

TANZEEM-E-ISLAMI



Striving for the Law of Allah, on the Land of Allah

PERSPECTIVE

The official online newsletter of Tanzeem-e-Islami
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'PERSPECTIVE' is a trend-setting newsletter issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami that focuses on a candid commentary on the current national and international issues, in the light of the Qur'an and the Sunnah.
A blend that gives Muslims an insight into the events of the past, those happenings at present and the Signs of things to come...

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From the Qur'an:

“And how many a generation before them did We destroy who were greater than them in [striking] power and had explored throughout the lands. Is there any place of escape?”

“Indeed in that is a reminder for whoever has a heart or who listens while he is present [in mind].”

(*Surah Qaf, Verses: 36 & 37*)

Selected Hadith:

The Messenger of Allah (SAAW) is reported to have said:

“This matter [Islam] will keep spreading as far as the night and day reach, until Allah will not leave a house made of mud or hair, but will make this religion enter it, while bringing might to a mighty person [a believer] and humiliation to a disgraced person [who rejects Islam]; might with which Allah elevates Islam [and its people], and disgrace with which Allah humiliates disbelief [and its people].”

(Musnad Imam Ahmad)

All praise is due to Allah (SWT), and peace & blessing on his noble Messengers (AS), in particular, on the last of them all the blessed Prophet Muhammad (SAAW).

There is a serious health crisis that must be duly resolved, and this is a number one priority. However, there is another important dimension, which also has to be addressed. Millions of people have lost their jobs, and their lifelong savings. In developing countries, poverty and despair prevail. While the lockdown is presented to public opinion as the sole means to resolving a global public health crisis, its devastating economic and social impacts are casually ignored. The unspoken truth is that the novel coronavirus provides a pretext to powerful financial interests and corrupt politicians to precipitate the entire World into a spiral of mass unemployment, bankruptcy and extreme poverty.

This is the true picture of what is happening. Poverty is worldwide. While famines are erupting in Third World countries, even in the richest country on earth, millions of desperate people wait in long crowded lines for handouts. Miles-long lines formed at food banks and unemployment offices across the US and Europe over the past week.

This crisis combines fear and panic concerning the COVID-19 together with a sophisticated process of economic manipulation. Let us first examine the impacts pertaining to the developing countries.

Today, the mechanism for triggering poverty and economic collapse is fundamentally different and increasingly sophisticated. The ongoing 2020 Economic Crisis is tied into the logic of the COVID-19 pandemic: No need for the IMF-World Bank to negotiate a structural adjustment loan with national governments. What has occurred under the COVID-19 crisis is a “Global Adjustment” in the structure of the World economy. In one fell swoop, this Global Adjustment (GA) triggers a worldwide process of bankruptcy, unemployment, poverty and total despair.

How is it implemented? The lockdown is presented to national governments as the sole solution to resolve the COVID-19 pandemic. It becomes a political consensus, irrespective of the devastating economic and social consequences. No need to reflect or analyze the likely impacts. Corrupt national governments are pressured to comply. The partial or complete closing down of a national economy is triggered through the enforcement of so-called “WHO guidelines” pertaining to the lockdown, as well as to trade, immigration and transportation restrictions, etc. Powerful financial institutions and lobby groups including Wall Street, Big Pharma, the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation were involved in shaping the actions of the WHO pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lockdown together with the curtailment of trade and air travel had set the stage. This closing down of national economies was undertaken Worldwide starting in the month of March, affecting simultaneously a large number of countries in all major regions of the World. It is unprecedented in World history.

Why did leaders in high office let it happen? The consequences were obvious. This closing down operation affects production and supply lines of goods and services, investment activities, exports and imports, wholesale and retail trade, consumer spending, the closing down of schools, colleges and universities, research institutions, etc. In turn it leads almost immediately to mass unemployment, bankruptcies of small and medium sized enterprises, a collapse in purchasing power, widespread poverty and famine. What is the underlying objective of this restructuring of the global economy? What are the consequences? Cui Bono? A massive concentration of wealth and corporate capital, the destabilization of small and middle sized enterprises in all major areas of economic activity including the services economy,

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agriculture and manufacturing. It facilitates the subsequent corporate acquisition of bankrupt enterprises. It derogates the rights of workers. It destabilizes labor markets. It creates mass unemployment. It compresses wages (and labor costs) in the so-called high income “developed countries” as well as in the impoverished developing countries. It leads to an escalation of the external debt. It facilitates subsequent privatization. Needless to say this Global Adjustment (GA) operation is far more detrimental than the country-level IMF-WB structural adjustment program (SAP). It is neoliberalism to the nth degree. In one fell swoop (in the course of the last months) the COVID-19 crisis has contributed to impoverishing a large sector of the World population.

And Guess who comes to the rescue? The IMF and the World Bank. That’s the neoliberal solution applied at a global level: No real economic recovery, more poverty and unemployment Worldwide. The “solution” becomes the “cause”. It initiates a new process of indebtedness. It contributes to an escalation of the debt. The more you lend, the more you squeeze the developing countries into political compliance. And ultimately that is the objective of the failing American Empire. The unspoken truth is that this one trillion dollars ++ of the Bretton Woods institutions is intended to drive up the external debt.

This crisis will eventually precipitate the privatization of the state. Increasingly, national governments will be under the stranglehold of Big Money. Crippled by mounting debts, what is at stake is the eventual de facto privatization of the entire state structure, in different countries, at all levels of government, under the surveillance of powerful financial interests. The fiction of “sovereign governments” serving the interests of the electors will nonetheless be maintained.

The lockdown impoverishes both the developed and developing countries and literally destroys national economies. It destabilizes the entire economic landscape. It undermines social institutions including schools and universities. It spearheads small and medium sized enterprises into bankruptcy. A diabolical “New World Order” in the making as suggested by Henry Kissinger? (*WSJ Opinion, April 3, 2020*): “The Coronavirus Pandemic Will Forever Alter the World Order”. Recall Kissinger’s historic 1974 statement: “Depopulation should be the highest priority of US foreign policy towards the Third World.” (*1974 National Security Council Memorandum*)

The political implications are far-reaching. What kind of government will we have in the wake of the crisis? There is a lot of misunderstanding regarding the nature of this crisis. The fact is that Global capitalism has consolidated its clutch. Fear and panic prevail. The State is being privatized. The tendency is towards authoritarian forms of government. These are the issues which we must address. That historical opportunity to confront the power structures of global capitalism, – including the US-NATO military apparatus – remains to be firmly established in wake of the lockdown.

From the viewpoint of Muslims, Allah (SWT) is showing us His (SWT) might, and how truly flimsy and weak the human is before Him (SWT). No matter what we build, no matter how robust we believe we are, no matter what developments we make in science and technology, Allah (SWT) always has been and always will be grander than everything. The coronavirus has engulfed the entire world today, and while it is necessary for all of us to take reasonable cautionary measures to avoid being infected by the pandemic, it is even more essential for us to contemplate on the reasons why such wraths and trials from Allah (SWT) are transpiring, one after the other, in today’s world. Humans, today, have become totally absorbed in materialism and this blind quest for worldly gains alone has made humans completely ignorant of Allah (SWT). Therefore, the wrath and trial from Allah (SWT) strikes in this way too, leaving most of the world crippled and fallen to its knees, with all forms of ‘business of the modern man’ totally arrested and halted to a standstill. This is a sign of warning and a lesson of reprimand for the whole of humanity. Even the most developed nations of the world are extremely helpless against this virus. The Muslims, in particular, ought to ponder, reflect and understand that their salvation in this world and in the Hereafter resides only in following the mandates of Allah (SWT) and His (SWT) Messenger (SAAW), in letter and spirit. People must wake-up and fear Allah (SWT), because if they fail to open their eyes and recognize the clear warning even after this wrath and trial from Allah (SWT), then they may have to face greater and worse wraths and trials in the future. May Allah (SWT) be our Protector. *Aameen!*

Signing off...**Dr. Absar Ahmad (Chief Editor)****Coronavirus is also a Political Catalyst**

Writing about UAE-Iran relations for the Qatari affiliated Middle East Eye, Dr. Andreas Krieg, a strategic risk consultant working for government and commercial clients in the Middle East, made the following observation: “...the coronavirus crisis is part of a new trajectory to pivot to the East as the US and Europe are forced by Covid-19 to surrender ever more hard and soft power globally.”

The above conclusion is not limited to the UAE. The current pandemic which morphed into a global economic and health crisis has greatly weakened the so-called “first world” status of Western states built on colonialism and imperialism. There are several indicators that point to the end of NATO’s grip on world affairs of which one of the biggest signals is beaming out of the EU.

As the coronavirus was taking a devastating toll of Italy, there was minimal assistance from fellow EU

members. The Italian social media was flooded with images of ordinary Italians burning EU flags and town mayors were seen hauling down EU flags from official buildings. Even the BBC, which normally peddles a strongly pro-EU narrative, dedicated a significant portion of its Business Daily podcast to the Italian social media campaign called, "We will save ourselves." Tensions with Italy got so high that head of the European Commission, Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen issued an apology to Italy for the Europeans' poor response.

In early April, the economically less fortunate EU member-states – Italy, Spain and France – floated the idea of issuing joint bonds, dubbed 'corona-bonds' in order to share the economic burden jointly. However, the idea was quickly rejected by wealthier EU members such as Austria, Netherlands, Germany and Finland.

In March 2020, Philippe Legrain, former economic adviser to the president of the European Commission, wrote in the Brussel Times, that "a corona bond would provide a safe asset for European and international investors, give the eurozone greater geopolitical reach and provide greater protection against President Donald Trump's abuse of the dominance of the US dollar for harmful political ends." Legrain's perspective is an indicator that there is strong divergence in geopolitical and economic vision among the West's ruling elites, but a growing agreement that US hegemony is in decline and other Western powers should carve a place for themselves in the world taking this reality into consideration.

While there is no consensus about the best way to handle the political, economic and health aspects of the coronavirus crisis, various international relations scholars, analysts and statesmen concur that the Muslim world is heading towards dramatic changes in the post-coronavirus period.

Christopher Phillips, Deputy Dean of International Relations at the University of London, opines that "the US, like other Western democratic governments, looks set for a period of internal focus once the pandemic passes" (*Middle East Eye*). In the same column, Phillips argues that "it seems equally plausible that in the vacuum, states and other players, including the US, will continue to view the region as an arena for competition, subjecting it to more conflict and suffering. The post-US Middle East that Covid-19 could usher in, may prove no more stable than it was under Washington's failed bid for dominance."

While Phillips' argument is plausible, his narrative and that of many other Western observers, ignores the fact that in order to build a new political architecture in the Middle East, it will require the dismantling of the US established order.

This process, just like the renovation of a house, will create mess and cause discomfort. One cannot expect to renovate a house without messy plumbing and other construction work. Thus, the instability that might engulf the Muslim world as a result of NATO's soft and hard power retreat, will be a necessary discomfort in order to establish more people-centered governing systems within the region's religious and cultural paradigm. The only way to make the post-US period in the region less painful is to hope that a genuine and muttaqi (God conscious) leadership emerges from among the people of the region which will not be afraid to take risks and build something new.

Thus, naturally the post-US drive for a new regional order will be Islam-centered. Whether it is the resurgence of Muslim Brotherhood, the AKP-modeled Muslim governance or any other shape or form that is taken, the new models, wherever in the region they emerge, will have to cooperate with the big players in the Middle East and South Asia in order to sustain themselves in the new regional arrangement.

NATO members were devastated by the coronavirus because of their dismal healthcare systems, cut-throat austerity measures and mediocre public policies. The blow inflicted by the coronavirus is not only empirical, it has also undermined perceptions. Western countries are no longer the 'go to systems' for sophisticated public policy approaches. Asian countries like South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan managed to deal with the health aspect of the coronavirus crisis far more efficiently than many EU members.

The decades-old imposed aura of Western exceptionalism is crumbling together with their neo-colonial systems set up in the Muslim world. NATO systems are no longer viewed with fascination by the developing world, but are seen as ordinary state systems with a poor health care, corrupt politicians and a weak commitment to proclaimed principles. While this might take some time and the narcissist in the White House might choose to launch regional wars in the Middle East in order to boost oil prices and reward his big business buddies or manufacture other crises to derail the eventual outcome, the process is irreversible. Thus, analysts of the Islamic movement should not be fixated on certain events that might make it seem that NATO regimes are bouncing back, but rather analyze the overall process.

Source: Adapted from an article by Tahir Mustafa; Published in Crescent International

Editor's Note: The Editorial Board of "Perspective" may not agree with all information provided, analysis made and conclusions drawn in the article.

**Press Releases issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami****Date: 08 May 2020****Lahore (PR): “Restrictions on Mosques and Worshippers must also be removed.”**

This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, **Hafiz Aakif Saeed**, in a statement. The Ameer noted that the government has allowed the resumption of commercial activities in order to heal and restore worldly affairs (such as the economy), however the restrictions on Mosques and Worshippers have not been removed yet.

He remarked that the government ought to reconsider and revise its decision regarding prohibiting older Muslims from going to Mosques and the distance among Worshippers mandated. He said that the reason for our feebleness and weakness is not ‘lack of riches’, but our detachment from spirituality and betrayal of the commandments of Allah (SWT).

He said that the third and the most importance *Ashrah* (ten days) of Ramadan is nigh, therefore arrangements should be made to do *Itikaf* (seclusion) in all mosques, big and small alike. However, as *Itikaf* is a *Fard-e-Kifaya* (Individual Obligation), doing congregational seclusion and organizing ‘*Itikaf* Cities’ must be avoided.

The Ameer said that the oppression and brutalities of India in Occupied Kashmir are at its evil peak. While the martyrdom of freedom fighter *Riyaz Naikoo* is shocking, however this continuous sacrifice of blood would ultimately prove to be very costly for India and the dawn of freedom in Occupied Kashmir would emerge soon. *InshaAllah!*

He remarked that the conscience of the world was still dead despite the inhumane and cruel attitude of India towards the Kashmiris. He said that if the Muslim countries of the Middle East impose economic and trade sanctions on India, then India would be brought down to its knees precipitously. He concluded by lamenting that it is a matter of great shame that the Muslim countries only provide lip service in this regard.

Date: 01 May 2020**Lahore (PR): “While the entire world is easing-down lockdowns, why are we hesitant?”**

This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, **Hafiz Aakif Saeed**, in a statement. He said that USA and Europe are currently the hot zones of COVID-19, yet the governments of USA and almost all European countries have clearly moved towards easing lockdowns and restarting economic activity in their countries.

Yet the rulers in Pakistan seem adamant not to ease lockdown, although Pakistan is a poor country and almost 30% of our masses live below the poverty line. Given these circumstances, the lockdown in Pakistan has badly affected their everyday lives. Therefore, we urge our government to, at least, start easing the lockdown so that the poor and labor classes could begin earning livelihood again.

The Ameer remarked that the way in which our media is trying to falsely portray and ‘prove’ mosques as the only potential source for the spread of COVID-19 is vehemently condemnable. It appears that they have been assigned this sinister task!

While commenting on the unprovoked Indian shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) and the martyrdom of innocent civilians, the Ameer lamented that while the entire world is engulfed in an affliction (in the form of COVID-19), yet this inhumane Indian attitude clearly shows that there is no sanctity of human life or human value in the eyes of the extremist and fascist Modi regime.

India, today, has become blinded by enmity against Muslims, rather Islam, which is proven by the highly discriminatory and intensely condemnable attitude of Indian state and other institutions towards the Muslim patients of COVID-19, both inside India and in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK).

The Ameer concluded by demanding that all Muslim countries ought to take strict notice of these nefarious designs of India and take substantial and unified practical action against the Indian regime.