

# AGE OF INTERNET AND HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

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The world in the 21st Century has changed radically from the days when the industrialization started. However, one thing has not changed: It is the disparity between rich and the poor inside nations and lack of parity of power between the advanced countries and the nations where economic development is still reminiscent of old time. In advanced nations people have freed themselves from basic needs like food, shelter, health care and education, as well as have access to knowledge of science, and latest developments in technologies. The knowledge of science and technology have freed them from the fear of Heaven and helped them to take destiny on their own hands through newer innovations which can change the reality and environment emerging from passive acceptance of nature. In contrast majority of human beings in developing and less developed nations, are still duped in religious faiths and the belief in other world and believe that these invisible realms control the destiny of life. Many find consolation in the belief that a better life may follow after death, if they abide by the teachings of their religious leaders.

While women and men of the advanced nations, freed from fears of Heaven, enjoy the luxury of travelling around the world enjoying the services and comforts which money can buy from the less fortunate ones, the majority of the humanity live wretched life filled with challenges of earning their daily breads. They live by selling products and services to be used by the fortunate people on Earth. While the rich enjoy health care of extremely sophisticated nature that includes gene manipulation and medical solutions to correct genome defects, the majority of the population in the world cannot even afford to visit a doctor who may treat the most common diseases, which needs a simple treatment. While the markets of the rich nations are filled with fruits, vegetables and beverages from all over the world, the people in the poorer nations cannot even afford to consume the agricultural products they grow themselves. The inequalities among the people of the rich and poor nations are absurdly high. Similar is the case within a poor nation: A handful of people, collaborating with the free global market dominated by the rich consumers of the world, may enjoy a fabulous wealth and luxuries while the majority live in a

“hell” of abject poverty and distress.

The thing common between the rich and the poor nations is the fact that of the economics of both sides is integrated with a global economy. The economic health of one nation is tangled in the growth and development of economics in other nations. In this global market the core-nations (advanced economics) enjoy the products and services created by the developing nations, while advanced nations control the flow of money and technology across the world. By using economic hegemony they keep the world-order intact and build economic theories, models and ideas, suitable for their goals.

The other common development among nations is the rise of the technocratic class, who are experts of economy, business and trade. A common man without expertise in global market and knowledge of the economic theories and models used in speculating about the future development of the world, and possibility of success in the monetary game, would have no clue to orient oneself in this new global-order. In such a world, the poor and the illiterates are victims of a great exploitation perpetuated by the more intelligent and smart technocrats and business-giants.

A new development in the global economy is the emergence of the technocrats and financial investors, who are forming a group across different ethnic backgrounds, nations and culture. Unlike the earlier world economic power, clustered around ethnic groups (like Anglo-Saxon for example) and belonging to a particular heritage, the new power constellation is being formed without such traditional linkage. With it the development of the multi-nationals and their monopoly over the future of mankind, is on the rise.

Among other important new developments belongs the rise of the modern communication technology, which has opened up global networking among people across the national, cultural, economic and political barriers. Through social networking people from one corner of the world can connect with people at any other corner using internet and exchange views, likings, disliking and opinions about anything they wish to comment about. The rise of this platform is mainly contributing to juvenile fun, delinquency and moral decadence without any control of family, or

authority. It is being promoted as the platform of freedom of expression and the rights to promote one self and right to defame anyone else without fearing any form of correction or punishment.

The most serious aspect of this development is its ability to agitate the young generation by feeding information (or disinformation) detrimental to social-political stability. It is being newly used as a method of spreading protests and discontents against regimes, which fall at ill-eye of the powerful nations, who can abuse the technological platform as they want. Recently the revolution of “Arab Spring” has shown its potential strength in disrupting the most authoritarian regimes and spreading political chaos in the Middle East.

This social networking is also becoming the platform of advertisement of consumer products. The big business communities make use of the personal information, left by the people in social networking sites, in order to target the potential age-group, cultural-group, or economic-groups etc. who may be susceptible to purchasing products one may produce. With the membership in social networking approaching a billion, the technology of communication is spreading its evil grip to keep human beings captive of the invisible power of the market-giants. It is also being used in attacking other cultures, beliefs and faiths, and thus strengthening the ground of a decadent culture supported by the modern communication age. The young generations, who master this technology best, are being manipulated to dismantle premises of cultures which may contradict with the juvenile spirit of delinquency and chaos of unguided will to be free.

In the face of this development, the traditional religion is facing a crisis. While in the advanced economics the faith in religion is dwindling fast, and being replaced more and more by the values pivoted around money and success in the market, the mass, in the developing countries, are experiencing the pain of transition from age-old faith to modern consumer life-style. Now the modern super-markets are becoming the main attractions to visit than the temples and museums exhibiting historical artifacts, or promoting spiritual dimensions of life. Thus human beings are being uprooted from the ground on which human civilization had found security, solace and comfort for several millenniums. Not only people are losing connections with history, they are being bombarded with information about products, entertainments and self-help to find

happiness and freedom by using one's unguided free will. As most people do not have capacity to absorb the information flow to develop a sound perspective of life, they are making themselves captives of the lower nature of man.

In this atmosphere, the slogan behind freedom is "democracy and human rights". In the international politics democracy and human rights have become the instruments to check any development of socialist, communist or authoritarian rule, which may threaten the free-market philosophy, and curb the authorities of the technocratic elites and their compatriots in the military and the business world. The demand for good governance which may foster democracy and human rights are becoming ways to interfere and militarily intervene in the sovereignty of other nations.

This new dynamics of changing the unwanted rulers and replacing them with people more open to free-market and fuller integration of the global economy, which is more and more controlled by monopoly-capitalists and multi-nationals, is taking the name of "humanitarian intervention". Not for love for life, but for securing a stable economy dependent on energy-resources and raw-materials, the western democracies have set the process of democratization in the world(except those places in the Middle East, where authoritarian rulers are allied with the market and helping to stabilize the supply of oil to the Western hemisphere).

Of course, not everything is so bad: The movement of democracy and human rights have some side effects which are freeing women and minorities (in particular) from traditional oppressions practiced in many societies. It has generated movements where the poor and the middle class have got opportunities to voice their opinions in issues of immediate importance to them in the local communities. It has brought a rising tide of participations in securing the interests of groups, who had remained outside the game of power, since the start of history of modern civilization.

The aspect of social changes, brought by democracy and human rights, are mostly affecting the societies where women and minorities lead most undignified life. Especially it is the case in countries where the ideas of the fundamentalist Islam still have strong appeal. The idea of

liberating the women from their traditional roles is seen as an affront on their religious beliefs and social stability. The free-market philosophy, grounded on a banking system, which is based on interests and profits, is also another point of divergence from the Western culture, which ignites hatred against the Western powers. This hatred is compounded with the historical rivalries between Islamic civilization and the culture of the West based on the Christian heritage.