



POLITICAL DESPOTISM AND THE PROBLEM OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Despotism is an old problem and new as well, where many communities have been suffering from in the ancient ages, and within the human history, there was suffering from despotism and its results such as underdevelopment, and until the current time, there are many examples of tyrannical populations. This study discusses the political despotism, and shows that despotism is the main source of underdevelopment in all forms (scientific, economic, political, and ethical). Despotism opposite the development of human and prevent the outbreak of energies and the emergence of innovations and innovations, and this study highlight this matter by demonstrating some of despotic peoples in the present era and how despotism led to appearance of social diseases, poverty and underdevelopment in the country, these results will be explained by accurate statistics. The study emphasizes that communities and nations that have freedom and democracy have achieved significant scientific and economic development, where the government was not restricted to a certain group of people, but it was ruled by the freewill of the community who has the right to choose the ruler or the president of the nation.

Keywords: Political Backwardness, poverty, underdevelopment.

1. The Concept of Despotism

The concept is derived from the Greek word “*despotēs*” which meant in that period as the lord and was initially used as a form of address indicating respect, the head of the family or master of the house, and this concept has evolved until transferred to the political field is called a form of absolute monarchy.¹

¹ Sami Khalil Ayoub (2011), the problematic relationship between political despotism and backwardness scientific, civilized dialogue, Egypt, Issue 3564, 2 - 12-2011.

Despotism means Authoritarianism and arbitrary Despotism without legitimacy, and it is said an autocratic government or an authoritarianism government that rule a particular group of people. The tyrannical ruler is a governor with unlimited authority and without control, and there are other words used to describe the meaning of Despotism such as Enslavement, abuse or domination and control

The term despotism is used in many instances in a wider meaning to describe every authority without legitimacy or there are objection on its legitimacy or its way in ruling the people, and this meaning applies on the Despotism of government or revolution or political parties.²

There are many forms of autocratic governments such the government of single and absolute ruler who reach to the chair of presidency by inheritance or prevailing, and the elected government if was not responsible, and a group government if it was autocratic and haughty, but the worst forms of Despotism is the ultimate government of single individual who has unlimited power and authority.³

2. Despotism against Science

Science in any community is the basic source of development, and with science a man can rise himself and distinguished from other humans. Most of communities who achieved comprehensive development in all fields, there first steps was developing scientific programs and support the qualifications and skills of individuals and support the scientists. It is essential to build the individuals in the community first and then let the individuals to make total change and development in the nation. This dynamic individual who rejects the reality and works to change it until adaptation with the new development, however, this vision is not matching with the despot ruler who is afraid from any change that might affect his position and authority, therefore the despot man fears from scientists who knows facts and the best for their community through loyalty and freedom. Therefore, the despot (autocratic) ruler is always fighting scientists or who wish to follow them, some wise men said that “despotism is the origin of all corruption”

² Sami Zebian et al (1990), Glossary political, economic, and social, Riad Al Rayes of books and publishing, Beirut 1st edition, October 1990, p 38.

³ Abdul Rahman Al-Kawakiby (2006), The natures of despotism and fighting slavery, Dar- Al Nafa's House of Printing, Publishing and Distribution, Beirut, Vol. 1, 2006, p 16.

According to Al-Kawakiby (2006) the main science that cause fear to autocratic ruler is (life science that is related to wisdom and philosophy of mind and the rights of nations and social norms as well as civil policies and detailed history and literary rhetoric, while other sciences could open minds and let people know their rights and how to get their rights as well) , in addition to that the scientists represent a psychological problem to the despot (autocratic) ruler because of his fears from any person that may open the mind of people and encourage them to think wisely and freely and teach them how to get their rights.⁴

According to that most of nations with despotism (autocratic) government were dominated by scientific retardation and the majority of scientists migrated to other countries. In addition to that ignorance and illiteracy spread at high rate in the nation so that the despot leadership could dictates his policy. The autocratic governor does not take advantage of the wealth of the country in order to support science and scientists but use the wealth for his benefit and his opulence and luxury that is far from any kind of development and growth in the nation, and this mainly because development may produce risk to the despot (autocratic) rule and may control his authority. A good example of this fact is that the total funds used for research and development in scientific research in the Arab countries in Asia all together is 0.1%, while just in Israel; the average funding on scientific researches and development is between 4.6%-4.8%, and in every one million Arabic population, there are only 373 researcher, while in Israel there is 5000 researchers in each one million population.

In Saudi Arabia, for example, one of the major Arab states and a wealthy oil country, the indicated Statistics of UNESCO in 2009 showed that in 2002 the number of researchers in Saudi Arabia was 70 researchers per million population, but in 2009 the number of researchers decreased to 47 per million population, the following figure shows that the percentage of researchers is falling nor rising.⁵

⁴ Abdul Rahman Al-Kawakiby (2006), The natures of despotism and fighting slavery, Dar- Al Nafa's House of Printing, Publishing and Distribution, Beirut, Vol. 1, 2006, p 36.

⁵ Published in 2010 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific ,and Cultural Organization, Paris, France ,© UNESCO 2010,SBN: 978-92-3-104132-7 ,UNESCO Publishing: www.unesco.org/publishing; , publishing.promotion@unesco.org,Printed by DB Print in Belgium.

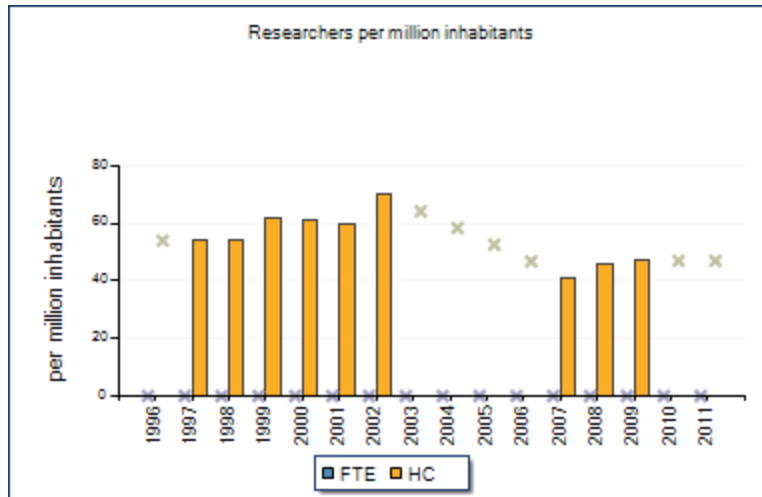


Figure 1 – Number of Researcher per million inhabitants

The lack of attention to scientific research in the autocratic countries let their citizens to migrate to countries that support and sponsor people interested in scientific research and provide for them the necessary capabilities to do their researches, and this is a strong factor that attracts dynamic minds from all over the world. It is estimated that a third of African researchers were working abroad in 2009, and a British study published in 2008 has reported a data from the Organization for Economic cooperation and Development reports that 20 million immigrants out of the 54 million original immigrants living in the countries belong to the organization were very skilled immigrants.⁶

The major countries that support scientific research through funds and encourage innovation are the Scandinavian countries which leading the European Union countries. For example Sweden has allocated 4.27% of its Gross National Product GNP for research and development, whereas Finland has allocated 3.51% of its GNP, Denmark 2.6%, whereas the lowest Poland 0.95%.

The total EU budget for scientific research from 2002-2006 was 17.5 billion Euros, representing 3.9% of the total budget of the European Union in 2002. The funding for scientific research in the European Union 366% in the last two decades, while in China the proportion of spending on ally

⁶ UNESCO report in Science in 2010, the official website of the Organization of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO Publishing, www.unesco.org/publishing; .publishing.promotion@unesco.org

scientific research reached nearly 2.5% of the total national spending, and China's budget for scientific research was nearly \$ 136 billion.⁷

3. Despotism lead to Poverty

This is because that the behavior of despot (autocratic) man lead to solid control to all economic resources in the nation and make the economic resources under his control and authority, and to be facilitated only for his service and relatives as well as beneficiary people who are close to him, and who support his decisions without discussion because of the benefit they acquire from his continuous ruling. Therefore, despite that the authoritarian countries maybe rich of natural resources but the population of these countries did not benefit of these resources and face poverty and retardation.

The political despotism in the Arab country produces economical underdevelopment that wasted the resources and wealth of these countries. Dr. Ahmed Al-Najar found that the Arab countries import grains equal to 8.2 million USD which equal to 15.50% of international value of imports of grains, and these countries import agriculture products equal to 32 billion USD and Foodstuffs equal to 26.20 billion USD, and despite that Arab countries forming 5.1% of the land area of the globe and owns cultivated lands with a total area equal to 57.30 million hectares, about 136.4 million acres, which equal to 4.1% of the total cultivated land in the whole world. However, Arab countries are the most importing countries of grains in the world.⁸

These difficult economic conditions led to the migration of talent out of their own home, and the migration of scientific energies who did not find justice in their own country, for example, there are no qualified services for researchers in most universities in the Arab countries, as well as scientific centers, or the existence of laboratories adequate libraries. But these facilities is controlled by favoritism of government, therefore scholarships were not giving to qualified people but awarded to people who were close to the government only, and there is no real spending and serious attention to scientific research centers that attract scientific talent and help them to prove themselves and show their scientific achievements for the benefit of their countries. Therefore, all

⁷ Dr. Fahad Al-Orabi Al-Harthy (2011), a crisis of scientific research and development, Asbar Center for Studies and Research and Information, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, September 29, 2011.

⁸ Dr.Ahmed al-Najjar, strategic economic trends report for the year 2006, the Center for Strategic Studies, Cairo, No. 148, April, 2007.

these reasons push scientist and talents to migrate and leave homelands searching for other countries that provide for them care, opportunities, and attention to their scientific researches.

The international studies showed that most of migrated elements are qualified people who have scientific ability and developed minds in many scientific branches. The United Nations has referred to that after issuing the resolution no. (3017) dated 18-12-1972, which indicated that migration from Arab countries because of underdevelopment and lack of opportunities in the developing countries, while the magazine of Arabic Parliament indicated that the number of immigrants from Arab countries equal to 100,000 every year, and most of those immigrants coming from eight Arabic countries, and most of them are engineers, doctors, scientists and experts, while 70% of scientists immigrants to capitalist countries do not return back to their home countries, and since 1977, more than 750,000 scientist have emigrated from Arab world to the United States, and that 50% of them were doctors and 23% engineers and 15% scientists. It is important to know that all of them are qualified people who migrate to Europe and the United States and Canada. The Arab doctors represent about 34% of the total doctors working in Britain, and 54% of Arab students studying abroad do not return to their homelands.⁹

4. Despotism Produce Violence and Terror

The human soul refuses oppression and persecution and tends to freedom and openness in a harmony with nature. Therefore, nation who suffered from despotism are in continuous conflict with itself, and there are internal motivations to get rid of the frustration resulting from the exclusion of freedoms and the rule of compulsory injustice. The writer Naser Taha Mustafa, the president of Yemen news agency in Sabaa, has stated that “Political autocrat produce the worst political and social diseases in any community, and terror is one of the main diseases resulting from despotism, but that does not mean terror is not produced in developed community and lived in prosperity and economic growth and democratic environment.¹⁰

Dr. Mohammed Awadth Al-Hazaimah in the book of Islam and the issues of modern era, when talking in chapter six about the origin of terror, he stated that terror is one of the aspects of political

⁹ Arab Parliament Magazine, Issue 82, December 2001, pp. 3.

¹⁰ Yahya Aldbibi, the relationship between political despotism and terrorism, the newspaper of the Republic, the Republic Foundation for Press, Printing and Publishing, Taiz, Yemen, No. 21377, July 2012.

conflicts in the modern era, and this was clear at the end of 18th century, and referring to what happened during the French revolution at the age of (fear) from 10/03/1793 – 24/07/1974 where the leaders at that time used ultimate political violence.¹¹

5. Summary

The political despotism is a big problem that was faced by the human societies during human history. Retardation and underdevelopment was the fate of communities lived under despotism in different forms and means, especially scientific retardation which led to economic backwardness and the emergence of many social diseases, and according to that peoples deprived from basic political and social rights.

In addition to that despotism create disturbance in the human soul and push people to violence to express the psychological depression because of pressure and the confiscation of freedom. Therefore, the consequence is producing communities acting as an incubator for terrorism and expressing the self depression in all means due to the absence of democracy and freedom that help people to show their opinion and express themselves freely and decide their fate with complete freewill.

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¹¹ Dr. Mohammed Al-Hazaymah, Sami Atallah and others, Islam and the issues of the day, Amwaj for printing & publishing and distribution, Oman, 1st edition, 2013, pp. 137 - 157.

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