

Myth and reality of Pakistan

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Myth is based on belief before understanding while reality is founded on understanding before belief. Myth is therefore by nature irrational and reality is rationally rooted scientific inquiry. Myths by definition block thinking and encourage addiction to living in the past perceived to be golden. The history of Pakistan is heavily penetrated and dominated by beliefs and notions which lack objective reality. As myths are emotional rather than rational the holders of the former become dogmatic and extremist labeling every alternative as blasphemy and apostasy. This is the real crisis of the state of Pakistan. An attempt has been made in this piece to catalogue major myths which have defined the psychology of the nation since its independence from foreign occupation. The list may not have encompassed all of our myths but it does enumerate the most widely held beliefs.

Pakistan is unfit for democracy because the people don't understand this concept and they deserve a system which suits their genius. Ayub Khan had once unabashedly remarked that democracy flourishes in cold climate only. The people have been brainwashed and duped to accept this thesis without question. Islam and democracy are opposites. This idea has been drilled into public consciousness by the erstwhile mullah led apparatus of the state. That Islam is democratic in spirit and that democracy is Islamic in character have been lost in the issueless debate ravaging our print media and electronic waves. This myth is the mother of all manners of terrorism we are facing today. The country is more important than the constitution. This thesis which has been popularized by the advocates of the infamous law of necessity has landed us in a cal de sac from which we have not been able to extricate ourselves so far.

Mush enlarged press freedom more than any other ruler. This is utter nonsense because dictatorship and press freedom do not match. Myth #5. Pakistani Generals alone are the real champions of national interest, economic development and security of the state. This statement is horrendous because The Washington Quartet consisting of Ayub, Yahya, Zia and Musharraf (an epithet correctly coined by Tariq Ali) have destroyed the national fabric of Pakistan far beyond recognition and repair. Recent disclosures by former spy masters show how the power thirsty Generals have messed up the business of the state. Books written by Ayub and Mush distorted history with abandon. Thank God, Yahya and Zia did not publish any book although their actions are a louder statement on their treason and geographical as well as moral destruction of the

state .This gang of four deprived Pakistan of moral high ground on Kashmir. Only Islamic system can save humanity and only Muslims will be accepted in heaven .Only the Creator knows whom He will admit to the comforts of heaven and why He will keep the rest of humanity out of the said luxury but I know for sure there is no Islamic system which can unite the Muslim world .That the Muslim Ummah stands divided permanently on this issue needs no proof.

India dismembered Pakistan I 1971.India did exploit the “opportunity of the century” but our own blunders primarily led to this colossal debacle. Peace in South Asia is not possible without settlement of Kashmir .This outdated stereotype is belied by the experience of European Union which has become a super state after two world wars between major powers of Europe. Nuclear arsenal is a sure guarantee of national security .The experience of Soviet Union contradicts this assurance. Afghan and Pak Taliban are fighting for the glory of Islam .Nothing is farther from the truth than this deception. America massively interferes in the domestic affairs of Pakistan. True but how can we block this interference without normalization with India and other immediate neighbors?

The parliament ,the government ,the judiciary and the fourth pillar of the state ie. the media owe it to the people to move Pakistan from the darkness of the myths mentioned above to the light of reality and progress .The parliament carries the heaviest burden to accomplish the mission assigned to it by history .The law makers need to gear up speed to match their performance with the spirit of our times .They need to wake up and assert their independence and enforce high moral standards on their fraternity .I am confident, once the constitution of 1973 is restored by parliament to it’s original form all institutions of the state will function to full capacity to eliminate poverty and it’s concomitants .The government performance on the other hand is not as poor as depicted by a powerful section of the media .There is no doubt that the Gillani administration needs to do more for the well being of the poor .The success of the government meanwhile in the fight against extremism and mainstreaming of Gilgit Baltistan as well as Tribal Areas is commendable and needs to be appreciated .Once the war on terror is out of the way the government will find it much easier to address other pressing problems facing the country more aggressively.While mentioning 11 myths above I have hinted at solutions which can help our leaders to break the serpentine grip of inflation, terror, and deprivation.

The judiciary is performing more than it’s share of governance .Other pillars of the state will find it useful to work in unison with the new Judiciary of Pakistan .A section of the media is unfortunately using it’s new found freedom to malign the government and

spread speculation, smear and uncertainty .The government must be criticized where it needs to be corrected but in a manner which is objective and constructive .Media must avoid slide into the dreaded past. The government has not disappointed me so far but I expect it to rise higher to the mounting challenges and make Pakistan a place where reason rather than myth rules the roost .History has a lot in store to guide the present leaders .The lessons have to be learnt otherwise the history has the inexorable habit to repeat itself. I have suggested some think tanks to the government .Let us start thinking and take Pakistan out of the woods ,the wilderness and dark shadows of the directionless past .The sacrifices of our martyred heroes can not be wasted for petty personal gains of self seekers masquerading as saviors.