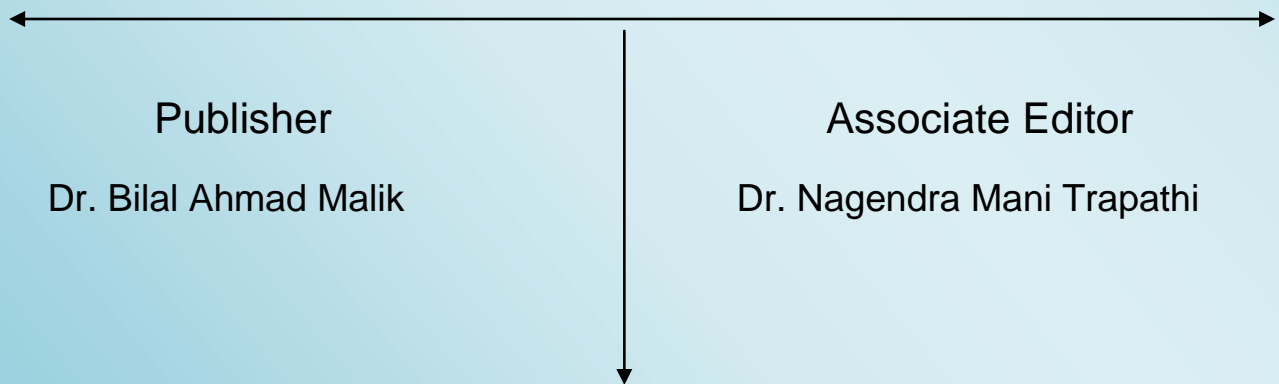


North Asian International Research Journal Consortium

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NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF PEACE

Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik

INTRODUCTION

Peace cannot be imposed from the top or imported from outside. It is built from the ground up. And peace begins with all of us. everyone lives in safety, without fear or threat of violence, and no form of violence is tolerated in law or in practice everyone is equal before the law, the systems for justice are trusted, and fair and effective laws protect people's rights everyone is able to participate in shaping political decisions and the government is accountable to the people everyone has fair and equal access to the basic needs for their wellbeing – such as food, clean water, shelter, education, healthcare and a decent living environment everyone has an equal opportunity to work and make a living, regardless of gender, ethnicity or any other aspect of identity. The issue of war and peace has always been a focal issue in all periods of history and at all levels relations among nations. The concern of the humankind for peace can be assessed by taking into account the fact that all religions, all religious scriptures and several religious ceremonies are committed to the cause of peace and all these advocate an elimination of war. The Shanti Path recited by the Hindus, the sermons of Pope and the commands of all the holy scriptures of the Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and all other communities hold out a sacred commitment to peace.

Yet the international community fully realized the supreme importance of the virtue of peace against the evil of war only after having suffered the most unfortunate and highly destructive two World Wars in the first half of the 20th century. The blood soaked shreds of humanity that lay scattered in several hundred battle grounds, particularly on the soils of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, cried for peace, peace and peace on the earth.

“Intolerance is itself a form of violence and an obstacle to the growth of a true democratic spirit. When self-satisfaction creeps over a man, he has ceased to grow.”

“Peace is when people are able to resolve their conflicts without violence”

“Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where the people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free”

THE UN CHARTER AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The human consciousness then rallied in the Charter of the United Nations to affirm. “We the people of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our life time has brought untold sorrow to humankind. And to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security. Have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.”

Since 1945, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, several international associations and institutions, international peace movements, global and national level human rights movements and in fact all members of the international community have been consistently and strongly advocating the need for the preservation and promotion of peace against war.

In contemporary times, the most urgent and important international objective has been to preserve protect and defend peace against terrorism and terrorist organizations like Al Qaeda, Talibans, ISIS, and other enemies of peace.

HOW INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS BEEN TRYING TO SECURE PEACE

Through international peace keeping under the aegis of the United Nations through the development and use of international law; creation of more international and regional institutions committed to promote peace, promotion of friendly cooperation for development among the member countries; popularization of peaceful means of conflict-resolution, institutionalization of relations among nations; integration of international community through strengthening of human consciousness in favour of peace against war; and by enhancing the ability for crisis-management, the humankind has been trying to secure peace against war.

CURRENTLY, THROUGH:-

- (i) Globalization i.e. by encouraging the free flow of people goods, information services and knowledge;
- (ii) Establishment of non-official people to people socio-economic-cultural relations;
- (iii) Organisation of international peace movements against nuclear weapons, armament race, militarisation, and environmental pollution;
- (iv) Launching of special drives for elimination of such evils as apartheid, poverty, illiteracy; ill-health, hunger, disease, inequalities, tyranny and terrorism; and
- (v) organized attempts at environment protection and protection of Human Rights of all, the international community has been making meaningful attempts to limit the chances of war.

WHAT IS PEACE?

One elementary way of defining peace has been to say that peace is absence of war. This is, however, a very narrow view of peace. No doubt absence of war is the first condition of peace, yet peace is not merely an absence of war. It is in reality a condition characterized by peaceful, cooperative and harmonious conduct of international relations with a view to secure all-round sustainable development of the people of the world.

Nevertheless, since absence of war is the first condition of peace, one of the major concerns of all scholars and statesmen has been to formulate and follow the principles and devices needed for securing this primary objective. The cold war that kept the world preoccupied during 1945-90, indirectly secured this objective in a negative way by developing a balance of terror in international relations.

While it was successful in preventing a global war, it failed to prevent local wars and in fact gave rise to several tensions, stresses, strains and crises in international relations. The international community had to work very hard for keeping the conflicts and wars limited. It, however, successfully exhibited a welcome and positive ability in the sphere of crisis-management.

In fact, till today there have been present several hindrances in way of securing a stable, healthy and enduring peace. Fortunately, the final end of cold war came in the last decade of the 20th century and the world found herself living in an environment characterised by a new faith and commitment to peace, peaceful co-existence, peaceful conflict-resolution, liberalisation, cooperation for development and attempts at sustainable development.

The people began focusing their attention on the need for the protection of human rights of all, protection of environment and securing of a real and meaningful international integration. However several negative factors, ethnic conflict, ethnic violence, ethnic wars, terrorism in its several dimensions, neo-colonialism, hegemony n-hegemony and the like kept on acting as big hindrances.

The need to secure peace by controlling these evils continues to be a primary aim of international community. Crises have been repeatedly coming and these are bound to keep coming. This makes it very urgent for the humankind to prepare and act for managing crises through collective efforts and by the use of several devices.

CONCLUSION

Peace differently, there are certain characteristics that appear to transcend culture and that are held in common, even if the emphasis varies. There persists a spiritual notion of Peace that represents inner calm, wholeness, contentment, and selflessness. The internal condition tends to affect the external so that if individuals are not at peace with themselves, they are unlikely to engender temporal peace. On the contrary, they are more apt to participate in wars, since conflict among peoples usually comes from dissatisfaction with the current state of being (or affairs) that needs redress, perhaps even violently. In most cultural traditions Peace is the natural state of the universe, and throughout history one of the most universal endeavors of humankind has been the quest to end

strife and to restore a beneficial order and tranquility. In linking these various but complementary aspects of what it means to be at Peace.

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