

Topic:

Learning from the past paves way for the future

Outline:

1. Introduction

Thesis statement: The neglected past forms the foundation of a future yet to come. Past enables us to learn what works and what doesn't, what lessons to take away and what mistakes to leave behind. Lessons from the past can help an individual, society and the world in general shape a better future.

2. Past and the role it can play to secure the future

3. How lessons from the past shape an individual's future

- a) Learning that experience is the best teacher
- b) Realising that obstacles are there to make you stronger
- c) Knowing that life doesn't end at failures
- d) Learning that nothing is permanent in life
- e) Realising that your family is there for you and blood is actually thicker than water
- f) Figuring out the importance of doing what matters
- g) Finding out that life moves on with or without you unless you do something about it

4. Lessons that society can learn to provide a better future

a) Division and discrimination never benefitted anyone

b) Humanity should be valued over temporary material gains.

c) Change can't be forced and must come from within

d) What values must be brought forth and what must be abandoned

e) Prioritize skills over the current education model to avoid further lost generations

5. Broader scope of lessons to be learned for the past and to be applied to the future

a) Realising that wars never benefit anyone and learning from past ones to avoid future ones

b) Learning from past recession can help in better money management for the future

c) Seeing the effect of past anthropogenic activities and doing something to secure future

d) Knowing which policies worked and didn't and making better ones

e) Building up on what past has left behind for the future

6. Conclusion

The past forms the foundation of a future yet to come. Past enables us to learn what works and what doesn't, what lessons to take away and what mistakes to leave behind. Lessons from the past can help an individual, a society and the world in general shape a better future. Man forgets that there was a time when he couldn't walk, and so whenever something associated with the past, usually bad, comes up he says: "let the past be in the past." What he fails to realise is that every little stumble and faceplant he took during his toddler years are what enabled him to walk today so well that he eventually forgot those stumbles. Similarly, the past holds great lessons that need to be incorporated in the present to get a better future. If we let the past stay in the past and let all its events become a distant and unwanted memory then what purpose does it serve, those hardships and obstacles. If one is able to look at the past objectively for the sake of lessons it holds, he will find great treasures buried in those graves and isn't oil, a past dug up for the future. Individuals can learn many things from the past to level themselves up and they can make their future or at least prepare themselves for it. Present societies can learn from past ones and realise where they failed. The past is filled with many people who were just like the ones that exist today so their lives should be looked at as

a handbook, a guide for the future.

Human beings are generally either of the two types. Those that dive into the past so deep that they are unable to bring themselves back up and those that get so lost in the future they can't see the forest for its trees. There is however, a third category, a very rare group of people, that swim through the oceans of past only to collect pearls that they can sell in the future, they get the key the past holds in unlocking the future and use it to their advantage. So it is not surprising that they are the ones who are successful. The future is unknown and to make a sense of it we need the guidance of the past because for the people of the past, our past was their present and our present was their future. We can learn from them and how they shaped the future and what mistakes must not be made.

People eventually learn that experience is the best teacher. Experience equips you with the knowledge to deal with your future better. What you learn in school falls away when life happens and lessons you learn for life are everlasting. "We are not makers of history. We are made by history." (Martin Luther King Jr.). It is one's experiences that shape him into the person he is today and the person he should be to conquer the future. Thus where learning is concerned, experience teaches best.

With experience one realises that with every obstacle and road block you face, you become stronger. Challenges in life are lessons disguised and so when one overcomes them, he is more knowledgeable and better equipped to face future ones. Like Amy Huston said in her novel, "It's the burdens you carry that made you strong enough to shoulder them". Humans are adaptable and creatures that learn with time. The more obstacles you face the more you level up. Thus strength to tackle the future comes from facing obstacles in the past.

The obstacles that one faces makes him realise that life doesn't end at failures. Failures in the past taught lesson that brought you where you are and will help you where you're going. Failure is a fresh start that gives you the opportunity to change tactics and keep at it until you discover what works and what doesn't. Just like Henry Ford said: "Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently." With past events reality shows that life never ended with failure and never will, it's always just a new and better beginning. And so it is okay to fail because failure is not the end but a new beginning.

Just like failures, nothing is permanent in life. With the passage of time, everything changes and nothing remains the same. This enables individuals to make themselves adaptable and prepare themselves for an unpredictable future. "The only constant thing in life is change" and very rightly so. If people realise this they would stop being stuck on things and broaden their horizon for the future because as we have seen nothing from the past is same in the present and so with things, people should change too. Like Alvin Toffler said, "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those that can't read and write but those that cannot learn, unlearn and relearn." Thus with past events we realise that nothing is permanent in life and things keep changing.

Past events makes a person realise that when the world was changing, ~~your~~ ^{this} family stuck with him through thick or thin. With the changing world and everyone having their own objectives only one's family is the constant support. You realise that family comes first because all others are bound to get unattached at one point or another as you go through different stages of life. All this proves that blood is actually thicker than water. One begins to realise their importance and plans for a future that would include them, to do something for you family like they did for you. Thus you realise that family is the only rock you can lean against.

With realising your families worth you figure out the importance of doing what matters. Life is too short to not prepare for the future. Past instances will make one realise that being unprepared for the future can take a great toll. This can include getting better education or even investing money for the future. Similarly one realises that, "The future belongs to those that prepare for it today." just like Malcolm X said. The future is a consequence of actions you take today and is built on the foundations you lay down and if you don't, the future would be unstable. Hence with looking into the past one figures out that actions matter and what really matters must be done.

One also realises that if you don't do something that matters, life will move on and you will be left in the dust. Life simply happens and it waits for no one nor no one and before you know it the future becomes the present and you will become the past. Doing what matters for yourself with both secure your future and make your mark so you're not lost in the archives of the past. Striving for a better future will get you a better future and not just waiting for it to show up. Just like Peter Drucker said: "The best way to predict the future is to create it." Past has swallowed many individuals that didn't keep up for the future and only those remain successful that did something that matter. Hence doing something that matters is important before future blows over.

While seeing what matters, the society can learn that things like division and discrimination are better left in the past because they never benefitted anyone. For the society to progress further, the bad aspects of it must be left behind. The past saw many instances of hatred and crime that had stem from these very aspects of society. Man and the society both know that future has no place for hatred and so things like inclusivity and brotherhood should replace division and discrimination for a better and more peaceful future. Many have suffered and many will continue to unless done something. Thus bad aspects of society must be left in the past.

Similar to discrimination, past witnessed many instances where humanity was neglected for the sake of material gain. Future cannot exist without humanity as humans are the gate-keepers of the future. The world knows that all material gains are insignificant when compared to the value of humans because of the brutal past that saw events like the Iraq war that was fought for the sake of USA wanting oil. No one wants those instances being repeated in the future. Hence Humanity should be uplifted for a better future because without humans, the material gains cannot exist.

With value for humanity @ the world realised that at the core of everything lie humans and that they cannot be forced to change. The urge to change for a better future must come from within otherwise the change wouldn't be permanent and history would keep repeating itself.

As the world witnesses when the colonizers tried to change the working of their colonies, the people there resisted it because it was lead by force. change for betterment can only come about when lead by example and society must structure itself in a way that promotes changes for a better future.

"You cannot change anyone, but you can be the reason someone changes." (Roy T. Bennett). Thus change can be forced and should be encouraged by example.

changes make the society realise that what values must be held on to for the sake of the future. Values shape a society and what it would look like in the future. For a better future, values like Honesty, Sacrifice for betterment of state, education, brotherhood, and hard work must be preserved to form a future society that can thrive on its own. From past events, those that let go of core values collapsed and couldn't find themselves space in the future. Conclusively, good values need to be held onto and bad ones must be abandoned altogether.

The greatest of values is education and how throughout history it has been found lacking. It is lacking solely for the sake of not trying, as education should prioritize skill building and preparation for the future not some bookish theories that remain unapplicable to real life. Because at the end of the day, "Education is what ~~matter~~ remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school." (Albert Einstein). For future security, quality education is a must for we all need. And so the society should learn to prioritize skills over the current education model to make individuals feel prepared for the future.

Past has taught many lessons and perhaps the greatest one learned is that wars never benefit anyone and this was learned through education. One can learn where humans went wrong in the past to cause past wars and avoid making such mistakes to deter future wars. Wars throughout history have only gathered losses for humanity. In world war II about 66 million people lost their lives. All this warfare has no space in the future humanity desired and so must be let go off. Thus it must be realised that wars are never good and past ones should be a lesson to avoid future ones.

In the past, with wars came great economic turmoil and this can help people navigate the signs to avoid future recessions. Many economic recessions shaped the world for what it is today. Economy is basically the management of resources that has been an ongoing theme for as long as humans have existed. So various patterns can be seen splayed out through history and people can learn what to avoid and how to take advantage of a situation from those events. The financial system has so adjusted itself that, after many break downs in the past, it no longer leaves anything to chance and controls the flow of economy when needed. Thus the past hold great lessons that can be learned in terms of money management and finances.

While humans were busy trying to make the economy better in the past they unknowingly committed some activities such as the industrial revolution.

Similar to how humans can learn about economy from the past, they can learn that past was not as polluted as the present is. It is those anthropogenic activities that occurred in the past that threaten the future of mankind itself. People must realise the mistakes they made so that they can be undone to make the world less dangerous place.

place to live in due to climate change. Industrialization is said to be the event that started this downward trend of environmental degradation. And so measures should be taken to avoid further such activities by learning from the past. Hence by seeing the effects of anthropogenic activities on the life of humans, people can work to secure the future.

Similar to knowing what works for the environment, the policy makers should look into the past and figure out what policy worked and what didn't. Past can be used as a dataset to know what will work in the future and what policies must be abandoned altogether. Creating policies that haven't worked in the past won't be beneficial for the future and so new things should be tried. As Albert Einstein said, "Insanity is doing something over and over again and expecting different results." Thus looking into the past can teach policy makers to predict and make policies for the future.

Like everything else, past held many great people who had worked hard for the future and did great things. Their contributions help everyone to this day as the future has always been built on the past. Their work can be used as a foundation to build upon for

newer and greater things. The past must be treated as a prologue for the future to come. This was seen in the works of many scientists that took the work of scientists that came before them and built up on that research to present new ideas and technology. Similar to what John of Scusbury said, we are like dwarfs standing on the shoulders of giants we see more than they did. Not because of our superior sight or height but because they raise us up and add by their great stature added to ours." And so by building up on the remnants of the pasts, a great future can be built.

Conclusively, past holds great lessons for building a great future in all dimensions. The past is filled with both amazing and horrendous events to learn from and decide what must be kept and what must be let go. By peering into the past, one can find ways to improve himself and the world around. The past is what we inherit and it must be seen as a key to unlocking a future worth inheriting for others. The past should make one realise that future has no place for evils like war and deaximination while qualities like education and change are widely welcomed. It all depends on what one decides to look for in the past but it is assured that

that the past can guide in every aspect of future for
it too, like the future is going to be, was filled with humans.
One just needs to look for the right things. You can ^{only} see
where you're going by knowing where you have been. Just
like Marcus Garvey said, "The heritage of the past
is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future"