## Whither democracy?

PEAKING frankly democracies are the creations of military bureaucracies who, by taking advantage of corrupt and weak civilian government usurp the power and settle themselves over the carcass of rotten civilian leadership as a sharp-clawed falcon does over its dead prey. They cannot govern but rule not by 'ifs and buts' but by 'do and done'. This rule of 'do and done' is backed by a sort of law called martial law.

The conquest of lousy and loathsome civilian leadership is over, the usurped power is consolidated in the hands of the high command. He commits to produce a real democracy for the people, and a sort of democracy is produced out of the womb of camouflaged wisdom acquired at the floor of military academy. It is a multi-styled democracy assuming various names such as basic democracy, controlled democracy or guided democracy. Ayub Khan of Pakistan was the first military bureaucrat of this sub-continent to produce such

This type of coloured democracy has been and is being experienced by the people of Bangladesh. They achieved complete separation and independence from the military bureaucratic domination of Pakistan through a War of Liberation in 1971. But the ghosts of military bureaucratic rulers made a re-entry into this liberated soil and mischievously caused to kill the founder of this new nation with his family. Only his two daughters annihilation. Subsequently his four closest companions were also killed in the jail. These grave tragedies at the beginning made a halt to the natural flow of democratic tradition long cherished and nourished through the great leaders like Shere-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, Shahid Suhrawardi, Mawlana Bhashani tion. Only then self- Abraham Lincoln in his famous and Bangabandhu Sheikh aggrandisements deprivations, lies, Funeral Address in 1863 told that

Democracy was created out of the graves of the martyrs and sanctified by their sacrificed blood and flourished through the hearts of the patriots.It is thus born and reborn. And after its rebirth with the breathing out of Abraham Lincoln at the Gettysburg of the United States of America and its flickered reawakening in the oratories of Edmund Burke of the United Kingdom, it is again pushed back into its apologetic existence.

Mujibur Rahman.

Power to govern was transferred from the hands of people to the hands holding the trigger of gun. Democratic tradition nourishing the spirit and inspiration of the War of Liberation came to an abrupt end and martial law government was imposed upon the people. So goes the age-old proverbs that if you want to kill a dog give it a bad name and if you want to crash people's will do it in the name of democracy. Machiavellian expediency set in and subsequently a mouthful democracy devoid of the suprem-acy of the people's will was intro-duced in Bangladesh with all its inherent mischiefs. Mischief begets mischievous acts and as a natural consequence all mischievous forces have now been let loose to defame Islam and destroy innocent

human lives and properties. In fact democracy can neither be given nor produced. It is an abstract concept of highest human standard and noblest expression of human qualities of an organised society ensuring just, peaceful and prosperous living. It manifests itself as a natural phenomenon in society provided its members are solemnly committed to a social order based on morality, justice, welfare and nourishment of learning for unfailing manifestation of good conscience through mutual consulta-Suhrawardi, Mawlana Bhashani tion. Only then self-

abuses and injustices are done away with. Intelligent devils and half-educated rogues do not dare take lead in the society. They simply suffer their questionable existence in their loathsome wealth and suspended fiendish desires.

Democracy has an ancient heritage. It originated in the great funeral oration of great Athenian king, Pericles. In his famous speech in public funeral in 431 BC held in honour of the soldiers who gave their lives for the defence of Athens, he first used the word 'democracy' as a form of their government meaning government of the many, hon-our proportionate to ability and doing good to citizens. Women and slaves were excluded from rights. The Periclean democracy was a government by the people of abilities for public good, not by fiction but by action, as opposed to Aristocracy meaning rule by a small privileged class. Thereafter centuries slumbered away. Lions, igers and hyenas ruled animal society for the few and the aristocrats, oligarchs and patricians ruled the human society also for

But in mid-nineteenth century the second public funeral was set at Gettysburg battlefield where the American soldiers gave their lives to save the United States from being broken apart. President

these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth. Democracy was reborn in the Second Funeral Oration out of the lives of the patriots. The spirit of democracy again reverberated in the voice of Abraham Lincoln. Like Pericles he breathed out a deep faith for government participated by every citizen for their ever-lasting peace and prosperity.

By the word itself democracy is

demos cracy meaning people's welfare, which again is deeply related to constant well-being of the polity meaning constant well-being of the society. Both democracy and politics are therefore synonymous with each other pointing to a prosperity of the highest order in a human society. But where is that democracy which was breathed out as a deep faith and commitment from the very hearts of the two great statesmen in two public funerals at the two great battle fields where the patriotic soldiers sacrificed their lives for the sake of their motherlands? Democracy was thus created out of the graves of the martyrs and sanctified by their sacrificed blood and flourished through the hearts of

It is thus born and reborn. And

after its rebirth with the breathing out of Abraham Lincoln at the Gettysburg of the United States of America and its flickered reawakening in the oratories of Edmund Burke of the United Kingdom, it is again pushed back into its apologetic existence. The demons of human society have become cunningly crazy and devised a sort of democracy shrewdly derived from the words 'demons crazy'. This democracy is not breathed out from their hearts but disgorged from their tongues dressed in false allegories and rhetorics to lull the citizens into hypnotic belief that they are the true makers and givers of democracy and even if they do nourish their ownselves at the cost of others that should be deemed to have been done for the public good. After all they are the blessed sons and daughters of

What a society! What a people! What a hypnotic slumber they have

Md Faizul Kabir is Advocate, Supreme Court.

ISTORY repeats itself.

Such repetition often results in devastating

consequences. Yet it appears that

people do not take lessons from

nistory. It is an irony. In this article, I

argue that there are strong similari-

ties between the Fascism of the

inter-war period and the current

US doctrine of the New American

Century. German Nazism,

together with Italian Fascism and

Japanese imperialist ambitions,

shattered the collective security

mechanisms instituted after

World War I and caused World War

II that resulted in more than 60

million deaths and huge destruc-

tion. I predict that the US doctrine

of the New American Century, if

not halted, is again going to shat-

ter the collective security mecha-

nisms instituted after World War

II, and this will present mankind

with a disaster of the type not

thought of by man and not found

Fascism was a political movement

that was prevalent in parts of

central and east Europe during the

inter-war period. In all its forms,

Fascism shows some basic fea-

tures. Prominent of those are

extreme right-wing nationalism,

totalitarianism, rejection of

Marxism and all left-wing ideolo-

gies, rejection of liberal demo-

cratic values and individualism,

fascination with arms and uni-

forms and glorification of violence

and martial virtues, unquestioned

Some forms of Fascism, espe

cially German Nazism, were

extremely racist. In Italy, Fascist

leader Benito Mussolini with his

followers staged a march towards

Rome and took over power in 1922.

German Nazism was an impor-

tant variant of Fascism. The basic

element of German Nazism was

the belief that the German people

are a branch of superior Aryan

race and that all other races are

inferior. To make a master German

nation it was needed to purify

German people from others.

Nazism was the ideology held by

the National Socialist German

Workers Party commonly called

the Nazi Party. Nazi leader Adolf

Hitler came to power in Germany

in 1933. He believed that ethnic

and linguistic diversity had weak-

ened the Austro-Hungarian

Empire, so he discouraged ethnic

diversity and multilingualism. He

saw democracy as a destabilizing

force and therefore rejected politi-

cal parties, labour unions and free

press. The Nazi rationale was

drawn from the belief that great

nations grow from military power.

gruntled German nationalists

eager to save face for the defeat in

World War I. Even after their defeat

in World War I, many Germans

believed in the creation of a

greater Germany by the use of

Hitler's call appealed to dis-

obedience to leader, etc.

in history.

Fascism

MD. ABDUR ROUF

## Making your marriage more romantic

WAHEEDA ALI

courting, all you could think about was how together. Back then, you couldn't do enough to please each other. As time passed, you got so accustomed to married life that you stopped making special efforts for each other. There were always so many responsibilities and details to take care of, that who could think about romance? Maybe you've been missing those blissful feelingsand you sense that your partner misses them too. Here are a few ways to put more romance back into your marriage.

Pay attention to your

appearance There's a saying: Beauty's only skin deep, but ugliness goes right through to the bone. Too often, people who've been married for years no longer feel the need to go through the effort of looking good for their partner.

If your wife doesn't enjoy seeing you lounging around the house in your dirty lungi or payjama, or if your husband is bothered by seeing you in worn out slippers and an old sari or fade salwar kameej, don't ignore it. Doing that is a lot like saying: "We're married. Therefore, I don't have to bother putting in any effort. You're always going to be there, so I don't have to worry about pleasing you."

After you become indifferent to your appearance, your spouse may have a hard time seeing you in a romantic and exciting way. There's nothing wrong with being comfortable around the house. But do yourself, your spouse, and your marriage a favour by paying attention to your dress and personal hygiene. Show your husband or wife that you care by taking the time to look, feel, and smell good.

Saying the words "I love you" is always a good ideaas long as it is said sincerely. Everyone appreciates being told how much they're loved and cherished.

THEN you were The special experiences and meaningful rituals that you create over the course of your marriage help you have a exciting and romantic it was to be richer and more romantic life together.



Here are some ways to expand that simple three-word phrase: Share your hopes, dreams, and secret thoughts. There are some things that you can only communicate through words. And few things make your partner feel closer to you than letting her in on your most private thoughts and visions. When your goal is to create more closeness in your marriage, you want to share only thoughts and emotions that are likely to make your partner feel loved and wanted. Save any worries that are likely to generate anger or tears for another time.

· Tell your partner often how much you love being married to her or him. Then, talk about the qualities you enjoy most. Is it her terrific sense of humour? The way she greets you at the door when you come home from work? Married couples often spend a lot

of time complaining about one another's faults and shortcomings. If you want to stir up the romantic fires in your relationship, try letting her or him know what she or he does that pleases

The way people touch each other communicates different feelings and provokes different sensations. Wives often complain that their husbands touch them only a special moment. Women seem to like more hand holding, kissing, and gentle physical closeness than men. So, guys don't wait for bedtime to touch and fondle your wife. Make it part of the way you communicate every day.

you most.

The absence of affectionate touching doesn't always mean that there's a problem in the marriage. However, a certain amount of gentle, non-sexual touching enhances closeness and height-

Fascism of the inter-war period.

There is no definite criterion

the partners. This touching can take many forms, like caressing your partner's face, putting an arm around her back, or stroking

Make time to be alone together

When husbands and wives don't spend enough time alone, they are bound to grow apart. And when a couple already has problems, they often distance themselves from one another by using kids, friends, family memberseven groups of

strangersas buffers. Couples with young children need to make a special effort to find time to be by them. Sure, it's not always easy to find a babysitter. It often seems easier to drag the kids along to wherever you're going. That may be conducive to a rich family life, but you need to balance that with time for the two of you.

Make it your business to find at least a few hours each week for the two of you to be alone together. Go for a walk, movie. Meet for lunch. Try to get away overnight as often as possible. Simply logging your time together won't make your relationship more romantic. What you need to do is to spend uninterrupted time sharing thoughts, ideas, and activities in a way that gives you pleasure and you closer s a couple. It may be taking a drive in the country,. Or stay home, order in a pizza, and rent a couple of videos. Whatever makes the two of you smile and feel light-

Is there a special spot where you used to spend time when you were newly married couple? Return to the locations that have special meaning to you-on a regular basis, if possible. Continue to seek out new romantic places and rituals, add them to the ones you already have.

The special experiences and meaningful rituals that you create over the course of your marriage help you have a richer and more romantic life together.

The author is a freelance contributor to The Daily

WARRANTLESS WIRETAPS

## The Bush administration's assault on privacy

## INSIDE AMERICA

According to the polls, most Americans still want their privacy and the right to be left alone by Big George. But since 9/11 our bungling leadership in Washington DC has extended government snooping on a wide range of activities all in the name of a war on terrorism that will, most likely, last for decades. Our enemies aren't smiling, if they are eavesdropping. They are laughing their heads off!

RON CHEPESIUK

EORGE Bush, Jr. is one leaderwhothinkshe's above the law. That's the only conclusion to reach in assessing how he is defending his latest breach of civil liberties in the name of the War on Terrorism. I'm referring to his recently exposed domestic spying program. Alberto Gonzalez, the US Attorney General who spends a lot of his time trying to find ways to justify the administration's reservation of the torture option was on Capitol Hill in Washington DC, attempting to provide legal justification for the warrantless surveillance of ostensibly "terrorist" suspects in the US without special congressional approval.

"Our enemy is listening, and I cannot help but wonder if they aren't shaking their heads in amazement and smiling at the prospect that we might disclose even more," Gonzalez told Congress. Watching the earnest bureaucrat deliver his boss's message, I had to smile, too. Firstly, surely al Qaeda knows that any calls they might make to the US could be monitored. Secondly, if they are listening, they are more likely smiling and shaking their heads in amazement at how the Bush administration has been doing a better job in undermining the "Great Satan's" democratic system of checks and balances than they can possibly do themselves.

It's quite amazing as well that the Bush administration would flout the law, given that it can wiretap its citizens and foreigners within the US legally, if it wants. Under the 1979 Foreign Intelligence Security Act (FISA), Bush can go to a secret court 72 hours in advance of a wiretap operation to get it approved Journalist Martin Schram, described this protocol as "close to a judicial rubber stamp as a president can conjure up in his fondest power dream." During a 25-year period, from 1979 to 2004, the court approved 18,742 applications and denied only four, Schram pointed out. To justify its spying program, Bush has mounted an aggressive PR campaign that has tried to justify the program and convinceor, as some would sayscare Americans into supporting it. He's used Orwellian double-speak to spin the program, suggesting its name should be termed a "terrorist surveillance program" as if a simple change of terms would make the program legal

and acceptable. But he has not convinced a neutral observer like the non partisan Congressional Research Service, the research arm of the US Congress. Bush said, "It's amazing that people say to me, 'Well, he's just breaking the law.' If I wanted to breach the law



why was I briefing Congress?" Bush's perceived incredulity aside, he didn't brief Congress. He briefed just eight senior lawmakers. But that said, the Congressional Research Service report noted that Bush's action would appear to be inconsistent with the law, which requires that the conessional intelligence committees be kept fully and currently informed of all intelligence activities. Those congressional committees

should also be informed when the administration makes a major shift in gathering intelligence. The National Security Agency's job is to spy on communications abroad, not on its citizens in the US. The Bush administration claims to be only spying on possible terrorist suspects, but who is he trying to con? Under the presidential order issued in 2002 authorizing the domestic spying program, NASA has monitored the international telephone calls and e-mail messages of thousands of people inside the US without warrants to track any possible connections to al Qaeda. That's thousands. My question is: how many of these people have nothing to do with terrorism and the would-be spy catchers know it? The wrong answer, I'm afraid, puts us on the slippery slope to the police state at worse or the paranoid society at best.

The Bush administration has shown that's its not averse to fishing expeditions when it comes to prying into the lives of Americans. This coming March 13 has been set as the court date to determine if Google, the giant Internet search engine, must comply with US Justice Department's demand that it be given search information about millions of its users. The Bush administration wants to use the information for its legal battle over online access to adult material, such as pornography online. If Google has to comply, millions of its users' search questions will be affected. Note that Microsoft and Yahoo have already

caved into Uncle Sam's demand. Meanwhile, big business, most

administration's handmaiden in its assault on the privacy of Americans. Without informing its customers, the giant telecommunications company has allowed NSA direct access to its huge databases of telephone and email records, involvingyou guessed itmillions of Americans. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a peoples' champion and one of America's great institutions, has sued AT&T, charging that the company has made possible "the biggest fishing expedition ever devised." The ACLU is also one of several US pro-privacy organizations that are suing NSA to stop its secret electronic surveillance program.

And what is the government ttingforits assault on constitutional law, besides the making of a police state with a paranoid society? Not much, according to a recent investigative report in the Washington Post last February 5. The newspaper reports that: "Fewer than 10 US citizens or residents a year, according to an authoritative source, have aroused enough suspicion during warrantless eavesdropping to justify interruption

According to the polls, most Americans still want their privacy and the right to be left alone by Big George. But since 9/11 our bungling leadership in Washington DC has extended government snooping on a wide range of activities that include telephone calls at both the office and home, e-mails, airline flights, library usage, cell phones, and credit card transactions, for starters, all in the name of a war on terrorism that will, most likely, last for decades.

And all we have to show for it are fewer than ten suspected US citizens annually. Our enemies aren't smiling, if they are eavesdropping. They are laughing their heads off!

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military force. Hitler believed that a cause of political and economic nation is the highest form of a race and great nations form with homogeneous populations. Great nations are naturally aggressive, intelligent, and courageous. So, the Nazi goal was the unification of Germanspeaking people divided into differ-

The new fascism?

ent nation states. In his early years, Hitler praised the US for its anti-immigration laws and for the subordination of the black population. Such racist, imperialist theories justified the idea that some races are innately superior, born to rule, while others were parasitic or inferior savages. This was the rationalization for the elimination of Jews, Gypsies, Slavs, the mentally and physically handicapped, and many others by the Nazis. In summary, racism and militarism were the basics of Fascism and Nazism.

Doctrine of the New American Century

The Doctrine of the New American Century was produced by the Project for the New American

freedom outside the US, and preserving and extending an international order friendly to US security, prosperity and principles.

PNAC proposes to control the new international commons of space and cyberspace and advocates the creation of US Space Forces with the objective of space control. In September 2000, the PNAC issued a 90-page report entitled "Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategies, Forces And The report states that when

diplomacy or sanctions fail, the US must be prepared to take military action to keep law and order around the world in accordance with the interests of the US. The report uses the GulfWar success of the US as an example of why the world requires American military might. PNAC members believe in pre-emptive attack and regime change to prevent recurrence of Pearl Harbor and 9/11 type of attack on the US. It advocates moving more aggressively to

based on which it can be said that the Americans are superior. The belief that American leadership is good both for America and for the world and that the Americans have a global role appears similar to the dictum of "the white man's burden" of imperialist Europe. The imperialist European nations believed that the north Europeans represented the highest branch of the Aryan people. They had the world. Such belief resulted in imperialism that in turn resulted

in occupation and plundering of

resources from Asia, Africa, and

Latin America. The US herself was

once a colony of the United

Kingdom. With all these nullifying

instances at hand, should the

American neo-conservatives

continue their belief that the

Americans are superior? Lone emphasis on military strength to promote American global leadership and interests appears identical to the Fascist

The planet earth is for entire mankind and for all other species living on it. Let the new century not be only for the Americans but for entire mankind and for all other species living on earth. Any attempt to make the century only for the Americans is going to make the earth uninhabitable for all including the Americans.

based think tank established in 1997 with the goal of promoting American global leadership. The members of PNAC believe that the Americans are superior and that they have a global role to play. A large number of the members are associated with the neoconservative movement. Present and former members of PNAC include several prominent members of the Republican Party and the Bush Administration. After the 2000 election of George W. Bush, many of the PNAC members were appointed to key positions within the Bush Administration.

PNAC made a statement of principles at its 1997 inception: "As the 20th century draws to a close, the United States stands as the world's pre-eminent power. Having led the West to victory in the Cold War, America faces an opportunity and a challenge: Does the United States have the vision to build upon the achievements of past decades? Does the United States have the resolve to shape a new century favourable to American principles and interests?"

The core propositions of PNAC are American leadership is good both for America and for the world. Such leadership requires military strength. PNAC advocates a policy of military strength, which includes significant increase of US defense spending, challenging regimes hostile to US interests and values, promoting the

Century (PNAC), a Washington- experiment new technologies and operational concepts.

In 1998, following Iraqi unwillingness to cooperate with UN weapons inspectors, members of PNAC including Donald Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz wrote to President Bill Clinton urging him to remove Saddam Hussein from power using US diplomatic, political, and military force. The letter stated that American policy cannot continue to be crippled by a misguided insistence on unanimity in the UN Security Council. The letter argued that an Iraq war would be justified by Saddam Hussein's defiance of UN containment policy and his persistent threat to US interests.

In 2003, the US led an invasion of Iraq, despite failing to obtain a second UN Security Council Resolution and widespread protests and criticisms at home and abroad. Many critics claim that the war went ahead mainly due to the influence of prominent neoconservatives in the Bush administration. The doctrine of the New American Century is in brief a belief in the superiority of the Americans and use of military force to promote US values and

Comparison and

Comments

It appears that there lies little difference between the basics of the current Doctrine of the New American Century and of the

belief of applying military force to achieve objectives. Military conquest does not last long. The Muslims conquered Spain militarily but after several hundred years they were evicted by military force. Mongol warlord Genghis Khan built the Mongolian Empire with military brutality. His army had all advanced military technology of that time. But with the passage of time, all those have faded away. At best limited military power could be resorted to defend only. The US Doctrine of New American Century is therefore destined to failure in the long

Unity in diversity is the idea propounded by the West. The US, being the leader of the West, when it tries to promote US values and interests worldwide, goes against the philosophy of unity in diversity. Abraham Lincoln said in his landmark Gettysburg Address: "Our fore-fathers brought forth in this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

When the PNAC members assume that the Americans are superior, it goes against their own concept of equality. The policy of pre-emptive attack was a blunder so far as Iraq invasion is concerned. More than 30,000 people and over 2,000 US soldiers have so far been killed in Iraq. But today it is proved that Iraq did not have any weapons of mass destruction (WMD). It is

further proved that the US intelligence doctored reports to build the case for Iraq invasion. The UN weapons inspectors wanted more time but the US paid little heed. The UN did not approve application of military force. There were widespread protests in USA and in the whole world against Iraq invasion. But understandably, the war went on due to the neoconservatives in the Bush administration. Three years after Iraq invasion, with all these eye-opening developments, if the neoconservatives do not revise their policy of pre-emptive attack to ensure security of the US, the world is definitively going to experience

more insecurity. Various right-wing peoples and groups in Europe welcomed the rise of Fascism out of an intense aversion towards Communism. In the like manner, many countries today are rallying round those hawkish ideas of the US out of aversion towards the rise of Islamic militancy. History is repeating itself. The Manhattan Project produced nuclear weapons that illed 220,000 people in August 1945 and launched a nuclear power race that resulted the production of nearly 30,000 nuclear warheads.

PNAC, with its hawkish ideas, is going to produce more devastating consequences. PNAC was conseptualized and launched during the closing years of the 20th century The 21st century dawned with the attack of 9/11 on the US in 2001 killing some 3,000 people. The US invaded Afghanistan in the same year and changed regime therein the process nearly 10,000 Afghan people were killed. After two years in 2003, the Iraq invasion by US left 30,000 Iraqis dead so far. The world has turned today into a police world. Is this the new century the American neo-conservatives wanted?

The planet earth is for entire mankind and for all other species living on it. Let the new century not be only for the Americans but the century, the millennium, the eternity be for entire mankind and for all other species living on earth. Any attempt to make the century only for the Americans is going to make the earth uninhabitable for all including the Americans. Had there been no rise of Fascism in the inter-war period, the history of mankind during the last threequarter century would have been written in another form. In spite of all these eye-opening developments, if the US continues to pur sue the current Doctrine of Nev American Century, who know, within a few decades, whether there will be anyone left to wrie history. Let us take lessons fron history. Let us not allow history o repeatitself.

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