



PAKISTAN STUDIES
ASSIGNMENT 1
ARTICLE REVIEW

SUBMITTED BY

Saif ul Islam (173709)

Ashjay Mohsin (184676)

BEE 8B

School of Electrical

Engineering

&

Computer Sciences

(SEECs)

Author

Mohsin Hamid

Chapter

“Why Pakistan will survive?”

Book

Pakistan: Beyond the ‘Crisis State’

Editor

Maleeha Lodhi

Page Number

35-43

Publishing Date

April 2011

Review

The article “Why Pakistan will survive” by Mohsin Hamid holds an optimistic view of the present day Pakistan. The writer has continuously backed his argument by facts and figures. He believes that Pakistan has been brought up in the past 69 years in such a way that it will persevere in the hardest of times and in the face of the worst of enemies. The writer has merged his experiences over the world with his view of Pakistan.

In my opinion, the writer has been very biased in his projection of the current day Pakistan. I feel that he has not been very realistic and practical in his opinions. The writer accepts that there are issues that may cause discontent among the common man and might be a blow to country’s infrastructure but I feel that the gravity of these issues has been ignored completely.

It is mentioned that we are a culturally rich and developing nation with transvestite hosts and eunuch activists. The practical truth is that majority of the members of the third gender community are compelled to beg on the streets and are not allowed any chance of education and skill development. Even educated members are not given jobs based on their gender.

According to the writer we are a country where we take pride in our national and religious integration. I think we live in a state of hypocrisy thinking that both the Shia and Sunni communities live together as one. When the question of intersect marriages comes in, no member of the first community will wed their child to the latter and vice versa. If our tolerance level had become so high then incidents like that on 10 Muharram 2013 in Rawalpindi would not be occurring. Thus we are not as tolerant as the writer suggests, instead I think we are hypocrites.

The writer accepts that our country has a corrupt political system but completely ignores its impact on the country. A corrupt political system means that there is a corrupt legislature. A corrupt legislature leads to acts that will benefit corruption. We have already seen the impact of poor politics with the loss of East Pakistan. Even now, the continuous neglect of Balochistan is giving rise, with the help of foreign sponsors, to partitionist elements. Thus the gravity of the problem is one that can cause an “existential crisis” for a state like Pakistan in future.

According to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH):

“Your leadership will be a reflection of you (the people)”

The Hadith explains, in a single line, the common wrong with the country. We lack professionalism. Our nation likes having opinions. We are bound not to be dedicated to our work but will surely complain about others. Most of all, we will avail any chance of shunning work and this leads to lack of productivity.

The above mentioned point can be easily observed with the passing of 18th Amendment. As the power was decentralized, the provinces tried to shun the additional responsibilities put on them. Thus eventually, the individual sectors got affected and so did the people of Pakistan. Moreover, the central government started giving additional favors to the provinces in which their particular party ruled and thus created a system of unfairness.

It is written that the solution to economic problems is levying taxes. I think the problem is not that people do not want to contribute to their country’s prosperity but that they lack confidence in the tax system. They do not want to pay taxes because they do not see it being utilized properly. Also, when taxes are not paid, the country is run on borrowed money. Pakistan is already \$50 billion in debt this year which needs to be paid back. The writer ignores this fact in his article and it may be a major aspect of the question of Pakistan’s survival.

The writer is right when he says that the strife of the common man can only be understood by a common man. The problem is that only the rich and elite reach the positions of power. They see a flawless prospering country with a perfect utopian system that works by itself which needs no improving. As it is said:

“It’s easy to confuse ‘what is’ with ‘what ought to be’, especially when ‘what is’ has worked in your favour”

Even though we might despair but there is still hope. As we look through the incidents in the past, in times of strife, be it the 1965 War, the 8th October Earthquake or the Peshawar Attack of 16th December 2014. We as a nation have put aside our differences and have united to put a resistance

to a common enemy. Our ability to unite in times of need is the only ability that will help us to survive as a nation. I think that is the reason for Pakistan's strength as a nation and a state. And most of all, I think this strength is enough to answer the question as to 'Why Pakistan will survive?'