

The Elements Of Contemporary Western Culture- An Analytical Study

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Abstract

The basic sources of the culture & civilization of a society are its beliefs and ideas on which the nation builds its plan of action. Every society has its own specific way of life and social structure that distinguishes it from others. Behind their specific life style, there is a clear and definite ideology under which they conduct their affairs. For the strength and development of the national and cultural structure, it is essential that the society and its people do not have any ambiguity in their beliefs and adopt them with full confidence, because even the slightest ambiguity in ideology will stop the process of national development. New circumstances may cause the evolution in man's activities but these circumstances may never put some change in ideas and dogmas. So, it is essential for cultural and social progress that every individual must be clear in his beliefs and philosophy. In contemporary world, the western culture is dominating and all nations are eager to adopt this culture. The basic question is what are the philosophical basis of western culture and traditions? And another important question which entangles a researcher that how other culture can counter Western philosophies to protect their own cultures? In this article, those elements will be discussed which are the foundations of this culture and will be analyzed through rational and critical approach. So, everyone will be able to see the real face, importance, impacts, advantages and disadvantages of Western culture.

Key Words: Elements, Contemporary, Western, Culture, Analytical

Introduction

It is indispensable to know the specific methods, raw materials and ingredients for the composition of every sculptural and material thing. There are a number of unseen factors behind a specific action. And the soul of this action is the invisible things without which this visible thing becomes

futile. Man appears to be a combination of the physical body but without the heart beating and circulation of blood, he is a dead and this material body can do nothing. A bulb lights up when a button is pressed. This light is not due to the button but to the transmission system which illuminates the light bulb through the electric wires. So, the man's culture cannot be understood

without studying the factors and elements of that specific culture. The global village theory has changed the world vividly. Now, nations and individuals are abandoning their local and specific culture and opting western culture as their bedrock. The people have accepted the Western culture as the center of prosperity and development without knowing the motives behind it. In this situation, it is essential to analyze the motives of current western cultural development.

Background of Western Culture

Middle Ages are known as Dark Ages in the Western history. It is, in fact, a turning point in modern western culture and the obvious reason of this fact was the ruling authority of pope and king. The both set a lot example of brutality and cruelty to maintain their authority. Pope and his followers amended the gospel's teachings and did crimes in the name of religion. In order to maintain their monopoly, both groups, Pope and king, arrested the people, burned them in the fire, walked naked on hot coals, held hot rods in their hands, nailed their ears to the doors, release of poisonous animals in prisons, life imprisonment for minor crimes, disability, burning of houses, burning of human body parts, skinning of living persons, cutting of veins, handing over criminals to predatory beasts, suppression of living human beings under heavy objects, removal of eye, piercing of tongue with hot iron, closing the basket until it dies, shaving its head and pouring boiling water over it, burning men in explosives bags, burying it in the ground, putting hot rods in the ears, picking human beings in the walls, women were customary to tie horses and drag them into the bazaar and stripped them naked and marched around the city. There was a period of tyranny and barbarism where the rich and the poor, the black and the white, the king and the subject, the priest and the people had different laws. Due to differences in rank and position,

different punishments for the same crime were distinctive of this law. Christopher Hebert wrote about this cruel practice:

“If a freeman raped the slave of a commoner he had to pay no more than five shillings' compensation, but if a slave raped this same girl he was castrated.”⁽¹⁾

Walter Ullman described these punishments of this tyranny era, he wrote:

“By the very fact of a crime having been committed, public attention is much more easily arrested than is and was the case with civil actions, and quite especially if the culprit was a cleric in holy orders who had committed murder, robbery, theft, rape, and the like.”⁽²⁾

Theft from the church was declared an extraordinary crime and the person was doubly punished, one was fined and the other had his hand amputated. ⁽³⁾ The bishop's words, like the king's, were considered undeniable, and his words were considered the words of God. That is why, as the bishop had declared Sunday as a holiday, so, if a person was seen doing something on Sunday, he would be fined or flogged. If he could not pay the fine, he would be flogged.⁽⁴⁾

Under Wihtered's law, a free man could be sentenced to death for stealing. It could be taken to another country and sold, or a large ransom could be paid. If a free woman stole, she would be taken down from the top of a mountain or drowned. The same eighty slaves would stone him until he died, and when he died each slave would give three pennies to his master. A female slave was killed in the same way for the same crime and each slave would pick up three sticks and set it on fire. ⁽⁵⁾ False testimony in court in a murder case was considered a major crime. Such a person was sentenced to death in a national court, while according to religious law, he was ordered to be blindfolded.⁽⁶⁾ Disobeying the

king's orders, the slave running away from the master's house, the slave demanding freedom, the weak standing in front of the strong, not being able to pay the debt on time, mixing, dishonesty, doing any work without husband's permission, quitting army service without permission, showing cowardice in war etc. were considered as social crimes.⁽⁷⁾ It was the background that the Renaissance began in the West, which is considered the foundation of modern Western civilization.

Elements of Western Culture

The elements of Western civilization are described below.

Rationalism

The term rationalism refers to the movement of different thoughts and ideas. There is a philosophical thought or program in all these thoughts which considers reason as the basis for reaching the truth of the world and its mysteries and prefers it over all means of knowledge.⁽⁸⁾ Because the pope and the Christian clergy were entangled in various beliefs and it was a crime to read any kind of book that the church had forbidden reading. Questioning the authority and teachings of the church was considered blasphemy and treason, and involved person was sentenced to death.⁽⁹⁾ The rise and success of the rationalist movement in the West was due to the laws of the Middle-Ages. The clergy men, who introduced a systems based on hatred and people had become ready to remove this setup from their lives. And the kingdoms sought to humiliate one another and to dominate and rule.⁽¹⁰⁾ The church was a little too much in the forefront and in order to strengthen its dominancy and supremacy, it was imposing fear on the people with different ideologies. One of the charges was witchcraft, which killed the people in thousands. Illness and sickness was named the witch-hunting. Even if a person contracted a contagious disease, he was said to be deranged because of the witch hunting,

so he and his companions were killed. Thousands were executed on suspicion.⁽¹¹⁾ To avoid public reaction to the massacre, the pope set up a two-member commission to investigate the facts. The commission prepared seventy eight questions. Instead of stopping the massacre, the commission started killing more people. In 1485, the bishop intervened and freed fifty women from prison for this charge.⁽¹²⁾ Prisoners were tortured in prisons for naming their comrades in witch-hunting. And when they falsely mentioned the names for their freedom, instead of being released, they were left to die in prison and other comrades were treated in the same way. In 1348, fifty similar deaths were confirmed in prisons.⁽¹³⁾ Lecky described the details of torture, cruelty and killings with fact and figures in different territories of Europe. He referred different laws set by parliament of France and other European countries.⁽¹⁴⁾

It was an ideological web in which even well-educated people were trapped by telling self-made religious stories, no one could even question its reality or authenticity while rationalists believed that science and technology were the only sources of knowledge. Assumptions and results were obtained through experiments. It was the real reason of clash between religion and science. Rationalists rejected religion and metaphysics on the grounds of realm of reason. The inevitable result of this movement, therefore, was the expulsion of religion and religious traditions from human life. Stodlin, considered one of the first philosophers of rationalism, wrote in praise of rationalism:

“I do not now look to the various meanings in which the word Rationalism has been used. I understand by it here only generally the opinion that mankind are laid by their reason and specially by the natural powers of their mind and soul, and by the observation of nature which surrounds them, to a

true knowledge of divine and sensible things, and that reason has the highest authority and right of decision in matters of faith and morality, so that an edifice of faith and morals built on this foundation shall be called rationalism.”⁽¹⁵⁾

To the Encyclopedia Britannica, the 'intellect' is the only thing that creates distance between man and animal.⁽¹⁶⁾ The writer of Columbia Encyclopedia wrote:

“In philosophy, a theory that holds that reason alone, unaided by experience, can arrive at basic truth regarding the world. Associated with rationalism are the doctrine of innate ideas and the method of logically deducing truths about the world from "selfevident" premises.”⁽¹⁷⁾

Edward Craig believed that reason as the chief source of knowledge.⁽¹⁸⁾ Mr. Lecky alleged that reason is supreme rather than the religion and reason is only object that can differentiate truth and error.⁽¹⁹⁾ Lamennais supposed that man's reason is his law, his truth and his justice. He thought that religious limits violated the most sacred of human rights.⁽²⁰⁾ Explaining the centrality of the human intellect, Mr. Stace wrote:

“Man is the measure of all things”; certainly, but man as a rational being, not man as bundle of particular sensations, subjective impressions, impulses, irrational prejudices, self-will, mere eccentricities, oddities, foibles, and fancies.”⁽²¹⁾

Explaining rationalism, Hugh James Rose said that there is no wide difference between naturalists and rationalists. He added that if I believed in religion, it would be just because of my intellect. He professed the supremacy of reason.⁽²²⁾

Secularism

The inevitable result of rationalism was the expulsion of religion and religious traditions from practical life. It is a fundamental element of Western civilization that the status of religion in human life is not primary but secondary, the basis of this ideology was provided by rationalism. Researchers and philosophers rejected revelation and religion by adopting the ideology that reason is the decisive source of knowledge. To them, anything beyond the realm of reason has no reality, and only science and reason play a fundamental role in all human affairs. Since the intellect has gained the supreme authority, it is forming opinions about physical things, religion, which discusses metaphysics, must be judged in the court of reason.⁽²³⁾ T. Benson defines secularism as:

“the term secularism describes the ideology that is, and has been since its inception, anti-religious.”⁽²⁴⁾

To Michael J. Sandal, the religion has been tamed or domesticated and rendered under the legal scheme of the civil rights as freedom of religion or belief.⁽²⁵⁾ Carl Heinz Laduer goes on to say that this perspective may lead also to privatization of religion (a private choice) and also to the detriment of the link between culture, religion and identity.⁽²⁶⁾ Oliver Roy said that secularism, as a worldview, claimed to provide a value system common to all citizens by expelling religion into the private sphere.⁽²⁷⁾ Andras Sajo professed on the separation of state and religion.⁽²⁸⁾ To Edward H. Cotton, religion and philosophy has no mean in modern world for modern man.⁽²⁹⁾ Jose Casonova criticized religion harshly and tried to prove that all the destruction had been happened due to the religion and all the progress, development and advancement would be for secularism . He wrote:

“[s]ecularization as a concept refers to the actual historical process whereby this dualist system within

"this world" and the sacramental structures of mediation between this world and the other world progressively break down until the entire medieval system of classification disappears, to be replaced by new systems of spatial structuration of the spheres. Max Weber's expressive image of the breaking of the monastery walls remains perhaps the best graphic expression of this radical spatial restructuration. The wall separating the religious and the secular realms within "this world" breaks down. The separation between "this world" and "the other world," for the time being at least, remains. But from now on, there will be only one single "this world," the secular one, within which religion will have to find its own place."⁽³⁰⁾

Karem Armstrong also wrote in favor of secularism, she said:

"Above all, the habitual practice of compassion and the Golden Rule "all day and every day" demands perpetual kenosis. The constant "stepping outside" of our own preferences, convictions, and prejudices is an ecstasies that is not a glamorous rapture but, as Confucius's pupil Yan Hui explained, is itself the transcendence we seek. The effect of these practices cannot give us concrete information about God; it is certainly not a scientific "proof."⁽³¹⁾

Humanism

After acknowledging the sovereignty of philosophy and science, the theory of humanism

was presented, which means that man is his own God, he is sovereign. He has the authority to make his own life decisions and is not obligated to obey any higher authority. According to this view, man is the central figure of this universe, and religion, God, divine teachings have no rational status. Man's words and deeds are everything. Man is the product of natural action and this world is everything to him. Reason has restricted the scope of religion. Man has his own choice whether to adopt the religion or not, so, man denied the existence of God because of this philosophy. On a scientific basis, it is clear that humanism is, in fact, the result of rationalism and secularism. In Western societies, the role of humanism is fundamental in enforcing man-made systems rather than the divine system. According to this philosophy, worldly life and its luxuries should be considered as the total capital of the universe and arrangements should be made to find happiness and luxuries in this world. Humanism is a philosophy and way of life (a life stance) based on empathy, reason and experience. To humanists, empathy- which is the starting point for a compassion and social action- is a product of human nature.⁽³²⁾ Paul Kurtz describes some of the guiding principles for humanism and introduces a term (Eupraxophy) for these principles which means as good, practical, and wisdom.⁽³³⁾ B.A.G. Explaining the theory of humanism, Fuller writes:

"It was that Western Europe awoke to the possibilities latent in the natural man and that the individual became actually self-conscious and engrossed with his own particular temperament and capacities and with the problem and means of expressing them to the utmost. For this reason, the epoch is known as the Renaissance, or the period of rebirth and its pre-occupation with the development of human self-

realisation here and now, in this world, within the limits set by birth and death, has given to its spirit the name of humanism.”⁽³⁴⁾

According to Lamont Corliss, there are ten basic points in the philosophy of humanism through which humanism can be understood.

1. “Humanism believes in a naturalistic metaphysics or attitude toward the universe that considers all forms of the supernatural as myth; and that regards Nature as the totality of being and as a constantly changing system of matter and energy which exists independently of any mind or consciousness.
2. Humanism, drawing especially upon the laws and facts of science, believes that we human beings are an evolutionary product of the Nature of which we are a part; that the mind is indivisibly conjoined with the functioning of the brain; and that as an inseparable unity of body and personality we can have no conscious survival after death.
3. Humanism, having its ultimate faith in humankind, believes that human beings possess the power or potentiality of solving their own problems, through reliance primarily upon reason and scientific method applied with courage and vision.
4. Humanism, in opposition to all theories of universal determinism, fatalism, or predestination, believes that human beings, while conditioned by the past, possess genuine freedom of creative choice and action, and are, within certain objective limits, the shapers of their own destiny.
5. Humanism believes in an ethics or morality that grounds all human values in this-earthly experiences and relationships and that holds as its highest goal the this-worldly happiness, freedom, and progress—economic, cultural, and ethical—of all humankind, irrespective of nation, race, or religion.
6. Humanism believes that the individual attains the good life by harmoniously combining personal satisfactions and continuous self-development with significant work and other activities that contribute to the welfare of the community.
7. Humanism believes in the widest possible development of art and the awareness of beauty, including the appreciation of Nature’s loveliness and splendor, so that the aesthetic experience may become a pervasive reality in the lives of all people.
8. Humanism believes in a far-reaching social program that stands for the establishment throughout the world of democracy, peace, and a high standard of living on the foundations of a flourishing economic order, both national and international.

9. Humanism believes in the complete social implementation of reason and scientific method; and thereby in democratic procedures, and parliamentary government, with full freedom of expression and civil liberties, throughout all areas of economic, political, and cultural life.
10. Humanism, in accordance with scientific method, believes in the unending questioning of basic assumptions and convictions, including its own. Humanism is not a new dogma, but is a developing philosophy ever open to experimental testing, newly discovered facts, and more rigorous reasoning.”⁽³⁵⁾

Stephen Law describes these same characteristics of humanism in seven points.⁽³⁶⁾

Materialism

While rationalism and secularism played a central role in the birth of humanism, they also contributed to the introduction of the ideology of materialism. This theory presented the divine teachings, ethics, and religion as meaningless objects, and by proving the worldly life to be the real life, interpreted the universe as purely material, and built the West and its civilization on purely material foundations. Everything is of matter and there is no function of soul and spirituality in the material world. The same materialistic thought drove man out from humanity and animalism was propagated everywhere. Human values were trampled for the sake of material resources, woman was taken out from houses to brothels, to arouse the man’s sexual desires and to provoke relationships to economic interests, etc., are gifts of materialism.

The writer of Routledge Encyclopedia defines the materialism as a philosophy and an entire world view according to which the world is composed of material things.⁽³⁷⁾ According to the writer of Encyclopedia of Western Philosophy and Philosopher, materialism is a philosophy which gives primary position to matter and keeps spirit as secondary. It insists that whatever exists is fully dependent upon matter and there is only one fundamental reality that is material. It holds that human beings and the rest of the creatures are not qualitatively different from each other. Human beings are not composed of material body and an immaterial soul, as is ordinarily believed. They are all bodily and do not have souls which are claimed to be immaterial.⁽³⁸⁾ Leucippus and his student Democritus gave a clear idea of materialism for first time in history. He described his theory as follows:

- “1. Nothing exists but atoms and empty space.
2. Nothing happens by chance but everything occurs for a reason and of necessity. This necessity is natural and mechanical. It excludes Ideological necessity.
3. Nothing can arise out of nothing and all changes are new combinations or separations of atoms.
4. The atoms are infinite in number. They are all of the same stuff. They act on one another only by pressure or conflict.
5. variety of things is a consequence of the variety in number. size, shape and arrangement of the atoms which compose them.”⁽³⁹⁾

Roy supported this view with the slightest difference from Edward's point of view (the atom consists of endless types while Edward equates all atoms).⁽⁴⁰⁾ Descartes divided the universal objects into extended (material)substances and thinking (spiritual)

substances.⁽⁴¹⁾ The Encyclopedia Britannica's writer wrote:

“Materialism is thus opposed to philosophical dualism or idealism and, in general, to belief in God, in disembodied spirits, in free will or in certain kinds of introspective psychology. Materialistic views insist upon settling questions by reference to public observation and not to private intuitions. Since this is a maxim which scientists must profess within the limits of their special inquiries, it is natural that philosophies which attach the highest importance to science should lean toward Materialism.”⁽⁴²⁾

G.P. Maxiumoff believed that materialism is essential part of natural evolution of this universe. He put some rational examples to prove his theory.⁽⁴³⁾

Utilitarianism

Materialism promoted the ideology of self-interest. According to materialism, everything in the universe is made of matter and its reality and basis is also of material, so there should not be existed such thing as spirituality in this universe. The absence of spirituality and spiritual education gave materialists a platform to advance in materialism. In order to achieve material progress, they started propagating the ideology of utilitarianism, in which a relationship should be established on the basis of personal interest. There is no space or place for ethics and morality in utilitarianism. Jeremy Bentham wrote explaining the principles of utilitarianism:

“It is in vain to talk of the interest of the community without understanding what is the interest of the individual. A thing is said to promote the interest, or to be for the interest, of an individual, when it

tends to add to the sum total of his pleasures: or, what comes to the same thing, to diminish the sum total of his pains.”⁽⁴⁴⁾

Utility or self-interest as being a necessary part of perfection is considered as the directive rule of human conduct but it is not an inevitable for the acceptance of the utilitarian standard.⁽⁴⁵⁾ According to Bentham, utility is, in fact, an object that produces the happiness and advantage and prevents from pain and unhappiness.⁽⁴⁶⁾ To Encyclopedia Britannica, utilitarians focused on the consequences of things without regarding the morality in their choices because utilitarians believed in the theory of intrinsic value where things are to be good in themselves and this goodness depended on the result which would be beneficials.⁽⁴⁷⁾

Individualism

According to this theory, the individual status of man is considered more important than societal status, while in Greek, Roman and Iranian literature, society and social values are always considered more important than individuals. Plato also tried to formulate the principles of good society. Individualism was started in the time of Alexander the Great when he imposed restrictions on political freedom. According to individualism, every human being has the right to form and to promote his own individual opinion about a thing. To this philosophy, people in Western societies seem doing a variety of unique works and things just to maintain their individual identities. Homosexuality, transgenering and doing natural affairs in unnatural and irrational ways are some objects of maintaining their identity. The writer of Encyclopedia Britannica wrote:

“It makes it possible to date the advent of philosophical anthropology as the branch of thought that recognizes in the

personal unity of the human being both the point of departure and the goal of the reflective process. Certain characteristic tendencies of Western philosophy in the first half of the 20th century- among others, Phenomenology (concerned with the description of phenomena as consciously experienced), Existentialism (stressing the concrete in human personality, as opposed to abstract essences), and Personalism (regarding personality as the key to the interpretation of reality)- centre on the human condition as it is lived by the individual. In the history of thought , philosophical anthropology appeared when the pursuit of truth was no longer considered to be the attempt to attaining an abstract, absolute truth but to define an incarnate truth, a concrete truth conditioned by personal existence.”⁽⁴⁸⁾

Bertrand Russell explained this theory by praising the scientists, scientific methods and their approaches. He said that these scientists maintained their individuality by refusing the philosophies of their ancestors.⁽⁴⁹⁾

Liberalism

After removing religion and moral teaching, Western thinkers and philosophers had a responsibility to provide an alternative system to their people so that they could live their personal and social lives. In fulfilling this responsibility, Western thinkers, writers, politicians and philosophers came together to formulate a system in which all the restrictions and restraints imposed on them by religion were abolished. The earliest manifestation of West is the concept of freedom and it is the greatest weapon of Western

civilization that attracts other nations.⁽⁵⁰⁾ This concept of freedom gives them complete freedom on personal, religious, social, political and cultural levels as well, that can be seen in their societies. Neither a person nor state can deprive their freedoms from them. This system gives its people complete freedom in traditions, rituals, expressions, thoughts, opinions, and in all aspects of life.⁽⁵¹⁾ According to the West, freedom of expression is the actual freedom. ⁽⁵²⁾ Because the limits of this freedom were not set, so their social system and social institutions went to be weakened that led to the rise of debauchery and obscenity. Pornography and obscenity have reached such a height that it is named as an art. The production of pornographic films has become a regular industry in which those actors and actresses have been awarded prizes who provoked more sexual enthusiasm and incitement in the spectators. The West has acquired this freedom by giving up the religion and moral values.

Freedom and liberty are the names of absence of restrictions, limits and boundaries. ⁽⁵³⁾ It is an effort to be free in thinking,⁽⁵⁴⁾ and a delicious fruit of mature culture. ⁽⁵⁵⁾ Orland Peterson discussed the evolution of freedom in four different periods and consequently declared that freedom is the basis of Western civilization.⁽⁵⁶⁾ Samuel Gregg described this freedom in the background of Western ‘Dark Ages’ where no freedom was existed.⁽⁵⁷⁾ To Samuel P. Huntington, Magna Carta has provided, in reality, the basis of Western liberty.⁽⁵⁸⁾ According to him, the separation of state and religion gave rise to freedom in the West. Comparing other religions and civilizations with Western culture, Samuel P. Huntington wrote:

“Only in Hindu civilization were religion and politics also so distinctly separated. In Islam, God is Ceaser; In China and Japan, Ceaser

is God, in Orthodoxy, God is Ceaser's junior partner. The separation and recurring clashes between church and state that typify Western civilization have existed in other civilization. This division of authority contributed immeasurably to the development of freedom in the West."⁽⁵⁹⁾

Democracy

In order to prevent and secure the rationalism, materialism and freedom that West had achieved after centuries of hard work, it was indispensable to have a system that would guarantee their survival and security. The people of the West were not willing to accept any authority where people were not involved, nor did they seek any supernatural rule in which the people were bound by unnatural laws. They had seen the destruction of the state and humanity by religion. Now, they were in search a setup in which the people were given the status of supreme authority. So, a system 'Democracy' was introduced. This word came from Greek and it is a combination of two words (demos and Kratein) which means the people has right to govern and this term is translated as government of the people, by the people and for the people.⁽⁶⁰⁾ In this system, people can participate directly and indirectly in legislation and political decisions.⁽⁶¹⁾ According to American state department defined democracy as:

"a form of government in which power and civic responsibility are exercised by all adult citizens, directly or indirectly through their freely elected representatives."⁽⁶²⁾

The foremost principle of democracy was that state and national laws would be made in accordance with the will of the people and no law could be imposed on them without their

approval. C.Delisle wrote describing the principles of democracy:

"Public policy in democratic countries seems to be facing towards a criterion of justice which will be applicable to the right of ownership, although clearly we are a long way from a practical rule that all "property" is a trust held by leave and for the advantage of the common man."⁽⁶³⁾

This system gave a new way of living to Western natives and after a great effort they succeeded to implement this setup to all over the world. This structure has become the key of success and key protector of human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has insured the preservation of democratic principles. Most of the world has accepted and acknowledged this political system.

Feminism

The term feminism was first used by Alexander Damas in a pamphlet in 1872 and then spread throughout the world. In the fourteenth century, woman was considered the root of all evils. Her body was called the devil's body. Even all of her limbs were considered the instruments of sins⁽⁶⁴⁾ and cutting off her limbs was a routine practice⁽⁶⁵⁾. This Western movement, feminism, emerged in the second half of the twentieth century as the most powerful movement in world literature. Initially, the movement was started for women's rights, freedom from social boundaries and from the restrictions imposed by men. Equality of women with men was the key slogan of this movement.⁽⁶⁶⁾ This movement demanded the equality in economic, political and social matters.⁽⁶⁷⁾ In addition to economic and political rights, women started to demand gender equality that was one of the defining feature of secularism⁽⁶⁸⁾ while it is also defining as a weapon of colonialism.⁽⁶⁹⁾ In 1949, Seymour de Beauvoir

wrote 'The Second Sex', in 1963, Betty Freuden wrote 'The Feminine Mystique', in 1969, Kate Millett wrote 'Sexual Politics' and in 1970, Germaine Greer wrote 'The Female Eunuch' in this context. The movement spread from the West to the East, Africa and the third world countries. After 1980, the movement faced a major transformation, sexual matters particular sexual injustice has become a primary issue of feminism. It is also included the establishment of voluntary sexual relations for women. Men should not have any right even to request for their sexual desires. Gill & Witty wrote:

"Better birth control techniques, having children became largely a question of choice. The women liberation movement emerged demanding equal pay and job opportunities, Nurseries free contraception and abortion at request."⁽⁷⁰⁾

Co-founder of Red Stocking wrote: "Radical feminism got sexual politics recognized as a public issue created the vocabulary..... with which the second wave of feminism entered popular culture. Spark the drive to legalize abortion, were the first to demand total equality the so-called private spheres (housework, child care..... emotional and sexual needs)."⁽⁷¹⁾

This movement ensured the Western women to get all the basic rights of human being.

Nationalism

The theory of Individualism and Utilitarianism formed a large group of people together for the protection of their socials, economic, political and cultural rights. So, another theory 'Nationalism' was presented for the protection and security of the individuality and interests of a

group. A nation can be formed on common geographical boundaries, common language, common race, common traditions or history and on common economic interests.⁽⁷²⁾ Nationalism is described in the Encyclopedia of Science, Technology and Ethics as follows:

"It is the doctrine that the boundaries of the state and of the nation should always be congruent."⁽⁷³⁾

This theory forced a person to think for his nation too with his personal benefits. This ideology divided human beings into different nations and states, and all the human beings became utilitarian and all the international relations have been depended upon economic interests. The people of the West are not a single nation but a collection of different nations and each nation considers himself superior to others. This approach has led the world to two world wars, disparity, disappointment and destruction. Walker Coonor described that the supremacy thinking is essential part of nationalism. He wrote:

"A nation can be defined in terms of its particular amalgam of tangible characteristics. [However], a prerequisite of nationhood is a popularly held awareness or belief that one's own group is unique in a most vital sense. In the absence of such a popularly held conviction, there is only an ethnic group. It is the self view of one's group rather than the tangible characteristics, that is of essence in determining the existence or nonexistence of a nation."⁽⁷⁴⁾

The Encyclopedia Britannica wrote about nationalism:

"Nationalism is not a political program or body of ideas so much as a political perspective on such

programs and ideas. It has a distinct tenor wherever it appears and may be present in states of widely diverse types. Nationalism can be of an internationalist or isolationist character.”⁽⁷⁵⁾

Imperialism

After the Industrial Revolution, an endless war of supremacy between Western nations began. Powerful countries have established industries, but now the search for new markets for raw materials, cheap labor, natural resources and product sales to run these industries and increase productivity had forced them to occupy the economic wise weaker nations. Imperialism was a tactic of well-established powerful countries to expand their country’s borders and to capture the resources of weak countries by exercising economic, political, cultural or military influence.⁽⁷⁶⁾ Every powerful nation had ambition to capture all the natural sources from whole world for being the most powerful. So, it may be defined a competitive tussle among sovereignties for power.⁽⁷⁷⁾ J. Petras described the motives of imperialism as:

“Cultural exploitation as exemplified through U.S cultural imperialism according to Petras has major goals with one being economic and the other political to capture markets for its cultural commodities and to establish hegemony by shaping popular consciousness.”⁽⁷⁸⁾

Boulding and Makhar Jee described imperialism as:

“Imperialism has also been said to refer to a set of relationships, and more importantly as a system of relations, in which dominations, super-domination, exploitation and

of course, development and under-development play a central part.”⁽⁷⁹⁾

J. Petras described:

“The principle target of cultural imperialism is the political and economic exploitation of youth. Imperial entertainment and advertisement target young people who are most vulnerable to United States commercial propaganda. The message is simple and direct ‘modernity’ is associated with consuming United States media products. Youth represent a major market for United States cultural export and they are most susceptible to the consumerist-individualist propaganda. The mass media manipulates adolescent rebelliousness by appropriating the language of the left and channelling discontent into consumer extravagances.”⁽⁸⁰⁾

This theory led the West to Colonialism. The world, generally, and people of non-developed countries, particular, had suffered a lot because of imperialism. Sarah Bishop wrote on imperialism as:

“One country exercises power over another, whether through settlement, sovereignty, or indirect mechanisms of control. Does not necessarily involve movement of people, but rather control of resources.”⁽⁸¹⁾

Colonialism

Imperialism had given the birth to colonial system. For the completion of imperialistic setup and economic stability, it was indispensable to seize the resources of such economically weak countries which were rich in natural resources, so, for this motive, they had turned their all

abilities to these states. The European and well-established Western countries used various tactics to snatch the resources of these weak countries. Therefore, the powerful Western countries not only seized the resources of Asia and Africa, but also took possession of these states and established their dominance over these independent nations. Now they became the master of these free and independent states and all the natural and mineral resources. They had started to treat these natives as their slaves. They sent them (slaves) to their countries to run their industry because they were paid less and more work was taken. Joseph Conrad's book 'Heart of Darkness' is very important in this regard. Describing the colonial system, Sarah Bishop wrote:

“Colonialism is a practice of domination, which involves the subjugation of one people to another. Usually involves the settlement of citizens from colonial power in the colony.”⁽⁸²⁾

Rodney wrote:

“Colonialism was not merely a system of exploitation, but one whose essential purpose was to repatriate the profits to the so-called in mother country. From an African viewpoint, that amounted to consistent expatriation of surplus produced by African labour out of African resources.”⁽⁸³⁾

Describing differentiate between colonialism and imperialism, the Encyclopedia of Social Sciences narrated:

“Colonialism is the establishment and maintenance, for an extended time, of rule over an alien people that is separate from subordinate to the ruling power. It is no longer closely associated with the term, "colonization," which involves the

settlement abroad of people from a mother country, as in the case of the ancient Greek colonies or the Americas.”⁽⁸⁴⁾

It is obvious that this setup brutally violated the rights of common man and social structures of occupied countries. Self-respect and self-thinking were unknown for these natives. A number of inhabitants were killed in the name of disobedience and treason. Their businesses, homes, social, economic, political, cultural even religious setups were snatched and were forced to adopt their (foreigners) system. These natives had become foreigners in their own homelands.

Neo-Colonialism

In late first half and early of second half of twentieth century, the charming slogans of religious, cultural, social, political and economic freedom had become hall mark against the colonial system and eradicated the occupation from all countries of the world. The dominant states were forced to free the occupied states, so, the occupation was abolished. It was the time for well-established rich states to make new arrangements for running their industries, so they planned a new plot, an indirect colonial system. In this setup, they established such relations with the authoritative powers and persons of those countries which were full of natural sources and minerals. They set their agents in key positions, funded them and pursued their own interests. They continued their dominancy in these countries through their sincere and devoted agents. For this purpose, they set a new slogan, **‘world has become a global village’** and they used the term ‘diplomacy’ and ‘international agreements’.⁽⁸⁵⁾ So, with this strategy, they succeeded to continue the supply of raw materials and preserve their dominancy as well. This system is a new form of economic imperialism. S.C. Igwe wrote about Neo-Colonialism:

“Neo-colonialism as a form of contemporary economic imperialism in which both previous colonizing states and other powerful economic states maintain a continuing presence in the economies of former colonies especially where it concerns raw materials .Stronger nations are thus charged with interfering in the governance and economies of weaker nations to maintain the flow of such material at prices and conditions unduly beneficial to the developed nations and their transnational corporations.”⁽⁸⁶⁾

Conclusion

With the context of above-mentioned central elements of Western civilization, legislation has been accomplished in the West and all the appearances of the West depend on these origins. So, their culture is the fully reflection of these basic foundations. The Western societies have kicked out the religion and religious teachings and adopted the man-made system. Reason was acknowledged as a supreme authority and has been accepted as a religion. All the objects which are beyond the reason, they are rejected. Secularism took birth from rationalism, who executed the religion at all. Humanism and materialism are two representatives' children of secularism. Liberalism is now defined as a key slogan of western culture and the West is spending billions dollars for spreading this theory because expansion of this theory will provide them massive opportunities to expand their businesses. Material development is the only development for them. Under the shadows of these elements international law has been framed, known as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Western way of life is praised for its outward appearance, but it would not be wise to

adopt this pattern of life without studying the factors which are driving this setup.

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