

# Vultures Let Loose on Pakistan

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Barbara Stallings rightly stated that LDC governments are like brooms. Each one is used by the Empire to do its share of serving the Empire and then replaced by a new broom. These 'Slaves of the Empire' keep wondering why they were removed "mujahde kiun nikala?" as they were serving the Empire so diligently. Why they are removed when they serve the Empire so sincerely and obediently, little realising that they are just brooms and as they become worn out, a new broom will get the work done more efficiently.

As per the strategy of the Empire, the following tasks were assigned to the previous government: bring about an IMF induced economic melt-down, hand over the SBP to IMF/US/India. The state was used to demolish the state through passing control of Pakistan's financial sector to the US. The Act didn't make the SBP autonomous, but rendered the Government of Pakistan (GOP) subservient, not only to the SBP but to the IMF as well. The IMF is considered an extended arm of the US government, the SBP has therefore become subordinated to the US government on account of its subordination to the IMF. This arrangement has provided a perfect opportunity to the US to deepen Pakistan's economic crisis through orchestrating the free fall of the Rupee and intensifying the recession by trying to fight cost-push inflation through the use of demand-pull inflationary strategies, ie increasing

the lending rate. Some other actions the PTI government accepted were rollback CPEC, accept India's unilateral actions on Kashmir, alienate Afghanistan and China. The PTI Government delivered on all of the above and was very surprised when it was shown the door.

The present government has to take the agenda towards completion of the project as the US government is tired of having to shift the deadline continuously. CIA's Global Trends 2015 had tried to achieve the targets by 2015, but due to the resilience of the Pakistan economy and social fabric the deadline had to be moved forward. The new deadline has been set for 2026.

The present government has been given the task of selling all the profitable companies to US investors or their surrogates. Franklin Templeton, a Jewish company, has been quietly purchasing stocks of strategic Pakistani assets. PMLN tried to sell OGDC and PPL to US cos in 2014-15 also, but because of patriotic elements in the establishment these objectives could not be achieved then. The PMLN government, now totally unhindered, is once again embarking on serving the Empire to the best of its abilities. The Shahbaz Sharif cabinet has approved the privatization of Pakistan's strategic assets without having to follow laid down procedures, paving the way for loot and plunder of Pakistan's strategic

and profitable assets to foreigners.

Other tasks assigned to the present government are to take the economy to an irreversible melt-down, leading to sovereign default, necessitating denuclearization and balkanization. The establishment has also been very supportive both to the previous and the present governments in their adventures.

Corrupt Pakistani government have taken huge loans from the International Financial Institutions which have been recycled back to these countries through purchase of farms, apartments and off shore cos. These have caused increase in prices of gas, electricity and petrol, increasing inflation, particularly food inflation as a result of IMF conditional ties. There is non-availability of water and electricity due to no investments in these sectors since the 1990s, due to IMF conditionality on reduction in government expenditures. The SBP has been increasing the lending rate as an anti-inflationary measure in Pakistan, where inflation is not due to demand-pull factors, but is on account of cost-push factors and cartelization of the economy.

Governments of Pakistan's only preoccupation during the last almost 3 decades has been servicing of debts. Food and medicines have been snatched from the people of Pakistan to service

debts. Successive devaluations have not increased our exports, and what reduction in import demand was achieved increased the cost of production, resulting in deindustrialization. But devaluation has raised the debt burden, making our exports available at low prices to foreigners and increased the incomes of those drawing their salaries and pensions in \$s.

I formulated an alternative to the IMF and informed those in the corridors of power not only that alternatives are available, but they are superior to the IMF model, because instead of being recessionary like the IMF strategy, they are expansionary. My alternative is also more equitable as it lays the cost of adjustment on wealthy people, unlike the IMF strategy which is laying the entire burden on the poor and the lower middle classes. In spite of my loud and clear message that superior alternatives are available, there is no interest in the civil-military corridors of power for my alternative.

There is no political will on the part of those who are brought to power by US-UK to opt for superior alternatives. They want one that has US stamp of approval and will never go for a better alternative, because the IMF strategy is very successfully leading to economic collapse in Pakistan and many other countries. Moreover, negotiations between world powers and Pakistan on give and take between nuclear assets and \$s would require that there should be no alternatives. How can Pakistan be allowed another route which is safer, can bring prosperity and which does not entail the exchange of nuclear assets with \$s?

Moreover, successive Pakistani governments have succeeded in isolating Pakistan. While US and UK never stood by Pakistan, they used us for serving their interests and exploiting us economically, politically and strategically. And those in leadership positions did not allow strategic and economic ties to be strengthened with the Peoples Republic of China and the Russian Federation. This will have a serious bearing on our security as western powers isolate a country before taking punitive action against that country.

On the other hand, the Indian government has used its diplomatic skills to establish strategic relations with the US, UK, Australia, Japan as well as maintain its past relationship with the Russian Federation to get cheap petrol and pass on the benefit to the Indian people.

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Add to this the constitutional and political crises in Pakistan creating political instability, constant bickering between the politicians, and between politicians and the establishment leading to people losing hope, resulting in flight of capital, uncertainty, loss of institutional credibility, etc. This bickering also resulting

in diverting attention from the serious issues afflicting the state. All the political parties are desperate to come to power since power is money in Pakistan. Each one striving hard to serve the Empire in return for farms in the European countryside, expensive apartments and offshore cos.

The deteriorating law and order situation resulting in killing of Pakistani citizens, armed forces personnel, Chinese citizens, bomb explosions, etc., are being staged with the help of outside powers, as revealed by the recent arrivals of Indian planes with technical faults and the arrest of RAW agents involved in the recent riots in Karachi.

Successive Pakistani Governments have failed to resolve the serious crises afflicting the state of Pakistan. They are composed of US-UK nationals, Pakistani nationals on the payroll of International Financial Institutions and foreign agencies, those that have leaked Pakistan's state secrets, economists who have been pushing economic policies that have failed to deliver for the last 30 years, totally incompetent and those with serious corruption charges against them. Can such Governments take the country out of its present predicament? Do they have the will power and the ability to resolve Pakistan's economic, constitutional, political and social crises now afflicting the state of Pakistan? In fact, they are in total connivance with the countries that are pushing Pakistan towards economic collapse, default, denuclearization and balkanization.

The only way to save Pakistan is to establish a national government that is composed of competent technocrats that are not affiliated with the International Financial Institutions, are not on the payroll of foreign governments, are not dual nationals, don't have corruption charges against them and have not disclosed Pakistan's state secrets. Such a government will be able to get us out of the present economic, political and social crises. Only such a government can save Pakistan, provided there is will to save Pakistan.

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