

Life isn't black or
white, it's grey

OUTLINE

Thesis Statement:

Although there are people who tend to see things in two extremes, life isn't always black or white, a grey area exists in between as people are not either good or bad, ideologies are not either right or wrong, and identities are not one or the other. For a balanced approach, established facts should be deconstructed.

I. Introduction

II. What does this adage signify?

1. Descartes theory of "Deconstruction" states that facts and history have been written by the political elite. They should be deconstructed to find the grey area between things portrayed as right or wrong.

III. Why life is grey and not black or white?

1. The dichotomy of black and white creates the dichotomy of right and wrong without

considering 'different perspectives' and 'contexts'.

i. Democracy is considered the only correct and ideal system for the world.

This system has failed to flourish in Asian and African settings because of differing social contexts.

a. The world has become a 'global village' where identities are not rigidly defined. Hyphenated identities are the grey area that combine two identities into one.

i. Black-American and other diasporic identities living across the world.

IV. How viewing life in two extremes can have negative implications?

1. Political polarization is on the rise as people tend to side with one political faction or the other which can have negative implications...

2. In a cultural setting, people tend to view their culture as more superior, giving way to xenophobia or hatred towards other cultures.

3. Seeing life in black and white creates religious extremism which can lead to conflicts.

V. How have individuals been historically portrayed as right or wrong?

1. Hitler is portrayed as pure evil by the West, whereas, from his perspective and according to Germans of the time, they were justified

in their actions. Their actions were an effect of harsh treatment by the West in Treaty of Versailles.

2. Mettemich has been portrayed in Europe as a mastermind, 'the father of realpolitik', and as a restorer of peace. However, according to some historians, he created a balance by suppressing revolutions and people's voices.

VI. How have ideologies been constructed in two extremes?

1. In the cold war era, the world was divided in capitalists and communists. The two ideologies countered each other.

VII. How have countries created black and white areas in global conflict?

1. During War on Terror, Bush created a black area and drew a line between the two. His doctrine of 'either with us or against us' created an imbalance in the world.

VIII. How the legal system creates the dichotomy of good behaviour and bad behaviour?

1. The dichotomy of perpetrator and victim seems blurred in the Israel-Palestine conflict as both sides claim to be the victims.
2. The legal system defines 'terrorists' without

taking into account their cause, history and justifications.

i. The terrorist factions in Balochistan

IX. What can the world learn from this adage?

1. Hybrid models of governance can be used, modeled according to the context and circumstances.
2. One must remain critical of propaganda tactics used in mass media to form a balanced approach.

X. Conclusion

The year is 1960. The shadow of death is looming all over the world. People are glued to their television screens as they watch in horror nuclear weapons being deployed. In the streets, people talk about how any day could be their last, any breath could be ~~last~~ their last, the end is drawing closer with every passing moment. The debates are getting louder and more intense, as some argue that communists are in the right, while others claim that capitalists are on the right side of history. It makes one wonder, is there really a right or wrong side here? Why can't both be right or both be wrong? Why are there only two sides to a coin? Who decides what is right and what is wrong? Who makes the rules for good behaviour and bad behaviour? Why are things in black and white only? The world has been oscillating between the two extremes.

This essay argues that these dichotomies of correct - incorrect, good - bad, right - wrong, and black - white are created by the people in power. People fail to see the grey area that exists in between. Viewing life in two extremes can have negative implications as it creates polarization. In history too, certain individuals are portrayed as right, while some are wrong. Similarly, political leaders, countries and the legal system create such dichotomies that have negative repercussions.

Although, there are people who tend to see things in two extremes, things aren't always either right or wrong, people aren't either good or bad, life is ideologies aren't correct or incorrect. Established facts should be deconstructed for a balanced approach.

The World is not Blind to West's Hypocrisy

Thesis Statement:

Although the West claims to be the champion of human rights and the leader of democratic world, recent events have exposed Western hypocrisy by unveiling its double standards in Palestine and Ukraine, its failing global governance structures, and its withdrawal from the globalized world.

OUTLINE

I. Introduction

II. How the West portrays itself?

1. The West claims to be the champion of human rights and the liberal world order.
2. The West supports the 'rules-based international order' as opposed to the 'law-based system'.
3. The West considers itself the leader of the democratic world.
4. The West supports a globalized, inter-connected world.
5. The West leads the global economic and governance institutions to ensure order in the world.

III. How ~~have~~ Western claims of 'human rights leader' have been exposed to the world?

1. The Western mission against Iraq in War on Terror turned out to be a war that created terror. Western claims of Weapons of Mass Destruction were incorrect, exposing the cost of human lives it took.
2. Western double standards have been laid bare in the Palestine conflict as it continues its unwavering support to Ukraine but would not condemn Israel.
3. Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan was conducted to liberate the Afghan women, but as they abandoned Afghanistan, they left women more oppressed than before.
4. West claims to be a 'melting pot' where their secular ideologies gives freedom to all religions. However, the rising Islamophobia in the West refutes these claims.

IV. How has the West used the 'rules based international order' narrative for its benefit?

1. The West has been exposed for toppling governments and supporting military dictators in Latin America which is against its claims.
2. Under the rule of Freedom of Navigation, the West is sending air missiles to Yemen, a country already drowning in war.

V. Why the world now refutes Western claims of 'democratic leadership'?

1. The West supports democracy, while, simultaneously supporting the autocratic governments in the Middle-East. This support is hypocritical in the light of their ideology.

VI. How is the West's advocacy for a globalized world hypocritical?

1. Rise of populist leaders in West have are arguing for strict policies against immigrants. Trump's stance against Mexico was against the values of globalization.

2. The Biden Administration ~~is~~ took a U-turn from this stance, but his administration also gave the Inflation Reduction Act that makes US industries self-sustaining and less dependent on the world.

VII. How are West's global governance structures failing to maintain a balance?

1. United Nations and its inability to make Western countries make stricter reduction targets to tackle climate change is a failure of the institution. Climate vulnerable countries are demanding payments for losses which the West is not providing proportionally.

VIII. How are Western economic institutions perpetuating more inequality?

1. The International Monetary Fund, led by the West, impose structural Adjustment Programs that perpetuate inequality.
2. West's dollar dominance thrives on global financial surveillance done by the US. They track economic transactions and they can inflict their inflation on other countries.
3. Western extractive institutions exploit developing countries and perpetuate inequality.

IX. How should the world respond to this hypocrisy?

1. World should press for reform in United Nations so that power is not accumulated within few countries.
2. The world should demand reparations for human rights violations through global platforms.
3. The world should collectively demand proportional payments and compensation for climate-induced disasters.

X. Conclusion

The day when a man sitting at the round table raised his hand to veto a motion, and then laid back in his seat with an expression of immense calm on his face, was the day United States and its Western counterparts were exposed to the world like never before. The man was a US representative, vetoing a ceasefire in Palestine. A single raising of hand brought Gaza destruction and death. Homes, hospitals and schools were bombed, children were murdered in their sleep, and families were eradicated off the face of earth. All because West decided to raise that hand that day and not to cease war. 'West chose this destruction over peace', the headlines read, and... the world knew that the mask had finally come off. West's hypocrisy has been blatant over the years, but this conflict was the last nail in the coffin.

Why would a country that claims to be the champion and safe guardian of human rights in Ukraine, continue to wage a war against civilians in Gaza?

The answer was clear to the world that the West has modeled this system only to suit its agendas.

The West has waged wars under the pretext of human rights violations, only to bring more terror and destruction. The West blindfolded the world with its long speeches on saving democracy, humanity, the rules, and creating a safe, globalized world. This blindfold came off slowly when its hypocrisy was exposed in Iraq, Afghanistan and Gaza. Although the West claims to be the champion of human rights and the leader of democratic world, recent events have exposed Western hypocrisy by unveiling its double standards in Palestine and

Ukraine, its failing global governance structures, and its withdrawal from the globalized world.