take the task and avert the stagnant of the muslim as a whole.

B INTERNAL CHALLENGES 8

i MODERNIZATION AND UMMAH :

Modern technology has resulted in rapid communication over unlimited space. The world is fast becoming a global village and 'a single place'. Therefore in order to understand the major features of social life and emerging religious and political trends in contemporary muslim societies, we need to go beyond local and national factors.

ii POLITICAL DISUNITY OF MUSLIM WORLD :

Another internal challenge that muslim world is political disunity. Islam and muslim world today are divided. They are unable to cope with the changes that are happening in the world. Disappointingly, personal quarrels and ambitions for power struggle prevalent in muslim world which eventually disrupt government administration. As a result muslim nation remain largely underdeveloped, poor, unskilled and incapable of contributing positively towards the well-being of the muslims.

iii FUNDAMENTALISM AND RISE OF EXTREMISM :

Another internal challenge faced by the muslim in this contemporary world is fundamentalism. If Islam appears rigid and doctrinaire, it is because the learned interpreters make it so. They tended to be harsh and

intolerant when interpreting during the golden day of muslim empires. And so long after the muslims have lost their predominant era, and the world has changed, the muslim were exhorted to adhere to interpretation which are no longer adequate or relevant.

IV POOR MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES :

Many muslim countries are blessed with rich resources, yet they are unable to put such resources to the optimal use, to serve and defend Islam and muslims. The rich Arab countries are plagued by unchecked lavishness, Their spending in education, science and social sector development is negligible.

V MIDDLE EAST CRISIS :

After the sudden outburst of "Arab Spring" in 2011. Arab Spring has turned into Arab Autumn, the tide of democracy has been reversed, Libya stands disintegrated, Syria is bleeding, Iraq is under barbarous hegemony, Israel committing genocide of the Palestinians and so the story of gory bloodshed in the region goes on. Thus muslim Ummah has now become a face in the world direly in need of a Savior.

C EXTERNAL CHALLENGES :

i COLONIALISM :

"Colonialism" as defined by former Egyptian President "is subjugation of the weaker states by stronger nations". During the peak of western domination in muslim world, in the 19th century, the Islamic Ummah endured a twofold assault: political subjugation and alienation from its institutions and values.

Islam was belittled and ridiculed and was made to appear backward, barbaric and a source of embarrassment. The Ummah was de-cultured in such a way as to ensure that it would not be able to recover and reorganize itself again into a vital force.

ii GLOBALIZATION :

Globalization as defined by west is "the generalized expansion of international economic activity which includes increased international trade, growth of international investment and international migration and increased creation of technology among countries. Some muslim scholars are excited and believed that globalization will benefit and give positive impact on muslims while other take a more skeptical and ~~exist~~ critical view of this process.

iii IT AND CULTURAL ONSLAUGHT OF THE WEST :

Muslim countries have struggled very hard to catch up with advanced nations. This new technology may affect this struggle in two opposite ways. Firstly, it is possible that it may make the battle still harder. If we take it positively, the same technology may provide wider opportunities to muslims nation to free themselves from cultural and economic influence of the west.

D RESPONSIBILITIES OF MUSLIM UMMAH :

i UNIFIED RESPONSE OF UMMAH :

The divide between the muslim and non-muslim world was increasing due to the concept of clash of civilization. The muslim world need to address the current challenges faced by the muslim world particularly the sectarian divide among muslims which is a major hurdle. There is need to respond intellectually to emerging challenges instead of through use of force. In this regard collaboration among all segments of muslim societies was imperative to generate effective responses to the challenges facing muslim world.

ii RETROSPECTION, SELF-INSTROSPECTION AND RECTIFICATION :

It is crucial for muslims to stop finding faults in others for their failure and start focusing on their inner selves. It is high time that muslims should engage in self-Instrospection and diagnose their problems and iron out their pragmatic solutions.

iii FOCUSING ON SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION :

Muslim lag far behind the other nations in almost every field of modern education and thus it must be an area of concern for all the muslim in the world. muslim should develop a system of education that could cater their religious and spiritual needs as well as the contemporary requirements.

iv NEED FOR IJTIHAD :

Muslim Ummah can improve its status by strengthening its Islamic identity. The institution of Ijma play an important role in the socioeconomic and political life of the Ummah. The real problem lies in the existing political condition, and the consequent failure of the decision makers to understand public opinion and surrender before it. There is growing need for Ijtihad and renewal of understanding of new methods of progressing according to Islam in modern times.

✓ OIC NEED TO PLAY EFFECTIVE ROLE :

OIC has an important role to play in the current scenario, which can be achieved by bringing the muslim countries together on a common platform. The organization lack effective public relations mechanisms, and is therefore unable to get its ideology across, however it can play an effective role in bringing about genuine solution to the problem faced by muslim ummah at present.

G CONCLUSION :

In view of their economic and social backwardness, muslim need to conclude a new commitment with God. In view of their thirst for justice, inspired by the lamentable state of their relationship with ~~their~~ all other races, domination and cultures. In view of their alienation they need to show and to demonstrate their spiritual autonomy. This new pact between humanity, nature of God is a way of giving logical expression to their faith in the modern world, bringing them into harmony with their present situation.