The Constructive Role of the Belt and Road

By Hajjatullah Zia

More than two thousand years ago, China’s Han Dynasty launched the Silk Road, a sprawling network of routes connecting China and Central Asia with the Middle East and Europe. Lately, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) led by Chinese President Xi Jinping in September and October 2013. The BRI will extend from the Chinese mainland to mainland Europe and be the focus of all major regional players. It will be a major development in many others areas, including: economic, cultural and social aspects.

The initiative calls for the integration of the region into a cohesive economic area through support for infrastructure development, investment and trade facilitation, financial integration, and cultural and social exchange.

To avoid funding side, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), China-led international financial institution, is coming to be offer finance to infrastructure projects as part of China’s Belt-Road initiative, with a focus on bridging links across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. However, it is read that the modern Silk Road, as well as its most ambitious, has been the most difficult to manage.

It is important to understand that changes are not always positive. Though a modern generation may always claim to be more educated and advanced but it may not claim to be better in many aspects. When there is a discussion about human society, it is not only advancement that matters; there are many ethical and spiritual aspects as well that needs to be considered.

There is no doubt in fact that generation gap is natural but it can turn into a serious problem in so many ways. When there are drastic differences between two generations, there are influences on entire families and social interactions. Parents, who nourish their children for years, at some point of life may become strangers for their children and sometimes children consider their parents as their enemies instead of guardians and confidants.

Therefore, in such cases, the gap keeps on widening and the parents and children keep on moving away from each other. The important thing is that such a point is to understand the basic theory of life and that: “things change”.

We need to understand this basic philosophy of life. Though it seems very simple to understand, it is the key that people need to adjust to. People do not change their behaviors phenomenon theo but practically they never adapt it and that is where the problem arises. Parents need to understand that their children and their way of thinking and behaving will definitely be different. That is bound to happen. Children cannot be similar to their parents. Ultimately, it will result in the generation gap.

We are now in the final days of the industrial age. The world is on the second generation driving the Industrial Revolution forward. We are not only shaping a revolution against the globalization, but as technology races ahead of us, it is difficult to anticipate what the future holds.

One thing we do know is that the future will be shaped by two big trends: digitization and urbanization. And the two trends are entwined. By the end of this century, urbanization would transform the world as we know it. People need to understand that changes will happen. In the future, we will see a shift from rural to urban life. Urban areas are magnets for young people and entrepreneurship.

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