

Topic:

Learning from the past paves way for the future.

Outline :-

1. Introduction

1.1-) Learning from the past is an integral part of human evolution

1.2-) The future can be designed in a better way when lessons from the past are well-integrated in the next steps that are being taken.

2. Why learning from the past is important?

2.1-) Unveils influential components that were ignored back in the history.

2.2-) Hinders the way of committing the same blunders as done in the past.

3. How lessons of the past influence the future?

3.1-) A person's life choices can improve

3.1.1-) Choice of friends, career, institution or vacation.

3-2-) A family can take better decisions in the future

3-2-1-) Better financial management

3-3-) Political Culture in the society can improve

3-4-) Learning from the past can lead to better policy-making by the government

3-4-1-) Events of the past clearly shows the success or failure of any governmental policy.

3-5-) Social problems can be eradicated when past is taken into account.

3-5-1) Out of school children, the beggars issue, marginalization of women and many other are pertinent are recurring issues which cannot be addressed without looking at the past.

3-6-) The race of rating in the media industry cannot be won without learning from the past trends.

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3-7-) The strategy in any sports can be successful without keeping an eye on the past games.

3-8-) Back-bone of modern technological advancements is learning from the previous results.

3-8.1-) The iterative AI and machine learning models run on this principle.

3-9-) Past experiences drive the future inter-state relations.

3-9.1-) The hesitation of Russia to foster ties with Pakistan due to her historical tilt towards the American lobby.

3-10-) Past lessons play vital role in the bilateral, multi-lateral or even global policy making and peace process.

4. 'Learning from the past' in context of Islam

4.1-) The concept of Tawba and forgiveness teaches to learn lessons from the past and let go of it.

4.2-) Learning from past experiences was integral part of Prophet (PBUH)'s peace-process.

5. A future better than the present can not be achieved without learning from the past experiences

5.1-) Same blunders would be repeated at different situation

5.2-) More predictive policies would make one an easy target for the enemy.

6. Case Study: Similarities between East Pakistan Tragedy and Insurgency in Balochistan

6.1-) Multiple factors make the on-going insurgency in Balochistan and the East Pakistan tragedy quite similar issues on the basis of root-cause.

6.2-) Pakistan needs to learn lessons from the history and devise intelligent policies to avoid any unfortunate tragedy in the future.

7. Conclusion.

"Oh yes! The past can hurt, but the way I see it is that you can either run from it, or learn from it" said RAFIKI; who was a character in the famous animated movie "The Lion King". Rafiki's words are true. The past is not always pleasant for everyone. Past can haunt people. Even in the lives of nations and countries, there are events that remain as dark chapters in the book of history and keep haunting the future generations. However, running from it is not the solution as similar situation might happen again. The key is to learn from the past. "Time" has only one direction; a forward. Either good or bad, yet it passes. The people or nations who are progressive in nature always learn from their past in order to create a better future for themselves and their next generations. This is the phenomenon that is evident in the history of human evolution. Progress is possible only by learning lessons from the past and taking better and intelligent decisions for the future. A better future can only be designed when lessons are learnt from the past are incorporated while taking the next steps into the future.



Learning from the past is the key that unlocks the doors of a better future for both individuals or societies. When one looks back at history with a critical eye, a number of realities unfold in front of him/her. There are a lot of influential components that go unnoticed when one is living through an event, however, while looking at it from the future one can easily identify those key components that made the event go that way.

Learning and analyzing the past events reveal the internal and external key players that influenced the event. Not only key players, but the situation is also better analyzed and key factors like economy, politics, societal make-up, public perception and many other components can be seen playing their influence on that particular event. This makes one more vigilant about such factors being at-play in the future.

Identifying the key internal and internal factors and players that influenced the past event, makes one more attentive about them being at play in the future as well. This realization hampers the individual or nation

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to commit the similar blunder as done in the past. When any nation or individual learns about the past events with the lens of a critique, they become more aware of different realities and hence any mistake or blunder similar to that of the past is least likely to be done in the future. This shows that learning from the past ~~sto~~ lightens up the way towards a better future.

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When a person learns from the past and is well-enlightened about his/her past mistakes or areas where he/she could've done better, he/she is less likely to fall prey to the similar mistakes in the future. When a person consciously keeps one's past into account, he/she is very likely to make better choices in the future and hence create a better future life for themselves. For example, after having a bad experience in friendship or at work, one would look-out for such qualities in individuals before making friends in future and one would certainly consider the disturbing work practices while choosing a job in future. This enlightenment of one's own past would help one to create a better future for ones-self.

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When the similar practice is done by a family, it makes an environment where a family can take better decisions for the future. For example, if parents took a certain decision for one of their children and the results did not go as expected. Then, when a similar situation would arise for any other child, they would take into account the previous experience and take a more cautious and wise decision. Similarly, while dealing with a financial difficulty, looking at the past expenses and learning how to cut them would help the family devise a better financial plan for the next month or any period of time.

Learning from the past can help the society enhance its political well-being and political culture. If the society collectively analyzes the performance of the political elite, compare the gains and losses, it can reflect the result in the next polls. In a democratic society, it is important for the society to critically analyze the performance of the previous government. Then look-out for the possible alternate options and analyse their historical performance

as well. And then cast their vote in the favor of any candidate that they believe would out-perform, on the ground, the previous one. This all depends on learning from the past at societal and national level. This is the essence of democratic system and the only way to ensure a better future.

On the flip side of the coin, at the governmental level, it is again very important rather crucial to learn from the past. Any efficient government would never want to antagonize its people; however, at the same time it wants to make policies for the greater good of the country. In order to achieve this purpose, the government should always analyse the similar past events and policies made for them. Only by learning about the policies of the past and their results can equip the government with necessary tools to make better future policies.

History is a great teacher and the success or failure of any personality, idea, policy or plan can be clearly seen by learning about the past. While making any policies/plans for the future, the policy-makers must learn from the

Similar situation of the past; its ~~resp~~ implications on the social and economical fabric of society, the response of public and finally the claimed achievements versus the ground-realities. This clearly shows an elaborated picture of the success, failure or the room for improvement in any policy. Hence it is critical for the policy makers to learn from the past.

The solution of many social problems lie in the critical learning of the past. A good number of societal evils can be eradicated if the state looks at the past trends of the issue and devise intelligent plans to counter the factors influencing it. For example the menace of out of school children, child labor, marginalization of weaker segments of society and many other issues are not new in Pakistan and multiple efforts have been made to counter it as well. However, in order to eradicate these completely, a good analysis of historical efforts and the challenges related to them needs to be done. This is the only way for a better future.

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Learning from the past is not only necessary for social and personal life, but ~~also there are~~ some professions rely on learning from the past tends to outperform others in the future. The media industry, for example, is in a constant race of getting good ratings. This race of media to get good ratings can only be won by learning from the past. Which previous shows, events, experiments yielded good ratings and then creating the similar content to attract more high ratings is only possible by learning from the past.

Coming on with the same idea, in the field of sports, a well-thought game strategy can only be made by learning from the previous games. A good sportsman is never reluctant to analyse his previous mistakes and learn from them. While preparing a strategy for the new game, it is of paramount importance to analyze previous areas of improvement and address those. Only then can a person/team perform better on the ground.

This 'learning from the past' idea is also true in the modern technological

advancements of the 21st century. The current boom of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning is all due to the fact that the new machines and AI models do not repeat the same mistake, and this is because they work on the iterative learning models. All the intelligent predictions done by AI and super-intelligent machines work on this principle. They learn from the previous results, take feedback and avoid making the same mistakes in future. This eventually makes them error-free.

To add further, past experiences are the major drivers behind any policy of the state with another state. The inter-state relations are heavily dependent on the burden of history. This is because states learn from their previous experiences and incorporate the lessons into their future decisions. One of the best example for this is the Russia-Pakistan relations. Pakistan has been historically inclined towards the (anti-Russia) American bloc in the international theatre. And, Russia has had more cordial relations with India than Pakistan. Recently, the American inclination towards India has

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Compelled Russia and Pakistan to review/ deepen the bilateral ties, however, the burden of history is real and is the major hurdle between Pakistan and Russia.

Not just, the bilateral ties, but the history plays key role in the multi-lateral and global ties, policy making and peace process. No policy can be successful without taking into account the lessons of the past. For example, the Afghan peace process had a major role of history. Similarly, whenever the world deals with Iran, China, India or any other country, history is taken into account and all are dealt accordingly. Hence learning from the past is important to pave way for a better future.

If this same concept of 'learning from the past' is seen with the lens of Islam, we will see the same reality. Islam always emphasises on the fact that past is something to be remembered only for the lessons. Allah has given humans the concept of Tawba (repentance) and forgiveness for the reason that one must not hold one's own's past or anybody else's against him.

Allah acknowledges the fact that humans makes mistakes but He encourages humans to learn from the past, and move-on to apply the lessons in future dealings.

From the life of the Prophet, it is evident that He^o used to take into account the previous experiences while making new policies or devising new plans. For example, He^o made his seal to put on the letters, sent to foreign lands, as the Prussians did not consider any letter as from the authority that used to be without seal. ~~At~~ This shows how well did He keep His blessed eye on the history and used to align His actions accordingly.

At one occasion Hazrat Ali (R.A) who was a close companion and cousin of the Prophet^o said: A true believer is not bitten by the same snake twice. This shows how important it is for a muslim to take into account his/her past experiences, learn from them and then take any future actions.

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Contrarily, a better future can never be achieved without taking into account the lessons of history. When a person or nation do not consider the lessons from the past, they would more likely be committing the same mistakes as done in the past. When the results and implications of past actions are not considered, same blunders are repeated by people and nations. For example, trusting the same person who back-stabbed earlier silently or maybe signing a deal with a country who had hidden agendas earlier but go un-noticed as nobody learnt from the past. Hence, learning from the past is vital to have a better future.

Similarly, when a country, person takes decision at a certain pattern without learning from the past, it becomes more predictable. The enemy could then easily predict the next move and attack at the most vulnerable segment. This all can be avoided by keeping an eye on the past in order to ensure a safe future.

If Pakistan is seen in this context, the need to learn from history is the greatest at this time. The historical event of the fall of Dhaka and the rising insurgency in Balochistan both emerge from the same root and that is; the enemy exploiting the weaker segments of the society and state's lesser attention towards the backward provinces. The Bengalis were exploited by India when state did not incorporate their demands in national policy. The policy of inclusiveness was not followed then and the similar situation is happening in Balochistan today. The rise of BLA, backed by RAW and India is trying to repeat the history of East Pakistan in Balochistan. Now, the state of Pakistan should and must learn from history and cater for the demands of the communities in Balochistan to avoid any such tragedy to be repeated.

In short, the progressive evolution of any individual, society, nation or the whole humanity depends on the fact that they must learn from the past and take steps into future while avoiding similar mistakes. Only then, can the humanity thrive into a better world.

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