

EDITORIAL

We continue to live in trying times. Pakistan is in the midst of a constitutional predicament, whereas the continuing climate change and financial plight hardly appeared to have left room for further crisis. The people of Pakistan are resilient but never save at independence have they faced so many challenges at one time. The Ukraine War rages on, despite the vociferous demand of concerned citizens for a diplomatic solution, but the position of the parties seem harder than in the Cold War Era. One effect is that while the US dollar itself faces instability, the Pakistani rupee continues to lose valuation against the dollar.

The only silver lining visible shines from the Middle East where Chinese diplomacy has persuaded Saudi Arabia and Iran to resume diplomatic ties. The Middle East has seen a half century of war and violence. May this détente be the beginning of a new dawn.

In this issue we are happy to include papers on a variety of topics. The first in order of time is about The Recent excavations at the ancient city of Vijnote. The site, located in Sindh shows not only the Gandhara Civilization in full bloom but also points to a space where Hinduism and Buddhism co-existed. Co-existence is the theme of the next paper too, Jewry under the Fatimids of Egypt. In the Middle Ages, Jews were the most persecuted people and found refuge mostly among the Muslims.

The Fatimid Caliphate not counted as orthodox, not only provided refuge to Jews but invested them with high office. This continued till the reign of the Caliph Hakim bin Aziz. The contributors have taken pain to provide rational explanations of the edicts of this most individual ruler.

The next paper centers around the earlier stages of British colonization where Balochistan, because of its still strategic

location was not made a beneficiary of Western civilization, till Independence had been achieved.

The last paper of the present issue belongs to the genre of Philosophy of History, focusing on The End of History theory presented by Francis Fukuyama. Grounded in class struggle, this theory of Fukuyama is reviewed at a time when Capital is facing not only a political, but a financial crisis. We would welcome more papers dealing with theories of History, as these always need to be kept in sight during ant study of History. We round off this issue, as the previous one, with a book review, which we hope our readers shall find interesting.

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