

ESSAY - II

The barbarity of Ethnic Cleansing

Outline

I- Introduction

Ethnic Cleansing is one of the most barbarious act of violence, because it undermines basic human rights, aggravates Psychological distress, enforces massacre and large-scale displacement, and exacerbates social tension.

II- Opponents believe that ethnic Cleansing is not a barbarious act of violence, but a need of any nation : A counter Perspective

A- Attainment of national

sovereignty

(Make Great Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu)

B- Heterogeneous ethnic classes :

hinders social progress

(Chinese government stance against minorities of Uyghurs)

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III - Ethnic Cleansing is one of the most barbarious act of violence, because

A- undermines basic fundamental human rights

(Geneva convention)

(UNHRC)

B- Aggravates Psychological distress

(APA report, 2023)

(WHO)

C- Deprivation of humanitarian assistance.

(Gaza Siege)

(UNDP report, 2024)

D- massacre and large-scale displacement

(Taliban Government, Afghanistan)

(Rohingya Muslims, Myanmar)

E- Restriction of autonomy and self-determination

(Revoking article of 370, 35A)

(Enforced disappearance of

Baloch nations)

F- Escalates extremism and
fundamentalism

(Hindutva, India)

G- Marginalization of minorities

(Nelson Mandela)

H- Exacerbates social unrest and
tension

(Hazara community, Balochistan)

(Kurrum district, KP)

I- Spill over effects on other
regions

(Gaza conflict and Middle-

East quagmire)

IV- Ways forward to undermine the devastating
impacts of ethnic cleansing

A- Strengthen International Jurisdiction
and policing committee.

(Interpol)

(International Court of

Justice, UN)

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B- Reforms in International Institutions

(The United Nations Security Council)

C- Empowerment of non-governmental organizations

(Minority Rights Group, UK)

V-

Conclusion

Ethnic cleansing is a barbaric act of violence which has devastating impacts.

The barbarity of Ethnic Cleansing

"Ethnic cleansing is a crime against humanity, an attempt to erase not only a people but their history, culture, and identity"

— Kofi Annan, Former
UN Secretary-General

Around forty-five thousand palestinian lost their lives, approximately eighty thousand are internally displaced and one million sought refuge in Egypt. The ongoing genocide in Gaza is a nightmare to all, leveraging Israeli government to make - Great Israel. The death toll and displacement count in Gaza is a vivid explanation to what ethnic cleansing means. Israel aims to eradicate all palestinians to establish Zionist dominance in Israeli occupied Palestinian land. It has devastating impacts to global peace and prosperity. Ethnic cleansing is one of the most cruel attempts by dominating and

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powerful group to suppress or undermine the weak. Is it even the justified act of dominating? Does ethnic cleansing have clear ends of supremacy for powerful ethnic classes? The aftermaths of ethnic cleansing are confined to particular territory or it has global outbreak? Therefore, it is justified to claim that ethnic cleansing is one of the most barbarous act, because it undermines basic human rights, aggravates psychological distress, enforces massacre and large scale displacement, and exacerbates social tension.

Before delving into the ~~complexity~~ cruelties of ethnic cleansing, it is pertinent to understand what ethnic cleansing means. In simple words, it is systematic removal or persecution of particular ethnic group, often through violence, and forced displacement. It aims to completely disregard diversity of ethnic classes in a particular region. According to social construction of identity theory, social groups are divided on the basis of language, norms, values, and tradition which

differentiate them from other social group. thereby, inculcating a sense of "Us Vs Them" which justifies discriminatory actions against target group, resulting in large-scale ethnic cleansing.

Proponents of opponent schools of thought believe that ethnic cleansing is not a barbarious act, but need of a nation. They argue that ethnic cleansing is a prerequisite to attain sovereignty of any nation. It focuses on dominance of dominating group by ethnically eliminating minor ethnic groups. For instance, the ongoing genocide in Gaza is predominantly backed by notion of PM Benjamin Netanyahu by making **Great Israel**. Zionist dominating group aims to continue war until last Palestinian breaths.

Through endless fires of ballistic missiles by Israel on Gaza has increased the fatalities toll to forty-five thousand and millions have been internally and externally displaced. Israel government claims to attain national sovereignty of Jews through ethnic cleansing.

Moreover, critics believe that heterogeneous ethnic groups in any nation

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paves ways for social unrest which undermines social progress of any nation. Chinese government continually uses iron hands to undermine ethnic group of **uyghur muslims**. Thereby, restricting the uyghuris to practice their traditions which would harm social progress of China. Furthermore, the protests led by uyghuri muslims in china have posed threat to china's global standing by providing political vacuum to the united states to misuse ethnic groups against Chinese global dominance. Hence, ethnic cleansing is justified to restrict social tension, thereby facilitating social progress.

In spite of the claims made by the opponent schools of thought, the barbaric nature of ethnic cleansing cannot be overlooked. The **UNHRC** has declared ethnic cleansing as a social crime which undermines basic fundamental human rights, such as right to life, right to property or right to information. The forceful displacements and violent acts performed by leading ethnic group to subjugated ethnic group is a crime against

Geneva Convention: It highlights the protection of humanitarian rights at the time of peace and war, mainly emphasizing on protection of children and women. The practice of ethnic cleansing in Gaza, Bosnia, Myanmar and Rwandan are a clear violation to international law and Geneva convention. Hence, ethnic cleansing cruelly deprives people to practice their basic fundamental rights.

Additionally, the practice of ethnic cleansing and continual suppression faced by minority ethnic groups result in aggravated psychological distress. According to **American Psychology Association report, 2023**, the suppressed ethnic groups have severe traces of depression, hopelessness, and learned helplessness. The persistent subjugation and violent acts have diminish their hope for relieve from endless sufferings inflicted upon them, because of their ethnic label. Thereby, they start to adopt the situation with severe psychological trauma. **World Health Organization** claims that ethnic cleansing is a crime to humanity as it targets physical and mental wellbeing of any

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individual under suppression. Consequently, ethnic cleansing causes psychological distress with long-term trauma associated with it.

Furthermore, ethnic cleansing not only directly target the pupil associated to particular group, but every mean which is beneficial to them. It deprives ethnic groups to have access to humanitarian assistance to satisfy basic necessities of life. For instance, **Gaza Siege** fits to be the best example. Israel and US led humanitarian aid assistance organizations have deprived Gaza residents to have basic survival essentials with concession with Israel. As per **UNDP report, 2024**, twenty-five thousand palestinians' lost life due to no medical assistance and malnutrition. Thus, it is evident that ethnic cleansing restricts all means of survival even the reachability to humanitarian assistance.

Ethnic cleansing marks the central concept to massacre and large-scale displacement of discriminatory ethnic groups. After the fall of Kabul in 2021, **Taliban government** has forcefully removed around 1.6 million ~~refugees~~

Afghan refugee cross border with an aim to expansion of Afghanistan western border towards Pakistan. The refugees have different ethnic beliefs with respect to Taliban government. Moreover, the **Rohingya Muslims** in Myanmar are forcefully displaced to seek refuge in Bangladesh. According to **UNHCR**, one million Rohingya Muslims flee to seek refuge in Bangladesh, making the world largest camp. Therefore, the massive displacement of ethnic groups make ethnic cleansing a barbaric act.

Moreover, ethnic cleansing escalates extremism and fundamentalism. The socially constructed 'norms, values and identities' widens the ethnic gap between groups. The leading ethnic groups mainly to practice, dominantly without temperance to any violation of ethnic standards. **Hindutva**, extremist Hindu group in India, suppresses all ethnic groups which deviate socially set Hindu traditions. Hindutva aims to remove and inflict violent acts upon Muslims of India to live and practice their religion in India. The Muslims are forced out of their properties and not ~~reg~~ recognized as.

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citizens. Hence, ethnic cleansing results in extremist ideologies to prevail and reduces temperance and moderation, thereby practicing fundamentalism.

Furthermore, the menace of ethnic cleansing extends over restriction of autonomy and self-determination. It tends to maintain supremacy of dominating ethnic group. For instance, revoking of article 370, 35-A on 5th August, 2019, by BJP part of PM Narendra Modi of India, is a clear indication of restricting autonomous existence of Kashmiri people and eradicating their right to self-determination. Through revoking of articles PM Modi aimed to suppress ethnics of Kashmiri and fully recognizing it under Indian government. Moreover, enforced disappearance of Balochi nations is also a relevant example to restriction of self-determination through ethnic cleansing. The non-state actors urge to eradicate Balochi dominancy in Balochistan Province of Pakistan by forceful disappearance of Baloch youths. Consequently, ethnic cleansing results in constraint autonomy and self-determination.

Ethnic cleansing aims to marginalize minorities within international system of states. The minorities are prosecuted through violence to undermine their existence in a particular nation. In particular, **Nelson Mandela** highlighted the ethnic and racial discriminations, faced by Blacks of South America. The urge of ethnic deprivation by whites of America undermined Blacks in all domains of life. They were often labeled as, classless or stateless groups in America. Moreover, Blacks were considered dirty and criminals whom have caused social uprising in America. The marginalization faced by Blacks were called through **Blacks live Matter movement** which gain world-wide recognition. Hence, the fifty years of Blacks was based on ideology of ethnic cleansing which aimed to marginalize the minorities.

Additionally, ethnic cleansing phenomenon exacerbates social unrest and tension. It disturbs the social fabric of society, thereby enhancing prejudice and hatred. For instance, **Hazara community in Balochistan** often faces violence based on ethnic division.

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The Hazara community is excluded from main ethnic groups in Balochistan, they are repeatedly attacked through coercive means which have lastly impacts on Balochistan. The ^{bomb} attack on university bus having twenty Hazara girls in Quetta is one of the example of ~~their~~ ethnic cleansing inflicted upon Hazara community in Balochistan. Similarly, the sectarian rift aided by ethnic discrimination unprecedentedly targets different religious sects. Attacks in **Kurram district** in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan aim to cleanse Shia groups from KP which also comes under umbrella of ethnic cleansing, thereby causing social tension and unrest. Moreover, the practice of ethnic cleansing has spill over affects on other regions, thereby undermining geo-politics. For example, **Gaza conflict** has completely disturbed the social, political and economic wellbeing of Middle-East, resultanty disturbing geo-politics. It has engulf Iran, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq in war against Israel and USA. Similarly, **Rohingya crisis** has devastating impacts over social fabric of Bangladesh.

and Indian region. The spills over of ethnic cleansing aggravates ethnic discrimination. In different areas of world which completely disturbs peace and prosperity. Therefore, ethnic cleansing is one of the most barbarous act practice by dominating ethnic groups.

The brutalities engaged with ethnic cleansing need urgent solutions to minimize its barbarous nature on larger scales;

Collective initiatives are need to strengthen international jurisdiction and polling committee.

The international solution to ethnic cleansing restricts its practice and charge arbitrary against inflicting groups. In relation to this,

Interpol and **ICJ** should be strengthened to have their own coercive means to charge and punish groups which intern practice ethnic cleansing. Moreover, ICJ should strictly adhere to international laws which determine humanitarian protection rights during peace and war.

Moreover, there should be reforms in international institutions to have equal representation of each party to voice out their sufferings

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caused by discriminations among ethnic groups. Reforms should be ~~proced~~ processed in **The United Nations Security Council**. The power of veto should be undermined or the permanent members should be extended by addition of G4 countries. This would reduce down the misuse of veto power against against group, and enhances democratic nature of the UN in decision proposal. Therefore, reforms are needed in international institutions to voice ~~down~~ out the sufferings of subjugated ethnic groups.

Additionally, to undermine the menace of ethnic cleansing states should empower non-governmental organizations which would objectify to facilitate minorities and suppressed ethnic groups. For instance, **Minority Rights Group (MRG)**, works under the United Kingdom, holds the rights of ethnic, religious, and linguistic groups by increasing their opportunities and representation in economy and politics. Moreover, the goals of **UNHRC** should be attained through proper supervision of conditions of ethnic groups and ensuring their basic

fundamental rights.

To sum up, the barbarious nature of ethnic cleansing cannot be overlooked. The geo-political unrest is interlinked with ethnic cleansing. It is one of the most cruel act of violence practice in national and international arena. It undermines basic human rights of people who are a target to discriminatory ethnic cleansing. Moreover, it has devastating impacts on psychological wellbeing of the victims. Ethnic cleansing is propagated through massacre and massive displacement of people to attain homogeneous ethnic dominancy, thereby further exacerbating social tension. It is a crime recognized by International Court of Justice, and ethnic cleansing cannot be justified on the basis of nationalism. The aftermaths related to ethnic cleansing has far-reaching implications, ranging from individual suppression to dividing nations.

"The scars of ethnic cleansing last beyond borders and generations"
- George Orwell