

U.S.-India Strategic Partnership during Bush Administration: Implications for Pakistan's Security

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Abstract: *This paper provides that to maintain its influence and hegemony in South Asia, United States has enhanced relations with India. Indo- U.S. Strategic partnership is the one of the significant measure taken by the Bush administration. It investigates the Indo-U.S. strategic partnership and analyzes that nuclear deal in a roundabout way has pushed India to build a significant quantitative nuclear force. The part of deal also provides India to buy conventional weapons from Washington in billion of dollars. Indo-U.S. strategic partnership has severe implications for Pakistan While signing a deal with India U.S. has overlooked Pakistan's apprehensions that the delivery of most -up to- date missile defense to India will upset strategic equilibrium between India and Pakistan. In effect the Indo-U.S. Strategic Pact can lead to disruptive effects in U.S.-Pakistan Strategic cooperation in war on terror.*

SERVQUAL - A Customised Measure of Service Quality of Leading Pakistani Commercial Banks

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Abstract: *The research analyze the competitive banking environment prevailing in Pakistan and competitive advantage faced by managers for the service quality in the sector. The study investigates the competitive advantage and corporate profitability can delivers success and survival. Researchers argued that service quality will definitely enhance reputation, improve customer-retention, attracts new customers and increase financial performance and profitability. Financial sectors in Pakistan especially the banks, like HBL, UBL, ABL & MCB are also directing their efforts towards devising strategies to increase their customer satisfaction through improved service quality. This improved service quality results in a number of positive outcomes ranging from improved customer retention rates to enhanced profitability. Pragmatically service quality is considered a major source of measuring organizational performance.*

Press Council: A Histo-Philosophical and Pragmatic Paradigm

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Abstract: *The concept of press council is based on the Social Responsibility Theory (SRT) of the Press which emerged after the publication of Hutchins Commission Report. SRT was outcome of joint efforts of academia and media practitioners to make the press responsible to the society to which it claims to serve. The press councils were set up in different countries in different times, though these have now become dormant but have taught the media as how to be free and responsible. In Pakistan many efforts were made to regulate the press but such efforts could not remain successful beyond a government's tenure. Press council of Pakistan was established in 2002. In this article the concept of press council has been studied in historical and philosophical perspective. To know the perception of the media professionals, a survey was conducted, the results of which shows that majority of the media professional favoured press council and hoped to be helpful in promotion of professional and ethical standards of the press. The conclusion suggests that press council should have dominant representation of the civil society and should only be responsible to redress complaints and publish its annual report. The press council of Pakistan should be given wide publicity so that people are benefited. A separate study to evaluate the performance of press council is also being suggested.*

Discovery, Assertion and Self-realization in Recent Nigerian Migrant Feminist Fiction: The Example of Sefi Atta's Everything Good will Come

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Abstract: *This paper offers a reading of Sefi Atta's Everything Good will Come (2005) as a quintessential African migrant feminist novel. This novel is subjected to textual analysis, using Post-colonial and Feminist theories as the framework, with a view to highlighting the enduring need for female discovery, assertion and self-realisation for survival in neocolonial Nigeria. A close reading of the novel reveals that, irrespective of the migrant writer's physical and probable psychological dislocation from 'home', the truism and reality of the post-colony as a wasteland overtaken by ineffable malady is captured in her novel. In considering the painful realities of such Nigerian existence, this paper discovers that Atta betrays specific gender sentiments as she projects the female gender as the most unfortunate victim in post-colonial crises and the bedlam which have bedevilled the national life.*

Emerging a New Financial Paradigm

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Abstract: *Since the dawn of 21st century, Islamic Banking is emerging as a new financial paradigm and all the world financial institutions including IMF, World Bank, ADB, etc, are analyzing its theoretical and practical framework. In Islamic countries it has become a financial reality because of its tremendous success. Pakistan is among those Muslim countries where Islamic banking has recorded tremendous growth in the second half of 2000s. Similarly, Islamic banking and financial industry has crossed US\$1trillion dollar and growing about 20 per cent annually. Keeping in view the vertical growth of Islamic banking all over the world the author has carried out a comparative study of Islamic and conventional banking with special reference to Pakistan. For this purpose, six newly formed Islamic banks in Pakistan and six conventional banks of the same size were selected. Data relating to their performance and profitability were collected from primary and secondary sources for the period; 2006-2008. The ratio analysis technique was applied to measure the performance of key indicators of both Islamic and conventional banks. The results of the study are very encouraging because the performance and profitability of Islamic banks are far better than those of selected conventional banks in terms of assets, deposits, financing, investments, efficiency, and quality of services and recovery of loans. It predicts the bright future of Islamic banking in Pakistan.*

A Note on Economic Ideas of Caliph Ali with Special Reference to his Letter to Malik Al-Ashtar

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Abstract: *It was a common practice on the part of rightly guided caliphs of Islam to write letters to the different functionaries of the government, which contained timely and valuable instructions covering a wide spectrum. Such letters were treated as public documents and were preserved for posterity. In this note, an attempt is made to study economic ideas of Ali (600-661 C.E.) with special reference to his letter to Malik al-Ashtar (d.658 C.E.). After going through the contents of Ali's letter to al-Ashtar, we discover certain principles on which Ali wanted to govern his people with a difference. Much more can be learnt from Nahjul Balagha but the present attempt is limited to the study of only one letter. Among all the seventy-eight letters of Ali, this particular letter occupies a unique significance for the reasons of its length and clarity of purpose, notwithstanding the beauty of language and style. Caliph Ali's ideas relating to matters of governance and the administration of justice do not just reflect his personal opinions but represent core Islamic principles as enshrined in the Quran and the precepts of the Prophet.*

The Administration of Benazir Bhutto

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Abstract: The purpose of paper was to study and critically analyze the era of Benazir Bhutto, when it was presented in an International Conference on Women in Nation Building at B.Z U Multan in 2005. In this paper researchers have applied descriptive research methodology to reach at conclusion. All research findings proved through meta-analysis. Research findings indicate that although Benazir Bhutto was the most dynamic, intelligent, forward looking and popular leader but due to the circumstances she could not perform as good as people were expecting. The paper concludes that only personality traits of a leader are not enough to fulfill the expectations of people, contemporary scenario and circumstances also contribute to a leader's performance.