

## Ethnicity as a Source of Integration

Muhammad Tahir, Lecturer, Social Sciences & Humanities, Riphah International University Faisalabad, Email: [mtahir91@gmail.com](mailto:mtahir91@gmail.com)

### Abstract

In the present article, try to locate the ethnic bases in Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey that are uniting them and bringing them closer to each other and strengthening them. There are historical elements that are not only connecting these three countries but also strengthening them, so let's see what the foundations that bring these countries closer together.

Keywords: Ethnicity, Integration, Ummah, Muslim Nationalism, Akhuwwah

### Introduction

The three countries have come together in a joint forum of the Regional Corporation Development. The Regional Corporation Development (RCD) came into being in 1964. Later its name was changed as Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO). Its main objective was to initiate economic cooperation between the three countries, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey. For economic development and cooperation among these countries. These three countries are connecting important regions of the world. Pakistan is connecting South Asia, Iran is interconnecting Central Asia, Turkey is the gateway to Europe. So if these three countries run this organization better, they can reach their products to about 60% of the world's people and It can also make these countries more powerful. Cooperation and development in these countries will also lead to cooperation and development in other countries and the surrounding regions (Hassan, Genç, & Castanho, 2019).

### An Historical Outlook

If we look at it historically, these are the three countries that have not only been the center of spooling but have all ruled the world till the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries.

The Ottoman Caliphate came into being in 1299 and has ruled the three continents for six hundred years without the participation and in full force, so the Turks have been the center of socialization. Turks conquered the Constantinople and initiated their rule in Eastern Europe, Asia and North Africa. Ottoman Empire was the world's superpower at that time (Fanani, 2011).

In three centuries, Safavid rule was established in Iran. This government ruled almost all of current Iran and some parts of Central Asia.

Then in the same period, the Delhi Empire and the Mughals established a powerful government in the subcontinent. Who ruled the entire subcontinent in these three centuries. The Mughals ruled Afghanistan and all of South Asia confidently.

The GDP of these three Muslim states was about 80% of the world's total GDP and there was no greater power in the world. All these states were more powerful than all the other states in terms of defense. In terms of relations, even then, these three states were connected and they had good relations.

### **Relationship of these empires and Current Situation**

The Mughal Empire had very good relations with the Ottoman Empire and even the artillery that Babar, the founder of the Mughal Empire, had brought with him was sent by the Ottoman Sultan to help Babar. One of them was an engineer named Ali Qali . Thus, for the first time in the subcontinent, artillery was used with the help of Turkey. Relations between the two states were so strong that when the Ottoman Empire fell, a great movement was launched in the subcontinent for its restoration (Fanani, 2011). They are very close to each other. After the formation of Pakistan both countries have good relations upto now. Even both countries have same stance in core issues.

In terms of relations with Iran, it is clear that when Humayun was defeated by Sher Shah Suri, Humayun went to Iran to save himself and regained his kingdom by bringing help from there (Sood, 2021). Thus, the influence of the Iranians and their love and affection for them has been the way of the government and the people of the subcontinent. The two nations have also been sharing on ethnic grounds (Mathee, 2010).

Even after the formation of Pakistan, the first country to recognize Pakistan was Iran and Iran guided Pakistan in every way. Except for a few years, relations between the two countries have been mostly good.

Relations between the Ottoman and Safavid empires have been strained and there have been many wars between the two states. But there is a principle of international politics that enmity between states does not last forever. Under this principle, the path of cooperation between Turkey and Iran is very smooth today and the two countries are very close to each other except for a few issues.

These are the historical factors that are bringing these countries closer together.

### **Relationships Based on Race**

Based on ethnicity, these countries are very different, even though they have no common ground other than religion. Their ethnicity, geography, language, and culture are all different. But the three countries are linked by their religion, history, geography, interests and common goals (Hassan, Genç, & Castanho, 2019).

### **Different Ethnic Basis**

There are many ethnicities in Turkey. The largest of these is the Turks, who have migrated from Central Asia. This nation has ruled over three continents for six hundred years. In Turkey, it is 72.5 percent. Their influence is greater in Turkey. Besides, small nationalities live here. Kurdish 12.7% are present here (Celiker, 2013). Arabs make up 1.1 percent, Greeks 0.5 percent, Caucasians 3.3 percent, and Armenians 0.5 percent, as well as a small number of other ethnic groups (Atlas, The Ethnic Groups Of Turkey, 2019).

Iran has a large ethnic population. There are 61% of Iranians here. 16% are Azerbaijani. Lurs are 6 percent of the total population. Kurds are 10%, Turkmen, Arabs, and Baloch are 2% (Atlas, Largest Ethnic Groups In Iran, 2019).

If we look at Pakistan, Punjabis are 44.7%, Pashtuns are 15.4%, Sindhis are 14.1%, Seraikis are 8.4% and migrants are 7.6%. Besides, Baloch makes up about 3.6 percent and the rest of the nationalities about 6.2 percent (Atlas, Ethnic Groups In Pakistan, 2019).

These countries are very diverse in terms of ethnicity and nationality.

The concept of ethnic roots is very high among Turks and Iranians. Same situation is prevailing in Pakistan.

So if we look at these different diverse ethnicities in one place in these countries is a symbol of beauty but in another place, these different nationalities are becoming a headache for these nations. A large number of Kurds are in Turkey. They are supporters of a separate homeland in Turkey and want independence from Turkey (Atlas, The Ethnic Groups Of Turkey, 2019). The same is true in Iran. The Kurds and Baloch there want independence from Iran and are supporters of a separate homeland. There are living in the largest number of Azerbaijanis. They are also a supporter of a separate state and in Iran and even they want reunification with Azerbaijan. So Iran has not good relations with Azerbaijan (Atlas, Largest Ethnic Groups In Iran, 2019). There is often a problem of Baloch, Sindhis, and Pashtuns in Pakistan. So ethnic problems is creating worse condition in these countries. It is a fact that in no other country in the world are the nationalities of such countries engaged in such matters (Atlas, Ethnic Groups In Pakistan, 2019).

### **Ethnic sharing in these countries**

The important question is whether all these countries can be united in terms of ethnicities. Is there a way for everyone to follow the path of ethnic sharing?

So the answer is an absolute yes. What is the reason for this because Islam is the basis of the nationalities of all these countries? It is Islam that unites them and causes them to share. That's why they all have a very similar culture. The languages of these countries are also understood in other countries.

### **Role of Dramas**

In Pakistan, in Iran and Turkey there films and dramas are seen in all three countries. In Pakistan, Turkish dramas are being watched with great interest. Most of the similarities are found in these dramas which are not against the culture of Pakistan (Rehan & Raza, 2015). Iranian dramas and films are also being watched with great interest in Pakistan. Thus many Pakistani dramas are seen in these countries (Kazemimojaveri, 2016).

## People sharing

Besides, the people of these countries have a lot in common. Iranian and Turkish people are looked upon with respect in Pakistan. And the people of these countries like Pakistanis very much, especially in Turkey. Although Iran and Pakistanis have some political issues, Iranians still like Pakistanis and Pakistanis like Iranians (Rehan & Raza, 2015).

## Political collaboration

Pakistan's political cooperation with Turkey and Iran is very extensive. Pakistan's political relations with Turkey have been very good since its inception and they are getting stronger day by day. Pakistan's relations with Iran have been very good since their inception, but they have changed since the Iranian revolution, but overall, the two nations are very close politically.

The issue of Iran is the enmity of the United States and the United States has been imposing sanctions on Iran which has forced Pakistan its focus withdraw from Iran. Despite all this, cooperation between Pakistan and Iran in all fields is very significant.

Secondly, the atmosphere of cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey is very conducive and there are love and affection between these countries. This love has its roots in Islam as well as in historical factors. Political, economic, and social cooperation between these nations is very high even before and after the formation of Pakistan (Hassan, Genç, & Castanho, 2019).

Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey also raise their voices on the issues of the Muslim world.

## Conclusion

Historically, economically, politically, socially, culturally, and religiously, in all respects, these three countries seem to stand together. And Islam has a profound effect on the nationality and culture of these two nations. If the economy and politics of these countries improve, they can regain the same heights they achieved in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

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