

## **EDITORIAL**

The massacre at Gaza has completed six months giving the aggressor cause for celebration. The World polarization apart it has brought about a power polarization with the US and UK administrations facing strong opposition in their own legislatures for giving unqualified military and diplomatic support to Israel. For historians, to cite the 7 October 2023 Hamas attack is to recall the attack on King David Hotel, Jerusalem on 22 July 1946. This is a factor that has seen the protests against atrocities spread from the streets of the United States and United Kingdom to the august precincts of Harvard, Yale, Columbia and other premium universities across America. Their presidents have been savaged in Congress which has led the faculties to join students in protest. These shall be difficult to put down since the Gaza massacre caused moral indignation across the religious divide. To their everlasting credits Jews, and survivors of the Holocaust among them have been the loudest in protest.

The scene at home is also puzzling. Elections have been held, as is now the norm become controversial. US senators are calling for the release and restoration of a political leader who has accused their country of ousting him. In both countries, leaders removed through the process of elections have been facing trial for causing disturbances. This brings us back to economic plight of the country. Education is a way out, not only in the long run, but in the short term. We need to build on the existing infrastructure to provide high level education at rates which are very competitive in the region. If the ministries of Education and Tourism establish a liaison to build on the infrastructure and ensure strict monitoring. These institutions can become foreign exchange earners and the only sector capable of absorbing the surplus personnel from State Owned Enterprises in what could be described as a cultural revolution on a minor scale.

This issue opens with two articles on art and archaeology. The first being “Mural Paintings from Buddhist Monastic Complex of Abba Sahib” Both Frescoes and Tempera have been applied in this age and

region and focusing on a monastic site brings out social factors as well. The second is “Archaeological Reconnaissance of Sites in District Kohat,” The third article covers a later period, but is geographically close: “Social Perspective of the Babuzi during the Swat State.” Swat has been receiving concerted attention as our readers must have noted, but it warrants attention from many perspectives, and each article happily serves to sharpen our perspective.

The fourth article covers “The Russo-Chechnyan Problem in Historical Perspective” This is one problem which seems to have solved itself, but with the Ukraine war still raging it has many points that can be of strategic interest. The fifth paper covers the Theoretical Aspect of History. We have touched upon this genre previously in a paper on Francis Fukuyama as well as lightly in the obituary of Henry Kissinger, and now, we present” A Critical Analysis of Philosophical Historicism With Special Reference to Carl Page. This is the means of bringing the latest developments in the Philosophy of History to our readers. In these tumultuous times the support we receive from the Hamdard Foundation and its Chairperson, the Chairperson of the Pakistan Historical Society merits special gratitude.

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