

If Gold rust, what shall iron do?

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Day: _____

I- Introduction:

Thesis Statement:

The political, economic and social decay of any country happen at the hands of elite class because of elite capture over key institutions. However, competent ruling elite can lead the nation towards success.

II- What do the metaphors of "Gold" and "iron" signify?

- 1- "Gold" signifies political elite, religious elite and global elite.
- 2- "Iron" represents an ordinary public who are directly influenced by elite class.

III- Why is the fate of society associated with the actions/practices of its elite?

- 1- Elite acts as role model.
- 2- Due to elite capture, elite mostly controls key institutions.
- 3- If elite fails to keep house in order, it brings turmoil and chaos.

IV- How did the ruling elite cause the downfall of great empires?

- 1- The incompetency of heirs of Mughal Empire caused the downfall of its long standing Empire.

V - How has religious elite remained active in fueling extremism?

1- Extremism remained both global and national's problems because it has brought devastation to all around the world

(Case in point: ISIS and Taliban)

2- Terrorism is another form of extremism.

VI - Why has corruption and nepotism so entrenched in developing world?

1- Corruption and nepotism have gone out of box, engulfing the entire developing countries.

(Corruption Perception Index, 2022)

2- Elite class are more inclined towards corrupt practices leading the erosion of human development.

(Human Development Index, 2023)

VII - How can ~~best~~ elite lead the nation towards success?

1- The competent and dedicated elite/ authority can potentially lead toward prosperity.

(Case in point: Mahatir Muhammad and Deng Xiaoping)

2- Competent authority can bring the separate homeland for their nation.

(Case in point: Muhammad Ali Jinnah)

VIII - Conclusion

In 2008, due to the sheer failure and incompetency of Lehman Brothers, financial crisis triggered. It happened due to inadequate regulatory oversight over the mortgage failure leading to a global economic meltdown and massive job losses. The global financial crisis of 2008 is a significant example of how ~~does~~ the failure of elite lead to the massive impacts on the public. That is why Geoffrey Chaucer rightly said that if political, religious, economic and global elites begin to fail, their course of actions result in the massive downturn. Why is the fate of ~~the~~ public associated with the course of actions of its ruling elite? How did the nobility cause the fall of great empires historically? How has religious elite been critical in spreading extremism and terrorism? Why has corruption become so embedded in developing world? How can the elite lead the entire nation towards prosperity and success? This essay will delve upon these questions in detail. The metaphors of "Gold" represents those elite who are in authority whereas "Iron" epitomizes an ordinary people. The fate of society is tied to the actions of elite due to inspiration and role models, elite capture, incompetent elite may bring chaos and turmoil. Historically, incompetency of ruling elite lead

to the fall of great empires. Similarly, religious elite has been remained critical in spreading terrorism and extremism. Likewise, due to inclination ^{towards} corrupt practices, developing countries have been facing the menace of corruption which has been hurting the essence of accountability. However, the competent and honest elite can lead the entire nation toward success and prosperity. The political, economic and social decay of any country happen at the hands of ruling elite because of elite capture over key institutions.

In an attempt to understand the ~~adage~~ adage in question, we firstly conceptualize the metaphors "Iron" and "Gold".
 "Gold" signifies the political, religious and global elite who are in authority. On the other hand, "Iron" represents an ordinary public who are directly influenced by elite class. This adage tells that if those at higher authority become immoral, corrupt and incompetent, then ordinary people could not be expected to ~~any~~ be different. This adage draws a concept that the course of actions of ruling elite directly impact the entire public. Policy making are conducted at the hands of elite class, and elite owns the unprecedented powers of decision making which definitely influence every person in the society both in positive and negative ways.

In addition to this, the fortune and fate of any society are associated with the actions of its ruling elite in many ways. Firstly, the elite class acts as role models who are emulated by the masses. For example, political leaders of any country act as the inspiration for entire citizens. The charismatic leadership qualities may be emulated by its majority of public. The behavior of leaders directly/indirectly influence its citizens. Apart from this, due to elite capture in most countries in the world, the elite controls important institutions. Mostly, policies are formulated to benefit the elite class and its public is structurally excluded from policy making. Thus, any policy formulation does not do good for the public. Given the fact, elite controls both the policy making and implementing phase. Lastly, if incompetent elite fails to keep house in order, political turmoil, economic meltdown and social decay become prevalent in the society. In a nutshell, fate of society is directly associated with the actions of its elite.

Besides, ruling elite caused the downfall of great empires. Historically, the incompetence of heirs of Emperor Aurangzeb caused the downfall of the Mughal Empire. Aurangzeb Deccan policy which caused

the destruction of the best soldiers and undermined the Mughal prestige.

After the demise of Aurangzeb, due to chaos and row among his sons, the long standing Empire started to fall.

Due to the incompetent policies of Aurangzeb, the great empire began to breakdown. Besides, failing to train successors also contributed to decay of empire. Noble men started gaining power against the weak Mughal which eventually led to the breakdown of downfall of Mughal Empire. Thus it can be said that due to the failed policies and incompetency, the great empire broke down at large.

Furthermore, religious elite has been critical in spreading extremism and terrorism. The menace of extremism has thrived, both globally and nationally. ~~and~~ Due to their orthodoxy, widespread influences engulfed the lay people. The false propagation of religion has tremendously fomented the extremism all over the globe. Thus, it led to the intolerant society. Extremism is posing a serious threat to the social order because it only fuels hatred and fear. The menace of extremism decays the social fabric of any country. For instance, due to prevailing extremism in Afghanistan, women are barred from

going to universities. This leads to the absence of inclusivity in the society. Women are not allowed to enroll in educational activities. Without educating the women, it can bring a havoc impact on society because an uneducated mother cannot nurture the nation in good manner. Thus, orthodoxy of extremists mindset influences the larger society leading to exclusive and intolerant society.

Similarly, terrorism is another growing threat to the entire globe in general and Pakistan in particular. Due to the misinterpretation of Jihad, terrorism has prevailed all over the world. Religious elites are responsible for the false interpretation of Islamic teachings. In an attempt to acquire their vested interests, they propagate the misinterpretation of Jihad. Having said that, lay people are vulnerable to brain washing. They easily fall into the trap of religious elite. Even, this leads to suicide bombing attacks for religious cause. For better understanding, it can be said that religious misinterpretation encompasses those lay people who blindly trust the propagation of the religious elite. Thus, terrorism is spreaded by elites of religion.

Moreover, Corruption and nepotism are badly embedded in developing world due to control over key institutions by ruling elite. Corruption is a menace that is largely prevalent in developing countries. The entire ruling elite of these countries are inclined towards corrupt and fraudulent practices. Thus, it hurt the essence of accountability. The culture of meritocracy, integrity and professionalism are largely absent giving a more space for elite class to manipulate the system for their benefits. According to the 2022 Corruption Perception Index reported by Transparency International, Pakistan stood at 140 out of 180 countries. The practice of corruption and lack of stringent system lead to the corrupt state. Due to elite capture, policies are shaped to protect those corrupt political leaders and officials. Pakistan's ranking in CPI reported by TI is stark reminder of how country's elite is hurting the essence of country's prosperity.

Similarly, nepotism largely prevails due to elite capture, which encompasses to favor the nears and dears of the political, economic and religious elite of the country. Meritocracy, honesty, professionalism and integrity are supposed to be driving forces of

actually positive

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any country that can potentially lead ~~any~~ to progress. On the contrary, nepotism erodes ~~erodes~~ all these essences of any successful country. Due to prevailing nepotism, ~~to~~ brain drain takes place which further ruin the country. In addition to this, culture of nepotism erodes the good governance leading to the poor human development. According to Human Development Index (HDI, 2022), Pakistan stood at 161 out of 192 countries due to its insufficient education, health, and income indicators. Nepotism only favors to benefit the ruling elite and eventually their wealth increases. In this way, the menace of nepotism only takes place due to elite capture at large.

However, competent and elite can lead the nation towards success. Mahatir Mohamed served as the Prime Minister of Malaysia who has impacted the country in many positive ways. He remained the Prime Minister for two terms, first from 1981 to 2003 and then from 2018 to 2020. During his tenure, he brought "Vision 2020" plan, aiming to transform Malaysia into a fully developed country. Similarly, he advocated for the importance of Asian values and development models. He emphasized on self-reliance and rejecting certain western

values. Additionally, he played a critical role in infrastructure sector, including the construction of Petronas Towers, one of the world's tallest twin towers. One education, he contributed the formulation of "education for all" policy. His anti-corruption measures were remarkable within the government. He brought the inclusive society by rendering rights to all the members of the country. He pursued an independent and assertive foreign policy, making diplomatic relations with other countries. Mahir implemented various financial policies to strengthen Malaysia's economy. Thus, it is proven fact that if the elite becomes honest, it can have a huge positive impact on the society.

Likewise, Deng Xiaoping's reforms could be remembered in this regard. ~~not~~ who not only transformed the entire China but led it to global economic power. He was inherited with weak economy of China. His reforms summary encompasses economic, political, moderate policies on foreign affairs and agriculture reforms. In economic reforms, he brought market principles, collectivization of agriculture, letting of protectionist policies, special economic zones and opening up of all foreign investments. In political reforms, he reduced the power of his own

office and also abolished shadow of Mao by introducing two term system. Apart from this, he devised a balanced and independent foreign policies. He established trade and diplomatic relations with USA. He revamped relations with USSR. In agriculture field, he brought a system of household-responsibility mechanism which uplifted the agricultural sector. In a nutshell, it is proven that elite can bring prosperity due to honesty and competency.

Last but not least, under the charismatic leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan came into being where Muslim can practice their religious practices freely. His leadership qualities led to the peaceful separation of country. Thus Muslim got their own separate homeland. Due to visionary principles of founder, he never compromised on the principle of Islamic ideology. Thus, it is deduced that when a leader who represents the entire nation, becomes competent and honest, it can lead the nation towards success. Pakistan inception on the world's map is the perfect example of how political elite can be catalyst in the prosperity and development of any country.

To sum up, the political, economic, religious and social decay happens at the behest of elite who are in authority. Their course of actions eventually impact the larger society both in positive and negative ways. Having said that, the fortune of any nation is directly associated with the behavior of elite. ~~Imp~~ Incompetency of ruling elite led to the downfall of long standing empires. Similarly, ~~and~~ religious fanaticism also plays a critical role in fomenting extremism. Due to compromised system, corruption and nepotism are prevalent in developing countries. However, the honest and competent elite can act as force of buoyancy in nation's prosperity. Lastly, if Gold rust what shall iron do.

