



Ideology of Pakistan

Ideology

Ideology is the basis of nationalism which is the fundamental belief of the nation-state system. It can be defined in the following ways. *“Science of ideas, visionary speculations, the manner of thinking, characteristics of a class or individual ideas based on some economic, social or political theory or system.”* Or *“Body of ideas concerning economic, social and political values with positive action program for attaining these goals.”*

Ideology constitutes a system of human life which includes a certain set of theories, objectives and assertions of life. The importance of Ideology in human life cannot be defied on the grounds that individuals should ideally share a common ideology in society- complete homogenous whole- rather, it means that which helps people in a society to create a social whole that caters to their needs both material and spiritual.

Ideology is important because it offers an interpretation of the past, an explanation of the present and a vision of the future. It tells you that where you come from, where you are (location in the universe), and where you are destined to reach afterwards. Some people detach themselves from the past and does not connect themselves with an ideology which in one of its sense means for retrieving the past.

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Ideologies take firm roots in society only when people feel that they are being mistreated under an existing order or when their status is threatened by fundamental changes occurring in the society. There were some fundamental political changes which occurred in the subcontinent. The Muslims came as invaders (conquerors). The Muslims were being checked thoroughly and Hindus were given leverage over the Muslims by British as an Imperialist force. Thus, a fundamental change was occurring in the society. In the war of 1857, though people from different sections of the society took to the field, however, whole of the blame was put on Muslims as responsible for uprising against the Imperialist Britain. The British government tried to suppress Muslims and to crush that revolt. In these trying times, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan played a role in making it clear that Muslims were not solely responsible for the uprising.

Moreover, new ideology in any given society emerges when the prevailing ideology no longer satisfies the people living in a society. That is why, they didn't prefer to live in India rather they preferred to ask for an independent state.

Pakistan is one of the few countries which have been formed based on an ideology. Therefore, when the Muslims in the subcontinent felt that the prevailing ideology in the Indian subcontinent is not catering for their spiritual and material needs, then the ideology of a separate nation began to evolve. The ideals for which the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent started to strive for many decades were drawn from the Islamic system of beliefs. Moreover, the idea of a separate homeland for Muslims of the subcontinent was conceived and matured as a reaction

to the Hindu and British exploitation of the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent. The foundation of that ideology was built and later sustained by Muslim nationalism.

Ideology of Pakistan Based on Muslim Nationalism

What is Nationalism? Nationalism is quite a broad term, and it is a toilsome effort to define this term without going into detail. However, it suffices to say that nationalism is essentially a European Concept. During the medieval times, a group of students from one country studying in a European university was called a “nation”. If someone threatened their unity or oneness, then they would fight them with power- the power of their being a nation (a united entity) for the protection their ways of life (cultural values).

Historically, there is a debate among experts over the time of origin of nationalism (consciousness among people of their being a nation). Modernists theorists say that nationalism is a recent phenomenon i.e. nationalism emerged with onset of modern market where market dissolved old and local identities and created a new ‘homogeneous’ identity- a nation. While, ethno-symbolists argue that nations (old identities) were already there, modern market only shaped them into a collective whole- a nation. Observation of world history shows that the second argument is stronger than the first one. Thus, it is relevant to argue that Muslim Nationalism- Muslims’ consciousness about their historical roots- is the basis of Pakistan’s ideology.

Again, nationalism is debated another way. Some argue that nationalism is the cause of conflict among different nations as shown by the first and second World Wars. While other argue that these wars were the result of ‘narrow’ nationalism. ‘Narrow’ nationalism means that one which is defined by few individuals for the promotion of their own interests. They say that nationalism should be broadly defined which means inclusion of all people in the system of a country. Broad definition of nationalism also means that a nation might be different from another nation on the bases of specific features (like language), however, there are many common features among different nations (like all are human beings) so they need to live in peace with respect for their differences. Thus, such a nationalism will pave way towards a society in harmony with itself and other nations.

Economic Ideology

The nation whose ideology is based on economics or their ideology has gotten roots in economics. Soviet Union had the ideology of economic equality. Every ideology has the commonality that if people follow it then they will remain happy and there will be harmony and prosperity in the whole world. Moreover, the Islamic ideology creates the sense of oneness in Islamic Ideology.

I. Does ‘economic Ideology’ mean economic nationalism as the topic is about the concept nationalism? It needs clarity as only then it can be commented on. I think, in the context of the topic, ‘economic nationalism’ makes more sense than ‘economic Ideology’ which cannot be substituted for the concept of nationalism.