Political Decline of the Muslims and the Role of Youth in Reforming Society

(In the Light of Islamic Teachings)

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Abstract

Today, the Islamic countries are rich in natural resources, but cannot make progress. The Non-Muslim Muslims, especially western countries, have made progress in every field. On this account they are ruling over the Muslims. The main cause of their rise is that they are united and have acquired modern science and technology. The past history of the Muslims has been very bright as compared to their present plight. It was due to the acceptance of the teachings of Islam, but now they want to follow the life of European countries, due to which they are declining rapidly. So, it is the need of the day & essential for young people to get education (religious as well as modern science and technology), shun ignorance, avoid atheism and prejudiced attitudes & must promote moral and ethical values and must correct their beliefs. Only in this way we (Muslims) can conquer the whole world. In this article, the political decline of the Muslims and the role of youth in the reform of society in the light of Islamic teachings have been discussed in a scholarly manner.

Keywords:

Natural resources, modern science, European countries, prejudiced attitude, political domination.

Introduction:

Before knowing about the causes of the decline of the Muslims, it is important to identify the main causes due to which the Arabs who were living in the desert, became the owner of the kingdom of Qaisar-o-Kisra. Surely, it was due to Islam, as before Islam the Arabs had not got such glorious status which they got after Islam. In general, it has been observed that wherever Muslims live with non-Muslims in the world, Muslims will lag behind in every way. Although there are many awareness movements in different parts of the world, they have not yet been able to turn the decline of Muslims into a rise. The real advancement of the Muslims was due to the emergence of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula, which united the different sects of Arabia into one nation. It turned their barbaric life into a civilized life and softened their hard hearts and turned them away from idolatry and prostrated them before Allah. It was as Islam pulled out their first souls and put new ones into them. This internal transformation gave them the power to reach the extremes of knowledge and wealth, and to become the masters of half the world in just a short span of fifty years, and if there were no clashes and battles between them, they would have conquered the whole world. The basic cause of rise of Muslims was Islam which now a days we ignored and there are also some other causes of decline which will be discussed in this paper.

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Literature Review

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Causes of political domination

Eight things are essential for political domination, which are as follows:

1: Manpower

Manpower plays an important role in the development and political domination of a country, because it is often seen that those countries have got success and have a lot of manpower. Due to large manpower, wars will be easier to fight, and the second important thing is that it indicates the excess of labor.

2: Education

It is clear in the daylight that educated nations have ruled over the world. Now, due to modern science and technology, European countries are ruling over other countries.

3: Unity

The history of the world is witness that those nations ruled which have unity among the people. We know that unity is strength; it is one of the essential components of a strong nation. Great things can be achieved if there is unity among the people.

4: Industries

Industries play an important role in the development of a country because the present era is an industrial era. China is an example which is growing very fast due to its industries.

5: Agriculture

Agriculture plays an important role in the development of the economy and political domination is based on economic development.

6: Physical strength

If a nation has a lot of manpower, modern education, industries, and unity but has no physical strength, then it cannot get political domination. So, for the development of a nation, physical strength is essential.

7: Mineral Resources

The importance of mineral resources cannot be denied in this modern era. A nation will be wealthier if it has more mineral resources. So, for economic development, it is essential to search for mineral resources.

8: Moral and spiritual strength

If a nation has moral and spiritual strength along with the above-mentioned qualities, then the entire universe will be-in their feet. If you look at the history of Arabs, then we cannot see any cause of political domination; they have no proper education, they have no unity, and they fight each other on minor issues, there are no industries and no agriculture. Allah said: رَبَّنَا إِنِيِّ أَسْكَنْتُ مِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي بِوَادٍ غَيْرٍ ذِي زَرْعٍ

"Our Lord, I have settled some of my offspring in a valley with no vegetation". And Arabs were immoral because they buried their daughters alive, but because of Islam, they conquered the superpowers like Iran and Rome. The main cause of their decline is the disobedience of Islam.

Causes of Decline and its solution

It is necessary to know the main causes of decline, because if the young generation knows all the mistakes of our ancestors which caused their downfall and avoided them, then our society will become a true and peaceful society. The main causes of decline are as under:

1: Opposing the orders of Allah:

Those who opposed the orders of Allah and followed a way other than that of the prophet's teachings, so Allah destroyed them. Allah says:

"And when we decide to destroy a town (population), we (first) send a definite order to those among them who lead a life of luxury. Then, they transgress therein, so the word becomes justified against it, and we destroy it completely".

And those who will adopt the orders of Allah and follow the sunnah of prophet Muhammad[®] then Allah will grant them succession in this world. Allah says:

"Allah has promised those among you who believe, and do righteous good deeds, that he will certainly grant them succession to (the present rulers) in the land, as he granted it to those before them, and that he will grant them the authority to practice their religion, which he has chosen for them and he will surely give them in exchange a safe security after their fear; they worship me and do not associate anything (in worship) with me but whoever disbelieved after this, they are the *Fasiqun* (disobedient to Allah)".

The prophet (S.A.W) also said:

"Give glad tidings to this nation about progress, victory and empowerment on the ground, but those who work for this world have no share in the Hereafter".

So, it is the responsibility of youth to adopt the orders of Allah and say it to others. I.e., enjoining *Al-Ma'ruf* and forbidding *Al-Munkar*.

2: Friendship with your religious and national enemies:

Islam forbids the Muslims to make friendship with their religious and national enemies and says that they are friends of each other and never be your friends and if any of Muslim make them friends then he will be one of them. Allah says:

"O you who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians as friends; they are but friends of each other. And if any amongst you takes them as friends, then surely, he is one of them. Verily, Allah guides not those people who are the *Zalimeen*".

3: Illiteracy:

Knowledge is power. Without proper knowledge, any nation can never be developed, but the Islamic world (Muslims) is not taking an interest in their religious and modern sciences and technology, so it is the main cause of their decline. The Quran stresses obtaining knowledge and mentions that a person who knows and those who do not know are not equal in the eyes of Allah. Allah says: أَمُلُ يَسْتَوِي النَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالنَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ وَالنَّذِينَ اللهِ عَلَمُونَ وَالنَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ وَالنَّذِينَ لَاللهِ اللهِ اللهُ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهُ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهُ اللهِ اللهُ ا

"Are those who know equal to those who know not?".

"Allah bears witness that none has the right to be worshipped but he. And the angels and those having knowledge (also give this witness); (He always) maintains His

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creation in Justice". Due to two things (Islam and knowledge) Allah will exalt human beings in this world, it is said: ⁸ يَرْفَع اللَّهُ اللَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ

"Allah will exalt in degree those of you who believe, and those who have been granted knowledge. And Allah is Well-Acquainted with what you do".

The Holy prophet also gives great importance to seeking knowledge. He says that seeking knowledge is obligatory on every Muslim. it is narrated:

"Seeking knowledge is the duty of every Muslim".

4: Immorality:

One of the main causes of Muslim' decline is lack of good manners. Islam stresses on good manners because "manners make the man". Because of the good manners of the Holy prophet most of non-Muslims became Muslim. Allah says: وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَى خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ "And you are of a great moral character".

But nowadays Muslims do not follow his prophet's quality. So, it is essential for Muslims, especially the youth to have good manners if they have good manners, then they will know their responsibilities and will give rights to others.

5: Conservatism

One of the main causes of Muslims decline is conservatism. Although Islam stresses on science, observation and experiments and directs the human being to use all the things in the universe and find new conclusions but some of the conservative elements consider Islam and modern sciences and technology as opponents to each other, due to which the Muslim youth became deprived, although Allah says:

"But seek, with that (wealth) which Allah has bestowed on you, the home of the Hereafter, and forget not your portion of lawful enjoyment in this world and do good as Allah has been good to you, and seek not mischief in the land. Verily, Allah does not like the *Mufsidin* (mischief-makers)". So, the youth should take interest in obtaining modern science in the light of the Quran and sunnah.

6: Correctness in beliefs

Islam has some specific beliefs. It is necessary for a Muslim to know and accept all the beliefs of Islam. If he accepts all the beliefs then he will be the rightful of Allah's help, and it is necessary for a Muslim to know the reason of his creation and then, according to that he should live in this world. Allah says: مَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

"And I (Allah) created not the *jinns* and man kinds except that they should worship me (Alone)". Worship is that thing due to which fear of Allah is produced in hearts, which can cause brotherhood.

7: Enjoining Al-Ma'ruf and forbidding Al-Munkar:

One of the main features of *Ummat e Muhammadiya* is, that they enjoin the people towards Al-*Ma'ruf* (good deeds) and forbid from Al-*Munkar* (bad deeds). Allah says:

"The believers, men, and women are friends of one another, they enjoin Al-Ma'ruf and forbid from Al-Munkar, they perform As-Salat and give the Zakat, and obey Allah and his Messenger. Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise". It is also said:

"You are the best of people ever raised up for mankind; you enjoin Al-Ma'ruf and forbid Al-Munkar, and you believe in Allah". If the Muslims youth adopt these verses only then our society will become a right and peaceful.

8: Correction of your deeds

Nowadays, every person sees the mistakes of others and the qualities of himselves, but no one wants to see the qualities of others and mistakes of themselves. Allah says:

"Enjoin you Al-Birr (piety) in the people and you forget (to practice it) yourselves".

So, it is necessary for the young general to correct their own deeds first and then try to correct their relative's and friend's deeds.

9: Prohibiting of disruption:

One of the main features of Islam is that it prohibits the people (Muslims) from disruption and stresses on unity, Allah says: اللهِ حَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا اللهِ حَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا اللهِ عَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا اللهِ عَمِيعًا وَلا تَفَرَّقُوا اللهِ عَلَيْهِ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ اللهِ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ اللهِ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ اللهِ ال

"And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allah (Qur'an), and be not divided among yourselves". It is also said:

"And obey Allah and his messenger, and do not dispute (with one another) lest you lose courage and your strength depart, and be patient. Surely, Allah is with those who are the patient". So, it is the responsibility of young generation to reform the misunderstanding among the Muslims and unite them.

10: Providing force and power:

Muslims are ordered to not make friendship with the enemies of Islam, deal strictly with them and continue fighting against them until they become weak and there remains no religion other than Islam. Allah says: 0وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّى لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةٌ وَيَكُونَ الدِّينُ كُلُهُ لِلَهِ 0

"And fight them until there is no more fitnah (disbelief and polytheism i.e worshipping others besides Allah) and the religion (worship) will all be for Allah Alone (in the whole of the world" .

If they neither accept Islam nor leave the enmity against Islam and Muslims, then Allah says about them: فَاقْتُلُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ حَيْثُ وَجُدْتُمُوهُمْ وَخُذُوهُمْ وَاحْصُرُوهُمْ وَاحْصُرُوهُمْ وَاخْصُرُوهُمْ وَاحْصُرُوهُمْ وَاحْسُرُوهُمْ وَاحْصُرُوهُمْ وَاحْصُرُوهُمْ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَالْمُعْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَالْعُمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَالْعُمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَالْعُمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَالْعُمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ واحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُومُ وَاحْمُ وَاحْمُ وَالْعُمُومُ وَاحْمُ

"Then kill the *Mushrikin* wherever, you find them, and capture them and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush".

So, it is necessary to provide all kinds of force against the enemies of Islam. Allah says:

"Prepare against them whatever force you can, and the trained horses whereby you frighten Allah's enemy and your own enemy and others besides them whom you do not know. Allah knows them. Whatever thing you spend in the way of Allah, it will be paid to you in full, and you shall not be wronged".

In this verse it is not mentioned that how many force is provided. So, in the present age all things that are used in fighting i.e., atomic bomb, all kinds of bullet and rifles, tanks etc.

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11: Politeness with all human being especially prisoners:

Allah has created all human beings, including Muslims and non-Muslims, much superior as compared to other creatures, because they are given the power of speaking and to distinguish between right and wrong. Therefore, all human being belonging to any country, nation, or race, speaking any language, rich or poor and belonging to any religion are equal and worth of respect.

"And they give food, in spite of their love for it (or for the love of him) to the Miskin(needy) the orphan and the captive,(saying) we feed you seeking Allah's countenance only, we wish for no reward, nor thanks from you".

The Holy Prophet dealt gently with the prisoners of Badr. it is narrated:

"When it was the day (of the battle) of *Badr*, prisoners of war were brought including Al-Abbas who did not have a body covering. The prophet looked for a shirt for him; it was found that the shirt of Abdullah bin *Ubai* would do, so the prophet (S.A.W)let him wear it". It is also narrated:

"Give food to the hungry, pay a visit to the sick and release the one in captivity (by paying his ransom)".

12: Protection of human basic rights

It is the responsibility of the government to protect the basic rights of human, but if we take care of other's rights i.e., we pay other's rights then our society will become peaceful, human basic rights are the following,

- 1: Protection of life
- 2: Protection of property
- 3: Protection of family
- 4: Protection of honor
- 5: Protection of religion
- 6: Protection of wisdom (that materials will be prohibited which impact human's wisdom)

13: Looking at the history of ancestors

If we look at the history of Muslims, then we will see both the rise and fall. Those who adopted the orders of Allah and followed the way of Prophet Muhammad, then Allah granted them success and those who did not follow the orders of Allah then they faced great difficulties in their lives, so it is the responsibility of the young generation to know about their ancestors history and follow their good qualities due to which they achieved, and avoided their bad deeds due to which they became failure.

14: Carefulness in the selection of rulers

The main cause of our decline is the lack of honest and sincere rulers. The history of the prophet (S.A.W)'s companions and their successors is very bright because their rulers were honest, sincere and had the ability to rule, and now we are facing numerous problems in our religious as well as worldly manners due to the dishonest and sincere

less rulers, so it is the responsibility of the young generation to select those persons in the future who are honest, sincere and have the ability to govern.

15: National identity

Every nation has their own identity, and they are proud of it, but Muslims want to follow European civilization, and that is the main cause of our decline. Muslims have their own distinctive religion, traditions, culture and civilization, language, politics, and economic system, so it is the responsibility of young generation to adopt their own lifestyle.

16: Internal unity among Muslims:

The Islamic world (Muslim countries) has a large number of natural resources as compared to non-Muslims countries but there is a lack of unity among the Muslims, due to which Jews and Christians rule on them, Islam stresses on unity. Allah says:

"And hold fast to the rope of God, altogether, and do not become divided. And remember God's blessings upon you; how you were enemies, and he reconciled your hearts and by his grace you became brethren. And you were on the brink of a pit of fire, and he saved you from it. God thus clarifies his revelations for you, so that you may be guided". It is also said:

[28] مَا اللهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ وَاصْبِرُوا إِنَّ اللهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ [28]

"And obey God and his Messenger, and do not dispute, lest you falter and lose your courage. And be steadfast. God is with the steadfast".

The Holy prophet made a society among the *Mahajir* and Ansar based on Islamic brotherhood, and their honorable appellation is mentioned in the Quran in these words:

"And the foremost to embrace Islam of the *Muhajirin* and the Ansar and those who followed them exactly, Allah is well-pleased with them as they are well-pleased with Him. He has prepared Paradise for them, to dwell therein forever. That is the supreme success".

But when two persons quarreled in case of expelling water from the well, *Mahajir* called *Mahajirin* for help and Ansari called Ansar for help, the Holy prophet reached and said: مَا الله عَوْمَ الجَاهِلِيَّة وَأَنَا بَيْنَ أَظْهُرُكُمْ وَاللهُ وَاللهُ عَوْمَ الجَاهِلِيَّة وَأَنَا بَيْنَ أَظْهُرُكُمْ وَاللهُ وَاللهُ عَوْمَ الجَاهِلِيَّة وَأَنَا بَيْنَ أَظْهُرُكُمْ وَاللهُ وَاللهُ عَوْمَ اللهُ اللهُ عَوْمَ اللهُ عَوْمَ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ عَوْمَ اللهُ ا

"You raised the slogan of *jahiliyat*, although I'm present among you".

When these appellations are used for fighting between two groups, then these are called the slogan of *jahiliyat*. Now look' in our own society most of our people are Muslims but due to differences in language, we cannot unite. So, it is the responsibility of young generation to leave all the opposition among Punjabi, *Pakhtun*, Sindhi and Balochi and unite them. If the Muslims become united then the rights of the entire Islamic world will be preserved, all discrimination and oppression will be ended, and great political, social, and economic power will be raised.

17: Avoiding Prejudice, bigotry, materialism, and atheism

If we require a righteous society, then we should follow our religious and national symbols, and we are not ashamed of them but should be proud because successful nations have their own identity. If the Japanese in modern times, do not feel ashamed of their thousands year old traditions and worshiping their kings, and if the European nations are proud of their Christian rituals, so Muslims feel ashamed, why? In short, all the nations of the world adopted their nationality, religion, rituals, habits and morals and ancient heritage etc. and When a Muslim call towards the Quran or towards the Islamic way of life then he is said to be conservative. why? Islam does not allow reject new inventions, so it is the responsibility of young generation to seek modern knowledge along with their religious and national traditions.

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Summary:

If the youth correct themselves first and then unite the Muslims against the enemies of Islam and prepare them for getting religious education and modern sciences and technology, if they get modern science then they will rule over other nations, and by getting religious knowledge they will be able to know their responsibility and to pay rights to others, as a result our society will become peaceful.



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