



The Example of Power

Power is a force for cohesion and domination. It does not exist on its own, and therefore does need a carrier through which its effects can be transferred to the desired destinations. The example of the origin of power can be seen in the indisputable fact of the oneness of God—that is, the belief that God is one and absolute in His powers. There are also creatures whose existence and operation single them out. Some of these include the sun that has no substitute and cannot be duplicated both in functions and strength. There is just one sun. The same thing applies to the moon, which is the king of the night surrounded by lesser subjects who also in their own rights display strength. There is just one moon but many stars. Interestingly, among the stars, one star is believed to outshine the other in glory, which also attests to strength. The kingdom of the animals is also not an exception in this case of power categorization and the ability to dominate and occupy at will. The lion is considered as the king of the forest who turns away from nobody. It is believed that the lion has the capacity to make its food available at will for as long as it is in charge of the forest. The eagle as a bird is also recognized by the

reason of strength, skills, and uncommon ability to soar the highest when compared with other birds. So in the kingdom of birds, the eagle is the king. The same principle applies to the kingdom of man, although it is believed that all humans or men are born equal, but in reality some are stronger than others.

In the world, power is the language of domination. This important place of power finds an expression also in the committee of nations. The reality is that the more powerful you are, the more secure you are considered to be. This accounts for why we have some countries as superpowers against the middle and the developing countries. The development or greatness of a country is determined by its military and economic capabilities. Going by these criteria, one will conveniently put the United States of America, Britain, France and Russia in the category of the superpowers. These countries have a great deposit of nuclear weapons. China is also an imagined superpower by reasons of her population, economy, and technological advancements.

The same principle applies to the above-mentioned superpowers, where a hero had to emerge. Since there is no particular stage or platform where, as in a competition such as beauty pageants, boxing and the sporting activities where people compete to win a title and get declared as winner, countries live out their potential through the example of their power or through the power of their example.

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Some of the activities of the countries that are considered as the superpowers in the past and present present cases for study with a view to inspiring us to make informed judgments regarding what goes on around us at the local levels, national levels, as well as international.

Let's look at the case of the invasion of Iraq by the United States of America under the guise of trying to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction, one of which was believed to be domiciled in Iraq. The invasion of the country started on March 19, 2003 (air) and March 20, 2003 (ground). The capital city of Baghdad was captured on April 9, 2003. The joint coalition forces of the United States of America, Britain, Australia and Poland who fought to capture Baghdad remained active on ground to provide security until when the first parliamentary election was conducted in January 2005. This invasion was nothing other than the play out of the content of the scripts which is called the Bush Doctrine.

Another case for study is the invasion of Afghanistan by Russia and America at different times. The Soviet Afghan War started in 1979 and ended in 1989 leaving Afghanistan totally devastated and in ruins. These invasions are so called because they were carried out in total contravention of the international law under the United Nations Charter, which prohibits member states from using force on sovereign states under any guise or condition. They are a clear display of the use of force for domination.

The invasion of Libya by the United States of America also cannot be overlooked, for the adverse effects from it cannot be swept under the carpet or forgotten in a hurry. From November 2015 to 2019, the United States and allies carried out a large series of both airstrikes and drone

strikes to invade Libya in its revived conflict in support of the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord against the ISIL presence in the region. As this reported chronicle of events may serve as news, as well as new to some, especially those of the younger generation, the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine therefore finds a place in history to bring the old to bear on the new so



that the younger generation may have a horse of knowledge to ride on.

Democracy is of different types. However, the liberal democracy, which is the American democracy is synonymous with the principle of human rights. Here in this kind of system, morality and legality are made superior to all issues that pertain to strategic considerations

in local, national, as well as international politics. With this understanding of liberal democracy, the above painted pictures and actions carried out by the superpowers in question can now be brought under the scrutiny of what makes the benchmark of liberal democracy. Liberal democracy for the sake of emphasis is living by the power of example as opposed to the example of power. The example of power shows itself in the act of invasion and occupations by the use of force and with no regard to the established international laws that prohibit such acts.

This style of "the winner takes all" is undemocratic. It does not in any way fit into any of the categories of democracy. The world is in chaos due to the struggles not only among the superpowers for domination but also among the countries that are considered developing as well as within the societies at the local levels. Wherever there is power, there cannot but be struggles. Power does not exist in a vacuum.

In conclusion, there is a clarion call both from the within and from the without,

the genuine heart desires of the downtrodden to those in the position of power, to look down from their high places on those that are below. It is important also to be mindful of the heavenly places which are above the high places. No matter how powerful a man or a nation is, there is always the crave to have more, and that crave to have more is an indication that there is always a higher power from where the high has to draw.

Power is good, but the use of it can be in either direction, good or bad. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. Power, no matter how much, cannot be absolute, except if all we know in terms of power is limited to what we can see and have by force. Agitations are going on in most countries of the world today especially the developing countries. Most of these are born out of the misuse of power by the leaders who claim to be in democracy but in reality are worse than the known autocrats.

The United States, which is the symbol of democracy and who also is in the forefront of the evangelization of the world, should consider the plight of the aggrieved, vulnerable, and downtrodden citizens of the world who make up the ethnic groups that need freedom and self-determination. It is apparent to look into some of the highly populat-

ed countries in Africa, like Nigeria with a population of more than 250 million and who also has been described as the coveted capital of the world. Breaking into more efficient and manageable proportions, countries like Nigeria, which have refused to develop over 60 years since it gained its independence from Britain will be the right step in the right direction, and as a diplomatic way of dousing tension and preventing coups.

Finally, it does not matter where we are on a journey. The time when we discover that we are on the wrong road is the best time to turn around. Let the powerful run by the power of example and not by the example of power for peace to reign in the world.

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