

**POLITICO - ECONOMIC SECRETS  
OF ASIA PACIFIC RIM  
A LESSON FOR SOUTH ASIA**

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**T**he two Western trading communities, the European community (EC) and the North American Free Trade Agreement Community (NAFTA) are emerging to fill at least a material part of the power vacuum caused by the end of cold war. It is believed that any other such community would also surface soon in the East due to rapid economic development, especially in Asia Pacific Rim.

For the best interest of their communities, if the North American and European community strictly follow the policy of trade Protectionism that will definitely at large isolate the countries of East Asia. Therefore, for their survival the East Asian Countries have to depend on each other and to adopt the policy of coordination. The Asian countries no doubt had a great strength to command free trade smoothly.

The rapid global socio-political and economic changes, has changed the direction of the world. The world is facing new set of opening conditions after the effective demise of communism which predominated since world war two in shape of dual super power rivalry. Most of the people and nations have not really begun to comprehend the ramifications, either in political or more importantly in economic forms. In the new world order the definitions for common terms have changed. Our concepts of defence, government, leadership and nationality have changed dramatically.

Due to rapid economic growth in East Asia, the economic and political balance of power is shifting from West to East. Therefore, the South Asian Countries should take a lesson and better to decide now then never. "The South Asia should develop economic and political relations

with Asia pacific countries and side by side with North American and European community".<sup>1</sup>

"In its 18th Century classic, the decline and fall of Roman Empire, historian 'Edward Gibbon' explained why Europe's greatest dominion rotted away at the core. The Roman forgot their republican values, put aside their martial spirits, made far of family values and instead of planning for the future, reveled in hedonistic enjoyment of the present. The rise and fall of the empires is not merely the dry stuff of history books. It is live phenomenon, that, is shapping the contemporary world. But Asia is by no means immune to the bug. As it rapidly prospers, the region needs for guard against a decline in the values that are driving its later day renaissance".<sup>2</sup>

Asia's economic achievements are universally acknowledged and are on frequent rise. After centuries of colonialism, the Asian region's economic advances are inculcating new self confidence. That is helping to foster a cultural and philosophical resurgence. The associated values and ideas should not, of course, be aggressively promoted in every corner of the globe. But if other nations thinks they too can benefit from them. The Asia should be ready and willing to help to understand them and apply them to their own affairs. That would be substantial contribution to mankind. The Asian economic miracle need to lead inevitably decline. It can be the advance guard of the age of Asia.

The fall of Saigon was infact a death of potent communist force in Asia. Since 1974 war, catastrophes and instability in Asia was covered by daily newspapers and magazines. Such as communist offences in Cambodia , Laos and South Vietnam, famine in Bangladesh and South Asia, Martial law in Philippines and Pakistan, anti-Japanese riots in Indonesia etc.<sup>3</sup> But today Asia is largely at peace and their leaders worry more about consumerism than communism.

As Asia continues to prosper, its challenges will become similarly complicated. There is no reason to think that a region that has triumphed over war, poverty and ethnic turmoil can not find within itself the will to sustain its hard-bought prosperity. Academicians and economists may bargain continuously over the differing degrees of intervention, but there is no doubt about the general prescriptions: that the private sector is to be preferred over the public, the countries, that close themselves to trade, doom, them-selves to poverty.

Asia in 1974 could have headed right or left up or down, but we know Asia made all right choices on pursuing free enterprise, free markets and free trade, on developing its natural and human resources; on seeking regional cooperation and global competitiveness, on joining the first world and not the second, on trying so far so good to blend material progress with traditional Asian values. A great deal of Asia has started to rediscover Asia, to begin to have faith in Asia, to begin to be proud of being Asian.<sup>4</sup>

However, Asia of 1974 arguably had discounted the war of Vietnam well in advance of its outcome. That long and painful conflict, in fact, had bought the 'dominoes' a decade in which to pursue economic stability. There are periods of history when profound changes occur all of a sudden and acceleration of event is such that much of what experts write is obsolete before it gets into print. "Late president Richard Nixon in 1974 resigned in domestic disgrace, but his opening to China had changed the Geopolitical landscape in Asia and beyond".<sup>5</sup>

### **CHINA AND KASHMIR**

Since partition of 1947, India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir issue. China a neighbouring, powerful and traditional ally of Pakistan has always supported Pakistan on Kashmir issue not because of its political differences with India but it is Pakistan's strategical

condition's favouring China and Pakistan's political stand in favour of China. Since few years a change in China's diplomacy over Kashmir is changed for two reasons firstly, Islamic insurgency and fundamentalistic activities in Xinjiang province of China through Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kashmir, secondly China fears that sovereign Kashmir would become Pro-American surrogate on its southern borders.

"According to China the United States is already undermining China in Tibet and Xinjiang and Kashmir. It could be another hotbed of anti-Chinese activity. The Chinese are deeply concerned over the spread of Islamic radicalism in Xinjiang through Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kashmir. Several dozen Islamic militants from Xinjiang province are already fighting in Afghanistan and Kashmir and hundreds of them are being trained in Afghanistan, Kashmir and other Muslim countries".<sup>6</sup> With this Pakistan got a set-back in March 1994, when Iran and China both being a neighbour countries and old friend with draw its support on Kashmir issue in Human right conference in Geneva.

Although Pak-China relations will remain strong despite recent shift in China's diplomatic stand on Kashmir. No country compromise on its national interests. Therefore Pakistan should initiate and help to companset China's grievance.

### **PAKISTAN AND INDIA OVER KASHMIR ISSUE**

India Pakistan relations have remained boiled on Kashmir issue since their separation of 1947. Without looking to the past and calculating economic, political, social costs etc., we should talk only for the present day. Kashmir issue is always on the nerves of Pakistan and Indian people. Without its political solution both countries can't play a constructive political and economic role in South Asia. This issue have created suffocation in the entire

region and mostly the other related countries of this region have developed the feeling of insecurity.

Kashmirier militants have succeeded lot in getting momentum against India, and India is totally in fix at the point of undecisiveness. The hatred in the minds of Kashmiries against India has reached at the point of no return, so the Kashmiries will celebrate their freedom, the is own a question. If Pakistan wants to help and resolve the Kashmir's issue the time is matured to change the strategy. We have to widen our old front again to East Punjab. If we succeed in doing so, we can bring India at its knees. For decisive negotiations and bargain. This is the last opportunity if we can make it possible, otherwise the fir might extiveships anguish and turn into ashes before we awake.

## **ECONOMY**

Since few decades the question before the business world was to make possible both quality and low price? But response from west was in negative as both are exclusive. But Japanese proved the theory correct, so what happened to U.S. and European manufactures is know to all. The little tigers have shown initiative and taken risks despite some times totalitarian and depressive regimes. But in Pakistan the customers pay high price for sheddy good and poor business practice.

Pakistan with other South Asian nations has a good manufacturing base and big market place subject to the condition if our businessmen and politicians fell responsibility. We have many fundamental advantages that will begin to fell if the right economic formulas are put in place and maintained. Our financial system is for more advanced than China's we are well plunged into the international English speaking world. We have a long established system of commercial laws and an independent Judiciary, though painfully slow, but serving as an impartial mediator. Best of all we have a class of business-oriented

communities and families who need only the right economic environment under check and balance system.

Primarily, six challenges we are facing for our economic progress:

1. Security
2. Human Rights
3. Democracy
4. Competitiveness
5. Sustainable Economic Growth with Social Justice
6. Social and Psychological Changes.

Pakistan has to watch carefully the "Secrets of Asia's success" being an Asian nation. This is a "Pacific Century" with its incredible economic boom. Approximately there are five secrets of Asian success:

### **HARD WORK**

- Low taxes
- High Salaries / Incentives
- High Saving Rates
- Minimal Government
- Economic Boom

This is not a pure mathematical equation, but politico-economic theory based on graceful attitude of the politicians come bureaucrats of East Asia's little tiger nations.

### **CONCLUSION**

The People of sub-continent can not change there mentality and habits acquired within 150 years of British Raj. The attitude can best be described in one word Colonial: we still preserve the colonial mentality in all the ranks of our society and personal values. The worst part of this colonial system was that it encouraged dishonesty, hypocrisy, disloyalty to our own people.

Most of the Asian nations of South and East have remained under two Colonial system (a). Colonial imperialism and (b). Social/Capitalist Imperialism. Under the umbrella of this system, what has been penetrated in our blood by our so-called western masters is cast and class. Under this system one is more loyal and other as most ignorant. Therefore, under this so-called democratic and social system without justice is known as system of bribe and corruption and that is our national culture. Now time has come that we should try at our maximum to change this old inherited colonial cultural system with honesty, positive thinking and merit. The new system should be based on without class and creed under check and balance system of accountability.

For Pakistan's politico-economic survival we have to opt new system which first abolish the system of class society and be based on social justice, free-voice, free market, free-trade, Liberal economic policy, both qualitative and quantitative education merit, decentralization or a liberal centralized policy at initial stage. The Sardari and big land holding system should be abolished. This will give positive result to our economy and agricultural system.

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