

# Nations do not die from Invasion; they die from Internal Rottenness

## Outline

### (A) Introduction:

Although wars play a role to weaken a country; however, it is the internal decay that is mainly responsible for the collapse of nations.

### (B) Historical Evidence of Nations Collapsing Due to Internal Rot

B.1. France in the Eighteenth-century

B.2. The Fall of the Soviet Union

### (C) Wars are Not Capable Enough to Destroy a Nation

C.1. Case Study: United States of America

### (D) Political Corruption and Lack of Governance Contributing in Internal Decay

D.1. Venezuela and Sri Lanka

### (E) Economic Instability and Inequality Enhancing the Rot

E.1. China as a Best Example in

Reverse Way

## (F) Social and Cultural Decay's Role

F.1. Pakistan's Current Situation Can Be Related

## (G) Lack of Unity and Civil Strife

G.1. Case Study: Yugoslavia in 1990s

## (H) Inability to Adapt to Changing Times

H.1. Nokia's Downfall

## (I) How to Avoid Internal Rot

## (J) Analysing Pakistan's Situation

## (K) Conclusion

To assess the state of stability and strength of a country, a good rule of thumb is to follow its internal situation. This situation can be track by the political, economic, and social conditions of that country. The disturbances in the above sectors are enough to cause the collapse of that country. The state of a nation on the eve of catastrophe is analogous to a volcano in the verge of eruption whose lava is being build up due to internal temperature rather than the pressure of the air from the outside. And, of course, in this case, the lava is composed of political corruption, economic instability and inequality, and social and cultural decay causing the state to collapse under the weight of its own. According to Arnold J. Toynbee, a British historian and philosopher, "Great nations are not ruined by external enemies but by internal decay." Hence, it can be clearly said that; though, wars weaken the state, yet the main reason for its destruction is the internal rot prevailing in that state.

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Historically, the fall of the mighty France in the 18th-century was not due to the wars it fought. The reasons were the political despotism, the unfair taxation, and the unjustified social classes that led to the uprising of public resulting in the collapse of the country. Politically, France was a one-man institution. King could do whatever he wanted, without any fear of impeachment or legislative restrictions, with a royal decree or Cachet de l'ordre. Similarly, there was an unfair taxation system. For instance, tailles or tax on land was imposed only on the lower class — the Commons. Additionally, the society was divided into three classes that used to look down upon on the lower classes. All these factors resulted in the collapse of the France.

Similarly, the disintegration of the Soviet Union (USSR) was not mainly due to its indulgence in the wars, rather the situation at home

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made the USSR split into many pieces. Politically there was instability that USSR had not seen before.

Besides, economically, the country was weakening day by day, and there seemed no remedy for that faltering economy. Additionally, public in the country was upset about the government policies and there was a social unrest in the country.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, a Russian writer, states in his book, The Grand Failure,

"The Soviet system is collapsing under the weight of its own contradictions: economic inefficiency and military overextension."

It should be noted that the wars alone cannot destroy a nation unless it is internally stable. The wounds of war are easily diluted by the strong solvent of political, social, and economic stability. It is the internal strength that makes a nation capable of fighting for

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its interests. Otherwise, it is not possible for an internally deteriorating country to fight and win. For instance, United States of America being in the wars since last century is still the superpower of the world. Wars in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan have not been able to challenge its dominance over the world. It is because internally USA is politically and economically stable.

To begin with, political corruption and lack of governance are ~~one~~ of the main causes contributing to internal rot of a nation.

Misuse of political powers creates a state of uncertainty and chaos in the country which ultimately affect the overall efficiency of the state machinery. Similarly, lack of good governance accelerates the unrest instead of alleviating it which result in even more

uncertainty and lawlessness in the country. For instance, the political corruption and lack of governance has resulted in a deteriorated

Venezuela. Rank of Venezuela in the Corruption Perception Index 2021 was 14 out of 100 (Here 0 means most corrupt and 100 means clean). Similarly the default of Sri Lanka in 2022 was mainly due to political inequality created by the 'Paksha' brothers.

Along with these, economic instability and inequality play a very crucial role in the deterioration of a nation. Unstable economic environment reduces the financial capacities of the public and the state. This results in the productive incapability of the state and the public. Consequently there remains an uncertainty in the state and a sense of lack of confidence on the state. Similarly, unequal economic opportunities for the citizens promote a sense of deprivation. On the other hand, economic stability and equal opportunities accelerate the progress and thus promoting the strength of a nation. China is a perfect example of this who elevated 800 million people out of poverty in the

last 40 years, according to the World Bank.

Similarly, social and cultural decay within a society of a nation also plays an important role in ensuring the failure of that nation.

It affects the overall unity of the state. People develop misunderstandings about the other communities which disturb the social cohesion in return. Besides, social and cultural decay reduces the passion of volunteerism in a state which leads to a hollow society vulnerable to destruction. For instance, the current social fragmentation in the Pakistan, where every society pursue their individual interests, is affecting the overall sense of 'Pakistanism' in the country which may leads to alarming consequences.

Furthermore, lack of unity and civil strife make the nation vulnerable and weak to external as well as internal challenges. Civil unrest



In the country change the public order which directly affects the discipline of nation. Society without discipline lacks unity and the overall productivity and peace is affected. A good example of this is the Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Its breakup was the result of ethnic and sectarian tensions. Once a unified country, Yugoslavia descended into civil war as different ethnic groups sought independence, leading to the eventual fragmentation of the nation.

Finally, the factor that is responsible for the rotten and weak society is the inability of the society or a nation to adapt to the changing times. A nation should always be ready to modify itself according to the needs of the changing scenarios; otherwise, it becomes part of the past. Changing itself according to the demands of the times is the key for the survival of the nation. For instance,

a mobile phone company named 'Nokia' was once leading the cell phones market in the world in the first decade of the 21st century. The technology improved and smart phones were introduced; however, Nokia did not change its focus towards smart-phone manufacturing and hence lagged behind. Hence, it is clear that world do not compensate for conservative mindset.

Now, it becomes very important that inside threats should be prioritise over threats from outside. First, the home should be put in order. Creating a politically stable and transparent environment is very crucial. Moreover, providing an economically stable and fair grounds to all the citizen could make the society stable and productive. Furthermore, promoting values and norms on the basis of equality would shape an egalitarian society which will ultimately contribute to the overall strength and stability of a nation. Besides, focus on the governance becomes

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compulsory when these lives different ethnic, religious and political groups. All the above sectors strengthening will guarantee the stability and resilience of a nation.

Unfortunately, Pakistan is also struggling with the political corruption, lack of governance, faltering economy and social fragmentation. Political manipulation is on its peak where <sup>some</sup> politicians are using politics for personal gains. In the ~~governance index~~, Pakistan has been ranked as authoritarian regime in the democracy index 2023 issued by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). There is lack of good governance which has reduced the confidence of the public in the authorities. Besides, the total debt of Pakistan has crossed Rs 70 trillion in August 2023 which will greatly affect the faltering economy. Moreover, there is an increase in the insurgency and public uprising in the country particularly in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. All these <sup>are</sup> are the symptoms of a deteriorating nation. A serious steps must be taken to avoid the

alarming consequences.

In a nutshell, it is evident that internal decay of a nation is more responsible for the failure of a nation than the outside threats. It is not war<sup>only</sup> that brings destruction; rather, it is the political corruption, lack of governance, economic instability and inequality, and social fragmentation that hollow the nation from the inside. The fall of France or the disintegration of USSR was not only due to wars but due to internal weaknesses. It becomes very crucial to focus more on the internal threats and progress than the outside factors, as internal stability would provide the strength to stand in the face of outside threats. Let's hope that Pakistan will come out of its struggling phase in the near future, and Pakistan's nation will emerge as a strong and stable nation in the world.