

# Decay of idealism essay



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BUSTER**

Pakistan emerged on the world map on basic of the idea envisioned by the intellect of Iqbal and succeeded by the astute and far-sighted leadership of Jinnah which lead to the establishment of an perfect democratic state, a separate homeland for Muslims of the subcontinent. This is how the “ practice of forming and pursuing an ideal” was made by these extraordinary men. In the words of this extraordinary mentor for all Pakistanis, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, “ the Story of Pakistan, its struggle and its achievement, is the story of great human ideals, struggling to endure in the face of immense difficulties.

No period of history has ever been great or ever can be that does not act on some sort of high, idealistic motives, and idealism in our time has been shoved aside, and we are paying the penalty for it” . ” Under the influence of colonial rule of the British Empire and despite the conspiracies of the Indian rulers like Jawaharlal Nehru whose mindsets were predominated by the prejudiced anti-Muslim sentiment and having a subjective approach towards the Hindus, it was the faith and realistic “ idealism” and firm belief that lead the Muslims to touch the heights of glory.

Zia-ud-din wrote about Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Founder of Pakistan (1976): “ He would not let himself be deflected nor allow his followers to be deflected by a bewildering multiplicity of religious, cultural, social, economic and other issues. Step by step, slowly and steadily he took his followers forward to their cherished goal. He believed in full and thorough preparation before an action was taken. The massacre of millions of Muslims migrating to the land of their dreams, unfair allocation of land and assets by Lord Mount Batten and poor infrastructure are some of the core reasons which resulted in the

nourishment of the seeds of despair and shook the confidence in the utopias view that they bore in mind regarding Pakistan.

But, with exemplary leadership and good governance of Jinnah not only was Pakistan found in the short course of seven years but was also grown into a land of opportunities from ashes. Few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation-state. Mohammad Ali Jinnah did all three” Mr. Walpert in Jinnah of Pakistan (1984). As a result of fight at micro and macro level. A never-ending spirit to combat against the face of all adversities and efforts at individual and community level is all we need in order to see the Pakistan that our Quaid envisioned, our forefathers dreamed of and the nation we aspire for the secure future of the generations to come.

Based on the ideals of democracy, Pakistan, which was the democratic heaven, is taking the shape of a democratic disaster. In a broadcast speech in February of 1948, Jinnah spoke about Pakistan’s constitution in the making, “ I am sure that it will be of a democratic type, embodying the essential principle of Islam. Today, they are as applicable in actual life as they were 1, 300 years ago. Islam and its idealism have taught us democracy. It has taught equality of man, justice and fair play to everybody.

With the unfortunate death of Quaid-e-Azam in 1948, it appears his golden principles of unity, faith and discipline as well as his quest for a utopia for Muslims also died. “ K. Gandhi died by the hands of an assassin, Jinnah died by his devotion to Pakistan” said by Lord Lawrence. In 1971, the body of this state was brutally mutilated by the conspiracies of the administration,

leading to the separation of the Eastern wing of Pakistan to what is now Bangladesh by which the claim of a separate homeland for “ Muslims” became a matter of deception to the critics and historians.

This is how injustice and conspiracies lead to the separation of hearts and the journey towards the disillusionment of people started as political instability seeped into the nation. The question that arises here is if this is the nation that Iqbal dreamed of, Jinnah strived for, and millions of Muslims gave up their lives for? Is this a secure, separate, democratic nation for Muslims in the true sense? Was their “ idealism” oriented towards the development of a country where the Muslims are divided into privileged and non- privileged and heading towards a similar caste system as that was in the subcontinent with Hindus?

A society seeped into immorality, corruption, and impartiality in the affairs of the state against self-profiteering was the “ idealism” our great leaders struggled for? A country where problems are not addressed in a constructive manner, grievances are not condoned and are taken over by antagonism, giving rise to terrorism? Where the youth would either be looking for opportunities abroad and take pride in serving the nation they got freedom from? A place where the youth would be manipulated and oppressed or be implicated in suicide bombings for the sake of money due to the rise in inflation and the frustration prevailing amongst them? Islam - the religion of peace and people of an Islamic state being called “ terrorists”? Ironic indeed! Indisputably, the political volatility, effects of terrorist attacks like suicide bombings, inefficient natural disaster management, lack of solid infrastructure regarding basic requirements like water supply, gas,

petroleum and water supply, poor system of education are all factors responsible for the hopelessness among our future, the youth of Pakistan.

Lack of self employment and entrepreneurship is another issue due to which dependency on government for employment is at its peak. Due to limited employment opportunities in the government sector, unemployment is leading to frustration and growth of crime rate. Another important factor behind the uncertainty prevalent among people is the lack of leadership while it was efficient leadership gave rise to this country. So in the current scenario of Pakistan, “ idealism” is in shackles.

According to Karl Kraus, “ it is the style of idealism to console itself for the loss of something old with the ability to gape at something new. ” So instead of absconding from circumstances by migration or self-exile or sheer criticism, the recognition of our deficiencies and working out towards a better Pakistan is the solution because it is neither a possession, not a responsibility of a single person but a home demanding equal participation and a maximum degree of motivation, struggle and honesty on part of the entire nation.

For this, our nation is in the dire need of people who dream, and not only dream for an “ ideal” state but, are honest and loyal towards our country, people who can scratch a desert and produce a garden with the aid of their determination, patriotism, idealism and a passion for freedom. “ Idealism detached from action is just a dream. But idealism allied with pragmatism, with rolling up your sleeves and making the world bend a bit, is very exciting. It’s very real. It’s very strong” (Bono).

To fight with hopelessness, scepticism and cynicism is the need of the time, and not just superficial words but conscious craft and mobilization of skills as Herbert Hoover once said “ words without actions are the assassins of idealism”. Our motto ought to be based on Quaid’s message to the nation n Eid-ul-Azha whereby he said: “ My message to you all is of hope, courage and confidence. Let us mobilize all our resources in a systematic and organized way and tackle the grave issues that confront us with grim determination and discipline worthy of a great nation. If we look at the histories of superpowers like America and economic expertise like China or technological world of Japan, the mettle of all such great nations is that they rose from ashes to flames blazing with success. It is therefore, “ only through the conscious action of the working masses in city and country can it be brought to life, only through the people’s highest intellectual maturity and inexhaustible idealism can it be brought safely through all storms and find its way to port”.