Intensifying Stratification in Afghanistan

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ince the formation of the so-called democratic system in Afghanistan, the downtrodden of Taiibism, security is not a guarantee for a person taking birth in a lower class to work hard, develop themselves and move to the middle even to upper class. There have been equal opportunities for almost all the members of the society to work, move and benefit from the advantages of the modernized upper-class and lower-class division. In fact, the current economic system does not seem to be working and there are controversies regarding the future of the system. In fact, it is clearly found that Afghanistan’s economic system is based on capitalist system, and this system has been working for so many countries; however, there are few requirements that are inextinguishable and the basis of every country that has been helping the system to develop instead of facing a failure.

First, it has been made sure that justice should be maintained in the country where the laws are in their original form. The decisions of the court are under the influence of the powers that be and the stratification has led to sufferings. The upper class in the society is enjoying the benefits of the programs of the government. The lower class is suffering from the consequences of the policies of the government. The middle class is struggling to find their way. The whole economic system has not been mixed with any democratic system where the rights of the people have been enforced. The social justice has been ensured in all the countries where the stratification has been ended. Afghanistan cannot be said to be in the form as it exists in an advanced country where the middle class is not there. In Afghanistan, the church used to be their favorite and it was able to assert its authority within the society by means of the Church. In Afghanistan, the authority of the church was challenged and efforts were made to keep the church away from the affairs of the state, but it was the time when the concept of Secularization was introduced within the European society.

The later period of Renaissn is also the same time when efforts were made to move from monarchy to a democratic state and it was also the time when the institutions that are very much necessary for the better performance of the government and democratic setup were formed. In this new setup, the concept of "Separation of Power" was revitalized during the same era, which proved to be the foundation of the modern political systems.

By: Dilawar Sherzai

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Role of Individuals and Institutions in States

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With the evolution of state and politics, there has been a movement from personality-centered structures and set- tlements to democracy and institutions. A thorough look at the journey of mankind from monarchy to today’s democracies will substantiate the mentioned argument. The monarchies and their systems have dominated the political life of the people for years. These systems used to be all about the kings and were not answerable to anyone and enjoyed extreme authority. Though institutions exist today, the majority forms they have become unable to function on their own and they are seated for the ordered of the kings. As the kings had to order for all the matters in the country, the systems did not seem to be very much efficient and effective and largely depended on the power of authority and even sometimes on the force. As the English historian, politician & writer John Emerick has said, “Power makes what it wants, while corrupts power corrupts absolutely,” therefore, the extreme authority, with which the monarchs were gifted, had been used to a large extent. And in most of the occasions they were very much likely to use their authority in a wrong manner and would not many times consult others and would even take decision on the basis of personal experiences and whims. They even kept on neglecting the issues that they were meant to deal with so many times there was no issue at all. There was no distribution of responsibility and there were no marked boundaries among government institution like executive, judiciary and legislature and the king was all of them at a time. Even there was no distinction between the state and the government as is in the modern concept of state and government. The development of institutions continued even within monarchies and most of them in the certain parts of their histories had strong institutions that stood in support and on certain occasions in conflict with the king. One such institution was the religious institution. Kings and states preferred on them while taking decisions and they used to have a great say in the affairs of the government. For example, during the Dark Age in Europe, the church used to have a strong position in states and monarchies. On certain occasions in the even the kings used to be dominated by them. As the people including kings were highly dominated by the Church and Churchmen, the church used to be their favorite and it was able to assert its authority within the society by means of the Church. In Afghanistan, the authority of the church was challenged and efforts were made to keep the church away from the affairs of the state, but it was the time when the concept of Secularization was introduced within the European society.

In the concept of separation of power, the state is divided into branches or states, each with separate and independent powers and apropos to the institutions and areas of responsibilities; namely, an executive, an legislative and a judiciary. The opposite of separation of power is the fusion of powers, where the executive, legislative and judiciary are not separated. The fusion of powers can occur in various forms, among them, majoritarian democracy, and characterizing democratic systems. In this form, the executive, which often consists of a single person or a single party, is able to control the legislative and judicial organs. Another extreme is that of a totalitarian state or a principality of responsible government. Although the legislature and the judiciary are independent, the executive, which is often the monarch, parliament and the courts of law, but each separation, in the abovementioned organs of the state, Montenegro insisted greatly on the judiciary; he espoused that the independence of the judiciary has to be real and not apparent merely. The judiciary was generally considered by him as the most true and the last destination of powers, and he suggested that it must be independent and unchallenged.

There is no doubt that today the most of the democracies of the world have the concept of division of power in their systems in one way or the other. According to the modern concept of state and government, the powers are of three kinds: executive, legislative and judiciary. The executive refers to the branch of government that is responsible for the implementation of laws and policies. The legislative branch is responsible for making laws and policies, while the judiciary is responsible for interpreting and enforcing those laws and policies. In an ideal democracy, these three branches should be independent of each other to ensure that no one branch can dominate the others.

By: Eric A. Friedman

March 07, 2019

How to Achieve Health Equity

To: By: Eric A. Friedman

March 07, 2019

The world committed to achieving the Sustainable Develop- ment Goals – a blueprint of action for the 21st century – as part of the historic Paris Agreement on climate change. Yet, the impacts of climate change are emerging much faster than anticipated. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has found that the consequences of climate change will be devastating, including in health. The SDGs’ predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals, brought important improvements in health, especially in countries that have made limited efforts to eliminate inequities, including in health, in the last 15 years. But they have only partially reduced disparities and other health threats must be addressed, as must the structural environmental, economic, and political determinants of health. For example, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2016 to make health a human right. And the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a commitment to achieve health equity for all.

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The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.