

UNION OF AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

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By M. Akram Khan Niazi, Karachi, Pakistan, 9 September 2009

✘ *M. Akram Khan Niazi is a professional in the field of Pharmacy. He has experienced first hand the problems that the region faces. His main interest is promoting peace and human rights irrespective of which religions, casts, creeds, languages or nationalities are involved. He strongly believes in the use of "natural means for improvement of quality of life for everyone".*

Originally, he had written this piece as a comment to Benon Sevan's [Afghanistan 20 years after the Soviet Withdrawal](#). It contains some ideas that are unlike what the Media in the west promotes, and the readers of keghart might find them interesting. Hence, it is published as a stand-alone article.

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The [Durrani Empire](#) was composed of all the areas in which today's Pakistan and Afghanistan are located. During the [Mughal Empire](#) along with regions in the Indian subcontinent they were in a single entity. In the initial period of the British Empire, they were also together under the same rule. Later, some forces that had vested interests kept a distance between these two lands. Consequently, border areas became hiding places for criminals, thieves of automobiles and other stolen goods. They are stored in this region. This large uncontrollable area is a base for many evils.

Here narcotics are grown; addiction is destroying the youth and humanity. Because the region is not developed and poverty is rampant, people are attracted to extremism and militancy.

Union of both countries will make the single government more responsible in stabilizing this region and in satisfying the nationalistic pride of its inhabitants. People will be able to serve humanity as other large nations of the world do. Otherwise, this region will always remain a nuisance for the world. It destroyed Soviet Union. It may also take down the western world, which will be a great blow to the development of Science and Technology, especially Medical science.

Advantages to the world:

Control of terrorism:

Instability in this region is causing great damage to humanity. Soldiers of many countries are sacrificing their lives just to eliminate terrorists from these countries. In the presence of a unified government, it will be easier to control terrorists.

Control of extremism:

As a unified nation composed of multiethnic groups such as the Punjabis, Sindhis, Baluchis, Pashtuns, Urdu speakers, Tajiks, Persians and Hazaras, and as a multisectarian society including the Sunnis and Shiites, it will become impossible for any ethnic group or religious sect to find any future in extremism.

Stabilization of the region:

Although it is now that the problems of this region have gained attention, it has suffered from instability for a long time. People here are finding no hope, no future for themselves, partly because of interference from foreign countries, such as the British Empire, Soviet Union, USA, China and India. When they were unified under the Durrani Empire, the region was stable. The same was the case during the Mughal Empire.

There are three main groups in Asia, i.e. the Chinese, Hindus and Muslims. Chinese and Hindus are satisfied with their states of China and India. The Muslim population in Asia is greater than the Chinese and Hindus combined. However, having no comparable state of their own they experience the stress of inferiority. That element too is causing instability and irritation amongst common Muslims. By creating a unified state of Pakistan and Afghanistan, a sense of satisfaction, pride and respect of having a national state will be achieved. That might lead to normalization of relations with the rest of the world and stability.

Solution to economic problems:

At present, both countries are burdens on others, and pose barriers in exploring the resources of Central Asia by the world. After stabilization, it will be useful not only for Central Asia and for the World, but also for the new unified nation itself.

Advantages to Pakistan:

It was the vision of Quaid-e-Azam, the Founder of Pakistan, to unify the regions of West Pakistan, Afghanistan, East Pakistan, Malaysia and Indonesia. That probably needs time. It took many centuries for Europeans to realize that they shared a common goal.

- By unification with Afghanistan, areas, which are included in Pakistan, will stabilize, and migration of people from disturbed areas will stop.
- Smuggling of weapons across the borders will end, and Law and Order will be established.

- Similarly, illicit drug trade will be minimized.
- Whole areas of Pukhtoons (Pashtuns) speaking population will unify, and that will help the development of culture and language of that group which is now divided in two countries.
- Expenses for Security measures on the borders will be minimal. The resultant balance can be used for the welfare of people.
- Interference of other nations in this region will subside.
- Due to unique historical importance for Buddhists and Hindus, tourism industry will flourish and business activity in the region will increase.

Advantages to Afghanistan:

Through unification, Afghanistan will cease to be a land locked country. The union will promote freedom to people of Afghanistan to travel and engage in economic activity.

- Extremism and terrorism will come to and end, as the people will become more engaged and involved in adjusting themselves in the new union. Utilization of raw products of Afghanistan will increase.
- Security and military expenses will minimize.
- Doors to Pakistan will open to Afghanis who look for jobs in Pakistan.
- Shortage of food products in Afghanistan will decrease and it will increase the utilization of raw products of Afghanistan.
- Linking Central Asia via Afghanistan to the rest of the world will generate extraordinary development.

Following historical and present day observations, suggestions and probable outcomes, it may be argued that the solution to contemporary problems of Afghanistan and Pakistan is in the Union of these two countries based on principles of Democracy and Federalism. Such a union will be fruitful for everyone in the region and for the world at large.

