

Why Nations Fail?

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The Essay

Ibne Khaldun, a renowned Islamic scholar and a father of Sociology has obviously identified a single cause of the failure of nations. He had described this cause as a "Asabiya." According to him, Asabiya refers to the group feeling and an urge to fight for the nation. The weakening of Asabiya among nations lead to the failure of nations. As long as the Asabiya remains strong, the nations would not ~~far~~ be afraid from the fear of decline. However, there are many other factors that lead to the failure of nations. Asabiya does not solely contribute in the decline of nations. The other factors include incompetent rulers, internal conflicts, and decline of unity. Furthermore, flawed policies, economic mismanagement, and the protection of elite interests also contribute to this. Additionally, ^{the} vested interests of a stronger nation, ^{attractive institutions}

and lack of modern technology bring the downfall of nations. Conversely, certain strategies like promoting inclusive institutions and fostering unity can secure nations from downfall. Hence, the internal mismanagement, internal problems, and the interest of a stronger nation lead to the failure of nations.

Before exploring the underlying causes of the failure of nations, it is pertinent to understand the failure of a nation. A nation becomes a failed nation when it loses its past glory and sovereignty. According to Johan F Kennedy, the loss of sovereignty indicates the decline of a nation (Rise and Fall of Great Nations). Therefore, the loss of autonomy by any nation brings its decline.

To begin with, incompetent leaders accelerate the downfall of a nation. Their incompetence and flawed policies bring the decline of a nation. For instance, incompetent rulers in India after Aurangzeb contributed in the

decline of Mughal period. Mir Moreover, Lalitram Daslymple has also blamed last period Indian rulers for bringing the decline. [The Anarchy]. Therefore, the incompetent rulers lead to the downfall of nations.

Secondly, internal conflicts of a nation bring her downfall. The internal conflicts leads to the vulnerability of a nation. As a result, the nation can not stand sovereign due to internal conflicts. By looking the internal conflicts among a nations, external factors began to assert their hegemony. For instance, the internal conflicts of Yemen and Rwanda have brought their decline. Therefore, the internal conflicts contribute in declining a nation.

Thirdly, the treachery of the people of a nation brings her decline. The treacherous people assist foreign nations to dominate their own nations. For instance, Ibn-e-Alqami had invited Mongols to end Abbasid rule. Similarly, Mir Jafar and Mir Saadur have assisted British against Indian

king Sirajud Daula. Hence, the treachery of own people bring the downfall of nations.

The decline of unity is another factor leading to the decline of a nation. The eradication of unity among nations makes them vulnerable prey for foreign invasions. The famous sociologist Ibn-e-Khaldun has termed this unity as Asabiya. The weakening of Asabiya brings the downfall of a nation. According to him, the weakening of Asabiya (unity) brought an end to muslim rule of Abbasid period (Mugqadimah). Therefore, lack of unity indicates the decline of a nation.

Apart from this, flawed policies also welcome the decline of a nation. Sometimes, the flawed political or economic policies brought an end to the rule of a nation. For instance, the policy of Napoleon to boycott British goods had contributed to his decline. Moreover, his policy etc. to invade Russia also proved

to be a ~~fast~~ disaster. Therefore, the flawed policies also bring the decline of a nation.

Similarly, the mismanagement of economic resources contribute in the decline of nations. The lavish spending by rulers put a burden on a nation regarding its stability. The lavish spending of Indian rulers had brought an end to their rule. Shakh Waliullah, a renowned Islamic scholar, has also argued that the reason behind Indian rulers decline was lavish spending. Hence, the economic mismanagement indicate the decline of nations.

In addition to this, the protection of the interests of ~~a~~ ^{the} ~~str~~ ^{the} elites of a nation brings the downfall of nations. The protection of elite interests put a heavy burden on a particular nation. This protection can strain its economic situation as well. Resultantly, the nation becomes a vulnerable prey to decline. In this regard, the example of Sri Lanka is

is pertinent. Sri Lanka has faced decline due to the preservation of the interest of elite class. [The Guardian Report]. Therefore, the protection of elite interests contribute in failing a nation.

Most important factor among all factors is that the interests of a stronger nation lead to the failure of a weak nation. The intervention of a stronger nation in the affairs of a weak nation brings decline. Historically, Aryas, we central Asian people, had eradicated the Indus valley civilization in order to find food. Similarly, Alexander has destroyed Iranian dynasty by defeating Darius for conquering the world. Recently, USA attacked Iraq for with extracting oil. [How the world works by Noam Chomsky]. Hence, the interest of a strong nation bring the decline of a weak nation.

In the same manner, the lack of modern technology also contribute in bringing the downfall

a nation. The nations with technological advanced weapons have conquered the nation who lack modern weapons.

For instance, British had successfully conquered India with the assistance of modern weapons. Moreover, Ottoman empire collapsed due to lack of modern weapons. Hence, the technological advancement of a nation ~~is~~ brings the downfall of another nation.

The last but not the least factor ~~that~~ ~~is~~ leading to the decline of nations is having extractive institutions. The extractive institutions are concerned with providing benefits to tiny elite class. On the other hand, poor class bear the burnt of extractive institutions. Resultantly, this divide of poor and elite brought a decline to a nation. Daron Acemoglu has also mentioned that the extractive institutions bring the decline of a nation [Why Nations Fall]. Hence, the extractive institutions lead to the failure of a nation.

Many nations have faced failure due to above mentioned factors. First comes the ancient nation of Indus valley civilization. This nation failed as a result of intervention of a foreign power. The interests of a stronger power had led to the failure of Indus valley civilization. The Aryas, central Asian people, had brought an end to Indus valley civilization in order to preserve their interest of finding a new place of living and having an abundance of food. Second comes the case study of Soviet Union. This nation has faced decline due to flawed policies of her leaders. All Soviet leaders pursued different policies regarding economy. For instance, Lenin had devised socialist policies for governing Soviet Union. However, the last leader Gorbachev had abandoned the policy of Lenin and pursued capitalist policy. This resulted in the disintegration of Soviet Union. Therefore, these case studies prove that nations have faced failure due to

above mentioned factors.

As far as the contemporary nations are concerned, they can save themselves from failure by following certain strategies. These strategies include the promotion of inclusive institutions. As Daron Acemoglu has also emphasized that the inclusive institutions can secure a nation from the downfall. [Why Nations Fail]. Moreover, the nations should foster a sense of unity among people in order to wipe out the fear of disintegration. The country like Pakistan must ensure unity among its citizens. In addition to this, the modern nations should positively utilize the benefits of globalisation and global financial institutions. The positive usage of global financial institutions such as IMF can secure a nation from failure in modern times. Hence, these are the strategies that can secure nations from failure in contemporary period.

In conclusion, it becomes abundantly obvious that the internal problems of nations and external intervention of a strong nation lead to the failure of a weak nation. The internal political and economic problems of a nation indicate her failure. Moreover, some social problems like lack of unity also contribute in bringing the downfall of a nation. Many nations have faced the humiliation of failure due to these factors. However, modern nations can secure themselves from the failure by adopting practical strategies. Currently, the nations are collaborating with each other for preserving themselves from the curse of failure. The growing economic alliances and global financial institutions are helpful for securing a nation from downfall. Hence, the modern nations are more secure than the ancient nations. Moreover, the positive usage of financial institutions can provide a more secure future for nations.

The day is not far enough when
contemporary nation will benefit more
from globalisation and financial
institution.
