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VEPACHEDU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

మన సంస్కృతి

Mana Sanskriti (Our Culture)

Chief Editor: Dr. Sreenivasarao Vepachedu, Esq.

Hope and the Grinding Reality of Realpolitik

It was a missed opportunity and a great disservice to Islam, when Mohammed Ali Jinnah and Jawaharlal Nehru, together with the British, oversaw the division of the Indian continent in the name of Islam in 1947. A democracy with more than 600 million Muslims¹ in the undivided India would have elected a great number of Muslim leaders not only for the post of the Prime Minister, but also for many other powerful positions, avoiding the bloodshed of 1947, including the largest population displacement of about 12.5 million, followed by the continued bloodshed in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India.

But, of course, the imperialist British and the Muslim League had their plan and their way, which continues to plague the region to this day and for ever, in the grand scheme of imperialism. Added to the tragedy of religious division of the Indian continent into a pure state of Islam of Pakistan and a secular state of India, the founding father Nehru as the first Prime Minister with his naiveté, biases and prejudices, was caught napping at the wheel when Pakistan invaded Kashmir² in 1948 and China invaded Tibet in 1959 and Assam in 1962³.

¹ Pakistan 177 million; Bangladesh 155 million, and India is the largest Muslim country in the world with more than 300 million Muslims, although different sources have different numbers ranging from 5 percent (80 m) to 30 percent (400 m) of the Indian population. (1.3 billion; <http://www.indiaonlinepages.com/population/india-current-population.html>, accessed on May 31, 2014); The total Muslim population in the Indian continent is about: 632 million. In the past 2000 years, Christianity and Islam had spread to every nook and corner of this world and replaced the local religions: <http://www.vepachedu.com/prediction.html>, accessed on May 31, 2014.

² Not only Nehru was caught napping on Kashmir, but he also created a problem with Article 370 in the Constitution, which needs to be repealed, if any progress has to take place in Kashmir and stop a drain on the rest of India. Article 370 discriminates against other states like Telangana (see below), by giving a special status to Kashmir, which should not be acceptable in a democratic union. Either article 370 should be repealed or it should be extended to every other state and create Kashmir-like problems all over the union. <http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/tag/article-370/> (<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/>, accessed on May 31, 2014.)

Telangana: visit, <http://www.vepachedu.org/TELANGANA.html#TELANGANA>; <http://www.vedah.net/manasanskriti/Andhra-Telangana.html>; <http://www.vedah.net/manasanskriti/SmallerStates.html>; <http://www.vepachedu.org/golconda.html>; accessed on May 31, 2014.

³ Pakistan's President Ayub Khan had proposed a Joint Defence pact in 1959, which was rejected by Nehru: <http://www.hindu.com/lr/2010/06/06/stories/2010060650040200.htm>, accessed on May 31, 2014.

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Nehru was pro-minorities in his policy towards “minorities and the so-called majority in India,” setting a direction in which India would trail and fall into an abyss of corruption, and the inevitable discrimination of the State against/for individuals and groups, with its central and all pervading “appeasement policy” in shaping the economy and the government going out of the way to win over minorities. In addition, Nehru’s prejudice against capitalism rubbed the US the wrong way. The Nehru-Khan-Gandhi dynasty under Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi (the Dynasty) shaped not only the era of Indo-US relations, but also the policies that put the country on a path of license-raj with quotas and reservations for minorities and special privileges for non-Indian religions, and corruption; that became an era of missed opportunities for the splintered so-called majority as well as the monolithic so-called minority vote bank.

However, despite the Dynasty’s licentious-raj⁴ and the so many missed opportunities, India made tremendous progress and continues to be democratic (the Dynasty was in power through legitimate democratic elections with plain politics, known as “lobbying” in the West and “corruption” in India). A string of national laboratories and research institutions to nurture the 'scientific temper' and a number of multi-purpose river valley projects to improve water and electricity needs were established during this period. India has been able to successfully develop democratic institutions since its independence.

After Rajiv Gandhi’s assassination in May 1991⁵, Narasimha Rao Pamulaparthi (PVN Rao)⁶ became India’s ninth prime minister after the general elections in June. Rao almost immediately

⁴Lacking legal or moral restraints, marked by disregard for strict rules of correctness, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/licentious>, accessed on May 31, 2014.

⁵ On the night of May 21, 1991, Rao was packing up his library in his New Delhi home in preparation for retirement. After spending two decades in the capital and working behind the scenes to develop policies for Rajiv Gandhi, Rao was eager to revive the scholarly life that had been curtailed by his entry into politics. <http://www.thenational.ae/lifestyle/pv-narasimha-rao-reinvented-india-so-why-is-he-the-forgotten-man#ixzz33UkMw73v>, accessed on May 31, 2014.

⁶ P V Narasimha Rao – The forgotten hero and architect of modern India, <http://guruprasad.net/posts/p-v-narasimha-rao-the-forgotten-hero-and-architect-of-modern-india/>, accessed on May 31, 2014.

P.V. Narasimha Rao, in full Venkata Narasimha Rao Pamulaparthi (born June 28, 1921, [Karimnagar, Andhra Pradesh](#), India—died Dec. 23, 2004, New Delhi), leader of the [Congress \(I\) Party](#) and prime minister of [India](#) from 1991 to 1996. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/491319/PV-Narasimha-Rao>, accessed on May 31, 2014.

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began efforts to restructure India's economy by converting the inefficient quasi-socialist structure left by Jawaharlal Nehru and the Gandhis into a free-market system. His program involved cutting government regulations and red tape, abandoning subsidies and fixed prices, and privatizing state-run industries, resulting in a life expectancy increase to 65 years in 2012 from 32 years at the time of independence in 1947 and the Indian pharmaceutical industry at \$6.5 billion with a growth of 8-10% annually⁷. He changed the relationship between India and Israel⁸. Rao managed to reverse Nehruvian policies⁹ in a short span, before the Dynasty took over the Congress Party and sent him in to oblivion¹⁰. The Dynasty (Manmohan Singh regime guided by Sonia Gandhi, 2004-2014) in a coalition government could neither embrace nor re-reverse the irreversible policies set in place by Rao¹¹. Change is imminent, but will the gigantic democracy

⁷ Life expectancy in India rose to 65 years in 2012 from 32 years at the time of independence in 1947, only 32% of India's population live below the international poverty line, literacy levels in India have grown from about 16% in 1951, when the first census was conducted, to around 74% in 2011. India did not produce a rifle or a tank or an aircraft in 1947, and had to beg for arms and ammunition during the Chinese incursion in 1962. India has a powerful battery of missiles. http://www.iptu.co.uk/content/pdfs/INDIA%20RELATED%20ARTICLE/india%E2%80%99s_scientific_progress_independence.pdf; <http://www.columbia.edu/ite/mealac/pritchett/00urduhindilinks/shacklesnell/103independence.pdf>, accessed on May 31, 2014. The Indian pharmaceutical industry is at \$6.5 billion and growing at 8-10% annually: <http://www.slideshare.net/VikramJayakumar1/success-failure-after-indian-independence>, accessed on May 31, 2014.

⁸ "The international situation has no doubt changed considerably but my gut feeling is that even if Indira Gandhi or Rajiv Gandhi were in office today; they would still be wearing blinkered glasses. In contrast [Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha] Rao, though an elder statesman, comes out as a refreshingly pragmatic and unorthodox politician.—Joseph Leibler, co-chairman, World Jewish Congress; On January 29, 1992, India became the last major non-Arab and non-Islamic state to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel. <http://cup.columbia.edu/book/978-0-231-15204-4/indias-israel-policy/excerpt>, accessed on May 31, 2014.

⁹ The Nehruvian outlook was that the nation's sovereignty should be protected on the economic front as well, for self reliance with huge investments to build dams, factories and scientific establishments, based on the experience under the British rule, which began as trade and into colonization. Indira Gandhi more or less shut down the global trade, kicking out the IBMs and Cokes of the world.

¹⁰ Rao led India out of one of the one the worst crises in its history, opened it up to the world, dismantled corrosive old orthodoxies, and pursued unthinkable new friendships... . He is now reviled by his own party, forgotten by the world and neglected by India. He remains the only departed prime minister to be denied a memorial in the country's capital. But today's India, for better or for ill, is Rao's India. <http://www.thenational.ae/lifestyle/pv-narasimha-rao-reinvented-india-so-why-is-he-the-forgotten-man#full#ixzz33UVCZ5W>, accessed on May 31, 2014.

¹¹ Prime Minister V. Narasimha Rao Pamulaparti (Rao)'s U-turn on Congress and Nehruvian policies was pragmatic and driven by the ground realities and the pathetic economic situation in India. Rao had to ship nation's gold reserves to help tide over the balance of payments crisis in 1991 to London as collateral for an International Monetary Fund loan failing which there would have been a default on loan payments, which was the turning point for the Indian economy. In addition, India's guardian and lodestar, the USSR, was lurching towards disintegration. <http://www.thenational.ae/lifestyle/pv-narasimha-rao-reinvented-india-so-why-is-he-the-forgotten-man#ixzz33Ui8HIUS>, accessed on May 31, 2014.

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change the course set in over half a century to get to the land promised by pro-business (capitalist) Modi at the helm? People vote for a change, only to be disappointed every time¹². Be audacious to hope for a change, of course, tempered by the grinding reality of *realpolitik*¹³!



Nehru & Gandhi



Narasimhrao Pamulaparthi
(PVN RAO)



Narendra Modi

As a result of breaking the Dynasty policies, Rao became the first Indian prime minister (in or out of office) to face trial on criminal charges, was found guilty in 2000, but his conviction was later overturned. Successive governments of both BJP and the Congress (the Dynasty) managed to dampen the growth, despite the fact that the BJP is supposedly capitalist and Dr. Manmohan Singh of Congress was the finance minister when Rao began dismantling the Nehruvian License-Raj. But, they were all constrained by the coalitions, for example, when BJP was ruling with crutches of TDP's Chandrababu Naidu, who demanded Modi's head for his alleged inefficiency in preventing riots that began due to the burning of 59 Hindu pilgrims in a train (**59 Hindu women and children charred to death**) by a mob of more 2000 Muslims in Godhra, resulting in a total of 1000 Indian deaths, most of them Hindus, but allegedly "most of them Muslims," without proper account for the number of deaths in terms of Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Budhist, Jain, Communist, Atheist, and terrorists from Pakistan and Bangladesh. See <http://www.vepachedu.org/Godhra-count.html>; <http://www.rediff.com/news/2002/may/14rajeev.htm>; <http://www.rediff.com/news/godhra.htm>; accessed on May 31, 2014.

¹² Americans voted time and again only to be disillusioned by the negation of promises made during the campaign: Sr. Bush to raise taxes and invade Iraq, Clinton to bring down the White House into gutters and bomb Belgrade, Bush jr to build nations in Afghanistan and Iraq after bombing, and Obama to bomb Libya.

¹³ Or is it like the same old wine in a new bottle in the US, where the foreign policy remains unchanged no matter who is at the helm, driven by the providential manifest destiny with an obligation to police the world with the military-industrial complex?

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"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed." - Mahatma Gandhi

Hinduism is a way of life, with diversity of religion, and Indian teachings share the importance of seva (service).

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[Om! Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritangamaya, Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih! \(Aum! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality and peace!\)](#)

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