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ENGLISH ESSAY

تاریخ:

OUTLINE

4- BIASED MEDIA IS A REAL THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

Introduction

This 4th Gen warfare has become an inevitable evil engulfing the spirit of democracy as a whole by dismantling the people, the policy makers and the state.

Body

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At the break of dawn, the first thing anyone does is to check his/her phone. Tons of notifications bombard our screens most of which are ads and the rest from our social media accounts. We log into our Instagram and consume whatever half-baked news it feeds us. These memes and snippets are our next conversation at tea time and the spread of animosity for the state and its system strengthens in our hearts. This 4th gen warfare has become an inevitable evil engulfing the spirit of democracy as a whole by dismantling the people, the policy makers, and the state.

Simply put, media is a source of spreading information and if moulded or mis-handled it leads to chaos. "Biased media" is the information bent to fit one's own agenda and narrative for personal gains. Whether its mass media or print media, man has consumed it since the start of time for leisure and education. Quite recently, the world has shifted from traditional use of arms to using force through social media. The core often influences the

peripherie's and semi-peripherie's media and polity.

Politics is a component of state, however, the state relies on its people directly through democracy. In the light of Britannica encyclopedia, democracy is the system of government in which the laws, policies, leadership and polity of a country or state are controlled directly by people. Thus, controlling the minds of individuals ultimately influences the democracy. Rightly said and I quote:

"If you want to test a man's character, give him power."

- Abraham Lincoln

And the power to shape the minds of youngsters is the greatest of all, since the children of today will be the leaders of tomorrow.

A gilded example of a leader who meddled with democracy through media bias is of Viktor Orbán, the prime minister of Hungary. Viktor came to the limelight as in his early 30s. The Hungarians saw in him a ray of hope and a newfound courage. However, power got to his head and he shut down the Hungarian news network ~~on~~ while letting loose out

of their jobs, as reported by Al-Jazeera. The only news which was broadcasted was in his favour and he assumed an authoritarian form of government through his innovation. The initial glorification through media led to the chokehold later.

Moving a little further, in the European map, we once had USSR. While ^{counting} numerous conventional warfare mistakes, one of the non-conventional ones is the 'freedom of speech' given by Stalin to Russian media. Russia's communism was challenged and was left crippled as the media rose its voice against communism. The capitalist block marveled at this feat. The involvement of media, manipulated by capitalism, somewhat contributed towards the downfall of the present day Russia. Russia is ^{therefore,} one of the worst-rated democracies in Polity-IV.

This is followed by China, as China is doing no better in maintaining a democracy. People's Republic of China through its Communist school is producing hardcore leaders with no direct voting required. Unlike Russia where elections are at least rigged, the Chinese govern-

is updated without any actual involvement of its 'people'. Through WeChat the Chinese spend their life as frogs in the well. Such is the example of a failed democracy in shackles as people can not exercise their rights freely and "controlled media" makes them believe that they're experiencing unlimited features and flavors of the world.

Media has showcased the Afghan nation as terrorists and extremists. However, the whole country is not made up of Afghan Taliban. Meanwhile, intense media bias of the 1st world against them has left their government in shackles. This has left its mark on Pakistan as well and the world now recognizes Pakistan as a terrorist state. Narrative built against us can only be mitigated through media.

These problems threaten the state's sovereignty and institutions' integrity ultimately making democracy frail.

The current year has seen the election year around the globe. Pakistan, India and USA were also among the nations conducting elections. Due to continuous media induced agitation

against state institutions, on 9th May we experienced a mass revolt from civilians in multiple cities.

Such situations are a threat to any democratic institution. However, the efforts were curtailed and managed. Similarly, Modi's Akhand Bharat and Hindutava terminologies are widespread through social and mass media. Such campaigns overshadow the minorities while overpowering the majority, and this disbalance again puts leadership and democracy in a precarious state.

Contrary to this, now let's have a look at successful democratic systems around the world. We have Finland at the top most, followed by UK, USA and India. Finland has never waged war against the core or its neighbors and is regarded to as one of the happiest state according to UN. Its people are safe from misinformation spreading through media. On the other hand, UK despite exiting Brexit has not run any losses due to lack of multilateralism on mainstream media as reported by Reuters. Last but not the least, India glorifies its leaders fervently through news channels and the Indians are true patriots

to media.

We become what we eat, so if we consume half-baked news as regularly, we will surely deviate from state's national interest and narrative. The spread of misinformation started ^{world} wars in the past and the breaking up of Mughal Dynasty. Even today, a nation state is under threat if its media is not under proper check and balance. The Israeli media motivates its soldiers for the brutality they're doing in Palestine while enforcing Netanyahu's dictatorship. Thus, media is playing a vital role in the corrosion of a system of government.

A military coup enforced due to media bias is another poisonous arrow for democracy. Myanmar also known as Burma only supports the rights of Buddhists and families of the army personnel in Burma. Subsequently leading to a desire to join the army among the masses. Media is thus ^{either} a lethal weapon for democracy or a sweetmeal.

Such is the case of Bangladesh, media campaigns brought Gen Z to the ground and to ultimately overthrow their government. While

Tunus establishes a new government via elections, the undeniable fact remains that Hasena's rule and leadership was brought to knees. Whether it was fueled by propaganda or national civil war's spirit, eitherway, an uprising and ~~the~~ deterioration of democracy was witnessed.

There is no doubt or ambiguity that the latest trouble in the world is media warfare. The confusion lies in how and how much of it must be managed or regulated by the governments. After carefully analyzing the extremes at both ends of freedom and restrictions, a middle ground must be sought. China's control on its people is one extreme of this. Pakistan is trying to install a firewall at present, but is this really the long term solution?

The answer lies in the name 'biased media'. If the bias is in the favour of the country, then surely it'll generate a generation of patriots and revolutionary technocrats. However, if the media is left completely unchecked, the situation will be quite alarming. Political leaders around the world should be

chosen on the basis of their credibility and promise of service and media must present state narrative and interests to the people, so that they can make informed choices.

It is imperative to regulate media to save the nation from the tech-war. Nevertheless, rights of people to vote, live and speak freely can not be snatched from them. The state must align its citizens with its goals for a longer termed stability. The government must also meet the basic needs of its people for ensuring an environment of peace. Change is brought about gradually and shapes the future of the nation.