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Finding Unity Within Chaos

Antara Yogeshwari Roy Tripathi of Die Presse sheds light upon the ideal path to unification

The current state of Europe is one of utter disarray and chaos. Endless revolutions and wars have sent European society into a state of turmoil. In particular, the states that used to be the Holy Roman Empire, and up until recently, consisted of the Confederation of the Rhines, are in disarray. The need of the hour is to bring order and peace.

The main solution being discussed for what is to be done with these miscellaneous states is unification, bringing them together under a new, more functional confederation.

Unification is a tremendous task, especially when trying to bring together states with such vast differences. The seeds of nationalism, however, have already begun to grow within many of the people who live in this area. These seeds may grow into a desire for individualised national governments, or, they may be utilized for the purpose of unification. Feelings of pride about the German language, and of a great heritage, have already started brewing within the people, and the tumultuous history that the people of these states have gone through together can act as another unifying bond.

Successful unification would imply having some form of a centralized government. A government's sole purpose is minimizing conflict between people, citizens being egotistical and individualistic and would normally be in constant conflict with each other. The form of government here would be a small one, possibly a constitutional monarchy, with the Head of the House of Habsburg being the ideal head of state, and the Parliament consisting of several different delegates from across the states. This would ensure that traditional, conservative values are kept in place, while individual rights are protected. The people could unite under the monarch, while still being able to exercise certain, essential, negative rights such as freedom of speech, freedom to own private property etc. The rights of the people, after all, must be protected, even while trying to preserve traditional values. It would be unrealistic to try to completely revert to an absolute monarchy.

The unified confederation would, ideally, operate under the free market system.

What brings people together is the fact that people function in accordance with their own self-interests. A free market would enable harmonious functioning, while still allowing people to meet their individual needs. With society functioning under a free market system, the government's main duties would be to protect individual rights and provide services that cannot be provided by the market, such as protection against foreign invaders, maintaining the necessary public institutions etc.

This form of government and functioning would be the ideal form of government for maintaining harmony, especially in such volatile circumstances.

Additionally, under the free market system, a common system of currency must be developed, as well as a customs union that supports free trade, common external tariff and an external revenue sharing mechanism. These common institutions in a free market setting are necessary for economic integration, without which, overall unification would simply be impossible. Religious harmony is also essential, and therefore, the propagation of the True Church, the Roman Catholic Church, could be a way of ensuring the confederation remains unified, while, of course, having protections for those who do not follow the True Church.

These are the most concrete solutions to the harmonious and functional unification of these scattered and disorderly states.



Captured by Samyaa Goyal

A STEP AWAY FROM THE PAST, A STEP TOWARDS EQUALITY

*Aradhaya Adlakha of L'Humanite expresses the need for doing away with a
conservatist system of power sharing*

As the Congress of Vienna sits together to deliberate upon bringing about a new order, it acts as an agency that possesses immense power; power that will dictate the course of history. It then becomes paramount for the leaders of the member nations to acknowledge the responsibility that they have in their hands and be sensitive towards the needs of each and every citizen.

The agenda, at its core, points towards the need of establishing a new conservative order in Germany. While it is necessary to bring about order in the new German confederation, this order need not be brought about through establishing a conservative order which would be detrimental for the Nation State's socio-political landscape. Conservatism is an ideology that is based on the oppression of the lower classes. Its primary focus lies in the maintenance of long-established social institutions. These social institutions strive for an in-equitable system of power-sharing, wherein the voices of the minorities are suppressed, and the majority continues to exploit the power that lies in its hands.

The current socio-political landscape of Germany is fragile, and its citizens are overcome with a growing sense of nationalism. The imposition of a rigid autocratic and conservationist system of governance to ensure the order has little room for an upward movement on the class ladder. This would not only further invite dissent from the growing voice of the masses, but would also allow for the further suppression of an already oppressed community; which has been subject to the continuous rule of apathetic rulers blind towards their needs.

Further, the members of the assembly, especially the leaders of the German confederation need to realise that the German community is one of immense diversity both regional and cultural. To add to this, the Napoleonic reign has played a detrimental role in the socio-economic and political conditions of the nation. Keeping these two factors in mind now is the time that the leaders must listen to the voice of the masses, and the wants that it represents. With the large cultural and regional diversity that Germany stands for, the actions taken unilaterally by any leader would not be representative of the best interests of the masses and instead would further reinstate the oppressive rule of the privileged minority over the majority who has been subject to suppression for time immemorial. To truly ensure that the reforms that the new German confederation brings about ensure the equality of each and every one of its citizens, it becomes necessary for the leaders of the German State to grant the freedom of speech and expression to each of its citizens, which the autocratic state believes in the denial of.

The delegates of the member nations need to step away from the idea that autocracy would lead to peace and order in the confederation of Germany.

The imposition of the conservatist order and the establishment of an autocratic State on the rationale that it would lead to 'peace', comes at the cost of the rights of a significant section of the population. It is only when democracy and free speech and expression prevail, can the oppressed be brought out of the constant state of suppression that they have been bound to for centuries.

The leaders of the congress must realise that the ideology that a conservative order would best suit the German landscape is fundamentally flawed. Not only does it further impose the rule of the privileged over the suppressed, but it completely neglects the rights of those who have been at a disadvantage for decades. This would lead to a heightened sense of alienation and neglect among the suppressed classes, whose needs have been curtailed from the eyes of the power holders since decades.

The leaders of the congress must realise that the ideology that a conservative order would best suit the German landscape is fundamentally flawed. Not only does it further impose the rule of the privileged over the suppressed, but it completely neglects the rights of those who have been at a disadvantage for decades. This would lead to a heightened sense of alienation and neglect among the suppressed classes, whose needs have been curtailed from the eyes of the power holders since decades.



Captured by Sahel Nizam

A Wake-up Call For The Oppressed

Aryan Chowdhury of the Dawn News Agency elucidates upon the agenda of the Inter-State Council

“Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed”-Martin Luther King Jr.

The Inter-State Council has convened after a period of four years, under the varnished walls of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. This time it sits to discuss the composition and powers of the Union Territories with special emphasis on the National Capital Territory (NCT) (Amendment) Act 2021. As suggested by the agenda, the Inter-State Council (ISC) will primarily be talking about the NCT (Amendment) Act, 2021. However, it should be quite apt that the journalist covering the committee may also put forth some views on the agenda and the committee, because, to be honest, this committee is no short of a coliseum.

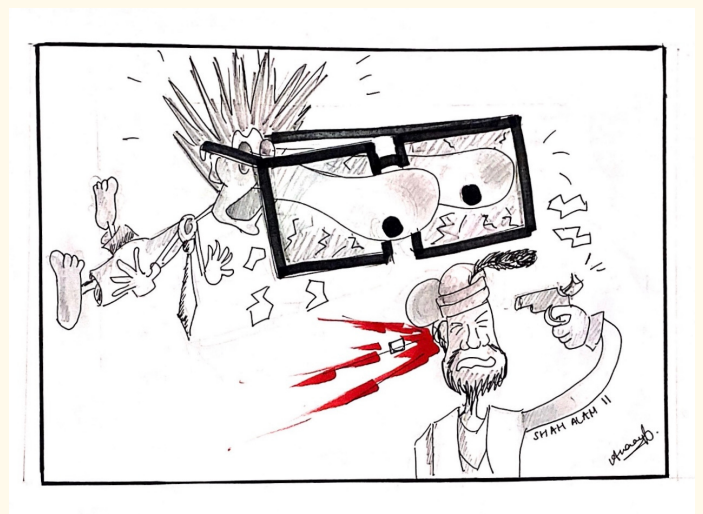
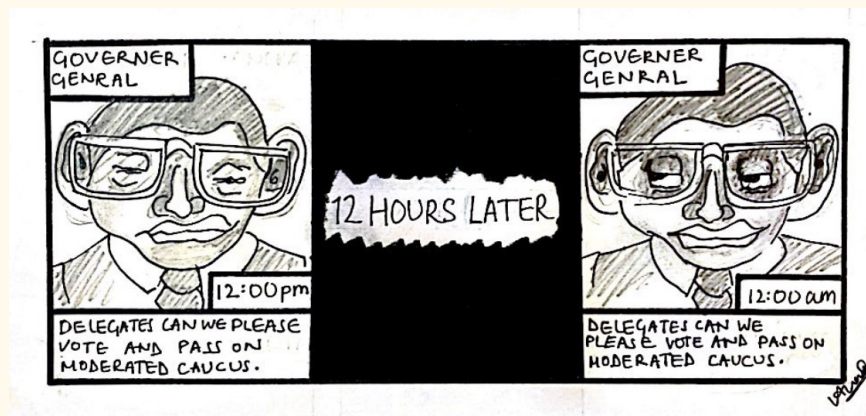
First of all, let's take a deep dive into the agenda. Now, as it is the ISC, there will surely be blocs, mainly the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led bloc and the Indian National Congress (INC)-led alliance. As it is with any political meeting, there are bound to be allegations. However, sometimes, allegations tend to be correct. Here, the BJP is in the wrong. Since the day it was elected, the BJP-led government has hurriedly passed many Acts. Some like the New Education Policy are extremely beneficial for India, but most are no short of controversies. First, it was the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and now this. This Act is an atrocity that is being committed against the people of Delhi. The BJP keeps defending it, but for how long? Giving powers to the nominated Lieutenant Governor (LG) is just plain idiocy. It is a crime against the population. This Act is simply unconstitutional, and yet the so-called 'bearers of Constitution' continue to support this Act. The Amendment clearly states that the LG is to be referred to as the 'government' and any work carried out in Delhi must have his thumb of approval. The Chief Minister (CM) has been, by this Act, reduced to a nominal post. This is unwarranted. The opposition must pick this issue, and it should be deliberated upon.

The next major Union Territory which needs to be discussed immediately is Lakshadweep. The island of Lakshadweep has been at the receiving end of some relatively controversial Acts. The most controversial of them is the Draft Lakshadweep Development Authority (DLDA) Regulation, 2021. According to this new Act, the Government has the power to *relocate the citizens of the island citing any developmental activities*. This Act stands in clear violation of the Land Acquisition Act (LAA), 2013. This Act aimed to provide fair remuneration to landowners whose land was taken for development.

However, in Section 22 of the DLDA Regulation, it is stated that the land can be taken by the government under any circumstances, whatsoever. This is in essence, in clear violation of the LAA, 2013, which is dastardly unfair.

Lastly, the journalist feels that there is a need to shed light on Jammu and Kashmir. The revocation of Articles 370 and 35A, is not only hazardous but also unconstitutional. Through this act, the government has snatched away from the people, their power and given it to the LG. This is callous for the elected Chief Minister, who has no powers in prominent state affairs.

The journalist strongly feels that the ISC should scrap the NCT (Amendment) Act, 2021, while reforms must be made into the DLDA Regulation, 2021. The exhaustive powers given to the LG must be removed, and it should be reinstated back to the CM. The representative believes that the people should take immediate action because it doesn't take long to slide into tyranny.



Made by Anaanya

Teamwork gets the Jab Done Faster

Maanya Chaturvedi of the New Zealand Herald explores the reasons behind, and solutions to, vaccine inequity

“The pandemic is a long way from over, and it will not be over anywhere until it’s over everywhere”- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

It would be an understatement to say that vaccine inequity has had a devastating effect locally as well as globally. The pandemic has taken millions of lives, and everytime someone whose life could have been saved by vaccination dies, this cruel reality raises that number ever so slightly higher. . However, this disparity has a disproportionate impact on developing nations, as their economies crumble and governments become increasingly helpless. Socio-economic disparities, which are often more pronounced in developing countries, also worsen the situation, as the bottom sections of society are neglected, bereft of any resources or safety net. As vaccine shortages continue to persist, the lives of the citizens of these countries remain at danger. In such circumstances, a share of the responsibility to help developing countries falls on developed ones.

Developed countries, while certainly not being solely to blame, have majorly contributed to the vaccine inequity crisis, even if unintentionally, and they must now try to reverse the damage caused.

The United States of America in particular, has displayed an irresponsible and inconsiderate attitude at various points during the pandemic, beginning with the unnecessary mass buying of hydroxychloroquine, which deprived developing countries of the drug they need to treat ailments such as malaria. More recently, the USA government continues to hoard approximately 150 million more vaccine doses than their requirement. This, along with a repeated refusal to share their medical technology, is putting innumerable lives at risk.

However, the USA is not alone in this regard, as countries such as the UK and Canada have done likewise , albeit to a lesser extent.

Such hoarding has also led to a shortage of credible, efficient vaccines, such as Pfizer, AstraZeneca etc, and has led to developing countries immunizing their citizens with potentially ineffective vaccines such as India’s CoviShield. This leads to a lack of immunisation, as poorer nations often do not have the resources to repeatedly acquire large doses of the vaccine.

“Vaccine diplomacy has become a way of gaining political leverage instead of actually helping other nations, as countries such as Russia continue to aggressively pursue trade deals which are almost coercive in nature, as they make specific political demands. This has a detrimental long term effect on the economies of poorer nations, whose desperation to acquire vaccines is clearly being taken advantage of.

It is important to note, however, that such inaction and inconsiderate acts by developed nations can backfire on them. The relationship between developed and developing nations is a symbiotic one. While developing nations receive aid, they also function as manufacturing hubs for developed countries and also provide huge amounts of human capital, in the form of cheap, skilled labour. The breakdown of their economies will have a ripple effect, which can adversely impact their richer counterparts, as they have proved themselves to be valuable trade partners and are now depended upon by wealthier nations for a variety of important resources. Leaving developing countries to fend for themselves and thus making essential commodities unavailable to them will undoubtedly have a detrimental impact upon the global economy.

That does not mean that the aid given and efforts made by developed nations should be understated or ignored, however, they will have to try much harder than they are currently if any real change is to take place.

Contributing to the COVAX program, created by WHO to achieve vaccine equity, has to be given more importance, and once it is verified that they are no longer required, surplus doses must be donated.

Developed countries also need to provide guidance to developing countries on the creation of proper immunization plans, which can be realistically and effectively implemented. This collaboration is essential in order to prevent the people of a country from suffering due to an uninformed, incompetent or helpless government.

In times like these, it is more important than ever to put aside petty political tussles and isolationism, and band together to solve the inequality crisis. After all, in a world as globalized and interconnected as ours; we rise together, we fall together.

Creation Was The First Step

Kashika Mahajan of Al Jazeera enunciates the agenda of the World Trade Organization

On December 31st, 2019 the cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan city was brought to WHO's notice and on March 11th, 2020 the WHO declared the Covid-19 outbreak a global pandemic. A year into the pandemic, the distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine has begun, but it does not mark the end of this crucifying era for humanity. Despite the existence of multiple vaccines existing in the market, we fail to distribute to effectively inoculate the world's population. As WTO stands for equal and effective distribution of such times to prevent any shortage or disruption of the global trade relations. Thus, the present proceedings of the WTO deliberate upon the waiver of IP rights fair and equivalent allocation as well as the distribution of the Covid-19 vaccines and necessary medical equipment.

Many countries are supportive of the Intellectual Right waiver on the vaccine so that other countries can manufacture and distribute them at a pace matched with that of developed nations. Although at this stage of the pandemic, when only 0.3 per cent of all Covid-19 vaccines are received by low-income nations, only wavering of IP rights will not be our saving grace. While it is a step forward to an increased inoculation process globally, the WTO also recognizes that the world is also facing the worst economic recession in the past decade. Thus, the WTO has also taken into consideration the perspective of the pharmaceutical companies that have heavily criticized President Joe Biden of the United States of America. It must also be noted that this waiver is not that simple to conduct as it will also require a massive technology transfer drive. While the waiver will allow other companies to manufacture similar vaccines which can lead to a better combat strategy, the requirement for that manufacture is also equally important. The current manufacturers have the equipment to produce mRNA and adenovirus vaccines for the global standards, but if all manufacturers have access to the process, it can be suspected that there will be a decrease in the quality of the vaccines produced which can result in the exacerbation of the situation.

A few countries like Iran have started vaccination drives with locally developed vaccines though the issue that since these vaccines are not yet globally recognized by the WHO, the people administered will not be granted the permission to travel in countries that require a certificate of vaccination, arises. Many manufactures are qualified enough through precedence and technology to produce vaccines, such as the Serum Institute of India which produces AstraZeneca for European demands. Although some of the major vaccine programs such as Pfizer and Moderna oppose the C-TAP program, which allows the transfer of technology and sharing of medical data. The support to the C-TAP is essential for the major qualified manufacturers to provide support to the nations in need, without violating IP rights.

The delegates present in the WTO must also take into consideration that they should aim to come up with a solution for also making export and import of the vaccines and medical equipment much feasible. While the USA stands to export vaccines to other countries, President Biden also acknowledges that the export will only reach its full capacity once there is enough supply to meet the US demand.

Thus, while waiving IP rights may prove beneficial for the short term, it is not the solution that the world economy needs.

Conservatism - Need of The Hour

Aradhaya Adlakha of L'Humanite voices the need for the establishment of a conservative order

The rising voices of the nationalists, liberal thinkers and the fall of the reign of Napoleon Bonaparte has grippled the European landscape with chaos. The rise in revolutionary and rebel activity needs to be curbed and controlled at the earliest, to prevent the further aggravation of the masses. The new body of liberal and nationalist thinkers stand against the conservationist ideology, the very backbone of the European society, which has been holding it tight for decades.

The rise of the Nationalist sentiment in French, which eventually led to the oppressive rule of Napoleon Bonaparte, acts as a precedent to what will entail in the absence of a rigid structure of power sharing. Allowing the masses, which represent divergent viewpoints, to play an active role in the formation of the government and policy-making will act as a hindrance to the balance of power that has been in existence. A community which was living in harmony, was fraught by disharmony when the masses took upon themselves the right to form the government and public policy instead of those in whose hands the power lies. This led to the breakdown of a pre-existing rigid machinery, which was replaced by a much weaker one; paving the way for the rise of a despotic ruler like that of Napoleon, which led to large scale exploitation of the European socio-economic and political landscape.

The primary issue that the Congress has in its hands is the setting up of a German confederation which would have an organised system of governance in place, which would have the ability to tackle the social, economic and political issues that the nation of Germany has been facing. Many have argued in favour of stepping away from the conservative system of power sharing and moving towards a much more flexible system . This new system of governance would allow for the common people to exercise a position of power, whether it be indirectly through voting rights or directly through being elected to the position of authority. For this system to be established, the longstanding power of the autocrats would need to be taken away, and be given to the masses. This action would be unwise, the primary reason being that doing this would infringe upon the divine right conferred upon the dynasties which have been ruling for ages. Contrary to the notion that a more democratic form of governance would better suit the changing needs of the masses; the autocratic dynastic rulers would best suit the needs of the new German State. Being well versed with the issues that are faced by its citizenry, the rulers would be able to uphold the responsibility that has been in their hands for decades and would be able to reform the European social-political and economic structure.

The establishment of a rigid conservative order would not only be able to unite the diverging needs of the masses but would also prevent the rise of a despotic rule like the reign of Napoleon Bonaparte in the near future. The future of the German nation lies in the hands of the Congress; the final act can make or break the future of the German nations, which can only be secured with a strong ruler who would be able to serve the needs of the German Confederation.

Far From Equanimity

Aryan Chowdhury of the Dawn News Agency constructively deconstructs the agenda of the Inter-State Council.

The Inter-State Council is convening after an interval of four long years. During this period, a lot has changed. The most memorable was the re-election of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)- led government. In its third year, the government brought an Amendment to the National Capital Territory Act, 1991. This is the reason that the Council has gathered today. Along with this, the Council will also be discussing the circumstances prevailing in other Union Territories, too.

This Amendment was met with a lot of flak. Critics consider this Amendment unlawful and unconstitutional. They say that referring to the Lieutenant Governor as the 'government' is equivalent to snatching from the people their power. However, this is wholly wrong. To understand this Amendment, we need to read between the lines. The Amendment provides for a clearer understanding of the distribution of power between the Chief Minister and the Lieutenant Governor. The Amendment Bill was presented with consideration to the interpretation of the National Capital Territory Act, 1991 by the Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. This Bill was passed by the government so that they could address the ambiguities in the interpretation of the legislative provisions of the Act. Moreover, the Amendment does not snatch away from the people their powers. It is only the Chief Minister of Delhi who will be making all the important decisions on state affairs. The word 'government' for the Lieutenant Governor (LG) is merely nominal. The only additional power that the LG gets by the Amendment is that the LG can reserve some Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly for assent by the President. This has already been happening in Delhi for years now. Earlier, the Chief Minister used to decide which Bills would go for assent. Now, the LG will decide on this matter.

Another loophole in this Amendment pointed out by the critics is that the LG will act as a puppet of the government. This argument is simply fallacious. The LG/Administrator of any Union Territory is selected from a cadre of Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officers, who are well-versed in administration and law. They are neutral, and usually do not have any affiliations with any political party or movement. They act upon their instincts and not on those of the ruling government. One is chosen as an LG or administrator based on their work and competency and not their loyalty towards any political party.

The next vital Union Territory that the committee must discuss is the island of Lakshadweep. There has been quite an uproar against the Draft Lakshadweep Developmental Authority Regulation, 2021. This Regulation provides for the government to relocate the citizens of the island from their land so that they could, along with the Lakshadweep Development Authority, carry out developmental activities in the island. Critics say that this is unconstitutional and goes against basic fundamental rights while simultaneously harming the natural ecosystem of the island. This argument is part true, part false. While developmental activities may adversely affect the fragile ecosystem of the island, it is illogical to say that the regulation is inimical to basic fundamental rights. It is stated in the regulation that a person will be notified two months in advance about any developmental activities in his/her area. Simultaneously, the government has even remarked that the relocated citizens will be provided with accommodation, so as not to render them homeless. Plus, the development would bring about change to the island, creating more job opportunities and also increasing the median income of the island. Hence, the islanders would no longer be needed to venture outside.

Therefore, the journalist must conclude that pointing fingers at this government is highly erroneous, and this must immediately be stopped, as it brings only confusion and chaos into the country.

Eternal Sunshine

The British Empire is quickly becoming one of the biggest empires the world has ever seen. "But what good has it done for its colonies?", some ask. Muktaa Patil of the Madras Courier sets the record straight

As the saying goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day". No great empire ever is, and The British empire is no exception. Although the rate of expansion of the empire is astounding, it is a culmination of decades, even centuries of work. With Her Majesty's permission the English East India Company came to India as traders. Spices, silk, cotton, indigo dye, tea; all of them were traded. Now the empire is growing in the Indian subcontinent, the Golden Bird.

The world argues that the British empire will only bring about ruin, destruction, poverty and death. Why, then, is it considered one of the foremost leaders of this age? Why have so many countries adopted Britain's system of government?

The British East India Company not only trades with India but also provides opportunities for its people to become richer, expand their own trade and create a job market. More farmers get work, because of the demand for indigo, cotton and tea; crops that the native farmers never knew were highly profitable. The growing of tea and indigo in India has led to a sudden spurt in production matched by the demand. More farmers are able to work, more employment is generated. In a country that is mostly rooted in agriculture, with the whole world desiring their products; the economic and social implications are immense. Establishing a foothold in India has always been a dream of many traders, but few have accomplished it. To sail around the world is no mean feat, for any nation. Under the British, India's influence has become global. In every country, Indian cotton, silk and spices are not just commodities, they are luxuries. They are a symbol of wealth, of status.

The British have also united the once warring factions of India. With their support the Indian kingdoms have been provided with a strong navy, superior weapons like the cannon, rifles, and guns. Port side towns have flourished, becoming the hubs

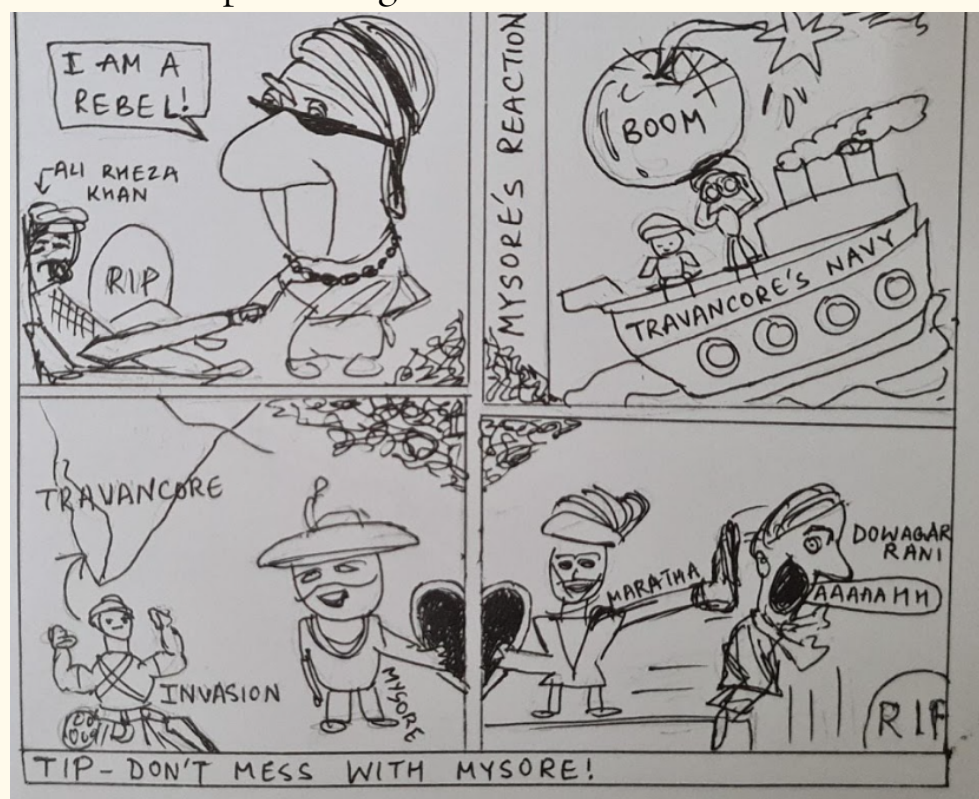
of business. The cloth woven in Indian mills has become a craze, a global phenomenon.

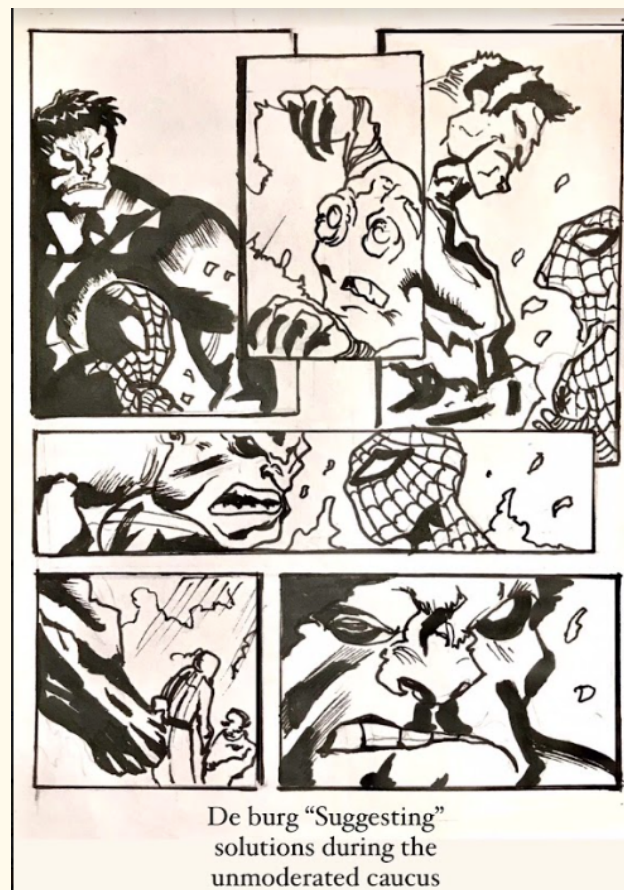
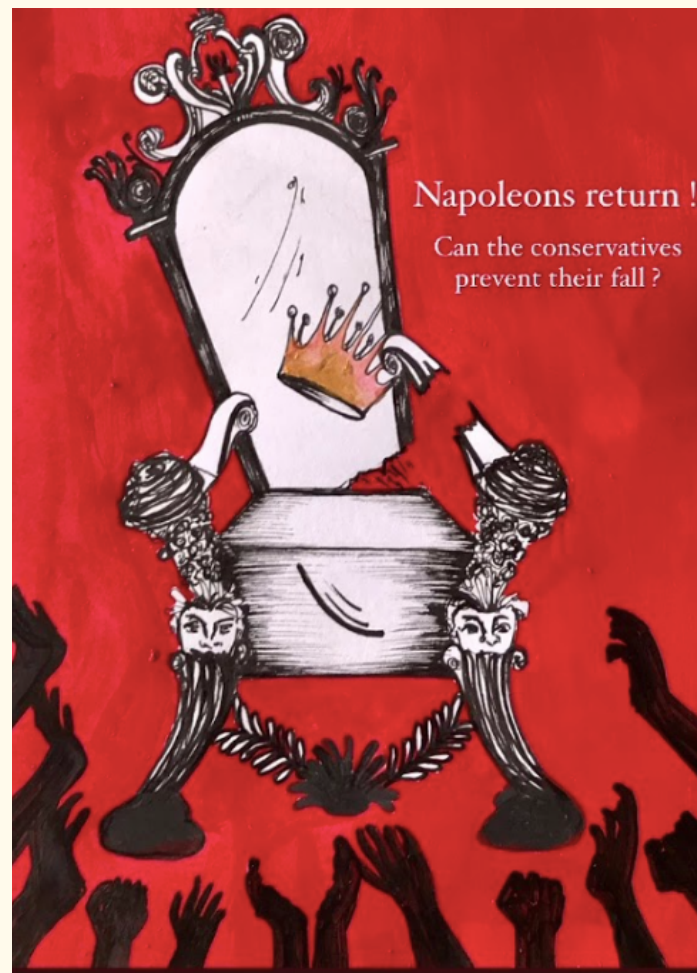
The kingdoms of India, while still autonomous, are united by the British. Their armies are stronger than before, and now they have naval fleets at their disposal, all for the price of convenient trade that benefits not just the Company but also the kingdoms. The decline of the Mughals has brought about mass confusion and panic in the country.

The Marathas, Sikhs, Nizams and other kings are scrambling for power, for control. Thousands of people were left stranded, alone, not knowing where to go or what to do. Under such dire circumstances, the British empire united these kingdoms. Warring factions that could never get along are now at peace. People live their lives knowing that they are safe, they are protected. All these developments have taken place only because of the British Empire.

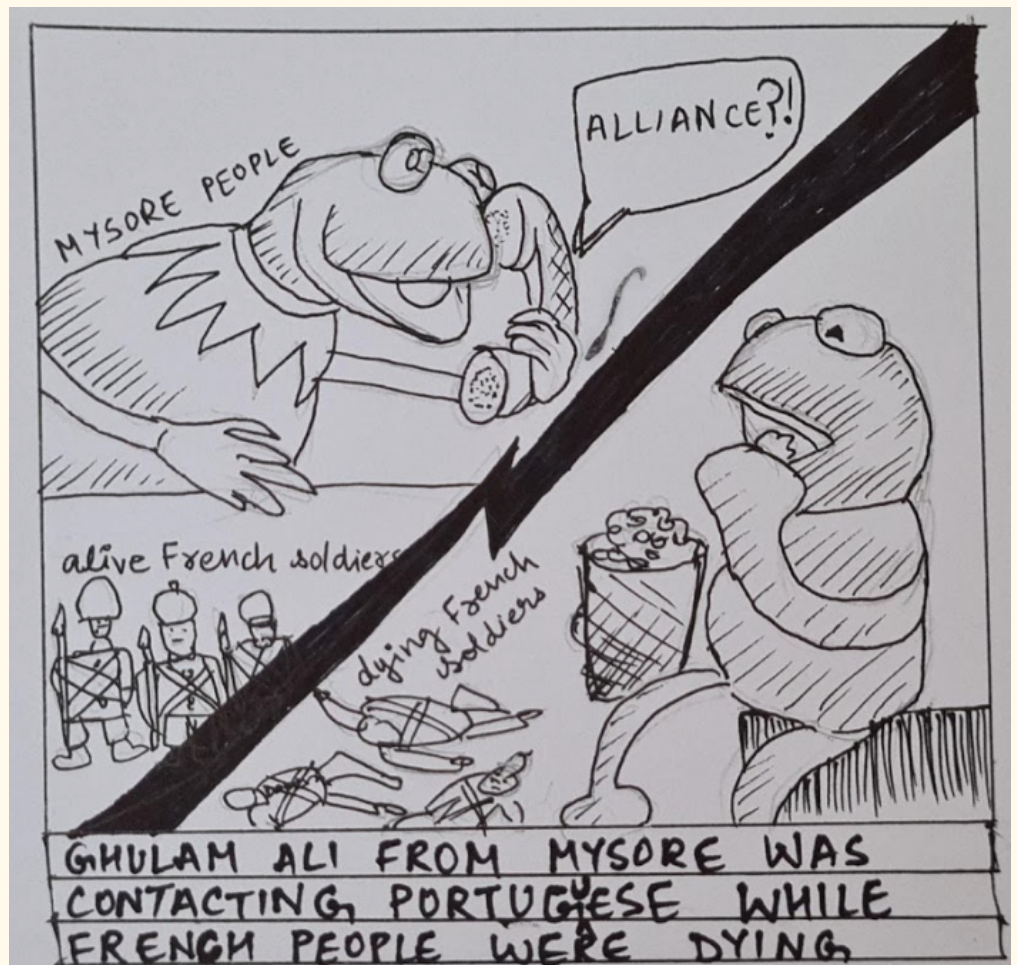
It has given a solid ground for people to walk on, a belief with which they can go out and live. Mistakes may have been made. There will be people who say that the Empire interferes too much in matters that do not concern it. In the end all that matters is that the empire only wishes to safeguard those who cannot do it for themselves. It only wishes to make the world better for our children, our grandchildren. For our future, we must believe in the Empire. After all, without belief and hard work, the world would stop running.

Made by Ashlyn

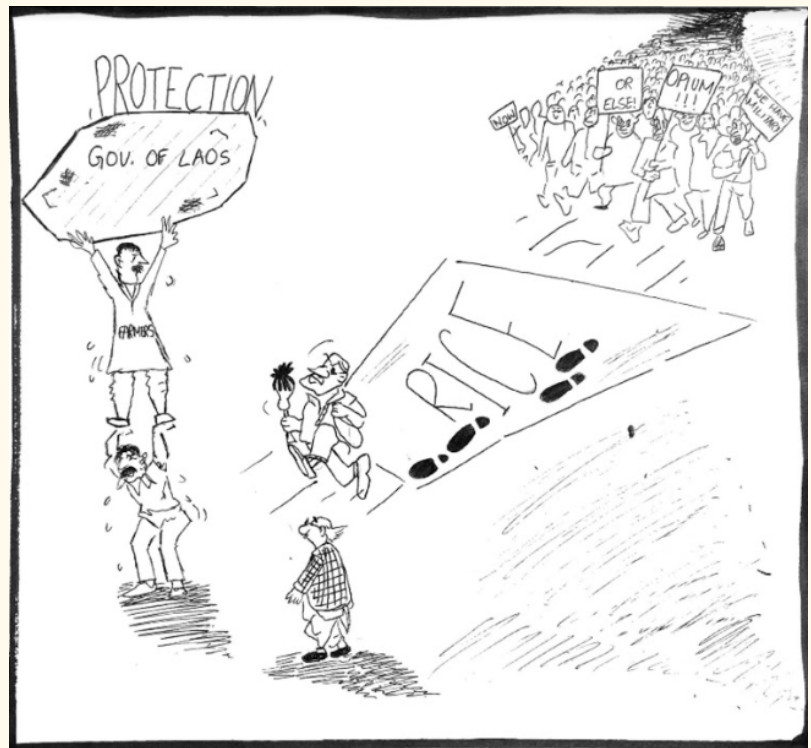
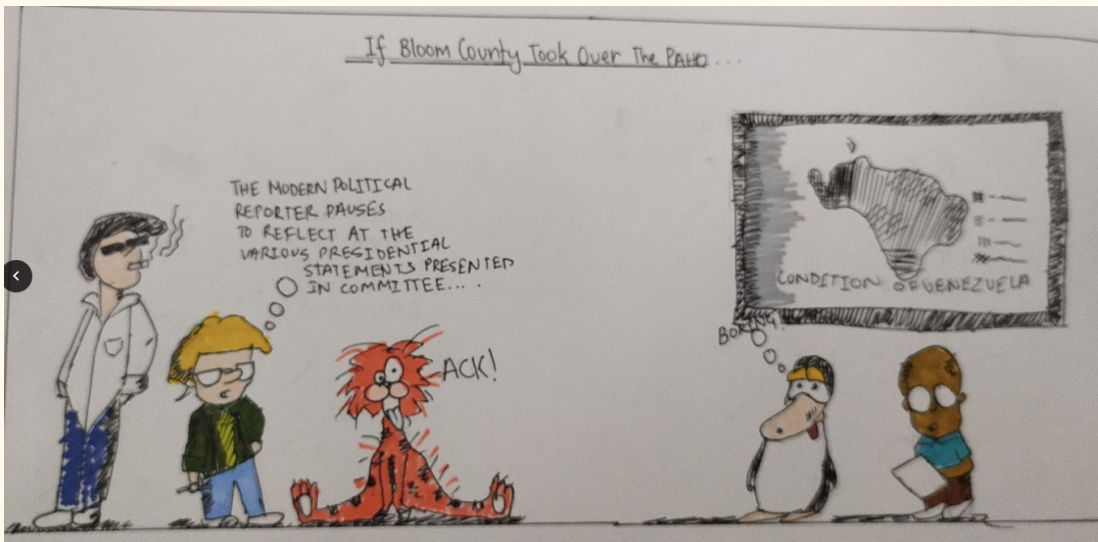




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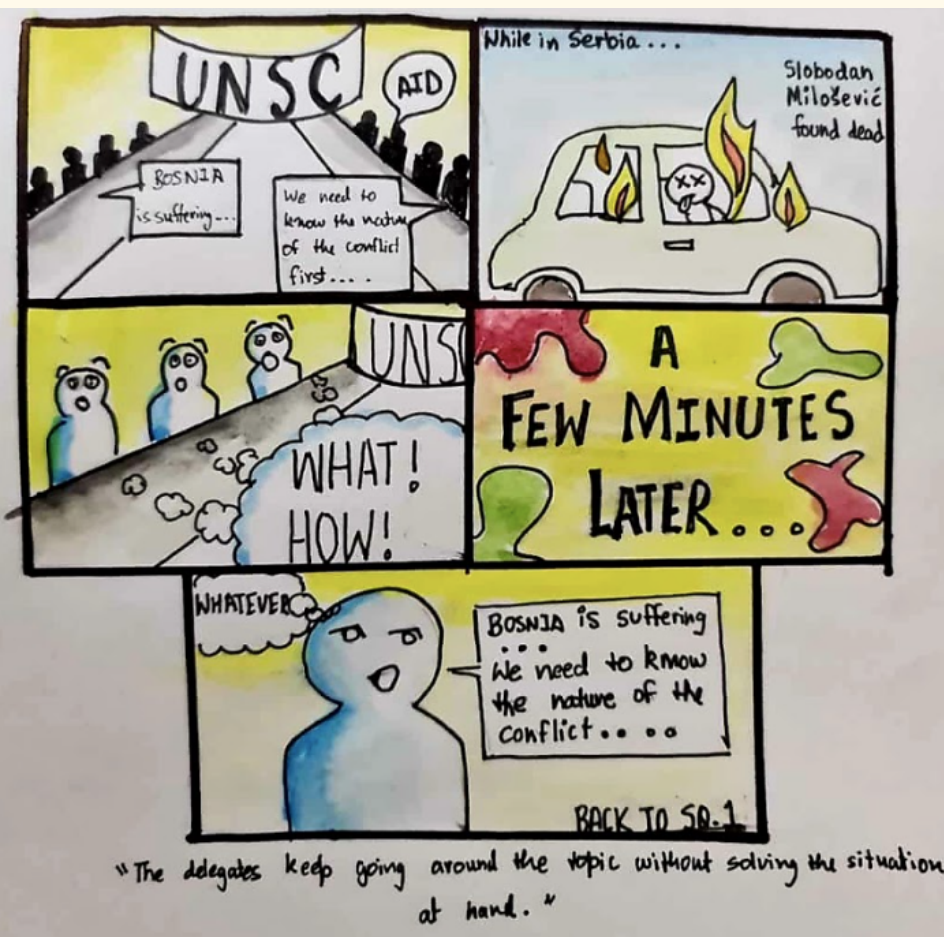
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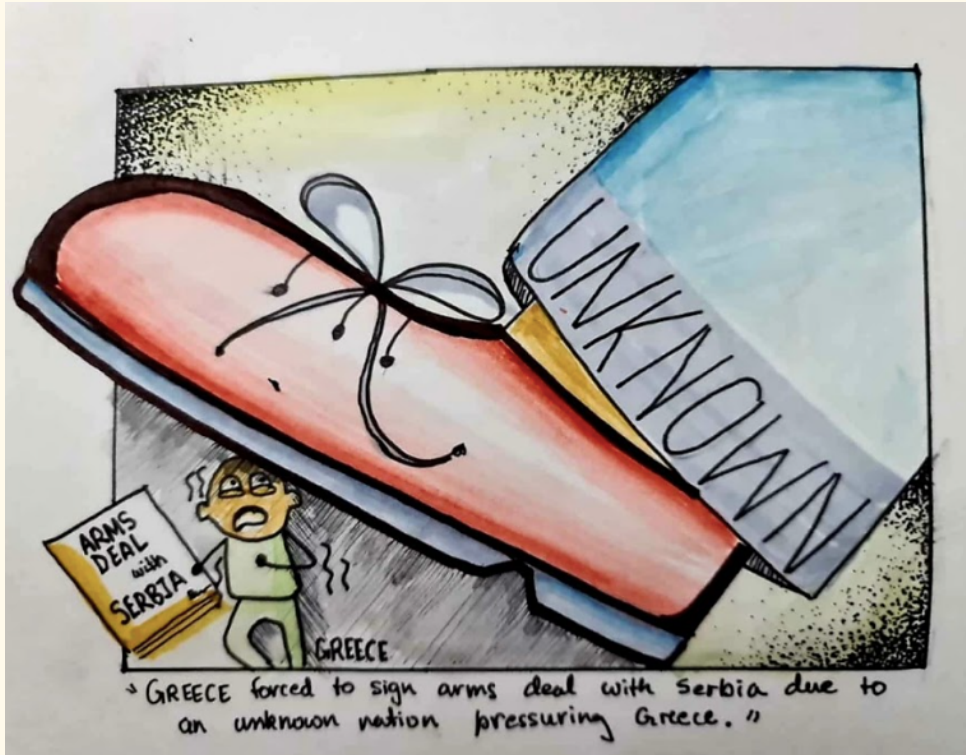
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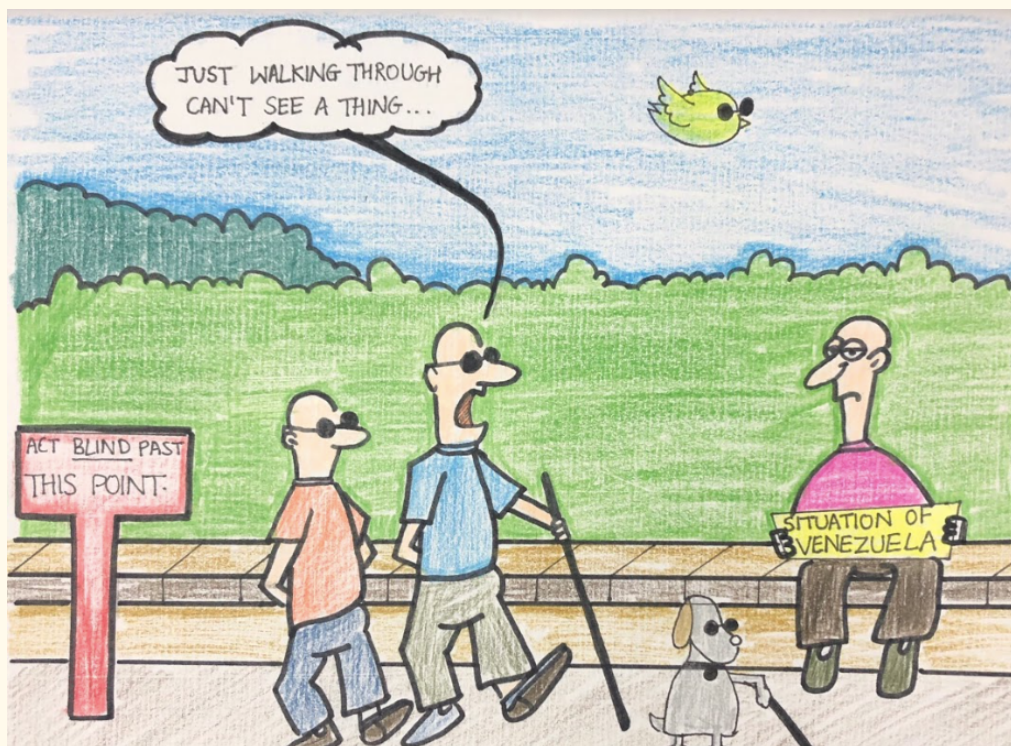
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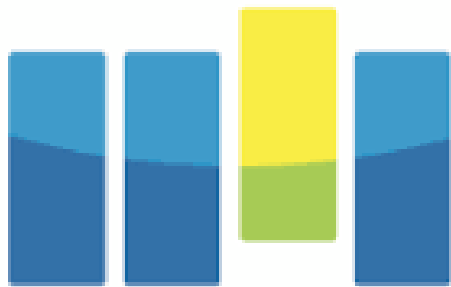
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