

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



July 30, 2017

## Embracing Social Changes

It is the nature of culture which directs social change. There are cultures around the world which encourage social change in technology, others in biological factors of individual, and some in other cultural factors. The Western cultures direct social change towards industrialization. They emphasize on technological and industrial expansion. Our culture, to a certain extent, encourages our activities towards a new phase of life and that is developing state of agriculture, peace and tranquility and education.

Most of the cultures encourage technological development but there are a few cultures that undergo faster changes in the social implications of non-material culture. So the structure of a society on its patterns of normative behavior will determine social changes slowly or rapidly and in any field of life first. A culture, keeping its dogmatic values hardly changing, will show changes hardly in attitude and in the application of material objects. On the other hand, the other culture not holding its cultural values as stagnant is likely to accept social changes in technology and other environmental factors.

Some of the cultures provide a condition for resistance to change. The customary ways of life and cultural values have been laid so deeply in their nature that any external element does not find a room as to become a part of their culture. Such a way of life does not accept social change due to cultural inertia. Nomadic people wandering from one part of the region to another and contacting people of various regions stick to their own cultural ways of life. It is basically due to their cultural inertia.

It is important to understand that the aspects of human life do not accept changes altogether and at the same time. Human life is a component of various material and non-material aspects of environment. Material includes tools, implements and their complex systems of mechanical plants. It gets a change in its structure and function readily, but the methods and techniques in handling them and attitude about their use and the adoption of machine products in society are matter resting with non-material culture. It also happens that the material aspect of culture changes rapidly than the non-material one. Both the material and non-material aspects are related and must go hand-in-hand. By this irregularity, the non-material aspect remains behind the material one. This creates disharmony and disorganization between the two aspects. This unequal rate of change creates social disorganization in people. They are unable to adjust themselves in such rapidly changing economic order. This leads to frustration, aggression and even neurosis, which then lead to serious social problems.

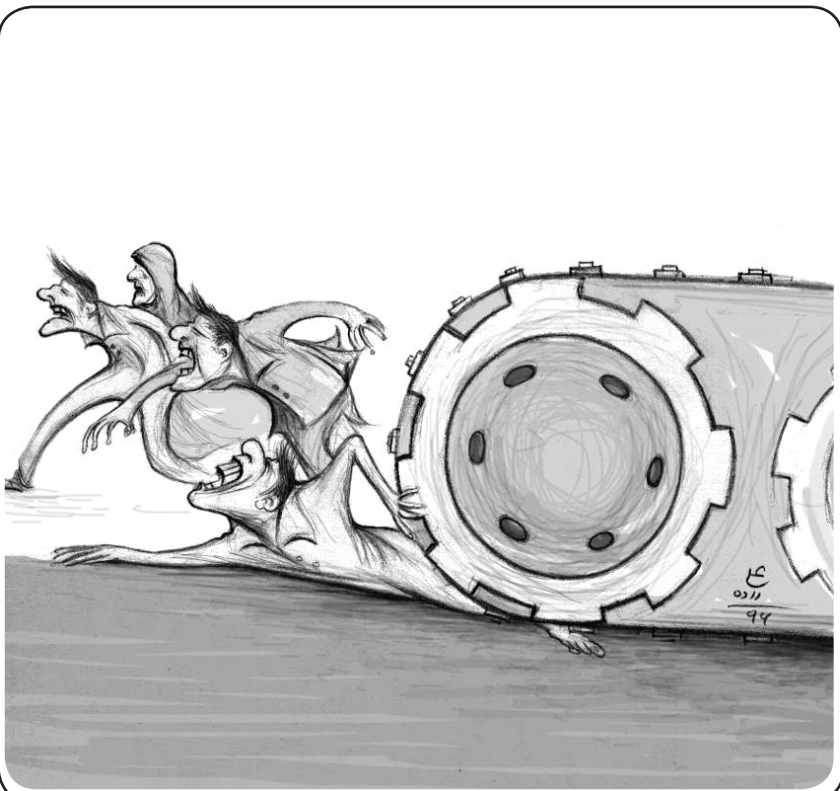
Our country Afghanistan is facing this issue to a large extent. The tribal values are not able to cope with the technological developments, therefore, the cultural as a whole faces a cultural lag and also giving birth to frustration, aggression and even contempt.

Moreover, economic factors can also play a role in hindering cultural change. For example, people may want to live in modern buildings equipped with most of the facilities of life but they cannot do so because of insufficient economic resources as their disposal.

On the other hand, geographical factors, and even certain religious beliefs isolate the people to a certain extent and then when they are brought into contact with the speedy technological changes, they may fail to absorb most of the things in their culture and bring required changes in their non-material culture and they may not be allowed to do so, as well.

Social and cultural changes are inevitable and the rich and successful cultures mostly have mechanism that help them in readily accepting those changes and making them a valuable part of their society. There are certain factors that are really necessary for a society, like that of Afghanistan, which can support it in making the changes acceptable. There should be high prestige for the innovators and innovations. The higher the prestige of the innovator the more readily the innovation may be accepted. By finding the society giving honor and respect to those who are involved in paving the way for innovations, the people would definitely turn in the favor of the changes. For example, currently our society values money and give prestige to the people who are wealthy and can earn money; therefore, wealth and wealth earner are readily accepted by our society.

Therefore, our society requires changing its ethical values regarding the worth of the positive changes within the society. It is now an accepted fact that we cannot live with the advancements in science and technology and we need to make use of them in the most beneficial ways; therefore, they must become part of our everyday life and we must change our attitude and behavior towards them and also towards the modern developments and researches in the various fields of life. It is the only way we can move towards a better society.



## Sharif Lost the Game Easily

By Hujjatullah Zia

Pakistani PM and PML-N's leader Nawaz Sharif stands disqualified by Pakistan's Supreme Court (SC) on Friday after the Panama Leaks corruption probe. Moments after the verdict, Sharif stepped down from the seat of the prime minister.

In 2016, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists leaked 11.5 million documents from Panama-based law firm Mossack Fonseca, dubbed the Panama Papers. Several documents included in the leak showed three of Nawaz's children - Hussain, Hasan and Maryam - owned at least three offshore companies registered in the British Virgin Islands. The documents showed that these companies had engaged in deals worth \$25m.

Following Sharif's disqualification as premier, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, who was the petroleum minister, was tapped to take over as interim prime minister till the time Nawaz's younger brother Shahbaz Sharif is elected to parliament, and then to the prime minister's office. This seems to be a ballpark estimate as the PML-N holds a hefty majority in parliament and can independently vote him into office.

With the decision of SC, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan welcomed the decision wholeheartedly saying that it marks the start of a new era in the history of Pakistan, where justice will be held supreme. "Pakistan has won today," Khan said while congratulating the nation, also thanking the SC and the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) for upholding the law. "I have no personal agenda against Nawaz Sharif; I have known his family for 40 years, he did not take anything of mine - he had done wrong to the people of this country and that was why we wanted him to be held accountable," he said.

Moreover, Pakistan's former premier Pervez Musharraf posted a video on Twitter calling Sharif's disqualification as "historic decision". He said, "I want to heartily congratulate the Supreme Court bench especially because it is a brave decision which is in accordance with the principles of justice and fairness."

There was a strong political tension between Sharif and Musharraf. In 2008, the PPP and PML-N agreed to force Musharraf to step down and begin his impeachment. Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif announced sending a formal request or joint charge sheet that he step down, and impeach him through parliamentary process upon refusal. Musharraf refused to step down. On 25 June 2013, Musharraf was named as prime sus-

pect in two separate cases, first Benazir Bhutto's assassination and second being Akbar Bugti case by Federal Investigation Agency for masterminding a conspiracy to assassinations of Benazir Bhutto and Akbar Bugti. On 20 August 2013, a Pakistani court indicted Musharraf in the assassination of Bhutto. Currently, he lives in Dubai in self-imposed exile. Since Musharraf does not have a reputation for honesty either, his message triggered a sense of anger among Pakistani nation.

Now the ground is paved for Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) to capitalize on the issue. Imran Khan, who strongly stood against Sharif's case, pats himself on the back for the SC's decision. He shed crocodile tears for his nation claiming that all he did was for Pakistan's people. In his address, he called people to celebrate the issue on July 30 in a peaceful way. He spoke in patriotic tone so as to trigger a sense of emotion among the Pakistani people. I do not tend to blacken Khan's reputation, what I state is based on political principles. Almost all countries, especially Afghanistan, observe the crocodile tears and mouth-watering promises of political figures before elections and their metamorphosis into cold and reckless individuals after holding the seat. So, the Pakistanis' political maturity seems to be beyond this issue.

The second issue is that Pakistanis showed mixed reaction to Sharif's disqualification as premier. They protested against and in favor of SC's decision. Moreover, it must be a strong blow to PML-N's reputation and might lead to a controversy among the members.

This issue, which is a historical landmark for Pakistan, shows the strength of democracy in this country. In a democratic system, all people are equal in the eye of law and no one, including prime minister/president, is beyond it. Furthermore, the judicial body should be independent from executive and legislative powers. Pakistan's judicial power played a key role regardless of Sharif's position and was not influenced by any other powers. This will have to be an eye-opener for all politicians, mainly Pakistani ones who are competing with strong political parties. Similarly, Imran Khan's strong will in pursuing this issue, though for political reason, should be praised and all political parties need to fulfill their responsibilities in upholding people's rights and monitor the government with eagle eye. It is hoped Pakistan will exercise democracy at national and international level.

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## The Gulf Crisis: A lesson in Reputation Management

By James M. Dorsey

Lurking below the surface of the Gulf crisis, are rival, yet troubled, attempts by Qatar and its detractors to use sports to boost soft power and/or launder tarnished images of their autocracies.

Ironically, the crisis threatens to have levelled the playing field in a bitter media and public diplomacy war that was covert prior to the seven-week-old Saudi-UAE-Bahraini-led diplomatic and economic boycott of Qatar. If anything, the Gulf crisis has emerged as a case study of the pitfalls of reputation management in which sports is an important tool. On balance, it so far has had different effects on the reputations of three of the key protagonists. It has also served to highlight the pot-blames-the-kettle-character of the Gulf crisis, most recently with the disclosure that North Koreans were employed not only in Qatar on World Cup-related projects, but also on a UAE military base that hosts US forces. The disclosure of relations with North Korea is awkward at a time of increased tension between North Korea and the United States over the pariah state's ballistic missile and nuclear program. A Washington-based Saudi dissident group, the Institute for Gulf Affairs, recently published a memo reportedly from the State Department as well as emails from the hacked account of Yousef al-Otaiba, the high-profile UAE ambassador to the United States, that asserted that a UAE company, Al-Mutlaq Technologies, had bought \$100 million worth of weapons from North Korea for use in the Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen. Qatar, plagued by allegations that its successful bid for the 2022 World Cup hosting rights lacked integrity and that its migrant labour regime amounted to slavery, has scored reputational gains in the Gulf crisis despite the recent revelations related to North Korea. While the revelations reinforced concerns about Qatar's policies and labour regime, they also suggested that issues at stake in the Gulf crisis constituted regional problems rather than exclusive concern about just one of the Gulf states. The UAE, a driving force in the anti-Qatar campaign that uses the hosting of international sporting events to boost its image, has suffered because of its failure and that of its alliance partners to garner widespread international support for its tactics and demands that were perceived as unreasonable, unactionable, and designed to undermine Qatari sovereignty and independence. The UAE's North Korea link as well as allegations by human rights groups, denied by the government in Abu Dhabi, that the UAE was backing the abuse of prisoners in Yemen has done little to enhance the Gulf state's reputation. Qatar and the UAE's North Korean links could put the two Gulf states in the Trump administration's firing line as it considers how to respond to the Pyongyang's most recent ballistic missile test that the pariah state claims would allow it to target any US city. Pressuring countries to back away from economic relations with North Korea, the Trump administration recently extended sanctioning of Sudan for among other things not being fully committed to implementing United Nations sanctions on the country. Saudi Arabia promised Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, during a visit earlier this month to the kingdom as well as the UAE, that it would continue to see improvement of relations between Sudan and the United States despite the African country's refusal to join the Saudi-UAE-led boycott of Qatar.

Neither the Gulf crisis nor sports has done much for Bahrain, its image tarnished by its brutal suppression in 2011 of a popular revolt with the help of Saudi and UAE forces, and its subsequent repression of opposition forces and continuous violations of basic human rights. Worse even, the Gulf crisis has focussed attention on Bahrain's failed effort to use sports to polish its tarnished image and put it in the spotlight as an example of the degree to which smaller Gulf states risk losing their ability to chart an independent course.

As the quarrelling Gulf states pour millions of dollars into hiring public relations and lobbying firms in Washington and elsewhere with the UAE as the largest spender, Qatar can shrug off in both reputational and financial terms a \$51,000 fine by world soccer body FIFA. Qatar was fined because its national team wore jerseys in a World Cup qualifier against South Korea that featured a drawing of Qatari emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The drawing has come to symbolize a wave of Qatari nationalism sparked by the Gulf crisis. The public diplomacy war has expanded beyond a constant diet of allegations against one another in state-controlled media of the Gulf protagonists into Saudi-sponsored tv spots on US television and rival advertisements on London's famous black cabs, alternatively featuring a pro-Qatari message, a Saudi soccer match, and the UAE's Emirates and Etihad airlines. Qatar, in the latest move in the public diplomacy war, hired a Washington lobby firm originally established by former Trump election campaign manager Corey Lewandowski. Mr. Lewandowski has since left the firm over a dispute with his partners, who include Barry Bennett, a Trump campaign adviser and others with ties to the president as well as George Birnbaum, an American-born former chief of staff to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has close relations with the Republican Party establishment. Qatar separately contracted the services of a company, Information Management Services, that specializes in digging up dirt on U.S. politicians. For its part, the UAE in the years running up to the Gulf crisis hired a US firm established by former Treasury Department officials to influence US media reporting on Qatar. The media war potentially could enter a new phase with the acquisition by a relatively unknown Saudi businessman, Sultan Muhammad Abuljadayel, of an up to 50 percent stake in Independent Digital News and Media, the holding company that publishes Britain's left-wing The Independent daily. The Independent has consistently been critical of the kingdom. Evgeny Lebedev, the Russian owner of the Independent's parent company, ESI Media, recently saw his shareholding fall below 50 percent.

At the bottom line, the escalating media and public diplomacy war between Qatar and its Gulf detractors is as likely, as is evident with the revelations about North Korea, to put on public display the protagonists' hidden skeletons, as it is likely to contribute to attempts to polish tarnished reputations and influence attitudes and policies in Western capitals. A key tool in the protagonists' quivers, sports is proving to be a double-edged sword as it too has the potential of shining the light on practices and policies Gulf states would prefer to keep out of the public domain.

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