

The 20th Century: A Balance Sheet Of The Ummah

Time is very precious. Whether it is a year in an individual's life or a century for a nation. It is very important without the distinction of lunar or solar year. Therefore, we should evaluate our performance, accomplishments and shortcomings on a regular basis.

Now, the 20th century is coming to end, let's see the balance sheet of our Muslim Ummah:

Big Gains:

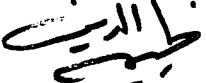
- At the beginning of the 20th century many Muslim lands from Indonesia to Morocco were in the shackles of the colonial powers. By the end of the century the situation has changed completely. Except some regions, the rest has been liberated through Jihad and big sacrifices of lives and material.
- During the century several Islamic revivalist movements came into being and they did a remarkable job in terms of introducing the real spirit of Islam and implementing the teachings of Islam at individual and collective levels. Some of the movements got the opportunity to introduce Islamic governments in their countries.
- The Muslim Ummah was blessed with some extra ordinary personalities during these 100 years. They awakened Muslim masses and brought them closer to Allah Ta'ala.
- Several Tafaseer of the Qur'an in different languages explained Islam in a simple language. Muslim thinkers wrote books through which millions of people started practicing Islam in their daily lives, accepted Islam or came closer to it.
- Muslims inched forward in science and technology. Even one became an nuclear power.
- Islam got firm hold in North America, Europe and other Western countries and Muslims became part of American mosaic.

Big Loses:

- Muslims lost their focal point Khilafah, as Ottoman Empire ceased in 1924 and demoralized due to such a big loss of the Islamic heritage.
- Corrupt Muslim politicians and despots ruled the Muslim Ummah with a few exceptions. They refused to implement Islam in political system and work according to Islamic ethics.
- Nationalism fragmented the unity of the Ummah. Many places Muslims are persecuted and eliminated for their beliefs and practices but there is no Muhammad bin Qasim.
- Muslims lack scholarship. No forceful rebuttal of the Orientalists and Western writers is evident. The Ummah lacks in institutions of higher learning in all fields.
- Millions of Muslims live below poverty line and in miserable conditions despite valuable and abundant natural resources. The gap between Muslim have and have nots is very wide.
- The Muslims rarely have sense of their responsibility and understanding of their mission. It has moved away from being Ummah Wasatah and forgot Shahadat 'Alan Naas (witness onto mankind).

Bottom Line:

We Muslims can make our balance sheet better. Muslims should and must build on their strength of human character and material resources over what they have already achieved in the 20th century and must move forward. They are the one who have the Divine message and the Book of Guidance, Al-Qur'an, with them. Muslims can do it again. Muslims can provide the peace of heart and mind to the people by reaching out to them with Allah's Book of Guidance. But for that, the Muslims have to first become good role model. The history of Sahaba can repeat itself again. It's all in our reach. We can do it with the help of Allah, Insha Allah.


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