

# REVIEW, DIAGNOSIS AND PROGNOSIS OF SOCIO POLITICO-ECO TRENDS IN PAKISTAN

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## Abstract:

*This article offers a sustained critique of the existing socio-political & economic order of the country. Especially it is an indictment of the government in office. Attempt has been made to highlight the need for the return to rule of law or the constitution in the country. Our contention is that national institutions flow from the constitution (& are virtually parasitic upon it). So if the constitution is frequently trampled upon & dismissed with disdain, institutions can't survive either. We will naturally be driven to Hobbes, "State of nature". We will therefore do ourselves a great service if we return to the rule of law and induct an honest & upright leadership with a commitment to serve our own nation rather than being subservient to outside pay-masters.*

Observe with painful shock that the polity, economy and society are in the grip of crisis and dragged into whirlpool. The spirit of the state is dampened. The rulers are out of tone with the will of the people, ideology underpinning the nation and civilizational imperative of the state. The disposition, wisdom and virtues of authorities are suspected. The security of the country is apparently bartered away. The life, liberty and rights of citizens are endangered. The threats and challenges to the Islamic Foundation of the country are overlooked. National Sovereignty, identity and vital interests are allegedly discounted and on sale. Foreign forces steer and control the egoistic sections of rulers, political parties and media. Lenders, Investors and Donors engineer policies, legislation

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and executive stipulations. Script of the West prevails in matters of vital importance.

Governance is faulty. To secure and retain positions of authority constitutional principles, democratic norms and ethical codes are waylaid. Checks and balances are virtually inoperative. Writ of the state with reference to rule of law, functional effectiveness and enforcement of normative conduct is weekend. Credibility of the rulers is lost. Dirty deals and foul play at the top is common place. The multiple mechanism of control and issue of ordinances are of little avail in situation of public mistrust. The responsibility of service delivery in line with law, policy and standards is shirked with impunity. None is held accountable for wrong doings and evil deeds.

Note with dismay that the referees who justified the acquisition of state power on account of misgovernance, organizational failings and failures and widespread corruption on the part of political machine have fallen pray to identical accusation. Devilish efforts are made to keep themselves in power. The legitimacy, performance and motivations of men at the helm of affairs are doubted. They stand discredited in the eyes of people. The co-opted participants and civilian power sharerers are in disgrace. Demonstration, protestation and agitation against strayed behavior are seen from Khyber to Karachi. Turmoil is intense and across all classes. Criticism and chaos is in evidence all around. The voices for the restoration of genuine democracy, sound constitutionalism, real citizens rights and orderly governance are heard with remarkable unity. The aspiration for being governed by legitimate, competent and popularly esteemed authorities has captured the hearts, minds and behavior of the masses. Freedom from external interventions,

manipulations and determination of road map for the political role players, decision takers and publicity makers is vehemently sought.

View with alarm that tribal attachment to and unquestioned obedience of the authorities at every level are drying up, insurgency has surfaced and resentment is widespread. Every layer of the masses feels aggrieved, estranged and disenchanted. The significance of traditional bonds cementing social milieu and maintaining cohesive attitudes is denuded. Normal life, living and orientation is disrupted. Minds, emotions and deeds are absorbed by the threats to Islam, onslaught of neo-imperialism and dangers of deculturisation. The marginal sections of the populace are rejective of the notables and suspicious of rulers. The idealistic youth stand particularly vulnerable to acts of violence as a result of what is done by the law enforcing agencies in the name of war on terrorism, flushing out of the outsiders and regardless of the sensitivities of elders for the preservation of time honored traditions. The appeals, warnings and prohibitions issued by the government are deemed unwarranted. The policy makers and dictations followers are held in contempt. The image of higher ups as being more knowledgeable, chivalrous and transcendental is shattered.

The tribals / Talibans see and evaluate themselves differently from the perceptions and assessment of the NATO Coalition forces and myopically opportunistic decision makers on the home front. They look upon themselves as puritans, holy warriors and straight forward fidayeens doing their sacrosanct religious duty of protecting Islam, flying the flag of patriotism and expressing sentiments of solidarity with Ummah in hours of trial and tribulation. The allegations of being anarchists, mischievous, extremists, radicals, rebellious, anti-social and barbaric are turned over as malicious and absurd. Full and unconditional

allegiance is professed to humanism, respect for eternal values, revealed injunctions and contractually arrived conventions. Strikes, killing and coercive blows by NATO forces are judged worthy of retaliation and retribution. Surrender to brute force is considered dishonorable and betrayal of forefathers and cultural heritage. Those who spy or co-opt with or act stooges of the enemy are warned, disdained and attacked. The will to and willingness for Jirga as a mechanism of dispelling misunderstanding, narrowing disagreements, settling disputes, resolving conflicts and suspending fighting are always exhibited. The institutional framework command compliance.

Deplore the arbitrariness of the rulers over the years, in by passing, neglecting and over-ruling of the institutions. The freezing of informal professional position holders whenever rulers personal interest, predilections and inner fears are involved has derailed the administrative set up. It is sharply criticized that top posting, promotions and transfer are made mainly with egoistic considerations. Talented but non obliging officials are kept out of the loop. The potentials of organizational expertise, task commitment and functionaries good intention to uphold what is right, good and great remain underutilized. The much publicized capacitation, professionalisation and inducements of the institutions for better performance with justice, fair play and care do not produce the desired result in a milieu marked by top-down whimsical dictation and expectation of slavish conformity to what is asked for. The visible outcome is indifferent and appeasing officials making third rate decisions with grave consequences for the image, reputation and credibility of bureaucracy, technocracy and advisors. The effectuations of national agenda remain an idle wish with disappointing ramifications.

Invite in-depth deliberations and public debate on the theme of exorbitant price paid by the polity for the selfishness, narrow vision and deviation from national values, public interest and lessons of history manifested by the captains of Pakistan. The polity has drastically fallen short of what is possible, desirable and expected. The peace, tranquility and stability has disappeared. Insecurity is rampant. The frustrated, alienated and disgruntled youth is pushed to the wall. Fleshy and flashy sentiments are stimulated. In an Islamic state normative maxims of behavior are replaced by impulsive, anomalous and deviant conduct. Society is factionalized, bifurcated and addicted to greed, consumerism and hedonism on account of the shortsightedness and de-linkage of rulers from the soul and spirit of the nation.

The opportunists, careerists and societally disconnected elites and some systemically enticed column writers and electronic media speakers lend cover to aberrant role players and rationalize flawed courses of action adopted at the behest and scare of foreign masters. Thus the Polity is polarized, dented and divided on ethnic, regional and sectarian basis. This affords chances for outside agencies to engineer terrorism and stray deeds of betrayal on the part of mercenaries.

Welcome the countering compensatory signs on the horizon. The redressing feature of the bizarre experiences, expression of bad tastes and recurrent ugly scenes is that a fresh zeitgeist for self reformation has surfaced. All sections of the populace are chastened. The vestige of maturity are springing up and gaining ground. Resignation, passivity and flight reaction is gradually substituted by active engagement. Rulers action that are contrary to the general will are resisted and opposed. Masses are awakened to and mindful of the realities. Sensitivities are on the rise. Self confidence is revived. The attempts to compel, subjugate

and deflect are flayed with corresponding determination. What is said and done by the divergent actors on the stage is scrutinized, weighed and evaluated in relevant perspectives. Nothing goes unquestioned. Support is lent to those who are truthful, convincing and project negation of the stressful, insecure and anarchic conditions. Transition from the status quo to informed change is asked for. People are ahead of the Government in detection of hostile force emanating from within or without. A strong sense of purpose prevails. Deeni obligations are heeded. The *raison-de-tour* of Pakistan is loudly affirmed. It is the weak, timid and unreliable who tolerate violation of values and feel impotent due to suppression, oppression and repression. The large majority is now assertive and mobilized.

Look forward to spirited transactional leadership with a touch of Charisma and transformational instinct to galvanize and organize the aroused nation for the sap and fiber of Islamic polity. The dialectical confrontation of the society with the misguided power wielders is a good omen for the success of well intentioned efficacious new entrants to politics.

Whether the nation would get out of the grim fiasco or land into deluge is acrimoniously debated by cynics, pessimists as well as realists and optimists. We stand at a cross road and positioned in a defining moment. The rulers, political parties as well as citizens cognize that every segment of the polity thrived in varying degree and manner as a result of Pakistan. The functionaries of the state, operators of the economy and role players of the society benefited immensely during the past sixty years. The prosperity of the country has trickled down event to the poorest of the poor. The continuation, sustainability and stability of the well being of all is conditional on the consolidation of the foundation,

cementing the pillars and repair and renovation of structural make up of Pakistan. The totality of soul searching, inner probing and urge of getting at peace with self and in harmony with other essentially boil down to a set of central themes and our individual and collective inputs to the desired deliverables.

The core issues and major dimensions of the task for resolution are:

- Attention to the revival and reconstruction of national identity underpinned by Islam, Islamization of polity, relatedness with Ummah and establishment of proper understanding with West for partnership, friendship and cooperation and thereby enhancing and assuring global peace, security and development.
- Substitution of an authoritarian regime composed of non-legitimate rulers by a truly democratic set up free of egoistic politics, corrupt politicians and externally led actors, promising clean, knowledge rooted and performance oriented governance as well as socio-economic development and progress that is distinguished from globalization driven growth.
- Initiation and reinforcement of movement towards humanism, pluralism, uniformism and unfoldment of hierarchical sub-identities of the nation. Formation of symbiotic relations within and without cherished by the civil society. Invigoration of the institutions and prudential regulation of MNCs, NGOs to address and take care of the environment, human rights, gender equality, welfare of the down trodden and victims of injustices and natural or man generated, disasters. Redouble the struggle against evils manifested in the forms of intolerance hereticism, terrorism, criminal mafias, sinful contradictions and disgraceful conduct.

Caution the stakeholders against the prospective risk of reversion to square one without proper safeguards against skewed, politics, meaningless paper democratization and purposeless sham elections to rubber stamp assemblies. A level playing field need to be evolved to ensure access to persons having credentials for contesting polls and will to serve well articulated causes and make difference to repugnant scenarios being played out on the floor of the house. The entrance to parliament call for monitoring and assessment. As a first step articles 62 and 63 of the constitution must be strictly applied for the screening of candidates for assemblies. A reliable legal structure need to be put in place for pre-qualification of the contestant. Prior arrangements are necessary for the conduct of election on proper lines by an independent election commission. Electioneering must be cleansed from known malpractices, duping and abuses. The performance of parliament is closely correlated with the quality and character of the elected representatives of the people and grant of authority to respond to the needs, anxieties and grievances of the constituencies.

Subside the serious reservations about the personality deficiencies of the political leaders. For this purpose explore the possibility of seeking a declaration and signing of affidavit by the politicians, candidates for assemblies and leaders of all political parties to the effect that they commit themselves to the service of Pakistan as per the constitution, law and two nation principle on which India was partitioned and shall faithfully serve supreme public interest and never allow personal interest, desires and preferences to interfere with their belief, judgments and conduct under any circumstances. The NAB can be made legally more autonomous, organizationally further strengthened and manned additionally by highly wise, virtuous and competent officials



to detect, investigate and prosecute current as well as former position holders for the abuse of power, violation of rules of business, trespassing code of conduct and indulging in corruption.

Recognize that politicians come to politics with certain cognitions, motivations and behavioral pattern. When voted into parliament and inducted into executive offices they operate within the confines of valuations, grounding, family grooming, parameters of legacies and milieu of work. The exposure to free media, independent judiciary and vigilant electorate may make for marginal modifications in appearances, vitality, dynamism and control. But it is hard to break habits and transform them. In view of the given mind set, occasional doses of shocks are insufficient to bring substantive changes in behavior. It takes long period of time and considerable learning and unlearning to get inner reorientation and animate performance rooted governance. The nation would witness probably the same old decisional lapses, undemocratic dispensation and escape responses from the wrongly conditioned leadership to new stimuli and enhanced power unless something miraculous takes place.

Notwithstanding the dim prospects of spectacular behavioral reform of politicians restoration of the supremacy, majesty and relevancy of the parliament is essential and worthwhile. Existentially the graduation from military presidency to civilian rule stand some chance of workability. The people are prone to bear perceptible deviation of their representatives from what is considered ideally virtuous, lawful and meritorious in the hope of straightening them in due course.

Having said this it is more realistic for the Champions of democracy and slogan led masses to shed illusions about the capabilities, convictions and commitment of the prominent men and women on the

scene about new direction being taken for considerable period of time. Only mission inspired leaders factoring supreme national values, public interest and prudential risk management into legislation, policies and plan can impact on grim national realities and bitter facts of international relations. The mundane actors are usually swayed by immediate compulsions, easy course, phobia of the dominant groups, personal ego and bodily pleasures, comfort and luxuries. To secure and remain in power in an uninterrupted manner the politicians are counseled to think of and start preparations for catering to this essence, requirements and need of both democratic governance and sound management. The Zeitgeist, expectations and assertive power of the people deserve to be harnessed for the good of the nation by whom so ever is victorious in election. That is the way to bury Martial laws, emergencies and Military interventions in civilian affairs.

The internal front is not all. We all worry about and disclaim the civilizationally repugnant, culturally clashing and globally disconnecting prejudices, offensives and arrogance of unipolar power and its allies. With the honorable exception of the thinkers, elites and general public that is illuminated by the Christian heritage of goodwill, softened by dispositions of piety and informed by perennial values and lessons of history, negative beliefs are held about Muslims by many regimes in the West. Misguided hurting attitudes are maintained. Imaginary labels like Islamo-fascism are used to malign faithfuls. The traditions of quest for truth, investigative journalism and proportionate use of power are compromised. Reality check is perfunctory where vested interest and false notion of patriotism are involved. Thinking, emotions and interactions are blurred by idols of homeland security. Moral high grounds are demanded from others. Self is excluded from moral

appraisal and evaluated by Machiavellian yardsticks. The tyrannies, cruelties, breach of human right and genocides elsewhere are focused on. The onslaught, adventurism and killing done by the coalition of willing is justified on lame reasons. The glaringly unwarranted use of fire power in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan tribal belt and the curbing of Islamic movement through out the world has caused an unprecedented wave of fury and violence in our country known for orderly conduct of interaction with Europe and USA.

Convey with heavy heart, sadness and grief that insults are added to injuries by the West. Frightening words 'Islamophobia' are fabricated and spread by the propaganda apparatus. Islamic symbols of identity are reviled and even banned in educational institutions. Mosques and cultural centers are placed under surveillance. Avenues of work for residents of Ummah origin are choked on one pretext or the other. Discrimination, suspicion and mistrust make for great hardship of Muslims. Converts to Islam are harassed. Blasphemous publications and cartoons by notorious figures are protected, harbored and abetted. The consequential protestations against sacrileges across the globe are brushed aside in the name of freedom of speech.

Plurality of values and multi culturism is avowed in theory and undermined in practice. Assimilation is envisaged in the guise of mainstreaming and integration of aliens. While seeking free access to resources, liberalization of trade and opening to flow of investment, an opposite policy is adopted for the mobility of labor, transfer of technology and state of the art techniques. The knowledge of inventions and innovations is checked. Immigration is restricted. To satisfy corporate greed free reach out to the endowments of world is claimed. But barriers are erected in the way of what the West possesses and the

rest of the planet is in need of. The double standards are enforced by virtue of power, strong bargaining position and disarray among the NAM countries.

A network of encircling sieges are laid down around the poor and under developed countries to prevent, deter and constrain them from build up of appropriate defense capabilities, socio economic security of self reliance and autonomous policy making for gainful management of planetary interdependence. Under the detailed global domination design worked out by G-7 and systematically pursued by U.N. specialized agencies, the transnational corporations are enchaining Third World economies into dependencies, dispossession and fragilities. The economy of Pakistan is one catch case.

The state of the economy is very objectionable. Urgent attention is drawn to the disturbing fact that the planning, management and regulation of the economy is devoid of the spirit of socio-economic development and progress. The shortsighted policy of globalization driven, consumption fueled and services based growth is followed. Foreign capital inflows, external commercial borrowing credits creation and deficit financing are relied upon for financing investment and ADP. This is raising the volume of foreign liabilities, subjecting balance of payment to unprecedented disequilibrium and fast tracking the economy to the ownership and control of MNCS. The momentary rise in GDP and earning of workers, renters, profit makers, vendors, contractors and varied services providers yield a deceptive impression as if nothing is wrong. The globalization subservient macro economic policy followers do not anticipate bitter realities and dangers ahead. They do not bring to the notice of the stakeholders that little is done or underway to improve

the fundamentals variables of development and basic factors and determinates of progress along with growth.

It is unnerving that growth in its current form, content and driving force actually poses serious problems to our economy. The so-called economic surge situated in the context of unilaterally engineered globalization. Globalization is inherently characterized by inadequacy of proportionality in the distribution of trading and investment benefits, partial exclusivity from technological transfer and indulgence in a host of objectionable practices by TNCs and NGOs. It is arresting sustained development of the economy. The economy is caged, debilitated and positioned on the path of hand over to TNCs. The society is civilizationally endangered. It is gradually uprooted from its identity, culture and way of life. The basic institutions of family, community and civil solidarity are invaded. The imposition of Islamically questionable laws, regulations and practices is virtually forced by the globalizers. The polity is turned impotent and sovereignty is exposed to risks. The state is de-linked from its rationale and underpinning of the nation. The so called liberal, permissive and west compliant rulers are supported, projected and protected in order to carry out the agenda of westernization and neo-imperialism. The engine, substance and thrust of growth inject development biased and progress prejudiced dynamics and variables.

Despite the visible fragility, non-durability and attendant harms the intolerably tilted growth is plumped by the rulers who are insensitive to the deep will of the people and ideology of the country. The external relation effects of the myopic growth are equally repugnant. It sows the seeds of suspicions, distrust and division with reference to west. The people are charged with disaffection and estrangement as a result of

domination. The ground for a course of collision and clash is prepared. Extremists exploit the bad feelings and inflame tensions.

It is commonly noticed that the flawed globalization engine growth is concomitant with grave macro, sectoral and micro shortcoming and glaring inflationary pressures. The national saving and investment gap is widened. It is around 7 to 8% of GDP. The balance of trade deficit is touching the unprecedented magnitude of \$ 13 billion per annum. The budgetary disequilibrium is deepened. It has peaked to more than \$ 8 billion. The saving, foreign exchange and fiscal deficits are met by massive foreign investment, sale of assets and remittances. External borrowing loaded with detrimental conditionalities continues unabated. The transitory security assistance is figured prominently on the scene for enhanced military services for USA and NATO which is actually lower than the cost of insecurity suffered by households business and public sector agencies. The trap of dependency on outside, appropriations and lenders is firmed up on account of all this. The ownership and control of strategic assets by TNCs and penetration of externally funded NGOs is vastly extended. The commercial, financial and manufacturing entities are increasingly serving as branches, subsidiaries, and subcontractors of the foreign corporations. The outsourcing of business by the MNCs is an important engine of growth involving enlarging network of annexies. The broadening gulf between the tempo of rise in the production of commodities and energy on one side and speed of expansion in the supply of services particularly the redundant one is the source of alarming shortages of many products. The unmet demand for goods entails rise in prices and offer scope for unwarranted manipulation of prices by the oligopolistic market power wielders. By following unpopular internal and external policies contrary to the abiding interests

and eternal values of the people the expenditure on law and order has ballooned. The existential failings and deplorable failures in increasing productivity, standardizing service delivery and assuring equitable accessing of services make for grumbling and grievances. The sustainability of the process as such is open to skepticism.

The cost pushed, demand pulled and administered inflation including arbitrary manipulation and upwards fixation of prices by the dominant firms in the major industries via tacit understanding and informal collusion is leading to massive outcries of public. In view of the unchecked causative factors at work, the price notifications, monitoring and sporadic regulations are of little avail. The expansion and activation of utility stores and organization of Friday and Sunday bazaars do marginally reduce the marketing costs, middlemen charges and excessive profits in those shops for the privileged urban buyers enjoying access to the facilities but the general upward trend in prices is unabated. The evaporation of the concept of fair pricing of products and increasing recourse to stock piling and speculation is adding to price hikes. The monopolists, oligopolies and cartel mafias are prone to exploit situations of supply scarcities and engineer rise on special occasions of buying spree necessitated by fasting and festivals. Tacit understanding and informal agreements are at play as ever among the sellers having market power to raise prices and defy government exhortations. The local administration is helpless in the matter. Wherever and whenever possible fleecing of unprotected consumers is resorted to with no restraint from within or constraint from without. Every year new height in the level of prices is recorded. The depreciation of our currency is awful. Its purchasing power is on constant decline.

The spiraling inflation weigh heavy on the lower and middle income groups. Their precarious family budgets are unbalanced. They are compelled to reduce the intake of basic necessities of living and face extended deprivations. No trickery of inclusion or exclusion and variation of weightage to different items in the sensitive price index make any difference to the experiential sufferings and subsistence turbulence on account of general upward trend in prices. The upper strata of society are hedged against inflation by having assets and making investment in real estates, and various forms of tangible property including gold. The appreciation in the value of material possessions and increased flow of earnings in the shape of rent and profit cover them from the harmful impacts. They remain comfortable and can maintain the luxurious life style. It is the poor and downtrodden who are forced to bear the heavy burden of fall in the purchasing power of hard earned meager income. Ironically whatever help is granted to the deprived sections in the form of poverty reduction program falls short of what is extracted from them via inflation.

The economy is thus chained and subjected to the will of foreign investors, creditors and donors and people with low income suffer. The rulers are pushed and pulled to submerge the economy into the network of globalization driven growth. The domestic consumers, business units, financial institution and public sector entities are deflected, obstructed and diverted from pursuit of an all encompassing supreme socio economic good in a greater degree and with higher zeal. Nominal move forward is made in their empowerment, inducement and facilitation for phased self reliance and mutually beneficial and equitable management of inter dependence with the affluent and technologically advanced loaners, powerful TNCs and influential NGOs. The basics insights of



development economics, fundamental requirements of progress and vital pillars of sound planning of programs and projects are relegated by the policy makers addicted to dozes of capital inflows from abroad. The imperative of inner capacitation, propulsion and reinforcement for enduring surge forward is out of focus. The economy lurches from one crisis to another and lives on relieving tranquilizers. The eroding bases and shaky structure make it vulnerable to all types of shocks, infections and manipulations entailing prospective disruption, stagnation and virtual annihilation.

The growth as orchestrated, funded and speeded up by the globalizers would continue for a while. The pouring in of so called security assistance, anti-terrorism aid, receipt of net inflow of foreign capital and the consequent generation of employment opportunities and tokens of poverty alleviation and riches of the West affiliated functionaries make for calm and acquiescence at the upper levels. As long as the macro gaps are bridged, the security motivated budgetary support is forthcoming and interferences in the polity and cultural arena are rationalized by public relation media things may run as intended. The gloom and doom of disruption would be kept off the screen for some time. Hopes and expectations will be maintained by reaching out to the creditors, investors and donors to avoid serious setbacks. The voices of dissent and alarm ringing will be overshadowed by beating the drum aloud. But by virtue of being social, political, rational, moral and spiritual persons, the make up and effects of growth that are incompatible with the basic principles and values of viable economic organization are bound get widely, resisted and rejected. The supreme interest, ideals and aspiration of society surfaces sooner or later. Plans, programs and projects that are one-sidedly designed or having repercussions which are

inconsistent with natural laws, stakeholders inclusiveness, welfare objectives or ethical imperatives are ultimately found out and opposed. Complaints, investigations and discourses begin to dig out truth and objective realities. No amount of publicity and ingenuity in propaganda can hide facts for ever.

Accordingly the risks presented by consumers driven, services led and foreign fueled growth can not, escape attention or be deliberately ignored for long. The dangers of growth with narrow commodities coverage, weak foundation and concentration in coastal and urban locations would dawn and spread in due course. Clarity and full understanding of the consequences of external bondage and orchestration of things by the globalizers and their agents would emerge with the twist and turn of events. The snowballing repatriation of corporate earnings and extended interventions would uncover the shortcomings of indiscriminate opening to and crossing the limit of foreign investment and reliance on aid against national interest. The development eroding, progress arresting and conflict inflaming fall out would dwarf the positive effects witnessed for sometime. The growing societal fissures and widening distance between the pressurized subservient rulers and awakened citizens would burst. The besieged local firms would start dissent. The need for affirmative actions of being mainstreamed would cloud the business scene and strain the economic landscape. Few would count on and associate themselves with myopic approach. The champions of growth will be discredited, stigmatized and demonized. They would not be able to erase the blame. Their legacy would be disowned by the popular leadership replacing the rulers cut off from the people.

Presently it is mainly the thoughtful people, revivalists movements, and enlightened intellectuals, scholars and patriotic activists or Islamic spirited political parties who are sensitized to and vehemently resist the onslaught of all embracing domination of global commerce, investment and hedonistic style of living. They are deeply touched and widely dismayed by the detrimental neo-imperialism and faulty elements of globalization. The G-7 driven Corporatization, Westernization and ideological subjugation of mankind is opposed with strong resolve and purposeful determination. The mobilization, activation and organization of the masses for the preservation of identity, revealed way of life and restoration of glory through puritanical leadership is underway and acclaimed both within and outside the political frontiers. The top down and bottom up pro-active, reactive and interactive processes of resurgence are popularized and appropriate approaches for reconstruction are constantly tested and adapted to the exigencies of unfolding situations.

It is necessary for the rulers to take note of what is happening. They are urgent that their choices, decisions and actions need to be reviewed. Whether violent forces, radical ideas and non balancing actions are likely to assume an upper hand or peaceful, lawful and artful approaches would reign supreme is contingent on proper soul searching at every level. It is all a matter of what is done by the powerful, affluent and ambitious west and their backed regimes here. The rationality, prudence and sense of humanity based on justice, fair play and human rights on the part of globalizers and national authorities seem to be decisive for the turn of events and nature of engagement. The weak, poor and under siege have limited choices in impacting the processes or outcome. Pains, sufferings and degradations are expressed in one form or

the other by the victims. Toleration is possible upto a level of wrongdoing. Hubris, unwarranted exercises of fire power and hegemonic pursuit beyond defined limits generate anger, hate and contempt. Resentment and defiance of laws, contracts and regulations is inevitable in relations that are coercive and in which mutuality of benefits, proportionality in gains and equity in the flow of advantages is denied and dignity is threatened. No public relations posturing, media manipulation and diplomatic niceties can contain for long outcries, agitations and hostile responses of the aggrieved, victimized and devastated. A section of the oppressed, suppressed and repressed people can get desperate, disoriented and out of control. In conflict ridden tense environment the phobia caused by the shocks of any unanticipated event, disorderly behavior and outrageous conduct at either side can trigger uprising and alter the dynamics of interactions for worse. The deplorable terrorism, in securities, anxieties and reciprocal demonisation of all kinds have already captured the scene. Rage and fear are used to justify infliction of injuries, harms and humiliation on each other. Continuation of the ugly drift leads to quagmire. Cycle of violence and trap of partial vision can be avoided.

The way out of the clutches of poverty, under-development and flawed growth deserve to be highlighted. Since decisions regarding the form, content and direction of growth are not filtered at the intellectual, parliament and Chambers of Commerce, sectoral and industries levels the worrying effects on the macro and micro fronts do not get aired. The screening of policies, programs and projects from the point of view of development and progress would make it possible to avoid the troubling downward spiral and despondency. As a minimum it is essential to neutralize the run of biased growth and preferably impart development

pro-tilt and coloring of progress to the process. The institutions of some leaching arrangements are necessary. The way out for narrowing / eliminating the saving investment gaps, fiscal imbalances, and trade disequilibrium in a definite time frame is to frame, articulate and implement a development strategy at each component of the economy. The official rhetoric of exclusive reliance on riding the tide of globalization and meeting intelligently and efficiently the challenges of free trade, investment and commerce is illusionary, delusionary and misleading. Pakistan is already tasting bitterly the implications of growth situated in context of globalization derived rise in earning. The phenomenon is gravely deficient. It can not offer a comprehensive solution, dependable facilitation and enduring empowerment of our issues ridden economy. In view of the unilaterally imposed matter and psychic difficulties one may take it as a tentative compromise for some time and to make preparations for compelling adjustments and adaptations with the passage of time. But recourse un-thoughtful expanded networking in the globalized economy on the existing terms and conditions in business transactions, capital flows and services, amounts to deepening dependency and large scale dispossession of vital economic assets. The intensification of the catalogue of societal evils and grave erosion of the polity and continuation of engagement in dirty politics of power, confrontation and violence on the part of politicians is too serious to be ignored. The gains from globalization are limited to restricted opportunities for migration of manpower, guarded transfer of low grade worn out technology and human right reports with some righteous and compassionate tinkering here and there. It holds nominal / token promise of development and no prospects of progress.

A realistic and rewarding approach to work for and focus on the adoption of a pro-active two dimensional strategy of graduation from growth to and time framed minimization of incompatibilities, anomalies and disconnection between growth and development is necessary.

The injection of development in: Government and public sector operation can easily begin with performance budgeting on both revenue and expenditure sides. Containing fiscal deficit within safe limit is hard but not impossible. Gearing taxation aid monetary policies, to the requirements of price stabilization is urgent. The reprioritization of programs and projects for the restoration of balances between commodities and services sectors is possible forthwith. Focus on increased production, higher productivity and better quality of output in the agricultural, mining and industrial sectors can yield positive gains. Expanding, diversifying and up grading the network of industrial estates is not hard to do. Standardization of services delivery in the fields of HRD, capital market and welfare work with due attention to the satisfaction of stakeholders is a promising path. Reaching out to entrepreneurs, reducing cost and minimizing hurdles of initiating investment and facilitating smooth functioning of enterprises with sight fixed on the lubrication of comparative and competitive edges of business ventures is a worthy undertaking. Establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of trust, dialogue and cordiality within the umbrella of representative good governance is full of dividends. Subjecting departmental management to periodic vigorous reviews and renewing determination to normalize the level of efforts and match claims with contributions on the part of Govt. servant is a matter of political will, setting examples as well as making legislation for linking wages of workers in the formal sector with estimated productivity and thereby

controlling the major cost of doing business. Mandating fringe benefit with profits of the enterprises can make for viability of business units and revival of sick units.

Being conscious of the malady that the fiscal authorities are addicted to the bridging of resource gaps through foreign assistance, smooth sail change in direction is full of stresses and strains. The history of breaking out of economic stagnation and vicious whirlpool of poverty began in the early fifties. The cold war provided a golden opportunity of securing aid on relatively comfortable terms & conditions from the West. The bilateral and multilateral sources of loans and grants were prudentially tapped. Growth was initiated, and maintained as a result of accessing foreign creditors and benefactors. With the collapse of USSR and consequent diminution and drying out of aid prospects exploration of alternative avenues of private capital inflows was taken in hand. The unilaterally instituted process of globalization and the tragic event of 9/11 and consequential adventurism by USA renewed the opportunities for receiving expanded flow of aid, rescheduling of debt repayment obligations, write up of loans and openings to and penetration of MNCs and NGOs on remarkable scale.

Conspicuous in this period is inadequate substantive improvements on our own at the macro or micro levels. Neither increased efforts, nor greater effectiveness of operations, nor higher efficiency of governance or management are witnessed. The factors of production operate as usual. There is little rise in the productivity of labor, land and capital. The cost of production is nowhere reduced. The input-output ratios are virtually the same in every segment of the economy. Standards of service delivery are stagnant in public, semi-public and private organizations. Actually complaints of set back in the

quality of services delivered by Govt. apparatus are heard. Value addition to the supply chain all walks of life are more or less static. Neither the quality nor the novelty of goods produced is changed visibly.

Ever since the fifties the externally driven growth is not co-terminus with development. Development is neither the core process nor the end product of the expansion all around. Systemically, the fundamentals of and structural bases for development are not being appreciably laid down. The network of glittering entrepreneurs, creative managers and technological innovators is not emerging speedily. Exchange relations are deficient in terms of fair transactions and protection of consumer's rights. The demand chain in the sellers market is manipulated by cartelization.

Economists know that the economy is made up of productive units, namely, individual producers, business units, firms and public sector entities. They combine the factors of production and create valued goods and services at varying level of efficiency. The rise in GDP is effectuated and measured by the degree of expansion, diversification and up-gradation in the pattern of economic activities carried out in the economy. The growth rate is measured by National Accounts Committee. The story of growth is annually reported. We are told that the growth rate has jumped up in recent years. Prima facie there is little creditable evidence of perceptible increase in the scale or excellence of performance by the factors of production. It can not be stated with any degree of empirical certainty that the National Accounts Committee calculation of value addition originating in different sectors, sub-sectors and producing units is accurate. The sampling errors, double counting, incorporation of previously uncounted services and number fudging can make for slippages. Seemingly it is hard to imagine 7.02% growth in the



prevalent conditions of instability, strikes, deterioration in the duration and zeal of work. The energy shortages and prolonged electricity load shedding have interfered with the normal functioning of the economy.

In any case and notwithstanding the real or chimerical possibilities of inaccuracies in assessment of GDP, growth is presently expenditure caused. It is situated in, accounted for and engine by increased outlay. The accelerated inflow of capital from abroad on account of foreign investment, borrowing, and grants coupled with rise in remittances, deficit financing and credit expansion have enhanced employment and raised factors payment/ income. The escalated transactions and externally fueled and security necessitated expansion of jobs with subsequent expansion of services sector yield growth. An illusion of successful advancement is pictured which is in fact a consequence of exogenous pouring in of fund triggered by international security and political motivations. Apparently the G-7 countries, specialized international agencies, TNCs and NGOs have for the time being reached out, leased and assured the boosting of caged growth. The fast tracking of economy to dispossession, dependency and fragility is interpreted as a laudable phenomena going to the credit of rulers.

The edification of consumption driven growth with marginal in-built development is deceptive and delusionary. The vision of elites is blurred by the erection of physical installations, opulence of upper strata, higher consumption of imported stuff and observance of varied events that are sponsored for display of glamour and publicity of aided programs. Everyone will notice in a few years that the repatriation of profits by TNCs and repayment of the mounting debt servicing charges will totally preempt the remittances of Pakistan workers from abroad. Millions of workers would be toiling for the sake of foreign investors and

creditors. What a bargain? What visionlessness on the part of rulers mortgaging the future of the economy?

What the country needs along with growth are development as well as progress. It is necessary for the systematic pursuit of this all transcending need to devise an institutional mechanism whereby growth is integrated with the requirements and processes of development and development is fused with progress.

Propose that the vision formation, plan formulation, program articulation, ADP preparation and project cycle commissioning be subjected to the binding criteria of development and indicative yardsticks of progress. A purposive, functional and realistic strategy must be figured out and put in place to counter development thwarting forces and annul progress hindering pressures. Development is viable, effective and efficient utilization of resources based on sound prioritization, full cost and benefits calculations, comparative advantages and sound sectoral allocation of fund and selection of projects portfolios. It is ruled and measured by the generation of additional capital, increased earning and saving of foreign exchange and expansion/ up-gradation of learning. The process of increased investment actually feeds on itself and is sustained by the enlargement and standardization of organizational basis. The improvements in intellectual, scientific, technological, professional and technical capabilities is concomitant of the go. It receives impulse and direction from rigorous application of the principles of development economics, rational management of capacities, viability of the assets created. The rise in productivity, quality and innovations goes with the process. The actors in-charge of budgeting, ADP, financial institutions and corporate business investment go by pre-determined objective considerations. The role of subjectivities, arbitrariness, rashness and

wishfulness is organizationally checked. The decision makers are held answerable for what is approved or declined. Law, rules and regulations and policy empower, facilitate and induce developers. At the same time constraints, restraints and controls are in place for potential development defeaters.

Progress as distinguished from development is a socio-politico-economic and theological movement toward the visualization and execution of varied perspectives, ideals, interests and preferences. Purging of superstitious, evils and harmfully speculative elements is an important ingredient of it. Here at the central stage are teachings of Deen, morality civility lessons of human history and compassionate good doing and welfare of the deprived, sections of the populace. Civilizational freedom, growing adherence to the universal declaration of human rights, equalization of opportunities and justice form pillars of it. The normative and utilitarian surge forward manifested in attachment to cardinal virtues of piety, purity, perfectibility and regard for universal standards in service delivery and connectedness with fellow beings define the phenomena. The ethical norms and code of conduct that are relative to space, time circumstances and religious faiths are respected.

Perceptions, thinking, opinion formation and advocacy that is founded on limited experience, one sided interest, partial picture and momentary passions is constantly corrected through research, reflection, critique and open ended dialogue. Breadth of vision, findings of empirical studies, objectivity of analysis and logical consistency is brought to bear on the resolution of disagreements and clarification of confusions. The prevalent biases, prejudices, unwarranted tilts and wrong attributions are dissected to arrive at what is truthful, reasonable, and acceptable. The deficient judgments, choices and actions arising from

and infected with personal preoccupations, fallacious reasoning and transitory temptations, necessities and compulsion are straightened with inputs from experts, saints and trustworthy Meta thinkers. Criticism of others for crossing fault lines and red signals and blamed for failings, frailties, and lapses is moderated by trying to understand the context, intentions, and constraints of the wounded, feverish and wronged adversaries, In evaluating and reacting to the other side on the fence their positive aspects are weighed along with negative doings and irritative behavior.

At the present, some of the moot questions confronting Pakistan with regard to development and progress are the following:-

- Are the rulers, politicians and role players in socio-politico, economic and theological fields cognizant of committed to and positioning themselves to break out of the prevalent multi-facet whirlpools of self debasement, erosion in identities and drift towards over indulgence in Epicureanism? Why growth process is not connected with the development requirement? What forces are thwarting development? Which sections of the society, polity and economy are non performing? Who are engaged in Zero services, negative inputs and undeserved extractions of output? What is the way out for the release of national energy, talent and motivations for positive contributions? How to minimize imbalances in national saving and investment, balance of payments and fiscal management? What measures to adopt for the containment of foreign loans and external investment inflows within safe limits?
- How to link different stages of education with appropriate socialization in Islamic values, internalization of universal

ethical norms, and attachment to constant learning, skill development, and occupational mastery? What needs to be done so that highly educated, well positioned elites and men and women governing the country or voicing dissent transmute their knowledge and intelligence into living wisdom and existential goodness? What affirmative action is called for to initiate progress? How to get out of the current disarray, insecurity and political crisis and avert disastrous consequences of show down?

The bewildered nation engulfed in fissures from within and subjected to threats, pressures and inducements from abroad is quest of truth and illumination in order to carry forward the struggle for sound self direction and forging of peaceful and harmonious relations with the East as well as West. The *National Hamdard Majlisi Shura* inspired by the legacy of Shaheed Hakim Muhammad Said is expected to assist in the exploration of insightful, hindsightful and foresightful answers.

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