

English Essay

2. Why nations fail?

Outline:

1. Introduction

2. Why nations fail?

- a. Concentration of power corrupts states and statesmen
- b. Extractive and exclusive institutions fail the citizens
- c. Conflictual political culture weakens states
- d. Murder of rule of law leads to chaos, violence and war
- e. Nations, prisoners of geography
- f. Resistance to change and adaptability is destructive for nations
- g. Rotten education system which discourages creativity, critical thinking, debates and discussions
- h. Public's voice and choice crushed under the feet of a tyrant
- i. Over-spending on military and ignoring economy

j. Weak state, strong society:
jeopardises nation's peace,
and prosperity.

3. Why nations rise: The learning lessons for the fallen nations

i) Carefully designed law of the
land guides government and
citizens

ii) Inclusive institutions provide
equal opportunities to all and
protect everyone's rights.

iii) Principle of separation of
powers for smooth functioning
of state

iv) The leading nations heavily
invest in modern education and
advanced technology

v) Enlightened citizens and stable
society bolster state

4. Conclusion

Nations, like living organisms, come into being, grow, decay and die. History is a great master which teaches about the rise and fall of nations among other things. Many great empires - Greek, Roman, Persian, Ottoman, and British - which once ruled the world and were dominant players on the global political stage are now hardly visible in political arena at global level. This shows that the nations which stray are lost and forgotten in general. Nations fail due to many reasons: concentration of power, extractive and exclusive institutions, conflictual political culture, murder of rule of law, geographic determinism, resistance to change and adaptability, rotten education system, turning deaf to public's voice and choice, and over-spending on military at the cost of economy. All

these factors combined

waken and fail nations.

However, the fallen nations can learn from the nations which are tied to victory.

When one looks inside the successful nations and tries to find out their secret recipe to rise, one learns that they follow the certain path based on carefully designed principles.

In short, nations fail due to flawed political structure with power concentrated in few hands, institutional imbalance, resistance to change and adaptability, extractive and exclusive institutions, geographic determinism, overpowered society and weak state, and murder of rule of law. The fallen nations can right their wrongs by learning from the successful nations.

Concentration of power is one of the major causes

of the failure of nations.
It corrupts states and stems
This leads to tyranny, famine
and dictatorship. The French
Revolution France was rule
by Louis ~~VI~~ The king and
his select allies from nobility
and clergy enjoyed luxurious
life, while the masses starved
thus, power concentration with
no checks and balances, fails
nations.

Extractive and exclusive
institutions fail the citizens.
A state is made by four
elements: geography, population,
government and sovereignty.
All of them are important
for state's health. Particularly,
population plays major role
in the rise and fall of a
nation. If public ~~is~~ gets equal
opportunities, and everyone
is allowed to participate in
politics, economy and other

matters, state sizes. In the book, Why Nations Fail, the authors argue that more than geography institutions matter. They present the example of the USA and Mexico which share geographical features but are poles apart in terms of institutions. The USA's inclusive institutions allow it to dominate the world, while Mexico's exclusive and extractive institutions fail the state.

Conflicting political culture weakens a state. In a state where political actors are always outdaggers drawn, and are blinded by their selfish interests, nation's failure is written. Among many ills, Pakistan is also facing polarised politics where power-hungry politicians seek to maximise their power. Everything else is secondary for them.

Murder of rule of law leads to chaos, violence, and war. If rule of law or constitutional supremacy is minused from a state, things fall apart. In the words of Aristotle, "Man when separated from justice and law is the worst of all animals." Without rule of law, government acts abusively and civilized society turned into a state of nature.

Nations are also prisoners of geography. Geography favors ~~and frees some~~ and liberate some, while captures and mistreats others. Europeans wars have bleed European Continent for centuries. The tyrannous geography pitted European powers against one another. They were bound to fight for defense and offense. This weakened Europe economically.

On the contrary, the USA, uncontested and unchallenged by its neighbours ~~has~~ grown and progressed in a peaceful environment as highlighted by Tim Marshall.

Resistant to change and adaptability is destructive for nations. Charles Darwin argues,

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change." The Ottoman empire due to resistance to change became sick, moribund of the Europe. Thus, nations which fail to grow with time go extinct.

Rotten education system which discourages creativity, critical thinking, debates and discussions fail the nations. Education is the backbone of a society. The states.

which fail to provide quality education lay behind. One of the major differences between Global North and Global South is that of education.

Over spending on military, bombs and bullets at the cost of economy can be disastrous for a nation. During cold war, the USA and USSR heavily invested in arms race. America's great economic growth allowed it to spend on military; on the contrary, the USSR's weak economy could not support it, leading to its disintegration in 1991. This shows that without economy, a state cannot survive.

Weak state, strong society
'jeopardises nations' peace and prosperity. In his book

Anatol Lieven Pakistan a

Hard Country: Anatol Lieven

identifies one of the causes

Pakistan's downfall. He argues that in Pakistan, especially in periphery, the social organisation and tribal codes overpower state laws. This keeps state divided into many fractions.

Nonetheless, the "fallen" or falling nations can learn from the leading nations of the world. There are certain practices and principles found in the victorious nation which poor nation can follow and adopt to rise and thrive.

To begin with, in successful states, carefully designed laws of the land guides government and citizenry. There is uniformity of laws. No one gets special treatment on the basis of caste, color, creed, gender, region, religion and political association. Everyone is treated as the citizen of the state and gets just treatment. This unifies

whole nation and prepares
ground for all to participate
and progress.

The institutions in great
states are inclusive. The motto
is: "no one should be left
behind." The provision of
opportunities to all embolden
state. When everyone participates,
it improves competition and
quality and citizens become
asset for the state. The
devolution of power which
allows growth reach at
local areas and periphery.
This approach empowers citizens
and state.

In successful states, the
principle of separation of
powers is followed. The jurisdiction
of sphere of influence of
each organisation is determined
and defined. When different
institutes are allowed to
work independently they grow.

The political structure is divided into three organs: executive, legislature and judiciary. Each works in its own sphere. This ensures devolution of power and checks and balances. The USA is the most powerful nation in the world to the fact that separation of powers is essential for the smooth and just functioning of state.

The leading nations also invest heavily on education, education and advanced technology. Education is essential for politics, economy and technology. J. S. Mill argued, "I regard it wholly inadmissible that any person should participate in the suffrage without being able to read. Moreover, it is impossible to grow economically if citizens are not upskilled."

The states like the USA and China lead the world in terms of economy as they are heavily invest in human reserch and development. They produce and engines, while most of the states consume. This is realized by their control on technology.

Enlightened citizens and stable society bolter state. The citizens who are intellectually sound and aware of the theories and realities not

only hold the society together but also ensure that political system functions smoothly. Such citizens are aware of their right and state's duties. Therefore, they ensure that state does not shy away from protection of their rights and also properly perform its duty which is to provide justice, freedoms, equality and order.

To sum up, a nation's rise or fall is not natural. A number of factors combined either take nations to the pinnacle of progress or throw them to the dangerous crevices ~~which~~ where they silently die. History and the present teaches that certain characteristics in a nation can fail it. A nation which have poor political structure based on abusive and exploitative norms, where creativity, criticism, and change are abused, where public's voice and choice are crushed under the feet of a tyrant, where effective and efficient bureaucracy is missing, and where power does not change hands, is destined to die. However, by following the footsteps of successful nations, the weak states can also improve their position.